



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Kildare County Council Annual Report 2016

Images from the front cover depict memories from events organised to Commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Rising

Top Row (From Left to Right)

1. 1916 Sackville Street Art Project
2. 1916 Lapel Pin – Winning Entry in Schools Design Competition by Luke Hand
3. Kildare Library Services 'Recommended Reads' Booklet Cover

Centre Row (From Left to Right)

1. Statue of John Devoy, Poplar Square, Naas.
2. Ireland 1916 Logo
3. St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town, Proclamation Day Event, 15th March 2016

Bottom Row (From Left to Right)

1. 'Conquered Not We Were' Maynooth Scene from Play by Martina Reilly
2. 1916 Proclamation Stone and Wreath, Kildare Town.

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Forward

2016 was a busy and productive year and Kildare County Council can be proud of its' contribution and the positive leadership provided during the year. It was also a historic year as we marked the 100th anniversary of the events of 1916. The centennial year 2016 offered a unique opportunity for exploring and learning about the history, heritage and culture of our county. The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee supported, promoted and organised over 272 projects. More than 14,000 students participated in 96 school events which brought history closer to this young generation. Other events included lectures, exhibitions, publications, proclamation day ceremonies. We closed this special year by paying tribute to older members of our community and presenting our Kildare Centenarians with a unique 1916 lapel pin which was designed by a local school boy, 9 year old Luke Hand.

County Kildare continued to develop at a rapid pace and there was a noticeable upturn economically. The Mid East Action Plan for Jobs was launched in early 2016 with a key role for Kildare County Council in terms of oversight and implementation of identified actions. The Local Enterprise Office continued to provide valuable supports for small to medium enterprises in the county.

During the year the council pursued the delivery of key infrastructure including the expansion of the Osbertstown and Leixlip Waste Water Treatment Plants. 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.

There was very positive news in relation to funding for the Athy Distributor Road and work also progressed on the design and the acquisition of land for the M7 Naas to Newbridge Bypass Upgrade, M7 Osbertstown Interchange and R407 Sallins Bypass project. 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.

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Significant work was carried out during the year including extensive public consultation in relation to a review of the County Development Plan with a view to the new 7 year plan being adopted early in 2017.

Kildare County Council continued to deliver a broad range of services, projects, initiatives and events throughout 2016 to ensure that the county remains an attractive place in which to live, work, do business and visit. Among the many highlights were:

- *Opening of a new playground in Kill*
- *National Pride of Place Competition - McAuley Place, Naas winners of Age Friendly Community Initiatives Category 2016*
- *Straffan winning a silver medal in the European Entente Florale competition*
- *County Kildare winning 3 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals in the National Tidy Towns competition*
- *Visit by the Rose of Tralee contestants to Áras Chill Dara*
- *Launch of free WiFi in a number of towns in the county*
- *Kildare County Council one of two national winners of the European Good Practice Awards.*

Notwithstanding all of the very positive developments that took place in 2016 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. The first contract for construction of social housing in the county for a number of years was signed and construction commenced on site in December. Work is ongoing on plans for further social housing construction and 2017 will see significant progress in this area. July 2016 saw the publication of the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The core action of the plan is to ramp up supply and delivery of housing in all tenures: social, private and rental. Kildare County Council continues to play its part in this delivery.

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Finally, we would like 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.



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Mayor



Peter Carey
Chief Executive

Kildare County Council Members

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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 Áras 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.

CRM (Customer Relationship Management) System

The use of the CRM system was first introduced in June 2015 and allows for the management and tracking of representations from our elected members, TDs and queries from members of the public to the customercare@kildarecoco.ie and certain departmental mailboxes. All NPPR (Non Principal Private Residence) queries are dealt with through the system also.

A dedicated CRM team is in place as part of the Customer Services team to acknowledge and assign all cases to the appropriate sections.

In 2016 a total of 8531 new cases were created in CRM;

- 1485 – Councillor Representations
- 2381 – TD Representations
- 4652 – Other – Broken Down as follows;
- 2219 - NPPR Queries (Non Principal Private Residence)
- 2433 – Customer Queries

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The top 10 Accessed Services on CRM for 2016 were as follows;

Service	Recorded
Non Principal Private Residence	2222
Assessment of Housing Need, Allocation and Transfers	1359
Local Road Maintenance	702
Litter Management	415
Response Maintenance of LA Housing Units	290
Management of Customer Service	202
Housing Estate Road Maintenance	199
Management of Services on behalf of Housing Department	195
Provision of Pay Parking	151
Register of Electors	125

Fix Your Street

The Fix Your Street website (www.fixyourstreet.ie) continues to offer an accessible means of reporting non emergency issues such as graffiti, road defects, street lighting, water leaks/drainage and litter/illegal dumping to Kildare County Council. All Fix Your Street issues are processed through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and are responded to within 2 working days.

In 2016 Kildare County Council responded to 444 cases.

Legal Services

The procurement of Legal Services for Kildare County Council continues to be managed under the Legal Services Framework since 1st October 2013. The framework is in place for 6 years and is reviewed annually. All requests for legal services are processed through a central tracking system improving efficiency and value for money.

Since 1st October 2013, 2339 cases have been created and referred to the relevant solicitors under 5 categories;

Property Based Services

Code Enforcement

Financial Recovery

Local Government Legal Advisory Services (incl. Employment & Labour Law)

Public Procurement/Contract Law

Higher Education Grants

The Higher Education Grants Scheme has been centrally managed by Students Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) since 2012/2013. 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 2016/2017, approximately 60 renewals/reassessments were received and processed by the Higher Education Grants Section.



Register of Electors

The number of people on the 2016/17 Register of Electors, which came into force on 15 February 2016, was 143,591, an increase of 3,822 on those registered in the previous year. Those registered were made up of the following;

- 138,821 Irish Citizens
- 1660 UK Citizens
- 1639 Citizens of Other EU Countries
- 1471 Citizens of Non-EU Countries

In 2016, 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 and deleted the entry if they did not confirm that they are still resident at the address given. We placed advertisements in local media, both print and radio, which complements the national campaign undertaken by the DECLG, and contacting schools to alert those approaching eighteen of the possibility of registering to vote. We also used our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter to remind people of the need to check that their name was registered correctly.

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, a copy of the register for their electoral area was supplied to each public representative in the county, both county councillors and Oireachtas members, and they also informed us of changes that they considered needed to be made to the list.

Meetings

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

The following is a breakdown of meetings held during 2016

Full Council Meetings -	20
Municipal District Meetings -	68
Corporate Policy Group -	11
SPCs -	21
Other Meetings -	23

- Members Representations
- Records of attendance at meetings
- Conferences/Training
- Processing of Travel claims
- Payroll Enquiries
- Publication of reports on Members Net
- Mobile Phone usage
- IT Equipment
- Statutory Declarations
- Members Insurance
- Maintain Public Register

Members Services

The Members Services unit at Level 1 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 Municipal Districts
- Receipt and referrals of motions and questions for Municipal Districts

Members 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

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are used to ensure information is accessible and widely available. The recently adopted Communications Strategy 2016-2019 ensures that there is clear, consistent and appropriate communication between Kildare County Council and our customers and stakeholders, both within the organisation and externally.

The aim of effective communication is to ensure that staff, citizens, customers and everyone who deals with Kildare County Council has a clear understanding and a positive perception of our vision, aims, values, services and achievements, leading to higher levels of satisfaction and engagement.

While traditional methods of communication continue to be important, embracing some of the newer communication channels and emerging social media tools will help us to be creative and current in the way we provide information and seek feedback.

Press/Media

The development and maintenance of good relationships with local and national media is a key element of the Communications Units work. Information

is delivered via a number of different methods, including responding to press queries, issuing press releases, briefings with journalists, as well as interviews for TV, radio and print media where required.

In 2016, 215 press queries were received and processed with more than 37 press releases issued across a wide range of council initiatives.

MembersNet and Staff Intranet

Corporate Services provides information and up to date council news to the elected members through the MembersNet and to all staff members through the Intranet.

Corporate Publications

2016 saw the unit produce the Communications Strategy 2016-2019 and the Annual Report 2015.

Social Media

Social Media is now hugely important as a communications tool allowing the council to;

- Improve customer service

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- Manage its reputation
- Make positive announcements
- Promote specific events and campaigns
- Accelerate problem solving
- Interact and develop new relationships with the public
- Communicate urgent messages quickly.

It also enables the council reach people, who are less engaged with the more traditional forms of media.

Kildare County Council's social media profile continued to grow in 2016. Currently 4954 people 'like' our page on Facebook with 4927 people following it.

Our Twitter followers increased by 1052 in 2016 to a current figure of 4862.

- Total No. of Facebook Posts in 2016 – 889
- Total No. of Tweets in 2016 - 935

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).

Twitter Day

On 2nd March 2016, 25 local authorities, including Kildare County Council, participated in 'Twitter Day', using Twitter to highlight the various activities of local authorities. It was a huge success with the hashtag '#OurCouncilDay' trending with 2,118 contributors and 7,726 tweets. Kildare County Council tweeted over 40 tweets, highlighting the services we provide, grants we offer, initiatives we support etc.

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
- 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 2016.

Freedom of Information

109 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 were received in 2016 including 24 requests for personal information. A total of 51 requests were granted, 21 requests were part-granted, 31 requests were refused and 6 requests were withdrawn.

Irish Language: Gaeilge

During 2016, Kildare Local Authorities' 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 Local Authorities' 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 Local Authorities through Irish
- Corresponding on behalf of Kildare Local Authorities 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

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information in Irish on the following matters:

- Councillors' details
- Contact details
- Customer Care
- Freedom of Information
- Kildare Local Authorities' Irish Language Scheme
- Online Comment Card
- A selection of application forms for various services provided by Kildare Local Authorities.

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

Kildare Local Authorities' 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 is currently undergoing its final modifications before being sent to the minister for approval.

Kildare County Council Irish Language Committee continues to meet with and provide help to local groups interested in promoting the use of the Irish language in Kildare.

The Committee continues to provide Irish college scholarships for five pre leaving cert students annually.



Presentation of Irish Scholarships

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

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ensure that all corporate buildings are fit for purpose in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.

A number of projects were successfully completed in the Áras in 2016.

- Paving the area between the clock tower and steps to the main building. This project was eventually extended around the entire clock tower.
- Replacing damaged signs outside the building
- Replacing old temporary shelving with new fitted shelves on level 3 and 5 more in keeping with the fabric of the building.
- three new cameras were added to the CCTV system.
- The first phase of the new window washing programme was started and completed.
- A number of toilets were replaced with new units

The technology in the Council Chamber was reviewed and a SLA was signed in order to keep it maintained going into the future.

A full review of the electrical system within the Áras to make sure all aspects of the system meet the required standard.



Paving surrounding the clock tower and new and old signs

Other projects completed by Facilities outside the Áras in 2016 included,

- A complete refurbishment of the Athy Municipal District Customer Service office,
- Major structural work to the roof of the Kildare town Court House
- Repair and refurbishment work at Naas Town Boxing Club.
- Cotton Mills preliminary design work

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

Facilities also took part in a number of out of hours events such as hosting the Rose of Tralee contestants during a visit to Kildare and holding a Santa's Grotto for children with special needs during the Christmas period.



Rose of Tralee visiting Áras Chill Dara.

Reducing energy consumption is a key objective of the Facilities Management section. In Áras Chill Dara there has been a reduction in Electrical Consumption from 2015 to 2016 of 4% despite an increase of the number of staff in the building.

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.

Facilities Management section is 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

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contracts for a range of maintenance activities to be managed by the Facilities Management section. With the help of our Procurement Unit, Facilities Management section successfully procured our electrical contractors in June 2016 by open competition through etenders. 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 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 12%.

In 2016 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 May 2016 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.



Commissioned energy audits on a number of buildings in order to compile a list of projects which will be carried out over the next few years

Continuing Phase 1 of the Energy Efficiency Programme on the council's social housing stock.

Signed up with OPW's "Optimising Energy in The Workplace" scheme which we hope will bring further reductions over the coming years.

Human Resources

Recruitment

The staff complement for Kildare Local Authorities at 31 December 2016 was:

Core Staff	Number	Whole Time Equivalent
Managerial	7.00	6.80
Clerical/Administrative	370.00	332.60
Professional/Technical	177.00	172.60
Outdoor	344.00	277.50
Total Core Staff	898.00	789.50
Other staff		
Contract Posts	20.00	20.00
Site Supervisory	3.00	3.00
Temporary/Seasonal	36.00	36.00
Retained Firefighters	71.00	N/A
Non DoEC&LG	15.00	5.00
Total Other posts	145.00	64.00

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The department processed applications in relation to 38 competitions that were held during the year. From the 2,527 applications received 1,452 were male and 1,075 were female.

As a result of the competitions held for the posts, 580 applicants were deemed qualified and placed on panels, 361 male and 219 female. 123 posts were offered (72 male and 51 female).

Gateway Scheme

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.

By the end of 2016 41 people remained employed by Kildare County Council on the scheme. 39 outdoor workers and 2 administrative staff.

Training and Development

During 2016, the training programme delivered in-house training to 898 staff covering the following areas:

Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS),
Health and Safety Training,
Retirement Planning,
Customer Service Training,
Dealing with Difficult Situations,
Project Supervisor Design Process,
Interview Skills,
Managing Safely in Construction Training,
Lone Worker Training,
Electrical Safety training,
Train the Trainer training,
Information Technology Training etc

One staff member completed the IPA Certificate in Local Government in 2016. Two staff completed the Leadership in Local Government Programme.

44 staff members were approved under the 2016 Scheme of Assistance for courses of further education.

Employee Assistance Programme

Workplace Options are the providers of the EAP. Staff can access a wide variety of 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 manages 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 Local Authorities has continued to make progress in undertaking local government reform in line with the provisions of Putting People First.

Following consultation with IMPACT the Council agreed the Library Workforce Plan with the Dept. of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

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 a collaborative approach at corporate level has facilitated the implementation of the change programme across the local authorities. This could not be achieved without the continued cooperation and effort of the council staff.

Superannuation Project

The Superannuation Data readiness project began in March 2016. The project team is working to complete over 1000 pension files before the August 2017 deadline for the move to MyPay. To date the team has managed to complete 500 files and are on target to complete the project on time. Along with the project the superannuation team also dealt with staff retirements. A record 31 staff retired in 2016. 2016 also saw the biennial celebration of our retirement and long service awards for over 25 years service to Kildare County Council and 45 former staff members receiving a retirement award.

ICT

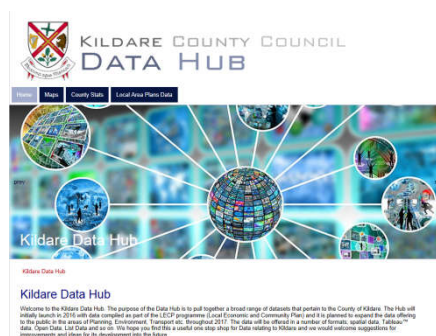
2016 saw another busy year in IT with a large number of underlying infrastructural projects delivered and significant work done on IT Security, communications technologies and software applications. Significant work was done in the area of Cyber Security in particular with new technologies and solutions deployed in an attempt to continue to protect the organisation from the increasing prevalence of Cyber Threats. The following were the key areas of focus for 2016:

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, various websites, Social Media sites and platforms, SugarCRM, iDocs, GIS, PMS etc. (Circa 1,000 support calls were processed in this area in 2016). A small IT development team also develop bespoke solutions where there is no national or off the shelf solution available. The key projects in this area include:

Continued development of the Sugar CRM (Customer Relationship Management) solution to track requests

for services from the Council, from members of the public, from Councillors and from TDs. CRM has been extended to include Freedom of Information, NPPR, Fix Your Street and emails to the Regelectors@kildarecoco.ie and roads@kildarecoco.ie email addresses and now has an integrated Document Generation Module. 12,700 requests have been recorded in the system to date.

In 2016 the Council launched the KildareDataHub (www.kildaredatahub.ie) as a one stop shop for data that the Council processes and generates. This was delivered initially to display LECP data and Local Area Plan data and will be expanded with further datasets in 2017/2018.



Kildare Data Hub

This year a new staff intranet was launched with new features, a new look

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and feel and a new sub-portal around the topic of Data Protection. (On the subject of Data Protection refresher awareness sessions were given to circa 150 staff members by IT)

A number of additional in-house developed modules were added to the Housing Portal this year, namely; a House Purchase System, a Homeless System to track Homeless presentations and a Housing Applications tracking module.

