



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma
Leitrim County Council

Annual Report 2023



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Vision

Our vision is to build an economically strong, creative and inclusive County making Leitrim the best place to live, to work, to invest and to visit.

Mission Statement

We will place this vision at the center of everything we do, and we will ensure that we develop policies, procedures and services that are fair and equitable and that we fulfill our statutory duty in having regard to human rights and equality in the performance and delivery of all our functions.

#Fowley's Falls

Introduction from An Cathaoirleach and Deputy Chief Executive

We are delighted to present the publication of the 2023 Annual Report which outlines details of the quality of services, the many activities and accomplishments undertaken and delivered by Leitrim County Council during the year. It is with great pride that we report on the Council's successes throughout the year in its administration and delivery of a quality, innovative and professional service to its clients and the communities that it serves.

We wish to express our utmost gratitude to the Elected Members, the Corporate Policy Group; Chairpersons and Members of the Strategic Policy Committees and Municipal District Committees; the Management Team and staff of Leitrim County Council for their commitment and dedication throughout 2023. We also wish to extend our most sincere thanks to the many voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacts for their on-going enthusiasm and co-operation. This collaborative approach is absolutely vital to enabling the Council to deliver on its strategic vision to vision 'to build an economically strong, creative and inclusive County making Leitrim the best place to live, to work, to invest and to visit'.

The achievements outlined in this Annual Report have significantly benefited the people of Leitrim in terms of economic progress and social, cultural and community development. They could not have been attained without your collective effort, creativity and initiative. The contribution of each and every one of you is immensely valued and greatly appreciated.



**Elected Cathaoirleach
Councillor Justin Warnock**



**Deputy Chief Executive
Joseph Gilhooly**



Elected Members of Leitrim County Council

Manorhamilton Municipal District					
Cllr. Mary Bohan	Cllr. Frank Dolan	Cllr. Padraig Fallon	Cllr. Felim Gurn	Cllr. Sean McDermott	Cllr. Justin Warnock



Ballinamore Municipal District		
Cllr. Brendan Barry	Cllr. Gerry Dolan	Cllr. Cailian Ellis
Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke	Cllr. Enda McGloin	Cllr. Ita Reynolds-Flynn

Carrick on Shannon Municipal District					
Cllr. Des Guckian	Cllr. Finola Armstrong-McGuire	Cllr. Paddy Farrell	Cllr. Thomas Mulligan	Cllr. Sean McGowan	Cllr. Enda Stenson



Leitrim County Council Strategic Policy Committee's 2019-2024

Planning, Economic Development and Infrastructure SPC - Number of Meetings 4

Councillors

Sean McDermott (Chairperson)
Enda McGloin
Ita Reynolds Flynn
Finola Armstrong McGuire
Brendan Barry
Justin Warnock

Issues considered by the SPC:

Policy Development:

- Review of Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan
- Updates on Review of Leitrim County Development Plan
- Development Plan 2023 – 2029 and related strategies
- Carrick LAP
- Review of the Development Contribution Scheme
- Bye Laws - Causal Trading & Parking
- Tourism Strategy
- County Recreational Strategy Review

Operation Management:

- Rural Transport Update
- Interface with Irish Water

Sectoral Nominations

Colm McGrath Business/Commercial National Pillar (Chambers Ireland)
Stephen Clancy Construction/Development National Pillar
Gerry Creamer Social Enterprise/Inclusion (PPN)
Sean O'Conlain Environmental Pillar (PPN)

Economic & Enterprise Development:

- Town Centre Policy and Masterplans
- Carrick on Shannon Masterplan
- Rates incentive Scheme
- Presentations of Drumshanbo (Leitrim Village) Development Plan and Kinlough Development Plan
- Brexit Supports to SMEs
- Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-2023– North West Progress
- National Broadband Plan – Leitrim Rollout Updates
- Update on Atlantic Economic Corridor
- Peace Plus Updates

Infrastructure Development:

- Preparation of new Active Travel Network/Cycling Policy
- National Roads Updates
- LIS Policy

Housing, Community and Culture SPC - Number of Meetings 4

Councillors

Cllr. Thomas Mulligan (Chairperson)
Cllr. Pdraig Fallon
Cllr. Frank Dolan
Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke
Cllr. Enda Stenson
Cllr. Mary Bohan

Issues considered by the SPC:

Quality Housing:

- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Housing Delivery Programme
- Housing Grants Scheme
- Housing Disability Strategy
- Sustainable Neighbourhoods/communities
- Homelessness prevention
- Housing Differential Rent Scheme Review
- Choice Based Letting Review

Arts:

- Update on planning for Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2028

Sectoral Nominations

Oluwanemi Aina Fawehinmi Social Inclusion (PPN)
Marie Eames McGowan Community/Voluntary (PPN)
Aodh Flynn Voluntary Housing Sector
Sean O'Reilly Cultural/Creative Sector

Community:

- PEACE PLUS (Progress reports)
- Love Where you Live Awards
- Age Friendly Strategy
- Healthy Ireland Programme updates
- Facilitation of Comhairle na nÓg input across SPC Programmes

Library Service:

- Consultation on the preparation of a new Library Development Plan

Sports:

- Consultation on Sports Strategy
- Progress report on Implementation of Local Sports Partnership Programme

Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC - Number of Meetings 4

Councillors

Cllr. Caillian Ellis (Chairperson)
Cllr. Sean McGowan
Cllr. Felim Gurn
Cllr. Paddy Farrell
Cllr. Justin Warnock
Cllr. Gerry Dolan

Issues considered by the SPC:

- Irish Water
- Climate Action
- Leitrim Sustainable Agricultural Group
- Waste Management
- Civic Amenity Sites
- Septic Tanks Remediation

Sectoral Nominations

John Brennan Organic Interest
Eddie Mitchell IFA
Jan Melia Environmental Pillar (PPN)

Policy Development:

- Annual Review of Litter Management Plan
- Draft Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Climate Change Baseline Emissions Inventory Report
- Waste Presentation Byelaws
- Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027

Leitrim County Council Strategic Objectives and Supporting Strategies from the Corporate Plan 2019-2024

Leitrim is a unique County offering unparalleled quality of life, a rich and diverse natural environment and strong communities. Our priorities and objectives have been developed and shaped around these county attributes. We will deliver an ambitious programme of development for **Our People, Our Places and Our Economy**.





Delivering for our People

HOMES

COMMUNITIES

SERVICES

HOUSING

Housing Applications

The most recent Statutory Assessment of Housing Need was completed in November 2023 indicated that there was 212 households on the Leitrim Housing List excluding applications from existing tenants to transfer to alternative accommodation. A total of 226 new housing applications for social housing support were processed in 2023 of which 217 were approved for inclusion on the Social Housing Waiting List. This equates to an approval rate of 96% of all social housing applications received deemed eligible for and qualified for social housing support.

Housing Allocations & Choice Based Lettings

In 2023- a total of 83 offers of accommodation were issued to housing applicants of which 78 were accepted which is a 94% acceptance rate. Choice Based Letting continued for all properties not designated as specialist housing and located outside of Carrick on Shannon in 2023. A total of 48 properties were advertised under the Choice Based Lettings Scheme and 576 expressions of interest received for the properties. Once again, the success of Choice Based Letting is highlighted by there being just 3 refusals of accommodation which is just 6 %. In addition, 35 offers of social housing support issued by direct allocation. A total of 35 allocations of accommodation (LA Housing/RAS/SHLI/AHB/TIS) to applicants on NTQ/Risk of Homelessness. While these clients were not deemed as being 'officially homeless' i.e. in Temporary Emergency Accommodation they were at risk of becoming had accommodation not being secured for them.

New Tenancies Created

A total of 77 new Local Authority tenancies were created in 2023 for standard LA accommodation and 5 new tenancies were created in leased units. A total of 35 new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP Tenancies) were also created. Overall this is a total delivery of 117 tenancies delivered in 2023 across a number of social housing options for individuals or households unable to provide accommodation from their own personal resources.

Pre-Tenancy Training

All newly appointed tenants are obliged to complete mandatory pre-tenancy training to familiarise themselves with their obligations under the Tenancy Agreement, the Tenant Handbook and the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

Tenancy Sustainment Services

Housing First

Housing First provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing homelessness for people experiencing mental health, physical health, substance misuse, social, behavioural, and other challenges. The Housing Department continued to support Housing First Tenancies in partnership with the other agencies. Regular meetings of the Housing First Forum were attended on a regional basis with Sligo and Donegal Local Authorities. Leitrim will continue to support the implementation of the Housing First Programme and identify suitable properties to make available to meet the annual targets for the Housing First Programme.

Sophia Housing

As part of the Housing Strategy for Disabled People the National Council for Housing and Disability 2022-2027, funding was allocated for the provision of a Mental Health Tenancy Support Officer in each county. This project is jointly funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Health Service Executive. The tender to provide this service in Leitrim was awarded to Sophia Housing. The Tenancy Support Worker will work in partnership with the Council, Community Mental Health Services and any other community supports available to support individuals and families starting new tenancies to ensure in so far as possible a positive experience and tenancy sustainment.

Focus Ireland

Leitrim County Council procured the services of Focus Ireland in 2023 to strengthen its Resettlement and Tenancy Support role, with cases referred to the Focus Support Worker to help ensure new and existing tenancies are sustained.

Homelessness & Housing Action Team

Leitrim County Council continued to meet the housing needs of those individuals and families either at risk of, or directly experiencing homelessness. The Housing Department responded to 46 homeless presentations with temporary emergency accommodation provided for individuals and families. At the end of 2023, there were 16 placements of homeless households in Temporary Emergency accommodation in the county. The lifting of the moratorium on evictions in 2023 resulted in a significant rise in individuals and families seeking emergency housing accommodation from the Local Authority in 2023.

The Homelessness Action Team (HAT) consisting of representatives from the Housing Department, the HSE, North West Simon, met on a monthly basis in 2023 to review the caseload and to working collaboratively on agreed actions to prevent homelessness and assist individuals to exit homelessness through the provision of additional supports.

North-West Regional Homeless Consultative Forum

Leitrim County Council continued to be a key member of both the North West Joint Homeless Consultative Forum and Management Groups in 2023 liaising with all the key stakeholders in the region to improve the delivery of homelessness. In 2023, Leitrim County Council was an active member of the working group that developed the Draft Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2023-2028.

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP)

2019-2024

The Traveller Accommodation Programme outlines the accommodation requirements of the Traveller Community over a five-year period from 2019 – 2024. Over the life-time of the Programme, the Council were tasked with providing an additional 25 units of accommodation for Members of the Traveller Community in Leitrim. At the end of 2023, the Council had exceeded the original target set with a total of 44 units of accommodation delivered versus a target of 25. This equates to a 144% delivery output.

Regular meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) were held to review the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme and other initiatives e.g. the Pony Riding Programme. The annual Traveller Census return was completed in November 2023 and indicated that there are 76 Traveller Families residing in Leitrim accommodated in a various range of housing options including from their own resources, standard LA accommodation, Traveller specific accommodation, RAS, Leasing and Tenancies provided by Approved Housing Bodies.

Housing Grant Scheme

Leitrim County Council administers the Housing Grant Schemes to assist older people and people with a disability in carrying out works which are necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for their accommodation needs. The schemes remain a key enabler in assisting people to remain living in their own homes by enhancing both the physical layout and the comfort for the eligible elderly and disabled household members in our community. Leitrim County Council received a capital allocation for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private homes in 2023 composed of Exchequer funding (representing 80%) and matching local authority funding (representing 20%) to be provided from the authority's own resources.

The following is a breakdown of grants paid in 2023:

Grant Name	Qty	Amount
Mobility Aid Grant	12	€48,220
Housing Aid for Older People	42	€365,238
Housing Adaptation Grant (Disability)	62	€284,469
Total	116	€697,927

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) has replaced Rent Supplement for those with a long term housing need. The HAP team including a HAP Placefinder continued to work with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to transfer rent supplement recipients to HAP during 2023.

Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SHLI) /

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

These schemes allocate funding for local authorities to lease residential properties from private landlords on medium to long term contracts.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

Leitrim County Council continued to support the 13 houses leased under this initiative from Tuath and Respond with expenditure recouped from the DHLGH.

Mortgage to Rent

The Mortgage to Rent (MTR) scheme aims to help private homeowners that are at risk of losing their homes due to their mortgage arrears transfer from the home ownership pathway to social housing tenancy whilst maintaining occupancy of the same property with the long-term option of buying back the property as their financial situation improves. At the end of 2023 a total of fifteen MTR applications were active in Co. Leitrim.

Housing Stock

At the end of 2023 Leitrim County Council had 1,062 dwelling houses in its ownership, excluding demountable dwellings, traveller specific group scheme accommodation and community houses to meet the social housing need in the county.

Vacant Social Housing Stock/Casual Vacancy Work Programme/Energy Efficiency & Voids Programme

Where the keys and vacant possession of social housing dwellings are returned to the Council each property is surveyed to determine the extent of the works required to return the property to productive use and have it available for re-letting to meet the housing need. Where minor works only are required the works are carried out by direct labour in other cases the properties may be included in the Energy Efficiency or Voids Programme. Leitrim County Council secured funding of €165,000 from the DHLGH and upgraded 15 void properties (properties that were long-term vacant and required significant works to return them to productive use). A further €396,000 was secured for energy efficiency works resulting in an additional 12 properties being upgraded.

Housing Maintenance/Repairs Social Housing Stock

The Housing Maintenance Team continued to respond to Housing Maintenance Requests from tenants including responding to emergency out of hours call out on occasions.

Tenant Purchase

Leitrim County Council sold 5 houses under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2023. This scheme supports Local Authority tenants to achieve home ownership by purchasing their former rented properties at a significant discount.

Housing & Disability Strategy

The Leitrim Housing and Disability Steering Group continued to meet in 2023. A quarterly reporting template with service delivery statistics developed by the Housing Agency being reported on outputs achieved in the implementation of actions in the strategy.

Disability Strategy and Disability Works to Local Authority Dwellings

Leitrim County Council completed a total of 24 Disabled Persons Grants in 2023 to meet the specific need of tenants with a disability and to render the accommodation more suitable to meet their accommodation needs. Of the 24 grants completed, 20 were adaption works and the remaining 4 were extensions to the accommodation. A total of €386,691.42 was expended on the scheme, 90% of which was recouped from the Department with the Council providing the 10% balance of funding from their own financial resources.

Private Rented Inspection Programme

Leitrim County Council continued to perform its role in the assessment and enforcement of standards in relation to private rented accommodation. The total number of inspections carried out in 2023 was 377.

Housing Capital Delivery Programme – ‘Housing for All’

The national Housing Strategy ‘Housing for All’ that was launched in July 2021 included an overall build target of 139 Units over the lifetime of the plan for Leitrim County Council. The Housing Capital section successfully delivered 28 Built Units during 2023 which exceeded the annual target of 26 by 2 units. The target set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2024 is 26 Units.

Housing Delivery Action Plan

A key action of ‘Housing for All’ was that each local authority was to develop a Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) to include details of their proposed social and affordable housing delivery over the period 2022-2026 in line with targets set under Housing for All. The Leitrim HDAP received approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in June 2022 and the Housing Capital section is strategically planning to deliver upon the actions during the lifetime of the plan.

New Social Housing Projects Delivered in 2023

The target for delivery in 2023 under the Housing for All Programme was to deliver 26 new units of accommodation. This target was exceeded with the delivery of 28 new units of accommodation achieved at year end. Work is ongoing on progressing the pipe-line delivery to meet the annual targets under ‘Housing for All’ for 2025-2026.

Social Housing Delivery Leitrim 2024 under ‘Housing for All Targets’

Lahard, Ballinamore - 10 units
Pairc an Baile, Carrick on Shannon - 5 units
Taobh Tíre, Manorhamilton - 5 units
Carraic na Breac, Drumshanbo - 4 units
Main Street, Dromahaire - 4 units
Total Output - 28 units



Social Housing Acquisition Programme

To increase the supply of social housing and as part of the Government response to addressing the housing crisis, the Housing Department also delivered 12 new units of accommodation via the Housing Purchase Acquisition Programme in various locations throughout the county. In addition, the properties acquired will benefit from substantial improvement works including energy efficiency measures to achieve to high BER Ratings. These targeted acquisitions allowed Leitrim County Council to deliver homes in areas where there was a defined need and there was no new build or turnkey projects ongoing whilst endeavoring not to compete with first time buyers.

