



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council

# Chief Executive Monthly Management Report

August 2024



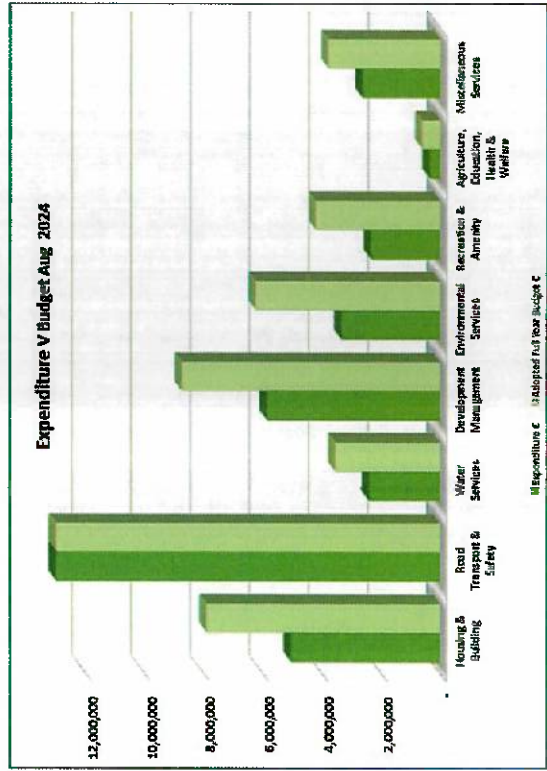
Prepared in accordance with  
Section 136 (2) of the Local  
Government Act, 2001  
as inserted by Section 51 of the  
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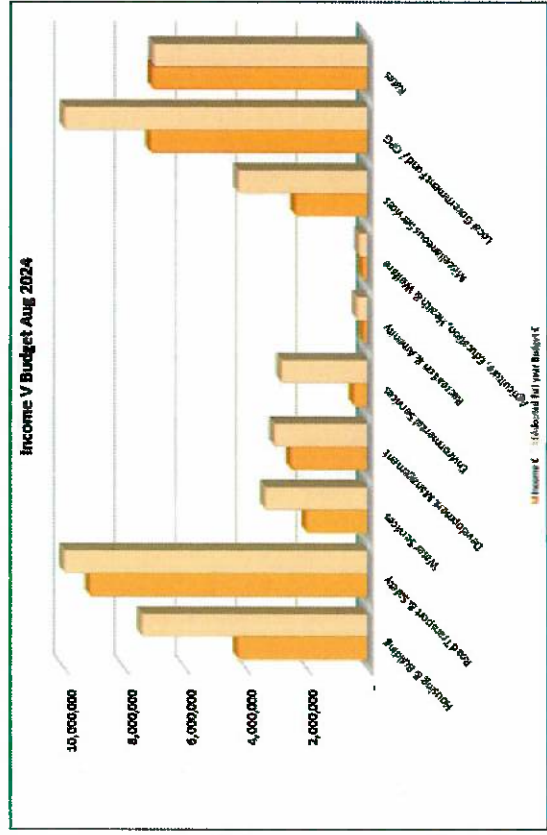
# FINANCE, WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Aug 2024 - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division (PRELIMINARY Aug. 2024 - FIGURES)

|  | EXPENDITURE        |                            |                | Budget Remaining € |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|  | Expenditure €      | Adopted Full Year Budget € | % Budget Spent |                    |
| A Housing & Building                       | 5,055,114          | 7,902,728                  | 64%            | 2,847,615          |
| B Road Transport & Safety                  | 13,390,949         | 17,502,847                 | 77%            | 4,111,898          |
| C Water Services                           | 2,415,241          | 3,559,682                  | 68%            | 1,144,441          |
| D Development Management                   | 5,863,574          | 8,741,809                  | 67%            | 2,878,235          |
| E Environmental Services                   | 3,353,393          | 5,236,437                  | 64%            | 1,883,044          |
| F Recreation & Amenity                     | 2,354,167          | 4,219,543                  | 56%            | 1,865,376          |
| G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 375,952            | 629,228                    | 60%            | 253,276            |
| H Miscellaneous Services                   | 2,648,599          | 3,789,846                  | 70%            | 1,150,277          |
| LG Local Government Fund / GPG             | 0                  | 0                          | 0%             | 0                  |
| RA Rates                                   | 0                  | 0                          | 0%             | 0                  |
|  | <b>€35,456,989</b> | <b>€52,591,321</b>         | <b>67%</b>     | <b>17,134,332</b>  |



|  | INCOME             |                            |                 | Budget outstanding € |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|  | Income €           | Adopted Full Year Budget € | % Budget Raised |                      |
| A Housing & Building                       | 4,264,290          | 7,432,718                  | 57%             | 3,168,428            |
| B Road Transport & Safety                  | 9,155,748          | 13,259,033                 | 69%             | 4,100,285            |
| C Water Services                           | 2,004,841          | 3,359,654                  | 60%             | 1,354,813            |
| D Development Management                   | 2,515,126          | 3,947,571                  | 63%             | 529,445              |
| E Environmental Services                   | 447,887            | 2,821,788                  | 16%             | 2,374,101            |
| F Recreation & Amenity                     | 116,958            | 350,643                    | 33%             | 233,684              |
| G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 145,106            | 271,033                    | 53%             | 125,927              |
| H Miscellaneous Services                   | 2,387,250          | 4,255,070                  | 56%             | 1,867,820            |
| LG Local Government Fund / GPG             | 7,158,727          | 10,739,891                 | 67%             | 3,579,384            |
| RA Rates                                   | 7,091,968          | 7,957,870                  | 100%            | (86,902)             |
|  | <b>€35,269,892</b> | <b>€52,591,321</b>         | <b>67%</b>      | <b>17,324,319</b>    |

