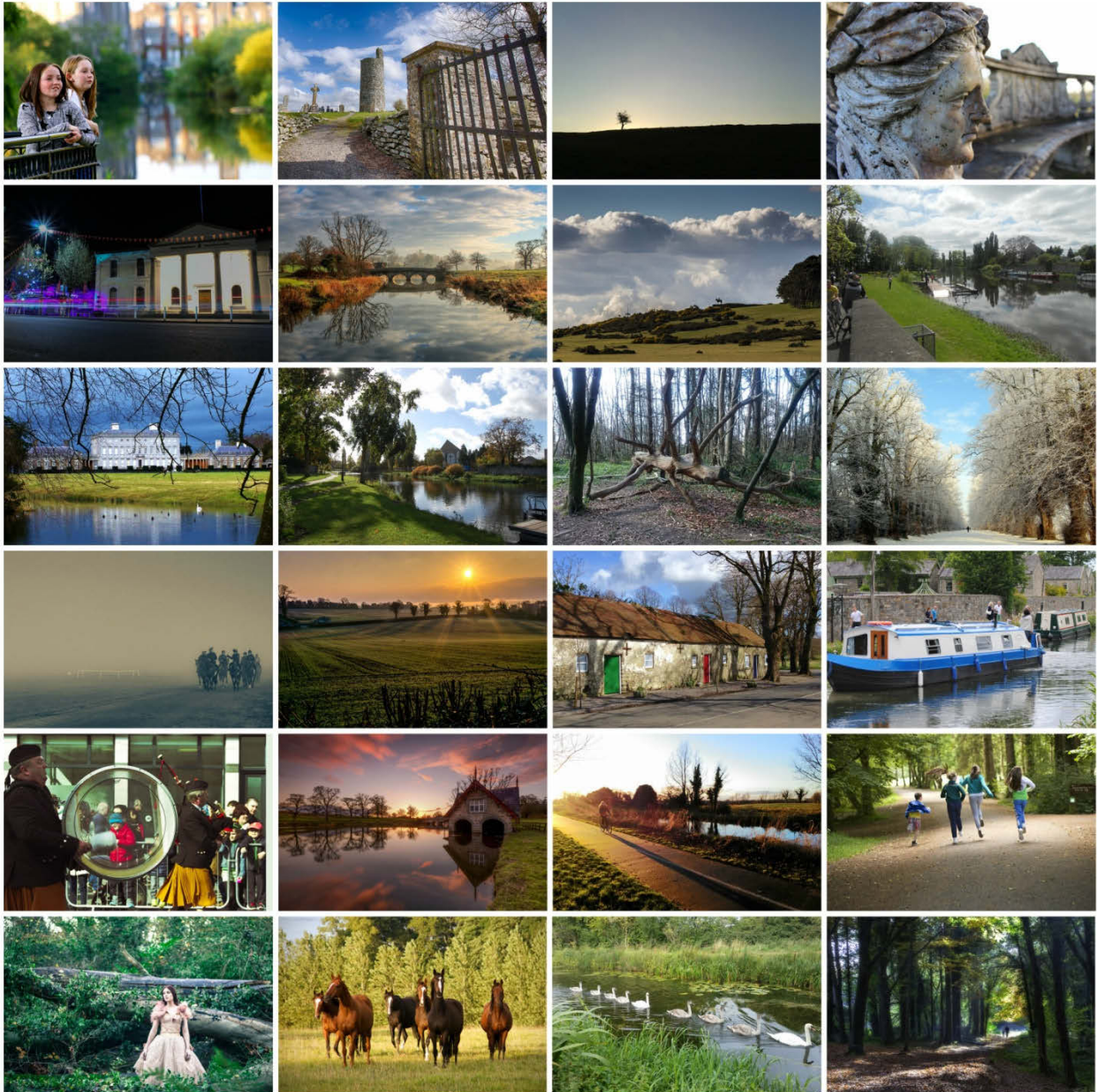


KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Images from the front cover courtesy of the Love Kildare Photo Competition

From Left to Right

- A. Easy like a Sunday Evening- Yvonne Stynes
- B. Step Back in Time- James Mahon
- C. Sunset, Braveheart Hill- Mary Gillan
- D. Historical Depth- Leanne Walsh
- E. Naas Lights Trail- Martin Turdanes
- F. Bridge over River Rye- Liam O'Brien
- G. Horse on the Gorse- Stephen Maher
- H. River Barrow- Martin Moran
- I. Castletown House- Michael Lothian
- J. River Walk, Athy- Lilian Webb
- K. Spider Tree- Linda Morton
- L. Dramatic Perspectives- Susan Heffernan
- M. Foggy Morning- Georgie Pouch
- N. Sunrise above Kildare- Vaidas Kurmauskas
- O. Down Memory Lane- Sharon Greene
- P. Lucky 13- Adrian Meaney
- Q. Drumming Away- Sheila Kavanagh
- R. Boat House- Pawal Zygmunt
- S. Cycle of Delight through Shadows and Light- Rodrigo Rocha
- T. Just Love Donadea Park- Mai Bergin
- U. Alice in Forest- Ishmael Claxton
- V. Palmerston Horses- Ruth Dowling
- W. Swanning Around- Cathy O'Brien
- X. Autumn Walk- Sean Dunne

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Forward

2015 was a busy and productive year and Kildare County Council can be proud of its' contribution and the positive leadership provided during the year.

Co. Kildare continued to develop at a rapid pace and there was a noticeable upturn economically. In terms of key developments in the County; the Kerry Global Technology and Innovation Centre in Naas opened in 2015 providing almost 1,000 jobs and an extension of Kildare Village saw a €50 million investment with 400 additional jobs. The Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) sector also continued to expand adding to the circa. 8,000 enterprises actively trading in Kildare.

During the year the council pursued the delivery of key infrastructure including the expansion of the Osbertstown and Leixlip Waste Water Treatment facilities. These infrastructure projects are hugely important in terms of the County having the capacity to support the provision of additional serviced lands for housing and industry. Furthermore there was very positive news when the nationally significant M7 widening was approved for funding. This strategic transport project will see the remaining section of the M7 widened to 3 lanes, a new interchange being provided at Osbertstown, Naas and Sallins Village being by-passed.

The council commenced the process to review the County Development Plan. The new plan will provide a blue-print for the sustainable development of the County from 2017-2023. Following a lengthy consultation process the council also adopted the new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in December 2015. This plan (the first of its kind) contains key targets for economic and community development in Co. Kildare over the next 5 years.

Notwithstanding all of the very positive developments that took place in 2015 there were also significant challenges facing the County in terms of service provision and the provision of enabling infrastructure. The provision of social and affordable housing remains a key priority with all viable options for the delivery of housing units being pursued.

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Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank the elected members and the staff of Kildare County Council for their ongoing co-operation and support and their commitment to serve the people of County Kildare.



Brendan Weld
Mayor



Peter Carey
Chief Executive

Kildare County Council Members

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Seirbhísí Corporáideacha, Achmhainní Daonna agus TFC



Corporate Services, Human Resources and ICT

Corporate Services

Corporate Services continues to make improvements and better use of resources to ensure the provision of quality information, improved customer services to residents of the county and support the members of the council in delivery of their obligations to the electorate.

Corporate Services interacts with and provides support to all council departments and has general responsibility for Mayor and members support, communications, customer care, register of electors and higher education grants.

Customer Services

Kildare County Council aims to provide the highest quality service in an economic, efficient, effective and equitable manner for all its customers. A dedicated Customer Service Point has been established at our headquarters on Level 1 in Aras Chill Dara and also in the Athy Customer Service Point. Our aim is to provide as much information as possible at the first point of contact and to ensure that the customer is referred to the appropriate official/team when necessary. A Customer Relationship Management System has been introduced to track and

manage queries from the elected members and the public.

Community Text Alert

The Community Text alert initiative developed in 2013 has been expanded to involve more community groups. This allows the council to relay information via text messages to community groups when a disruption occurs to any of our essential services.

Accessibility

Kildare County Council continues to work with people with disabilities and their representatives to improve accessibility to local authority services. In 2015 we focused our attention on two key areas:

- Roads and streetscapes
- Library Service.

From the roads and streetscapes perspective we:

- Worked closely with a number of Local Access groups and completed a number of town walks to identify issues of concern and to put in place appropriate actions

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- Completed accessibility audits in the following towns:

1. Naas
2. Newbridge
3. Prosperous.



Accessibility actions in Kildare Libraries in 2015 included the following highlights:

- Continuing improvements to our buildings infrastructure, focusing on accessibility to our physical environments at a number of locations. Works included the refurbishment of Clane Library's Adult Lending Section to provide accessible and user-friendly shelving and furniture
- Accessibility actions at Rathangan Library included completion of a modified accessible entrance for the building as well as a full refurbishment of all shelving and furniture in both the

Adult and Children's areas which now meet accessibility standards

- An audit of hearing loop systems in all Library Service venues was carried out in 2015. Plans are in progress to install new loop systems in a number of library locations during 2016
- A modern loop system was fitted at Riverbank Arts Centre Theatre and Box Office in late 2015, addressing a serious accessibility need in the county Arts Centre.

In addition Kildare Library Service programmes, targeting issues of accessibility and users finding it difficult to access library and community services generally, were grown in 2015 to include:

- Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS)-a multi-sensory computer programme for people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. This course was extended to a fourth location during 2015 and is now on offer in Leixlip, Celbridge, Naas and Newbridge Libraries.

www.kildare.ie/Library/SpecialProjects

- Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) an assistive collection designed to compliment quality of life services for

children and adults, was further developed in 2015. A very successful accompanying series of lectures was also delivered throughout the library network.

Research is underway to further add to the toys and assistive technology collections in 2016. TTT catalogues can be accessed through the library service and items can be borrowed by joining the library. Full details on the expanded collection and 2016 lecture series schedule can be found on our website:

www.kildare.ie/Library/ReadersPages/SpecialCollectionsPartnerships/TTTCollection

Fix Your Street

Fix Your Street is a publicly accessible website with associated mobile technologies on which non emergency issues such as graffiti, road defects, street lighting, water leaks/drainage and litter/illegal dumping can be reported. Issues raised are responded to within two working days. Kildare County Council received 408 reports via Fix Your Street in 2015.

This system has also now been integrated into the Customer Relationship Management System.

Legal Services

A framework was set up on 1 October 2013 to centralise Legal Services within the organisation. A Category Supervisor has been appointed in Corporate Services to manage the Service.

The Category Supervisor in conjunction with IT set up a database through which all requests for legal services within the organisation are submitted.

Higher Education Grants

The Higher Education Grants Scheme has been centrally managed by Students Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) since 2012/2103. Kildare County Council retained any higher education grants submitted to them prior to 2012/2013 and have been processing renewals and reassessments of grants accordingly.

Over the past couple of years, as students have completed courses, the amount of grants has gradually decreased and for the academic year 2015/2016, approximately 40 renewals/reassessments were received and processed by the Higher Education Grants Section.



Register of Electors

The number of people on the 2015/16 Register of Electors, which came into force on 15 February 2015, was 140,769, an increase of 1,695 on those registered in the previous year. 135,032 of these were Irish citizens and were eligible to vote in the marriage equality referendum.

In 2015, we continued our efforts to keep the Register as accurate as possible. We used such methods as writing out to those whose polling information cards were returned as undelivered following a poll, placing advertisements in local media, both print and radio, to complement the national campaign undertaken by the DECLG, and contacting schools to alert those approaching eighteen of the possibility of registering to vote. We also organised a leaflet drop, predominantly into dwellings in urban areas, encouraging people to check that they were registered.

A hard copy of both the draft and “final” register for the local area was put on display in post offices, libraries, Garda stations and council offices, so that people could check it. They could also do so online via www.checktheregister.ie. Forms for making a claim for addition, deletion or amendment to the list were made available at the same locations.

Similarly, councillors and Oireachtas members were supplied a copy of the register for their electoral area. They also informed us of changes that needed to be made to the list.

Meetings

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the administration of the meetings of full council and the municipal districts as well as budget, corporate policy group and protocol committee meetings.

The following is a breakdown of meetings held during 2015:

Full Council Meetings	16
Municipal District Meetings	67
Corporate Policy Group	11
Strategic Policy Committees	19
Other Meetings	10

Members Services

The Members Services unit is fully operational since June 2014.

There are four municipal district secretaries who assist the members in all aspects of their functions including:

- Minute taking and report writing for the Municipal Districts
- Receipt and referrals of motions and questions for Municipal Districts
- Members representations
- Records of attendance at meetings
- Conferences/Training
- Travel claims
- Payroll enquiries
- Publication of reports on Members Net
- Mobile phone usage
- IT equipment
- Statutory declarations
- Members insurance
- Maintain Public Register

A Customer Relationship Management system is used to manage and monitor the queries from members. They are encouraged to use the service which plays a key role in ensuring that accurate, timely and relevant information is made available to them.

Communications

The Communications Unit of the Corporate Services Department plays a key role in ensuring accurate, timely and relevant information is made available to the public, elected members and council staff. A range of communication channels are used to ensure information is accessible and widely available.

Media

The development and maintenance of good relationships with local and national media is a key element of the Communications Unit work. In 2015, 278 press queries were received with more than 25 press releases issued across a wide range of council initiatives.

Members Net and Staff Intranet

Corporate Services provides information for the Members Net and Intranet; ensuring elected members and staff are kept up to date regularly with council news.

Corporate Publications

2015 saw the Department produce the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and the Annual Report 2014.

Social Media

Social Media as a communications tool in local government is becoming more and more important. It allows the Council to provide and share information instantly as well as promote its activities for free and receive feedback from the people of Kildare in terms of our service delivery. It also enables the council reach people, who are less engaged with the more traditional communication tools, with information they need to know.

Kildare County Council's social media profile continues to grow. In 2015, our Facebook page received 1,794 new 'likes' while our Twitter following grew by 1,044 new 'followers'.

Facebook Statistics 2015	
Total no. of posts in 2015	804
Total no. of new 'likes' in 2015	1794
Total no. of 'likes' by 31/12/15	2872

Twitter Statistics 2015	
Total no. of posts in 2015	686
Total no. of new 'followers' in 2015	1044
Total no. of 'followers' by 31/12/15	3810

To keep up to date with our social media pages, you can 'like' us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/kildarecountycouncil

or 'follow' us on Twitter

[@kildarecoco](https://twitter.com/KildareCoCo).

Website

Kildare County Councils website (www.kildarecountycouncil.ie) provides up to date information and online services 24/7.

- It has been designed to be accessible to all visitors, regardless of disability
- It can be accessed from any browser and all devices including mobiles
- Information is available for each department within the organisation including contact details, forms, frequently asked questions and individual services provided
- Provides contact details for our councillors
- Online services including online payments are available - you can pay your traffic fine, purchase development plans, pay your dog licence as well as others
- View online planning enquiries

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- If you subscribe to our RSS feeds, 'like' us on Facebook or 'follow' us on Twitter you will receive automatic updates of our Press Releases/Alerts/Latest Items added to the website
- Cúrsaí Gaeilge is included on the site;

The website was visited by **533,504** visitors and of this, **37.6%** were **new visitors** to the website in 2015.

1,408,896 pages were also viewed on the website in 2015.

Freedom of Information

91 requests under the Freedom of Information Act were received in 2015 including 15 requests for personal information. 48 requests were granted, 22 requests were part-granted and 21 requests were refused.

Irish Language: Gaeilge

During 2015, Kildare County Council's Irish Officer continued to assist staff throughout the organisation, as needed, in relation to:

- Advice and assistance in complying with the obligations imposed by the Official Languages Act 2003, associated legislation and Kildare

County Council's Irish Language Scheme

- Provision of translations for signage and public notices
- Sourcing or providing translations for application forms
- Providing assistance in relation to correspondence with members of the public who wished to transact business with Kildare County Council through Irish
- Corresponding on behalf of Kildare County Council with An Coimisinéir Teanga, government departments and other organisations and individuals as required.

The section dealing with Irish language matters on our website has been maintained and updated. This includes information in Irish on the following matters:

- Councillors' details
- Contact details
- Customer Care
- Freedom of Information
- Kildare County Council's Irish Language Scheme

- Online Comment Card
- A selection of application forms for various services provided by Kildare County Council.

The content of this section of the website is updated as necessary, in consultation with departments throughout the organisation.

Kildare County Council's Irish Language Scheme, published in 2008, expired in 2011. As requested, a new draft scheme was prepared and submitted to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for approval in 2011. The Department responded in April 2015 and requested that the 2011 draft scheme be updated. The scheme was updated and sent for Departmental approval in October 2015. The Department responded in December 2015 with several suggested modifications. The scheme is currently undergoing its second draft and will be resent to the Department for its approval.

Kildare County Council's Irish Language Committee had its first meeting in March 2015. They have already had meetings with local groups interested in promoting the use of the Irish language in Kildare. The Committee also set aside funding from their 2015 budget to provide five Irish college scholarships for students in 2016.

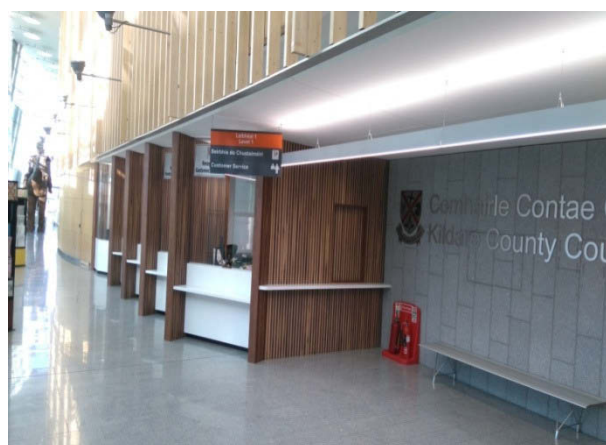
Facilities Management

The Facilities Management section aims to ensure that all facilities management services in corporate buildings are delivered in accordance with best value principles, are of appropriate quality, efficient and on time.

Developing and reviewing the organisations asset management strategy is a core function of the Facilities Management Section. Our aim is to ensure that all corporate buildings are fit for purpose in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.

A number of upgrade projects were successfully completed in 2015.

- Refurbishment of the Customer Service reception area on Level 1, Áras Chill Dara, included the building of a new customer service centre and security desk.



- Refurbishment of the Housing Department reception area on Level 3, Áras Chill Dara.

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The Housing Department refurbishment works included the instillation of three private consultation rooms, a new public counter and waiting area.



Other projects completed in 2015 included, the refurbishment of the Athy Municipal District Customer Service office, Naas Town Hall Energy improvements and Cotton Mills Naas enabling works.

In order to promote social inclusion and community development, Facilities Management promotes the use of corporate buildings in the community where possible. Naas Town Hall is actively used by the community to host the likes of the Country Market, Kick boxing, Vintage Clothing and Irish Dancing. Any groups interested in using the Town Hall can contact us at facilities@kildarecoco.ie.

Reducing energy consumption is a key objective of the Facilities Management section. In the Council's Head Office, Áras Chill Dara there has been a reduction in

electrical consumption from 2008-2015 of 6% and consumption is 19% lower than when the building opened in Jan 2006.

An energy upgrade of Naas Town Hall was completed in early 2015.

Facilities Management is responsible for the administration of electricity/natural gas accounts and energy payments to various utility suppliers. The utility suppliers are procured using the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) frameworks for the supply of Electricity and Natural Gas. Currently there are 170 electricity supply points and 10 gas supply points in contract under the frameworks. Payments are made monthly, electronically using our invoice management system, negating the use of hundreds of purchase orders annually. All invoices are available electronically to users via our intranet. All information regarding electricity/natural gas accounts and energy management is available to staff on our Energy Portal on the intranet.