A number of these dwellings were purchased to address specific housing needs e.g. disability and in response to the Tenant in Situ Scheme. This scheme allows Local Authorities to purchase properties where tenants are facing eviction when the landlord is selling the property. The Scheme only applies to tenants with a valid notice of termination.

Part V Agreements

Leitrim County Council reached agreement with developers to acquire four Part V units at Priors Point, Carrick on Shannon, one Part V unit at Allenbrooke Estate, Drumshanbo and three Part V units at Cannonboe Terrace, Ballinamore. These units when complete will be provide an additional delivery option to meet the social needs of applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List.

Partnership with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

Leitrim County Council continued to participate in the Housing Forum with the key Approved Housing Bodies that are active in County Leitrim with several meetings held in 2023. The purpose of the Forum is to share knowledge and best practice and to provide solutions to some of the issues that impact on the AHB Sector being actively involved in the provision of housing supply in the respective counties.

Capital Assistance Schemes (CAS)

Leitrim County Council continued to work in partnership with Newgrove Housing Association/Rehab to progress the delivery of a Design/Build solution in Manorhamilton to meet the identified housing need of young adults with disabilities. The scheme aims to provide accommodation under the CAS by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with support of the HSE to provide care supports post completion of the build to support the tenants to live independently with supports.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The Veterinary Service carried out a comprehensive programme of inspections and food, water and environmental sampling on eight food premises during the year. 123 Inspections were carried out across 3 slaughterhouses and 5 small meat manufacturing plants. The key metrics are outlined below:

Slaughterhouse Returns	
Cattle	596
Sheep	1524
Pigs	80
Goats	5
TOTAL	2,205

Veterinary Inspections	
Hygiene Inspections	31
Sampling Inspections	19
TOTAL	50

Animal Warden Service

The Animal Warden Service employs two part-time wardens. The wardens carried out a range of activities including dog control, horse control and a stray cat neutering programme .

Animal Warden Service	
Stray, seized and surrendered dogs	138
Dogs Re-Homed	139
Dogs Reunited with Owner	13
Individual Dog Licenses Issued	1859
Lifetime Dog License	52
Licence Fee Income	€45,260
Radio, Social Media and Newspaper Requests	813

Leitrim Sustainable Agriculture Group

The Leitrim Sustainable Agriculture Group (LSAG) completed a very successful Farming for Biodiversity Project. The group was successful in a Shared Island application for a Farming, Biodiversity and Arts Programme in 2024.

Leitrim Horse-Riding & Animal Welfare Programme

A very successful 12-week Horse-Riding & Animal Welfare Programme was delivered. 36 children participated in a very enjoyable and educational programme in Moorlands Equestrian Centre. A joint Leitrim/Sligo Horse-Riding Programme for 24 Traveler & Roma Children was also held.

Leitrim Dog Warden Service

A substantial upgrade of the dog shelter facility at Drumkeerin was undertaken in 2023 and a new dog warden van was purchased with the aid of a €55,460 grant from the Dept. of Rural and Community Development. This investment will contribute to a healthier and more welfare-friendly environment for stray and surrendered dogs in Leitrim.

Dog shelter facility at Drumkeerin



FORWARD PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Taking in Charge

Significant progress continued to be made during 2023 by the Planning Department in conjunction with the Capital Projects Office in resolving incomplete housing developments. The objective is to bring such developments to the required standard to allow them to be taken in charge. The undertaking of remedial works within such estates is being managed by the Capital Projects Office. The Council continues to work with Irish Water to transfer responsibility for the maintenance of the piped water services in these estates to the utility company after they have been taken in charge.

Part 8 Public Consultation on Local Authority Own Development Proposals

The Planning Department managed the Part 8 public consultation process for 6 no. Local Authority own developments during 2023. These related to the Drumshanbo Exchange town regeneration project, the Glenfarne Wood project in partnership with Coillte, projects developed by the Active Travel Department at Drumshanbo and Carrick-on-Shannon, the narrow gauge trail in Drumshanbo and a housing development of 4 no. units in Keshcarrigan. In addition, the development of 18 no. residential units at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon was managed through the section 179A process by the Planning and Housing Departments.

Forward Planning

Work was completed on the preparation of the County Development Plan for the period 2023-2029 at a Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council on Tuesday 7th February where the new plan was adopted. The new County Development Plan took effect on 21st March. The formal publication of the full suite of documents will be completed in early 2024. The new County Development Plan will inform the Annual Service Delivery Plan programme over the next 6 years.

The Development Contribution Scheme for the period 2023-2026 was adopted at the January Council meeting and takes account of the ambitious Capital Programme. The Planning Authority published draft and supplemental maps identifying the lands considered within scope of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) over the course of the year. The supplemental maps, published on 1st May, identified additional lands that are liable to the tax primarily on foot of the changes in zoning as a result of the newly adopted Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029. The final maps were published on December 1st.

Work commenced on the preparation of the Joint Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan towards the end of the year in partnership with Roscommon County Council. This Joint Local Area Plan (JLAP) will be the first joint Plan for the town and will have a strong focus on the development of both the Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober areas of the combined urban centre. The draft JLAP will be informed by a Local Transport Plan and the Carrick-on-Shannon Town Centre First Plan. Issues Papers were published on 12th October and a new dedicated website www.carrickjointplan.ie went live at that time. The pre-draft consultation phase of the plan preparation concluded on 1st December.

Heritage

Considerable progress was made in 2023 in implementing various actions and objectives contained in the Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025. The Heritage Officer secured funding from a number of sources for heritage projects which included:

- 2 no. projects through the Heritage Council funding programme, namely 'The Mummers Join Project' and 'The Leitrim Hawthorn Tree Project'.
- 3 no. projects funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund projects, namely 'The Leitrim Wetland Survey (Phase III)', 'The Leitrim Hedgerow Appraisal Survey' and 'The Quagga Mussell Research Project'. Burrenbeo Trust - The Hare's Corner: Co. Leitrim has been chosen for this pilot project, along with 3 other Local Authorities. The Hare's Corner project will provide the resources and expertise for landowners and community groups to develop mini-woodlands, ponds, mini orchards or a plan for nature on their sites.
- The Creative Ireland funded Leitrim Basket project.

The Leitrim Mummer's



- The Shared Island Killahurk Ringfort, Co. Leitrim and Tullaghoge Fort, Co. Tyrone project is progressing with the Killahurk Fort Heritage Audit and Interpretation Plan completed. This project will continue into 2024.

Killahurk Heritage Audit and Interpretation Plan Report Cover



- A Heritage Champion Award was developed as part of the Love Where You Live Awards with 17 no. submissions having been received. 6 awards were given in the Heritage Champion category.
- As part of the Heritage Awareness Raising Project, a short film was developed to celebrate the curlew and biodiversity in Co. Leitrim. In addition, Abarta Heritage were appointed to research and design a series of interpretation displays at Áras an Chontae to convey the history of the site to visitors.

Successful applications were also assisted through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, the Historic Structures Fund and Community Monuments Fund.

Heritage Week took place from 12th to 20th August with 21 events taking place across Leitrim including several organised by the Heritage Office. Events included The Mummies Join Party, a demonstration on hedge bank restoration and The Leitrim Hawthorn Tree celebration.

Leitrim's Hawthorn Project



Ms. Rebeccah Cogan was appointed as Biodiversity Officer in Leitrim County Council in September. The Biodiversity Officer position is funded initially by the Heritage Council. The Heritage Officer will prepare a Local Authority Biodiversity Plan, establish a Biodiversity Forum within the county and collaborate with the Heritage Officer on all biodiversity promotion matters within the county along with being a central element of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan implementation and advocacy team. 6 no. biodiversity training workshops were delivered in Carrigallen, Kinlough, Cloone, Manorhamilton, Fenagh and Carrick-on-Shannon.

Development Management

A total of 213 no. valid planning applications, including 57 no. applications seeking retention of planning permission, 1 no. application seeking outline planning permission and 1 no. application seeking approval consequent to outline planning permission were submitted to the Planning Authority during 2023. This was an increase of 7.5 % on the number of valid applications received in 2022 (198 no.) Of the applications received, 22 no. related to applications for commercial developments and 16 no. applications related to community, sporting, and educational developments. The invalidation rate of planning applications was recorded at 24.5% which is similar to the corresponding rate in 2022 (25.6%).

There were 23 no. planning applications submitted in 2023 seeking planning permission for individual houses served by domestic wastewater treatment systems. In addition, 7 no. applications were submitted seeking to construct replacement houses served by individual wastewater treatment systems. A further 8 no. applications sought planning permission for individual dwellings served by piped water services. There was a notable increase in the number of applications seeking to renovate and bring back into residential use of derelict properties and replacing wastewater treatment systems serving renovated and extended houses. These applications were in response to the Croí Cónaithe grant scheme.

In 2023, planning permission was granted for 182 no. applications which included 48 no. application seeking retention of planning permission and 2 no. applications seeking outline planning permission. Planning permission was granted for a total of 53 no. housing units across the county.

This was broken down as follows: 11 no. dwellings in schemes and 5 no. individual dwellings (on zoned and serviced lands), 24 no. individual houses served by domestic wastewater treatment systems, 1 no. dwelling which could avail of piped water services, 7 no. individual replacement houses served by domestic wastewater treatment systems, 1 no. individual replacement house served by piped water services and 4 no. units converted from commercial use to residential use. Outline planning permission was granted for 10 no. dwellings on zoned lands within Manorhamilton. A further 4 no. social housing units were approved under Part 8 Local Authority own development consultation process at Keshcarrigan with 18 no. units at Kilboderry, Carrick-on-Shannon utilising the provisions of Section 179A of the Planning & Development Acts.

An Bord Pleanála decided on 6 no. individual appeals against decisions made by Leitrim County Council during 2023 with 4 of the decisions of the Local Authority having been overturned. Of note included the granting of permission for 6 no. houses to complete the Oakfield Manor housing development in Kinlough. This brings the total number of housing units approved in the county during 2023 to 81 no. units.

A total of 34 no. applications for determination on exempt/non-exempt status of a proposed development (Section 5 declarations) were received during 2023 significantly higher than the number submitted (16 no.) in the previous year.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine referred 99 no. applications for licenses for tree felling and 7 no. applications for tree planting to the Planning Authority during the year. A further 30 no. applications for Forest Access Roads were referred for comment prior to the Department deciding in respect of same.

28 no. enforcement cases were opened in 2023 by the Planning Authority. At the year end, there remained a total of 65 no. live enforcement cases at various stages of investigation, resolution and proceeding to prosecution. A total of 18 no. cases were closed off during the year.

Significant work was undertaken in the review of our Derelict Sites Register with a project beginning to scan historic files also underway. Leitrim County Council went live for E-Planning on 11th April 2023 whereby planning applications can now be submitted in electronic form. 75% of all applications received in the intervening period were submitted in this manner (139 no. out of 186 no. valid applications received).

Pre Planning

The Planning Authority had formal pre-planning consultations on 90 no. proposed developments during 2023 which is an increase of 30% on the previous year. Every effort was made to accommodate pre-planning meetings through phone-calls /e-mail or virtual meetings. The average waiting time of 19.7 days is slightly above the target of 15 days, but this can be attributed to the impact of competing demands of staff resources in meeting all statutory deadlines along with the required information not having been submitted along with the original request for pre planning consultations.

Cost per Capita of the Planning Service

The cost per capita of the Planning Service has increased to €44.79 in 2023 from €39.66 in 2022. This is below the target of €45 set in the budget for the year. This cost is largely dependent on the fees received for the year and expenditure costs incurred. The staffing levels in the Planning Department increased during 2023 along with the additional costs involved in preparing the County Development Plan 2023-2029.

Enforcement

The Planning Authority investigated or instigated 28 no. new enforcement cases during 2023 with 55 no. cases carried forward from previous years. A total of 18 no. enforcement cases were closed off during the year resulting in a total of 65 no. live enforcement cases at various stages of investigation, resolution and proceeding to prosecution at year end. Of the new cases opened in 2023, 6 no. cases had been resolved by the year end. Whilst our target of 60% of all cases instigated being resolved by year end was not reached (33% cases resolved), this marked a significant increase from the 25% of cases resolved in the previous year. Every effort was made in dealing with the cases on hand but certain cases can be complex and slow to resolve.

Appeals

4 no. planning appeals were submitted to An Bord Pleanála with respect to decisions made by the Planning Authority during 2023. In addition, 10 no. appeals were submitted by landowners with respect to lands being included for Residential Zoned Land Tax purposes. An Bord Pleanála decided on 6 no. individual appeals against decisions made by Leitrim County Council during 2023 with 4 of the decisions of the Local Authority having been overturned.

FIRE SERVICES

Capital Projects / Funding

New Appliance Manorhamilton

We received delivery of a new Class B appliance for Manorhamilton Fire Station which was provided for by the Capital Funding Programme announced late 2020. The appliance has been on the run since February 2023 and is serving the people of Manorhamilton with distinction.

National Fire Safety Week

A full programme of activities were organised for Fire Safety Week in Leitrim including visits to Primary Schools and talks to various community groups.

Erasmus + EduFire Toolkit Project

Leitrim fire service was a project partner in the Erasmus+ project to develop a wildfire education programme for post primary schools using project-based learning methodology. The project started in April 2022 and is due to continue until November 2024. More details on www.edufiretoolkit.eu.

New Water tanker

Leitrim Fire Service received a new state of the art €220,000 Water Tanker to be located at Ballinamore Fire station and will serve the full County.

Elected representatives, Council officials, and members of Leitrim County Fire Service were on hand to mark the official hand over of the new Tanker to Leitrim County Fire Service by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Justin Warnock.

The Water Tanker was funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Volvo FE 320 Water Tanker appliance is a specialised vehicle with seating for a crew of two. The primary purpose of the water tanker is to transport water to the scene of operations. The vehicle has a water carrying capacity of 8,000 litres for fire-fighting purposes.



Members of Ballinamore Fire Brigade, Chief Fire Officer Finian Joyce, SACFO Conor Lynch with Cathaoirleach Justin Warnock accepting new Water Tanker at Ballinamore Fire Station

Major Emergency Management

In November 2023, Leitrim County Council hosted and ran a 'Live' inter-agency Major Emergency Exercise. This involved rehearsing the response from the Principal Response Agencies to a simulated hospital fire at St Patrick's Hospital, Carrick on Shannon. The exercise was attended by Leitrim Fire Service, National Ambulance Service, An Garda Síochána and the Civil Defence and was considered a great success.

Coordinators from the three Principle Response Agencies with support staff, manning the On-Site Coordination Centre at the Live Exercise.



National Fire Safety Week

A full programme of activities for the week including visits to primary schools and talks to Active Age Groups were held during fire safety week.

Chief Fire Officer Retirement

In December 2023 we said goodbye to Chief Fire Officer Finian Joyce. After a long serving and accomplished career stretching over 37 years of service we sought to congratulate him on reaching the pinnacle of his career.

Fire Service Staffing

Leitrim County Council employs 4 senior officers and 1 Assistant Staff Officer to run the service for the county from headquarters in Carrick-on-Shannon. Leitrim County Fire Service has 5 fire stations and a total of 47 firefighters employed as of 31st December 2023.

Fire Station	No. of Firefighters
Carrick on Shannon	11
Mohill	9
Drumshanbo	9
Ballinamore	9
Manorhamilton	9
Total	47

Leitrim Emergency Incidents in 2023

The statistics for 2023 show parity with the previous year, a slight increase in RTC's is notable, however, a very large decrease in false alarms is good news for the service.

Type of Incident	2023	2022
Chimney	19	22
Other fires	36	38
Road Traffic Collisions	57	44
Vehicle fires	11	7
Bog / Forest /Gorse/Grass	7	15
Storm damage / flooding	2	0
False alarms (good intent)	4	39
False alarms (malicious)	1	0
Miscellaneous	73	50
Total	210	215

Performance Indicators

Leitrim County Fire service continues to comply with the expected mobilizing time of 5 mins required for retained brigades in the country. All our brigade units are mobilized in a time of just under 5 minutes.

Attendance at fires – within 10 minutes = 28%,

After 10 minutes but within 20 minutes = 55%,

Greater than 20 minutes = 18%.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Leitrim Civil Defence commenced 2023 with the recruitment of new volunteers, existing volunteers were delighted to start the year on a positive note and welcome new faces to the unit.