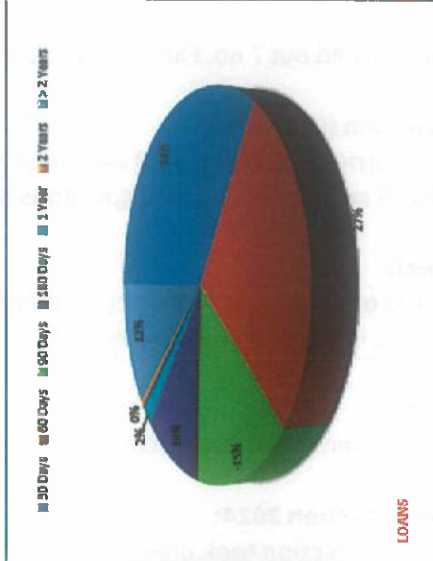
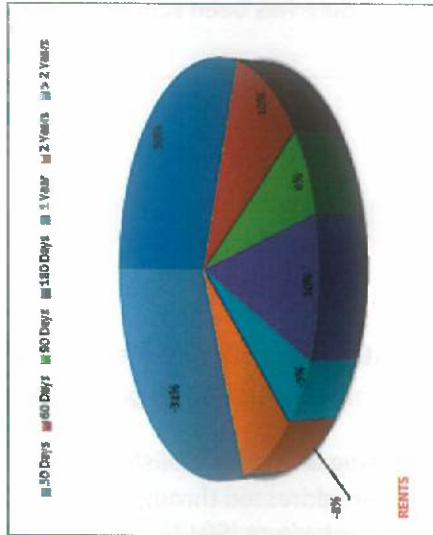
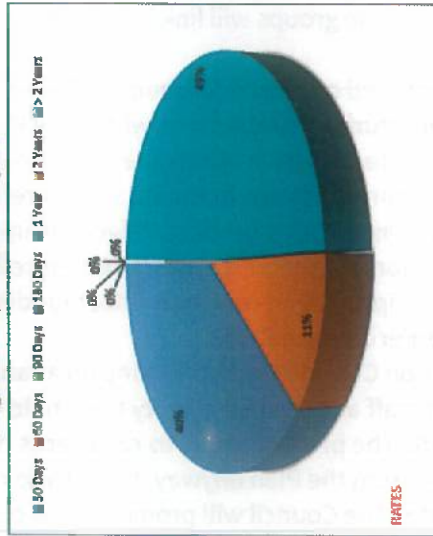


|  | NET                                 |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) € | Fav/(Unfav) €   |
| A Housing & Building                       | (790,824)                           | (320,813)       |
| B Road Transport & Safety                  | (4,235,201)                         | 11,813          |
| C Water Services                           | (410,800)                           | (210,372)       |
| D Development Management                   | (3,345,443)                         | 2,348,790       |
| E Environmental Services                   | (2,905,706)                         | 508,943         |
| F Recreation & Amenity                     | (2,237,208)                         | 1,531,692       |
| G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | (230,876)                           | 126,069         |
| H Miscellaneous Services                   | (281,319)                           | (737,543)       |
| LG Local Government Fund / GPG             | 7,158,727                           | (3,579,384)     |
| RA Rates                                   | 7,091,968                           | 33,199          |
|  | <b>€187,937</b>                     | <b>€187,937</b> |

2024 - Collection Rates

|                  | YTD         |             |              | YTD         |             |              | COMMENTARY  |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---|
|                  | €<br>Aug-24 | €<br>Aug-23 | €<br>FY 2023 | %<br>Aug-24 | %<br>Aug-23 | %<br>FY 2023 |   |
| Housing Rents    | €1,927,274  | €1,758,715  | €2,706,736   | 96%         | 96%         | 98%          | Rents collection % the same as compared to August 2023.     |
| Commercial Rates | €4,975,892  | €4,886,604  | €6,006,946   | 58%         | 57%         | 77%          | Rates collection % slightly ahead of August 2023.           |
| Housing Loans    | €205,341    | €195,225    | €295,948     | 82%         | 78%         | 84%          | Loans collection has improved when compared to August 2023. |

Aug 2024 - Aged Debt Analysis



|       | 30 Days  | 60 Days | 90 Days | 180 Days   | 1 Year   | 2 Years    | > 2 Years |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| RATES | €0       | €0      | €0      | €2,548,038 | €583,104 | €2,023,607 |           |
| RENTS | €142,606 | €46,697 | €28,764 | €46,115    | €23,272  | €35,835    | €1,87,488 |
| LOANS | €22,076  | €17,395 | €8,752  | €6,596     | €1,213   | €418       | €7,623    |

## ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

### **RMCEI Plan**

In 2024, Environment has carried out 7 no. Farm inspections to date.

### **National Inspection Program (DWWTS)**

In 2024, Environment has carried out a total of 10 validation re-inspections of remedial works and septic tank grants are being processed. Also, 6 additional system inspections have been carried out to date.

### **Historic Landfills Project:**

Environmental assessment of 6 No. historic/legacy landfills in Leitrim is ongoing. Quotation and work schedule for the Tier 2 exploratory works is currently being reviewed.

### **Leitrim Noise Action Plan:**

Consultant Engineers have been appointed to carry out the review of the Noise Action Plan for 2024-2028.

### **Household Bulky Good Collection 2024:**

The household bulky good collection took place in Manorhamilton Civic Amenity site on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August and was a great success. Another date has been scheduled for Mohill at the Lough Rynn Amenity area for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

## CLIMATE ACTION

### **Climate Action Plan**

The Climate Action Unit continue to work with the whole-of-Council to ensure momentum is carried forward from making of the Plan into the implementation stage. Meetings are monthly to year end.