IT provided extensive assistance to Finance in the rollout of the upgrade to the Agresso system. Starting in 2015 this project was delivered in 2016 and required considerable 'back-end' resources in IT.

A number of new modules were added to the website specifically a section on Freedom of Information and a new portal relating specifically to business and economic development.



Business Section on Council Website

Our Council websites continue to attract a large following with 229,342 users and 1.7 million page views in 2016.

IT Infrastructure

One of the areas receiving increasing IT attention is the area of Cyber Security. With so many real and present threats to the integrity of Council infrastructure a number of key projects were delivered in this area in 2016 namely the installation of a Sandbox solution (Sophos Sandstorm) for increased security around email attachments, upstream proxy server testing of all websites visited and file download testing for malicious code, i.e. anything untoward detected sites are automatically blocked.

On the infrastructure side IT completed a number of key projects of note:

Upgrade of the Council Server

Virtualisation solution VMWare vCentre

Installation of new SQL2014 Server solution.

Upgrade of the Email server platform.

Upgrade of the desktop management software solution

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Work on an RFID (Radio Frequency ID) pilot in Monasterevin Library

Upgrade of phone links in the Áras to the more modern SIP protocol.

Complete review of the Credit Card Contract with Elavon and the development of security policies around the use of credit card terminals in the council.

Continued enhancement of the wireless network that connects council offices to the Áras HQ.

One significant project in 2016 was the launch of a publically accessible free WiFi solution in Emily Square in Athy. This solution is designed to attract people into the town centres and in particular to Council services. The number of people availing of the service is encouraging and further rollouts in other towns are underway or planned.



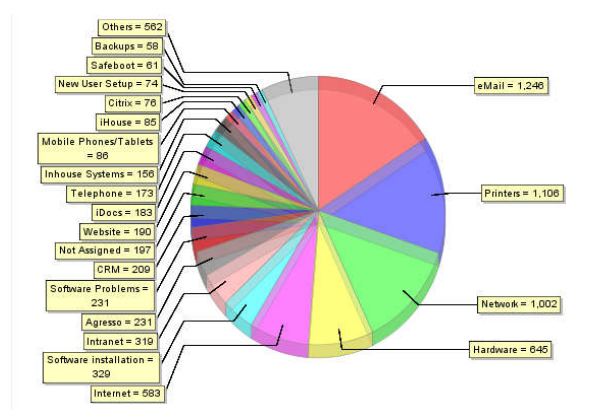
Other elements of work in the area of ICT Support and Operations include:

New PCs built and deployed: 89

New laptops built and deployed: 32

Total Smartphone estate (which are effectively managed as mini-computers): 210.

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



Calls to the IT Helpdesk 2016

In 2016 circa 7,800 calls for support to the IT Helpdesk were answered across all of the hardware and software platforms in use in the Council. This increase on last year (5.7K) reflects increased activity in the council in 2016. A dedicated team of Technical Support Officers and Admin Support staff ensure that disruption to the business of the Council is minimised when issues with technology occur.

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 have increased.

Under the Social Housing Investment Programme, Kildare County Council commenced the construction of houses in 2016. In tandem with the council's construction programme, and in order to meet increasing demand, the council primarily secures new social housing options through the Social Housing Current Investment Programme by leasing, voluntary housing initiatives, the acquisition of houses and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS). The introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) to the county at the end of 2015 supported in excess of 800 families in meeting their housing need during 2016.

Social Housing Strategy 2015-2020

In 2015 Kildare County Council was allocated a total budget of €86.9 million to deliver targets under the Social Housing Strategy for the period from

2015-2017. The target is for the provision of an additional 1,283 units.

Rebuilding Ireland (Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness)

Rebuilding Ireland (Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness) was published in July 2016. The main aims of the Action Plan are to:

- Address Homelessness
- Accelerate Social Housing
- Build More Homes
- Improve the Rental Sector
- Utilise Existing Housing

The core action of the plan is to ramp up supply and delivery of undersupply of housing in all tenures; social, private and rental.

Social Housing

The current social housing provision in County Kildare includes local authority stock (3,770), RAS (613), HAP (813), Social Leasing (286), Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (518) and Capital Assistance Scheme (468 bed spaces)

properties. At year end 2016 the total number of applicants on the housing waiting list was 6,961. HAP transfer, voluntary / co-operative transfer and LA transfer applicants are included in this figure.

Housing Needs Assessment 2016

The Social housing assessment was carried out on 21 September 2016 to count the number of households qualified for social housing support. The net need is defined as households who are eligible and in need of social housing support. Households currently living in local authority rented accommodation, voluntary / co-operative accommodation provided under the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) or under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme are not included. The assessment was published by the Housing Agency in December 2016 and identified the number of qualified households for social housing in Kildare as 5,454. This shows a reduction of 118 households when compared with the housing needs assessment carried out in 2013.

Social Housing Investment Programme – Capital Delivery

Kildare County Council has been allocated a capital budget of €80.1 million for the period from 2015-2017. This encompasses funding for construction, acquisition, Part V acquisitions, Capital Assistance Schemes and return of void properties. In 2016 Kildare County Council purchased 116 houses and completed an additional 10 units under Part V at a cost of €25m.

The following building projects were advanced in 2016:

- Kilcock, 19 units, commenced on site in December 2016.
- Newbridge, 13 carbon neutral units.
- Beechgrove, Rathangan, 18 units
- Anne Street, Prosperous, 12 units
- Dunmurray Rise, Kildare, 32 units
- Rathasker Road, 50 units
- Athgarvan Village, 30 units



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Progress for the Regeneration of St. Patricks Park, Rathangan is ongoing. The scheme currently provides for the construction of 16 units, remedial works to 42 houses and the demolition of 21 houses.



Refurbished houses St. Patricks Park Rathangan

A number of small infill schemes were also identified and applications for departmental approval were requested from the Department for 25 units on the Dominican Lands in Athy and for 4 units in Narraghmore. An additional 3 infill schemes are currently being prepared for Departmental approval.

The Council are still pursuing 5 units for purchase in an unfinished estate in

Castledermot and an additional 12 units in Kilmeague.

The Capital Assistance Scheme

The Capital Assistance Scheme provides approved housing bodies (AHB) with capital funding for acquisitions and construction schemes which have been approved by Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Completed units provide housing for special categories of need. Following a calls for proposals from the Department, the Approved Housing Bodies completed the purchase of 15 units comprising of 34 bed spaces.

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. The total number of HAP tenancies at the end of 2016 was 813.

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 at year end 2016 was 613.

Social Leasing

The Social Housing Leasing Initiative was introduced in 2010 which facilitated local authorities to enter into long term leases of private dwellings as a means of meeting social housing needs. In 2016 there were 286 units operational under this scheme. The Council is working with a number of approved housing bodies for the delivery of additional units throughout the county.

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 2016, 182 Housing Aid for Older People Grants, 332 Housing Adaptation Grants and 5 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 and in 2016 managed a Budget Allocation in the sum of €2,746,650

At local level, there were 465 cases (individuals and family units) presenting as homeless in 2016. 190 persons were accommodated in emergency accommodation in 2016. The Homeless Support Team comprising of three staff members from three Homeless Services Organisations, The Peter McVerry Trust, Dublin Simon and Focus Ireland continue to assess homeless presentations in partnership with Kildare County Council. The Peter McVerry Trust, on behalf of Kildare County Council, continues to operate the Kildare Homeless Services Out of Hours Information and Advice Free phone service [1800 804 307]. This service provides information and advice to those at risk of, or experiencing

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homelessness in Kildare. In 2016, 62 persons were accommodated by the Freephone Service. Also during 2016 the Threshold Tenancy Protection Service [TPS] was extended to Co Kildare Freephone 1800 454 454. This service is available to people who are renting and worried about losing their home.

Tenancies / Rents

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

In the Rents Section, 1231 local authority rent reviews were undertaken in 2016 in accordance with the Council's Differential Rent Scheme. In addition 489 RAS rents and 775 HAP rents were calculated in accordance with the Differential Rent Scheme. There has been a notable 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 €200,000) are available for house purchases. The scheme is administered by the council under strict criteria as determined nationally. In 2016, 33 house purchase loans were approved in Kildare.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

In 2016 a Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme was introduced nationally. Tenants who meet certain eligibility criteria may apply to purchase their home at a discounted rate of between 40% and 60%. In 2016 102 applications were received with 57 applicants receiving approval.

Traveller Accommodation

Kildare County Council manage three halting sites in County Kildare. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on four occasions in 2016 to review progress on the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-18.

Work continued on the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. In 2016, 33 families were housed under the Traveller Accommodation Programme through Local Authority Housing, RAS and HAP.

Housing Maintenance

Kildare County Council Housing Maintenance Department is responsible for the maintenance requirements of the present housing stock of 3,770 units. In 2016 a budget allocation of €6.8 million provided for the reactive, planned and general maintenance of this stock. In 2016 the department received and logged in excess of 4,800 repair reports. The council carries out the majority of its activities in relation to the maintenance of social housing stock by contract work but continues to employ a small direct labour crew. The three key areas of housing maintenance include:

Response Maintenance

Response maintenance involves responding to tenant emergencies and reported repair needs. In 2016 in excess of 3,680 repairs were completed, many reported repairs were in fact found to be tenant responsibility and the housing

maintenance department continues to engage with tenants to provide appropriate information in relation to these responsibilities.

General Maintenance

General maintenance includes required programmes and works on vacant properties, new purchases, demountables, remote cottages and 3 Traveller halting sites. In 2016, 89 vacant properties and 105 new purchases had works completed for re-letting and were returned to housing stock. Works were significantly advanced in an additional 35 of these units and completed in early 2017.

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.

- 214 houses received window and door upgrades.
- Under the void programme 24 long term vacant homes, in need of

significant repair were returned to stock.

- Work was carried out on 8 significantly fire damaged houses and these units have been returned to stock.
- In 2016, with a budget of €1.2m, 623 units received energy upgrades. Works under this programme include attic insulation, cavity wall insulation, ventilation and draught proofing. The following breakdown identifies units upgraded by Municipal District in 2016: Athy (42), Celbridge/Leixlip (308), Kildare (68), Maynooth (115), Naas (90).
- In 2016 Kildare County Council introduced the Self Help Scheme, with a fund of €200,000, this scheme allowed tenants to carry out approved upgrade works in their homes. Householders received a grant of 90% of the total cost of the works, up to a maximum of €2,500. A total of 85 grants were approved for payment.
- €50,000 was made available for a cooker replacement scheme and a total of 16 grants were approved.

Community and Culture



Kildare Age Friendly County Programme

The Kildare Age Friendly Alliance continues to meet four times a year. The strategy is now in implementation phase. We are currently working on over 30 actions agreed under the strategy at municipal district level. The Kildare Age Friendly Alliance hosted five Age Friendly roadshows, one in each Municipal District, over the course of November/December 2016. Approximately 400 older people attended these day long Information and Awareness Events. Workshops delivered by guest speakers included Dementia

Awareness, Safety & Security, Money & Budgeting and Positive Mental Health. Great assistance was provided from organisations such as the HSE, An Garda Síochana and MABS. The event was also used to re-launch the Kildare Older Persons Council. This Council will be utilised going forward as the voice of older people in Kildare. Walkability audits have now been carried out in Naas and Celbridge and work is ongoing.



are taking an active part in the life of their neighbourhoods. There were 9 recipients at this year's awards ceremony.

Kildare County Council Pride of Place & Youth Endeavour Awards

For the past twenty two years Kildare County Council has held a competition for tidy Local Authority housing estates & 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 35 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 thirteenth year, the awards scheme has helped to focus attention on the generosity of younger citizens who



Community Awards night

A very successful awards night was held on campus in Maynooth University again this year. 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 fourth 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 both at county level in the Pride of Place competition and at Tidy Towns awards.

Collaborative working

The community team continue to support the various community initiatives across the department. We would like to acknowledge the support of Kildare Sports Partnership, FAI, the Library service and the ISP programme. In particular we would like to acknowledge the cross departmental support given to the various community projects by other departments in Kildare County Council and other agencies.

At the annual National Pride of Place Awards Ceremony on Saturday 26th November 2016 McAuley Place, Naas, Co Kildare was presented with one of the top awards in the Competition. It took top place in category six, which is for Age Friendly Community Initiatives.

Remarking on McAuley Place, the judges said "This is a unique and heart-warming entry in the Age Friendly Community Initiatives. What has been created here in this non-profit organisation is an intergenerational and creative model of living for older people.

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Consisting of apartments, a community centre, an arts and cultural centre, a profit making tea room and a volunteer hub, it promotes a lifestyle for the elderly that is truly inclusive within the locality". Well done to all concerned!

McAuley Place Naas Winners of the Age Friendly Community Initiatives Category 2016.



Residents Association Guide

The Residents' Association Guidelines Booklet was compiled in November/December 2016 by Mary Behan Community Worker and is available to all residents associations in the County.



County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

- Joint Policing Committees were first established in 2005 under Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. Their objective is to provide a forum where the local authority, An Garda Síochána and community interests consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in the area.
- County Kildare Joint Policing Committee is made up of 33 members:
 - 15 elected representatives
 - 7 Oireachtas members,
 - 2, Garda Síochána
 - 2 local authority officials
 - 7 Community representatives.
- County Kildare JPC met 4 times in 2016. As an initiative of the JPC, the local Gardaí meet with the members of the each Municipal District approximately 4 times a year, this provides an opportunity for discussion on issues that are local to the district, thereby allowing more strategic matters to be dealt with by the County JPC.
- County Kildare adopted their 6 Year Strategic Plan 2016-2021 in July 2016. The objective of this plan is to support safer communities by focusing on nine Strategic Objectives to support enhanced policing and crime prevention.
- The Annual Public Meeting 2016 held in December 2016 in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, and it was well attended by the public. Guest speaker -Ms Josphine Feehily, Chairperson of the Policing Authority. The attendees on the night contributed to a discussion on the priority areas of focus for the JPC for 2017.
- The focus of the JPC for 2017 will be on working together across all key partners and the community to facilitate and support Kildare as a safer place to live and work in.

Kildare Integration Strategy 2014 – 2019

Kildare Identified a need for a co-ordinated approach to integration following the Naas resettlement programme of 2012 highlighted first in *Planning for Diversity-The National Action Plan against Racism(2005)*

- County Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019, three main themes of The Integration Strategy 2014-2019 are:
 - Theme 1: Education and Employment
 - Theme 2: Social Inclusion
 - Theme 3: Active Participation
- Multiagency implementation team was established
- Membership is made up from the following agencies and groups:
 - County Kildare Leader Partnership
 - Kildare County Council
 - Department of Social Protection
 - KWETB
 - An Garda Siochána
 - Kildare Volunteer Centre
 - Kildare Inter-cultural Action Group
 - Health Services Executive

- County Kildare Integration Strategy Implementation Team met approximately four times in 2016.



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Kildare County Council Grant Schemes

There are 9 grant schemes. 7 of these are administered by the Community & Culture Department. These grants are:-

- Community
- Festival
- LPT
- LA Residents' Associations
- Drehid
- Community Diaspora
- Education Bursary

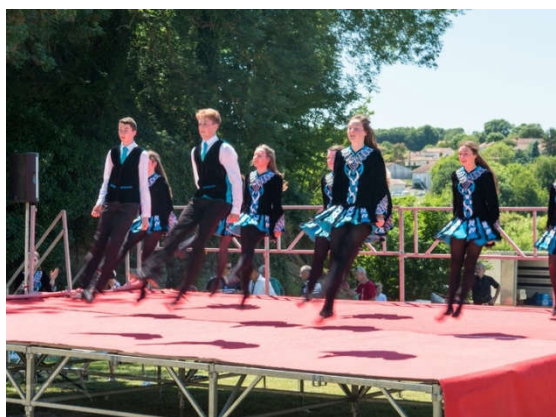
Private Residents' Associations Grants and the Community Heritage Grant are administered by the Environment Department and Planning Department respectively.

The Community & Culture Grant Scheme supports over 700 groups in Kildare.



Twinning

2016 was a busy year for twinning in Kildare with celebrating anniversaries and 1916 events. Leixlip celebrated their 20th Anniversary with Bressiure by commemorating the centenary of the 1916 rising. A delegation from Bressiure twinning committee spent Easter in Ireland staying with host families. Their programme of events included 1916 bus tour, visits to GPO, wreath laying in Maynooth and concert and street play in Maynooth. The celebrations continued in May in Bressiure with the Leixlip twinning attending with a delegation of 8 people and 10 dancers from Scoil Rince Mobhi.