Operations

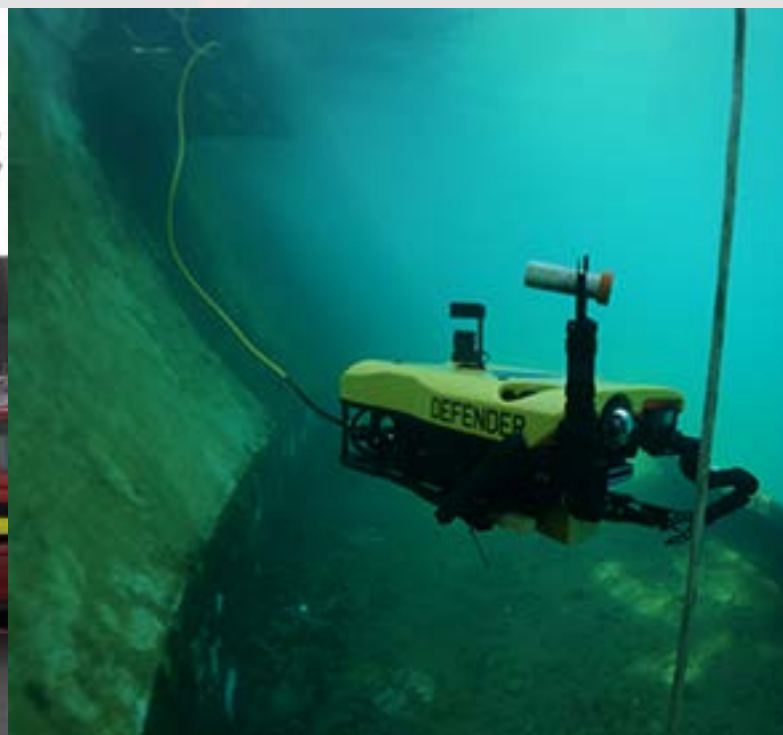
- Volunteers assisted LAWPRO with water samples in Lough Rynn
- We assisted gardai with a missing person search and recovery on the Ballinamore Ballyconnell canal.
- Also assisted the environment section with water sampling across the county for EPA.
- Volunteers assisted at Lough Rynn and Carrick on Shannon regattas.
- Volunteers Assisted Local Authority in Leitrim Village (Tornado)
- Volunteers at the request of Irish Coastguard assist vessels in distress on the River Shannon.
- Volunteers assisted Irish Dragon Boat races in Lough Rynn.
- Volunteers assisted the environment section with monitoring water quality at Leitrim Village in the aftermath of tornado.
- Throughout the year Volunteers remained on standby to respond to requests for assistance from the Principle Response Agencies in accordance with the Major Emergency Framework.

Training

Routine training restarted, and new volunteers got mandatory training. All volunteers received specialist sonar boat training. New Instructors in Mapyx/Sarman, Missing person Search Techniques.

Live Emergency Management Exercise at St. Patricks Hospital, Carrick on Shannon

ROV



WATER SERVICES

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021

The Rural Water Programme is a 3-year programme, however the current programme was extended to include 2022 & 2023 due to Covid-19. Under this funding programme, Leitrim County Council secured funding across 5 different measures. Over the life of the Programme a total of 51 schemes were awarded funding. At the end of 2023, there are 30 of these Schemes completed with a total value of €298,000. The Schemes are either at various stages of completion or are not progressing and the total value of these is €181,000.

A total of 11 Group Water Schemes and 1 Group Sewerage Scheme have been submitted to and taken in charge by Uisce Eireann with a further 10 with Uisce Eireann to be taken in charge.

In 2023 Leitrim County Council processed and paid out 7 no. grants to householders for individual water supply (well grants) totaling €31,148 and 10 no. grants for upgrading/installing new domestic wastewater treatment systems totaling €48,894. In 2023 a total of 28 Group Water Schemes availed of Annual and/or Advance Subsidies to a total value of €365,237.

Domestic Water Treatment Systems

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced in November 2023 that the grants available for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (septic tanks) would be increased to 85% of the cost up to a maximum of €12,000 from the previous €5,000 and the requirement/qualifying condition to have your septic tank registered prior to the 1st of February 2013 was removed. These new changes would commence on the 1st of January 2024.

The percentage of private drinking water schemes in compliance with statutory requirements was 95.25% in 2023.



Delivering for our Places

TOWNS & VILLAGES

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE

HERITAGE & CULTURE

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

Water quality Awareness Campaigns

Leitrim County Council ran a media campaign in summer of 2023 advising farmers to be mindful of protecting water quality during the slurry spreading season. Local Authorities under (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017, more commonly known as the GAP Regulations carry out farm inspections to check compliance.

A Septic Tank Awareness Campaign ran in May 2023 in print and social media.

Domestic Waste Water Inspection programme took place in 2023, the awareness campaign reminded householders how a septic tank can affect ground water.

Climate Action

Leitrim County Council progressed the development of a Climate Action Plan for the Local Authority throughout 2023. This included a pre-draft phase of building the evidence base, engaging with stakeholders, establishing a Decarbonising Zone and summarising the preparation phase for feed in to a Draft Plan. A public consultation phase on the Draft Plan was initiated in December and three Drop-in Clinics were held in each on the Municipal Districts in Co. Leitrim with a view to finalising a Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan in February 2024.

A Climate Action Team was formally established in the second half of 2023 within Leitrim County Council.

A Community Climate Action Programme Fund was launched with a total of €300,000 available for climate action and sustainability projects among community groups in County Leitrim as a well as an All-Island cross border strand of funding for cooperation on climate action projects with community groups in Northern Ireland.

SEPTIC TANK INSPECTIONS COMMENCING MAY 2023

National Inspections Plan 2022-2026 Objectives

To ensure proper operation and maintenance of treatment systems

- To Protect Human Health
- To Improve Water Quality

- Householders will be contacted in advance by post by an authorised Environment Inspection Officer.
- Treatment systems will be inspected to ensure that they are not posing a risk to human health or the environment

Financial Assistance is available Visit www.leitrimcoco.ie for more details

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023

As part of the 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative, funding was made available through the Connaught/Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority to Leitrim County Council to carry out a number of projects, aimed at reducing illegal dumping activities.

Each project undertaken by Leitrim County Council was based on how it could best tackle the issue of illegal dumping through **Education, Enforcement, Abatement** and **Prevention**.

A brief synopsis of each project is provided in the table below:

Project Title	Key Area	Project Synopsis
Household Bulky Waste Collection	Prevention	Provision of a household bulky waste collection at 2 locations in County Leitrim - whereby for a nominal charge, people can bring their bulky waste to either of the locations to ensure disposal of same.
Community Support During National Spring Clean	Abatement	Provide necessary support to communities as they collaborate with their local authority in the fight against illegal dumping.
Rubbish Film Festival - Support Schools to participate in development of Film promoting Circular Economy and Waste Reduction	Education	A specially designed workshop for students based in Transition year. 2 Day workshop per school developing 1 min video. The brief for the content is Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy. The workshop format includes instruction and practical activities on Environmental Issues including the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Students will be researching, ideating, creating and producing an information piece (ONE MINUTE short film) that will be aimed at their peers.
Smart Enforcement Tools	Abatement	Mobile workforce management solution for fieldworkers. It is currently being actively used by waste enforcement staff for generation of reports and follow up procedure on all waste complaints and investigations.
Media, Advertising - paper, billboards and radio	Education	Various media campaigns and notices and advises across various media platforms, social media, local papers, radio, billboards etc.
Enforcement Training	Abatement	Training for investigating any illegal activity in relation to Environment.
Clean up of larger illegal dumping sites at various locations in the county	Abatement	Clean up of dumping blackspots in Co. Leitrim - retrieval and disposal of waste as well as erection of signage if necessary.
Solar Bins - Manorhamilton	Prevention	Provision of 2 solar bins on road from town to Secondary School. To provide litter disposal to students going and coming from a large school.
Hazardous Waste Collection	Prevention	Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Provision of a household collection at Civic Amenity Sites in County Leitrim for the month of September 2023 - whereby for a nominal charge, people can bring their hazardous waste to ensure safe disposal of same.

The Bulky Waste collections were day events in Lough Rynn Amenity Centre and Manorhamilton Civic Amenity Site.

A total of 92,600 tonne bulky waste was taken from residents of Co. Leitrim and disposed of correctly, along with 550 mattresses. Removing this waste prevents illegal dumping in our county.

Hazardous Waste Collection was held in the Civic Amenity Sites for the month of September 2023. Collection of hazardous waste is a preventative measure to keep dangerous substances from causing harm to people, animals and the environment.



National Spring Clean 2023

The 25th Anniversary National Spring Clean started in March for 2023. The campaign was promoted nationally through social media and was advertised with press release and radio advertising.

The National Spring Clean is a very important annual event. Leitrim's Tidy Towns Groups, Community Groups, Adopt a Road Groups, sporting organisations took to the roads, towns and villages of the county where they undertook clean-up operations.

Leitrim continues to have a hugely successful National Spring Clean Campaign, 45 groups with over 800 individuals registered with An Taisce and many more participated in the cleanup. Leitrim County Council provided litter picking packs for many of the groups.

The quantity of litter being collected across the county was approximately 9.5 tonnes. Leitrim County Council facilitated collection of bags of litter from the groups participating.



AIR quality Awareness Campaigns

Clean Air Campaigns ran in 2023

Clean Air Campaigns ran in January and November 2023 on social media .

The Campaign supported the new Solid Fuel Regulations 'paving the way for improved air quality' which came into effect on 31st October 2022.

Awareness Campaign – The Circular Economy in Co. Leitrim

We are moving towards a circular economy, based on long-life products that can be renewed, reused, repaired, upgraded, and refurbished to preserve precious natural resources, protect habitats, and reduce pollution.

Recycling centres have a role in the circle economy, collecting items no longer of use to households. Sending them for processing, extracting valuable resources and producing new products for our use. This prevents valuable resources being treated as waste and helping to reduce raw material extraction from our planet.

In 2023, Leitrim County Council in association with Shannonside Radio created a video that informed members of the public what materials can be received at the Civic Amenity sites located at Manorhamilton and Mohill.



COMMUNITY

Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly Programme continued throughout 2023, with four Age Friendly Alliance meetings. The Older People's Council met four times under the Chairperson of Hazel Humphreys. Leitrim's Sweeter the Tune project won the Community Innovation Award at the National Age Friendly Awards on Thursday 30th November 2023.

The 'Sweeter the Tune' Project was developed under the Creative Ireland Programme and funded through Creative Ireland's Creativity in Older Age fund. Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company worked with established older Artists in the county and three Active Age Groups. The central part of the project saw the artist and their group collaborate on a project where the creative exploration and practice of the group members was the priority.

Leitrim entry wins at the National Age Friendly and Recognition Awards at 2023

Leitrim's Sweeter the Tune project won the Community Innovation Award at the National Age Friendly Awards on Thursday 30th November 2023,

The 'Sweeter the Tune' Project was developed under the Creative Ireland Programme and funded through Creative Ireland's Creativity in Older Age fund. Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Development Company worked with established older Artists in the county - John McDwyer, Cathy Carmen and Charlie McGettigan and three Active Age Groups through the Leitrim Active Age Forum to deliver the programme.

The Active Age Groups, Annaduff ICA, Drumkeeran Friendship Club and Mohill Active Age Group, were matched with the Artists to work together to create three pieces of art. The project concluded with an exhibition of the work, which included a sculpture, a book titled 'Looking Back' and a film. The "Sweeter the Tune" project successfully demonstrated that the quality and depth of an artist's work is enhanced with age. The central part of the project saw the artist and their group collaborate on a project where the creative exploration and practice of the group members was the priority. This was facilitated by Jo Holmwood, Project Manager and supported by Alice Dixon, Leitrim County Council Creative Ireland Projects Manager, Anna McTiernan, Older Peoples Services Coordinator at Leitrim Development Company and Philip Delamere, Leitrim County Council Arts Officer.

Sweeter the Tune Winners

Pride Of Place

Leitrim County Council nominated three Community Groups for Pride of Place in 2023 in the following categories:

- Carrigallen GAA Healthy Clubs – 'Welcoming new Communities'
- Eslin GAA Healthy Clubs – Community Wellbeing Initiative
- Kiltyclogher Community Council – 'Populations under 500'.

The awards were held Armagh on Friday 10th November, representatives from all three Groups together with the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock and the Chief Executive Mr. Joseph Gilhooly attended the Awards Ceremony. Each entry received a Certificate of Participation recognising their contribution to their local communities.

Carrigallen GAA Healthy Clubs were the overall winners in their category 'Welcoming New Communities'. Bernie Mulligan-Dolan, Antionette Grogan and Joan Hackett representing the group were presented with a presentation trophy on stage and a monetary prize of €1,000.

Carrigallen GAA Healthy Clubs- Winners of Welcoming New Communities Award in Pride of Place 2023



PEACEPLUS Programme Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities – Investment Area 1.1

Investment Area 1.1 offers €3.3m for the social, economic, and environmental development of Leitrim, the final budget to be based on submission of a formal application/action plan.

The Leitrim PEACEPLUS Partnership was formed with the overall aim to develop a Co-Designed PEACEPLUS Action Plan to be submitted to SEUPB (Special EU Programmes Body). The Partnership met 5 times in 2023 and submitted Leitrim PEACEPLUS Action Plan under theme 1.1 to the SEUPB on the 2nd October 2023.

Following consultation with over 55 community and voluntary groups and relevant agencies an assessment sub-committee of the PEACEPLUS Partnership met 4 times to prioritise/shortlist programmes under the 3 themes.

Theme 1: Community Regeneration & Transformation
69 capital project concepts were shortlisted to 13 potential projects over 4 categories. Expressions of Interest were invited from the relevant parties.

Theme 2: Thriving & Peaceful Communities
73 project concepts shortlisted across 7 categories

Theme 3: Building Respect for all Cultural Identities
40 project concepts shortlisted across 8 categories:

Leitrim PEACEPLUS Action Plan

Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital projects)

A minimum of 3 Shared Space projects, one to be delivered in each Municipal District, with a capital budget allocation of €836,987. An additional budget will be available for programming activities in these shared spaces, with meaningful and purposeful engagement by 200 participants per Municipal District up to December 2027.

Theme 2: Thriving & Peaceful Communities
7 projects to be delivered to 2,151 participants, with an overall budget of €893,435

TPC1: Community Capacity Building Programme

TPC2: Environmental Awareness & Biodiversity Programme

TPC3: Celebrate & Acknowledge our Culture, Heritage & Faith

TPC4: Voice of Women in Rural Ireland

TPC 5: Engaging and Understanding for Young People in the Digital World

TPC 6: Support for those most isolated

TPC 7: Shared Space Animation Projects

Theme 3: Building Respect for all Cultural Identities

4 projects to be delivered to 755 participants, with an overall budget of €504,913

BRC 1: Active Citizenship and Orientation Programme

BRC2: Traveller Community Programme

BRC3: Ex political Prisoners their Families and Displaced Persons

BRC4: Promoting Diversity through the Arts

PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME Investment Area 1.4: Re-Imaging Communities

An application was submitted under Investment Area 1.4 for Shannonside Regional Recreation Campus in Carrick on Shannon.

The Shannonside Regional Recreation Campus is a project that has emerged to provide a regional Rowing Centre of Excellence and a shared sports campus in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim. Once operational, the SRC will be a hub for sports clubs, schools, National Governing Bodies, community voluntary organisations and residents to participate in a wide range of sport, physical activity and recreation programmes and activities

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg serves as a local council for children and young people aged 12–17 and a platform to influence the development of local policies and services. The Comhairle na nÓg programme in Leitrim is hosted by the North Connaught Youth and Community Services. The topics for 2023 were youth open spaces and mental health. 68 young people from the seven post primary schools attended the Annual Youth Conference hosted by Leitrim County Council, with coordination from Youth Work Ireland, NCYCS and members of Leitrim Comhairle na nÓg. Comhairle na Nóg Leitrim achieved well-deserved recognition—the esteemed Garda Youth Award for Best Group in the Leitrim/Sligo district, highlighting their outstanding contributions to the community. Comhairle na Nóg Leitrim was honoured with the PPFs National Child And Youth Participation Award for their commendable work with Moving Parents And Children Together.