1. There are 4 no. Working Groups established where a number of actions or themes within the Climate Action Plan are better addressed through a subset of the Committee; *Energy (GL13)*, *Sustainable Mobility, Nature, Sustainable Agriculture (SR17)*. The outline for a *Cross sectoral adverse weather group (B15)* has been discussed. These groups will link in with the Committee where feedback will be documented in the minutes.
2. A taskforce is required on the Decarbonising Zone (DZ), an external element will be required on the taskforce as opportunities and actions within the Plan are intended to yield outcomes in accordance with the National Climate Objective across the area. Council assets and activities represent a small percentage of the overall carbon emissions in the DZ and therefore building and sustaining partnerships is very important as well as securing funding. Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency are focusing their efforts on the Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral regions (LEAP) retrofitting programme and community energy on the DZ initially. It is anticipated that renewable heat funding will become available in Q4 2024. Further liaison required with other LAs and CARO.
3. The Climate Action Committee are working on a range of events (required GL14 & N2 Climate Action Day / Week) aimed at staff and the community to be held during Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) week (20 – 29 September). The primary aim is to run events through a whole-of-Council effort to comply with actions required from the Plan anyway, but also to raise awareness to positively affect behaviour and stimulate debate. The Council will promote their community events as part of a wider itinerary of events taking place in Co. Leitrim during SDG week.
4. Each Department should be focused on meeting their requirements in the Plan for 2024. Ongoing action and actions that require investment should be included in the budget for 2025.

5. The Corporate Plan must mainstream climate action policy as an integral component across the Plan (GL4) and in formulation of Strategic Policy Committees through compliance with guidance and feedback from consultation.
6. The Climate Action Unit have appointed the Irish Academy for Computer Training (IACT) to develop a tracker programme (with the assistance of Leitrim CC, ICT department) for each department to feed into for checking progress against Key performance Indicators, with a target for first reporting at the end of Q3. There is an internal management process for documenting the path to delivering actions including a clear designated reporting lead, which will feed into the final tracker programme.

### Community Climate Action Programme Fund

A total of €299,964.83 has been allocated to 12 no. community groups across Co Leitrim to deliver local climate action projects under Strand 1 of the CCAP. A further €618,403.67 has been allocated to 8 no. community groups across Co. Leitrim and their respective partner organisations in Northern Ireland under Strand 1a of the CCAP. All groups that have had offers made to them have accepted the offers. Projects can commence from 19 August, but earliest drawdown is 19 November 2024. A national announcement is expected week commencing 9 September, intention is to publish Leitrim results during SDG week.

## VETERINARY SERVICE

### Slaughter Returns

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| AM/PM Examinations | 7   |
| Cattle             | 27  |
| Sheep              | 130 |
| Pigs               | 6   |
| Goats              | 0   |

### Premises Inspections

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Premises Inspections       | 2 |
| Food Samples               | 0 |
| Environmental Swabs        | 0 |
| Water Samples              | 0 |
| Veterinary Residue Samples | 0 |
| Carcass Swabs              | 0 |
| TB Lesions                 | 0 |

### Dog Warden Service Activities

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Stray Dogs              | 3  |
| Surrendered Dogs        | 11 |
| Seized Dogs             | 0  |
| Dogs Re-Homed           | 2  |
| Dogs Reclaimed          | 4  |
| Dog Deaths              | 0  |
| Dogs Euthanised         | 7  |
| Warden Service Requests | 35 |
| Dog Fouling Complaints  | 1  |

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Barking Complaints               | 1    |
| Livestock Attacks by Dogs        | 2    |
| Dog Control & Roaming Complaints | 7    |
| Dog Licence Inspections          | 109  |
| Dogs Neutered                    | 2    |
| Neutering Vouchers Issued        | 2    |
| Dogs Micro-Chipped               | 12   |
| Fines Issued – Dogs              | 0    |
| Statutory Notices Issued         | 1    |
| Newspaper Articles/ Radio        | 10   |
| School/ Community Workshops      | 1    |
|                                  |      |
| Social Media Posts               | 102  |
| Stray Horses Seized              | 3    |
| Stray Cats Neutered              | 12   |
| Animal Carcasses Removed         | 1    |
| Dog Waste Station Service Visits | 57   |
| Dog Waste Bags Dispensed         | 3500 |
|                                  |      |
|                                  |      |

## FIRE SERVICE

### Capital Programme

#### Fire Stations

##### Manorhamilton Fire Station

The Part 8 planning application submission for the new fire station in Manorhamilton was formally submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2023. Approval has been granted, with conditions, on the 09<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Awaiting approval in relation to the claim submitted for increased consultancy fees and the progression to Stage 2C: Detailed Design.

#### Fire Appliances and Equipment

##### Spare Class B appliance

Appliance has now been registered to Irish plates and is now on the run.

##### New Hand portable radios

The contract for the procurement of new hand portable radios for the fire service is being handled by Dublin County Council and has gone to tender. Capital funding is being provided by the Department. An update on this project is expected soon.

#### Building Control activity in August 2024

|   | Received | Valid / Invalid | Granted | Completed |
|---|----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Commencement Notices</b>   | 6        | 4/1             |         |           |
| <b>Fire Safety Certificates</b>                                     | 2        |                 |         |           |
| <b>Disabled Access Certificates</b>                                 | 1        | 2               | 2       |           |
| <b>Completion Certificates</b>                                      | 1        |                 |         |           |
| <b>FSA / Planning Inspections / H&amp;S / Licensing inspections</b> |          |                 |         | 4         |
| <b>BC inspections / BER / Market Surveillance</b>                   |          |                 |         | 3         |

#### WRC agreement for retained firefighters.

National agreement reached at WRC in relation to firefighters' dispute. Details of the implementation of the agreement are being worked on at local level. The 2<sup>nd</sup> local implementation committee meeting took place with SIPTU on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

The next local implementation committee meeting is to be scheduled soon.

#### Recruitment

4 no. new recruits successfully completed a QQI Firefighting Skills Course, Monaghan, June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. They are now "on the run" in their respective Stations. The HR section is currently processing another 4 no. new recruits for suitability for selection to be nominated to attend a QQI Firefighting Skills Course.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

### **Mentoring**

The demand for one-to-one mentoring continues to remain high.

### **Export**

One-to-One mentoring continues to be available on any Export related issues and can be booked online free of charge to discuss any issues facing businesses or identifying and managing opportunities available for exporting.