The Facilities Management section is also responsible for introducing a more streamlined and uniform approach to building maintenance of all council owned properties. Where practicable and where it makes operational and economic sense, we will move to implement common contracts for a range of maintenance

activities to be managed by the Facilities Management section. With the help of our Procurement Unit, the Facilities Management section successfully procured our current security contractors in July 2015 by open competition through tenders. This is now a shared service contract which has been rolled out to the Library Service, Naas Town Hall and Athy Municipal District office. Other shared service contracts in the future will include fire alarm maintenance, fire fighting equipment, lift maintenance, general building repairs and maintenance, electrical maintenance/small works and catering services.

Energy

Kildare County Council has been complying with National and EU legislation to improve our energy efficiency by 33%. We are currently at 10%.

In 2015 the council undertook a range of initiatives to improve its energy performance including:

- Energy Awareness Campaign with a Low Energy Day in Áras Chill Dara in March 2015 which was well received and attended by staff. The day was also covered widely in local media including the

publication of a two page special in the Kildare Nationalist.

- The completion of the Naas Town Hall project, including LED lighting and insulation of the attic. An energy upgrade of Naas Town Hall was also completed in early 2015. The upgrade consisted of joist level insulation in the attic space, upgrading the existing gas boiler to a new condensing gas boiler, upgrading the heating controls to a remote multi-zone heating control system and upgrading the lighting to low energy LED lighting. The project was 50% funded by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) under the Better Energy Communities Grant Scheme. The payback period on investment is 5.2 years with estimated energy savings of 104,058 kWh or €9,044 per annum.
- Identification of inefficient storage heaters in use in our various buildings.
- Continuing Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Programme on the council's social housing stock. The Department of the Environment, Community and Local

Government provides 100% funding for this project and in 2015 the allocation was €615,000.

Phase 1 includes work on cavity wall insulation, attic insulation, ventilation and draught proofing.

Work was carried out on a further 311 units in Maganey, Nurney, Sallins, Newbridge, Kill, Kilmeague and Kildare Town.

Human Resources

The staff complement for Kildare County Council at 31 December 2015 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	7	6.80
Clerical/Administrative	344	304.70
Professional/Technical	161	157.00
Outdoor	338	269.60
Total Core Staff	850	738.10

Other staff		
Contract Posts	21	21
Site Supervisory	5	5
Temporary/Seasonal	39	39
Retained Firefighters	65	N/A
Non DoECLG	13	8
Total Other posts	143	73

The department processed applications in relation to 25 competitions that were held during the year. From the 1497 applications received, 1098 were male and 399 were female. As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 220 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 145 male and 75 female. 51 posts were offered (31 male and 20 female).

Gateway

As part of the Government Action Plan on Jobs, Kildare County Council is committed to the provision of placements on the Gateway Scheme.

This scheme offers an opportunity for the long term employed to gain or update experience of the workplace, to learn new skills and to return to the routine of work. The scheme will assist the personal and social development of participants by providing short-term work opportunities with the objective of bridging the gap between unemployment and re-entering the workforce.

By the end of 2015, 82 people were employed by Kildare County Council on the scheme. These are mostly outdoor workers with seven administrative staff. They are spread throughout the county and cover nine different towns and surrounding areas. Interviews for seasonal General Operatives, confined to Gateway workers, were carried out in July 2015 and nine people were employed on a temporary basis for the seasonal work programme.

Training and Development

During 2015, the training programme delivered in-house training to 850 staff covering the following areas:

- Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS)
- Health and Safety Training
- Retirement Planning
- Minute Taking
- Dealing with Difficult Situations
- Project Supervisor Design Process
- Interview Skills
- Customer Relationship Management Systems Training
- Information Technology Training.

Three staff members completed the IPA Diploma in Local Government Studies in 2015.

24 staff members were approved under the 2015 Scheme of Assistance for courses of further education.

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

Workplace Options are the providers of the EAP. Staff can access a wide variety of

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information through their website which is available on the staff intranet. Access is easy! Staff can access professional support to help balance their work, family and personal life.

Freephone: 1800 490 390

E-mail: eap@workplaceoptions.com

Website: www.workplaceoptions.com

Human Resources continue to promote the EAP throughout the year. Usage of the EAP is strong with a good mix of both emotional counselling support and information query requests.



Industrial and Employee Relations

Human Resources manage the relationship with trade unions and staff representatives dealing with both local and national issues as they arise. The provisions of the Public Service Agreements and any consequential changes have been implemented in full and continue to be reviewed.

Kildare County Council has continued to make progress in undertaking local government reform in line with the provisions of Putting People First.

Following consultation with unions the council agreed the Workforce Plan 2014-2016 with the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government and is undertaking recruitment to various posts within the organisation.

Kildare County Council staff continue to provide water services under an annual service level agreement. This has required the reorganisation of the water services department additional training and revised work practices. This has been achieved through the ongoing co-operation of the unions and staff concerned and is subject to annual review and consultation with unions.

Human Resources policy of fostering good industrial relations through the collaborative partnership approach at corporate level has facilitated the implementation of the change programme across the local authority. This could not be achieved without the continued cooperation and effort of council staff.

Retirements

Name	Grade	Name	Grade
Ger Roche	Executive Engineer	John T Doyle	R. Driver/Mechanic
Martin Malone	Library Caretaker	Tom Henry	Retained Sub Officer
Mary Ryan	School Warden	James O'Grady	Retained Firefighter
James Ashe	Water Caretaker Grade 3	Edel O'Carroll	Clerical Officer
Elizabeth Kehoe	Assistant Staff Officer	John Breen	Library Caretaker
Joan Talbot	Clerical Officer	Mary Carroll	Clerical Officer
Mary Duignan	Clerical Officer	Mary Fitzpatrick	Head of LEO
Margaret Shinkins	Clerical Officer	Mary O'Hara	Branch Librarian
Anthony Joyce	CT1 -General Operative	Michael McSharry	Social Worker
Annette Reid	Assistant Staff Officer	Brendan Kelly	Station Officer
Joe Aspell	Foreman		



ICT

2015 saw another busy year in IT with a large number of underlying infrastructural projects delivered and significant work done on IT Security, communications technologies and upgrade work across a number of key infrastructural elements of the council ICT architecture. A significant investment was made in a number of key application areas such as Customer Relationship Management, online forms engine for handling public submissions and new cloud based software for survey data capture. The ongoing support work in IT continued to consume considerable resource time and effort particularly in the areas of IT security, staff and member support services and IT applications support. The following are the key areas of focus in 2015:

IT Applications and Development

Underlying most council business is a suite of software applications that require constant support services. These systems include iPlan, iHouse, Agresso, ePayments, the various websites, social media sites and platforms, SugarCRM, iDocs, GIS, PMS etc. A small IT development team also develop small bespoke solutions where there is no

national or off the shelf solution available. The key projects in this area include:

- Deployment of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution to track member's representations, TD representations and requests to the Customer Services section. To date some 3,000 requests have been processed via the new system which heretofore would have involved tracking and management via numerous MS Excel sheets.
- Assist in the rollout of the new national Library Management system
- Assist in the rollout of the upgrade to the Agresso system
- Deployment of a new GIS browser based Mapping solution for the Planning Department
- Data Mapping exercises to facilitate external systems providers, update national systems (e.g. MyPlan) and provide data to internal Council staff in a spatial format
- New Training Booking System developed in house and deployed

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- New Chief Executive/ Director/ Authorised Officer management system developed and deployed
- New website portal for Business Development promotion in the county
- New cloud-based online forms generator to facilitate public submissions on the County Development Plan
- New smartphone based application for Housing Maintenance data collection facility in the field.
- Upgrade of council connection to Gov Networks
- Upgrade of connection to Shannon for the processing of Motor Tax applications and payments
- Cabling and connectivity to a new Municipal District office in Maynooth
- Connectivity of Athy Municipal District Office phone infrastructure to HQ via Voice over IP (VoIP)
- Connectivity of Kerdiffstown site to council network via wireless connectivity and VoIP

Enterprise Centres
Local Economic & Community Plan
Local Enterprise Office
Naas - Pioneering a brighter future
Shop Front/Town Centre Improvement Grant Scheme

Business/Gnó

Kildare County Council's aim is to encourage and facilitate business development and growth in Co. Kildare



Extract from Business Development Portal 2015

Other infrastructure projects include:

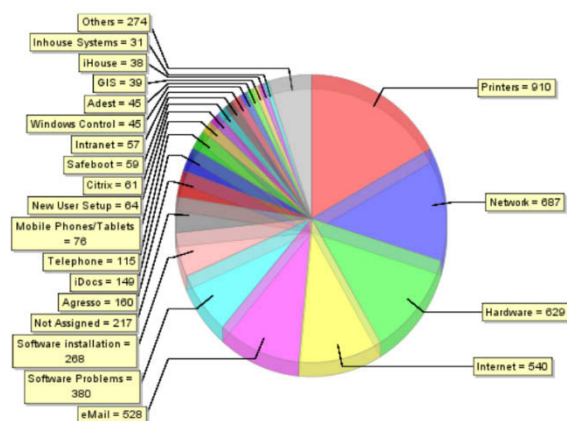
- Upgrade of Active Directory/Domain Controllers to Windows Server 2008
- Commissioning of new Firewall Servers at Council HQ
- Rollout of PC Power saving software across council offices
- Migration of PCs from Windows XP to Windows 7 following end of support for XP
- Fit-out of Level 7 at HQ for non-council employees/organisations including independent internet access and printing solutions.

IT Infrastructure

On the network side the council completed a number of key projects of note:

IT Security is always a huge concern for the organisation given the proliferation of ICT malware, viruses etc. To this end the IT Department spends considerable time and effort implementing, upgrading, monitoring and managing the range of security measures on the network, email platform and devices, including mobile and tablet devices. In 2015 the vast majority of all staff were given ICT security awareness training for work and for the home.

A large proportion of the resources in IT are dedicated to providing an extensive range of support services to council staff, Members and the public.



Calls to the IT Helpdesk 2015

In 2015 circa 5,500 calls for support to the IT Helpdesk were answered across all of the hardware and software platforms in use in the Council. A dedicated team of Technical Support Officers and Admin Support staff ensure that disruption to the business of the council is minimised when

the inevitable issues with technology occur.

Procurement

In 2015 a number of very successful tender competitions were run which resulted in significant savings for the council. Among the competitions successfully completed were:

- Purchase of fuel
- Paper and stationery
- Road signage
- Vans
- Consultants across various disciplines
- Control of horses
- Pay parking
- Parking machines and parking machine maintenance services
- Plant hire

The Procurement Unit continued to offer advice and services to staff, continued to meet with suppliers of goods, services and works and assisted sections in ensuring compliance with public procurement legislation and in getting best value for money in the expenditure of Council funds.

Tithíocht, Pobal agus Seirbhísí Cultúrtha



Housing, Community and Culture

Housing

The Housing Department aims to provide social housing support to persons who are unable to meet their housing need through their own resources. In the current economic climate, the demand for social housing supports has increased. Kildare County Council will commence construction of houses in 2016, however in advance of this and in order to meet increasing demand, the council primarily secures new social housing options through leasing, voluntary housing initiatives and the acquisition of houses.

Social Housing

The current social housing provision in County Kildare currently stands at 5,334 units; this is broken down into local authority stock (3,673), RAS (636), Social Leasing (232), Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (491) and Capital Assistance Scheme (468) properties. At year end 2015, the total number of applicants on the housing waiting list was 6,606.

Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020

In 2015 the council was allocated a total budget of €86.9 million to deliver targets

under the Social Housing Strategy for the period 2015-2017. The target is for the provision of an additional 1,283 units.

Delivery of Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020-Capital Delivery

The council has been allocated a capital budget of €80.1 million for the period 2015-2017. This encompasses funding for construction, acquisition, Part V acquisitions, Capital Assistance Schemes (CAS) and the return of void properties. In 2015 Kildare County Council purchased 55 houses and a further 10 derelict houses were renovated in Athy.

The following building projects were advanced in 2015:

- Regeneration of St. Patricks Park, Rathangan, the construction of 16 units, remedial works to 41 houses and the demolition of 26 houses
- Newbridge, 13 carbon neutral units
- Kilcock, 20 units
- Beechgrove, Rathangan, 18 units
- Prosperous, 10 units

- Kildare, 28 units.

Approval was sought for the following schemes:

- Rathasker, 50 units
- Athgarvan, 30 units

A number of small infill schemes were also identified and applications for departmental approval are being prepared.

A site for housing was identified as part of the acquisition of the Dominican lands in Athy.

Five units were also identified for purchase in an unfinished estate in Castledermot.

Capital Assistance Scheme

The Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) provides approved housing bodies (AHB) with capital funding for acquisitions and construction schemes which have been approved by Department of the Environment Community and Local Government (DECLG). Completed units provide housing for special categories of need. Following a call for proposals in 2014-2016, the DECLG gave approval to the purchase of 45 apartments and houses. The acquisition of three

apartments by an AHB was completed in 2015 and all others are in progress.

The DECLG also gave approval for three construction projects to provide 21 units of accommodation for people with intellectual disabilities and homeless individuals. In 2015 all projects advanced towards pre-planning stage. Further approval was granted to an AHB to extend an existing property in their ownership to provide one unit of accommodation.

A scheme to provide 33 units of accommodation under CAS/CALF in Athy is at design stage.



Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) was introduced in Kildare in November 2015 as a replacement for Rent Supplement. Under the scheme, existing rent supplement cases are transferring to HAP on a phased basis while new applicants seeking rent support no longer

deal directly with the local authority. It is anticipated that a significant number of applicants will transfer to HAP in Kildare during 2016.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continues to be an important mechanism for the delivery of social housing support in County Kildare. Under this scheme the council provides private rented accommodation to persons who are in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or longer. The total number of properties providing social housing under the RAS scheme increased to 636 at year end 2015.

Social Leasing

The Social Housing Leasing Initiative was introduced in 2010 to facilitate local authorities entering into long term leases of private dwellings as a means of meeting social housing needs. In 2015 there were 232 units operational under this scheme. The council is working with a number of AHBs for the delivery of additional units throughout the county and has facilitated funding of €1.8 million under the Capital Advance Loan Facility (CALF) in 2015.

Housing Grants

Housing Adaptation Grants, Housing Aid for Older People Grants and Mobility Aid Grants contribute to meeting housing needs by adapting existing homes to meet the need of the occupant. In 2015, 26 Housing Aid for Older People Grants, 203 Housing Adaptation Grants and 151 Mobility Aid Grants were approved.

Homeless Services

Kildare County Council continues as lead authority for the Mid East Region for homeless services, reporting to the DECLG on numbers presenting as homeless and services provided. In 2015, the council managed a budget allocation of €1,716,245.

At local level, there were 405 cases (individuals and family units) presenting as homeless in 2015. Of these cases, 334 persons were placed in emergency accommodation and 53 were supported to independent living, with the remaining either returning to family, being admitted to hospital or choosing to leave the country. In August 2015, Kildare County Council established the Homeless Support Team comprising of three staff members from three Homeless Services Organisations-the Peter McVerry Trust, Dublin Simon and Focus Ireland. In

addition the council, in conjunction with the Peter McVerry Trust, established Kildare Homeless Services Out of Hours Information and Advice Free phone Service. This service provides information and advice to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Kildare.

Tenancies/Rents

Kildare County Council continued to monitor and support tenancies through the Tenant Liaison Service (TLO). Issues relating to anti social behaviour and breach of tenancies are also dealt with by the TLO service. In 2015, certain sections of the Housing, Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2014 came into force, in particular, sections 7, 9, 12 and 15 which deal with breaches of tenancies, tenancy warnings, possession recovery and abandoned dwellings.

The Rents Section completed 650 reviews of former Town Council rents in accordance with the council's Differential Rent Scheme as required by the DECLG. In total 1088 rent reviews were undertaken in 2015. There has been an increase in work in this area with the ongoing review of council tenants, RAS and more recently HAP tenancies.

House Purchase Loan

Under this scheme, house purchase loans of up to 97% (maximum €220,000) are available for house purchases. The scheme is administered by the council under strict criteria as determined nationally. In 2015, 32 house purchase loans were approved in Kildare and 80 applications were evaluated.

Traveller Accommodation

The council manages four halting sites in County Kildare. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on four occasions in 2015 to review progress on the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-18. Work continued on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018.

Housing Maintenance

Kildare County Council Housing Maintenance Department is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the council's 3,673 housing units. In 2015 a budget allocation of €5.4 million provided for reactive, planned and general maintenance of this stock. The Department received and logged in excess of 4,500 repair reports in 2015. The council carries out the majority of its

maintenance activities by contract work but continues to employ a small direct labour crew. The three key areas of housing maintenance include:

(1) Reactive Maintenance

Reactive maintenance involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair requests. In 2015 over 2,000 repairs were completed with many reported repairs being the tenants responsibility to resolve. The Housing Maintenance Department continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

(2) General Maintenance

General maintenance includes required programmes and works on vacant properties, new purchases, demountables, remote cottages and four traveller halting sites. In 2015, 85 properties and 36 new purchases had works completed for re-letting and were returned to housing stock.

(3) Planned Maintenance

Planned maintenance involves the delivery of targeted programmes for specific improvement and replacement works including central heating systems,

window and door programmes, void properties, energy upgrade works and fire damaged properties.

In 2015 targeted central heating system servicing was delivered in Fr. Murphy Place, Naas and 96 other properties received reactionary servicing. A targeted window replacement programme was carried out in Highfield Park, Kilcock. Programmes were also initiated in Kildare Town and Athy/Castleroe with a further 14 specific houses in need in North Kildare being serviced. Under the void programme 20 long term vacant homes in need of significant repair were returned to stock.

In 2015, with a budget of €615k, 305 units received energy upgrades. Works under this programme include attic insulation, cavity wall insulation, ventilation and draught proofing. The following breakdown provides units upgraded per Municipal District in 2015:

- Athy/Monasterevin-32,
- Kildare/Newbridge-245,
- Naas-28.

Community and Culture



Kildare Age Friendly County Programme

The Kildare Age Friendly Alliance met four times with the development of the new Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy the focus of their work for 2015. Meetings were held with all the relevant stakeholders in order to make the strategy a workable document and encourage all objective holders to become actively involved in the process. A communications and information plan was also developed, outlining the process that will be used to roll out the programme and provide a reporting mechanism. The Kildare Age Friendly website was developed in conjunction with Age Friendly Ireland and forms one of the county portals under the national structure. The website will be populated with useful information and direct older people to services in Kildare. The information will be provided by all the service providers in the county. Kildare

County Council will be the gatekeeper for the website.

Kildare Older Persons Council AGM 2015

The new Kildare Older Persons Council was formed at the first general meeting on the 26 May 2015. A further meeting was held in June at which the new executive was formed. Terms of reference for this group were agreed with the Alliance and training and development has since taken place. The Chairperson of the Older Persons Council is the county programme representative on the Joint Policing committee.



Kildare County Council Pride of Place and Youth Endeavour Awards

For the past 21 years Kildare County Council has held competitions for Tidy Local Authority Housing Estates and Best Kept Gardens. Prizes are awarded both for the appearance of estates and for levels of voluntary work. The focus is on building vibrant, sustainable communities and encouraging residents to become actively involved. This year there were 38 entries representing over 50 estates in this year's Tidy Estates competition.

The Youth Endeavour award recognises young people who make an outstanding contribution to community life. In its 12th year, the awards scheme has helped to focus attention on the generosity of younger citizens who are taking an active part in the life of their neighbourhoods. There were 10 recipients in this year's awards ceremony.