Love Where You Live Awards 2023

The Love Where You Live Awards are hosted by Leitrim County Council and Leitrim PPN and recognises the contribution made by community groups, schools, residents' associations and individuals in making Leitrim a better place to live, work and visit. Awards are given in each Municipal District, in six categories.

The judges in 2023 were TV personality and Environmentalist Eanna Ní Lamhna and Roscommon PPN Resource Workers.



Kiltycloher Community Garden: Winners of Cleaner and Greener Award for Manorhamilton MD



Community Supports Fund

The Community Support Fund, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development was rolled out by the Leitrim County Council in 2023. A total grant aid of €265,201 was allocated County Leitrim. 145 Community Groups across the county were supported with capital and utility expenses under the fund.

Award Categories	Winners	Runners Up
Schools Award	St Joseph's School Hunt National School Gaelscoil Chluainín	St Caillian's National School Gaelscoil Liatrioma Largy National School
Heritage	Maureen Martin Fionnuala Maxwell The late Gerry Finneran presented to daughter Blaithin	Ballinamore/Mohill Greenway Community Action Edwina Guckian Margaret Connolly
Social Inclusion	Carrigallen G.A.A. Healthy Club Leitrim Special Olympics Sports Club North West Canoe Club	Drumshanbo Athletic Club Leitrim Ass for People with Disabilities Rossinver Calling
Housing Estates	The Willow's Residents Association The Townspark Residents Association Cois na nAbhainn Residents Association	Barleyfield Resident's Association Ard na Cuan Residents Association Drumlease Residents Association
Community Resilience	An Tostal Festival The Golden Age Group Annaduff/Drumsna 40th Co Manorhamilton Girls Brigade	Kilturbid Pipe Band Drumnastie Divers Manorhamilton Historical Society
Cleaner & Greener	Carrigallen Tidy Town's Mohill Community Network Kiltycloher Community Gardens	Ballinamore Tidy Town's Leitrim Village Development Company Dromahair Development Association

LIBRARY SERVICES

2023 was a very busy year for Leitrim Library Service. The re-opening of Carrick-on-Shannon Library in its new location on Bridge Street was a particular highlight. The visibility and accessibility of the library has resulted in significant increases in footfall and library membership. Fit out works to facilitate a 'My Open Library' service were carried out in Drumshanbo Library and building works commenced on the new 500 Sq.M Dromahair Library Development.

Leitrim Library 5 year development plan

Over 500 surveys were received as part of the public consultation process which took place regarding the new Leitrim Library 5 year Development Plan 2023-2027 which was approved by the elected members in November 2023. The plan 'Your Library: A Space to Connect' will focus on the three themes upon which the plan has been based - People, Spaces and Connections.

Decade of Centenaries

Leitrim County Council's Decade of Centenaries Action Plan for 2023 was approved and funding in the amount of €50,000 was allocated. A reflective piece on local artist Sinéad Guckian's painting entitled 'When an Older Person Dies, a Library Burns Down' was included in the government's National Programme for 2023. Sinéad also served as Artist-in-Residence for Leitrim's 2023 Decade of Centenary Programme.

Leitrim County Council's Decade of Centenaries National Day of Commemoration took place in July in Manorhamilton's Garden of Remembrance and Reflection. The focus of the event was to commemorate all men and women from Leitrim or connected with Leitrim who died as a result of conflict during the decade 1914-1924.

Ireland Reads

A very successful 2023 Ireland Reads Campaign ran in February with library staff engaging in short video recordings to promote reading for both adults and children.



Cross Border "Bridge Across Difference" Project

Leitrim Library Book Club members participated in a Cross Border 'Bridge Across Difference' project with readers from Enniskillen, Omagh and Cavan.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library Programme

A large number of events took place across the branch library network under the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme and Healthy Leitrim initiative.



Digital Skills Information Programme

The very popular Digital Skills programme recommenced with sessions running in 5 branch libraries. The programme is supported by SOLAS under their collaboration and innovation fund and is being run in partnership with MSLETB. The initiative was included in a feature in the Irish Independent on Friday June 23rd to highlight the impact on communities of local authority initiatives to mark Our Council Day 2023.

Four Leitrim Library staff members were involved in the ADELE (Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe). The project focus is to evaluate and learn about social and digital innovation in public services and reflect on how digital technologies are used to improve services.

Right to Read Programme

Over 900 children participated in the 2023 Summer Stars Reading initiative as part of the national Right to Read Programme

‘Making Connections’ Project

Children from 4 primary schools in North Leitrim enjoyed sessions in Kiltyclogher Library as part of the DRCD funded ‘Making Connections’ project. The project engaged author and illustrator Wayne O’Connor and Stuart Lawn from Fab Lab Manorhamilton to conduct a number of interactive workshops with the children. Naturebytes, a company that make technology available to community groups and schools, made a number of cameras available to the project in order to capture footage of the local wildlife.

Sense-Ability Toy and Sensory Resource Collection

The ‘Sense-Ability’ toy and sensory resource collection will be expanded to include additional items to support children and adults who are Neuro-Diverse. Use of the service increased significantly in 2023. A catalogue of the available items was circulated to schools, health centres and GP Surgeries.

Toy Library Collection

A Toy Library collection was established in each of the 8 branch libraries which has proved to be very popular and allows for games afternoons/evenings in the libraries for both adults and children. Items from the collection are also available for loan.

A number of specialized software licences were made available to schools in order to support students with reading development issues. These included Lexia, Worshark and Touch, Type, Read and Spell (TTRS).



ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Throughout 2023 Leitrim County Council continued to play a key role in providing communities across the county with access to the arts and opportunities to explore their creativity. Leitrim County Council also continued to be a vital support to Leitrim’s professional artists and performers through our professional development network Creative Frame.

Community Engagement

By the end of 2023 over twenty projects were completed as part of Leitrim County Council’s Creative Ireland Open Call programme. Among those was "Amach - to the Fields" led by Edwina Guckian and the Save Leitrim Environmental Group featuring 21 doors in fields in 21 townlands telling individual stories about the history, folklore, and people who live and have lived around each field. The project was featured on national media and has reached over 100,000 people on social media.

New voices and migrant populations continued as central themes for the Iron Mountain Literature Festival this year. Novelist Claire Keegan, UK prize-winning journalist Gary Younge and Kurdish-Irish-sportsman, Zak Moradi, were among the guests taking part. RTE’s Sunday Miscellany was recorded at the festival and broadcast the following week.

Professional Development

Throughout 2023, Leitrim County Council’s artist’s networking and professional development programme - Creative Frame - continued to provide for the network’s membership of over 400 professional artists. In addition to maintaining the interactive website www.creativeframe.eu with up-to-date information on events and opportunities in the sector, training provided in 2023 included: Mentorship training, Screenwriting Workshops; Music Publishing Programme; Peer Critiquing for Visual Artists; Financial and Tax Management; Child Protection Training; and Ecoliteracy workshop with Dr Cathy Fitzgerald.

NEXUS - The arts office is working with Konstnärscentrum in Sweden, Centro Huarte in Spain, and the Youth Cultural Centre in Skopje, Macedonia to develop a two-year programme of professional development training, networking and residential opportunities in the four regions.

Bursary Programme - Four different bursary programmes operated during the year. As well as a mentorship programme, LSC bursaries and the main bursary programme which supports artists to develop new projects, we also operated a new programme to support artists to develop international networks so as to enhance the sustainability of their careers and to promote Leitrim arts abroad.

Guardian Journalist Gary Younge at the Iron Mountain Literature Festival

Creative Ireland - Amach to the fields



Leitrim County Council was also shortlisted in the 2023 Age Friendly Recognition Awards for the Creative Ireland funded ‘Sweeter the Tune’ project featuring three older artists Charlie McGettigan, Cathy Carmen and John McDwyer working with three older people’s groups in Mohill and Dromahair and Annaduff. Funding received under the Creative Ireland Creative Economy Programme provided for the ongoing development of a project with artist Amanda Jane Graham and the Hair & Beauty Industry Confederation of Ireland (HABIC) culminated in an exhibition at the Irish Architectural Archive on Merrion Square in January 2023 and this exhibition will be presented in Leitrim Sculpture Centre in January 2024.



Film

Throughout the year we continued to work with the LEOs and Arts Offices of Sligo and Roscommon County Councils to further develop and implement the Creative Heartlands programme supporting the film and design sectors.

Youth Theatre

Leitrim County Council in partnership with The Glens Centre and Carrigallen Youth Theatre have re-established Junior and Senior youth Theatre Groups in Manorhamilton, Carrigallen and Leitrim village. In 2023 we were delighted to include a new youth theatre group at The Dock called Bright Sparks for young people who enjoy Youth Theatre that is provided at a more relaxed pace particularly young neurodiverse people or those that find the school system tough.

New Developments

In 2023 Leitrim County Council purchased the building formerly known as Colemans on Main Street, Carrick on Shannon to become a new Community and Youth Arts Centre serving communities of all ages and backgrounds. The facility will include a display area, community meeting facilities and youth arts workshop facilities.

In 2023 Leitrim County Council created a new specialist post in Children and Youth Arts with funding allocated by the Arts Council which will add greatly to the Council's capacity to provide for children and their families in the years to come. 2023 also saw the development of the new Creative Communities Engagement Officer part-funded by Creative Ireland, which will greatly increase our capacity to ensure that every community resident in Leitrim has the opportunity to explore their own creativity.

In 2023 we worked to develop a new Arts Plan based on research, consultation and analysis which will be published in 2024. The plan has three priorities – Community Engagement (this is how we serve the public); Professional Development (this is how we support artists) and Children & Young People (this is how we make sure children can make, share, and enjoy the arts) – with two new priorities that look to how we respond to the climate emergency, and how we promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion through our work in the arts. In 2024 we will be rolling out these policies that will guide our work for the next five years. We will build on the work we have accomplished to date, ensuring that we have the capacity to avail of all opportunities that will benefit our communities and the county as a whole.



Musician Natalia Beylis and aerial artist Robin Roche at the Market Yard in Carrick on Shannon on Culture night

SPARK Programme

The SPARK programme, in partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office, fosters collaboration between artists and businesses. In addition to the culmination of the project with HABIC funded through Creative Ireland, Fionnuala Maxwell continued her residency Jinny's Bakery; while Karen Webster residency at The Old Rectory in Fenagh will culminate in the publication of a new book in early 2024.

Launch of Sweeter the Tune at The Dock



SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Leitrim Sport Partnership enjoyed another dynamic and successful year, actively engaging in delivering a vast variety of community programmes, events, and educational and training opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities in Leitrim. Below, we highlight some of the exciting initiatives successfully implemented.

The following are some of the exciting initiatives that were delivered:

Ag Sugradh le Cheile

The Ag Sugradh le Cheile programme is a HSE funded programme of a fun, inclusive workshop of games for adults (parents) and primary school children to play together in the school as part of the school workshop. Over the year Leitrim Sports Partnership ran the workshop in 11 schools and 1 outdoor workshop at Lough Key Forest Park for home education children.

ADITO (A Drop in the Ocean) Programme

Children from St Clare's primary school in Manorhamilton with additional needs came together for 8 sessions in small pods to take part in beach workshops and surfing programme. Through this we built trust and friendships while normalising the conversation around mental health and wellbeing. Over the month of May, 15 children took part in sessions at the Liquid Therapy Surf Centre in Rossnowlagh. We hope to continue this programme into 2024.

Leitrim Horse-Riding and Animal Welfare Programme

Thirty-five children aged 11-17 participated in the 12-week programme. The children were from a diverse range of backgrounds including from the travelling community, non-national, asylum seeker, disadvantaged families and children with additional needs including ASD. Participating children were mainly referred from Tusla, Leitrim Development Company, Leitrim County Council Traveller Liaison Office and North Connacht Youth Services. The overall attendance of participants over the 12-week programme was 74%. Participants were encouraged to handle their ponies frequently to grow their confidence. Participants learned about many basic aspects of horse care and management. Each participant had a 1-hour Riding Lesson and 1-hour Equine Care Session each week for 8 weeks, all gained great ability in the saddle and gained confidence.

TY Paddles Up Kayaking Programme

5 post-primary schools took part in the TY Paddles Up Kayaking Programme (Ballinamore CS, Drumshanbo Vocational School, Ballinamore CC, St. Clare's Manorhamilton and Carrigallen CC) A total of 145 TY students benefited from taking part in this programme which involved the students taking part in a 2 hour kayaking session each week for a duration of 4 weeks or 6 weeks.

The Leitrim Sports Partnership celebrated an incredible year of fostering health, wellness, and participation throughout the county, offering a diverse array of physical activity initiatives tailored for individuals of all ages and abilities. We were delighted to facilitate the engagement of 11,158 individuals in LSP programs in 2023, each contributing to a vibrant culture of active living and wellbeing in our community. While our initial target stood at 12,000 participants, our accomplishments stand as a testament to the significant impact we've made in promoting active engagement and participation in sport and recreational activities.

Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 2

Figure 1: ADITO (A Drop in the Ocean) Programme

Figure 2: Ag Sugradh le Cheile

Figure 3: TY Paddles Up Kayaking Programme



Delivering for Our Economy

INFRASTRUCTURE

ENTERPRISE

TOURISM

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCDC/LEADER

Monthly LCDC/LAG meetings were held in 2023 which dealt with the general operation of the LCDC and the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) as well as programmes which the LCDC is responsible for oversight of including Rural Development Programme (RDP) (LEADER element), Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Peace Plus Programme, Healthy Ireland Fund, Community Enhancement Programme. In March 2023, Leitrim LCDC invited tenders from consultants to assist in the development of the Leitrim Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the implementation of the new LEADER Programme 2023 to 2027. It is envisaged that the Rural Development LEADER Programme for Leitrim will be launched in May 2024.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP 2023 – 2029 is a high level overarching plan and includes an ambition for the county for this six year period. The development of the plan was made possible through the dedication, collaboration and input provided by the community, businesses and other stakeholders through a number of consultations events, surveys and workshops. The LECP was adopted in November, 2023.

County Promotion

During 2023 a number of County Promotion Events were delivered, North West in the City took place in February 2023 in Dublin with Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal taking part in this IDA led event. In April 2023 Leitrim County Council hosted a County promotion event in New York where Leitrim diaspora with a business interest were invited to attend to learn about recent enhancements and developments in the County in recent years with a view to promoting the County as a place to live, work and invest. At the end of November 2023, Leitrim County Council hosted a County Promotion Event in the RDS in Dublin along with members of the Leitrim Dublin Business Network. Again over 100 people attended this event which was aimed at promoting the County as a place to live work and invest. A third event is scheduled to take place in London in Spring 2024.



Leitrim County Promotion Event in New York - April 2023

Leitrim County Promotion Event in the RDS November 30th 2023

National Broadband Plan

In 2023, while assisting with the implementation of the National Broadband Plan, Leitrim County Council continued to engage with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DECC), and other key stakeholders.

Twelve Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) have been established throughout Leitrim County at publicly accessible areas where inadequate broadband services existed. These BCPs offer services to their local communities through a minimum of a 150 Mbps high-speed broadband internet connection.

List of Live BCP Locations

- Aughawillan Community Centre
- Aughavas Gaa Park
- Aughawillan Gaa Clubrooms
- Aghanlish Community Centre
- Askill Community Centre
- Gortletteragh Community Centre
- Killargue Community Centre
- Glencar Waterfall
- Killenummery Hall
- Leitrim Gaels Community Facility
- New Ballagh Centre
- Drumkeerin Enterprise Centre

In addition to the BCPs, 2 rural schools have been connected with similar speeds, Aughawillan NS and St. Michaels Primary School, Glenfarne.

Diaspora

In 2023, the Economic Development Department in Leitrim County Council actively commenced the implementation of the Leitrim Diaspora Strategy. A Diaspora Working Group was established within Leitrim County Council to progress the actions identified in this Strategy. A Diaspora Steering Committee consisting of all external persons was also established to oversee the delivery of this Strategy.

The Working Group and Steering Committee are working collaboratively to organise a Leitrim Diaspora Festival – ‘The Leitrim Gathering 2025’, which will run from Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th of May 2025.

Sustainable Mobility

In 2023, through funding obtained through the Public Service Innovation Fund, the Economic Development Department engaged the Atlantic Technological University Sligo to conduct a research project to assess the travel habits of people living and working in Leitrim. This research project, which will be finalised in Q2 2024, will identify transport models to provide solutions to the first and last mile of a commuter’s journey to connect with existing public transport in a rural county. Solutions will include e-mobility, mobility hubs and shared transport as possible solutions.