### **Other Sustainable Supports for Business**

The “All In A Days Work” campaign continues to be rolled out on the areas of Lean, Green and Digital supports. A new “green” focussed National Campaign has launched with social media, press and radio ads to support promotion. There is a growing demand for all three supports as well as the Energy Efficiency Grant.

### **Energy Efficient Grant**

There has been an increase in enquiries for the revised scheme, which is now available, with up to 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000 can be supported following the completion of a Green for Business, Green Start or a SEAI Energy Audit. The support provided should be to implement the eligible expenses from the recommended actions in one of the above reports.

### **Outreach Office**

An Outreach Office took place in Manorhamilton during August and continues every month/six weeks.

### **Atlantic Economic Corridor Update:**

#### **Mohill Rural Regeneration Development Fund: Heritage**

Sceal Heritage completed consultation events over the summer on the development of a heritage experience for the town. A presentation of the findings was made to the town team. Work is to begin on implementing the recommendations.

#### **Interreg Europe Digital Rural**

Participation in the Interreg Europe Digital Rural Project continues. Leitrim County Council are a partner on the project to examine ways to improve policies for the development of smart towns and villages. The project will run until 2028. Preparation are beginning for the next Interregional event which will include best practise examples from partners in Hungary.

#### **Regional Enterprise Development Fund: Creative Heartlands**

Creative Heartlands, has been selected as the national winner for the prestigious European Enterprise Promotion Awards and will now go forward as the Irish entry to the European jury. The award recognises investment in entrepreneurial skills and comes four years after the Creative Heartlands began operating in Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon to support and sustain creative enterprises particularly in the film and design sectors.

The project is continuing its programme of workshops. To date over 500 people have engaged in training under the programme across 60 workshops and €75,000 has been invested in equipment. Several enterprises have availed of the catalogue of film and design equipment that is available. A short promotional video for the project has been developed and is available here: [Creative Heartlands Midsummer Makerthon Promo \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

#### **Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan Implementation**

##### **Entrepreneurship development in the NW**

Developing entrepreneurship in the region is a key focus of the NW REP. Ongoing efforts to develop an entrepreneurship exchange programme are underway with a focus on running the programme in October with 2 businesses from Leitrim being mentored by senior entrepreneurs in the region.



## **Department of Enterprise engagement**

Due to an increasing amount of attention on the Regional Enterprise Plans from a political perspective, the Department of Enterprise has requested an interim update to the plan prior to the final update. This was submitted to DETE in July 2024.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **LCDC**

A meeting of the LAG took place on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. Three projects were approved funding.

### **Town and Village/ORIS/Clár Projects**

Ongoing review and follow up on progress of various ongoing projects in terms of delivery, claims and reporting to the DRCD etc.

### **Broadband**

Ongoing response to general queries re Broadband. The AIM Centre Sligo has scheduled Vex Robotics workshops in two BCP's to rollout in September. Ballinamore, Manorhamilton and Mohill Libraries hosted Our Kids Code summer camps.

### **Carrick Campus**

Ongoing promotion of the space available at Carrick Campus.

### **Leitrim Diaspora Strategy**

Regular meetings are continuing regarding the execution of the Diaspora Strategy, presently focused on the launch of "The Leitrim Gathering" scheduled to take place in late May 2025. Promotion of the event is ongoing. An open funding call was released for community groups to apply for financial support to organise an event in their locality. The closing date for this call is 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. A competition was also launched to offer a prize of free flights from anywhere in the world and free accommodation during the weekend of The Leitrim Gathering. The closing date for this competition is the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.

### **Sustainable Mobility Projects**

Work with ATU researchers and other stakeholders in relation to several projects involving the potential for sustainable mobility options within the County is ongoing. A survey was issued to all staff in Leitrim County Council to assess the travel habits of all travelling to and from the workplace and a coffee morning has been organised on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September to promote carpooling and sustainable transport methods for internal staff in Leitrim County Council.

### **SDG Week Events**

To promote Sustainable Development Goals week, a coffee morning has been arranged on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September to promote sustainable transport methods for internal staff in Leitrim County Council. Social cycles using electric bikes along the Shannon Blueway have also been organised to promote SDG week. These social cycles will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **Purple Flag**

Public perception survey was circulated in August and the self-assessment evening is planned for September.

### **LECP Progress Review**

Ongoing Engagement with stakeholders to determine Q.2 update on delivery of actions contained within the plan.

### **Leitrim County Council Project Development Grant**

Engaging with successful applicants to progress projects deemed eligible.

### **Town and Village Project Development Measure.**

Leitrim County Council were successful in securing funding for the 3 projects submitted to the Town and Village Project Development Measure Scheme earlier this year. A total of €148,165 for 3 towns/villages, Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim Village and Dromahair.

## **TOURISM**

### **Trade Shows**

The Tourism Team attended Irish Fest in Milwaukee, which had an audience of over 130,000. It was the ideal opportunity to showcase Leitrim and Ireland as a holiday destination for our Leitrim Diaspora and people in the USA who are interested in Ireland. During the event, the Tourism Team met with Paul McDonagh, Tourism Ireland Trade & Industry Engagement Manager USA, who provided insights into Tourism Ireland's marketing plans for 2024.

As part of the trip, the team promoted The Leitrim Gathering 2025, which received a lot of engagement. A competition for flights and accommodation at Drumhierny was launched, attracting significant attention. This competition will run until January 2025.

Fliers for the Leitrim Gathering were distributed at the Irish Fest and through the Irish Centre Milwaukee. The team also took the opportunity to present the Tourism Offering for Leitrim to tour operators in the area selling Ireland.

### **Tourism Forum**

The marketing subgroup of the tourism forum met to discuss forthcoming marketing initiatives, including filming footage for a proposed digital and TV campaign in 2025.

### **Slow Adventure**

Three new experiences have been developed and uploaded to the website [www.slowadventure.ie](http://www.slowadventure.ie). Videos and brochures will also be developed for each experience and promoted through various channels.