Community Awards night

A very successful awards night was held on campus in Maynooth University again in 2015. Over 250 people attended on the night. We would like to acknowledge the support given by the university and thank them for their hospitality. This is the third occasion that we have hosted the annual awards night at Maynooth University.



Local Authority Residents Association Grants

Over 90 grants were paid out to Local Authority Residents Associations in County Kildare. The grants were given for open space maintenance. The estates have really improved and this is reflected in their success at county level in both the Pride of Place competition and the Tidy Towns awards.

National Pride of Place Competition

The Community Workers worked with Solas Bhríde in Kildare town as they were chosen as the Kildare entry in the national competition in 2015. As a result the group did very well and with the support of the council were able to put up new signage and develop their community garden. They were also supported to put together a very informative presentation for the judges when they arrived. They received very positive feedback and did the county proud.



Collaborative Working

The team would like to acknowledge the support and partnership approach with other agencies and the cross sectoral teams in Kildare County Council. In particular, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), Kildare County Council Parks Department, Kildare Sports

Partnership, the Integrated Service Programme (ISP) project team and all the other members of K-Partners.

Joint Policing Committee

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between and Garda Síochána, local authorities and elected local representatives and also facilitate the participation of the community and voluntary sectors in this regard.

The function of the JPC is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, which states: “The joint policing committee’s function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area”.

During 2015, the JPC met formally on four occasions and each municipal district met with the local Superintendents of the Gardaí giving opportunity to raise local issues.

In December, an open meeting encouraging public participation was held to seek the public’s input into the six year strategy which will come before Council during 2016.

County Kildare Public Participation Network

www.kildareppn.ie hosts all the background detail on the formation of the County Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN). Voluntary groups across the five municipal districts and three pillars of Community/Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environment are invited to register with the PPN.

To date over 450 local voluntary groups have registered.

The next phase is to put in place the necessary structures to enable the PPN to function on behalf of the broader community:

- Put in place a co-ordinator/facilitator
- Set up of the secretariat
- Appoint representatives to sit on important committees of the council e.g. Local Committee Development Committee (LCDC), Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and other bodies of the local authority.

Integration Strategy

Integration Strategy for Ethnic Minorities (Children and Adults) Community in Kildare

Background

In March 2015 County Kildare Integration Strategy was launched following adoption by Kildare County Council and County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP). This strategy was a culmination of 12 months of work with agencies and community groups responding to an obvious need for a co-ordinated integration strategy. Locally this need was identified following the Naas resettlement programme of 2012 but was first highlighted in Planning for Diversity- The National Action Plan against Racism (2005).

Structure

In 2015 a multiagency implementation team was established and the partnership between Kildare County Council and County Kildare Partnership continued in leading and guiding the strategy.

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Broadly speaking all agencies on the implementation team have responsibilities around implementation of individual actions, however it has been the council

and CKLP that have taken the lead strategic direction and co-ordination role.

In practice , the council has taken a lead role in convening the implementation group and co-ordinating agency participation.

Kildare Integration Strategy-Moving Forward

Kildare Integration Strategy has been presented to the LCDC and submitted for consideration as part of their planning process. In 2015, provision of support to the Countywide Integration Network and the provision of exit and orientation supports to those leaving direct provision were endorsed for inclusion under the SICAP programme.

In light of the commitments made by Kildare County Council and the emerging needs in regard to the Syrian refugee crisis the optimal support would be the establishment of an integration unit in Kildare County Council to lead in the co-ordination of integration work, link with SICAP and the LCDC and drive the strategic direction of integration in County Kildare.

Newbridge Town Hall Refurbishment

Major building refurbishment works were undertaken during 2015, with the building now being returned to the community for active use.

A Management Board has been formed, and have had initial meetings to review the progress on the works and consider how the refurbished building might be made available for public use. Such consideration also involved reviewing operational arrangements for other similar buildings in neighbouring counties. Key to any decisions by the board will be putting in place of a set of guidelines on agreed usage and at same time having an arrangement in place with some local entity that has the resource to manage the booking, supervision and caretaking in accordance with the guidelines set by the board.

Development of former ESB Site, Leixlip

The council continues to work with an interested party in the development of this important location in the town of Leixlip. The development proposer has worked up detailed plans and we understand is now well advanced to allow them submit a planning proposal very soon.

Perimeter Track, Bawnogues, Kilcock

Grant funding has been secured for the development of a perimeter track around the Bawnogues lands. Major drainage works are to be undertaken to enable development to go ahead.

National Stud lands, Kildare Town

Consultants MCO projects have been appointed to develop a masterplan for the 17 acres of land which were formerly part of the National Stud Lands. Part of the work being undertaken will be to examine the possibility of providing a commercial option which may provide an additional visitor attraction within the lands to complement existing attractions within the town and or part finance the delivery of the park.

Skatepark, Newbridge

The Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District has given the go ahead to progress the detail for a Part 8 proposal to provide the skatepark at the open space at the Moorefield Road/Dunnes Stores junction.

Kildare Local Community Development Committee

Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014. LCDCs were established in all the local authorities as a requirement of the Local Government Act 2014. They have a key function to achieve joined up approaches to local and community development in the county. Kildare LCDC has 19 members-9 from state agencies and 10 from the non-statutory sector.

There were six LCDC meetings held in 2015. Attendance amongst the 19 members was very high, with an overall level of attendance level of 73%.

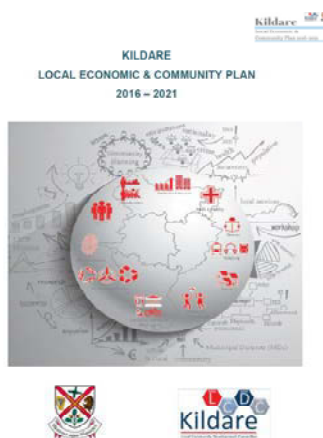
LCDC Logo and Website

A new Kildare LCDC logo was created and launched in March 2015.



Following the new logo, an LCDC website was launched in May www.kildarelcdc.ie

Local Economic and Community Development Plan 2016-2021



The LCDC has a role in developing a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the county. The purpose of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and community development of Kildare.

Early in 2015 the LCDC working jointly with economic and community stakeholders identified 12 key social and economic goals for Kildare, to be addressed over the lifetime of the plan. Maynooth University were contracted to develop a socio-economic baseline report and policy review document and the outputs from this work were used as the starting point for the entire LECP process.

The LECP was completed and approved by full Council on 18 Dec 2015.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2015-2017



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a programme aimed at reducing disadvantage and poverty in Ireland. The LCDC are the contracting body for SICAP and the County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) are the Programme Implementer.

In early 2015, a SICAP LCDC subgroup was established to work closely with and provide support and guidance to CKLP. Mid-term and End of Year reviews took place in 2015 and the targets reached for 2015 exceeded the targets set. The LCDC highlighted the importance of continuing the focus on young people, to target known disadvantaged areas/groups with little supports and these have been reflected in the SICAP plan.

Rural Development Programme

A Rural Development Programme (RDP) LCDC subgroup was established in June to work with the CKLP on the preparation and submission of a Local Development

Strategy 2014-2020 for Kildare. The strategy will be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in early 2016.

Presentations

The LCDC was increasingly used in 2015 as a way for members to share information, agree on collaborative initiatives and to highlight service deficits in Kildare at national level. LCDC meetings have become a forum to share information on services within the county and in 2015 the following members presented their services:

- Tusla, Child and Family Agency
- Kildare Wicklow ETB
- McVerry Trust.

Presentations were made by LCDC members to highlight LECP priorities to:

- National Office of Suicide Prevention
- Headstrong.

Integrated Services Programme



The Integrated Services Programme (ISP) commenced in 2010. The ISP brings together leaders from statutory, voluntary, community, business and elected representatives to identify local priorities for collaborative working. The ISP commenced in Kildare Town and is now also established in Kilcock and Celbridge.

Kildare Town

One of the main priorities across Kildare is to provide more services to people at risk of suicide. Kildare was selected by the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) to run a pilot of Mojo, a mental health programme which supports men who are affected by unemployment. There was overwhelming demand for first programme held in Kildare Town. 34 men were referred for 14 places. The outcome from this 12 week programme was exceptionally positive.

Mojo Kildare recognised the strong correlation between good physical and mental health and Kildare Sports Partnership rolled out the physical fitness

aspect of the programme. The programme enabled men to see the positive impacts of being active physically, socially and emotionally for themselves.



The Hive-Youth Hub Kildare Town

September 2015 marked the opening of The Hive, a multi-use youth facility in Kildare Town. It is located in the old Post Office which underwent extensive renovation which resulted in a central, accessible location for young people. Kildare Youth Service is the anchor tenant with other youth groups/organisations using the facility weekly.



Kilcock

The key priorities for Kilcock are to increase health care provision and develop a multi-purpose facility. Progress continued in 2015 with the HSE procuring builders to commence developing the new primary care centre in 2016, planning granted for the new community facility and

the development of an integrated plan for the Bawnogues site.

In December a community launch of the work took place on the Bawnogues.



Work to develop the Kilcock Men's Shed continued throughout 2015. Men from across Kilcock meet on a weekly basis and became engaged in an ISP supported wood turning programme.



A FAI/Gardaí Street League was held over four weeks, which involved 50 young people from Kilcock. This was a huge success and built on programmes held in 2014.



Celbridge

Work continued throughout 2015 to finalise the ISP plan 2016-2020 for Celbridge. There was tremendous engagement from the local community, local businesses, state agencies and elected representatives. From this eight priority areas were agreed. These were clustered under two themes:

1. Children and Young People, Health, Education, Facilities and Safety
2. Tourism Development, Employment and Infrastructure.

Two implementation teams were established composed of relevant agencies, business representatives and community leaders. Work to implement the plan commenced towards the end of 2015. A Strengthening Families Programme was held for the first time in Celbridge, work to complete a tourism strategy for Celbridge linking it to North Kildare is now well underway.

Leisure Services

Parks

The Parks Section is involved in the provision management and maintenance of parks and open spaces as well as the provision of amenity facilities, particularly playgrounds, around the county. It also provides advice and assistance to internal council Departments and community organisations in relation to landscaping and amenity projects. Projects and activities completed in the last year include:

- The installation of two pitches and associated drainage of amenity lands at Lough na Mona, Leixlip and it is hoped these will be ready for play in 2016
- The tree pruning and tree removal programme, based on requests received from around the county
- The spring bulb planting programme at towns including Naas, Athy, Leixlip, Kilcock and Carbury
- The grass maintenance programme in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Kildare and Monasterevin



- The landscaping of five roundabouts:
 - The Naas Ring Road
 - Hazelhatch Roundabout, Celbridge
 - The Curragh Racecourse for the 200th Anniversary of the Irish Derby



- M4 Roundabout, NUI
 - Dunboyne Road Roundabout, Maynooth.
- The works on a community garden in Kilcock in conjunction with the

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Environment Department. It is hoped that works will be completed in 2016

- The continuation of the pilot allotment scheme in The Wonderful Barn
- Financial and technical support given to Residents Associations and Tidy Town Committees in the county
- The rebuilding of the boundary in Pound Park, Maynooth
- Landscaping works began along the Silleachain Valley, Leixlip.
- Archaeological investigation work on the Courtyard in The Wonderful Barn.
- Design work on the drainage works in The Bawnogues.

Playgrounds

There are now 20 playgrounds in the county.

- Refurbishment work on the Peoples Park Playground, Athy was completed



- A new skate park was opened at Meeting Lane, Athy
- Plans for new playgrounds in Ellistown and Kill were progressed. It is hoped to have these opened in 2016
- The playground in St John of Gods was refurbished and reopened to the public



- Regular maintenance of the established playgrounds continued.

Special Play Initiatives

- Play day event was held in Áras Chill Dara in September to celebrate National Play Day. It was attended by over 3,000 people. This was the 4th year of the event.
- Funding was also provided to Riverbanks Arts Centre for play initiatives as part of their programme of events.

Newbridge Sports Centre

Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre has been in operation now for almost 29 years providing the local community with an invaluable facility.

Facilities provided include indoor and outdoor pitches, room hire, sauna and steam rooms, fitness testing facilities, party area, reception and coffee dock.

- Awarded the Gold Standard White Flag Award again in 2015, highlighting our excellent standards within our facility. The White Flag award is the only comprehensive quality award in Ireland that measures the standards for Leisure facilities
- Linked to K-Leisure in Naas and Athy, offering customers multi membership to all three sites for the same membership rate
- Newbridge Sports Centre operates seven days per week including bank holidays with operating hours of 90 hours per week
- Membership numbers in 2015 increased to 1000 active members, using the facility multiple times per week

- The programme of fitness classes was expanded in 2015 with a timetable of classes now extending to over 40 classes per week
- Fitness testing and personal programs provided by fully qualified instructors
- A broad range of community groups both formal and informal utilise the sports centre on a weekly basis
- Multi activity camps were held during school holidays for children aged under 12
- A number of charitable events were run during the course of the year to raise funds for a variety of charities.

FAI Development Programme

Ashgrove Estate Football Festival

Developed from the FAI Football fun sessions delivered to the children in Ashgrove estate in May and June 2015, the FAI held a Blitz Day on the August Bank Holiday weekend with help from the residents committee and Kildare County Council's Community Worker.

A soccer tournament for the older children and football fun games for the smaller children, along with a 5 a-side match for the adults was organised.

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This was a real community success.

Ashgrove has 62 houses in the estate and a least one person from each household was involved on the day. From cutting the grass, marking the pitch, refereeing matches, helping with the fun games with the smaller kids, serving refreshments and coming out and supporting the children (and adults) in their matches.

The Football Festival really brought out the community spirit within the estate and was a great success.



Kildare Sports Partnership

In 2015, Kildare Sports Partnership (KSP) continued to roll out programmes and courses as part of its remit to increase participation in sport and physical activity. Below is a summary of activities and programmes which took place:

Community Coaching Programme

This programme is focused on successfully assisting unemployed people to gain employment, coaching, volunteering and

further education opportunities in the sports sector for example as coaches, physical activity leaders etc. It provides the participants with practical and theoretical sport-related skills as well as personal development modules and helps them find relevant work experience in their local community. It also contributes to the promotion of both physical and mental health amongst participants and in the community through the subsequent employment and/or volunteering work carried out by participants.

In 2015 courses were held in Maynooth and Castledermot, upskilling 22 people.



Get Kildare Walking

As part of the 'Get Kildare Walking' Programme, Kildare Sports Partnership organised its second Kildare Walking Festival in 2015 and once again was a big success with walks at the following locations:

- Arthurs Way Walk, Celbridge

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- Athy Waterways Walk
- Grand Canal Walk, Ardclough
- Grand Canal Walk, Sallins
- Carbury Castle Guided Walk
- Carton House Parklands
- Curragh Plains
- Grand Canal at Killen Golf Club
- Bull Hill Narraghmore
- Castletown House
- Grand Canal Milltown.



School's Programme

In 2015 Kildare Sports Partnership engaged with many schools throughout the county with over 5,500 children involved in our various schools' programmes. In October a Primary School's Seminar was organised, in conjunction with South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown with 180 teachers attending. Two of the most

successful programmes were our 21 Day Challenge and Step Up To 60 Programmes

The Step Up To 60 Programme is a 28 day activity challenge for primary school children to promote the importance of getting the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of activity per day. The fitness levels of students is measured, pre and post 28 days, to calculate benefits achieved. The programme is run in conjunction with the HSE.

Other programmes which took place in 2015 include:

Schools Programme

- After Schools Activity programme
- Naas CBS Mini Triathlon
- Sports Taster Programme in conjunction with the Schools Completion Programme
- Sprocket Rocket programme
- Conor McCormack Run

Education and Training

- Community Coaching programme
- 2hr Transition Year training
- Active Leadership Training

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- First Aid and Defibulator Training
- Junior Active Leadership
- Disability Inclusion Training
- Sports specific coaching courses
- Code Of Ethics courses.

Community Run Programme

- Monasterevin 5k
- Naas Town 10k
- Parkrun, Castletown
- Parkrun, Naas
- Leinster Loop Cycle Event
- Rathcoffey 10k
- Athy 5k/10k
- Ballykelly 5k/10k
- Narraghmore Duathlon
- Curragh 5k/5 mile
- Kildare Town Thoroughbred 5k/10k.

Get Kildare Walking

- Walking groups formed
- Walking leader training
- Operation Transformation Walk

- Kildare Walking Festival.

Age Friendly Programme

- Go For Life Games
- Aqua Aerobics for Over 55's
- Mícheal Ó Muirheartaigh Talk-The Importance of Physical Activity for Older People
- Active Seated Yoga.

Sports Inclusion Disability Programme

- Mental Health Gym Group
- Disability programmes
- Hockey 4 All programme
- Horse Riding programme
- Come and Try It days
- Learn2Cycle programme
- Learn 2 Swim programme
- MOJO programme
- Arthritis Ireland Seated Exercise Programme.

Women in Sport

- Yoga/Pilates
- Boxercise classes

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- Local authority programme
- Dance classes.



Learn2Swim Programme, Disability Inclusion Training and the Arthritis Ireland Seated Exercise Programme being rolled out in the county.

Other

- GIS mapping of clubs and facilities
- National Playday
- Club development grants
- Sports capital programme advice
- Sports capital programme advice
- Providing advice and information
- Linking with National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

Sports Inclusion Disability Officer and Sports Development Officers

Our Sports Inclusion Disability programme had a big impact in 2015 with programmes such as the Mental Health Gym Group, Hockey 4 All, Horse Riding, Come and Try It days, Learn 2 Cycle Programme,

Kildare Library and Arts Services

Libraries

Kildare Library and Arts Service Development Plan 2015-2019 '*IDEAS REALISED: Spreading the Word*' was launched in April 2015. It provides the map and compass to deliver a sustainable and responsive modern library service over the five years 2015-2019. The plan charts the future direction, strategies and actions whilst building on existing strengths and synergies to transport the library positively forward.

Prepared and adopted by Kildare County Council in accordance with legislative requirements, our strategies are contextualised by national and local policies and concerns. Following a wide consultation process with staff and stakeholders, analysis of performance and research, the plan has progressed under the corporate guidance of the Strategic Policy Committee.

Our vision is to embed the library within the county as an unsurpassable community space, an environment that acts as the gateway to creativity, inspiration and support responding to the needs of its communities.

This plan takes cognisance of the changing technological, economic and social profile of Kildare. Developments in technology bring exciting opportunities for expansion of service delivery whilst at the same time bringing forth new challenges. The library service embraces these challenges, harnessing the potential to break down the barriers within the Digital Divide.

Our frame provides a holistic approach towards the delivery of a 21st century modern library service which builds on a strong tradition of partnerships, initiatives, developments and ideas. The eight strategies provide this blueprint for going forward to indeed become Ideas Realised

Spaces, Access and Service Provision

The council completed the acquisition of the **former Dominican property in Athy** comprising former Church, Priory buildings and lands.

Progress is currently being made on the proposal to convert the former church to a modern community library for Athy and its environs. With the appointment of a design team to manage this project, it is

hoped that a Part 8 proposal can be brought before council very soon.

Business, Enterprise and

Employment Support books were provided to the seven full-time libraries. Maynooth Library was chosen as the pilot location for a national project offering:

- Resources to entrepreneurs and business start-ups including Business Advice Clinics were offered in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office
- Employment support resources for job seekers, Job Clubs and CV Clinics in conjunction with the Local Employment Services Network.