Carrick Campus

In 2023 three companies took up occupancy in the Carrick Business Campus. They were:

- Payac - Shared services company that provides credit union services.
- Image Skillnet - Training network for the hair and beauty industry
- MGC Derma – Skincare company

A lease agreement was put in place on 1st April 2023 between Leitrim County Council and Leitrim Economic Growth and Capital Development DAC for the operation of the Campus.

An Open day for the Carrick Business Campus took place on 7th June 2023.

Carrick on Shannon Business Campus 2023



Town Regeneration Office

- A Town Regeneration Officer was appointed.
- A Multi-disciplinary team was established within Leitrim County Council
- Work was undertaken with Town Teams on areas of Governance and Constitution and regular Town Team meetings were facilitated.
- The Carrick on Shannon Town Centre First plan was developed and adopted.
- A Survey was completed of all derelict and vacant buildings within town centres.
- Under the Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe), 107 applications received during 2023.
- An application was successfully progressed for the purchase of three vacant buildings in the County under the Town and Village Building Acquisition 2023 measure, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- An application under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage under the Third Round of Funding Support.
- The CPO Activation Programme under the Department of Housing Local Government was progressed.
- Continued engagement with Town Team on areas of Governance and Constitution and the facilitation of Town Team meetings.
- Continued engagement with Town Teams on all funding opportunities to arise with particular focus on progressing projects identified through Town Centre first Plans and other strategic town plans.
- Further development of Town Centre First Plans for selected towns under anticipated future Town Centre First funding streams.
- Continued collaboration between the Regeneration Office and the Multi-disciplinary Team within Leitrim County Council to progress the implementation of Town Centre first policy.
- Continued engagement with all applicants for Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant (Croí Cónaithe).
- The building on and expansion of the base line vacancy data identified in the Vacant Property Survey completed in 2023.

Progression of the CPO Activation Programme under the Department of Housing Local Government for the activation of vacant and derelict properties. Renewed focus on the identification of Derelict Sites within the County and pursuing of appropriate actions.

Other Highlights

- Application to upgrade Manorhamilton CCTV system was submitted for consideration to the Garda Commissioner.
- Marketing and promotion campaigns continued to be delivered during 2023 to support the town of Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton while the public realm works are ongoing.
- In early 2023 a formal launch of the Tourism and Economic Development strategy for Drumshanbo and Leitrim Village took place this resulted from a working partnership with Waterways Ireland and Leitrim County Council.
- County Leitrim received editorial for 2023 in the following Hot Press's Best of Ireland 2023 magazine, featuring The article, which ran over several pages, included recommendations on the best places to visit.
- Leitrim was featured on Virgin Media, TV AM's show. Presenter Deric O'Arartgáin was live from the Organic Centre in Rossinver. The piece was great exposure for both The Organic Centre and the County.
- Parkes Castle also received great coverage for Leitrim when it was featured on RTE's Nationwide during Heritage Week - Donal Byrne visited Parkes Castle and spoke about the castle's history and those who lived there.
- Leitrim was among the final five shortlisted for the County Tourism award, alongside counties Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and Kilkenny. This award recognises the work and passion that goes into promoting the County and the excellent partnerships with the industry.
- Continue to work in collaboration with the Capital projects office on the delivery of the following projects: Destination Towns / Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities at Aces Lake / Tullaghan Coastal Park /Arney River Canoe Trail .
- Continue to update and promote Leitrim Tourism through ongoing website development - enjoyleitrim.com.
- Engage with the tourism industry to offer support and advice through regular contact and newsletters to all trade/tourism providers in the County informing them of tourism matters countywide and nationally.

LEITRIM LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Financial Supports (Grants)	
Number of Projects Approved*	11
Other Supports	
Trading Online Vouchers	12
Training, Mentoring & Networking	
Number of Training Courses *	87
Number of Participants	924
One to One Business Mentoring Supports	304
Lean for Micro	5

*Including 6 Start Your Own Business programmes with 93 participants.

Digital Start

2 Businesses received approval to participate in the programme. It is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across their business.

Student Enterprise Programme

Six of the seven secondary schools participated in the Student Enterprise Programme in 2022-2023. The final took place on 7th March in The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon. Winners on the day included:

- Senior Level - Pocket Socks, Drumshanbo Vocational School,
- Intermediate Level - Hoofin' Around, Lough Allen College, and
- Junior Level - Grasper Drumshanbo Vocational School. The Junior Winner, Grasper went on to win in their category at the national finals in Croke Park.

A total of 26 Primary schools engaged in Enterprise Education programmes. The winning entries were from Largy N.S. (overall winner) and Scoil Mhuire Carrick-on-Shannon. (runner up).

Green for Micro

7 Businesses received approval to participate in the programme. This initiative is a free programme to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future.

National Enterprise Awards

Campus Connect was the Leitrim County Winner and National Enterprise Awards 2023 Finalist



Pathfinders Custom Conversions at the National Ploughing Championships 2023



Taste Leitrim

LEO Leitrim partnered with Taste Leitrim on a project to update the food trail and re-launch as a Low Carbon, High Adventure Sustainable Food Trail. There is a new double sided, one page map featuring electric charging points, bike hire locations and the Local Link stops. There is also a comprehensive directory (web based), which includes over 100 food-related businesses: producers, suppliers, and hospitality locations from all over the county.

Shared Island

LEO Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council together with The Food Hub were partners in a “Shared Island Agri-Food Infrastructure Enabling Growth Project”. Through this project, Leitrim County Council collaborated with Galway County Council and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to explore the Development of Food Innovation and Agri-Tech across our regions, with specific focus on Climate Action and Food & Agri-Tech Innovation Networking. The project team and stakeholders from the 3 regions visited Leitrim in June 2023 for a knowledge sharing event, which included visits to the Farmers Market, The Food Hub, The Food Enterprise Zone and the Organic Centre.

Creative Heartlands Project

The Creative Heartlands project was established across Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon in 2019 to strengthen economic growth and sustain existing enterprises in the film sector and in the art, craft and design sectors. Led by the Leitrim LEO & Arts office with the Leitrim Design House €371,600 was secured for a three-year project from Enterprise Ireland. The project commenced in late 2020.

Under the Enterprise Ireland Funding the following has been achieved up to the end of 2023:

- Film Project Manager employed to work across the three counties
- Design Project Manager employed to work across the three counties
- Over 300 participants have taken part in events and training workshops
- Over €75,000 invested in Film and Design equipment for the region
- Building a consortium of creative professionals to maximise future investment opportunities
- Providing locally accessible digital technology relevant to the sector across the region
- Increasing take-up in enterprise supports for creative sector



Representative of Leitrim County Council, Galway County Council and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council at the Shared Island Knowledge Sharing Event in Leitrim 2023.



Equipment in use as part of Creative Heartlands with Stuart Lawn, Design Project Manager

TOURISM PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Travel2 Ireland Awards

The highly anticipated travel2ireland awards for 2023 were held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dublin on October 5th. Leitrim County Council's Tourism section won the award for the 'Best County Tourism' category as voted by the public and visitors.

Irish Festive in Milwaukee

The Tourism Team attended the Irish Fest in Milwaukee, with an audience of over 130,000 visitors. It was the ideal opportunity to showcase Leitrim and Ireland as a holiday destination for the Leitrim Diaspora.

Angling and Cycling Clubs

Two new videos were produced: game angling and road cycling videos in County Leitrim. Both videos coincided with an email marketing campaign targeting angling and cycling clubs.

St Patrick's Day Events/Festivals Scheme

Leitrim County Council supported 8 applications under the St Patrick's Day Events/Festivals scheme, and 23 festivals and Events under the Tourism and Community Festival Investment Programme which aims to help drive domestic and international visitors to Leitrim, increase bed nights, stimulate local economic activity, and help improve the County's visitor experience.

Annual Tourism Workshop

The Annual Tourism Workshop took place in November. Speakers included Joeseeph Gilhooly CE (Interim), Sinead McDermott Tourism Officer, Bernadette Mullarkey, Bane Mullarkey, Paddy Mathews, Head of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Eva Costello, Team Manager Wild Atlantic Way. The Tourism in Leitrim: Review and Framework 2023 – 2027 was also launched by Cathaoirleach Justin Warnock at the event. The prioritised strategic direction of the Framework focuses on Infrastructure & Experience Development.

Marketing of Co Leitrim

The Tourism team conducted a comprehensive marketing campaign through digital and social media marketing, press, radio, and attendance at the Holiday World in Dublin throughout 2023 to promote the extensive tourism offering in County Leitrim, targeting the domestic and overseas markets. This campaign was focused on the family, couples and adventure travellers, resulting in a reach of over 7 million.

An extensive marketing campaign promoting two specific campaigns for tourism and relocation to Leitrim, targeting the US market was undertaken to coincide with the Leitrim GAA visit to New York in April, 2023.



**LEITRIM TOURIST OFFICE WINS
BEST COUNTY
TOURIST OFFICE!**
Leitrim



CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICE

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

In 2023 work commenced on the Lighting Contact which forms part of the Carrick on Shannon Public Realm Scheme and includes the lighting of the Arches of the Carrick on Shannon masonry bridge, improved lighting of the pedestrian bridge and new lighting for the Linear Park Boardwalk. Work is expected to be completed in early 2024.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund Manorhamilton Public Realm Scheme

Construction works was completed on the public realm improvements on the Main Street and Old Church St/Big Brae in 2023. Detailed design work continues on the road realignment improvements proposed on the Enterprise lands off Park Road.

Junction Project in Ballinamore

The Junction Project in Ballinamore involved the refurbishment, alteration and extension of the former railway buildings and hard and soft landscaping of the former rail yard as a new civic space. The project was substantially completed with tenant occupation in Dec 2023. Official opening of the project is planned for early 2024.

Mohill Public Realm Scheme

The Kerrigan Group were appointed as contractors, and work commenced on the Mohill Public Realm Improvement Scheme which includes the enhancement of the existing streetscapes on the Main Street, creating more accessible, open public realm space for the town.



Mohill Public Realm Scheme

Drumshanbo Exchange

McCabe Architects were appointed in 2023 to progress detailed design works for the project which involves the conversion of two properties on Main Street into the Exchange Smart Working Hub, including the expansion of town centre public parking. Also, pedestrian access to riverside walk and a newly enhanced People's Park and pedestrian access from the town centre to The Food Hub and The Shed Distillery Visitor Centre. Planning consent was secured for the project and an application was made to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding of €5.5m to construct the scheme.

Flood Relief Schemes

Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme

Works continued on the Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme. Public Consultation No 2 was held in July 2023 to inform the public and stakeholders of out coming potential options for the scheme, options considered included several alternative measures from physical defenses, water storage in the existing network, online conveyance improvements and conveyance through an up-sized Jamestown canal.

Hydrology and Hydraulic analysis to examine the effects downstream from the conveyance improvement options was completed.

Leitrim Village Flood Relief Scheme

Progression of temporary flood defence works to Part 8 Planning for the development of a defensive berm to alleviate more frequent flooding on R284 Keadue Road in Leitrim Village.

Work continues on the assessment of the impact of the options for the Carrick on Shannon FRS, on the Leitrim Village scheme.

Mohill Flood Relief Scheme

Work continued on the ongoing hydrology and hydraulic analysis to determine the need for flood defences in Mohill. Leitrim County Council Capital Project office worked closely with the OPW design team providing all required survey information.

OPW Minor Schemes

Several projects were developed under the OPW Minor Works Scheme

Ballinaglera

Site was revisited six months post construction to inspect the river for repopulation of boulders coming downstream from the mountain above.

Dromahaire

Tobin Consulting Engineers were appointed to carry out an assessment and concept design of possible flood alleviation measures along the river Bonet.

Glenfarne

Works were completed on river clearance works in Glenfarne.

Gowel

An application for funding for a project at Gowel is under discussion with OPW.

Greenways / Recreation Trails

SLNCR Greenways

SLNCR Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway – Arup Consulting Engineers were appointed in 2022 as design consultants to bring the project through the planning process in both the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Phase 1 “Concept and Feasibility” stage included non-statutory Public Consultation in Quarter 1 of 2023 of the Study area. This included the examination of a list of preliminary route options against the project objectives to ascertain whether there are feasible options that could be progressed in further detail in Phase 2. This was completed and approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in quarter 2 of 2023. Phase 2 “Option Selection” Commenced in Quarter 3 of 2023 and a further Non-Statutory Public Consultation took place on Route Corridor Options in Quarter 4 of 2023. Phase 2 works will continue in 2024 where a preferred route corridor option will be selected, and further non-statutory Public Consultation will take place on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Cavan Leitrim Greenway

Funding was secured to construct a 2.9km section of Greenway from Corgar towards Aghawillian which will form part of the South Leitrim Greenway. Construction Works started in quarter 3 of 2023 and will be due for completion in mid-2024.

Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway

This project is to provide a Blueway from Carrick on Shannon to Leitrim Village and onto Battlebridge to connect with the Drumshanbo Blueway. Jennings O’Donovan consulting engineers were appointed as design consultants. We are currently at Phase 3 “Detailed Design & Environmental Evaluation”. Significant progress was made in Phase 3 where Irish Drilling Ltd were appointed and commenced Ground and Investigation Contract both on water (River Shannon) and land-based works. Due to exceptional wet weather in 2023, outstanding Ground Investigation will be completed in early 2024 when weather conditions allow in low flying flood plain areas. Topographical and drone surveys were completed. Archaeological digs were carried out in a number of sensitive sites along the route. Ongoing consultation took place with Landowners for access for the Ground Investigation Contract. Detailed Design and Environmental surveys were completed with the aim of completing Phase 3 and lodging proposed detailed application with An Bord Pleanála in quarter 4 of 2024.

Tullaghan - Across to the Sea

This project involves providing an access route to the public down to the seashore at Tullaghan plus a new car park. Funding of €198,00 was obtained for the project under the ORIS scheme. Construction works commenced in 2022 and was completed in 2023 and the scheme is currently open to the public.

Narrow Gauge Trail Drumshanbo

Funding was obtained in 2022 to develop a scenic recreational walk/trail along the route of the Narrow-Gauge Railway around Drumshanbo under the ORIS scheme. Planning consent was secured for the Scheme in 2023 and an application has been made to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the ORIS Scheme for funding to construct the scheme.



Mass Rock Mullagarve

The project was to develop a car park and upgrade of the existing trail to Mullaghgarve Mass Rock.

Funding was obtained under the ORIS scheme and planning consent was obtained in 2022. S Wilkin & Sons Ltd was appointed as contractor to construct the scheme in 2023 and the scheme is completed and open to the public.

Glencar Waterfall

This project is to extend the existing car park at the Glencar amenity plus to develop additional walking routes up to the Dartry Mountains. Funding was secured under the 2023 ORIS scheme to assess options and take the scheme to Planning Stage, work on this continues.

Leitrim Way Trail

Leitrim County Council is a member of the Leitrim Way Management Committee, along with community organisations and other state bodies. Funding was secured in 2022 to improve the pedestrian bridge on the Stoney River, provide protection to the bridge on the Yellow River and provide a new diversion at the Yellow River. The diversion of the Leitrim Way trail contract was awarded in March 2023 and completed in August 2023. The yellow river abutment protection works, and bridge replacement was complete in June 2023.

Tourism Projects

Acres Lake

This project is to construct a Facilities Centre and car park at Acres Lake Drumshanbo. Planning approval was obtained for the development in 2022. ORIS funding was secured for the carpark, which was constructed and opened to the public in late 2023. The construction contract for the facilities building was advertised and we await approval of funding from Fáilte Ireland to appoint a contractor.

Carrick on Shannon Destination Towns

Funding was secured from Fáilte Ireland for this project to enhance the visitor experience within Carrick on Shannon town. Design Consultant DHB Architects were appointed as design consultants. Signitec Ltd were appointed as contractors for the signage contract and these works are completed with new wayfinding signage now in place in the town. Works are ongoing on the construction of the bus shelters and public realm works in 2023.

Other Projects

Hartley Bridge

This project is for a new replacement bridge at Hartley over the River Shannon. Planning approval was granted in December 2023 for the scheme, Work has now commenced on detailed design and Tender documents for the scheme.

Housing Estates

Works were completed in the following estates to complete the outstanding works in accordance with the planning permission received.