### **Festival & Events**

Claims for festivals and events are currently being processed as the events happen; all festivals and events are being promoted through social media and on the Enjoy Leitrim website.

### **Diaspora Marketing**

The Leitrim diaspora survey is being promoted across relevant platforms, and audits are being conducted to identify where the diaspora currently resides to connect with them globally.

### **Social Media**

All social media platforms—Instagram, Facebook, and X—were maintained throughout August with an emphasis on promoting festivals and events, resulting in increased engagement across all platforms.

### **Acres Lake**

The Tourism Team is collaborating with the Capital Projects office and Fáilte Ireland to build the new facility at Acres Lake Amenity. The contractor has been appointed, and the work will start in September.

## TOWN REGENERATION

### **Croí Conaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**

To date 192 applications have been received, 79 have been received since January 2024, 16 Grants have been paid out to date.

### **Town Teams**

The Town Regeneration Officer and the Vacant Homes Officer continue to engage with town teams on general issues, town team governance and structure issues.

### **Manorhamilton Town Centre First Plan**

The Town Regeneration office held an initial meeting with Manorhamilton Town Team to discuss the process of producing a Town Centre First Plan. Dr. Neil Galway and students from Queens University carried out a Health Check on the town during May. This is one of the first steps in the process of the preparation for a town centre first plan. The report will be finalised shortly. Work is ongoing to procure a consultant for the development of a Town Centre First Plan for Manorhamilton in line with the Town Centre First Plan Initiative and Town Centre First Policy.

### **Kinlough, Dromahair & Ballinamore Town & Village Suite of Supports Funding**

Minister Humphreys announced that Ballinamore, Dromahair and Kinlough were awarded €10,000 per town, under the Town Centre First, Town Team Support Fund. The funding may be used to support the establishment and/or development of town teams where they are not already well established, and to better understand the unique features of towns. During the month of August, Dr. Neil Galway and the students of Queens University completed a Health Check in Ballinamore, Kinlough and Dromahair funded under the Support Funds and work is ongoing on the support and development of the town teams.

### **THRIVE - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme – Application Strand 1**

The purpose of the funding stream is to reduce vacancy and dereliction by creating a sustainable and viable reuse of Heritage buildings, in line with Town Centre First Approach. Leitrim County Council successfully secured funding under this scheme to carry out a feasibility study on the Town Hall Building in Carrick on Shannon to establish an end use for the building following widespread consultation process. The project is now at procurement stage.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

### **Development Management**

12 no. valid planning applications were received in August, which is traditionally quiet due to the holiday season of which 2 no. applications are seeking retention of planning permission. The applications received include 2 no. individual dwelling houses proposed to be served by individual wastewater treatment systems and 1 no. dwelling which can connect to public piped water services. 11 no. out of these applications were submitted using the e-planning portal with only 1 no. application received in hard copy format. There were no. 4 applications lodged which were deemed invalid in August.

17 no. final decisions on planning applications were made during August, 16 no. of which were granted planning permission with 1 no. application seeking retention of planning permission having been refused. Responses to Further Information requests were received with respect to 7 no. applications whilst requests for Further Information issued with respect to 9 no. applications.

3 no. formal pre-planning enquiries were received during the month of August.

There were 2 no. Local Authority own development proposals going through the public display phase of their Part 8 public consultation process during August. These proposals relate to Active Travel projects – footpath extension

to Tully Heights, Ballinamore and a comprehensive scheme along the N16 and R280 (Boley Hill) to include the creation of a school safe zone at St. Clare's National School, Manorhamilton.

## **Forward Planning**

### Carrick-on-Shannon Joint Local Area Plan

The draft of the joint Local Area Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon to include the village of Cortober was published on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Submissions and observations are sought before 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. A Local Transport Plan forms part of the joint Local Area Plan. A new dedicated website [www.carrickjointplan.ie](http://www.carrickjointplan.ie) provides updates of the process.

### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The annual Draft RZLT maps for Co. Leitrim was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. Public consultation on these draft maps closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May and the Final Map for lands which would have been liable to the RZLT for 2025 will be published in January 2025. A total of 12 no. submissions have been received during the public consultation period. Formal notifications issued on each of the 12 no. submissions before the end of the month. The Planning Authority now awaits to see whether the submitters accept the decision of the Local Authority or decides to appeal these decisions to An Bord Pleanála. A recent Government decision has announced a further deferral of liability beyond 2025.

## **Heritage / Biodiversity**

- Heritage Week took place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August with 33 no. events having taken place across Co. Leitrim. All heritage events across the county were coordinated and promoted. Several events were commissioned by the Heritage Officer including the Leitrim Larks Song Tour of Leitrim; Glenview Folk Museum Open Day; The O'Rourke's of Leitrim Webinar; The Mummers Join Meitheal and Harvest Dance; Prehistoric Pottery Workshop for families; Willow Weaving Workshop; and A Woman's History of Mohill Guided Walk. Biodiversity events arranged by the Biodiversity Officer included online webinars & public walks and talks in Carrick on Shannon, Manorhamilton & Carrigallen.
- Four no. interpretation displays for Áras an Chontae have been installed to convey the history of the site to visitors.
- Fieldwork for the Leitrim Wetland Survey Phase III is now complete, and a mapping and sites reports are being prepared.
- The Killahurk Ringfort Access, Environmental and Archaeological Assessment is progressing, with amendments to the final report requested.
- The O'Rourke's of Leitrim Heritage Audit and Interpretation Plan is progressing with historical research and archaeological desk-based study under way. A Heritage Week event took place to with Dr Paul MacCotter charting the history of the family from early medieval times.
- The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025 has been launched and promoted.
- National Heritage Week (17 – 25 August): A programme of public events was organized, promoted and delivered across Co. Leitrim. Biodiversity events included online webinars & public walks and talks in Carrick on Shannon, Manorhamilton & Carrigallen.
- Environmental Science Kit for Ecological Recording (ESKER): This partnership programme between The Heritage Council and Leitrim County Council was launched in Mohill Library on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The ESKER box contains a range of field equipment that can be borrowed by adult members of the library who wish to participate in ecological surveys through what is called "*Citizen Science*".