Another successful year for Athy twinning with 35 French students from Songeons came over to Athy for training on Farms, Riding Stables and Equestrian Centres. The training was

over a 3 week period and this formed part of the student school curriculum and they are marked on their training by their instructor. This has been a successful part of the twinning between Athy Grandville's since 2009. This project was worth €30,000 to the local economy of Athy.

The students were placed around the Carlow, Athy, Castledermot, Calverstown, Bert Stud, Hackettstown, Rathvilly and Portlaoise area.



Naas had three of their five twinning towns attend the Easter 1916 theme event with over 62 people attending from Omaha, Dillingen in Germany and St David's Wales. Newbridge twinning with Bad-Lippspringe saw over 30 German visitors visit

Newbridge and enjoy historic walking tours of Curragh Military camp and local art exhibitions.

The County twinning had another successful student exchange with 10 students from Kildare Travelled to Lexington in Kentucky to stay with host families. On return 10 American students enjoyed the hospitality of Kildare Families.

In 2016 a total of €61,000 was spent supporting Twinning.

1. Local Community Development Committee - LCDC

LCDCs are established in all Local Authorities as a requirement of the Local Government Act 2014. Kildare LCDC was established in May 2014. The purpose of the LCDC as outlined in the Act is to:

Develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

Kildare LCDC is a 19 member committee, 9 from state agencies, and 10 from the non-statutory sector.

There were six LCDC meetings held in 2016. Attendance at meetings is very high with an overall level of attendance level of 73%. Sub groups are established to progress work in between meetings.

An **LCDC website** is in place www.kildarelcdc.ie to inform members of the public and other stakeholders about the work of the LCDC. It also has a member's area as a central point

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for information sharing amongst LCDC members.

Some key aspects of progress included:

- AIRO in Maynooth University worked with KCC to develop the first phase of the KCC online data hub. This provides all of the baseline information collated as part of the LECP in an accessible way



The National Office of Suicide Prevention's pilot programme Mojo was successfully completed in 2016. The LCDC played a key role in supporting the continued development and expansion of the programme into Celbridge

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021

The LCDC is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the community aspects of the LECP. This plan was finalised in late 2015, and throughout 2016 implementation progressed.

- Representatives from the LCDC and Children and Young Peoples Services Committee met with Dr. Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs on two occasions to highlight the need for additional services and supports for children, young people and families across Kildare.



- The need for additional collaboration to support the development of Athy was highlighted. A senior level inter-agency group was established and this will progress in 2017.

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

(SICAP) 2015-2017



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. The SICAP budget was €1,020,227 in 2016.

The LCDC established a SICAP Subgroup in 2014 to work in between LCDC meetings to ensure that the programme is run in accordance with the yearly plan and to address any issues that might emerge. This group is chaired by Pat Doyle CEO of the Peter McVerry Trust and also an LCDC member. Mid-term and End of Year reviews took place in 2016 and the targets reached for the year exceeded the targets set. The LCDC highlighted the importance of continuing the focus on young people, to target known

disadvantaged areas/groups and support employers to employ more socially excluded groups.

Rural Development Leader Programme (RDP)

An RDP LCDC Subgroup, chaired by David Walsh HSE Chief Officer Dublin Mid Leinster, continued to work with CKLP to develop the Local Development LEADER Strategy for the county. This was approved in November 2016. Work will take place throughout 2017 to implement the strategy based on a budget of €1,273,381 for the year.

KILDARE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OCTOBER 2016



1. Integrated Services Programme



The ISP programme 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 NOSP following a request by the LCDC, to run a pilot of Mojo, a mental health programme which supports men who are affected by unemployment. There was overwhelming demand for these programmes. In eighteen months (September 2015 to date) 120 men have engaged in 5 Mojo and 5 mini Mojo programmes. Retention on Mojo programmes is very high at 80%. Progression to employment, education or

volunteering is also exceptionally high at 80%. The LCDC helped to expand the programme to Celbridge, and has played a key role through its agencies in securing resources to expand the programme further in 2017.



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 are anchor tenants and other youth groups/organisations are using the facility weekly.

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Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone, officially opened the Hive on 23rd June 2016. This was a very successful event.



Throughout 2016 a range of activities for young people took place. There was an average footfall of 240 young people per month. The broad range of programmes was very positive as they ranged from Summer & Easter Programmes, Foroige and No Name Clubs, volunteer led Youth Café for teenagers on Saturdays, Junior Sports Leadership Programme, and a support programme for young unemployed in addition to KYS Kildare Town Youth Programmes.

The Hive are aiming to recruit a Part Time Manager in 2017 and work is underway to raise funds to purchase the building outright from An Post.



Kilcock

The key priorities for Kilcock are to increase health care provision and

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develop a multi-purpose community facility. Progress continued in 2016 with HSE commencing building work on the Primary Care Centre. This state of the art healthcare facility will open later in 2017.



The multi-purpose facility completed a business planning process. Work will continue in 2017 to procure a design team to progress the building of the centre.

Work to develop the Kilcock Men's Shed continued throughout 2016. Men from across Kilcock meet on a weekly basis and became engaged in an ISP supported wood turning programme, mental health and other education programmes. A further programme is planned for 2017 where a mini Mojo programme will take place in addition to computer skills.



An FAI/Garda Street League was held over four weeks, which involved 32 young people from Kilcock. This was a huge success and built on programmes held in previous years.



The announcement of the Greenway - the first phase development between Dublin and the West was a very positive development for Kilcock. Work is taking place to develop the route along the canal. This provides substantial opportunities for business and tourism locally. In addition it provides local people with a very positive amenity.



The refurbishment of the Square and the opening of Supervalu in the centre of Kilcock has provided much needed employment, a state of the art shopping amenity and generally enhanced the centre of Kilcock. This was a key objective of the ISP plan.



Celbridge

The Celbridge ISP plan was launched in January 2017 in Celbridge Youth Café. The plan is based on eight priority areas clustered under two themes:

1. Children & Young People, Health, Education, Facilities and Safety

(7 meetings held in 2016)

2. Tourism Development, Employment and Infrastructure
(10 meetings held in 2016)



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Two implementation teams are established composed of relevant agencies, business representatives and community leaders. Work to implement the plan progressed in 2016. A snapshot includes:

- The launch of the tourism and heritage strategy with accompanying audio guide. This strategy has been very well received and is informing future tourism development across Celbridge and North Kildare



- Village enhancement paint scheme with Colortrend, in conjunction with Celbridge Business Association with funding from KCC, developed a street scape and painted 22 premises in Celbridge



- A range of support programmes for children, young people and families took place. This included a summer programme run through the Youth Café and the Bridge project, DPEI parenting programme run through Celbridge library, late night soccer league run with the FAI.



Kildare Sports Partnership

The aim of Kildare Sports Partnership is to increase participation in sport and physical

among all age groups throughout the county.

In 2016 funding was received to employ a Sports Inclusion Disability Officer on a shared basis with South Dublin Sports Partnership and a huge amount of work was achieved in this very important area.

Below is a number of programmes and projects completed during 2016:

- **Community Coaching Programme**
 - Newbridge
 - Maynooth
 - Castledermot
 - Carbury
- **Get Kildare Walking Programme**
 - Kildare Walking Festival – 7 Venues
 - Grand Canal Challenge – 6 Stages
 - Walking Groups
 - Walking Leader Training
 - Marigold Festival Walk, Castletown
 - Operation Transformation Walk
- **Age Friendly Activity Programme**
 - Go For Life Games Blitz
- National Go For Life Games – DCU
- Fitter US Project-McAuley Place
- Mens Sheds-Kilcock
- **National Playday**
- **Level 1 Junior Sports Leadership Award**
- **Junior Active Leader Curragh and Kildare Town**
- **Summer Camps – Curragh, Kildare Town, Athy, Naas**
- Bishopsland Family Fun Day
- Athy Mini Triathlon
- Gym Programme
 - Eyre Powell Asylum Seekers Exercise Programme
 - Mental Health Group Athy
- Sports Inclusion Disability Programme
 - Find Your Fitness Programme
 - Football for All, Kildare Town
 - Sensory Circuits for Children with autism, Naas
 - Learn 2 Cycle Programme
 - The Bridge Walking Prog, Kilcullen

- Kickstart to recovery
- Inclusive Rounders
- Learn2Swim Programme
- Inclusive Duathlon
- **Community Run Programme**
 - Athy Mini Triathlon
 - Rathcoffey 10k
 - Run Kildare 10k
 - Moone Kilomathon
 - Athy Rugby Club – 10k
 - Clogherinkoe 6k
 - Scoil Mhuire Ballymore 10k
 - Nurney 5/10k
 - St Peters Monasterevan 10k
 - Castledermot Couch To 5k
 - St Johns Monasterevan 5k
 - Scoils Phadraig Athy 5/10k
 - Narraghmore Duathlon
 - Athy Camogie Club 10k
 - Darkness Into Light-Athy
 - June Fest, Newbridge
 - Tri- Athy
 - Leinster Loop
- **Schools Programme**
 - Step Up to 60 Programme
 - Secondary Schools Activity Camps Athy
- Naas CBS Mini Triathlon
- **Safeguarding Children Programme**
 - Safeguarding 1: Basic Awareness
 - Safeguarding 2: Children's Officer Training
- **Developing Children's Physical Literacy Seminar**
- **Park Run**
 - Castletown
 - Naas
 - Celebrity Operation Transformation Park Run



Parks

Parks and Land

The Parks Section is involved in the provision management and maintenance of parks and open spaces in the county. It also involved in 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. Among the projects and activities completed in the last year are

- Tree planting was carried out in Celbridge, Clane, Leixlip, Maynooth, Castledermot, Kildare, Naas & Monasterevin.
- During National Tree Week a tree planting project was supported in The Lakes Park in Naas.



- The programme of Spring Bulb planting was continued on the approach roads and open spaces in Kildare, Leixlip, Naas, Carbury & Derrinturn.



- Grass maintenance was carried out on roadside verges and some parks and open spaces in Celbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip, Kilcock, Clane, Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin, Naas, Castledermot & Athy.
- Landscaping of Roundabouts was completed on the Ballymore, Kilcullen, Rathasker, Newhall & Caragh Road Roundabouts in Naas at Kerdiffstown & Blackchurch.

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- The pilot allotment scheme in The Wonderful Barn continued this year.
- Maintenance works continue on the Spa Well in Leixlip Spa
- Abbey in Monasterevin was landscaped.
- residents associations in Castle Park, Canal Walk, Flinters Place, Carbury Park & Townspark were assisted with estate improvement works.
- Work on the preparation of a masterplan for the former National Stud lands in Kildare Town were commenced.
- Paths and new entrances were completed in Kilcock Community Garden it is hoped to complete this in 2017.
- A programme of tree pruning works was carried out across the county.
- Works commenced on upgrading works in William Roantree Park.
- 1916 Gardens were installed in Kildare Town, Naas & Leixlip

- Design work on the drainage works & earthworks in The Bawnogues was completed and tendered.

Playgrounds

- A new playground was installed in Kill



- New equipment was added to the playground in Celbridge Abbey.
- Work on a play policy for the county was started and it is hoped to launch this in 2017.
- Part 8 for a skatepark in Newbridge was advertised.

Special Play Initiatives

- Play day event was held in Aras Chill Dara in September to celebrate National Play Day. It was attended by over 3,000 people.

Kildare Library and Arts Services

Library Service

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 framework 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 the former Church, Priory buildings and lands in 2015. Progress is currently being made converting the former church to a modern community library for Athy and its environs. A design team was appointed to manage this project, and the Part 8 proposal was

published and passed by Council in 2016. Construction tenders have been completed and a contractor will be on site in 2017 working to deliver this landmark facility by the end of 2017.

The Council has progressed investigations into the re-development of Naas Town Hall as a modern community library facility. A tender competition for a design team will be progressed in 2017.

The 'Business, Enterprise and Employment Support Programme' was re-branded during 2016 and is now known as 'Work Matters at the Library: Support for Business and Employment'.

During 2016 the pilot programme set out to create a 'How To Manual' that can be a resource to all who set up / develop their services in Work Matters, create new initiatives or build on existing programmes and evaluate those initiatives on a like-for-like basis to examine "what works" and understand what exactly can become the national offer delivered on a consistent basis across the library service.

The key target audiences for this pilot are new entrepreneurs, the recently unemployed and the under-employed. It was agreed that the library can provide the infrastructure, information resources

expertise and events programming needed for the programme. It was agreed to focus on building relationships with selected local partners – CIB, LEO, Intreo and the ETB's (where possible) and also for authorities to forge new partnerships to deliver a well rounded Business and Employment programme for the libraries.

Maynooth Community Library is focused on working with the Citizen's Information Board and the Local Enterprise Office during 2017 with the CIB agreeing to host Information Sessions in the library. Additionally a new programme of Business and Employment workshops is already in place for Spring/ Summer 2017.

Shelf Help: Recommended Reading for Personal Wellbeing is a collection of titles covering the topics low mood and depression, worry, stress and anxiety, general mental health and wellbeing, addiction, parenting, relationships and social issues. This capsule collection was selected in conjunction with experienced professionals working in County Kildare for the Health Service Executive, South West Regional Drugs Task Force and Mental Health Ireland. It is a scheme, whereby primary care practitioners working in these counties,

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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 upon and developed each year.

A series of information workshops and information meetings covering the topics in the Shelf Help series was held in Spring and Autumn across the Kildare Library network.

Naas Community Library staff continued to operate a library service to Naas Hospital offering day-rooms and wards access to library materials. The stock for this service is purchased and serviced by Naas Community Library staff. The stock is picked carefully to reflect the needs of the various wards and rooms. Library staff work closely with the staff of Naas Hospital and the Friends of Naas Hospital Society to achieve a high standard and a consistent service. Once weekly a staff member distributes stock to wards and rotates material in the dayrooms. This service offers a friendly, flexible and accessible way to access library services. It ensures members of the community who are unable to travel to their local library are able to benefit from a library service. Library staff can in this way offer a

unique service to our more vulnerable community members.



Staff at Naas Library on World Book Day

Kildare County Council Library and Kildare Arts Services in partnership with Maynooth University created the posts of Writer in Residence and Screenwriter in Residence. The appointed writers conduct workshops on the university campus and through Kildare County Libraries for the academic year 2016-17. They also give public readings and host events for invited writers and screenwriters from Ireland and further afield.

The partnership is designed to support artists in the community, and to connect accomplished artists with students and the greater public. Details of upcoming events can be found at

www.kildare.ie/library

Learning Skills and Enterprise

Better Basics is a reading enhancement programme designed to support and

advance reading skills amongst primary school age pupils. Kildare Library and Arts Service partners with County Kildare Leader Partnership and local schools on this project. It is a paired reading initiative aimed at children who require some additional assistance to improve their reading, but are not in receipt of mainstream learning supports. The programme supports improvement in children's reading ability through one to one paired learning with a reading volunteer. The programme will run in schools in Naas, The Curragh and Celbridge in 2017.

A series of free lectures on Reading for Understanding and Enjoyment were held during November and December 2016. These were presented by Kildare Library Services in partnership with Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University. The programme presented a unique opportunity for parents to avail of the expertise of Niamh Fortune, a teacher educator in literacy in Maynooth University. The lectures aimed to assist parents in their support of children's reading, writing and language skills through the primary school years. The events take place in Celbridge Community Library.

As part of our strategy to engage with pre-school learning, we further developed 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.

Play2Read is a Kildare Library Services project where library staff, parents and pre-schools work together to prepare children for learning to read at school. These sessions are designed to help children and their parents/carers to recognise and master six key pre-literacy skills. Research has shown that children with these skills, and who have positive reading role models have significantly higher reading levels than children who don't. It is a vital head start for children in the year before school and prepares them for formal education.

The story time takes the form of four sessions in the pre-school, with the option of the final session in the library.

Our aim is to encourage parents to make reading and the library part of their routine and also to introduce the library to non-users. We also aim to show parents and children that libraries are positive, fun and free! Library staff will facilitate the sessions and incorporate stories, songs and games with participation from the parents. It is important that parents/carers are engaged and commit to attending as these sessions illustrate ways to enjoy stories in the home.

The skills range from type of books, sounds, vocabulary, rhymes to narrative skills – the children will enjoy the sessions and library staff will share some tips about these skills and their importance. Books have been chosen specifically to highlight these skills, and also to reinforce the Aistear curriculum.

After the 4 sessions the parents/carers will be equipped to continue teaching the skills in the home through various activities. Hopefully the importance of the skills and the way they can be mastered in a fun way will be shown. We also hope that the role of the library and its services can be highlighted especially to those who may not have a reading culture. Parents as reading role models and a culture of reading in the

home is the best start a child can have in preparation for formal learning. Above all we strive to show reading as a positive and fun activity that parents and their children can enjoy together.