Shelf Help: Recommended Reading for Personal Wellbeing is a collection of books covering the topics of general mental health and well-being, addiction, relationships and social issues. This collection was selected in conjunction with experienced professionals working in primary care within Counties Kildare and Wicklow. It is a scheme, whereby primary care practitioners working in these counties, can direct those affected by the topics covered in the collection and to which any member of the public can self-refer. The collection is

expanded every year and ties in with a programme of free events hosted in our library branches.

Learning Skills and Enterprise

Better Basics is a reading enhancement programme designed to support and advance reading skills amongst primary school age pupils. The programme supports improvement in children's reading ability through one to one paired learning with a reading volunteer. The programme is run in conjunction with the County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) Since 2014 the programme has been run five times, in three primary schools, and it is intended to expand the programme further in 2016.

In order to further engage with pre-school learning, we introduced our **Early Learning Fun (ELF)** collection. This is a selection of four sets of titles, grouped together under the four themes of the pre-school curriculum, available exclusively for loan to pre-schools and crèches in Kildare.

Each set comprises of 30 titles, supporting one of the four themes, and can be borrowed for a period of 6 weeks. These sets are available for loan on a Kildare Library Service's block loan

ticket. Block loans are available free of charge from any of our libraries.

The Support to Secondary Schools Programme was developed to promote the library service to young people and raise awareness of what our modern public library service has to offer.

Elements of the programme such as the One Book, One Year Literacy Project, Author visits, Creative Writing Workshops, Maths Week, Science Week and Engineering Week events and workshops, all provide additional support to the schools in their literacy and numeracy plans while strengthening the links between the library service and the schools.

The Secondary School Programme includes separate programmes aimed at Junior and Senior Cycle as well as Transition Year Students. Events include workshops and talks on topics related to the curriculum and future careers as well as encouraging creativity and community participation e.g. Creative Writing, Graphic Novel, Film Studies, Shakespeare, History, Coding, Computer Gaming, Anti-Bullying, Irish language workshops etc.

This years Support to Secondary School Programme has seen 6,500 students

from ten different second level schools attend events in our libraries.

Kildare Library Service has supported the **Toys, Technology and Training (TTT)** Project since 2007. The collection is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs. Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas Libraries, this specialised collection of toys, software and assistive technology can be accessed free of charge from all branches throughout the county and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any Kildare library. The training element of the project (our annual series of free lectures and workshops) was launched in January by Adam Harris founder of AsIAm.ie, the website that supports people affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions.

The Kildare Library Service TTT Project is unique in Ireland and is held as an example of best practice by schools, professionals and organisations who work with children with additional needs.

Parents: Practical and Positive Supports was a series of parenting talks organised by Kildare Library Service in partnership with HSE Primary Care Psychology Team and Mental Health Ireland and was funded by

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Kildare County Council. Attendance at all the events was free of charge and open to everyone. Events took place in all seven of our main libraries with great success.

The programme, which included over forty events, was launched in March by Dr. John Sharry. Events and workshops included First Aid, How to help your baby to sleep, Positive Discipline and Managing Challenging Behaviour, Helping Children Who Worry Too Much, Social Networking and Cyberbullying, Teenage Well Being, Taking Care of Yourself When you are Stressed or Worried etc.

Culture Campus

The **Kildare Decade of Commemoration Programme** officially kicked off with the launch of Thomas Nelson's book 'Through Peace and War. Kildare County Council in the Years of Revolution 1899-1926' in October 2015. This was followed by two free concerts 'The Percy French Story' by Mona Conroy and Owen C. Lynch which were sponsored by Kildare County Council to commemorate Percy's performance in Naas Town Hall 100 years ago.

The unveiling of a statue of John Devoy 'The Greatest of the Fenians' was a

unique historic event on 25th October in Poplar Square, Naas and the Kildare 2016 Programme was officially launched on the same day by the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.

The launch of the book 'Foremost and Ready-Kildare and the 1916 Rising' by James Durney, Kildare County Council's Historian In Residence took place in November.



The Programme throughout 2016 will examine and reflect on the impact of the 1916 Rising through a comprehensive exploration of the political, social, cultural and economic history of the county. We will provide a holistic view of the period, through cultural performances, publications, historical reflections and education programmes.

The involvement of all parts of the community remains an important aspect of our commemorations.

Since its inception in 2010, **Kildare Readers Festival (KRF)** audiences have continued to grow. 2015's festival, our sixth, hosted world renowned authors such as Pat McCabe, Eoin McNamee, Nell McCafferty, John Loneragan, Dermot Bolger, Joseph O' Connor and Louise O' Neill. Our ethos is to connect our readers with authors and artists, working to bring the very best from the world of literature to our audiences in Kildare.

The regular events such as *Ten Books You Should Read*, *Sunday Morning Sessions*, and our schedule of *Fringe Events*, are becoming firm favourites with audiences. We are committed to ensuring that our festival remains accessible to all, and so all events are free of charge.



During the summer months we ran the **Summer Reading Buzz** for children to encourage reading outside of the school year. In 2015 the 'Buzz' grew from six participating local authorities to thirteen - working together, sharing ideas and benefiting from economies of scale for ordering merchandise. Over 1,500 children of all ages registered in County Kildare and many participated in bee themed workshops and fun events.

The events for our **Age Friendly Festival** which ran over eight months of the year proved popular with older people and included film, author readings, craft workshops and talks on mindfulness, personal finance and fire-safely. Highlights of the programme included talks by legendary sporting commentator Micheál O'Muircheartaigh, performances by Carnation Theatre as well as local history talks by Mario Corrigan, Senior Executive Librarian and James Durney, our Historian in Residence.

It was another successful year of **Day to Day** events in libraries. Parent and Toddler Groups and Storytime continue to be great ways for young families to meet and become part of the community. Local playschools and

creches had visits from library staff for storytimes with Rua, the Library Squirrel.



Our local primary schools participated in events for Engineering Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Science Week, Children's Book Festival and author visits as well visiting us to borrow books on a regular basis.

Our Book Clubs, Film Clubs, Computer Classes, Knitting and Crochet Clubs continue to grow.

The gallery spaces in libraries hosted art exhibitions throughout the year giving local and national artists an opportunity to display their work to the local community.

During 2015 libraries continued to be a focal point for culture and creativity, information and support, technology and innovation in our community.

The Virtual Library

Kildare County Library Service is a lead authority in the implementation of Phase One of Sierra-the new national public **Library Management System (LMS)**. This new LMS will eventually facilitate the sharing of library resources nationally. It has a shared catalogue and patron database and leads the way for a universal membership card that can be used throughout libraries in the Republic of Ireland.

The national procurement of **eServices** commenced during 2015. All library authorities in the country, including Kildare County Library, will provide a range of different online services for FREE to our patrons:

- Bolinda Digital will provide eBooks and eAudiobooks;
- 500 eLearning courses through Universal Class
- Over 70 eLanguage courses by Mango Languages

120 Zinio eMagazines and an eNews service through ProQuest Newstand.

Team Approach

Progress continued in the training and up-skilling of staff who are encouraged and supported in delivering new creative avenues for the library service to explore.

The power of social media platforms continues to be explored and utilised in order to broaden the reach of the service.

Follow us:

Twitter: @kildarelibrary

Facebook: KildareCountyLibraryService

Arts Service Programme Highlights

The premiere of 'All About Eva', a feature film shot in Athy in 2014, premiered at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival in March 2015. Three new commissioned films, 'Gridlock', 'JFK, The Badgeman Conspiracy' and 'Talker', were filmed in Kildare in 2015, leading to new collaborations with Coillte and the film sector. Kildare's reputation as being 'film friendly' also led to filming of scenes for 'In View' and a Bollywood film, 'Guns 'n' Roses' on location in Kildare.

www.shortgrassfilms.com, Kildare's film website was launched at the Film Lab weekend in Riverbank, November 2015.



A Circus Skills programme for young people was launched for young people in Athy in October 2015. Young people will get hands-on training in a variety of circus skills to contribute to the festival programme in Athy.



With the English Department, Maynooth University, Eoin Mc Namee, writer and Hugh Travers, screen writer, were appointed as resident artists for 2015/16

for the university and the Library and Arts service.

The advanced Laban Dance Studies course took place in Spring 2015. Participants travelled from across Ireland to attend this course.

The Creative Well-an integrated arts and health programme, was offered in Ballitore, in association with the HSE mental health services. The Creative Well Studio weekly visual arts workshops continues to attract individuals availing of mental health services in the county and the general public.



The Past Times Community Choir continued to support people living with dementia, their families, carers and communities. This has broadened the music and health programme in the county and encouraged high level musical engagement with choir director Sharon Murphy, strengthened by the

partnership between the arts specialist, HSE and musical director. Public performances created more visibility for the choir.



3,800 children in 40 primary schools countywide participated in the arts and education programme, with local visual artists, musicians, dancers, architects and circus practitioners.

Culture Night-now in its sixth year, had over 9,000 people attended 78 events countywide in 2015. It included Kildare Portrait Artist of the Year with guest sitters, RTE broadcasters, Dick Warner and Aine Lawlor. An exhibition of the paintings were exhibited in Castletown House, Celbridge



€56,330 grant aid was provided to 63 professional artists and community groups throughout the county, for the creation of new works, collaborative arts initiatives, professional development opportunities, amateur drama and youth theatre productions and artists in schools

A series of bronze low relief sculptures depicting market scenes by Ann Meldon Hugh were installed in George's St, Newbridge.

Pleanáil agus Forbairt Gheilleagrach



Planning and Economic Development

Planning

Development Plans

The purpose of a Development Plan is to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area. This is done in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts, the National Spatial Strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines and any other national, regional and local policies and EU requirements.

In summary, the main objectives in a plan are:

- Zoning of land
- Provision of infrastructure
- Conservation and protection of the environment
- Management of features of the landscape
- Compliance with environmental standards
- Integration with social, community and cultural requirements
- Protection of structures
- Architectural conservation
- Regeneration
- Accommodation for Travellers
- Provision of recreational amenities
- Provision of community services
- Promotion of sustainable development
- Preservation of public rights of way.

The current County Development Plan for Kildare is for the period 2011 to 2017 and was adopted by the Council in May 2011.

Review of County Development Plan 2017-2023

Kildare County Council commenced the preparation of a new County Development Plan in April 2015. This plan-making process must be completed within two years by April 2017.

The new Development Plan will set out the strategy for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare for the period 2017-2023. The Plan is the council's main public statement of planning policies and objectives and of the criteria by which new developments are assessed. The

development plan making process includes periods of consultation during which the input of the public is invited and welcomed. Five public information sessions were held in 2015, in various locations, to discuss the requirements of the public and to outline the vision for the new plan. A pre-draft vision for the new plan was also published.

Variation No.3 of County Development Plan 2011-2017

Policies to address high voltage transmission lines

Variation no. 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 was conducted in 2014 to incorporate policies to address high voltage transmission lines. The objective of the variation is to establish the planning policy framework for the future development of high voltage transmission lines within the county in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. The Variation was adopted at the council meeting in October 2014.

However, in November 2014, notice was received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government that the Minister had formed the provisional opinion that, in adopting Variation no. 3 of the Kildare County

Development Plan 2011-2017, the Variation as adopted was not in compliance with the requirements of S.13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The council engaged in a further round of public consultation and prepared a report on same which was formally submitted to the Minister. A notice issued from the Minister in January 2015 confirming that no material amendment to the draft direction of December 2014 was required and that further investigation was not necessary.

Wind Energy Strategy County Kildare-Proposed Variation No. 4

A considerable amount of the relevant draft mapping of constraints and facilitators has been completed as part of the preparation of the Kildare Wind Energy Strategy. In order to bring the strategy closer to completion, the conclusion of the review of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government "Wind Energy Development Planning Guidelines" is required. The Council was advised by the Department to defer the completion of the county wind strategy until the policy review of the Department's Wind

Energy Development Guidelines which are expected to be completed shortly.

A variation of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 will be required to adopt the Wind Energy Strategy. The strategy will be informed by appropriate environmental studies including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Local Area Plans

The review of Local Area Plans continued in 2015 with Kilcock Local Area Plan becoming effective from 11 November 2015. In addition, a variation to the Newbridge Local Area Plan which corrected some minor mapping issues, was adopted on 16 September 2015 and became effective from 15 October 2015.

During 2015 work continued on the review of the following Local Area Plans:

- Monasterevin
- Clane
- Sallins
- Leixlip/Collinstown
- Celbridge/Castletown

All the Plans are prepared within the context of the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines, the County Development Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations and other local and national policies.

Heritage

Kildare County Council, through its Heritage Office, continued to develop its role in the protection and promotion of the built and natural heritage resources of the county throughout 2015. This was achieved by providing advice on aspects of Kildare's heritage and by developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the county's heritage.



The Heritage Officer implements the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan. The actions implemented under these plans in 2015 include the following:

1. Collection of heritage data

- Partnership with Kildare Fáilte re tourism projects in the county
- Supporting the research of the Buildings of Ireland Trust
- Studying the Value of Heritage with Meath, Kilkenny and Cork City
- Habitat mapping of six towns and villages.



2. Raising heritage awareness

- Heritage Week 2015
- Developing the inaugural County Kildare Biodiversity Week
- Administering the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2015
- Developing the Curragh Audio Guide and app
- Developing the exhibition of Thatched Cottages of Kildare with National Stud

- Developing the Kildare Heritage colouring book
- Ballymore Autumn Foraging Event

A total of €127,000 was spent on the implementation of the Heritage Plan and other heritage projects in 2015.

Architectural Conservation

Record of Protected Structures

The Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) provides technical advice and recommendations to Kildare County Council and the public, on the built heritage of the county.

Historic buildings and their setting are protected, through their addition to the Record of Protected Structures. Historic structures can also be added to the Record of Protected Structures outside the Development Plan Reviews.

There is a statutory duty of care for owners and occupiers to repair and maintain their protected structures.

Athy Model School was conserved and restored in 2015 after an extensive fire in 2010.



Architectural Conservation Areas

Historic designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material urban or rural enclosure, can be protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA).

ACAs have been proposed as part of the various Development Plan Reviews. An Historic Landscape Characterisation Study was carried out for Kildare town. This is an important heritage survey framework that together with Conservation Management Plans; can inform Local Area Plan Reviews and the definition of Architectural Conservation Areas.

Re-use

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) has published an 'Advice' series as a guide to conservation best practice.

The ACO advises on proper repair works and suitable reuse of protected and vernacular structures. Architectural

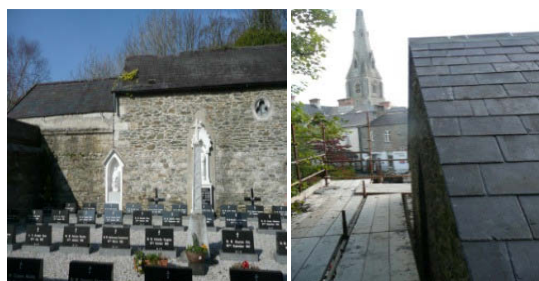
conservation advice guides repair works and appropriate interventions to protected structures.

A parapet of Caragh Bridge was badly damaged in 2015 and was repaired insitu, following conservation guidance.



Funding and Grants

The DAHG set up a Structures at Risk Fund (SRF), which local authorities administered in 2015. Nas na Ri Housing Association received support to repair the roof and the underpinning of a Health Through Learning Centre at McAuley Place in Naas.



Development Management

Planning Applications 2015

Received: 1192

Invalid: 177

Granted: 724

Refused: 168

The Development Management Section also dealt with the following number of licenses and applications in 2015:

- 20 Section 254 Licence applications
- 40 Section 5 Declaration of Exempt Development applications
- 23 Section 97 Exemption from Part V applications

Pre-Planning Meetings

Pre-planning meetings are designed to deal with prospective applicants for large-scale residential or commercial developments. They are intended to assist pending applicants and help improve the quality of a subsequent planning application.

In 2015 a total of 175 commercial pre-planning meetings were held dealing with commercial and large multi unit developments. Pre-planning clinics are

held during the year also and are designed to deal specifically with prospective one-off housing applicants or other small-scale developments.

A total of 10 pre-planning clinics were held in Aras Chill Dara in 2015 which were attended by 176 prospective applicants.

Building Control

A total of 382 valid Commencement Notices and 129 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation in 2015.

In addition, 24 applications for Regularisation Certificates, 118 applications for Disability Access Certificates and 39 applications for seven day notices were received.

The Building Control Management System (BCMS) continued to be updated in 2015 and used by those engaged in building projects to upload commencement notices and supporting documents directly onto the system.

In September 2015, the 2014 Building Control Regulations were amended to permit an 'opt out' for one off houses and to remove the exemption for local authorities to comply with the regulations.

Development Control

The resurgence in the level of new house building continued in 2015, particularly in the north of the county. The commencement of new developments and the reactivation of dormant estates in 2015 was also evident in the south of the county in Athy, Monasterevin, Rathangan and Timolin.

In relation to the taking in charge of housing estates, a Memorandum of Understanding published in March 2015 between Local Authorities and Irish Water provided the necessary clarity to enable the taking in charge process to resume.

In 2015, 54 estates were put on display for taking in charge and 12 of these were taken in charge along with an additional three which were advertised previously.

The management of unfinished estates and estates where developers have found themselves in financial difficulties, in receivership or in liquidation is still a priority for the Development Control section. The number of estates that fell into this category continued to decline in 2015.

Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions

The objectives of the enforcement system are to ensure that objectionable development is discontinued and that planning permission is obtained before commencement of development.

The planning authority is obliged to investigate complaints that are considered not to be frivolous or without substance.

A total of 190 new complaints of Unauthorised Development were received in 2015. There were 218 Warning Letters issued to developers and 147 Enforcement Notices served. Legal proceedings were initiated in 16 cases.

Economic Development and Local Enterprise

Economic Development

A key component of the Local Government Programme (2014) was the positioning of Local Government as the "Engine behind Recovery"* with a leading role in terms of encouraging and facilitating sustainable economic development.

Kildare County Council appointed a senior member of staff to the role of Economic Development Officer in 2015 and a number of key priorities were identified:

- Development of a scheme to support independent business owners (Shopfront/Town Centre Grant Scheme)
- Development of a "business" webpage
- Creation of "promotional videos" for each Municipal District
- Creation of a data base for zoned/available lands for industrial / commercial development

Action on these priority areas began in 2015 and will continue in 2016. It is also expected that the Mid East

Action Plan for Jobs will be launched in early 2016 with a key role for Kildare County Council in terms of oversight and implementation.

* Minister Alan Kelly 21st January 2015

Local Enterprise Office Kildare

The core work of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kildare is to:

- Deliver Enterprise Ireland's micro-enterprise development strategy
- Provide financial and soft supports to the micro-enterprise sector
- Promote an enterprise culture in the county
- Deliver a number of national enterprise development programmes
- Provide advice and information on energy efficiency, waste management, planning and development
- Promote Kildare as a place to do business
- Support businesses with rate payment plans and other local authority issues

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- Focus on job creation programmes and schemes

Enterprise Support and Development Services

In 2015 LEO Kildare supported:

- 18 business start-ups financially
- 7 business expansions financially
- 638 participants on core business development programmes
- 276 potential start-ups with business advice
- 125 businesses with targeted mentor support
- 56 businesses with website development costs
- 16 businesses at national and international trade fairs and exhibitions



Entrepreneurship Support Services

In 2015 LEO Kildare supported:

- 14 secondary schools through Student Enterprise Awards
- 11 Primary schools through Young Enterprise
- 15 young entrepreneurs through Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme, producing three for the National Finals
- North Kildare Chamber's Expo
- Network Kildare Women in Business Awards
- 1 business in the National Enterprise Awards



Local Economic Development Services

LEO Kildare prepared a Local Enterprise Development Plan and had an input in the Local Economic and Community Plan and the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.