## ROADS

### Annual Area Programme 2024

The Annual Area Programme of Works for 2024 are progressing well.

### N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Project

The N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Project is progressing as follows:

- Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation is progressing.
- Surveys for 2024 – The following Contracts are ongoing in 2024:
  - Ground Investigation Contract
  - Hydrology Monitoring
  - Topographical Survey Contract
  - Noise and Air Monitoring
  - Ecology Survey Contract
  - Photomontages
- Individual meetings are ongoing with directly impacted landowners and members of the public following Public Display No. 4 of the Proposed Route Alignment and Junction Strategy.
- Preparation of Design Report is progressing
- Preferred Transport Solution will comprise
  - The road component comprising the bypass itself (the off-line section)
  - A new urban street of length 1km
  - Active travel, public transport and demand management measures including signalisation/upgrades of six roundabout junctions on the N4
- Consultations are currently taking place with
  - IFI
  - Irish Rail
  - NTA
  - Bord Na Mona
  - TII
  - LCC/RCC Planning departments

### Pavement Overlays

- **N16 Pavement Overlay Scheme (POS) - Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 1** – Final Account has been agreed with the Contractor. Change order to be submitted to TII regarding alterations to the contract.
- **N16 Pavement Overlay Scheme (POS) - Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 2** – Leitrim County Council has sought TII approval to appoint successful contractor.
- **N4 Pavement Overlay Scheme – Carrick on Shannon** – Consultants are currently working on the design and tender documents for this Pavement Overlay Scheme. Going forward this will be advertised for tender subject to TII approval. However, Consultants are also looking at additional drainage works required due to poor condition of storm drainage.

### Realignment of N16

- **Realignment of the N16 at Drummahon** – Works on this Realignment Scheme are now complete. Awaiting specialist contractor & Manorhamilton District Engineers office to complete additional residual network works.
- **Realignment of the N16 at Munakill** – This scheme is currently at Phase 3 – Detailed Design and Environmental Assessment stage. It is being designed by RPS consultants and project managed by Westmeath National Road Design office (NRDO). The cost estimate for the scheme has recently significantly increased due to poor ground conditions and this is presenting as a significant challenge to the progression of the project, as the scheme now exceeds the TII €20m threshold to qualify as a minor

scheme. The Infrastructure section of Leitrim County Council is currently working closely with Westmeath NRDO and the TII to examine all options in order to secure the progression of this realignment project.

**N16 HD17 Road Safety Inspections** – Works include:

- **Strabrick Junction** – Construction work on this scheme is on-going
- **N15 Tullaghan Traffic Calming** – A revised preliminary design has been submitted to TII and Leitrim County Council await approval from the TII on this revised preliminary design.
- **N16 Glenfarne VRU improvements** – Leitrim County Council to procure a consultant to complete Preliminary design report & detailed design as feasibility and options report has been approved by TII.

**Bridge rehabilitation works** – Works include:

- Bridge rehabilitation works have been completed on 5 bridges
- Works ongoing to three other bridges.
- Contractors have been procured to construct four other bridges which are expected to be completed by the end of November (but will be dependent on contractor resources & weather conditions).

**Low Cost Safety Schemes** – Design works currently ongoing

**Specific Improvement Grants** – Works include:

- **R289 Kilcoon** – Design Consultant tenders advertised on e-tenders
- **R280 Killarga** – Tender awarded and consultant starting procurement of topo survey.
- **R280 Loughmurrán Realignment** – Tender for consultants readvertised
- **R278 Junctions** – Proposed Land take drawings issued to Area office for agreement with landowners.
- **R280 Erriff Realignment** - Tenders assessed and Letter of intent issued. Currently in standstill period.

**Roads in Charge Queries**

| Roads in Charge Queries processed this month | YTD Roads in Charge Queries processed |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 30   | 230                                   |

Please note that all queries regarding whether Water and/or Wastewater Services are in public charge are now processed by Uisce Eireann.

**Abnormal Load Permits**

| Abnormal Load Permits processed this month | YTD Abnormal Load Permits processed |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | 24                                  |

**Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme**

The Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme 2024/2025 is now open and aims to encourage the cutting of roadside hedges/trees along the Public Road Network. Open to all, individual applicants, communities and groups. The Grant is €75 per km of roadside hedge/overhanging trees which are cut back. Minimum length of road network per application is 1km. A new additional Grant of €50 per KM (Total of €125 per KM) has been introduced by Leitrim County Council to encourage the cutting of dangerous overhanging tree canopies/branches along the public road network. Closing Date is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

Schemes completed by Direct Labour:

- Drumkeerin Active Travel Scheme.

Schemes currently under construction by Leitrim County Council Direct Labour:

- Tullaghan Footpath Connection to Housing Estate – 80% Complete
- Dromahaire – Churchfield Active Travel Link – works have started -10% complete

Schemes currently under construction by Contractor:

- Roosky Active Travel Scheme – accommodation works being completed.

Schemes currently been progressed through consultants:

- Fehily Timoney - Roosky Bridge Active Travel Measures:
  - Trial on Roosky Bridge to take place over a 2-week period 23/09/2024 to 5/10/2024.
- O'Connor Sutton Cronin - Carrick on Shannon – Leitrim Road Active Travel Scheme:
  - Awaiting Preliminary Design report from consultants.
- Tobins - Scheme 1 - Carrick on Shannon – Attifinlay Roundabout to Summerhill Cycle Scheme and Circular Road Rapid Build Cycle Scheme.
  - Phase 2 – Option selection.
- Tobins - Scheme 2 – Town Junctions upgrade – Drumshanbo:
  - Phase 2 – Option selection.