Kildare Library and Arts Service began developing a Support to Secondary Schools Programme in the academic year 2012/13 and has continued since then. It initially ran as a pilot project through Kildare, Naas and Leixlip Libraries. Those three library branches were chosen as venues for the programme as they all had large secondary schools in their community, they all had suitable library space to hold large groups for the activities and they had supportive library staff who were willing to proactively engage with their local post-primary schools. The programme of support consists of free workshops and events that support the school curriculum for Junior Cycle, Transition Year and Senior Cycle students.

The programme for the school year 2015/16 included creative writing, History Live workshops on topics including 1916 Commemoration, the Tudors, The Plantations, World War 2, author visits from young adult authors, robotic workshops, Science Week events, Shakespeare workshops, art history and appreciation, film studies, comic workshops, career workshops, storytelling performances, computer coding workshops, sound engineering etc.

Ten second level schools participated in the programme attending events in the libraries and hosting events as outreach activities in their schools. The schools included C.B.S. Naas, St. Paul's Monasterevin, Coláiste Chiarán Leixlip, Confey College Leixlip, Rathangan Post Primary, Kildare Town Community School, St. Mary's Naas, Piper's Hill Naas, Curragh Post Primary and the Gaelcholáiste Naas.

In total over 5100 students attended 75 events as part of the programme from September 2015 to May 2016.

Feedback from all of the schools who participated in the programme has been overwhelmingly positive. Through their involvement with the programmes both teachers and students are recognising

the fantastic resource the library is within their communities. Students who had never been in the library before are now members and regular users outside of school hours.

The Toys, Technology and Training Programme (TTT) has gone from strength to strength since it first began in 2008. The training programme supports the free collection of toys and technology available to borrow through libraries in Kildare. The talks/workshops are aimed at parents, teachers, Special Needs Assistants and any professionals who work with children or young people with more significant needs.

The TTT 2016 Programme was the biggest and most successful to date with 37 talks and workshops taking place from February to November in Athy, Kildare, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge Libraries. Highlights of the programme included guest speakers Gareth Noble, Solicitor and leading litigator in the area of children with disabilities and Adam Harris founder of AslAm.ie Ireland's advocacy service for those affected by Autism Spectrum Conditions. The programme also included talks from Audrey Cully, Behavioural Therapist, Michael Ryan, Counsellor and Mental Health expert, Arlene Naughton, Play

Therapist and our always popular and informative talks with Dr. Dorothy Armstrong, Occupational Therapist.

There are currently 343 members of the TTT project throughout Kildare who borrow items from the collection for use in the home and school environment. Last year almost 1,200 people attended lectures and workshops held in libraries to promote the collection and provide support. We have a mailing list of over 1,700 people who have signed up to receive information about the collection and/or the lectures and workshops.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) programme for primary schools aims to create an environment to explore, test, engage, inspire and provide an avenue which may increase the uptake of science, technology, engineering, arts and maths subjects. Kildare Library Service is conscious that STEAM subjects are at the heart of a very wide variety of professions and will be the skills that future generations will need to take part in building the world of our future.



By encouraging parents and teachers to bring children to visit the library it raises the awareness of what the modern public library service has to offer them. The STEAM programme offers talks, demonstrations and workshops where students can learn about and interact with the various STEAM topics. Events ranged from designing and building models, creating games and 3D designs, exploring through experiments, talks on local wildlife and biodiversity, hands on with rocks, fossils, energy, water and marine creatures, becoming a maths detective, exploring space, marvelling at the galaxies in a planetarium, watching robots play a soccer match and more. Over 7,500 children participated in the programme during 2016. Comments on the events include 'excellent', 'well presented', 'informative', 'great fun', 'positive', 'engaged' and '5 out of 5'.

Since 2013 Kildare Library Service has been represented on the Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum which is supported by Kildare Children and

Young People's Services Committee. We have participated in sharing information and promoting available supports and services for parents working in partnership with the HSE, TUSLA and other participating organisations and we have provided our libraries as community based locations for delivering services. Through our work with our partners on the Parenting Forum we recognised the need for good quality supports for parents of children and young people that are free and accessible and provided in their own community.

The Let's Talk About Parenting programme of free talks and workshops for 2016 was developed and organised by Gillian Allen and Trina Coyne, Executive Librarians with support from the following agencies and organisations: HSE Primary Care Psychology Team, TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Mental Health Ireland, Garda Síochána and was fully funded by Kildare County Council.

Featured talks included Coman Noctor Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist who spoke about equipping children to cope with life's challenges and John Lonergan (former Governor of Mountjoy Prison) who spoke about the challenges

and rewards of Parenting. For babies and toddlers, the programme included talks on Sleeping and First Aid. For children the programme included talks such as healthy eating, worry, bullying and cyberbullying. For older children and teens the programme included talks on the subject of social networking, teenage wellbeing and mental health, self-esteem and self-harming behaviours. For Parents to support themselves there were talks and workshop on Time Management, Mental Health and Parenting when Separated.

In total over 1,500 parents attended 54 talks and workshops that took place in our seven main libraries in Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth Naas and Newbridge from February to November 2016. The programme was so successful we plan to run it again throughout 2017.

Cultural Campus

The aim of the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme in 2016 was to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. The nature of the programme was expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school

programmes, publications, etc., but with the unique intention of creating a legacy of research and/or cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme was inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, taking into account all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913-1923.

The end of 2016 marks the completion of that first part of the programme, and the general perception was one of pride and satisfaction. There were notable successes and national awards, and yet the barometer of success was most obvious in even the simplest things, as children sang in schoolyards and the Proclamation was re-discovered by a whole new generation.

The centennial year 2016 offered a unique opportunity for exploring and learning the history, heritage and culture of our country. The Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee supported, promoted and organised over 272 projects, including 96 school visits interacting with 14,000 students; public lectures, exhibitions, publications, seminars, essay and poetry competitions, Proclamation Day ceremonies, plays, and musical performances - to an approximate audience of 65,000 people. It was an

extremely busy, yet rewarding and successful year.



Éamonn Ó Modhráin exhibition

Kildare Library and Arts Service's seventh free annual literary festival was held in October. Kildare Readers Festival aims to connect readers with authors and artists to bring the very best from the world of literature to Kildare, as well as showcasing the best of local writing talent. The events included author readings and interviews, music, drama, walking tours and a visual arts project and exhibition. This year's festival hosted renowned authors such

as Dervla Murphy, Mary Kennedy, Sara Baume, Martin Malone, Joe Duffy and John Sheahan, The Dubliners.

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. The festival programme is curated by Kildare Library and Arts staff. We are committed to ensuring that our festival remains accessible to all, and so all events are free of charge. Further information about the festival can be found at www.kildarereadersfestival.ie

During the summer months we ran the Summer Stars national programme for children to encourage reading outside of the school year. This national programme is co-ordinated by the LGMA and local authorities - working together, sharing ideas and benefiting from economies of scale for ordering merchandise. Over 2,000 children of all ages registered in County Kildare and over 8,000 participated in fun events and workshops organised as part of the programme.

The events for our Age Friendly Festival which ran over eight months of the year proved popular with older people and included film, theatre performance, art

classes, craft workshops, computer classes, healthy eating and well-being talks. Highlights of the programme included woodturning demonstrations by Emmet Kane, Master Craftsman from Castledermot, talks on the showband scene in County Kildare 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 crèches 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, sewing 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 2016 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 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. 2016 saw the second phase of the implementation of Sierra. Kildare was joined by Clare, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Tipperary, Waterford and Wicklow library authorities. This also saw the introduction of an inter-library authority distribution service which meant library members could request items from any of these authorities. This has been hugely successful as it means much more efficient delivery of requests for patrons in less time.

A national suite of eServices for library patrons was introduced. This suite includes eBooks from Bolinda, eMagazines from Zinio, Universal Class online training courses, Mango language learning and ProQuest newspaper database. We further supplemented these eServices with our own subscription to eComics - 16,000 electronic comics and graphic novels from Comics Plus and Artist Works - online musical instrument tuition and art lessons.

In Monasterevin library we piloted RFID self-service. We replaced the older barcode for self-service with an RFID model. Our plan is to extend RFID self-

service to other branches over the next few years.

Free WiFi was introduced to all our branches during 2015 and 2016 in association with our IT department and we provided external 'street' WiFi with access point from Athy library. The plan is to extend this further to other libraries in 2017.

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 Awards and Grants

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

Writer/Screenwriter in Residence

Screenwriter Lindsay Sedgwick and writer Joanna Walsh were appointed for joint residencies between the Library and Arts Services and Maynooth University, commencing October 2016. This is the second year of this exciting collaboration with the university.

Shackleton Sculpture

A commemorative sculpture of Ernest Shackleton, by artist Mark Richards was unveiled in Athy on 30th August, the centenary anniversary of Shackleton's epic rescue of his crew from Elephant Island. The Mayor of Kildare, Cllr Ivan Keatley, accompanied by Shackleton's granddaughter Alexandra, unveiled the artwork, with an honour guard provided by the Irish Naval Service. The unveiling was featured on national and international media, including RTE News. The recently appointed Norwegian Ambassador, Else Berit Eikeland visited the artwork during her recent visit to the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum



Ernest Shackleton sculpture

Kildare film on Oscars Long List

'Gridlock', a short film commissioned by Kildare County Council and shot on location in Donadea Forest Park, won 'Best Short Film' in the Foyle Film Festival and the Cork Film Festival. Both festivals are qualifiers for the Oscars Film Awards, so 'Gridlock' has now been placed on the Oscars long list. The 'JFK Badge Man' film won the 'Best Film', having been shortlisted for 7 awards at the upcoming Under Ground Film Festival awards in Dun Laoghaire. The awards and short listing have created a great sense of excitement and exposure for Kildare's support for film making.

Culture Night

In its 7th year in Kildare, Culture Night Kildare took place on Friday 16th September and on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th. Over 90 events will take place. Brenda Donohue, RTE personality came on board as Kildare Culture Night Ambassador, which enhanced the media profile

The decision to host Culture Night events over a number of days over the weekend proved to be a success, with increased opportunities for the public to engage and with more opportunities for publicity and awareness. Similarly,

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pooling resources for programming and marketing with the National Play Day event proved beneficial.



Kildare Young Film Makers

The 'Kildare Young Filmmakers' group had their short film 'Saturday Session' screened at a number of festivals including the *REC-Filmfestival Berlin 2016* and won the awards for Best Director and Best Group Film at the Noise Flicks Film Festival.

Stories for the Ear

A CD compilation of stories, themed on the centenary year, by Kildare writers has been recorded by professional actors. The CD was launched at the Kildare Readers Festival.

Kildare Notebook Project

The annual exhibition of artist notebooks takes place to coincide with the Readers Festival. Six commemorative notebooks, inspired by the 1916 Rising were commissioned.

Circus

The 'C Circus K' circus training programme for young people continued in Athy Community Arts Centre, with young people involved participating in local festivals and events.

Newbridge Town Hall

The significant restoration works undertaken on this former town hall and church were completed mid 2016. A Board of Management of Newbridge Town Hall was established to consider how the refurbished building might be made available for public use. The Board members have made their time and expertise available to serve, in a voluntary capacity, the communities of Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District.

The Board is fully aware of the strategic policy objectives of Kildare County

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Council;-i.e. that the refurbished Town Hall be used for community activities, be established as an attractive community destination and a community event centre for the town of Newbridge and the wider Municipal District of Kildare/Newbridge. To date a number of opportunities have arisen to make the building available for a variety of public activities, including locally organised events. This has enabled the people of Newbridge and the wider community, to view and experience the restored building, in a number of differing uses.

The feedback from organisers and attendees of these events has been very

positive, with a number commenting that the venue worked well, looked well and was a fitting space for events of that nature.

The events held in the hall to date have served to assist the Board, officials of Kildare County Council and the public in general to identify any issues relating to use of the hall, and to assist in the development of processes and policies for regulation of future access and promotion of the venue.

Events anticipated for the coming months are under discussion at present, but include the 'Joy to the World Cribs Display', open evening for Immigration Council, and a music concert by a local group.



Refurbished Newbridge Town Hall

Pleanáil agus Forbairt Gheilleagrach



Planning and Economic Development

Planning

Forward Planning

The forward planning function experienced an extremely busy year in 2016 with the review of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans taking place.

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.

Review of County Development Plan 2017-2023

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

for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare for the period 2017-2023.

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 went on public display from 4 May 2016 – 13 July 2016. Public information sessions on the Draft Plan were held in each Municipal District of the County in June and a total of 481 written submissions or observations were received during this period.

Following the Chief Executive's Report on submissions from the public and motions from the Members, the proposed Material Alterations of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan went on public display from 1 November 2016 – 29 November 2016. 781 submissions were received during the display period.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 was adopted by Kildare County Council in February 2017 and became effective in March 2017.

Variation No.4 of County Development Plan 2011 – 2017 and Variation 1 of Athy Town Plan 2012 – 2018

Variation no. 4 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and Variation 1 of Athy Town Plan 2012 – 2018 was prepared in 2016 to realign the route of the Southern Distributor Road in Athy Town to accord with the preferred route selected and to rename the route 'Athy Distributor Road' in the Kildare County Development Plan.

The variations were adopted at the Kildare County Council meeting on the 24th October 2016 and the Athy Municipal District meeting on 17 October 2016.

Local Area Plans

Work on the review of Local Area Plans continued in 2016.

- Monasterevin Local Area Plan was adopted in February and came into effect on 20 March 2016.
- Sallins Local Area Plan was adopted on 9 March 2016. The

plan was subject of a ministerial direction and the plan was finalised in August 2016 following completion of the process.

The review of three local area plans commenced during 2016.

- Clane Local Area Plan: Draft on display September - November 2016 (31 submissions received)
- Celbridge Local Area Plan: Draft on display December 2016 – February 2017. (2,742 submissions received).
- Leixlip Local Area Plan: Draft on display from November 2016 – January 2017.

Heritage

Kildare County Council continued to develop its role in the protection and promotion of the built and natural heritage resources of the county throughout 2016. 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.



Heritage Plan

The Heritage Officer implements the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan.

Collection of Heritage data

- Audit of the stories of the Liffey- the creation of a digital archive with 5 LA.
- Audit of memorial Plaques
- Study of the value of Heritage with Meath, Kilkenny and Cork City
- Habitat Mapping of two towns

Heritage Awareness Initiatives

- Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Award.
- Kildare Heritage Colouring book (21,000 copies distributed and translated into Irish).

- Entante Florale - Straffan
- Kildare Fáilte Tourism Projects.
- Heritage Week 2017- 120 events organised by 71 groups with 25,000 people attending.
- Biodiversity Week 2017- 30 events and 500 participants. New involvement by NUI Maynooth.
- Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2017- 55 projects supported and total grants of €48,500 awarded.
- Kildare Medieval Festival
- 2016 Commemorations Programme



Best practice in Heritage Management/ Conservation

- CMIP plan for the Walled Towns of Athy
- Development of a draft Civic Memorial Policy for KCC

A total of €122,000 was spent on the implementation of the Heritage Plan and other heritage projects in 2016.



Development Management

Planning Applications 2016

The Development Management section dealt with 1,376 planning applications in 2016, a 15% increase on the previous year. The year saw a resurgence of application for housing developments particularly in the north-east of the county and Naas. Development Management also dealt with the following in 2016:

- 18 Section 254 Licence applications
- 37 Section 5 Declaration of Exempt Development applications.
- 40 Section 97 Exemption from Part V applications
- 28 Tree Felling Licence applications

Pre-Planning Meetings

Pre-planning meetings are designed to deal with prospective applicants and are intended to assist prospective applicants and help improve the quality of a subsequent planning application.

In 2016 a total of 169 commercial pre-planning meetings were held dealing with commercial and large multi unit developments. Pre-planning clinics were 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 2016 which were attended by 159 prospective applicants.

Building Control

292 Commencement Notices with full certification, 78 Opt-Out Commencement Notices and 53 Short Commencement Notices giving a total of 423 valid Commencement Notices were lodged through the Building Control Management System (BCMS) in 2016.

In addition, 144 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under

Building Control legislation, 12 applications for Regularisation Certificates, 95 applications for Disability Access Certificates and 32 applications for seven day notices were received in 2016.

The Building Control Management System (BCMS) continued to be updated in 2016 and used by those engaged in building projects to upload commencement notices and supporting documents directly onto the system.

Development Control

The resurgence in the level of new house building continued in 2016. The commencement of new developments and the reactivation of dormant estates in 2016 was evident in the north and south of the county.