LEO Kildare also participated in the URBACT City Centre Doctor Programme and collaborated in the Libraries Support Business Initiative with Maynooth Library.



Bóithre, Iompar agus Sábháilteacht Poiblí



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

During 2015 the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate:

- Delivered a programme of design and construction of local, regional and national roads subject to available finance
- Provided a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of ten years subject to financial and human resource constraints
- Ensured the safety, health and welfare of all employees in the workplace by complying with health and safety legislation
- Worked with the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána and other agencies to promote road safety
- Improved travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient and appropriate traffic management measures
- Provided car parking facilities and regulated parking in towns and villages in the county
- Continued to migrate the council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels as funding permitted
- Maintained a Municipal District office structure to provide countywide access to the council's services and ensured that adequate and relevant information was available in each office
- Engaged in open consultation procedures to ensure broad representation for planned works
- Ensured that all councillors were provided with timely information
- Ensured value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with council, national and European Union procurement policies
- Examined energy usage and worked to minimise energy costs
- Promoted, developed and maintained Civil Defence as an effective volunteer-based organisation providing emergency response and community support services
- Maintained six fire stations at Athy, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas and Newbridge providing an

operational twenty four hour fire and emergency response service.

Road Infrastructure

County Kildare has approximately 2,528 kilometres of public road infrastructure as set out by category below (Note: this includes public roads within the former town council administrative areas).

Motorway	128km
National Primary	12km
National Secondary	17km
Regional	482km
Local Primary	355km
Local Secondary	1,040km
Local Tertiary	494km
Total	2,528km

This extensive and heavily-trafficked road network requires significant ongoing investment in maintenance and improvement by the council in association with the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTaS), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) formerly the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Funding

Funding for the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department comes from four main sources-Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) fund the design, construction and maintenance of national roads; the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) and Kildare County Council co-fund the design, construction and maintenance of regional and local roads and the National Transport Authority (NTA) fund a programme of sustainable transport measures.

TII	€ 5,616,538
DTTaS	€ 10,730,501
KCC	€ 19,850,987
NTA	€ 1,230,000
Total for 2015	€ 37,428,026

Works Completed/Under Way

The R402 Enfield to Edenderry Improvement Scheme-including traffic calming works at Johnstownbridge and at Kilshanroe-was completed in 2015.

Funding was provided by the DTTaS to progress design of the proposed Athy Distributor Road and the proposed Sallins By Pass and construction commenced on

the link road between the Dunmurry Road and the Rathbride Road in Kildare Town. Construction work was undertaken and largely completed on the Market Square Bus Hub in Naas and on the improvement works to the Sallins Road/Monread Road roundabout. Improvement works were also undertaken on the Kilcullen Road Naas in compliance with a provision of planning permission for a housing development. 41 smaller schemes were completed around the county using the Restoration Improvement Grant at a total cost of €4,932,605.

The Low Cost Accident Measures Grant provided much needed funding for lining and signing at eleven locations with a history of road traffic accidents.

Pay Parking

Parking is regulated in six towns in County Kildare-Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge. Following the adoption of Pay Parking Bye Laws in 2013 parking regulation will also be introduced in Maynooth.

Bye Laws adopted in 2015

The Road Traffic (Speed Limits and Special Speed Limits) (County of Kildare) R448 Prumplestown/Knockagee

Castledermot Bye Laws were adopted on 23 February 2015.

The Leixlip Pay Parking Bye Laws were adopted on 23 October 2015.

The Celbridge Pay Parking Bye Laws were adopted on 23 October 2015.

Road Safety

The council's Road Safety Officer continues to engage in a programme of education and awareness in the county.

Primary schools and youth groups remain the principal target audience for the council's Road Safety Officer while An Garda Síochána focus on post primary schools and, in particular, on Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied. The Road Safety Officer also delivers road safety campaigns at events and festivals in the county in an effort to bring the safety message to a wider audience.



Fire Service

Kildare Fire Service provides a range of services for the citizens of Kildare. These services include the implementation of the Fire Safety Certification System, inspection of buildings for compliance with fire safety requirements, licensing of Petrol Stations and Bulk Stores, advising on safety in relation to the storage of explosives and developing Major Emergency Plans in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

Fire Safety and Emergency Management Section

Fire Safety

Our Fire Safety section received 129 applications for Fire Safety Certificates in 2015 and 24 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates.

A total of 175 fire safety inspections of 145 premises were undertaken across the county. Fire Service comments were also provided on 392 Planning Applications.

22 fire safety complaints were received and followed up on during the year.

Community Fire Safety

Two fire station Open Days were held in 2015. The locations of these events were Maynooth and Athy Fire Stations. These

Open Days were very successful and local communities took the opportunity to meet their firefighters and learn more about the work they do.

In October the fire service presented community fire safety talks in all of the libraries across the county in conjunction with the “Age Friendly Festival” some of these talks also coincided with Fire Safety Week.

Emergency Management

Kildare County Council participated in the ongoing Regional training for Key Roles in 2015 and the Fire Service also ran two Crisis Management Team Exercises to develop the preparedness of these important role holders further.

Operations Section

Our Operational service is delivered from six retained stations located at Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip.



Kildare County Council Annual Report 2015

In 2015 the Fire Service attended 1,833 fire and emergency calls. The breakdown of calls per station was as follows:

- Newbridge 456 calls
- Naas 458 calls
- Athy 208 calls
- Maynooth 281 calls
- Monasterevin 201 calls
- Leixlip 223 calls

The top five incident types attended by Kildare Fire Service continue to be outdoor fires, chimney fires, dwelling fires, vehicle fires and road traffic collisions.

In 2015 we also started recruitment for fire-fighters across all of our fire stations as a result of this process, three recruits started their training in 2015 and we hope to have more recruits in 2016.

Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation where members assist as a back-up service, supporting the primary emergency services and the local community. Kildare Civil Defence currently has 71 volunteers.

Training

Volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activities undertaken by the organisation are:

- First aid
- Search and rescue skills
- Firefighting
- Welfare skills
- Warden service and radiation monitoring
- Radio communications.

Other training for volunteers consists of manual handling, cardiac first response, occupational first aid, communications, fire awareness, footdrill, map reading, GPS, basic search and rescue, child protection course and equipment familiarisation. Courses were provided for volunteers throughout the year at local level and at

Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in Roscrea.

Events

Kildare Civil Defence assisted at 80 Community and Sporting Events which included Punchestown Racing Festival, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh, the Dragon Boat Festival in Athy, the Military Vehicle Show at the Curragh and at local cycle races, road races, community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control, stewarding, etc and also a number of weather related emergencies

Long Service Medals

A number of volunteers were awarded Long Service Medals in April for their service to the organisation.

Award

Kildare Civil Defence also accepted an award on behalf of Kildare County Council in the category of **'Voluntary Service to the Community'** in the Public Sector magazine awards.



Health, Safety and Risk Management

Kildare County Council is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for our staff, our contractors and those affected by our work.

Our overall aim for 2015 was to continue to foster a positive safety culture across the organisation. We saw management taking on a pivotal role in driving the change throughout the organisation through:

- a) Our Safety Meet and Greet Programme, where management met employees out on the ground to discuss and reinforce our commitment to safety
- b) Ensuring that Health and Safety is a standing item on:
 - i. Management team agenda
 - ii. Seniors meeting agenda
 - iii. Corporate policy group agenda
- c) The Health and Safety Officer giving a presentation to full council on aims and objectives of the section.

A key focus in 2015 was around the area of behavioural based safety and in October, as part of European Health and

Safety Week, we engaged the services of a theatre group to deliver the message in an innovative and interactive way. The objective was to enable a shift in understanding and mindset thus influencing behaviours and safe practices in the workplace.



In addition, the Health, Safety and Risk Management Section provided support to the organisation in the following areas:

- 1. Reviewing and approving all risk assessments completed

2. Providing all employees with a new Health and Safety Handbook
3. Holding a series of meetings, such as, pre starts meetings, Health and Safety Management Committee meetings and Safety Committee meetings, ensuring the promotion of a positive safety culture and compliance with legislation
4. Liaising closely with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) on health and safety investigations
5. Liaising closely with the Training Section to ensure delivery of key training courses
6. Ensuring that all accidents and incidents were investigated to identify the root causes in order to prevent recurrence
7. Carrying out a number of site inspections including contractor inspections to ensure compliance with internal Health and Safety procedures and legislation
8. Consultations with IPBMI regarding both public and employers liability insurance claims.
1. Reviewing what was learnt from the accidents, incidents and fatalities in local government over the past two years
2. Reviewing and updating the National Procedure for the Management of Incident Reporting and Investigating
3. Working with the Department of Transport, the TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and other local authorities on the review of Temporary Traffic Management requirements.

On a final note towards the end of 2015 Kildare County Council successfully defended a legal case taken by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) for an alleged breach of the Construction regulations. Kildare County Council successfully demonstrated that they had done all that was reasonably practicable and as a result the case was dismissed.

On a national level we were involved in:

Uisce agus Seirbhísí Comhshaoil



Water and Environmental Services

Water Services

Irish Water was established in March 2013 as a semi-state company under the Water Services Act 2013, to bring the water and wastewater services of the 34 local authorities together under one national service provider. It will take approximately five years for Irish Water to be fully established, at which point it will be responsible for the operation of public water services including management of national water assets, maintenance of the water system, investment and planning, managing capital projects and customer care and billing. The day to day functions of Irish Water in Kildare are carried out by the Water Services Section of the council, acting as agents of Irish Water under the terms of a Service Level Agreement (SLA). As well as being responsible for public water services, Irish Water will also be making capital and investment decisions regarding each county's water infrastructure on a national basis. Irish Water will be accountable to two regulatory bodies-the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) who is the economic regulator for the water industry, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who is the environmental regulator.

The Water Services function is divided into two sections:

1. Agents of Irish Water under Service Level Agreement in relation to ongoing operation and maintenance of water and wastewater schemes and a Capital Investment Programme
2. Rural Water Programme.

Operations and Maintenance Water Supply

The Water Operations section is responsible for the provision and maintenance of adequate water supplies in compliance with the EC Drinking Water (No.2) Regulations 2014 and carries out this function under the terms of the SLA with Irish Water. At present 80% of the drinking water in County Kildare is sourced from neighbouring local authorities e.g. Dublin City Council (at Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant) and Fingal County Council (at Leixlip Water Treatment Plant).

The bulk of the work involved in operating the current supply infrastructure as agents of Irish Water includes:

- Maintain, repair and upgrade reservoirs, pipes and fittings

- Monitor performance and manage the network to ensure the efficient use of resources
- Connect new commercial and private customers
- Monitor and protect water quality
- Implement Irish Water procurement system for purchasing goods/ services and for dealing with customer queries
- Complete Irish Water data book and dash board monthly
- Implement Irish Water key performance indicators as outlined in Annual Business Plan.

Continued water conservation activities, spearheaded by the Leak Detection Unit, have resulted in the unaccounted for water levels in the Kildare Network being reduced from a high of 32% in January 2011 to 24.7% average for December 2015. This is a significant achievement given that the average unaccounted figure for water levels in the country as a whole is reported by Irish Water at approximately 49% (Feb 2016).

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater arising in Kildare is treated at a number of wastewater treatment plants within the county. The largest of these

plants are the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (LLVRSS) Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) at Leixlip (serving Kilcock, Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Straffan) and the Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme (ULVRSS) WWTP at Osberstown (serving Naas, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Athgarvan, Prosperous, Sallins, Clane, The Curragh, Brownstown, Suncroft, Johnstown and Kill). Each has current design capacities of 80,000 population equivalent (PE) and are being upgraded at present. There are a further 35 WWTPs scattered throughout the County, ranging in size from 10pe to 24,000pe. Feeding into each of these plants is a network of sewers over 2,000kms in length and 110 waste water pumping stations.

Irish Water progressed capital works during the year to upgrade a number of plants. Upgrade work began in August 2014 and continued through 2015 at Osberstown WWTP; increasing the capacity of the ULVRSS agglomeration to 130,000pe from its existing 80,000pe. Work continued at Leixlip WWTP increasing the capacity of the LLVRSS to 150,000pe from its previous 80,000pe.

Approval to proceed and tenders have been sought for upgrade works at the Newhall and Tankersgarden Pumping

Stations and these works are expected to commence in Q1/Q2 2016

The Waste Water Operations department, as agents of Irish Water under the SLA, has been working closely with the Development Control team in Kildare County Council and Irish Water in relation to the taking charge of WWTPs and pumping stations associated within private housing schemes. Significant advancement was made on some developments, but significant obstacles remain due to many developers going into receivership/bankruptcy.

The planning of works was ongoing for a number of major capital projects which are expected to advance to construction in 2016, including construction of the Kildare Town Network. Two networks contracts for the ULVRSS are progressing well.



The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) require the EPA to authorise all waste water discharges. The purpose is

to reduce and prevent the pollution of waters and follows on from the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Currently, all agglomerations less than 500pe in size in Kildare have certificates of Authorization. All 13 larger plants are now licensed, as the three outstanding (Kildare, Monasterevin, and Rathangan) were licensed in 2015.

Works commenced on site in June 2015 on the upgrade works at Coill Dubh WWTP. This upgrade is due for completion in Q2 2016. This upgrade is to provide a plant that will comply with EPA license requirements.

Capital Programme

The Kildare County Council Water Services Capital Project Office, acting as agents of Irish Water under a SLA, is managing the delivery of all water and waste water projects in the County that are included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2014-2016

Contracts Completed during 2015

Castlewarden to Ballygoran Pipeline and Reservoir Contract

Ballygoran to Collinstown Watermain Contract

Contracts at Construction Stage in 2015

Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme-Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Contract

Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme-Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Contract

Contracts Signed in 2015

Kildare Town Sewerage Scheme Contract 2A



Contracts at Planning Stage in 2015

Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme-Contracts 2A

Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme-Contracts 2B

Rural Water Programme Group Water Schemes

A group water scheme provides a private water supply to two or more houses by

means of a common or shared source of supply and distribution system. The council assists groups by working in partnership with them and by;

- Providing advice and guidance on the formation and operation of group schemes
- Providing technical advice on source and supply issues, distribution networks, water quality and treatment, scheme design etc
- Enabling groups to take a water supply from public water mains where this is feasible
- Providing advice and assistance on tender procurement and evaluation
- Grant aiding group scheme up to 85% of the approved cost, subject to a limit of €7,650 per house
- Supervision of construction standards
- Providing an annual subsidy towards the operation and maintenance costs incurred on the scheme by the group

2016 will mark the first year in transitioning to a new Rural Water Multi- Annual Programme from 2016-2018. The objective of which is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs.

Kildare County Council Annual Report 2015

There are currently 97 operational group water schemes in Kildare.

Summary of grants paid in 2015

Subsidy Grants €118,348.11

Paid to the various group water schemes in the county.

Take Over of Group Water Schemes

No Group Schemes were taken in charge during 2015 as Irish Water had not finalised their protocol for taking in charge of group schemes.

Pilot Group Sewerage Schemes

Boston Cottages Group Sewerage Scheme - The works were carried out towards the end of 2015 and all works have now been completed.

Smaller Water and Sewerage Schemes

Funding is now provided, since January 2014, for capital projects for the provision of upgrading of small water and sewerage schemes through the Irish Water Minor Capital Projects.

Individual Water Supply Grant Scheme (Well Grants)

A grant of 75% of cost subject to a maximum grant of €2,031.58 is payable for upgrading a private individual water

supply when no alternative group or public supply is available. Grant aid of €57,769.90 was paid under this scheme in 2015.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The Rural Water Monitoring Committee was set up in 1998. The committee meets quarterly to agree and monitor the Rural Water Programme. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Irish Farmers Association (I.F.A.), the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (I.C.M.S.A.), the County Federation of Group Water Schemes, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and members and officials of Kildare

Flood Alleviation

A dedicated flood alleviation unit operates within the Environment Section implementing the Major Flood Alleviation Capital Programme. Funding for such schemes is sourced from Development Levy Contribution Scheme and the Office and Public Works (OPW). Over the past number of years the following schemes were completed:

- Toni River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2
- Confey Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Newtown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 1
- Kilbelin Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 3
- Ballymore Eustace (River Walk) Flood Alleviation Scheme (Phase 1)
- Johnstown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Ardclough Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Over the course of 2015, the following schemes have been completed or brought to a stage of substantial completion:

- Ballymore Eustace Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2
- Dara Park Surface Water Improvement Scheme.

The following schemes have been advanced through the preliminary report stage and these schemes will be advanced through the planning stages in 2016 and 2017. It should be noted that the advancement of these schemes will be dependent on (1) funding, (2) satisfaction of planning and environmental constraints and (3) landowner agreements:

- Donaghcumper (Hazelhatch) Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Morrell River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- The Oaks (Newbridge) Surface Water Improvement Scheme.

In addition to the above detailed capital schemes and works, Kildare County Council is also a key stakeholder in the OPW led South Eastern and Eastern CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme. There are a number of towns in Kildare, including but not limited to Athy, Naas, Newbridge and Celbridge that are being currently assessed for flood risk under this programme which is not at the stage where flood management options are being proposed. CFRAMs will continue to be rolled out over the next two years until its formal adoption by the Minister for the OPW in the Department of Finance.

Kildare County Council also undertook an extensive River Maintenance Programme and over the course of the past 12 months, river cleaning works have been completed on the following channels:

- Morrell River
- River Barrow

- Boherbaun River.

These works will be supplemented over the next three years by a Multi Annual River Maintenance Programme that is currently being compiled with the assistance of the Municipal District Committees.

Environmental Services

Recycling

The network of glass and can recycling banks around the county continues to provide the people of Kildare with a convenient way of recycling. Over **3,570 tonnes** of glass and **50 tonnes** of cans were recovered as well as over 500 tonnes of textiles. A number of collections of Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) were organised for members of the public. This resulted in over **150 tonnes** of electrical waste being recycled. Public bring banks were maintained by the council at 42 sites around the county. Battery collection facilities in schools, retail outlets and the two civic amenity sites continued to be a success. The battery collection scheme in particular helps to prevent environmental harm and helps to educate people in the need for careful waste disposal.

Education and Awareness

During the year our Environmental Awareness Officer made approximately **110** visits to schools, businesses and community groups (e.g. tidy towns) to create public awareness of waste issues and to promote good waste disposal practice in the community. **96** of the

county's schools were awarded green flags under the Green Flag Campaign and a total of **130** schools are registered for this distinction. The council acts as a facilitator for schools who wish to become involved in this programme and actively encourages all schools to join this project.



The council provides materials and/or financial aid for appropriate projects for participating Green Schools. As part of Kildare County Council's commitment to education in environmental matters, school tours of the Integrated Waste Management facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy take place on request during the school year.

The council also supports environmental initiatives by community groups, through two schemes co-funded with the Department of Environment, Community

Kildare County Council Annual Report 2015

and Local Government, namely the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund and the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Grant. The Environmental Partnership Fund provided €32,000 to 22 projects ranging from providing workshops for schools to helping tidy towns groups to maintain and develop biodiversity. The Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant provided €26,000 to seven separate projects including a dog fouling awareness campaign involving audio reminders to the public.



Tidy Towns

In 2015 the council worked closely to support the tidy towns committees in Kildare in 2015. This support consisted of assistance with cleanups, the provision of bags and litter pickers, provision of grants to all entrants as well as some local demonstration projects. In addition, a mini competition was held to find the Best Insect Hotel-this was

designed to promote awareness of biodiversity by the groups.