Dun Na Bo, Carraig Breac, Cois Locha, An Crannog, Cnoc Na Greine, An Gairdin, Churchfield, The Acres, Forest Grove, Windmill Park, Oakfield Lawns, Melvin Fields, Carbry Coast

Lough Recreational Facility

Works are ongoing on the development of a Masterplan for the facility. 2023 was a hugely successful year where the Home International Rowing Regatta with teams competing from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales where the regatta took place in July 2023. England retained all four trophies at the Home International Rowing Regatta on Saturday 22nd July 2023. An extract from the GB Rowing stated as follows:

“Thank you to hosts Rowing Ireland for a wonderful Regatta on their new course at Lough Rinn. A beautiful course in Couty Leitrim which we hope will be the first of many Home Internationals events on the Lough.”

Other events took place at Lough Rinn including Lough Rinn Rowing Regatta, University Championships and Canoe Ireland held the National Canoe Sprint Championships.

Leitrim applied for further funding from 2023 Sport Capital Funding in the region of €0.5million for further water-based infrastructure on the 8 Lane “Albano” Rowing course.

Home International Rowing Regatta



ROADS TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

2023 was a very busy and productive year in the Roads and Transportation Department with expenditure of in excess of €26 million.

Works completed in 2023 on National Roads include the following:

- **Realignment of the N16 at Drummahon** – Works on this Realignment Scheme are now complete. The North Leitrim Area office completed some additional residual network works in 2023.
- **Realignment of the N16 at Munakill** – Consultants working on Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Works are ongoing.
- **Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Project** - N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Project has progressed as follows:
 - Preferred Transport Solution – Phase 2 Options Selection phase is now concluded, and the consultants have commenced Phase 3, the Design and Environmental Evaluation. In line with the Ministers wishes, the by-pass element of the N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project is being prioritized.
 - Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation is progressing.
 - Surveys 2023 – Ongoing Contracts in 2023: -
 - Ground Investigation Contract
 - Topographical Survey Contract
 - Noise and Air Monitoring
 - Ecology Survey Contract
 - Individual meetings are taking place with directly impacted landowners in advance of the next public consultation in early 2024

National Road Safety Inspection Implementation Programme

During the year, Leitrim County Council progressed a number of Road Safety schemes on National Roads on consultation with the TII. These included:-

N16 at Strabrick Junction – The Area office commenced preliminary work on this scheme in 2023.

N15 Tullaghan Traffic Calming – Preliminary Design report completed. Since the preliminary design report was approved by the TII, a new Cycling Design Manual (CDM) was published towards the end of 2023. Following an assessment of the new CDM, Leitrim County Council has raised a number of queries with the TII. Once the TII clarifies these queries, Leitrim County Council can then commence the preparation of documents for Part 8 Planning.

N16 Glencar Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) Scheme – Leitrim County Council to commence preliminary design report as feasibility and options report has been approved by the TII.

National Road Pavement Overlay Schemes

- **N15 Redbrae to Donegal County Boundary** – Works on this Pavement Overlay Scheme are substantially completed. Defects period will end in Quarter 1 2024.
- **N16 Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 1** – Works were substantially completed in 2023 on this Pavement Overlay Scheme which involved a 3.0 km section of the N16.
- **N16 Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 2** – PARRs report has been approved and consultants are currently completing the design and tender documents for this pavement overlay scheme which is 1.44 km in length.
- **N4 Carrick on Shannon Pavement Overlay Scheme** – PARRs report has been approved and consultants are currently completing the design and tender documents for this pavement overlay scheme which is 1.9 km in length.

Works completed in 2023 on Non-National Roads include the following:

- 97 km of Non-National Roads were strengthened in 2023.
- 78 km of Non-National Roads were surface dressed in 2023.

Drainage Grant

A total of 24 drainage schemes were completed in 2023 at a cost of €455,500. A further €51,580 was spent on the Drainage Districts.

Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Bridge Rehabilitation Works were completed on a total of 12 Bridges throughout the County in 2023. Works on the de vegetation of 18 Bridges throughout the County were completed in early 2023.

Hartley Bridge

This Project for the replacement of Hartley Bridge over the River Shannon progressed during the year. Part 8 Planning Approval for this Project was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2023.

Lennox Bridge

Phase 2 Options report was submitted to Department of Transport for approval to proceed to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation earlier on this year. The Department of Transport, Regional and Local Roads Division has reviewed the Options Report Submitted by Leitrim County Council and following further discussions and clarifications with the design team the initial Phase 2 options report was revised and resubmitted to the department.

Safety Improvement Works

Safety Improvement Works under the Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works Programme were completed at a total of 7 locations in the County in 2023

Speed Limit Signs and Cycle Safety Signs

Speed Limit Signs were erected in newly Taken-in-Charge Housing Estates. Rural Speed Limit Signs and Cycle Safety Signs were provided at various locations on Regional and Local Roads

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)

There were 7 CIS Schemes completed in 2023 with the CIS Grant Allocation of €307,350.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience Works Allocation 2022

This funding is provided to address the impact of climate change on the road network. A total of 4 schemes were completed in 2023 at a total cost of €345,000.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Programme

This Scheme provides funding for the upgrade of Private/Non-Public Roads that comply with certain conditions including access to a number of parcels of land. A new LIS Policy was adopted by Leitrim County Council in 2022 and following this, the LIS Scheme was re-opened to new applications with effect from 1st November 2022 for a limited period until 27th January 2023. A total of 208 new LIS applications were received. Following Validation of applications, a marked and prioritised LIS Waiting List was established with 178 Applications. In 2023, there were 23 Local Improvement Scheme Projects completed in the county at a total cost of €1,296,393 and a LIS Grant of €1,135,725.

Winter Maintenance

Treatment of Roads under the Winter Maintenance Program continued during the winter season of 2023. In total 490 km of roads were salted when required, and this included all National and Regional roads and some strategic local roads.



Brocky Bridge, Tawley, North Leitrim

Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme

The uptake on this Grant Scheme has continued to increase since its introduction, with a total of 57 Hedge Cutting Grants totalling €18,233 paid under the 2022/2023 Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme. This is an increase of 11% on the previous year. The Hedge Cutting Grant amounts to €75 per km of hedge rows and trees cut along the public road network.

Other Works

The Roads Department also undertook many other projects throughout the year with assistance from other funding streams. In some instances, projects were undertaken in conjunction with Community Groups. Examples of these works included upgrades at Amenities, provision of footpaths, pedestrian crossings.

Active Travel

Leitrim County Council Active Travel Section completed 13 Schemes and claimed a total of €1,910,853 from the National Transport Authority in 2023.

The following schemes were completed:

Kinlough – Shared path from Melvin Fields Housing Estate towards the village centre including a tabletop junction.



Kinlough - Footpath at Darty View connecting housing estate to village centre.

- Dromahaire – Upgrade and widening of footpaths in Drumlease Estate.
- Kiltyclogher – Footpath works linking church to village centre.
- Ballinamore – Footpath and Pedestrian Crossing at Oughteragh.
- Annaduff - Footpath linking Annaduff National School with houses along L3470.
- Roosky – Shared path linking Osprey, Shannon Quay and The Lock Housing Estates to village.
- Drumshanbo – Footpath on Church Street linking Drumshanbo Vocational School to town centre.
- Drumshanbo – Footpath on Dowra Road linking Radharc na Baile with town centre.
- Drumshanbo – Footpath connecting Mountain View Housing with town centre.
- Leitrim Village – Footpath connecting Community Pitch with Village centre.
- Low Cost Junction Tightening - Corryard Wood tabletop junction.
- Safe Routes to Schools – Drumlease National School – Front of School Zone improvement works.

Projects commenced in 2023 and will be completed in early 2024:

- Tullaghan – Provision of a Footpath connecting housing estates and village centre.
- Drumkeerin Active Travel – Footpath and pedestrian crossing at Lough Allen College.
- Permeability Link – Footpath linking Cara Court & Glen Carrick Housing Estates to Summerhill Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Safe Routes to Schools – St Clare’s National School, Manorhamilton.
- Safe Routes to Schools – Scoil Mhuire, Carrick-on-Shannon.
- Rooskey Bridge Active Travel Measures.

Road Safety

County Leitrim Road Safety Strategy 2023 – 2030 and Phase 1 Road Safety Action Plan 2023 – 2024

The County Leitrim Road Safety Strategy 2023 – 2030 and Phase 1 Road Safety Action Plan 2023 – 2024 was published and launched at a Meeting of the Road Safety Working Together Group on 23rd November 2023. This Strategy is based on the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 - The primary aim of this Strategy is to reduce the number of road deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads by 50% by 2030 and the long term goal is to achieve Vision Zero by 2050 - i.e. zero road deaths or serious injuries. Specifically, in relation to County Leitrim, the Targets are as follows:-

Road Safety Working Together Group

2 meetings of the newly reformed Road Safety Working Together Group were held in 2023. This Working Group consists of representatives from the following 9 Stakeholders:-

- Leitrim County Council
- Road Safety Authority
- An Garda Síochána – Roads Policing Unit
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- Carrick on Shannon Education Centre
- An Taisce, Green Schools Representative
- North Connaught Youth Services Representative
- Health Services Executive (HSE)
- Leitrim Comhairle

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Leitrim County Council Road Safety Office in respect of Road Safety in 2023:-

Road Safety Education – - Leitrim County Council Road Safety Office held a Road Safety Education Event at Mohill Community College over 2 days on 10th & 11th October 2023 – Approx. 200 Students (Senior Cycle Students from Mohill Community College and Students from Youth Reach Facility in Mohill) benefitted from this Road Safety Event – Presentations were given to the students by Leitrim County Council Road Safety Officer, RSA Road Safety Education Officer and An Garda Síochána Roads Policing Unit. The RSA Shuttle also attended this event. An Garda Síochána gave a briefing to students which included a newly developed Road Safety Programme called “Life Saver” – Mohill Community College was one of the first schools in this region to benefit from this new Road Safety Programme.

Promotion of Road Safety – Promotion of Road Safety on our Website and Social Media and close and ongoing liaison with the Road Safety Authority in relation to the promotion of Road Safety and Education on Road Safety

Leitrim County Council Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan – Leitrim County Council Road Safety Office are working on a new Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan in line with the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 and Action Plan 2021 – 2024. It is hoped to have this Strategy and Action Plan adopted by mid 2023.

Completed Active Travel Scheme at Leitrim Village





Our Organisation

ENHANCE LOCAL DEMOCRACY

BUILD CAPACITY

PROVIDE ASSURANCE

CORPORATE SERVICES

Meetings of Leitrim County Council

The January and March 2022 plenary council meetings were held online. In person meetings returned in May 2022, with the May meeting being held in the Kilbracken Arms Hotel in Carrigallen. Due to refurbishments to the Council Chamber, the July meeting took place in Áras Padraig, Drumshanbo and the September meeting took place in The Bush Hotel Carrick-on-Shannon. On completion of the refurbishment works, meetings took place again in the Council Chamber in November 2022. Two special meetings of Leitrim County Council were held in January and October in relation to the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029.

County Council Meetings	
Annual Meeting	1
Bi-Monthly Meetings	6
Budget Meeting	1
Special Meeting	2

Annual Meeting of Leitrim County Council

The Annual Meeting took place on Friday 30th June 2023. Councillor Justin Warnock was elected Cathaoirleach. Cllr Paddy O'Rourke was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) consists of the Cathaoirleach and the Chairpersons of the three Strategic Policy Committees and is supported by the Chief Executive. There were 6 meetings of the Corporate Policy Group during 2023.

Municipal Districts

The Municipal Districts of Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton held 11 ordinary meetings each over the course of 2023. Each of the respective Municipals Districts also held an Annual Meeting in June 2023 at which each Municipal District elected one of their members as Cathaoirleach for the following 12 months period.

- Ballinamore Municipal District:
Councillor Paddy O'Rourke
- Carrick-on-Shannon Municipal District:
Councillor Enda Stenson
- Manorhamilton Municipal District:
Councillor Felim Gurn

The number of meetings of each Municipal District is set out in the table below:

Municipal District	Meetings	Annual Meetings
Ballinamore	11	1
Carrick-on-Shannon	12*	1
Manorhamilton	11	1

*Carrick MD held 11 meetings and 1 special meeting

Audit Committee

The committee comprises 2 (two) elected members and 3 (three) external members. The elected members appointed to the Committee are Cllr Enda McGloin and Cllr Paddy O'Rourke. The role of the Audit Committee is to advise the Council on financial reporting process, internal control, risk management and audit matters. A total of 4 meetings were held in 2023.

Joint Policing Committee

The Joint Policing Committee meet on 4 occasions in 2023 and progressed actions included in the Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan. A public meeting was held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 in Community Room, Mohill Library, Mohill, Co. Leitrim, N41 HP29.

Strategic Policy Committees

Regular meetings of the Planning, Economic Development, & Infrastructure SPC; the Housing Policy, Community & Culture SPC, and the Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC took place throughout 2023. A number of policy matters and grants schemes were progressed and brought to plenary Council for adoption, Examples of policy successfully brought through the SPC process to plenary council include the 'Love Where you Live Awards' Scheme amongst other.

Cllr Justin Warnock received the Chain of Office from out-going Cathaoirleach Cllr Ita Flynn on his election as Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council at the Annual meeting in June.



Payments to Members of Leitrim County Council 2023	
Cathaoirleachs' Allowance	€20,000 (n line with National Regulations)
Leas Cathaoirleachs' Allowance	€4,000 (n line with National Regulations)
Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons' Allowance	€18,000 (n line with National Regulations)
Municipal District Chairpersons' Allowance	€18,000 (n line with National Regulations)
Members' Representational Payments	€519,656.76
Members' Annual Allowance	€56,538.87
Members' Local Representational Allowance	€784.53
Total	€674,509.51

Customer Services initiatives

In 2023 we began the redevelopment of the Council's website. This will lead to enhanced customer experience, better accessibility for people with disabilities, improved service delivery and interactions with customers. The project has involved a rethink and redesign of how we present information to the public to ensure accurate, concise and useable information is available. New features which will be introduced over time will allow online forms and applications to be developed, online payments and improved communications.

Leitrim Alerts, a County wide emergency messaging system was launched at a JPC meeting in January 2023. The service, which provides members of the public with Garda crime alerts, extreme weather warnings, as well as other information, has been warmly received by citizens of Leitrim. Over 2,200 people have so far registered to use the service and the majority have chosen to join their local community alert group. The service which provides members of the public alerts via a dedicated app, email or SMS continues to go from strength to strength.

Register of Electors

In 2023, a significant amount of work took place verifying the data on the Leitrim Register of Electors. In order to highlight the new Rolling Register, which enables voters to register or update their details through www.checktheregister.ie, number of campaigns took place across our social media platforms, engagements with local press and radio aimed at raising awareness of the new Register. In July, a leaflet drop took place with leaflets and application forms delivered to approximately 10,000 homes in the County. In October, over 4,500 letters were issued to electors whose details were incomplete on the register. As a result of this work, by year end, over 2,500 electors had their details updated in 2023.

The Leitrim Register of Electors had the following voter numbers at year end:

Local Electoral Areas	Local Government Electors
Ballinamore	9,298
Carrick-on-Shannon	8,648
Manorhamilton	8,874
Total	26,820

Freedom of Information

There was a total of 70 FOI requests received in 2023. This was on a par with the previous years as shown in the chart below:



See Her Elected – Council Chamber Flip

In March 2023, an initiative through the See Her Elected programme, saw the membership of the Council Chamber ‘flipped’ with 15 women, either existing local representatives or having an interest in community and local politics filling the seats normally occupied by their 15 male counterparts.

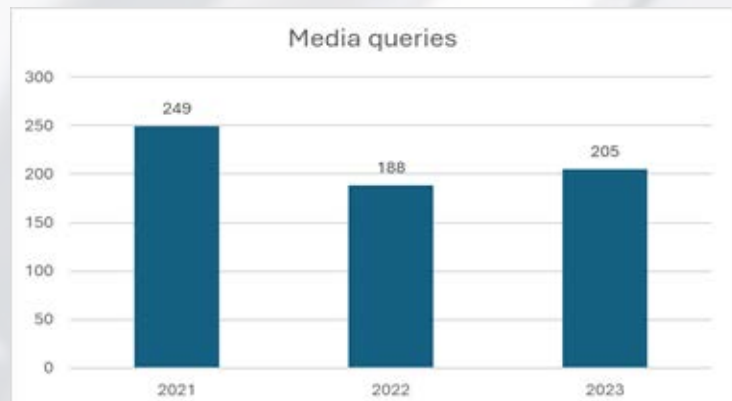
This initiative was aimed at getting more women involved in leadership roles in the community and considering a career as a political representative. This initiative was underpinned by lectures and events which were delivered through the Library.