In 2015, fifty four estates were put on display for taking in charge. In 2016 twenty eight 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 2016.

Planning Enforcement and Prosecutions

The objectives of the planning 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 139 new complaints of Unauthorised Development were received in 2016. 258 Warning Letters were issued to developers and 104 Enforcement Notices served. Legal proceedings were initiated in 24 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

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"Engine behind Recovery"* with a leading role in terms of encouraging and facilitating sustainable economic development.

Kildare County Council had a number of key priorities:

- Implementation of a scheme to support independent business owners (Shopfront/Town Centre Grant Scheme)-further information is available on www.kildarecoco.ie
- 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

These actions have all been progressed.

The Mid East Action Plan for Jobs was launched in early 2016 with a key role for Kildare County Council in terms of oversight and implementation all of the identified actions are been progressed

Local Enterprise Office Kildare

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kildare is to act as the First Stop

Shop for Business in County Kildare and 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 with a focus on job creation
- Deliver a number of national enterprise development programmes
- Provide advice , mentoring & training on business related issues
- Promote Kildare as a place to do business

Enterprise Support and Development Services

In 2016 LEO Kildare supported:

- 19 business start-ups financially
- 11 business expansions financially

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- 744 participants on core business development programmes
 - 250 potential start-ups with business advice
 - 125 businesses with targeted mentor support
 - 26 businesses with website development costs
 - 16 businesses at national and international trade fairs and exhibitions
 - 9 Primary schools through Young Enterprise
 - 15 young entrepreneurs through Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme, producing two 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.

In 2016 LEO Kildare supported:

- 16 secondary schools through Student Enterprise Awards



Bóithre, Iompar agus Sábháilteacht Poiblí



Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

During 2016 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. Over 100 kilometers of roadway was strengthened and resealed in 2016.
- The Department assessed over 800 planning applications in 2016 with regard to the likely impact on the existing road network.
- The Directorate assisted Fáilte Ireland in the promotion of Ireland's Ancient East (IAE) in the installation of appropriate signage at the exit and entry points to County Kildare. In addition, IAE Branded Orientation signage was installed at four selected tourist locations in the County :
 - Lullymore Discovery Park, Rathangan
 - Castletown House, Celbridge
 - Kildare Heritage Centre, Kildare Town
 - Irish National Stud, Kildare Town
- 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. In 2016, a review of the Traffic Management Unit was completed to ensure business continuity and the maintenance of traffic flow in the context of a major emergency.
- Significant progress was made in 2016 on the development of a Traffic Management Plan for Maynooth.

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- Provided car parking facilities and regulated parking in towns and villages in the county
- A key feature of Roads Projects 2016 was a funding submission for €67million under LIHAF – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund. The submission reflected the need for the provision of infrastructure with the capacity to assist in increasing the output of housing to meet demand at affordable prices. Seven projects were included in the submission for funding with the potential to deliver an estimated 8,000 houses in Kildare.
- Continued to migrate the council's transport fleet to sustainable and renewable energy fuels as funding permitted. The Directorate commenced a review of the Council's transport fleet of ~120 vehicles with regard to sustainable and renewable energy fuels.
- 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 proposed works including proposals to develop Park and Ride facilities in Prumplestown, Athy and Kilcock.
- Department representatives attended 55 Municipal District meetings in 2016 and ensured that all councillors were provided with timely information
- The Directorate supported the four meetings of the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Service SPC and the also the Corporate Policy Group.
- 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
- Procurement training, contract management and related upskilling was on-going in 2016 within the Department to ensure full compliance with National policies.

- In 2016, the Naas Roads and Transportation Steering Group was established to focus on Naas town with the objective of improving the streetscape and public realm to promote the town as a great place to live and in which to do business.
- 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.
- In 2016, an Inter-County Agreement was reached with adjacent Local Authorities to operate on the '*next nearest principle*' to maximise operational efficiency and minimise response times. The agreement includes Carlow, Wicklow, Offaly, Laois and Dublin.

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	€ 8,500,000
DTTaS	€ 9,900,000
KCC	€21,600,000
NTA	€ 1,400,000
Total for 2016	€ 41,400,000

Works Completed/Under Way

- 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.
- The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate engaged in statutory and non-statutory Public Consultation at the planning stage of all relevant Projects in 2016 including the proposed development of cycle lanes in the County and the Dublin to Galway Greenway. Other public engagement projects included the Athy Distributor Route, Maynooth Outer Orbital Route in association with Meath County Council, the Monread Road Roundabout and the Newbridge Link Road.

Pay Parking

Parking is regulated in seven towns in County Kildare-Athy, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Naas and Newbridge.

Additional Parking Services

Two additional parking services commenced in December 2016 on a trial basis.

Six new contactless debit card and coin smart parking metres were installed in Newbridge.

A pay by phone parking service also commenced in December 2016 in Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth and Newbridge.

Public Procurement - Cash in Transit

A cash in transit contract was awarded in 2016 to a new cash in transit contractor for County Kildare.

Parking Bye-Law reviews

Parking bye-laws were reviewed and proceeded through the public consultation for Naas and Sallins. These will be finalised in 2017.

Road Safety

Road Safety education and awareness is coordinated by Kildare County Council's Road Safety Officer Declan Keogh. The key focus is to reduce the level of serious injuries and fatalities on our roads.

Education

The Road Safety Officer delivers a suite of road safety programmes to the public through schools/colleges, community groups, sporting organisations and local businesses and industries in the county. The main areas of road safety focus on:

- Vulnerable Road Users
- Driver behaviour & attitudes

- Social responsibility
- Driving for Work
- Impaired driving
- Cyclist Safety

Adult School Wardens

There are 27 fulltime Adult School Wardens and two relief wardens in County Kildare. Their role is to manage traffic at school crossings in the vicinity of primary schools to enable students to cross the road safely. Each school warden works closely with the schools they are operating at and are an asset to the community they serve. Wardens are monitored by the Road Safety Officer on a continuous basis.

School Wardens received refresher training programmes in 2016, covering:

- Health & Safety/Dignity at Work
- Incident detection & prevention
- Child Protection
- School Warden crossing scenarios
- Dealing with aggressive drivers
- Managing student groups and traffic

School Crossing Points

Kildare County Council disbanded three school warden crossing points in 2016 due to (i) crossings having pedestrian lights in operation and (ii) a considerable reduction in student numbers crossing and reduced number of passing vehicles. A new school crossing was installed in Leixlip at the junction of the Castletown road and Green lane and the School Warden in Nurney was relocated to a new crossing point outside Scoil Bhride, Nurney.

Junior School Wardens

There are a total of 60 Junior School Wardens at two schools; St. Conleth, Derrinturn and St. Peter's Monasterevin. Each warden is part of a team of six and each school has five teams. Junior Wardens are trained and monitored by the Road Safety Officer and a Community garda during the year.

Safer Roads Exhibition

The 'Safer Roads' exhibition was a major exhibition held in Punchestown in April. The event, the first of its kind to be held in Ireland was organised and coordinated by Kildare County Council and supported by

An Garda Siochana and the Road Safety Authority nationally while also being supported and involving many other stakeholders of road safety and the transport industry, all of whom continue to work to make our roads safer.

Safer Roads was a public event, for every road user type and focused on all aspects of road use; from cyclists and pedestrians to learner and novice drivers, Young Male Drivers (YMD), adult and senior drivers, drivers of agricultural machinery, Tyre Safety, Impact of a Collision plus much more. 2,300 people registered to attend the event on the day.

The 'Safer Roads' exhibition was one aspect of an RSA Leading Light Award which the Council received in December.

Road Safety Ambassador

The 2016 Road Safety Ambassador for Kildare was Jake Byrne; Motorsport Ireland's 'Young Driver of the Year'. Jake helped to promote road safety education at schools, roadshows and other events during the year.

Road Safety Awards

Kildare County Council was recognised for its ongoing work and efforts in promoting road safety and raising the profile of road safety in County Kildare. RSO Declan Keogh was awarded the 'Road Safety Officer of the Year' award by the Road Safety Authority at their annual Leading Lights awards in December.

Declan was nominated for the award in two parts; 'The Hot Seat', where Declan presented four separate seminars to 300 councillors from 31 Local Authority's on all aspects of road safety education and enforcement, and the second part was for the 'Safer Roads' exhibition held in Punchestown which he managed and coordinated in April of last year.

James Malone, a driving instructor with Clane Driving Academy, also received a Leading Light accolade for the 'Approved

Driving Instructor' award at the ceremony. Mr. Malone has been an ADI training instructor since August 2008 and has had a long-standing interest in road safety and a commitment to helping others share the road in a safe and responsible way.



Accessibility

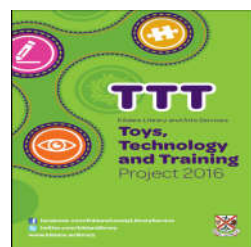
Kildare Local Authorities continue to work with people with disabilities and their representatives to improve accessibility to local authority services. 2016 saw us focusing our attention on a number of areas across the organisation.

Accessibility Actions in Kildare Libraries in 2016 included the following highlights:

- Kildare Library Service focused on accessibility to our physical environments at a number of locations. Works included accessibility improvements at Leixlip and Newbridge Community Libraries.
- Upgraded hearing loop systems were installed in all library locations and Riverbank Arts Centre 2016.
- Further accessibility actions were delivered at Rathangan Library where changed layout and accessible furniture and shelving were provided.

Kildare Library Service programmes continue to target issues of accessibility and in 2016 provided diverse programmes for users finding it difficult to access library buildings and collections:

- Touch-type Read Spell (TTRS) - a multi-sensory computer programme for people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. This course was extended and is now running in 4 library locations.
- Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) - a collection designed to compliment quality of life services for children and adults, and offer support for the use of the toys and technology through professional partnerships between Kildare County Libraries and Health Care Professionals was further extended in 2016 with the purchase of additional numbers of toys. Full details on the collections and the 2017 lecture series schedule can be found at our website at: <http://kildare.ie/Library/ReadersPages/SpecialCollectionsPartnerships/TTTCollection/>



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- A new eResource of *Comics Plus* was successfully delivered in 2016 and is accessible via our website at: <https://www.rbdigital.com/kildare/service/comicsplus>

From a community perspective we:

Worked closely with a number of Local Access groups and Kildare Age Friendly and completed a number of town walks to identify issues of concern from a walkability and accessibility perspective and as a result put in place appropriate actions.

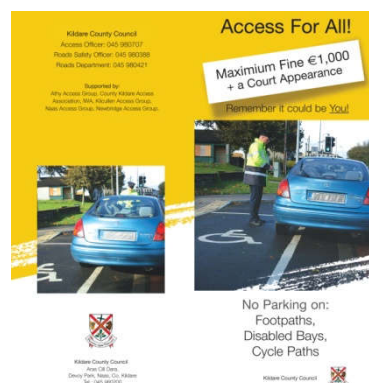
Accessibility audits were completed in the following towns:

- Naas
- Newbridge

Fire Service

Kildare Fire Service provides a range of services for the citizens of Kildare. As well as providing an operational response from our six fire stations, Kildare Fire Service also processes Fire Safety Certification applications, inspects buildings for compliance with fire safety requirements, processes applications for the licensing of Petrol Stations, advises on safety in relation to the storage of explosives and co-ordinates the development of Major

- Celbridge
- Athy



In addition we aided Newbridge Sports Centre in the provision of;

- The supply and fit of a Counter Hearing Loop System
- Evacuation Chair
- Braille signs

Emergency Plans and procedures in consultation with the other Principal Response Agencies.

Fire Safety Section

Our fire Safety Section received 139 applications for Fire Safety Certificates in 2016 and 12 applications for Regularisation Fire Safety Certificates.

A total of 127 fire safety inspections of 107 premises were undertaken across the county. Fire Service comments were also provided on 432 Planning Applications.

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

Community Fire Safety

Two fire station Open Days were held in 2016. The locations of these events were Leixlip and Newbridge Fire Stations.

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

Operations Section

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

In 2016 Kildare Fire Service attended 1936 fire and emergency calls. The breakdown of calls per station was as follows:

- Newbridge 446 calls
- Naas 484 calls
- Athy 262 calls
- Maynooth 319 calls
- Monasterevin 190 calls
- Leixlip 235 calls

During 2016 we held recruitment campaigns for all of our six stations. A recruit training course was held in Newbridge Fire Station to train our new

staff and some new firefighters from Louth Fire Service. The photos below give a flavour of the skills that the recruit firefighters learn during this course.



Emergency Management and Special Projects Section

This section co-ordinates the ongoing development and updating of emergency plans and sub-plans. An inter-agency exercise involving Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána and the H.S.E. was held in December. This tabletop exercise was used to test the major emergency arrangements for a significant incident on a motorway.

Kildare Civil Defence

Kildare Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation where members assist as a back-up service, supporting the Principal Response Agencies (*Frontline emergencies such as An Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, the Fire & Rescue Service and the Defence Forces, when required*). We also play a prominent role in the community and at many of the events and festivals which are held in County Kildare.

Our Services

Civil Defence volunteers are multi-skilled and the main programmes of activities undertaken by the organisation are:

- First Aid
- Search & Rescue Skills
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare Skills
- Warden Service and Radiation Monitoring
- Radio Communications

Training

Volunteer undergo regular training on aspects of the services undertaken by the Civil Defence. Additional training consists of Manual Handling, Cardiac First Response, Occupational First Aid, Communications, Fire Awareness, Foot-drill, Map Reading, GPS, Basic Search & Rescue, Child Protection Course and Equipment Familiarisation.

Courses are also provided for volunteers throughout the year at local level and at Civil Defence Branch Headquarters in Roscrea.

Award

Kildare Civil Defence Officer received an award in the Public Sector magazine on behalf of Kildare County Council and Kildare Civil Defence in the '**Outright Winner of Provision of Voluntary Services**' category.



Events

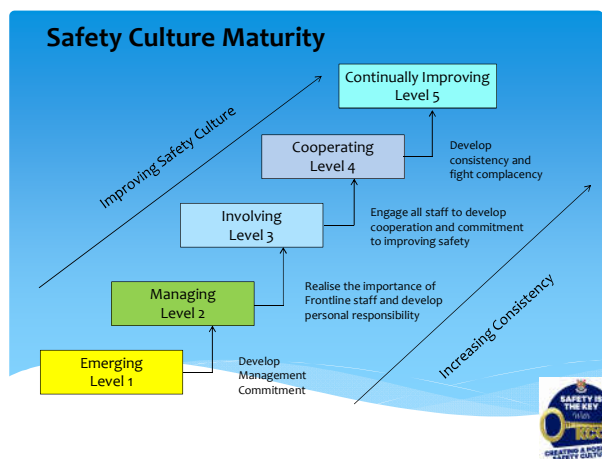
Kildare Civil Defence assisted at 73 Community and Sporting Events which include Punchestown Racing Festival, the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh, the Kildare County Show, Athy, the Dragon Boat Festival in Athy, the Military Vehicle Show at the Curragh and at local cycle races, road races, community and sporting events providing first aid cover, traffic control and stewarding. Traffic related duties are carried out in conjunction with the local gardai. Kildare Civil Defence also assisted in the 1916 celebrations throughout the county as well as a representation at the 1916 Centenary Celebrations in Dublin. We also provided volunteers at some of the St. Patrick's day parades in the county while also having to deal with a number of weather related emergencies during the year.



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.

Building on the work done in 2015 around behavioural based safety, 2016 saw us continue to build on the safety culture maturity model where ultimately employees are encouraged to take a greater involvement in ensuring their own safety and that of their colleagues.



Our overall aim for 2016 was to continue to foster a positive safety culture across the organisation and this was achieved through a collaborative approach between management and staff.