Kildare fared extremely well in the Tidy Towns competition. There were two gold medal winners- Straffan and Naas. There were six silver medal winners-Celbridge, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge and Rathangan and one bronze medal winner-Clane, in the competition.

Works were progressed at developing community gardens for both Kilcock and Monasterevin.



National Spring Clean

The month of April was dedicated to promoting the National Anti-Litter Campaign-the National Spring Clean. Tidy Towns committees and residents associations received support through the provision of refuse and recycling bags, litter pickers, gloves and awareness raising of events throughout the month.

Various programmes aimed at community groups and residents associations, including Resident Association Grants and the Pride of Place initiative are available to assist local voluntary efforts. These schemes allow for the provision of litter bins, street furniture, plants and shrubs and the improvement of green areas. Council staff also assisted individual tidy towns groups in the participation process of the National Tidy Towns competition.

Education alone has not been sufficient to eradicate litter and the council has found it necessary to penalise offenders with 401 fines issued for litter offences in 2015.

Litter

The litter wardens are the visible face of the council's various litter prevention strategies and represent a considerable opportunity to increase public awareness of the litter problem and the council's response to it. The wardens' information activities include:

- Attendance at meetings of community groups, residents associations and tidy towns committees to advise on their activities and discuss any litter related problems
- Ongoing informal contact with involved parties, which enables the wardens to take immediate action in relation to new litter blackspots, fresh incidents of illegal dumping, abandoned cars, etc
- Visits to retail, industrial and commercial premises in the county to advise owners, occupiers and staff members of their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act
- Meeting members of the public to discuss litter matters directly affecting them and visits to schools to publicise their presence and to discuss litter issues with students
- A two-man mobile environmental crew is employed to undertake a range of functions including cleanup of litter blackspots and illegal dumping, erection of "No Littering" and related signage and monitoring of recycling facilities for littering
- An anti-dog fouling temporary audio warning device installed at a number of locations that are subject a lot of dog fouling. The device was favourably received and further trialling will take place in 2016.

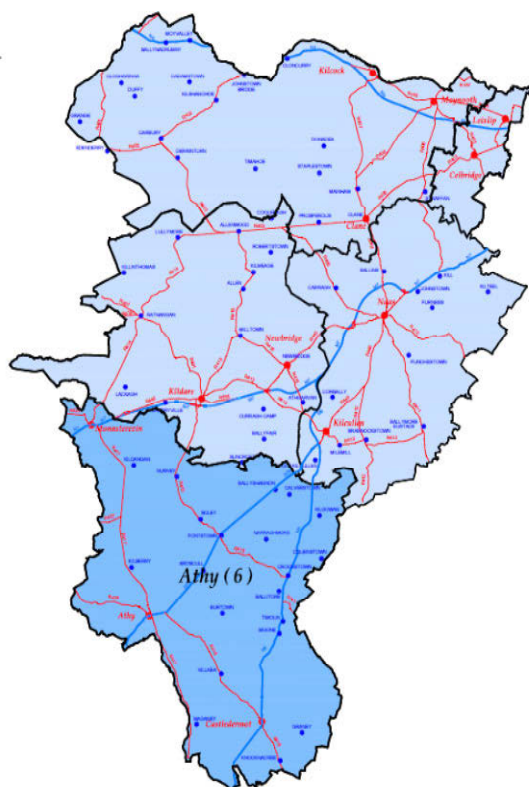
The Litter Management Plan 2016-2019 was adopted at the end of 2015. This plan sets out how the council will prevent litter and enforce the relevant legislation over the next three years.

Municipal Districts



Municipal Districts

Athy Municipal District



Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT Funds for Footpath Repairs	€220,000
Community and Enterprise	Christmas Lighting	€9,680
	Twinning	€2,400
	Community Grants General	€20,550
	LPT Fund-Enterprise Centre Projects	€50,000
	LPT Fund-Community Projects	€62,737,
	Athy Jetty	€5,000
Environ. Services	Maintenance of Burial Grounds	€18, 100
	Street Cleaning	€313,179
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€114,361
	Playgrounds Maintenance	€35,000
	Parks and Landscaping	€77,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Mark Wall (Lab)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Aoife Breslin (Lab)

Council Members

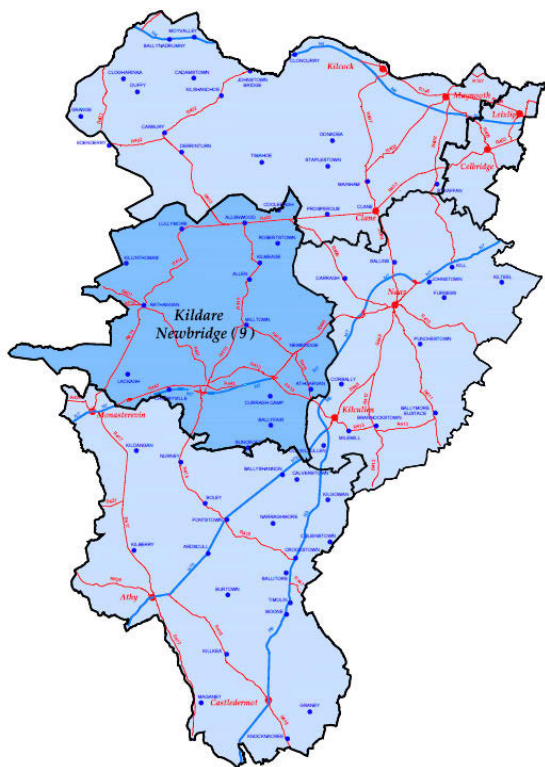
Councillor Mark Dalton (Ind)

Councillor Ivan Keatley (F.G.)

Councillor Martin Miley Jnr (F.F.)

Councillor Thomas Redmond (S.F.)

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Paddy Kennedy (Ind)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Mark Stafford (F.G.)

Council Members

Councillor Willie Crowley (Ind)

Councillor Suzanne Doyle (F.F.)

Councillor Mark Lynch (S.F.)

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy (F.G.)

Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin (F.F.)

Councillor Joanne Pender (Ind)

Councillor Sean Power (F.F.)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

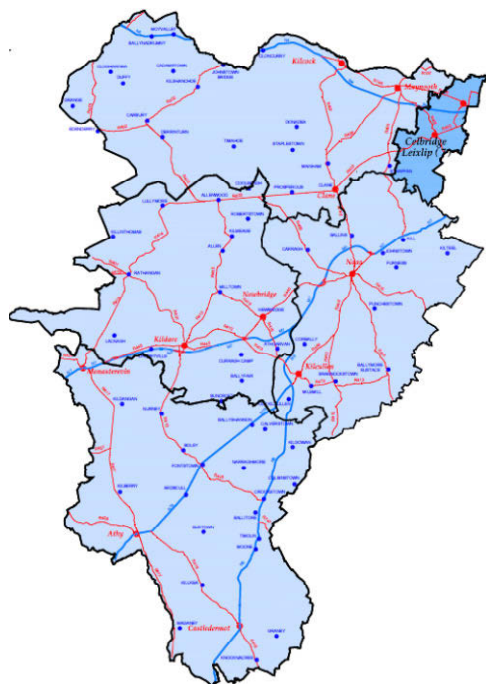
Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT*/ Parking Funds for Footpaths/Work Repairs in Housing Estates	€418,960
	Traffic Calming at Schools	€106,990
	Sheep Grids Athgarvan Area	€60,000
Community and Enterprise	Tidy Towns Groups from Pay Parking	€49,000
	Christmas Lights from Pay Parking	€30,000
	Skate Park	€70,000
	Community Centres (2)	€30,000
	Hopkins Festival	€5,000
Environ. Services	Kildare Town Tourism Project	€5,000
	Boxing Club	€5,000
	Bottle Banks	€12,513
	Tidy Towns Competition	€16,600
	Sponsored Bins	€19,000

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	Residents Associations	€15,900
	Burial Grounds-Special Works	€18,100
	Street Cleaning	€420,604
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€201,726
	Playgrounds Maintenance	€28,000
	Parks and Landscaping	€77,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Joe Neville (F.G.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Frank O'Rourke (F.F.)

Council Members

Councillor Kevin Byrne (Lab)

Councillor Bernard Caldwell (Ind)

Councillor Íde Cussen (S.F.)

Councillor Anthony Larkin (Ind)

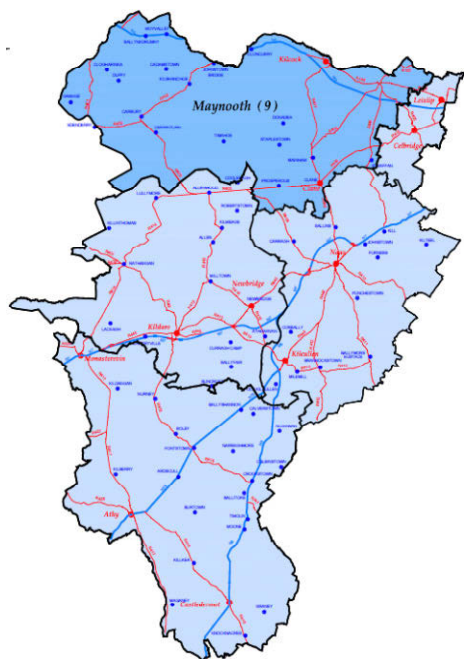
Councillor Brendan Young (Ind)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Footpaths, Public/Traffic Lights and Traffic Calming	€275,166
Community and Enterprise	Retained LPT* Funds- Festivals and Tidy Towns	€9,680
Environ. Services	Retained LPT* Funds	€32,000
	Bottle Banks	€12,513
	Tidy Towns Competition	€12,350
	Sponsored Bins	€15,000
	Residents Associations	€11,600
	Burial Grounds- Special Works	€18,100
	Street Cleaning	€445,461
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€98,112
	Playgrounds Maintenance	€14,000
	Parks and Landscaping	€78,500
	Retained LPT* Funds	€32,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

Maynooth Municipal District



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil (F.F.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Tim Durkan (F.G.)

Council Members

Councillor Réada Cronin (S.F.)

Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick (F.F.)

Councillor Pádraig McEvoy (Ind)

Councillor John McGinley (Lab)

Councillor Teresa Murray (Ind)

Councillor Paul Ward (F.F.)

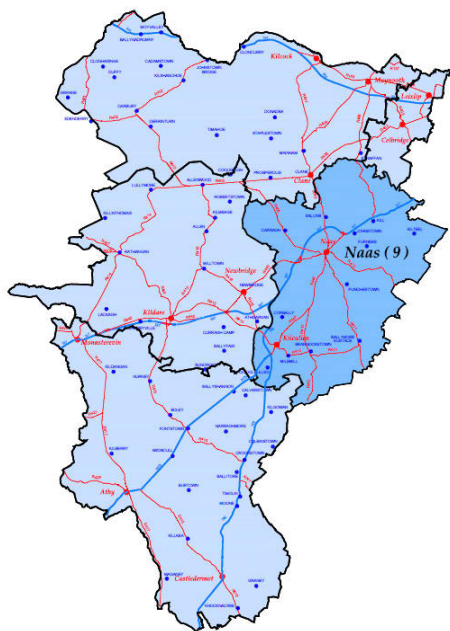
Councillor Brendan Weld (F.G.)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Footpath Repairs	€205,737
Development Management	Retained LPT* Funds for Unfinished Housing Estates	€127,000
Community and Enterprise	Community Grants General	€40,000
Environ. Services	Bottle Banks	€12,513
	Tidy Towns Competition	€6,050
	Sponsored Bins	€15,000
	Residents Associations	€17,100
	Burial Grounds- Special Works	€18,100
	Street Cleaning	€191,500
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€75,549
	Playgrounds Maintenance	€21,000
	Parks and Landscaping	€78,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

Naas Municipal District



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor James Lawless (F.F.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Fintan Brett (F.G.)

Council Members

Councillor Anne Breen (Lab)

Councillor Deborah Callaghan (F.F.)

Councillor Billy Hillis (F.G.)

Councillor Seamie Moore (Ind)

Councillor SORCHA O'Neill (S.F.)

Councillor Robert Power (F.F.)

Councillor Darren Scully (F.G.)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Rural Roads	€247,737
	Retained LPT* Funds for Upgrade Naas Main St/Hub Area	€90,000
	Retained LPT* Funds for Naas Greenway/ Sallins Canal Project	€50,000
Development Management	Retained LPT* Funds for New Lightings and TIC** Estates	€30,000
Community and Enterprise	Retained LPT* Funds for:	
	Naas Community Centre Fit Out	€50,000
	Registered Residents Associations	€60,000
	Tidy Towns Groups (8 No.)	€16,000
Environ. Services	Naas Town Hall Support	€15,000
	Bottle Banks	€12,513

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	Tidy Towns Competition	€26,950
	Sponsored Bins	€14,000
	Residents Associations	€51,010
	Burial Grounds-Special Works	€18,100
	Street Cleaning	€509,770
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€57,124
	Playgrounds Maintenance	€28,000
	Parks and Landscaping	€100,000
	Retained LPT* Funds for Parks and Playgrounds	€180,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

**TIC- Taking in Charge

Financial Statement

Year ended 31 December 2015

(with comparative revenue account figures from previous years)

REVENUE ACCOUNT

	KCC*	KCC*	KCC	KCC
Expenditure	2015	2014	2013	2012
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	28,925,238	22,806,753	23,336,991	20,263,507
Road Transportation and Safety	31,539,539	31,169,089	25,781,693	24,683,802
Water Supply and Sewerage	11,069,653	12,953,104	21,982,457	23,051,625
Development Incentives and Controls	10,582,924	8,918,678	7,927,111	8,151,139
Environmental Protection	28,387,805	26,709,722	29,573,757	28,394,126
Recreation and Amenity	9,423,550	8,185,083	8,275,033	7,863,202
Agriculture and Education	1,795,200	2,848,229	4,636,973	7,687,392
Miscellaneous Services	13,520,488	22,550,150	19,190,232	17,542,126
Total	135,244,397	136,140,808	140,704,247	137,636,919
Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)				
Housing and Building	26,851,195	22,339,579	21,109,465	18,553,726
Road Transportation and Safety	12,958,829	13,228,306	11,899,047	12,384,971
Water Supply and Sewerage	11,498,965	12,882,404	13,685,200	12,069,423
Development Incentives and Controls	2,683,299	2,518,538	1,282,369	1,334,899
Environmental Protection	17,922,132	16,099,267	19,639,564	17,475,323
Recreation and Amenity	1,754,454	860,526	1,313,456	1,194,113
Agriculture and Education	1,114,423	2,168,360	3,628,687	6,684,822
Miscellaneous Services	3,766,404	4,495,017	4,882,285	4,303,184
<i>Sub-Total</i>	78,549,701	74,591,997	77,440,073	74,000,461

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Urban Authority Accounts	0	0	2,865,954	2,807,836
Pension Related Deductions	2,072,326	2,068,865	2,120,213	2,126,952
Local Government Fund/LPT	11,274,628	9,686,924	20,634,229	19,628,180
County Rates	57,554,512	57,823,714	47,194,791	46,928,784
Total	149,451,167	144,171,500	150,255,260	145,492,213

Transfers to/from Reserves	-13,960,632	-7,660,596	-9,297,151	-7,603,996
Surplus/Deficit for year	246,138	370,096	253,863	251,297
Opening Balance	-1,445,710	-1,815,806	-2,747,147	-2,998,444
Closing Balance	-1,199,572	-1,445,710	-2,493,284	-2,747,147

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2015	2014	2013	2012
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	19,275,265	5,929,014	3,463,268	6,299,888
Road Transportation and Safety	15,851,919	32,012,329	30,012,454	42,359,890
Water Supply and Sewerage	2,289,673	3,206,835	38,830,475	38,283,194
Development Incentives and Controls	520,731	3,351,515	1,984,954	2,757,447
Environmental Protection	940,560	336,590	663,829	1,257,504
Recreation and Amenity	1,078,302	1,318,218	1,357,612	496,575
Agriculture and Education	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	311,883	1,813,847	373,149	0
Total	40,268,333	47,968,348	76,685,741	91,454,498

* The figure for 2015 includes the following former town councils:

Athy Town Council

Naas Town Council

Corporate Plan 2015-2019 Progress Report 2015

Objective 1: Support and enhance local democracy			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	1.2 To work to enhance community participation and active citizenship through capacity building and training, in conjunction with the Public Participation Network (PPN).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over €1.2m was awarded in 2015 to groups, to support their involvement in building strong and inclusive communities.
	1.8 To continue to focus on social inclusion as a means of tackling poverty and disadvantage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create equal opportunities for the marginalised sections of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Partners is an initiative of Kildare County Council which has been developed to facilitate joint working across agencies and departments. K Partners responds to and creates a proactive and effective approach to community requirements.
	1.9 To develop the community leadership role of the council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Public Participation Network (PPN).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and co-ordinate the implementation of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Integrated Service Programme (ISP) is now established in Kildare and Kilcock and Celbridge. Key Projects such as the development of the HIVE-Youth Space in Kildare town, the finalisation of the Celbridge ISP plan for 2016-2020 and the establishment of the new primary care centre in 2016 agreed, with planning granted for the new community facility on the same site There were six LCDC meetings held in 2015. Attendance amongst its nineteen members was very high with an overall level of attendance level of 73% The LECP was completed and approved by full Council on 18 Dec 2015 and will be published and launched in early 2016 The establishment of the Public Participation Network (PPN) has taken place. With over 450 groups registered to date.
Community and Enterprise (Leisure Services)	1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents' associations and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide communities with support in relation to amenity and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical and financial assistance to various Tidy Towns Committees including Leixlip, Celbridge, Carbury, Kildare, Kill, Newbridge Naas Narraghmore, Nurney Monasterevin,

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	support the development of new residents associations.	landscaping works.	<p>Castledermot and Carbury in 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of tree planting programme for county • Completion of tree pruning and removal programme • Completion of Bulb Planting Programme • Grass Maintenance Programme • Work continued on the conservation of Leixlip Spa Well • Development of an integrated plan for the Bawnogues site
Corporate Services	1.4 To work to improve the accuracy of the electoral register and to explore the use of focused public information programmes and new technologies to improve participation in the electoral process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enhance local democracy 	<p>Continue to improve the accuracy of the electoral register by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting of publicity and information on registration process through social media advertising campaigns and leaflet drops • Target second and third level institutions to alert those approaching age requirement for entry on Register • Continued input of Council and Oireachtas members to ensure accuracy of Register • Promoting the use of e-requests for information and application forms, particularly prior to issue of supplementary register.
	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.	Support the policy making role of the elected council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members Services Unit established to facilitate and assist the 40 member council • Ensure timely issue of agendas and supporting documents for council and committee meetings optimising the use of I.T. • Continue the development of the Members Net to meet the needs of the members • Stimulate development of policy committees by evaluating the work of policy committees, on an annual basis, and reviewing this through the corporate policy group • Continue to assist the members in identifying training to meet their requirements, particularly with regard to facilitating the work of the strategic

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			policy committees.
Environment	1.5 To support the work of Strategic Policy Committees		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress in assessing issues in relation to waste management, water, air and noise pollution through high level discussion and decision making
	1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents associations and support the development of new residents associations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued provision of resident association grants, sponsored bins and cemetery grants Further interaction with residents groups through Environment Awareness Officer and Litter Wardens. Support to local Tidy Towns Groups through grant funding and county-wide training and networking.
Housing	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing engagement with elected members through Housing Strategic Policy Committee and the Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Kildare Joint Policing Committee and through the Regional Homelessness Forum Use of CRM to manage representations from elected members Regular communication with staff in the Housing Department on issues concerning members constituents. Ongoing support of over 90 residents associations Community cabins/facilities are available in a number of estates and the team work with community groups to sustain these projects Co-ordination of Comhairle na nOg, Kildare Age Friendly Initiative and County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Completion of County Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019.
Information Technology	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support councillor laptops, wireless internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support provided to Councillors throughout their term.