Part 8 Planning advertised for:

- Ballinamore – Tully Heights connection to Town Environs. (Will be brought to the Ballinamore MD meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September).
- SRTS - St. Clare's NS, Manorhamilton – Part 8 planning advertised (closing date for submissions 16/09/2024).

Design in-house commenced on the following:

- Aughnasheelin Active Travel Link.
- Carrick on Shannon – Glas na hAabhainn Housing Estate Link.

Design required for the following:

- Manorhamilton – Park Road Upgrade.

### **Safe Route to Schools**

Project completed by Contractor:

- Safe Routes to School Scheme – St. Josephs NS – Leitrim Village. Launch to be organised for later in the Autumn.

OCSC Consultant appointed for the design of SRTS for 2 no. Schools.

- Scoil Mhuire NS, Carrick –Preliminary Design Stage.
- St. Clare's NS, Manorhamilton – Part 8 planning advertised (closing date for submissions 16/09/2024).

In- house design to commence:

- Mohill Community School.

### **Bus Shelter Programme**

Contractor commenced construction on Bus Shelter at the following location:

- Dromod Train Station.

Design has commenced on 5 further locations in Leitrim as follows:

- Kinlough x 2
- Ballinamore
- Leitrim Village
- Drumshanbo

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.**

The Bus Stop enhancement Programme is for the upgrading of existing bus stops to include installation of bus cages, hardstanding, kassel kerbing and the Transport for Ireland Bus Stop poles throughout county Leitrim.

Leitrim have 38 Stops, and this programme is to be rolled out over a 4-year period 2024 to 2027

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICE**

### **Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme**

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers have been appointed design consultant for this project. Options under consideration were presented at a Public Consultation Day held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2023. A preferred option is currently being identified and the development of this option is progressing.

Full details of the project are available on the project website [www.carrickonshannonfrs.ie](http://www.carrickonshannonfrs.ie).

### **Leitrim Village Flood Relief Scheme**

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers have been appointed for the scheme. Public Consultation was held for the scheme. Topo Surveys and Ground investigations are now complete, Environmental surveys, Hydrology and hydraulic analysis on this project on going.

Full details of project are available on website [www.leitrimvillagefrs.ie](http://www.leitrimvillagefrs.ie)

### **Mohill Flood Relief Scheme**

The OPW have updated the flood maps for Mohill. The OPW are currently carrying out hydrology and hydraulic analysis on this project.

### **Carrick on Shannon Public Regeneration Scheme**

Four construction contracts will be undertaken.

- Reconstruction of Footpaths and Roads Main Street/St George's Terrace/Approach roads
- Construction of Car Park at Flynn's Field
- Construction of Boardwalk along river edge
- Lighting of N4 Bridge and Boardwalk at Linear Park

All works are complete except Bridge and Boardwalk lighting contract. Expected completion date Q3 2024.

### **Manorhamilton Public Realm Scheme**

Contract No 1 for public realm works on Main Street is completed. Contract No 2 for works at the Enterprise lands has been published on etenders.

### **Mohill Public Realm Scheme**

A contractor has been appointed and construction of the scheme is ongoing.



### **Carrick on Shannon Destination Towns**

Wayfinding Signage have been erected throughout the town and construction works on the new bus stops and viewing shelter have now been completed by Source Civil. A substantial completion Certificate has been issued for the scheme.

### **SLNCR Greenway – Sligo to Enniskillen**

Aurp have been appointed as Design consultant for the project. Phase I - Concept and Feasibility of the project is complete. Phase II – Options selection stage is well under way. Full details on web site [www.sln-cr-greenway.com](http://www.sln-cr-greenway.com).

### **Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway**

Jennings O’Donovan Consultants have been appointed as design consultant. Detailed design and Environmental evaluation are underway on the preferred route. Full details on web site <https://www.carrickblueway.com/>

### **Cavan Leitrim Greenway – Corgar to Aghawillin**

Under construction. Expected completion is the end of Sept 2024

### **Hartley Bridge**

Planning approval received from an Bord Pleanála in Dec 2023. Funding received from Dept of Transport to advance this project. Consultant appointed and working on detailed design and tender documents.

### **Drumshanbo ExChange**

Part 8 planning approval obtained at the February 2024 MD meeting. RRDF Funding approval has been received to construct the project. Mc Cabe Architects have been appointed as the Design team to prepare detailed design and construction contract documents.

### **OPW Minor Flood Schemes**

#### ***Dromahair Scheme***

Funding of €588,420 has been approved from the OPW to progress the design of the scheme. Tobins Consulting Engineers have been appointed as design consultant.

#### ***Leitrim Village (Keadue Road Scheme) Scheme***

Funding of €213,191 has been approved for the temporary flood defences at Clauin Oir housing estate Keadue Road, Leitrim Village. CST has been appointed as design consultant for the scheme. Part 8 Planning consent was received for the Scheme at the May 2024 MD meeting and a Contractor has now been appointed to construct the scheme.

### **Acres Lake Facility Centre**

Funding has been secured from Fáilte Ireland to construct a facility centre at Acres Lake, Drumshanbo. This will provide toilet facilities, shower facilities and a base for operators using the lake. Design consultant O’Connor Sutton Cronin has been appointed. A contractor has now been appointed to construct the scheme; work is due to start on site in Sept 2024.

### **Unfinished Housing Development Contracts - South Leitrim SL2**

Cluain Locha, Drumshanbo – works substantially complete.

Mountain View, Drumshanbo – works substantially complete.

Cnoc Na Sí, Carrick On Shannon – works substantially complete

Shannon Haven, Dromod – works substantially complete.

Dub Carraig Ceibh, Leitrim Village – works substantially complet

Only Snagging works remain outstanding on all estates which is hoped to be complete by end of August and then issue the cert of substantial completion.

### **Carrick Business Campus**

DHB Architects have been appointed as design consultants for the project. Preliminary design works underway.

### **Narrow Gauge Trail Drumshanbo**

Planning approval received for this project. Detailed design is now complete, and contract documents have been prepared, tender documents have been published on etenders.