Management was instrumental in driving the change and showed real commitment through:

- Safety Meet and Greet-where management meet employees out on the ground and discuss and reinforce our commitment to safety. In total 48 Safety Meet and Greet were completed in 2016.
- Monthly H&S report to Management Team
- Quarterly H&S update to Management Team by H&S Officer
- Bi- annual H&S update to CPG by H&S Officer
- Annual H&S update to Full Council by H&S Officer
- H&S is a standing item on agenda of Seniors Meeting
- Bi-monthly Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting

A key objective for the Health and Safety Section for 2016 was to give a greater emphasis to the area of employee health and wellbeing. With this in mind, as part of European Health

and Safety Week the organisation held their own week with a series of events which gave a strong focus to the whole area of positive mental health. This included talks on mental health given by a Mental Health Promotion Officer Department of Health Promotion and Improvement, Health and Well-being Division of the HSE. In addition as part of our Health and Safety Conference we engaged the services of Brent Pope who spoke eloquently and honestly about his struggles with mental health issues. The conference was attended by 456 employees and was very well recieved. Other health initiatives included:

- Wellness Evaluations (Body Scan -%Body Fat, Muscle Mass, % Hydration, Basal Metabolic Rate, Metabolic Age and Visceral Fat)
- Adult & Child CPR Demonstrations, ECG and Blood Sugar Testing
- Step Challenge in Association with Kildare Sports Partnership



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

1. Managing Serious Incidents where there is a Risk of Criminal Investigation
2. Reviewing and approving all risk assessments completed
3. Holding a series of meetings, such as, pre starts meetings, Health and Safety Management Committee meetings, Safety Committee meetings, thus ensuring the promotion of a positive safety culture and compliance with legislation.
4. Liaising closely with the Training Section to ensure delivery of key training courses
5. Ensuring that all accidents and incidents were investigated to identify the root causes in order to prevent recurrence.
6. Carrying out a total of 48 site inspections including contractor inspections to

ensure compliance with internal Health and Safety procedures and legislation.

7. Consultations with IPBMI regarding both public and employers liability insurance claims
8. Health and Safety Roadshows with Roads and Water Sections

On a national level we were involved in:

1. Development and implementation of a Post Incident Review Form in cooperation with Irish Water
2. Working with the Department of Transport, the TII and other local authorities on the review of Temporary Traffic Management requirements.
3. Review the learning of Accidents, Incidents and Fatalities in local government over the past two years

Finally the year ended on a really positive note when the Health and Safety Authority announced that Kildare County Council was one of two national winners of the European Good Practice Awards.

The Good Practice Awards is a European-wide competition aimed at encouraging best practice in relation to workplace safety and health. The theme for the 2016 awards was “Healthy Workplaces for All Ages” with the focus on proactively managing the safety and health of an aging workforce.

Entries to the competition were required to demonstrate that their workplace undertook specific activities in relation to an aging workforce such as:

- how age diversity was considered in safety and health management;
- age appropriate risk assessments;
- the development and implementation of interventions and practical tools for managing an ageing workforce;
- disability prevention and return to work policies; or
- specific measures targeting older workers and risks specific to older workers.

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

1A- 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 Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. At present 80% of the drinking water in County Kildare is sourced from neighbouring 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 & 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).

1B-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 3 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.

1C- 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 Constructed during 2016

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

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

Contracts at Construction in 2016

Kildare Town Sewerage Scheme Contract 2A

Contracts at Planning in 2016

Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme- Contracts 2A

Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme- Contracts 2B

Osberstown Sewerage Sludge Treatment Facility Upgrade

Celbridge Local Network Reinforcement Project

2. 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.

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 County Council.

Flood Alleviation

A dedicated flood alleviation unit operates within the Environment Section and has completed a number of schemes to date including;

- Johnstown Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Sallins Emergency Flood Relief Works (Phase 1)
- Sallins Emergency Flood Relief Works (Phase 2)
- Toni River Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Butterstream Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Confey Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Newtown Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Ardclough Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Ballymore Eustace Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Dara Park Surface Water Scheme

The following projects have been prioritised for funding as part of the current capital programme (2016 – 2018)

- Morrell River and Environs Flood Alleviation Scheme – Feasibility Study currently awaiting approval by the Office of Public Works.
- Donaghcomper Flood Alleviation Scheme at initial design stage

Kildare County Council is covered by both the OPWs Eastern and South Eastern CFRAMs studies which have identified 14 areas of further assessment (AFAs) within Kildare. Both Draft Flood Risk Management Plans were advertised and placed for Public Consultation in 2016. Following approval from the relevant Minister, Kildare County Council will vote on the adoption of these plans in 2017. The plans outline the measures, where required, to protect the AFAs from flooding during a 1% AEP (annual exceedance probability). Kildare County Council has also applied for funding from the OPW for detailed studies to identify

the source of flooding in Hazelhatch, in Naas and for Minor Works Projects around the county. There is also an annual allocation in respect of the work of the former Barrow Drainage Committee whose functions were transferred to Kildare County Council. Its work programme is progressing as normal.

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 3,600 tonnes of glass and 48 tonnes of cans were recovered as well as over 500 tonnes of textiles. A collection for domestic household hazardous waste was organised in September. The event, kindly hosted by Intel resulted in 8.2 tonnes of waste being collected and disposed of in a safe manner. This included waste oil, solvents, paint as well as fluorescent tube lighting, out of date medicines and pesticides. 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

prevent environmental harm and assists in educating people in the need for careful waste disposal.



Education and Awareness

During the year our Environmental Awareness Officer made approximately 105 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. 98 of the county's schools were awarded green flags under the Green Flag Campaign and a total of 132 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 and Local Government, namely the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund and the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Grant. The Environmental Partnership Fund provided €32,000 to 21 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 nine separate projects including a dog fouling awareness campaign based on the Litter Management Plan called "any Bag, Any Bin".

Tidy Towns

In 2016 the council worked closely to support the tidy towns committees in Kildare. This support consisted of assistance with cleanups, the provision

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of bags and litter pickers, provision of grants to all entrants as well as some local demonstration projects.

Kildare did very well in the Tidy Towns competition. There were three gold medal winners-Maynooth, Straffan and Naas. There were five silver medal winners-Celbridge, Kill, Leixlip, Newbridge and Rathangan and two bronze medal winners-Ballymore Eustace and Clane in the competition.



Rathangan Tidy Towns – Silver medal award

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 370 fines issued for litter offences in 2016.



Community composting

Litter

The litter wardens are the visible face of the councils 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 Dumping" 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 adopted in 2015 continues to be rolled out in 2016. Dog fouling is a particular focus and this takes the format of encouraging dog owners to use "any bag, any bin" when disposing of dog waste. Appropriate signage and stencilling is utilised to reinforce this message.

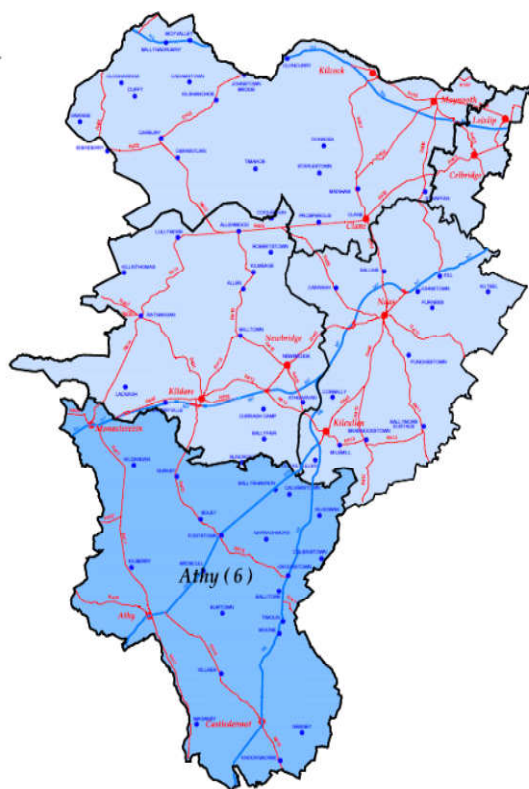


Municipal Districts



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	LPT Fund- Enterprise Centre Projects	€50,000
	LPT Fund- Community Projects	€96,737
	Decade of Commemoration Committee	€15,000
Environ. Services	Burial Grounds special works	€28,000
	Street Cleaning	€386, 240
	Kildare Green Kilometre	€1,000
	Bottle Banks	€14,517
Recreation and Amenity	Tidy Towns Competitions	€16,950
	Sponsored bins	€15,000
	Residents Associations	€9,235
	Library Maintenance	€118,928
	Playgrounds maintenance	€77,000
	Parks and landscaping	€35,000

Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Aoife Breslin (Lab)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Ivan Keatley (Lab)

Council Members

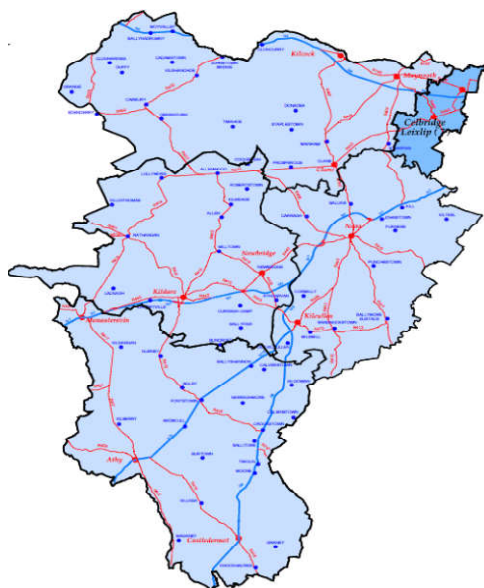
Councillor Mark Dalton (Ind)

Councillor Martin Miley Jnr (F.F.)

Councillor Thomas Redmond (S.F.)

Councillor Mark Wall (Lab)

Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Bernard Cauldwell (F.G.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Michael Coleman (F.F.) co-opted in March 2016 for Councillor Frank O'Rourke who was elected to Dail Eireann

Council Members

Councillor Kevin Byrne (Lab)

Councillor Íde Cussen (S.F.)

Councillor Anthony Larkin (Ind)

Councillor Brendan Young (Ind)

Councillor Joe Neville (F.G.)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Footpaths, Public/Traffic Lights and Traffic Calming	€121,000
Community and Culture	Celbridge lights, street festival and St. Patricks Day parade	€21,000
	Leixlip Christmas lights	€15,000
	Leixlip festival	€10,000
	Age friendly project	€10,000
	Tea Lane	€10,000
ISP Projects	The Bridge Project and Celbridge Youth Cafe	€10,000
	Community Project Misc/Easter Commemoration	€15,000
	Ardclough Community Centre	€15,000
	Community Grants	€50,000
	Parks	€20,000
	Community and Festival Grants	€17,450

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Environ. Services	Celbridge Tidy Towns	€10,000
	Leixlip Tidy Towns	€5,000
	Ardclough Tidy Towns	€5,000
	Residents extra subsidy	€15,000
	Street cleaning	€402,361
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€98,112
	Playgrounds maintenance	€14,000
	Parks and landscaping	€78,500

Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District



Councillor Murty Aspell (F.F.)

Councillor Joanne Pender (Ind)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT*/ Parking Funds for Footpaths/Work Repairs in Housing Estates	€443,720
	Traffic management Kildare Town	€96,000
	Newbridge College Pedestrian Signals	€20,000
	Sheep grids Athgarvan area	€60,000
	Moorefield GAA sheep grid contribution	€5,000
Community and Enterprise	Tidy town group fund/Christmas lights	€50,000
	Business Regeneration	€20,000
	Newbridge town hall furnishings	€60,000
	Hopkins Festival 1916 Commemoration Committee	€5,000 €15,000

Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Mark Stafford (F.G.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Sean Power (F.F.)

Council Members

Councillor Suzanne Doyle (F.F.)

Councillor Paddy Kennedy (Ind)

Councillor Mark Lynch (S.F.)

Councillor Morgan McCabe (Ind) – co-opted in January 2016 for Councillor Willie Crowley R.I.P.

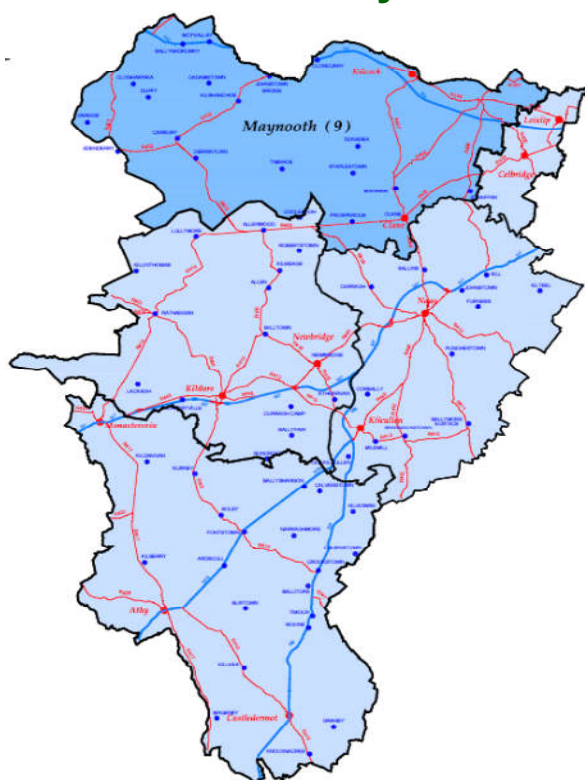
Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy (F.G.)

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Housing	Housing Estate Rolling programme maintenance	€300,000	Local Discretionary /contingency *LPT- Local Property Tax	€43,000
Environ. Services	Bottle Banks	€14, 517		
	Tidy Towns Competition	€16,600		
	Sponsored bins	€17,000		
	Residents Associations	€16,600		
	Burial grounds special works	€28,000		
	Street Cleaning	€447,187		
Recreation & Amenity	Library Maintenance	€204,666		
	Playgrounds maintenance	€28,000		
	Parks and Landscaping	€77,000		
	Newbridge skate park	€150,000		

Maynooth Municipal District

Schedule of Municipal District Works



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Brendan Weld (F.G.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Paul Ward (F.F.)

Council Members

Councillor Réada Cronin (S.F.)

Councillor Tim Durkan (F.G.)

Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick (F.F.)

Councillor Pádraig McEvoy (Ind)

Councillor John McGinley (Lab)

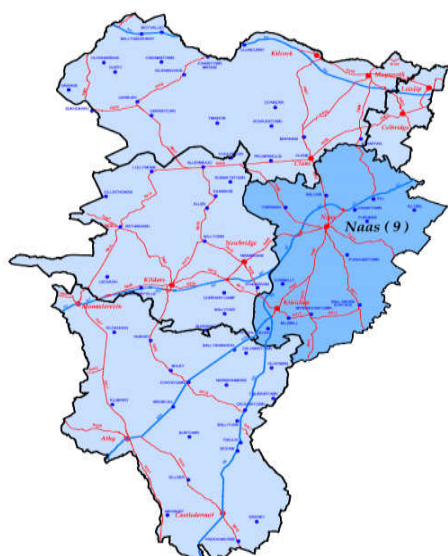
Councillor Teresa Murray (Ind)

Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil (F.F.)

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Footpath Repairs	€180,737
Development Management	Retained LPT* Funds for Unfinished Housing Estates	€127,000
Community and Enterprise	Community grants general	€40,000
	Decade of commemoration	€15,000
Environ. Services	Bottle Banks	€14,517
	Tidy Towns	€6,050
	Sponsored bins	€15,000
	Burial grounds special works	€28,000
	Street cleaning	€316,250
	Residents Association	€18,785
Economic Development	Business Enhancement Scheme	€10,000
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance Tidy Towns	€78,489
	Playground maintenance	€21,000
	Parks and landscaping	€78,000

Naas Municipal District

Councillor Darren Scully (F.G.)



Municipal District Members

Cathaoirleach

Councillor Fintan Brett (F.G.)

Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Robert Power (F.F.)

Council Members

Councillor Anne Breen (Lab)

Councillor Deborah Callaghan (F.F.)

Councillor Billy Hillis (F.G.)

Councillor Carmel Kelly (F.F.) co-opted in March 2016 for Councillor James Lawless who was elected to Dáil Eireann

Councillor Seamie Moore (Ind)

Councillor Sorcha O'Neill (S.F.)