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	public representatives.	access, printing from party rooms etc.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to facilitate the growing need for members of the public to connect to the internet using their own devices in public libraries a new infrastructure project will be completed that addresses concerns over content management and security. A key requirement is to implement a solution that does not consume staff resources, can connect to library management systems but is independent from any one system and provides staff with the levels of control and reporting functionality required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New system based on Meraki WiFi devices with cloud based controller software implemented throughout the library network.
Library and Arts Services	1.11 To provide countywide access to library facilities and opportunities for all to engage with the Arts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote facilitate and support access for citizens to information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service Maximise library management information systems to 	<p>In 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sixth Kildare Readers' Festival took place in October, contributors at various events included Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental, Pat McCabe, John Lonergan, Nell McCafferty, Dermot Bolger and Joseph O'Connor. Over 1,000 attended events Early Learning Fun (ELF): Pre-school Curriculum Support launched. Four sets of titles under four themes available for loan to pre-schools and crèches in Kildare Reading Together and Run the

		<p>enhance real time and virtual services to users.</p>	<p>Library Squirrel-a child centered marketing drive to promote pre-literacy skills to the parents of young children was expanded in 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play2Read Project – a targeted series of 5 workshops for pre-schoolers and their parents to help them learn the pre-literacy skills required before they start school was expanded in 2015 • Summer Ready Buzz for children in partnership with 12 other local authorities. Run over summer months to encourage children to read over the summer months. Over 2,000 children participated in the Buzz and attended associated workshops • Maynooth University and Maynooth Community Library shared programming-Culture Night events, Maynooth Film For All, Student Membership Drive and Yeats 2015 events • Mentoring Kildare Writers - Creative Writing Workshops and groups, with writers mentored by established authors such Niamh Boyce and Emily Gilmor-Murphy • Toys Technology and Training Project is a collection of specialised toys and assistive technology. A new catalogue of toys and technologies was produced which was complemented by an online catalogue. A series of lectures and workshops to support parents, carers and teachers attracted audiences of over 2,000 people • Parents: Practical and Positive Supports series of lectures and organised in partnership with the HSE Primary Care Psychology Team and Mental Health Ireland were attended by over 2,500 people • Shelf Help-a shared services project between Kildare Library Service, Wicklow Library Service, Kildare Health Service Executive, South West Regional Drugs Task Force and Mental Health Ireland. A capsule collection of 60 titles covering the topics of low mood and depression, worry, stress and anxiety, general mental health and wellbeing, addiction, parenting, relationships and social issues. Also a series of lectures and workshops to support
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			<p>and promote the collection have been well attended in the 7 main libraries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Friendly Festival of events included talks by Micheál O'Muircheartaigh, and personal finance advice from MABS and were attended by almost 1,000 people • Implementation of new national public library system Sierra. Kildare Co. Library service in Phase One of this development went live in June 2015. Rollout will ensure the integration of shared resources and services between all library authorities. <p>Progress 2015 Arts Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The premiere of 'All About Eva', a feature film shot on location in Athy 2014, premiered at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival in March 2015. It was produced by Kildare County Council and directed by Ferdia Mac Anna. It was written by a team of local writers and featured local cast and crew • Three new films 'Gridlock', 'JFK, The Badgeman Conspiracy' and 'Talker', commissioned by Kildare County Council were filmed in Kildare in 2015, leading to new collaborations with Coillte and the film sector. Kildare's reputation as being 'film friendly' also led to filming of scenes for 'In View' and a Bollywood film, 'Guns 'n' Roses' on location in Kildare • www.shortgrassfilms.com, Kildare's film website was launched at the Film Lab weekend in Riverbank, November 2015. The Film Lab featured panel discussions and workshops with Ireland's best filmmakers • The Kildare Young Film Makers group, Leixlip screened their first short film 'Killian' at the Film Lab weekend • A Circus Skills programme for young people was launched for young people in Athy in October 2015. It is envisaged that young people will get hands-on training in a variety of circus skills and will contribute to the extensive festival programme in Athy • With the English Dept, Maynooth University, Eoin Mc Namee, writer
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			<p>and Hugh Travers, screen writer, were appointed as resident artists for 2015/16 for the university and the Library and Arts service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advanced Laban Dance Studies course took place in Spring 2015, led by Anna Carlisle. Participants travelled from across Ireland to attend this course • The Creative Well-An integrated arts and health programme, was offered in Ballitore, in association with the HSE mental health services. The Creative Well Studio weekly visual arts workshops continue to attract individuals availing of mental health services in the county and the general public • The Past Times Community Choir continued to support people living with Dementia, their families, carers and communities. This has broadened the music and health programme in the county and encourage high level musical engagement with choir director Sharon Murphy, strengthened by the partnership between the arts specialist, HSE and musical director. A number of public performances created more visibility for the choir • 'If I had an artist for a day ...' 3,800 children in 40 primary schools countywide participated in the arts and education programme, with local visual artists, musicians, dancers, architects and circus practitioners • Culture Night-Now in its sixth year, over 9,000 adults and children attended 78 events countywide. The success of the Kildare Portrait Artist of the Year, established on Culture Night, had guest sitters, RTE broadcasters, Dick Warner and Aine Lawlor. An exhibition of the paintings were exhibited in Castletown House, Celbridge • Grant aid-€56,330 grant aid was provided to 63 professional artists and community groups throughout the county, for the creation of new works, collaborative arts initiatives, professional development opportunities, amateur drama and Youth Theatre productions and artists in schools <p>A series of bronze low relief sculptures</p>
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			depicting market scenes in George's St, Newbridge, by Ann Meldon Hugh.
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	1.3 To promote consultation and communication through partnership with employees and citizens.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has maintained the area office structure to provide countywide access to the Council's services and to ensure that adequate and relevant information is available in each office. The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has engaged in statutory and non-statutory Public Consultation at the planning stage of all relevant Projects
	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate has ensured that councillors are provided with information and regular updates on project and ongoing work within the County. A combination of written and verbal reports and one-to-one meetings are provided and facilitated on an ongoing basis.
Water Services	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and training to carry out their roles as public representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing meetings and members queries Financial monitoring and reporting in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water Cross department liaison Customer service co-ordination in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water Risk management in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water Staff training in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Services Department serviced all Strategic Policy Committees, Municipal District Committees and Council meetings with technical reports, policy proposals and responses to Member's queries in a timely and comprehensive manner. All Customer issues addressed in timely manner in accordance with the SLA protocols with Irish Water.

Objective 2: Facilitate and encourage sustainable economic growth and employment

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	2.1 To strive to minimise the impact on the environment from all our activities through energy conservation and reduced carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued policy of reducing and creating efficiencies in the volume of paper used in administration of our services by increased use of our websites e.g. Joint Policing Website, grants schemes
	2.3 To support and facilitate opportunities for sustainable employment, by co-operating with national and local development agencies to maximise job creation in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Community and Economic Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting the consultation and development stage of Community and Economic plan
Environment	2.2 To implement the policies and objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan adopted Continued implementation of relevant waste management policies Further success in relation to increasing numbers of green schools and Bring Banks facilities Continued financial assistance given for the ongoing provision of community sponsored bins Management of recycling facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy and progress of proposed facility to serve North Kildare
	2.12 To continue to seek improvement of water quality in rivers and streams and to implement River Basin management plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of River Basin Management Plans and programme of measures Continued operation of waste sampling, testing and monitoring programme.

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Housing	2.3 To support and facilitate opportunities for sustainable employment, by co-operating with national and local development agencies to maximise job creation in the county.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support small businesses through housing grants, void repairs and energy efficiency works • Provision of loans for private dwellings under approved schemes • Delivery of social housing through the construction of quality housing, the upgrading and acquisition programme, Part V of the planning process and the Capital Assistance Scheme for Approved Housing Bodies.
Information Technology	2.7 To ensure that all local authority premises comply with sustainability requirements through energy audits and low carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout of PC Power Management Software solution across the organisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New PC Power Management solution rolled out to put PCs to low power settings when not in use and during the out of office period.
Planning	2.3 To support and facilitate opportunities for sustainable employment, by co-operating with national and local development agencies to maximise job creation in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To support sustainable economic development and employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEO supported: • 18 business start-ups financially • 7 business expansions financially • 138 jobs created • 595 jobs sustained • 638 participants on core business development programmes • 14 secondary schools through Student Enterprise • 11 Primary schools through Student Enterprise • 16 clients at national and international trade fairs • 15 young entrepreneurs in Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition, bringing 3 to the National Finals.
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	2.8 To continue to migrate the Council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels as funding permits.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Directorate has continued to migrate the council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels. The ongoing planning for the provision of a new fleet depot/machinery yard will incorporate measures to reduce consumption of non-renewable fuels and assist the Council in contributing to meeting national renewable

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			targets.
Water Services	2.5 To assist Irish Water in identification of water infrastructure deficits in the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement works ongoing to facilities including Upper Liffey Valley Regional Scheme (particularly Osberstown) and North East Kildare Scheme ▪ Periodic updates to asset need brief ▪ Establishment of Minor Capital Team and Programme to deliver new developments and maintain and upgrade existing facilities

Objective 3: Develop and grow Kildare's social and physical infrastructure			
Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	3.13 To support the development of sustainable communities through active intervention in facilitating community lead projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build strong, inclusive and sustainable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued work and planning for the ISP in Kildare. Administration of the Community, Festival, Amenity and Community Heritage, Druhí Grant and Community Disapora Grant schemes. Development of Kildare Public Participation Network Continued development of Kildare Age Friendly Initiative.
Community and Enterprise (Leisure Services)	3.17 To support the development and enhancement of local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, provide and improve recreational and amenity facilities within the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance of 22 existing playgrounds in the county Playground installed in Suncroft and work commenced on the provision of playgrounds in Kill and Elliston. Play Day event in Aras Chill Dara to celebrate and promote National Play Day The playground in Celbridge Abbey owned by St John of God was refurbished and reopened in May. It is hoped to continue to add further equipment to the area in 2016.
Environment	3.5 To seek the delivery of physical and community infrastructure in conjunction with high quality residential developments to create quality living environments.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and manage existing cemeteries and identify/develop new lands for future requirements Tenders invited to extend cemeteries at Newbridge and Derrinturn. Preliminary planning assessment for future cemetery development commenced in respect of Churchtown (Athy) and Crookstown and plans for improvements at Athy cemetery agreed. Site selection ongoing for proposed recycling facilities in North Kildare being examined Ongoing monitoring of rollout of brown bin by waste contractors.

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Housing	3.14 To assess and provide appropriate housing measures to meet housing needs in the county.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing assessment and update of housing applications • Preparation for the introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment • Preparation of a Housing Strategy for County Kildare in line with the National Housing Strategy 2020 • Ongoing liaison with Voluntary Housing Associations and provision of new housing units through the Capital Assistance Scheme • Provision of Homeless Service and Tenant Liaison Service • Continue as lead authority for the mid East Region with regard to homelessness • Administration of the Mobility Aid Grant, Housing Adaptation Grant and Housing Aid for Older People • Preparation and ongoing implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2019 • Preparation for implementation of National Rent Scheme 2015 • Establishment of the Housing and Disability Steering Group • Respond to housing need by delivering the house building and acquisition programme and the provision of houses through Part V of the planning process.
Information Technology	3.10 Provide improved access to information on services provided by the local authority via the council's website and through local print and broadcast media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the kildarecoco.ie website presence to the highest standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and management of the kildarecoco.ie website with ongoing development in the area of RSS feeds, alerts, Facebook and Twitter presence. Continuous development of new and better ways of doing business through for example the expanded use of online payments and Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) payments solutions and the increasing adoption of social media in the exchange of information with the public. Develop additional micro-sites e.g. related to business development in the county.
Library and Arts Services	3.17 To support the development and enhancement of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress addressing physical access 	<p>In 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free membership for all library

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	local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.	<p>issues in all venues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen reader development programmes and collection management across the library network. 	<p>members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparations in progress for capital development of the new library facility at the Dominican Church in Athy A series of remedial works to Maynooth, Kilcullen, Local Studies, Castledermot and Celbridge libraries completed Conservation works at Castledermot Community Library completed Upgrade of Rathangan library's accessibility including ramps, entrance area and shelving completed Extension of online service provision, e-reference. Wifi installed across library network A selection of 1916 Recommended Reads purchased and distributed throughout the library network; and further enhanced with an accompanying reading guide New 'Business, Employment and Enterprise' information service being piloted as part of a national project in Maynooth Library, supported by Business Collections in the 7 main libraries <i>Early Learning Fun (ELF):</i> Pre-school Curriculum Support launched. Four sets of titles under four themes available for loan to pre-schools and crèches in Kildare via the library network 'Better Basics' reading support programme for primary school children in partnership with DEIS schools and KCLP extended Further roll out of 'Stories for the Ear' programme for local professional and emerging writers. <p>Progress 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Resource Organisations-Grant aid and ongoing support was continued for the County Kildare Orchestra, Leinster Printmaking Studio, Clane, Athy Community Arts Centre, The Performance Corporation, Celbridge, Moate Theatre, Naas and Riverbank Arts Centre, Kildare Youth Theatre and Griese Youth Theatre-key organisations that enhance the
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			cultural fabric of the county.
Planning	3.3 To support and facilitate high quality and sustainable development in both urban and rural areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure timely preparation of County Development Plan and Local Area Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variation No. 3 of the County Development Plan to incorporate provisions to address high tension voltage transmission power lines completed. Variation subject to Ministerial Direction issued in January 2015 Proposed Variation No. 4 background research continued on a proposed wind energy strategy for the County which will be progressed following issuing of revised guidelines from the DoEHLG Completed the Kilcock Local Area Plan Work continued on proposed LAPs for Monasterevin, Celbridge/Castletown, Leixlip/Collinstown and Sallins due for publication Q2 2016 Variation No. 1 of Newbridge Local Area Plan completed Public consultation completed at appropriate stages of plan processes Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment completed on all plans as required Strategic Flood Risk Assessment completed for all draft plans as appropriate Review of County Development Plan 2017-2023 commenced Continued to liaise with Department of Education and Skills in planning for the future provision of educational facilities in the county.
	3.6 To ensure Kildare's natural and architectural heritage is protected, conserved and maintained to the highest standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and protect the natural, built and cultural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the County Biodiversity and County Heritage Plans. 120 events were organised during Heritage Week 2015 with over 15,500 attendees. Over €45,000 was paid out to groups to develop 55 community heritage projects in Kildare.
Roads, Transportation	3.1 To provide a well-maintained		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has provided, and will endeavour to

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and Public Safety	public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of ten years subject to financial and human resource constraints.		continue to provide, a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of 10 years subject to financial and human resource constraints. The Directorate continues to engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Roads Authority to optimise the Council's funding for the provision and maintenance of 2,500km road network.
	3.11 To ensure, in consultation with other statutory undertakers and stakeholders, that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directorate has ensured that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new developments. The Directorate engages with project proponents through pre-planning meetings and interdepartmental meetings. Key infrastructure projects have been developed in accordance with the Council's capital programme and the County Development Plan. The Directorate is also cognisant of the impact of the Housing Strategy 2020 and Government Action Plans on the local road network. The Directorate maintains and manages 6 fire stations (Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip) working to the highest possible standards.
	3.12 To improve travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient traffic management measures and build on the capabilities and scale of the council's traffic management centre, subject to appropriate funding.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate have improved travelling times and road safety by implementing efficient traffic management measures. The Council is committed to optimising the use of smart technology to assist in the monitoring and management of projected increases in traffic.
Water Services	3.7 To deliver water services and associated capital projects in the county as agents of Irish Water under a service level agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate and maintain water supply network to meet demand and provide water of highest quality in accordance with the SLA with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Minor Capital Team and Programme to deliver new developments and maintain and upgrade existing facilities.(A total of 15 schemes approved by end of 2015) Osberstown and Leixlip Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades are

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		<p>Irish Water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate and maintain wastewater network and treatment systems to facilitate development and protect the environment in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. 	<p>currently under construction while Kildare Town Network contract commenced construction in Jan 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme, Contracts 2A and 2B are currently in Planning.
	3.8 To continue to facilitate Group Water Schemes subject to available budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement and expand Rural Water Programme. 	<p>Work completed in 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lipstown / Narraghmore GWS - The upgrade of the Lipstown Narraghmore GWS pumphouse. Boston Cottages GSS - Phase 2 of the scheme consisted of the construction of a percolation area to treat the effluent from a previously installed wastewater treatment system. New multi-annual funding framework announced for 2016, the objective of which is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs.
	3.9 To complete flood alleviation (minor works programme) during the lifetime of this plan and to continue to actively liaise with the OPW in this regard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop flood alleviation strategy and implementation programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works substantially complete in the following areas: Butterstream, Sallins, Toni River, Newtown, Confey, Johnstown and Ardclough Works ongoing in the following areas: Morrel River, Hazelhatch-Celbridge, Ballymore Eustace, and Dara Park (Newbridge).