Funding approval from ORIS for the construction contract has now been received.

### **Fenagh Abbey Trail**

The community group received funding to progress this scheme through the planning process. We are currently working with the community group to provide the planning documents plus the specialist reports required.

### **Dromod Roskey Greyway**

Part 8 Planning for the scheme is currently on public display awaiting submission from the public.

# HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

## COMMUNITY

### Local Authority Integration Team

Majella McGovern has commenced her role as Administrative Officer in the newly formed Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) in Leitrim County Council.

### Local Enhancement Programme 2024

Work continues on the processing of grant payments under the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 subject to all relevant supporting documentation being submitted by the grant recipients.

### Age Friendly Programme

The Steering Oversight Committee (SOC) to deliver Carrick-on-Shannon Age Friendly Train Station has been established with a meeting taking place 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 to discuss next steps, which are to review the proposed works and the walkability process.

### Healthy Ireland

Olwyn O'Toole has been appointed to the post of Healthy Ireland Coordinator and commenced her role in August.

### Community Recognition Fund

Window 1 of the Community Recognition Fund closed in August with 5 applications successfully approved. Window 2 has now closed and we await details of successful applications. Window 3 is now open.

### PEACEPLUS

The PEACEPLUS Coordinator continues to respond to a number of queries on our application. We are now awaiting issue of a formal Letter of Offer which is expected in September.

### Love Where You Live

The Love Where You Live awards are a joined Leitrim County Council and Public Participation Network initiative, recognising the contribution that voluntary and community groups make to Co. Leitrim. Judging for the Love Where You Live Awards is complete and planning for the Awards Ceremony which will take place on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 continues to progress.

### Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Expressions of Interest for the Chairperson are now closed and LCC is waiting for an announcement from the Department of Justice as to who will assume the role of Chairperson. LCSP's are to be established in each Local Authority Area in line with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2014.

## LEITRIM SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

### Programmes:

A number of events and programmes were held by Sports Partnership in August including Leitrim Sports Partnership & GAA Inclusive Camp in the Centre of Excellence, Inclusive Fun Sports Day for All in Ballinamore Sports Complex, GAA Inclusive Camp Training Day, Inclusive Motivational Walk for people with disabilities in Lough Key Forest Park, Inclusive paddle boat adventure Canoe trip on the River Bonet integration program for teenagers living in the IPA Centre in Dromahair and teenager living locally, Teens Summer Camp in Lough Rinn and Inclusive Kayaking in Lough Rinn.

### Leitrim County Council Staff, Work Positive Sport & Wellness Yoga Programme:

Leitrim Sports Partnership delivered a 5-week LCC sport and wellness lunchtime Yoga programme for staff members in Carrick on Shannon staff with 13 adults participating on the programme.

### Her Outdoors Week 2024:

Leitrim Sports Partnership ran 11 programmes across the county for HER Outdoors Week 2024. These sessions included a Couch to 5K Taster Session in Carrick on Shannon, Kayaking & SUP Sessions in Lough Allen, Tennis Sessions in Carrick & Drumshanbo, Older Adults Yoga in Dromahair, Activator Pole Fit Walk in Dromahair, a 3 Day Multi-Sport Camp in Drumshanbo, Strength & Conditioning and Active Age Fitness classes in Drumshanbo and Adult & Teen Kayaking in Lough Rinn.

## LIBRARY SERVICES

August was a very busy month across the library network with almost 6,000 physical items issued and over 1,700 e-books borrowed. A range of groups met in the libraries such as the various reading groups, writing groups, language learning and craft groups. There were also fitness classes, bridge, yoga, scrabble and guitar sessions.

**National Heritage Week** events were held in a number of libraries. Carrick-on-Shannon Library hosted an event entitled Willow Weavings: Connecting Communities and Nature with Helena Golden. Ballinamore Library hosted 'Seanchas in Step and Song' facilitated by Fionnuala and Allise Maxwell. Children got to explore the heritage and lore of Leitrim through traditional song, dance and creativity and participants got to experience some cultural history, lilting, dancing and trying out instruments and art. An exhibition to honour Tomás Ó Máille, a folklore and song collector, newspaper editor, linguist and teacher. The exhibition celebrated his outstanding legacy and shared his message of cultural equity and active citizenship. Writer and musician Deirdre Ní Chonghaile, curator of the exhibition, gave a bilingual talk on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> in the library highlighting Ó Máille's significant contribution to the audio heritage of Ireland. A number of short films from the 'Connecting through Heritage: Explore Leitrim's Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage' video series were shown daily over the week in Ballinamore Library. A guided heritage walk and Leitrim Larks tour took place in Mohill.

This year's **Summer Stars** programme attracted a record number of children. 976 children participated in the library's annual Reading Programme. Children enjoyed a range of events such as story times, craft workshops including a clay modelling workshop in Kiltyclogher Library, yoga, drama and boardgame sessions. Almost 15,000 children's books were borrowed during the 3-month period June to August.

The Eslin Pre-school staff and children visited Mohill Library where the children got to explore in the sensory room, use the Magic Table, read books, sing songs dance and make fun face masks. The Dementia Support group

also met on 3 occasions over the month. A number of popular swap shops regarding Match Attack and Pokemon cards took place at Mohill Library.

A launch event took place of the **ESKER Box** at Mohill Library. The Esker (Environmental Science Kits for Ecological Recording) Box contains a range of equipment from insect collection nets to magnifying glasses and contain several National Biodiversity Data Centre species swatches to help with proper identification. Leitrim County Council's Biodiversity Officer, Rebecca Cogan, was on hand to talk about the various items contained in the box and explain how they can be best used.

The annual **Siarscéal** literary event took place this year in Drumshanbo Library. 2 creative writing workshops for potential young writers were facilitated by author and poet Mary Branley. A number of students from Lough Allen College attended the event. Siarscéal is run in collaboration with Roscommon and Sligo library services.

**SIGNED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Signed:   
Joseph Gilhooly Chief Executive

Date: 13/9/24