Schedule of Municipal District Works

Roads, Transport and Safety	Retained LPT* Funds for Rural Roads and footpaths	€365,187
	Retained LPT* Funds for Underground Naas cables and public lighting	€70,000
Economic Development	Business Support Fund	€20,000
Community and Enterprise	Retained LPT* funds for:	
	Naas Tidy Towns Irrigation Project	€10,000
	Registered Residents Association	€64,000
	Tidy Towns Groups (6 no.)	€12,000
	Arts Support Project	€5,000
	Naas Dog Park	€5,000
	Sports Clubs support fund	€50,000
	Kilcullen Christmas lights	€5,000

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Environ. Services	Bottle Banks	€14,517
	Tidy Towns Competition	€26,950
	Sponsored bins	€17,000
	Residents Associations	€53,320
	Burial grounds special works	€28,000
	Street Cleaning	€518,780
Recreation and Amenity	Library Maintenance	€61,064
	Playgrounds maintenance	€28,000
	Parks and landscaping	€100,000
	Retained LPT* funds for Parks and Playgrounds maintenance	€180,000

*LPT- Local Property Tax

Financial Statement Year ended 31 December 2016

(with comparative revenue account figures from previous years)

REVENUE ACCOUNT

	KCC	KCC	KCC	KCC/ATC/NTC
Expenditure	2016	2015	2014	2013
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	34,639,737	28,925,238	22,806,753	23,336,991
Road Transportation and Safety	30,326,849	31,539,539	31,169,089	25,781,693
Water Supply and Sewerage	11,077,177	11,069,653	12,953,104	21,982,457
Development Incentives and Controls	11,788,167	10,582,924	8,918,678	7,927,111
Environmental Protection	30,983,692	28,387,805	26,709,722	29,573,757
Recreation and Amenity	8,861,033	9,423,550	8,185,083	8,275,033
Agriculture and Education	1,142,623	1,795,200	2,848,229	4,636,973
Miscellaneous Services	13,373,486	13,520,488	22,550,150	19,190,232
Total	142,192,764	135,244,397	136,140,808	140,704,247
Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)				
Housing and Building	30,785,748	26,851,195	22,339,579	21,109,465
Road Transportation and Safety	12,745,732	12,958,829	13,228,306	11,899,047
Water Supply and Sewerage	11,511,754	11,498,965	12,882,404	13,685,200
Development Incentives and Controls	3,795,991	2,683,299	2,518,538	1,282,369
Environmental Protection	19,787,593	17,922,132	16,099,267	19,639,564
Recreation and Amenity	1,209,506	1,754,454	860,526	1,313,456
Agriculture and Education	421,877	1,114,423	2,168,360	3,628,687
Miscellaneous Services	6,576,211	3,766,404	4,495,017	4,882,285
Sub-Total	86,834,412	78,549,701	74,591,997	77,440,073
Urban Authority Accounts	0	0	0	2,865,954
Pension Related Deductions	1,529,668	2,072,326	2,068,865	2,120,213
Local Government Fund/LPT	12,462,107	11,274,628	9,686,924	20,634,229
County Rates	57,555,963	57,554,512	57,823,714	47,194,791
Total	158,382,150	149,451,167	144,171,500	150,255,260

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Transfers to/from Reserves	-15,948,864	-13,960,632	-7,660,596	-9,297,151
Surplus/Deficit for year	240,522	246,138	370,096	253,863
Opening Balance	-1,199,572	-1,445,710	-1,815,806	-2,747,147
Closing Balance	-959,050	-1,199,572	-1,445,710	-2,493,284

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	2016	2015	2014	2013
	€	€	€	€
Housing and Building	34,593,273	19,275,265	5,929,014	3,463,268
Road Transportation and Safety	23,745,128	15,851,919	32,012,329	30,012,454
Water Supply and Sewerage	17,855,243	2,289,673	3,206,835	38,830,475
Development Incentives and Controls	-15,647,624	520,731	3,351,515	1,984,954
Environmental Protection	4,214,571	940,560	336,590	663,829
Recreation and Amenity	1,815,253	1,078,302	1,318,218	1,357,612
Agriculture and Education	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	-1,113,155	311,883	1,813,847	373,149
Total	65,462,689	40,268,333	47,968,348	76,685,741

CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2019

Progress Report 2016

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"> Support implementation of Ethnic Minority Integration Strategy 2014-2019 Review the Integration Strategy to identify actions that fall to KCC and which are expected to be delivered/led by C&E Department. Work with Steering Committee and CKLP Co-Ordinator to drive the delivery of actions agreed by all partners Regular meetings, under chairperson to review progress on agreed actions. All Key partners, including KCC to the strategy to actively engage in those actions. <p>Kildare Sports Partnership Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Sports Leaders Programme Newbridge & Celbridge Operation Transformation Walk and Programme Naas CBS Triathlon KSP Strategic Planning Consultation meetings Coaching Children Programme Newbridge Facilitating the production of Tow Path Trails booklet Kildare County Council Physical Activity Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boxercise Cycling Badminton Leadership Award 1 Curragh Camp & Kildare KSP representation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOJO Advisory group

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CKLP Social Inclusion Committee ○ Volunteer Centre Board • 5k/10k's/Cycle Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darkness into Light Athy ○ Castledermot 10k ○ Ardscoil na Trionoide 5k ○ Tour De Foothills ○ Caragh 5k ○ St Johns Monasterevin 5k ○ Parkrun Naas & Castletown ○ Rathcoffey 10k ○ Athy Mini Marathon ○ Castlemitchel 5k
	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. • SICA Programme under the LCDC • Interact with In house LCDC team and Project Implementer on completion of IRISystem and provide updated reports for meetings review at LCDC level <p>Kildare Sports Partnership Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the Eyre Powell residents to roll out the 'Eyre Powell Physical Activity Programme' • Facilitate the physical activity piece of the MOJO Programme • School Completion Programme Easter Camps Athy • Sports Inclusion Disability Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find Your Fitness Programme ○ Football for All ○ Sensory Circuits for Children with autism, Naas ○ Learn 2 Cycle Programme ○ The Bridge Walking Prog, Kilcullen ○ Naas Inclusive Walking Programme ○ Kickstart to recovery ○ Inclusive Rounders ○ Learn2Swim Programme ○ Enjoy Tennis

Kildare County Council Annual Report 2016

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tag Rugby
	<p>1.9 To develop the community leadership role of the council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Public Participation Network (PPN).</p>	<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 2016. 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. ● The Public Participation Network (PPN) continues to grow and has a membership of 488 at year end 2016 across the three pillars, Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental. The Secretariat is in place, and regular meetings of same have taken place with further meetings/workshops organised at local level. ● Support and advices to the Kildare PPN in advancing its work plan and providing access to funding available through council and departmental grant.
<p>Community and Enterprise (Leisure Services)</p>	<p>1.7 To continue to work with existing community/residents' associations and support the development of new residents associations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide communities with support in relation to amenity and landscaping works. 	<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, Castledermot and Carbury in 2016 ● Completion of tree planting programme for county ● Completion of tree pruning and removal programme

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Bulb Planting Programme • Grass Maintenance Programme • Landscape Works at William Roantree Park, Leixlip • Landscaping at entrance to Moore Abbey, Monasterevin
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve the accuracy of the electoral register by: • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the policy making role of the elected council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures reviewed, including standing orders, in advance of election of 40 member council in May 2014 • 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 MembersNet 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 policy committees.

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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.
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 public representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support councillor laptops, wireless internet access, printing from party rooms etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing support provided to Councillors throughout their term. Work is ongoing.

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		<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New system based on Meraki WiFi devices with cloud based controller software implemented throughout the library network. <p>This new system has been delivered and is operational in all of the libraries in KCC.</p>
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 enhance real time and virtual services to users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kildare Senior Library Management team were involved at national level on the following committees: Business, Employment and Enterprise, National Book Tender, National Library Management System, National Library Distribution Network, Literacy/Reading Development, and National library E- Services The seventh Kildare Readers' Festival took place in October, 15 events spanned the weekend. The programme featured author Dermot Bolger, Dervla Murphy, Sara Baume and musical legend John Sheahan. Over 1,500 attended events. See www.kildarereadersfestival.ie to keep up to date. Successful Writer in Residence and Screen Writer in Residence programme in partnership with Maynooth University extended. Lyndsey Sedwick was selected as the Screen-writer in Residence and Joanna Walsh as the Writer in Residence Progressive annual library information programmes developed for 2016: Parenting Support, Age Friendly Festival, Toys Technology Training, Shelf Help, Secondary School Support, Business and Employment Lecture Series (Maynooth). STEM Smart Future Programme developed for 2016, the programme aimed to create an environment to explore, test, engage, inspire and provide an avenue which may increase the

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			<p>uptake of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Better Basics' a reading development programme in partnership with Leader and disadvantaged primary schools, following successful implementation extended into 2016. The aim of the paired reading programme is to improve literacy levels for children. This SICAP part-funded programme aims tackle disadvantage in education, all participants are DEIS schools in the County. • A child centered approach to marketing continued in 2016 with the Reading Together programme and Rua the Library Squirrel making his presence known in schools and preschool across the county. • Shelf Help Programme 2016 - The programme attracted increased audiences across the county. Key talks included Prof. Jim Lucey - 'In My Room' and stress control classes with the HSE Primary Care Psychology Team • Library Age Friendly Festival Programme, 48 events took place between March and July. Events included talks on bird-watching, mindfulness, the showband scene in County Kildare, weight-management as we age, computer classes, woodturning demonstrations, art classes, felt-making workshops. • 'Reading for Understanding and Enjoyment'. This National pilot programme in partnership with Kildare Library Service, LGMA and Maynooth University, targeted parents of primary school children in support of reading and literacy development. • Over 2,000 children signed up in the county for the Summer Stars Reading Programme. Award ceremonies countywide during September generated great excitement. The range of events which took place to encourage and stimulate our young readers attracted audiences of over 8,000 children with this year the most successful to date. • Children's Book Festival, almost 2,000 children attended events, 57 events were organised to celebrate Children's Book Festival during October. These included author visits and art workshops linked to particular books e.g. The Cat in the Hat. Authors
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			<p>included Tatyana Feeney and the poet Martin Dyar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys Technology and Training Collection and lecture series due to demand extended • Parents: Practical and Positive Supports a series of lectures organised in partnership with the HSE Primary Care Psychology Team and Mental Health Ireland were attended by over 2,500 people • Integrated Services Programme - Celbridge, Children, Young People and Health Committee. Partnership programming was organised in conjunction with HSE, SWRDTF, CKLP and this Council's Community Dept. • Kildare Decade of Commemorations - 2016 Programme <p>The centennial year 2016 offered a unique opportunity for exploring and learning the history, heritage and culture of our county. Over 272 projects, including 96 school visits interacting with 14,000 students, public lectures, exhibitions, publications, seminars, and musical performances were enjoyed by over 65,000 citizens of this County</p> <p>Arts Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Grants, Bursaries and Awards have been distributed to professional artists, community groups and community arts organisations to value of €54,400. • Kildare County Council is currently reviewing '(Continue to) Make Inroads: An Arts Development Plan for Kildare Local Authorities 2012-2106 and is planning a new arts strategy for 2017-2021. <p>At the heart of our last plan, were 5 key words - curate, mentor, broker, respond & inspire - words that we felt described how the Arts Service interact with and support the citizens of Co Kildare and beyond. Kildare County Council have invited submissions on the previous plan and programme of work and are currently developing the future plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creative Well - An integrated arts and health programme,
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			<p>was extended 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • '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 • The 'Past Times Community Choir' for people with dementia, their carers and the community continues to grow from strength. The choir who meet weekly at McAuley Place are supported by Kildare County Council and HSE. • Culture Night: Now in its 7th year in Kildare, Culture Night Kildare took place on Friday 16th September and on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th. Over 90 events took place. Brenda Donohue, RTE personality came on board as Kildare Culture Night Ambassador, which enhanced the media profile. The decision to host Culture Night events over a number of days over the weekend proved to be a success, with increased opportunities for the public to engage and with more opportunities for publicity and awareness. Similarly, pooling resources for programming and marketing with the National Play Day event proved beneficial • Kildare Young Filmmakers, The 'Kildare Young Filmmakers' group had their short film 'Saturday Session' screened at a number of festivals including the <i>REC-Filmfestival Berlin 2016</i> and won the awards for Best Director and Best Group Film at the recent Noise Flicks Film Festival. • Film Commissions, three films supported by Kildare County Council, a feature documentary, a feature length drama and 'Gridlock' a short film were premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh. 'JKF The Badge Man Conspiracy' and 'In Ribbons', two films supported by Kildare County Council will screen at the Cork Indie Festival in October. The 'JKF Badge Man' film has been shortlisted for 7 awards at the upcoming Under Ground Film Festival awards in Dun Laoghaire • Kildare Notebook Project, the annual exhibition of artist
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			notebooks takes place to coincide with the Readers Festival. This year, 6 commemorative notebooks, inspired by the 1916 Rising were commissioned.
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 in 2016 including the proposed development of cycle lanes in the County and the Dublin to Galway Greenway. Other public engagement projects included the Athy Distributor Route, Maynooth Outer Orbital Route in association with Meath County Council, the Monread Road Roundabout and the Newbridge Link Road. Public consultation also took place with regard to the review of Parking Bye Laws in Naas and the introduction of Pay Parking in Sallins. As part of the proposal to develop Park and Ride facilities in Prumplestown, Athy and Kilcock, public consultations were carried out.
	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 timely information. In addition to monthly meetings with the Councillors, the Roads Department held in-committee meetings, operational meetings, on-site meetings and we continue to informally engage with all stakeholders to update and share information in a timely manner. The Directorate also supports the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Service SPC and the Corporate Policy Group.
Water Services	1.6 To ensure that councillors are provided with timely information, advice and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing meetings and members queries Financial monitoring and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Services Department, as necessary and appropriate, serviced all Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committee and Council meetings with technical reports, policy proposals and

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	<p>training to carry out their roles as public representatives.</p>	<p>reporting in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>responses to Member's queries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Customer issues addressed in timely manner in accordance with the SLA protocols with Irish Water. • Reports prepared for all Council meetings.
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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 (when adopted).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued implementation of Waste Management policies Further success in relation to increasing numbers of green schools and Bring Banks in context of the waste management plan Continued financial assistance given regarding provision of existing sponsored bins Management of recycling facilities at Silliot Hill and Athy outsourced on 5 year contract Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan adopted. Progress Kerdiffstown Remediation project.

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	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 measure Continued operation of waste sampling, testing and monitoring programme.
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. Solution has been delivered to all of the main offices in KCC.

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Local Enterprise Office	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 2.9 fuels as funding permits.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Directorate commenced a review of the Council's transport fleet of 120 vehicles with regard to sustainable and renewable energy fuels. ▪ The opportunity to achieve savings in fuel use in support of Climate Change targets will emerge in 2017/2018 with the planned relocation of the existing Machinery Yard in Newbridge.
Water Services	2.5 To assist Irish Water in identification of water infrastructure deficits in the county		Ongoing

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, Drehid 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 Ellistown. 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. Advancing the amenity development of lands at Bawnogues Kilcock including the tendering of major surface water drainage works advancing the delivery of perimeter exercise track at Bawnogues Kilcock, under grant scheme of Sports Ireland Provide administrative, payments and recoupments to support KLeisure Ltd in the capital programme on Energy Efficiency.

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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 • Cemetery extensions completed at Newbridge and Derrinturn • Site selected for proposed recycling facilities in north of county • Ongoing monitoring of rollout of brown bin by waste contractors.
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.

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Information Technology	<p>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.</p>	<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. <p>Work is ongoing and undergoes continuous improvement and development as technology and end user requirements/expectations change.</p>
Library and Arts Services	<p>3.17 To support the development and enhancement of local sports, leisure, recreational and arts facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress addressing physical access issues in all venues • Strengthen reader development programmes and collection management across the library network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free universal membership for all library members, allowing access to all library authority collections • Capital development progressed on new library facility at the Dominican Church in Athy • Capital development, progressing design for new flagship library facility in Naas at Naas Town Hall • Enhancement works took place to the upper gallery and the community meeting space at Celbridge Community Library. Extensive energy conservation measures were undertaken in Kilcullen Community Library. Small internal fit out works took place in Newbridge Community Library. • Library Management System LMS, Kildare was in Phase 1 of the implementation of the National Library Management System. All phases are now complete, the benefits are substantial allowing members access to a national catalogue. • DX National Inter Library Request Service - Following the full implementation of the LMS, this facility allows our members to request from the National Catalogue, this has led to greater efficiencies in request fulfilment. • Extension of online service provision, eComics and eArtists and collaboration in national procurement of eservices. Look for links

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			<p>under ALL THE TIME services: www.kildare.ie/library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Wi-Fi Athy Project - Installation of public Wi-Fi for Athy town using the Athy library broadband connection • Extension of 'Business, Employment and Enterprise' information service 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 • Successful pilot RFID project in Monasterevin Library (Self Service Technology), RFID to extend to further location in 2017 • Self service booking facility for public pc's access extended to all part-time libraries. • Kildare Decade of Commemorations - 2016 Programme • The centennial year 2016 offered a unique opportunity for exploring and learning the history, heritage and culture of our county. Over 272 projects, including 96 school visits interacting with 14,000 students, public lectures, exhibitions, publications, seminars, and musical performances were enjoyed by over 65,000 citizens of this County. • 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 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"> • Review of Kildare County Development Plan commenced in April 2015. County development Plan was adopted in February 2017 and became effective from March 2017. • Review of Monasterevin Local Area Plan completed. • Review of Sallins Local Area Plan completed. • Review of Clane Local Area Plan commenced.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Celbridge Local Area Plan commenced. • Review of Leixlip Area plan commenced. • Public consultation completed at appropriate stages of plan processes
	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. • Local Authority Heritage Officers & Biodiversity Officers secured agreement from the National Tidy Towns Unit to initiate a new award in the national competition. The award recognises work done by Tidy Towns groups to conserve our threatened pollinator species such as bees and insects. 58 Towns participated in the national competition with Maynooth securing the Regional Award in the Large Town Category. • The local authorities of Wicklow, Kildare, South Dublin, Fingal and Dublin City are developing a digital archive to compile existing information and record new stories relating to the historic settlement and rich natural and cultural heritage legacy of the River Liffey, from its source to sea. The information generated will be used to develop a tourism output to promote visitors to this catchment area. • Through the Walled Towns Network, Athy Walled Town Group secured funding to prepare a Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan for the town walls of Athy • Supported Decade of Commemorations Events
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	3.1 To provide a well-maintained public road network based on a minimum maintenance cycle of ten years subject to financial and human resource constraints.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With responsibility for over 2,528 kilometers of roadway and a significant amount of footpaths, the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety directorate has provided, and will endeavour to 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.