Objective 4: Improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services by Kildare Local Authorities

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	<p>4.6 Focus on teamwork and the importance of cooperation across disciplines, sections and geographic areas.</p> <p>4.7 Support staff to reach their full potential through learning, experiences sharing and skills transfer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support and co-ordinate the work of K Partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K Partners, which is a coalition of Kildare County Council staff and related workers in Community and Culture Services, rolled out a number of co-ordinated programmes in the county. The overall aim of the group is to maximise collective, knowledge, contacts and expertise.
Corporate Services	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve service delivery to members and customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing use and development of I.T. and Social Media networks to optimise service delivery to members and customers.
	4.4 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce a procurement system for stationery items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop centralised procurement and storage arrangement introduced for stationery items i.e. paper, envelopes and toner cartridges.
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate improvements in quality service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand and develop the Customer Relationship Management System [CRM] for the organisation to manage customer queries and members representations. Continue to develop the role of the Customer Service Centre at Level 1 Áras Chill Dara and the Customer Service Point in Athy, as part of local government reform programme and in line with customer service strategy contained in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government: Putting

			<p>People First.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise the use of new I.T. and communications technologies to improve service delivery. • Extend the use of the website to provide sufficient information to the public in an easily accessible format. • To continue to support and develop the Fix Your Street website. • To record complaints submitted to the organisation in order to have a comprehensive record of complaints and response times. • Support the customer care unit to carry out duties at the switchboard and reception. • Support departments to improve telephone management and provide further training as required. • Stimulate a culture of quality public service, transparency, accountability and value for money. • Continue focus on teamwork and co-operation across disciplines and departments. • Promote and support efficiency within departments in the delivery of services. • Continue to support departments by facilitating central advertising for the organisation and ensuring compliance with agreed procurement procedures. • Encourage feedback from the public on the quality of service delivery and customer experience and monitor steps to make improvements as required. • To ensure compliance with any requirements relating to improved customer service in accordance with the Action Programme for Effective Local Government. • To update the Corporate Services Risk Register as required, having regard to the functions of the department. • To ensure that all staff within the Corporate Services Department are aware of the requirements, and their responsibilities, as set out in the
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			<p>Health and Safety Statement for this section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and enhance the role of Equality Officer and the Equality Action Team.
	<p>4.15 To establish and maintain a comprehensive register of land-based assets on a web-based system with text records and associated maps.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A dedicated Property Interest Register Team is using specialised software to capture historic and current data from in-house files and Land Registry records. 683 records were added to the Property Interest Register system in 2015, bringing the overall total of live records to 2,685. This work also impacts positively on other corporate objectives by enhancing local democracy, supporting economic growth, developing infrastructure and improving services levels by: Dealing with queries on land-based assets from staff, elected representatives and members of the public – 127 queries dealt with in 2015. Implementing Property Registration Authority initiatives such as standardisation of name variations and deconstruction of Omnibus Folios and dealing with Property Registration Authority notifications – 7 notifications processed in 2015. Updating 4,000+ Land Registry maps on a regular basis – third map update integrated in 2015.
Finance	<p>4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure effective collection of income Early issuing of bills Automation of payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to maximise collection the Finance Department must ensure that all bills (Rates/ Water/Refuse/Housing Loans/ Rents) are issued in a timely manner. New systems were put in place for the issuing of Water bills Continuing efforts were made for rent and housing loan customers to pay by way of standing orders and direct debits. A significant number of suppliers were also added to the automated payments. An Post cards were issued to Rent customers to facilitate an additional payment method Local Government Act 2014
	<p>4.12 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and</p>	<p>Financial Planning and Treasury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Budget for 2015 was prepared in November 2014 and adopted by Council on 23 November 2015

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	EU financial oversight.	<p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the annual budget and financial statements in a professional, clear and timely manner • Promotion of value for money as an essential part of performance management • Assisting the councils adherence to the Corporate Plan through projected revenue and capital programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a statutory responsibility to have the Annual Financial Statement published by 1st July of the following year. In 2015 the 2014 AFS was brought to council on 27 April 2015. • The annual budget and three year rolling capital programme were prepared with reference to the Corporate Plan goals.
	4.12 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary Strategy and Financial Management • Budgetary Control • Assessment of future needs with a view to ensuring provision of adequate resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly monitoring of income and expenditure against budget was continued to ensure targets were met and overspending was avoided. • The 2016-18 Capital Programme anticipates Kildare County Council spending in the order of €252 million on infrastructure.
	4.12 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure collection of income • Review of aged debtors and debtors reconciliations to reduce bad debts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding balances were reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure early intervention and where appropriate agreements were reached with debtors to discharge outstanding debts.
	4.14 To continue with the programme of improved internal processes and movement to shared local authority services for payroll and superannuation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move to MyPay Shared Services Centre for payroll. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kildare County Council transitioned to MyPay for payroll in January 2015.
Housing	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for housing, and housing stock management and maintenance maintained on ihouse database

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	technologies to improve service delivery.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of PASS system (Homelessness).
	4.4 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured that full allocation of funding to Kildare Local Authorities was drawn down and expenditure incurred under the various headings in an effective and efficient manner Preparation/implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of housing maintenance services Preparation/implementation of framework agreements for the procurement of Consultant Design Services and Valuation and Agronomy Services.
	4.6 Focus on teamwork and the importance of cooperation across disciplines, sections and geographic areas.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with external agencies improved – Regional Drugs Task Force, Joint Policing Committee. Community team work closely with KPartners on interdepartmental and County Development board projects
Information Technology	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous hardware and software upgrades to protect council infrastructure and employees from ICT security threats Implement a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution Continue to provide quality support to the user population through the effective use and management of the IT helpdesk function Manage the Database Storage of Data for the council including backups, archiving and restore functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a new set of clustered Firewalls Update the corporate AntiVirus solution Provide ICT Security Awareness training to the majority of Council staff (to be completed Feb 2016) Implement Sugar CRM to manage Members Representations, complaints, FixyourStreet queries etc Address circa 5,500 IT helpdesk calls for council staff Continue to maintain and develop high-speed back-up solutions to disk and tape to protect council information assets Ongoing

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and maintain existing council applications (HOME, RAS, Agresso, Travel System, TMS etc) Develop enhanced voice services Continue to develop small ICT solutions for specific local KCC needs. Continue to roll out technical ICT solutions to make internal processes more efficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Voice over IP (VoIP) voice solution to bring Athy Municipal District onto the council phone network, put operator console into Athy to answer queries and deliver lower call costs to the staff at Athy Delivered a small order tracking solution for tracking and managing chief executive, directors of service and authorised officer's orders Delivered training booking solution for staff to book onto internal courses Rolled out document scanning and workflow to support centralised invoice matching in the Finance section Identified a mobile solution for Housing for doing off-site remote surveying.
Internal Audit	<p>4.4 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with national procurement policies.</p> <p>4.8 Create a culture throughout the local authorities of quality public service, transparency, accountability and value for money.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare an annual audit plan based on departmental risk registers and our Internal Audit Strategy. To complete planned Audits and agree actions for implementation by departments. To contribute through audits and miscellaneous work directly or indirectly towards the Council's strategic objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Audit plan for 2015 contained audits spread across all Directorates Eight final reports were issued and three draft reports with a further two audits also commenced in 2015 One of the Audits of 2015 at draft stage is Procurement which focussed on off contract spend, adherence to procurement policy and appointment of consultants In 2015 for the first time the Internal Audit unit provided the required quality assurance to NOAC on adherence to the Public Spending Code Internal Audit worked closely with and followed the guidance of the Audit Committee throughout 2015 Recommendations from audits are subsequently monitored and verified to ensure implementation as agreed During 2015 Internal Audit produced a good practice document on cross departmental procedures for Electronic Filing which was adopted by management team.

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Library and Arts Services	<p>4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services</p> <p>4.12 Continue to promote and facilitate ease of access for all to council services and premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor service delivery in line with resources • Promote, facilitate and support access for citizens to information, education and cultural opportunities within the Library and Arts Service. 	<p>In 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive use of social media tools to promote and inform citizens of all library and arts events. • Extension of service hours at Clocha Rince community library • Extension of the Toys Technology and Training Collection and lecture series. • Addition of Parents: Practical and Positive Supports lecture series. • Library Development 2015-2019 launched after extensive consultation with focus groups (age friendly, youth services, accessibility and electronic users). • Extension of Age Friendly Library Festival. <p>Arts Update 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Dancer in Residence programme developed with Maynooth University/Froebel Education Dept • Continue to support the visual arts curriculum in Froebel Dept and to promote Co Kildare as an active teaching resource • Continue to augment the Arts and Health programmes developed with Nas Na Riogh Housing Association and Naas Hospital and other agencies.
Planning	<p>4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.</p>	<p>Planning Application and Licence Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a high quality service to citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-Plan system providing access to the public to planning system. • I-Doc document management system providing access to planning files documentation • Administration of all county files using one I-plan system • Continued use of Building Control Management System (BCMS).
	<p>4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and</p>	<p>Information and Public Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a comprehensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach services – Pre-Planning clinics continued to be held in Aras Chill Dara on a regular basis – advertised in January each year.

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	an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<p>service to the public.</p> <p>Enforcement and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue the development of enforcement and compliance functions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual pre planning clinics for commercial and/or employment potential developments facilitated at Aras Chill Dara as required. Planning searches carried out at public counter on demand Continued enforcement action by issuing Warning Letters, Enforcement Letters and taking legal action against unauthorised developments.
		<p>Building and Development Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation and enforcement of the Building Control and Building Regulations throughout the county. To ensure that all new residential developments (other than developments where management companies are required) in the county are completed to an acceptable standard and that these estates are taken in charge within an acceptable timeframe once they have been completed to the satisfaction of the council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued processing of fire certificates, disabled access certificates and commencement notices in accordance with statutory requirements. Continued use of the-Building Control Management System (BCMS). Work is ongoing in the further roll out of this system The taking in charge process as recommenced in accordance with Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government circular 5-2014 All active residential developments are being monitored on an ongoing basis and enforcement procedures are initiated where necessary. Continued liaison with all relevant stakeholders, in conjunction with Irish Water, to ensure the satisfactory completion and taking in charge of housing estates in the County
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	4.4 To ensure value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate have achieved value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with National and European procurement

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	compliance with national procurement policies.		policies. Continuous training is a priority to ensure full appraisal and compliance with national procurement regulations.
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Objective 5: Promote and develop Kildare as a place to live and do business

Department	Corporate Plan Sub-Category	Business Plan Objective	Progress
Community and Enterprise	5.1 To work to enhance the links with Maynooth University to develop employment opportunities through the competencies of the college in research and development and its experiences of joint venture with world class industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support, develop and co-ordinate the Local Community and Economic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio Economic Report completed. Base line information for the Local Community and Economic Plan
	5.7 To enhance and develop the appearance and environment of Kildare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, provide and improve recreational and amenity facilities within the county, through the provision of parks, open spaces, playgrounds and landscaping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping of roundabouts at Maynooth and Naas. Annual spring bulb planting carried out throughout the county completed Annual tree planting programme carried out throughout the county completed Grass Maintenance programme carried out in 2015 Two soccer pitches installed in Lough na Mona Leixlip Work on a community garden in Kilcock started The boundary in Pound Park, Maynooth was rebuilt Landscaping works were also started along the Silleasechain Valley in Leixlip it is hoped to continue this in 2016 Archaeological Investigation work on the Courtyard and walled gardens in The Wonderful Barn was carried out
Environment	5.8 To continue to implement robust measures to enforce		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue review of old legacy landfill sites in the county

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	waste management regulations and reduce litter.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement with owners of derelict sites to seek improvement and redevelopment of areas Continue to review licences for discharge to watercourses Continue programme to address dangerous buildings. Continue progress to eliminate end of life vehicle sites. Varied programme of environmental improvements (including the provision of fixed litter bins, removal of graffiti, tree planting and supporting the development of local Tidy Town Plans) to enhance communities. Implement river basin management plans Enforce air quality and noise pollution legislation.
Housing	5.7 To enhance and develop the appearance and environment of Kildare.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Community Team, attached to the Housing Department, work towards maintaining sustainable communities with local authority estates, supporting over 90 residents associations. Community cabins/facilities are available in a number of estates and the team work with Community groups to sustain these projects The Kildare County Council Pride of place competition was very successful with over 58 local Authority estates participating in it. The competition culminated in a very successful Community Awards night, held in Maynooth University in November 2014. The Tenant Liaison Officers manage issues around anti-social behaviour and, where possible, seek to address these issues through mediation and conflict resolution, rather than eviction. Progress the regeneration of St Patricks, Park, Rathangan and the delivery of a carbon neutral housing scheme in Newbridge.
Information	5.5 To continue to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and promote

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Technology	work with state agencies, Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and other local stakeholders to promote Kildare as a unique tourist destination.	the Kildare.ie brand.	www.kildare.ie as the premier portal of choice for business and tourism in the county.
Library and Arts Service	5.11 To promote and enhance the cultural and artistic life of Kildare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library and Arts Service teams will continue a collaborative approach to deliver joint appropriate programming. • Align PR, marketing, acquisitions, programmes and ICT resources and budgets to underpin/support all relevant Arts and Cultural Programmes, including Genealogy/Archives and Local Studies. 	<p>In 2015</p> <p>Extension of cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network, new events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineers Weeks • Age Friendly Festival • Extension of Secondary School Programme • Extension of Shelf Help Programme • National Programming events i.e. Seachtain na Gaeilge, Heritage Week and Maths Week. • Reinforce and develop existing relationships with the Kildare Education Centre • Kildare's 2016 Commemorative programme launched in October 2015 • The Arts Service as a key player in HSE cultural programmes • Increased supports for Kildare Youth Theatre and Greise Youth Theatre. • Enhanced profile for the Arts Service at national level, through participation on Arts and Education portal project and Encountering the Arts Ireland.

Committees of the Council 2015

Appendix 1

Witness to Affixing of Seal

All Council Members

Audit Committee

Councillors Teresa Murray, Mark Stafford, Paul Ward

Finance Committee

Councillors Ivan Keatley, Brendan Young, Suzanne Doyle, Seamie Moore, John McGinley

Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Councillors Martin Miley, Íde Cussen, Réada Cronin, Mark Stafford, Fintan Brett

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillors Aoife Breslin, Íde Cussen, Réada Cronin, Joanne Pender, Anne

Breen

Protocol and Procedures Committee

Councillors Deborah Callaghan, Réada Cronin, Suzanne Doyle, Tim Durkan,

Anthony Larkin, Mark Lynch, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy, Seamie Moore, Fiona O'Loughlin, Robert Power, Darren Scully, Mark Wall

Corporate Policy Group

Councillors Darren Scully, Sean Power, Suzanne Doyle, Kevin Byrne, Paddy Kennedy, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Martin Miley, and the Mayo

Strategic Policy Committees

Appendix 2

Kildare County Council has five Strategic Policy Committees:

- **Housing**
- **Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services**
- **Environmental Services and Water**
- **Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning**
- **Local Community and Culture**

The Strategic Policy Committees draw on the knowledge and expertise of people working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies throughout Kildare.

The committees also allow people with relevant expertise to work alongside the elected representatives in contributing to and developing council policy in the spirit of partnership.

SPC Name	Membership	Meetings Held in 2015	Issues Addressed
Housing SPC	Cllr. Paddy Kennedy (Chairperson) Cllr. Tim Durkan Cllr. Joanne Pender Cllr. Robert Power Cllr. Thomas Redmond Cllr. Deborah Callaghan Cllr. Brendan Weld Cllr. Aoife Breslin Ramon O'Reilly Denis Buckley Anthony Egan	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness / tenancy sustainment • Social Housing Strategy; Housing 2020 • Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy • Housing Assistance Payment • Housing Maintenance

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SPC Name	Membership	Meetings Held in 2015	Issues Addressed
Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC	Cllr. D Scully (Chairperson) Cllr. R Cronin Cllr. P Ward Cllr. A Breen Cllr. J McGinley Cllr. J Neville Cllr. S Moore Cllr. M Dalton Cormac Browne Sean Lawler Peter Kenny James Earle	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and Discussion-Director of Transport Investment and Taxi Regulation, National Transport Authority (NTA) • Countywide Parking Policy • Road Safety • Rural Transport • Noise Reduction - Resurfacing of M4 Motorway • Section 26 Fire Service Plan

SPC Name	Membership	Meetings Held in 2015	Issues Addressed
Environmental Services and Water	Cllr. S. Power (Chairperson) Cllr. B. Young Cllr. I. Cussen Cllr. F. Brett Cllr. A. Larkin Cllr. B. Lawless	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed Litter Management Plan 2012-2015 • Considered changes under new regulatory Framework for Household Waste • Monitored progress on Regional Waste Management Plan • Considered issues regarding improvements to cemeteries • Examined implications of

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	Cllr. F. O'Rourke Cllr. F. McLoughlin Healy Mr. T. Malone Mr. D. Walsh Ms. D Lane		River Basin Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered requirements regarding Control Of Horses and Dogs • Reviewed Derelict Sites management
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SPC Name	Membership	Meetings Held in 2015	Issues Addressed
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning	Cllr. Suzanne Doyle (Chairperson) Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick Cllr. Billy Hillis Cllr. Mark Lynch Cllr. Willie Crowley Cllr. Pdraig McEvoy Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil Cllr. Mark Wall Brendan Allen Noel Archbold Gerry Prendergast Fiona Tutty	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Community and Economic Plan 2016- 2022

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SPC Name	Membership	Meetings Held in 2015	Issues Addressed
Local Community and Culture	<p>Cllr. K Byrne (Chairperson)</p> <p>Cllr. M Miley</p> <p>Cllr. T Murray</p> <p>Cllr. S O' Neill</p> <p>Cllr. M Stafford</p> <p>Cllr. I Keatley</p> <p>Cllr. F O' Loughlin</p> <p>Cllr. B Caldwell</p> <p>Frieda O' Connell</p> <p>John Hayden</p> <p>PJ Fagan</p> <p>Dermot O' Donnell</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decade of Commemoration for County Kildare • Kildare County Library Development plan • County Kildare Municipal Art Collection Purchase policy • County Kildare Integration Strategy • The Kildare Age Friendly County Strategy

Membership of External Bodies 2015

Appendix 3

Association of Irish Local Government

Councillors Mark Dalton, Deborah Callaghan, Joe Neville, Mark Stafford, Paul Ward

Standing Policy Council of the Association of Irish Local Government

Councillors Mark Dalton, Paul Ward, Mark Stafford

Athy Heritage Company Ltd

Councillor Aoife Breslin

Athy Investment, Development and Employment Forum

Councillors Mark Dalton, Mark Wall

Ballymore Eustace Community Projects Liaison Committee

Councillors Billy Hillis, Robert Power

County Joint Policing Committee

Councillors Martin Miley, Frank O'Rourke, Suzanne Doyle, Paul Ward, James Lawless, Anthony Larkin, Willie Crowley, Pádraig McEvoy, Íde Cussen,

Mark Lynch, Tim Durkan, Ivan Keatley, FintanBrett, Aoife Breslin, Anne Breen

County Kildare Fáilte

Councillor Pádraig McEvoy

Drehid Community Liaison Committee

Councillors Mark Stafford, Daragh Fitzpatrick

Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

Councillors Mark Dalton, Thomas Redmond, Anthony Larkin, Brendan Weld, Paul Ward

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Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillor Tim Durkan, James Lawless

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance

Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil

Kildare Community Network Company

Councillors Seamie Moore ,Fintan Brett, Robert Power

Kildare Heritage Forum

Councillors Ivan Keatley, Teresa Murray, James Lawless

Kildare Heritage Town Co Ltd

Councillors Mark Stafford, Joanne Pender, Mark Lynch

Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd

Councillors Ivan Keatley, Deborah Callaghan

Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board

Councillors Aoife Breslin, Réada Cronin, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy, Teresa Murray, Brendan Weld, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Naoise Ó Cearúil

Leixlip Amenities Centre

Councillors Bernard Caldwell, Joe Neville

Local Authorities Members Association

Councillor Sean Power

Local Community Development Committee

Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Fintan Brett, Mark Wall

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Regional Assembly Interim Board

Councillors Fiona O'Loughlin, Ivan Keatley, Pádraig McEvoy

Social and Environmental Panel for the Midlands District of Coillte Teoranta

Councillor Martin Miley

South Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillors Mark Dalton, Ivan Keatley

County Twinning Committee

Councillors Mark Dalton, Bernard Caldwell ,Willie Crowley, Brendan Weld, Sorcha O'Neill

Conferences Attended During 2015

Appendix 4

Date	Conference Details	Location	No. of Councillors Attended
26 February 2015	Regenerating Local Spaces through effective community planning	Dublin	7
15 April 2015	Attracting a new sort of tourist in the Decade of Commemorations	Dundalk	1
19-25 July 2015	MacGill Summer School	Donegal	4

Training Attended During 2015

Appendix 5

Date	Training Details	Location	No. of Councillors Attended
21 February 2015	AILG-Governance of Local Authorities	Arklow	6
12-13 March 2015	AILG-Second Annual conference	Carrickmacross	7
10-11 April 2015	LAMA-Spring Training Seminar	Tuam	2
14 April 2015	AILG-Local Economic Development	Celbridge	11
21 May 2015	AILG-Local Community Development and LCDCs	Portlaoise	8
13 June 2015	AILG-Local Authority Finance & Housing	Longford	8
1-2 October 2015	AILG-Autumn Seminar	Inchydoney	8
6 October 2015	AILG-Roads, Transport and Urban Traffic Planning	Tullamore	5
9-10 October 2015	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Kilkenny	5
14 November 2015	AILG-Regional Assembly structure and their relationship with Local Authorities	Dublin	2