Communications Office

We continued to grow our social media following across Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. Our social media following continued to show strong growth with an 11% increase in followers on 2022, with Facebook being the main platform through which the public engage with us. Social media remains a critical platform through which we promote our services and activities.

Engagement with Local and national media remained consistent with previous years with local media organisations accounting for 56.5% of all engagement.



Oifig na Gaeilge.

Déanann Comhairle Contae Liatroma a dícheall an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn trí chlár a sheachadtar trínár réimsí feidhme Leabharlanna agus Ealaíon. Cuireann an Chomhairle ár seirbhísí agus ár ngníomhaíochtaí chun cinn trí Ghaeilge, ar ár gcainéal meáin shóisialta agus ar bhealaí fógraíochta eile.

Data Protection Subject Access Requests.

Leitrim County Council received 34 requests from An Garda Síochána for access to CCTV footage from the Community CCTV System in place in Carrick on Shannon during 2023. Leitrim County Council received 12 requests from private individuals for access to their personal records under the Data Protection legislation, all of which were granted. This is a 50% increase on the number of requests received from private individuals in the previous year.

FACILITIES, ENERGY & ASSETS

Facilities - Refurbishment works

Áras an Chontae

In October 2023, Sammon Developments Ltd. commenced the construction works of the Central Customer Services Unit refurbishment in the Áras an Chontae Building. The objectives of the Central Customer Services Unit project are to rearrange the ground floor of the Áras an Chontae Building so as to provide a secure Central Customer Services Unit, private consultation rooms for visitors and officials, reception area and concourse area. The works are scheduled to be completed in May 2024.

Energy Management- Border Region Energy Unit

Leitrim County Council completed the tender process in 2023 and engaged the consultancy services of MosArt Architects to design energy improvement works as part of the SEAI Local Authority Energy Pathfinder Programme. The project will involve significant energy improvement works to a number of selected Leitrim County Council owned Buildings. The main objective of this Programme is to implement a range of retrofit and renewable heating solutions in the buildings, incorporate energy efficient design principles and develop a replicable scalable retrofit model for the building stock to help deliver on the sectors energy and decarbonisation targets. The intent is to optimize improvements concerning fabric and ventilation, improve efficiency of lighting and HVAC systems and deliver space heating by means of renewable heat.

As part of the Border Region Energy Unit, Leitrim County Council continue to collaborate with SEAI, Monaghan and Cavan County Councils to pool resources and maximise funding opportunities to reduce energy usage and emissions by 50% by 2030 and improve energy management within the organisation.

UKRAINIAN RESPONSE

Leitrim County Council in conjunction with many other agencies and community groups provides a range of supports to refugees living in the county and specifically work with new arrivals. The Council administers and chairs the Ukrainian Community Response Forum comprising of agencies, community, and voluntary organisations active locally, dealing with accommodation, health, education, employment, and integration issues.

Leitrim currently accommodates 1900 refugees using commercial accommodation as well as the 'offer a home scheme' which takes advantage of unoccupied properties within the county.

Under the Community Recognition Fund 2023, 13 community led projects were allocated €2.1 million in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development addressing local needs in community infrastructure & facilities and recognising the valuable contribution that communities have made in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Drumshanbo Athletics Club - Athletic Track and Training Facility funded under Community Recognition Fund 2023 by Department of Rural and Community Development



HUMAN RESOURCES

Recruitment and Workforce Planning

In terms of workforce planning, 2023 was another very busy year with significant staff movement. Our overall Staffing Number at 31st December 2023 was 348, with an additional 47 Part Time Retained Fire Fighters. A total of 35 Recruitment Competitions were completed in 2023 with a further 12 competitions live at year end. Interviews were conducted through a combination of in-person and online interviews.

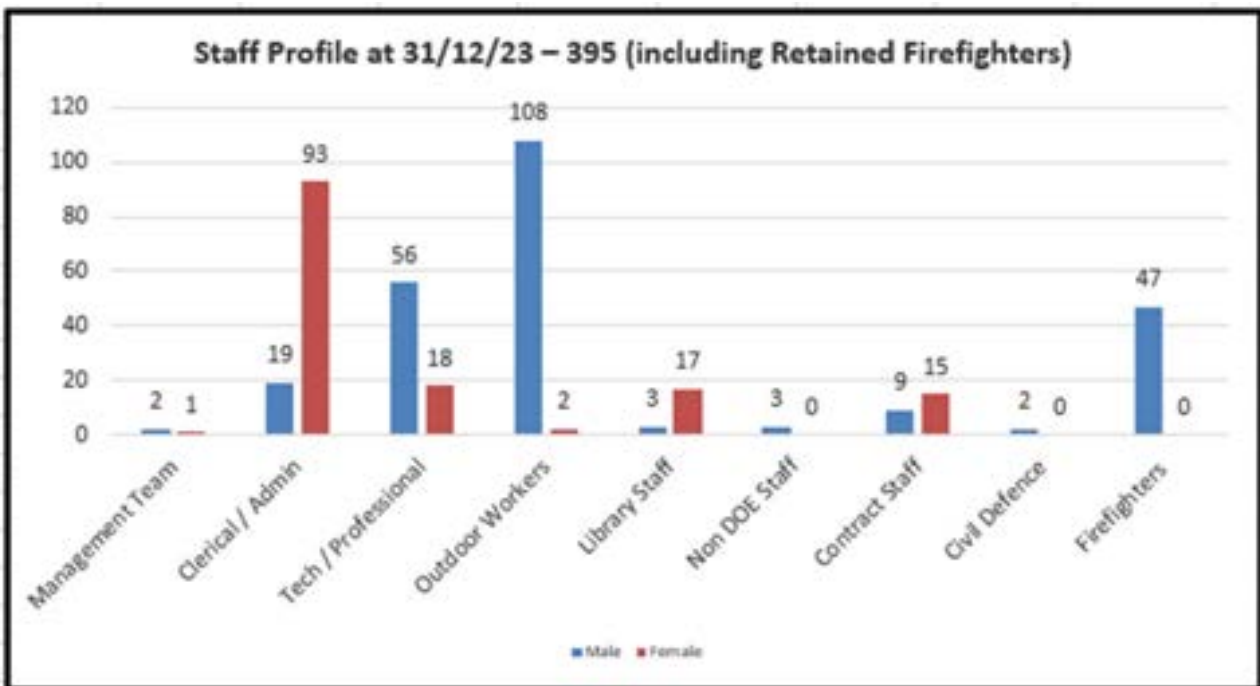
53 new staff commenced work with Leitrim County Council during the year, on a mix of permanent and temporary contracts, with a further 25 existing staff having secured permanent appointments and/or promotion. 32 Staff left Leitrim County Council employment during the year to take up alternative employment opportunities, or due to contracts ending etc. There were also 6 Staff Retirements during 2023.

WAM Graduate Placement Programme

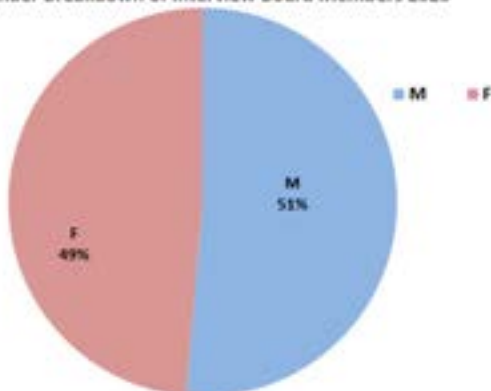
Leitrim County Council participated in the WAM Local Authorities Placement programme in 2023 with a 6 month placement facilitated in our HR Department. The WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) Programme is a graduate work placement programme which promotes access to roles for graduates with disabilities. The programme is managed by Ahead and was rolled out on a co-ordinated basis following collaboration between AHEAD and the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency).

Industrial Relations

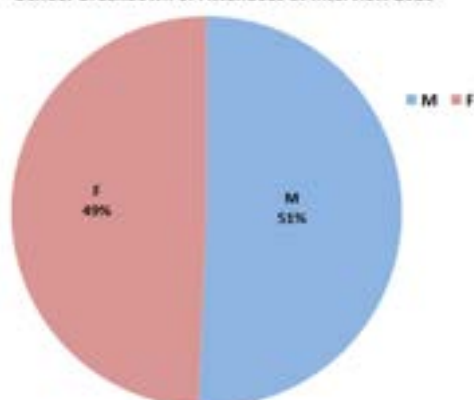
National Industrial Relations issues impacted all Local Authorities during 2023 in relation to Water Services and the transition to Uisce Éireann and also in relation to terms and conditions for the Retained Fire Service. Agreements were successfully negotiated at national level in relation to both industrial disputes.



Gender Breakdown of Interview Board Members 2023



Gender Breakdown of Attendees at Interview 2023



Blended Working

A comprehensive Blended Working Policy & Procedure, aligned to the Sectoral Blended Working Framework, was developed and approved during the year. The implementation of blended working will, at its fundamental starting point, focus on our organizational needs. Blended Working is being implemented while maintaining our commitment to the delivery of the highest standard of public services directly to citizens and local communities. The application process for a formal blended working arrangement was ongoing at year end, with the decision and approval process scheduled to be complete by end January 2023. Formal blended working arrangements will be the subject of ongoing monitoring and review.

Learning and Development

A significant Learning and Development Programme was delivered across 2023, with an ongoing focus on online training initiatives where practicable. A significant Line Management training programme was commenced for relevant staff in 2023. The Staff Education Scheme was also rolled out providing support to staff members pursuing further education opportunities. The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) continued to be linked to the Annual Service Delivery Plan and the associated Departmental Team Plans in 2023.

HR Management System

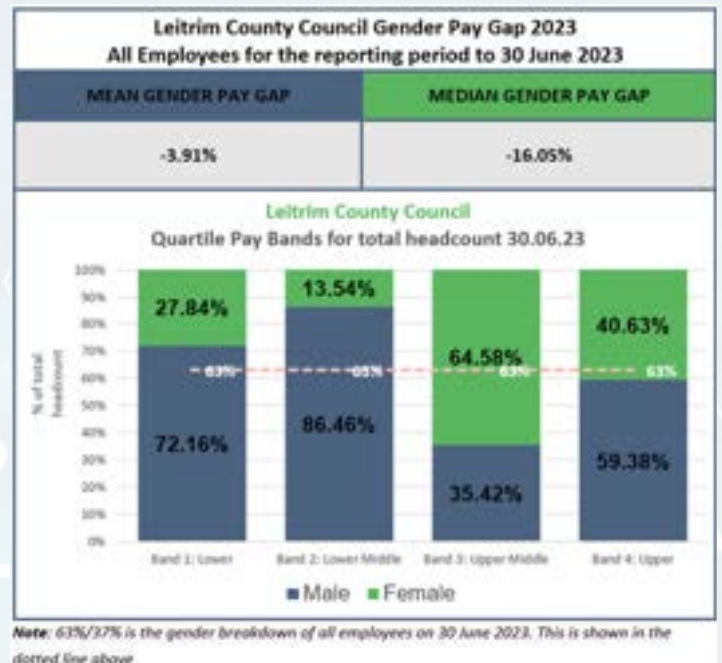
CORE HRM system is constantly evolving with ongoing significant changes and upgrades being implemented locally as part of a wider national optimization project. A new national Data Analytics reporting solution – Makodata - was also implemented in 2022, facilitating enhanced reporting and analytical capacity. The Service Level Agreement with the Local Authority Shared Payroll & Superannuation Centre in Portlaoise – MyPay – continued to operate successfully during 2022.

Staff Support

Staff, Elected Members and their immediate families continued to be supported through our Employee Assistance Service which provides free and confidential counselling service and advice.

Gender Pay Gap

Leitrim County Council published its first Gender Pay Gap Report in December 2022 under the provisions of the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021. The gender pay gap is the difference in the average hourly wage of men and women across a workforce. Employers with more than 250 employees in Ireland are required to publish their gender pay gap data.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

The main focus for the first quarter of 2023 was the roll out of the 'locally adopted' National Blended Working Policy and Procedure. A significant number of Display Screen Equipment (DSE) & Workstation Assessments were conducted in addition to follow up assessments and the ordering, management & provision of specialist equipment. This new hybrid approach required significant thought and consideration to ensure that Leitrim County Council fulfilled its health and safety obligations for staff members while working remotely.

Work continued on 'Emergency Call-Out' protocols with the second of a suite of three no. Active Risk Assessments published, assisting outdoor supervisory staff with the dynamic nature of high risk tasks at hand.

In line with our obligations under the General Application Regulations, 2007, a substantial Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) programme was established. 3,842 items of electrical equipment throughout the county were tested, this time round, we experienced additional logistical issues arising from the hybrid nature of the working environment.

The Health & Safety section played an integral role in the preparation of the Uisce Eireann (UE) transition, with the finalisation and subsequent circulation of policies, procedures, manuals and all safety related documentation to our UE counterparts.

2023 proved a very positive year in relation to incident reporting. Remarkably, zero lost time hours were recorded making it the second year in a row to never have a HSA reportable injury.

Other highlights include;
A number of Positive HSA Inspections with no significant areas of concern;
Successful Health Screening Programme offered to staff;
Reform of the Corporate Safety Statement, making it more user friendly;
Revision of Leitrim County Council's Policy and Procedure of the Management of Contractors and the subsequent development of an Electronic Contractor Register assisting the organisation in centralising the management of legal appointments.

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the following:

- Financial Management and Oversight
- Accounts Receivable
- Accounts Payable and Agresso Support
- Procurement
- Internal Audit
- Production and Publication of Financial Information including the Annual Budget and the Annual Financial Statement

Actual Expenditure 2023 (Unaudited)	
Housing and Building	€6,665,470
Road Transport and Safety	€24,006,381
Water Services	€3,853,084
Development Management	€7,218,592
Environment Services	€4,991,261
Recreation and Amenity	€3,527,838
Agri, Education, Health & Welfare	€625,726
Miscellaneous Services	€3,354,468
Total	€54,242,820

Revenue Collection

In 2023, a total of 1,137 commercial rates customers received their rates demands to the value of €6.5 million. The table below summarises revenue collection performance since 2019:

Revenue Income % Collection 2019-2023			
Years	Rates	Rents	Housing Loans
2019	83%	90%	65%
2020	72%	91%	70%
2021	74%	95%	75%
2022	80%	97%	81%
2023	77%	98%	84%

In 2023, a 98% collection figure was achieved for housing rents which represents a 1% increase in the collection achieved in 2022 at 97%. The Finance Team engage with rent customers in arrears to ensure that the customers put a Payment Plan in place to address rent arrears. Recourse to legal proceedings is always a last resort, however, the council initiated legal proceedings against a number of tenants for breaches of their tenancy agreement by non-payment of rent.

Similarly, housing loan collection increased in 2023 by 3% overall from 81% to 84%.

The collection for commercial rates was a 77% collection figure of commercial rates was achieved in 2023. The Revenue Team engaged with customers on an ongoing basis to maximise income collection from commercial rates and will continue to work with ratepayers to discharge their annual rates liabilities.

Motor Taxation

The Motor Tax Service continued to be delivered in 2023 via the Customer Services Unit in Aras-an-Chontae. In 2023, a total of 7,046 vehicle licence transactions were processed by staff in the Customer Services Unit with applications submitted with customers attending in person or alternatively submitting postal applications.

Motor Tax applications processed in the Motor Tax Office/Customer Services Unit	7,046
Motor Tax applications processed online	30,009
Total	37,005

The figures for 2023 represent a further decline in activity in 2022 in terms of the motor tax applications processed by the Leitrim Motor Tax Office. This is largely attributable to a change in customer behaviour where customers that may have traditionally used the Motor Tax Office to tax their vehicles availed of the online motor tax service. The online motor tax service allows customers to renew their Motor Tax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through the website www.motortax.ie. In 2023, a total of 80.99% of Motor Tax Transactions were conducted online for Co. Leitrim motorists.

Appendix 1 - Statement of Internal Financial Control for the financial year 2023

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Joseph Gilhooly, Interim Chief Executive (CE) of Leitrim County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Leitrim County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Leitrim City or County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Leitrim County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Leitrim County Council.