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	<p>3.11 To ensure, in consultation with other statutory undertakers and stakeholders, that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new development.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate has ensured that there is existing or planned infrastructure to service new developments. Over 800 planning applications were assessed in 2016 with regard to the likely impact on the existing road network. • A key feature of Roads Projects 2016 was a funding submission for €67million under LIHAF – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund. The submission reflected the need for the provision of infrastructure with the capacity to assist in increasing the output of housing to meet demand at affordable prices. Seven projects were included in the submission for funding with the potential to deliver an estimated 8,000 houses in Kildare. • Key infrastructure projects have been developed in accordance with the Council's capital programme and the County Development Plan. • The Directorate maintains and manages 6 fire stations (Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip) working to the highest possible standards. <p>In 2016, an Inter-County Agreement was reached with adjacent Local Authorities to operate on the '<i>next nearest principle</i>' to maximise operational efficiency and minimise response times. The agreement includes Carlow, Wicklow, Offaly, Laois and Dublin.</p>
	<p>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.</p>		<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. • In 2016, a review of the Traffic Management Unit was completed to ensure business continuity and the maintenance of traffic flow in the context of a major emergency. • Significant progress was made on the development of a Traffic Management Plan for Maynooth. <p>The Road Safety Officer continues to rollout a programme of education and awareness in schools and the community on road safety in consultation with the Road Safety Authority and An</p>

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			Garda Síochána.
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 Irish Water. To operate and maintain wastewater network and treatment systems to facilitate development and protect the environment in accordance with the SLA with Irish Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain and upgrade the water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure/network in collaboration with Irish Water through the Small Schemes Programme Worked with Irish Water to maintain and improve the existing standard of water supply as well as the wastewater treatment facilities.
	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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network upgrade works were carried out in Ballindoolin GWS to help reduce leakage rates and improve operation of the group scheme It is anticipated that further improvement works on various schemes will be progressed in 2017/2018 as part of the Multi-Annual Programme Several group schemes will be advanced to be in a position to allow Irish Water to take them in charge
	3.9 To complete flood alleviation (minor works programme) during the lifetime of this plan and to continue to actively liaise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop flood alleviation strategy and implementation programme. 	Flood Alleviation Strategy projects relevant to 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Butterstream - Sallins

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	with the OPW in this regard.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toni River - Newtown - Confey - Johnstown - Ardclough. -Ballymore Eustace -Dara Park, Newbridge -Clonshambo Pilot Scheme • Ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morrel River - Hazelhatch, Celbridge - Oaks, Newbridge
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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. Work with other departments of Council in providing understandings of community depts involvement in ongoing proposals being developed by other depts.
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.

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	<p>4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate improvements in quality service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the IT Department to identify and develop a Customer Relationship Management System [CRM] for the organisation to manage customer queries and members representations. • Continue to develop plans for Customer Service Centre at Level 1 Áras Chill Dara, as part of local government reform programme and in line with customer service strategy contained in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government: Putting People First. • 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
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			<p>improvements as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Health and Safety Statement for this section. • Support and enhance the role of Equality Officer and the Equality Action Team.
	4.15 To establish and maintain a comprehensive register of land-based assets on a web-based system with text records and associated maps.		<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. 328 records were added to the Property Interest Register system in 2016, bringing the overall total of live records to 2,973. • 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 – 129 queries dealt with in 2016.
Finance	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.	Ensure effective collection of income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/Housing Loans/ Rents) are issued in a timely manner. The responsibility for the issuing and collecting of water charges transferred to Irish Water in December 2016. • Housing Loan and Rent customers can avail of a number of payment methods including payment by way of standing orders, direct debits, An Post payment cards and through the Council's IVR system.

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	4.12 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	Financial Planning and Treasury Management <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 council's adherence to the Corporate Plan through projected revenue and capital programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Budget for 2017 was prepared in November 2016 and adopted by Council on 21 November 2016 There is a statutory responsibility to have the Annual Financial Statement published by 1st July of the following year. In 2016 the 2015 AFS was brought to council in April 2016. 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 2017-2019 Capital Programme anticipates Kildare County Council spending in the order of €282 million on infrastructure.
	4.12 To facilitate and support effective internal, national and EU financial oversight.	Ensure collection of income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Housing	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for housing, and housing stock management and maintenance maintained on ihouse database Implementation of PASS system (Homelessness).

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	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. Complete Update the corporate AntiVirus solution. Complete Provide ICT Security Awareness training to the majority of Council staff (to be completed Feb 2016) Complete (and scheduled again for May 2017) Implement Sugar CRM to manage Members Representations, complaints, FixyourStreet queries etc Initial implementation is complete. Further modules are planned in 2017. Address circa 5,500 IT helpdesk calls for council staff Complete. Continue to maintain and develop high-speed back-up solutions to disk and tape to protect council information assets. Ongoing work as technology evolves and business requirements change. 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. Complete. Another external site (Kerdiffstown) has been connected to the Áras over VoIP Delivered a small order tracking solution for tracking and managing chief executive, directors of service and authorised officer's orders. Complete. Delivered training booking solution for staff to book onto internal courses. Complete. Rolled out document scanning and workflow to support centralised invoice matching in the Finance section. Complete. Further projects underway in Housing of a similar nature. Identified a mobile solution for Housing for doing off-site remote surveying. Complete.
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,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prepare an annual audit plan based on departmental risk registers, input from the Audit Committee, CE, Directors and the LG Auditor. 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Audit plan for 2016 contained 17 audits spread across all Directorates. 12 final reports were issued to Management Team & the Audit Committee in 2016. 3 further reports were finalised in 2016 and due for presentation to Audit Committee in early 2017. The remaining 2 audits commenced in 2016 were carried over to 2017. In 2016 the Internal Audit unit provided the required quality assurance in depth report to NOAC on adherence to the Public Spending Code. Internal Audit worked closely with and followed the guidance of the Audit Committee throughout 2016. Recommendations from audits are subsequently monitored and verified to ensure implementation as agreed. During 2016 Internal Audit carried out an audit on Governance which focussed on the standard of governance of

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	accountability and value for money.	outlined in the Corporate Plan.	non profit organisations funded by Kildare county Council.
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 2016</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 2016</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	4.1 To optimise use of new IT and Communications technologies to improve service delivery.	<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 files using one I-plan system

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued use of the LocalGov.ie Building Control Management System (BCMS). allowing property owners, builders, developers, architects etc to submit notifications, applications and compliance certificates online.
	4.9 Continue to respond to citizens' needs through best practice models and an integrated approach for delivery of services.	<p>Information and Public Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a comprehensive service to the public. <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"> Over the counter validation for one off houses and extensions Outreach services – Pre-Planning clinics continued to be held in Aras Chill Dara on a regular basis – advertised in January each year. 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued processing of fire certificates, disabled access certificates and commencement notices in accordance with statutory requirements. The taking in charge process for residential estates continued in accordance with Council Policy and Department guidelines. Continued liaison with all relevant stakeholders, in particular Irish Water, to ensure the satisfactory completion and taking in charge of housing estates in the County All active residential developments are monitored on an ongoing basis and enforcement procedures are initiated where necessary.

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		to the satisfaction of the council.	
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 compliance with national procurement policies.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Directorate has achieved value for money in the procurement of goods and services through the use of best practice and compliance with National and European procurement policies. • Existing contracts for Traffic Management and Pay Parking Enforcement are monitored on an on-going basis to ensure value for money. • The Roads Department had a the lead role in the procurement of consultancy services to assist local authorities nationally in carrying out their duties as Noise Mapping Bodies under the Environmental Noise Directive and the Environmental Noise Regulations (2007). • Procurement training, contract management and related upskilling is on-going within the Department to ensure full compliance with National policies.

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 Availed of service of community dept NUIM in furthering the PPN engagements and developing its structures.
	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"> 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 2016 Work on a community garden in Kilcock started Landscaping works commenced along the Silkeachain Valley in Leixlip 1916 Gardens were installed in Kildare Town, Naas & Leixlip Residents associations in Castle Park, Canal Walk, Flinters Place, Carbury Park & Townspark were assisted with estate improvement works. <p>Work on the preparation of a masterplan for the former National Stud lands in Kildare Town were commenced.</p>

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Environment	5.8 To continue to implement robust measures to enforce waste management regulations and reduce litter.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue review of old legacy landfill sites in the county. • Continued progress in elimination of derelict sites • Continue to review licences for discharge to watercourses • Continue programme to address dangerous buildings. • Continue progress to eliminate end of life vehicle sites. • A number of projects such as provision of fixed litter bins, removal of graffiti, tree planting and development of local plans undertaken with the Tidy Towns network, 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.

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Information Technology	<p>5.5 To continue to work with state agencies, Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and other local stakeholders to promote Kildare as a unique tourist destination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Kildare.ie brand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and promote www.kildare.ie as the premier portal of choice for business and tourism in the county. Ongoing
Library and Arts Service	<p>5.11 To promote and enhance the cultural and artistic life of Kildare</p>	<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 2016</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 <p>The Arts Service as a key player in HSE cultural programmes</p> <p>Increased supports for Kildare Youth Theatre and Greise Youth Theatre.</p> <p>Enhanced profile for the Arts Service at national level, through participation on Arts and Education portal project and Encountering the Arts Ireland</p>

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Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	<p>5.5 To continue to work with state agencies, Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and other local stakeholders to promote Kildare as a unique tourist destination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Kildare.ie brand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directorate assisted Fáilte Ireland in the promotion of Ireland's Ancient East (IAE) in the installation of appropriate signage at the exit and entry points to County Kildare. In addition, IAE Branded Orientation signage was installed at four selected tourist locations in the County : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lullymore Discovery Park, Rathangan ◦ Castletown House, Celbridge ◦ Kildare Heritage Centre, Kildare Town ◦ Irish National Stud, Kildare Town • The Naas Roads and Transportation Steering Group was established to focus on Naas town with the objective of improving the streetscape and public realm to promote the town as a great place to live and in which to do business.
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Committees of the Council 2016

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, Murty Aspell, 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 Mayor

Membership of External Bodies

Appendix 2

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, Michael Coleman , Suzanne Doyle, Paul Ward, Carmel Kelly, Anthony Larkin, Morgan McCabe, Pádraig McEvoy, Íde Cussen, Mark Lynch, Tim Durkan, Ivan Keatley, Fintan Brett, Aoife Breslin, Anne Breen

County Kildare Fáilte

Councillor Pádraig McEvoy

Drehid Community Liaison Committee

Councillors Mark Stafford, Daragh Fitzpatrick

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Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum

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

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Councillor Tim Durkan, Murty Aspell

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, Carmel Kelly

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

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Local Authorities Members Association

Councillor Sean Power

Local Community Development Committee

Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Fintan Brett, Mark Wall

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

Councillors Martin Miley, 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 , Morgan McCabe, Brendan Weld,
Sorcha O'Neill

Strategic Policy Committees

Appendix 3

Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2014-2019

Membership

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Suzanne Doyle [Chair]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Naoise Ó'Cearúil	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Lynch	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Wall	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Padraig McEvoy	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Billy Hillis	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Morgan McCabe	Member of Kildare County Council

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Brendan Allen	Business/Commercial
Gerry Prendergast	Development/Construction
Vacant	Social Inclusion
Fiona Tutty	Environmental/Conservation

Director of Services for Planning and Strategic Development

Mr Peter Minnock

Administrative Support

Ken Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Planning and Economic Development

Telephone 045 980972

Email kkavanagh@kildarecoco.ie

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Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Darren Scully [Chair]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Réada Cronin	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Paul Ward	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Anne Breen	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor John McGinley	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Joe Neville	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Seamie Moore	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Dalton	Member of Kildare County Council
Cormac Browne	Agriculture/Farming

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Sean Lawler	Business/Commercial
Peter Kenny	Development/Construction
James Earle	Community/Voluntary

Director of Services for Roads, Transportation and Public Safety

Mr Niall Morrissey

Administrative Support

Ms Evelyn Wright, Senior Executive Officer, Roads and Transport

Telephone: 045-980427/980200

E-mail: ewright@kildarecoco.ie

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Environmental Services and Water

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Sean Power [Chair]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brendan Young	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Íde Cussen	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Fintan Brett	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Anthony Larkin	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Murty Aspell	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Michael Coleman	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy	Member of Kildare County Council
Deirdre Lane	Environmental/Conservation

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Gerry O'Hagan	Business/Commercial
Tom Malone	Agriculture/Farming
Mary Glennon	Community/Voluntary

Director of Services for Environment and Water Services

Mr Joe Boland

Administrative Support

Mr Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Department

Telephone: 045-980588/980200

E-mail: ldunne@kildarecoco.ie

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Housing

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Paddy Kennedy [Chair]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Joanne Pender	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Robert Power	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Aoife Breslin	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Thomas Redmond	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brendan Weld	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tim Durkan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Deborah Callaghan	Member of Kildare County Council
Denis Buckley	Development/Construction

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Anthony Egan	Community/Voluntary Sector
Ramon O'Reilly	Trade Union
Pat Doyle	Social Inclusion

Director of Services for Housing and Corporate Services

Mr Tadhg McDonnell

Administrative Support

Ms Siobhan Scully, Administrative Officer, Housing Department

Telephone: 045-980612/980200

E-mail: sscully@kildarecoco.ie

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Local Community and Cultural

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Kevin Byrne [Chair]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Martin Miley Jnr	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Teresa Murray	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Sorcha O'Neill	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Stafford	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Ivan Keatley	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Carmel Kelly	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Bernard Caldwell	Member of Kildare County Council
Dermot O'Donnell	Environmental/Conservation
Frieda O'Connell	Business/Commercial

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John Hayden	Community/Voluntary
P J Fagan	Social Inclusion

Director of Services for Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Ms Sonya Kavanagh

Administrative Support

Mr Gerry Halton

Senior Executive Officer

Telephone: 045-980550/045-980200 E-mail: ghalton@kildarecoco.ie

Conferences Attended During 2016

Appendix 4

Date	Conference Details	Location	No. of Members Attended
19 & 20 February 2016	Waterford Co Council – Mental Health & Suicide Awareness	Waterford	3
25 February 2016	Co-operation Ireland – The Role of Philanthropy in Ireland	Dublin	1
10 May 2016	Eolas - Conference on Digital Government	Dublin	1
17 June 2016	Mental Health First Aid Training	Dublin	1
20 & 21 October 2016	ICSH Conference on Housing & Finance	Kilkenny	2

Training Attended During 2016

Appendix 5

Date	Training Details	Location	No. of Members Attended
13 February 2016	AILG Module 1	Waterford	2
18 February 2016	AILG Module 1	Mullingar	3
1 - 2 April 2016	LAMA Spring Seminar	Sligo	11
14 - 15 April 2016	IPI Training Conference	Athlone	2
5 - 6 May 2016	AILG Annual Conference	Buncrana	9
10 May 2016	AILG Module 2	Wicklow	3
14 May 2016	AILG Module 2	Letterkenny	2
18 June 2016	AILG Module 3	Dundalk	3
Jan 2016 - June 2016	IPA 3 rd Level Course	Dublin	1
1 - 3 September 2016	RIAI & AOU	Dublin	2
15 September 2016	AILG Module 4	Longford	6
30 September 2016 - 01 October 2016	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Cork	6
13 - 14 October 2016	AILG Autumn Seminar	Wexford	8
18 October 2016	AILG Module 5	Offaly	2
22 October 2016	AILG Module 5	Sligo	4
19 November 2016	AILG Module 6	Dublin	2