The key sources of income for Leitrim County Council are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Goods & Services	10,200,018	9,553,481
Grants & Subsidies	28,040,643	26,176,330
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	408,733	228,430
Rates	6,817,665	6,525,465
Local Property Tax	9,222,888	9,283,968

Appendix 1 - Statement of Internal Financial Control for the financial year 2023



Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows: *Some commentary needs to be inserted about the movement of income between the current year and the previous year under the following headings:*

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Income	54,689,947	51,767,674
Expenditure	54,242,820	51,751,722
Transfers to Capital	1,059,302	888,871
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for	(1,385)	4,028
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	(250,581)	(254,609)
Closing Revenue Reserve	(251,966)	(250,581)

Leitrim County Council has continued to implement a programme of monitoring and review of expenditure to ensure that budgetary limits are not exceeded. The effect of such tight budgetary management and control has resulted in a deficit of €1,365 in 2023, thereby increasing the cumulative revenue deficit to €251,966.

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets Leitrim County Council at the end of 2023 total € 913,111,420 and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Fixed Assets	897,782,226	885,822,841
Works in Progress	16,134,196	15,508,101

Appendix 1 - Statement of Internal Financial Control for the financial year 2023



Long Term debtors	6,152,128	6,894,477
Current Assets	18,208,795	22,519,735
Current Liabilities	4,880,431	7,363,355
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	13,328,365	15,156,380
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	20,285,494	21,398,226
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	913,111,420	901,983,574

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Leitrim County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Leitrim County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Leitrim County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As CE of Leitrim County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Leitrim County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

Appendix 1 - Statement of Internal Financial Control for the financial year 2023



- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

Leitrim County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Leitrim County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Leitrim County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Leitrim County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

Appendix 1 - Statement of Internal Financial Control for the financial year 2023



I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Leitrim County Council.

Risk and control framework

Leitrim County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April 2023 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2023.

Signed by:

Dated:

Chief Executive

29/4/24

Appendix 2 - Conference/Seminar Events Attended by The Elected Members

Below is the conference and seminar events attended by Elected Members during 2023.

Month	Details of the Conference/Seminar	Location	# Members Attended
January	“local Authorities Procurement Process” - Celtic Conferences	Cork	3
April	“Inspiring Rural Creativity” - The Suck Valley Way	Roscommon	1
June	“Ireland’s Place in a World Crisis” - Sean MacDiarmada Summer School	Leitrim	16
August	McGill Summer School	Donegal	1
December	“The Irish Social Welfare System” - Celtic Conferences	Cork	4

Appendix 3 - Training Attended By the Elected Members

In Person training returned in 2023 and the table below sets out training events that elected members attended:

Month	Details of Training Events	Location	# Members Attended
February	Association of Irish Local Government Annual Association - “Electoral Reform Act”	Limerick	6
	Southern Region Assembly - “Regions in Focus”	Monaghan	2
March	Local Authority Members Association - Spring Training	Cork	7
April	Association of Irish Local Government - Spring Annual Conference	Kilkenny	6
June	Association of Irish Local Government - Annual Autumn Seminar	Westmeath	2
	Association of Irish Local Government - “Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance	Kilkenny	2
July	Association of Irish Local Government - “Uisce Eireann - A briefing for Councillors”	Sligo	3
September	Association of Irish Local Government - Annual Autumn Seminar	Sligo	5
October	Association of Irish Local Government - “Elected Members Personal Security - Positive Home Workplace and Mobile Security Practices”	Cavan	1
	Association of Irish Local Government - “Elected Members Personal Security - Positive Home Workplace and Mobile Security Practices”	Kerry	8
	Local Authority Members Association - Autumn Seminar	Galway	5
November	Association of Irish Local Government - “Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users”	Galway	8

Appendix 4 - Corporate Plan Progress Report 2023



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA Leitrim County Council



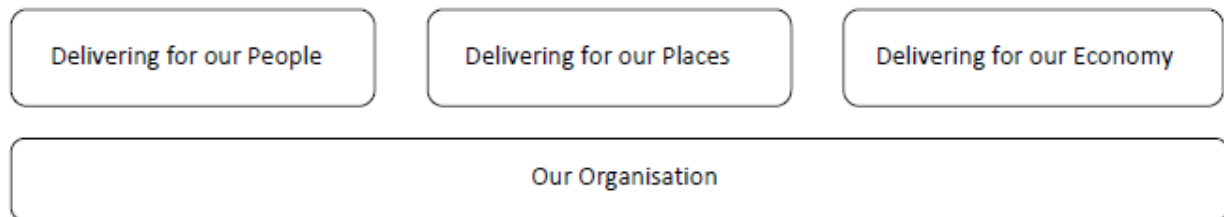
Áras an Chontae,
Cora Droma Ruisc,
22nd December 2023

RE: Corporate Plan-Annual Progress Report 2023

This report is being presented to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The report sets out in summary fashion progress made in relation to commitments set down in the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2019-2024.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 sets out the vision and operational framework for Leitrim County Council for the five year period and together with the Capital Investment Programme 2023 – 28, provides the platform for the continued and progressive development of the County over the specified time period.

In reporting on the progress in 2023 it is recognised that there is a relationship and an inter dependency across the Strategic Objectives as set out within the Corporate Plan, and services delivered in one functional area may achieve the requirements of one or more of the Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives as defined within the Corporate Plan are identified as follows:



Delivering for our People

The current pipeline of projects that have the benefit of DHLGH approval (Stage 1-4) or at advanced project development stage is set out in Table 1 below. The current pipeline represents 130% of the total "Housing for All" build total of 139 from 2022-2026.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Pipeline Total	32	28	53	0	0	113

Table 1

Acquisitions - Leitrim County Council went sale agreed on thirteen houses in 2023 under the housing acquisition programme. Four of these houses were purchased under the Tenant In Situ scheme thereby preventing the risk of homelessness for four families.

Direct Build Programme - The delivery of 20 no. social houses at Pairceanna na Bhaile, Carrick on Shannon, Lahard, Ballinamore and Taobh Tire, Manorhamilton, were completed during 2023. Four additional units were also delivered to Dromahair as part of the Dromahair Regeneration Project.

Turnkey Construction - The Housing Capital Section delivered 4 Social Housing Units through a Turnkey Construction Project in the village of Drumshanbo. The ongoing Expression of Interest process also identified a number of future Turnkey projects for 2024 onward.

A total of 4 additional units were secured in 2023 through Rental Availability Agreements (LTL) and the Mortgage to Rent (MTR) mechanisms.

Part V Agreements- Part V Agreements: Leitrim County Council reached agreement with developers to acquire four Part V units as part of a 41 unit development at Priors Point, Carrick on Shannon and 1 Part V unit as part of a 12 unit development at Allenbrooke Estate, Drumshanbo.

Croí Conaithe- The Vacant Homes Officer (VHO) has undertaken a survey of approximately 800 properties in the main villages and towns during 2023. The VHO will now engage with the owners of specific properties that have potential to be brought back into productive use. Housing Capital is progressing projects in Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, Mohill and Kiltyclogher through the Buy and Renew Construction scheme to help regenerate town centres. To date 80 applications have been received for the Croí Cónaithe Refurbishment Grant of which 48 have been approved. Of the total received, 21 applications have been received for rental properties. Currently 2 applications have been withdrawn and only 1 application has been rejected. The remaining 29 applications are being assessed with additional supporting documentation sought.

Voids & Energy Efficiency - Leitrim County Council secured funding of €165,000 from the DHLGH and upgraded 15 void properties. A further €396,000 was secured for energy efficiency works resulting in an additional 12 properties being upgraded.

Housing Grants Works have been substantially completed on the following grant approvals:

- 37 Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability
- 46 Housing Aid Grants for Older People
- 11 Mobility Aid Grants

Leitrim County Council has also completed 4 extensions and 11 minor works upgrades under the Disabled Person Grants.

Homelessness - Leitrim County Council provided Temporary Emergency Accommodation for 20 Households including 2 family in 2023.

The new Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2022-2026 for Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal was approved by the three councils in March 2023. The Housing First programme continued to support three high need local authority tenants to live independently with additional referrals ongoing.

Traveller Accommodation - Leitrim County Council continued to deliver on its overall targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme with 37 Housing solutions provided since July 2019 well in excess of the original target of 25. Leitrim County Council procured the traveller Approved Housing body CENA to undertake an overall assessment of the existing Shannonside View Traveller Accommodation. An action plan for Shannonside View is now being developed.

Private Rental Inspections - Leitrim County Council has exceeded the target set by the DHLGH of 320 dwelling inspections during 2023.

Resettlement and Tenancy Support - Leitrim County Council procured the services of Focus Ireland during 2023 to strengthen its Resettlement and Tenancy Support role, with cases referred to the Focus support worker to help ensure new and existing tenancies are sustained.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Transition of Group Water Schemes to Irish Water - Measure 5 - Multi Annual Programme: Uisce Éireann (Formerly Irish Water) are currently in the process of taking in charge the Glenboy/Glenfarne GWS which is one of the larger schemes in County Leitrim. There are a number of other Group Schemes with Uisce Éireann for taking in charge and Leitrim County Council will continue to advance the process to facilitate Uisce Éireann taking these schemes in charge.

Billing for Group Water Schemes: The Rural Water Section continue to engage with Uisce Éireann to resolve outstanding billing issues delaying the taking in charge process.

Subsidy payments continue to be made to eligible schemes.

FIRE SERVICES

- The Part 8 application for the new fire station in Manorhamilton was prepared and submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- Leitrim Fire Service is finalising a regional major emergency exercise in Leitrim before the end of the year.
- Leitrim fire service has received capital funding to procure a new water tanker. Delivery of the tanker is expected before year end.
- Capital funding was secured to procure a second-hand Class B vehicle for Leitrim. The Fire Service are working to procure this vehicle and hope to have it delivered before the end of 2023.
- A replacement programme for Breathing Apparatus equipment was delivered during 2023.
- The Erasmus+ BfireSafeatSchool project (fire safety education programme led by Leitrim County Council) won two international awards at the start of 2023. Leitrim Fire Service are continuing to roll out this programme to all post primary schools in Leitrim.
- Leitrim Fire Service continues to work as a project partner in the Erasmus+ EduFire Toolkit project which is developing a new wildfire education programme for post primary students.
- Implementation of the WRC agreement relating to firefighters will commence in late 2023.
- The Building Control function continues to be expanded around Market Surveillance.
- Leitrim Fire Service continues to contribute to further cross border cooperation in the area of emergency management as part of the Cross Border Emergency Management Group.

CIVIL DEFENCE

- Leitrim Civil Defence participated in a number of search and recovery activities during 2023, in collaboration with other state agencies.
- Leitrim Civil Defence continued to support the Environmental Section in lake water sampling in conjunction with the EPA.

LIBRARY

2023 was a very busy year for Leitrim Library Service. The re-opening of Carrick-on-Shannon Library in its new location on Bridge Street was a particular highlight. The visibility and accessibility of the library has resulted in significant increases in footfall and library membership. Fit out works to facilitate a 'My Open Library' service was carried out in Drumshanbo Library and building works commenced on the new Dromahair Library Development.

- A very successful 2023 Ireland Reads Campaign ran in February with library staff engaging in short video recordings to promote reading for both adults and children.
- Leitrim Library Book Club members participated in a Cross Border 'Bridge Across Difference' project with readers from Enniskillen, Omagh and Cavan.
- Children from 4 primary schools in North Leitrim enjoyed sessions in Kiltyclogher Library as part of the DRCD funded 'Making Connections' project
- Over 900 children participated in the 2023 Summer Stars Reading initiative as part of the national Right to Read Programme
- A large number of events took place across the branch library network under the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme and Healthy Leitrim initiative.
- Leitrim County Council's Decade of Centenaries Action Plan for 2023 was approved and funding in the amount of €50,000 was allocated.
- Leitrim County Council's Decade of Centenaries National Day of Commemoration took place in July in Manorhamilton's Garden of Remembrance and Reflection.
- The very popular Digital Skills programme recommenced with sessions running in 5 branch libraries.
- 4 Leitrim Library staff members were involved in the ADELE (Advancing Digital Empowerment of Libraries in Europe).
- Over 500 surveys were received as part of the public consultation process which took place regarding the new Leitrim Library 5 year Development Plan 2023-2027.

LEITRIM SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Leitrim Sports Partnership continues to contribute towards increasing participation among diverse sections of society, with a special emphasis on promoting and delivering physical activity for 5 disadvantaged and in active communities. The following are some of the programme highlights for 2023:

- The Leitrim Sports Partnership have secured over €600,000 in sports and physical activity investment in Leitrim through our main funding partner.
- Through the Covid 19 Community Grant scheme fund, over €45,000 in funding to 37 sports clubs and community groups was awarded in 2023.
- Through the Dormant accounts funding, over €188,000 in funding was secured, towards the first Disability Sports Hub for the County, along with funding for the Lough Rinn Sports Hub and the Drumshanbo Sports Hub.
- Through our club development grants, in excess of €5,000 was awarded to 13 sports clubs and community groups as part of club development and active participation.
- As part of National Bike Week 2023, 40 events took place around the County with 1,364 participating on many different cycling events and activities.
- Through education and training initiatives for club coaches, volunteers and sports leaders, the sports partnership has completed 8 Safeguarding 1 courses, 1 Safeguarding 2 course and 1 safeguarding 3 course with 107 attending the courses. We also have completed 4 first aid courses for sport with 69 participants.
- The Social Inclusion Development Officer (SIDO) has delivered an extensive and exciting variety of disability, multi-sport programmes in partnership with our disability partners.
- Through the SIDO programme, the sports partnership has delivered workshops, chair exercises, scooch, bowling, Go for Life Games and cycling workshops for the active age groups, and the women's groups and men's sheds to over 600 people in the county.
- Through the Disadvantaged Communities Programme, the sports partnership has delivered 12 programmes to over 300 participants from Ukraine and people living in Direct Provision e.g. volleyball, fitness classes, multi-sports, kayaking & horse-riding.
- As part of the WIS (Women in Sport) funding, the sports partnership delivered 5 Women on the Water kayaking 6-week programmes to 82 women around the county. Programmes were held in Ballinamore and Drumshanbo with 20 participants.
- A Leitrim Sports Star Awards night was held on the 4th February in The Landmark Hotel with 180 in attendance. A total of 16 awards were presented on the night.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland Round 4 A Healthy County Co-ordinator commenced in November 2022 and funding of €198,122.42 was secured for activities and planning to fund the implementation of a three-year strategy in Leitrim. In October 2023, Healthy Leitrim launched the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Leitrim' initiative in the Landmark Hotel. A total of forty Breastfeeding Friendly locations across County Leitrim have signed up and this initiative will continue in 2024.

PEACEPLUS Programme A PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee was formed comprising of 18 members representing the 4 Pillars in 2022. SEUPB (Special EU Programmes Body) notified the Council that the indicative budget for Leitrim is €3,334,009. This is the maximum amount that can be allocated to Leitrim. Work progressed throughout 2023 on the development of the Peaceplus Action Plan and the application was submitted to SEPUB in early October 2023. A decision on the application is expected in March 2024.

In addition, an application was also made to the SEUPB under the PEACEPLUS Programme under Theme 1, Investment Area 1.4 – Reimagining Communities. The investment of €9.8m sought, is to establish a new iconic, transformative, inclusive Shared Space at Shannonside Recreational Campus (the SRC) in Carrick on Shannon by June, 2027.

Public Participation Network (PPN) The Leitrim PPN continued to work with community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations throughout the county. There are over 400 groups in

Comhairle na Nóg Liatroma continues to enjoy the support of all second level schools and youth clubs in Leitrim. Ms. Hannah Flynn was appointed as the Comhairle Co-Ordinator. Comhairle na Nóg Leitrim recently won two prestigious awards, the Garda Youth Award for Best Group in the Leitrim/Sligo Garda District, highlighting their outstanding contribution to the community and the PPFs National Child and Youth Participation Award for their work with Moving Parents and Children Together.

Leitrim Volunteer Centre SLA is in place with the Council and the Leitrim Volunteer Centre. The Leitrim Volunteer Awards will be held on 3rd November 2023.

The Leitrim Age Friendly Alliance and Older Persons Council's continued in 2023 with regular meetings of both groups held. Leitrim County Council was shortlisted for an award at the National Age Friendly Awards for their project 'Sweeter the Tune'.

Community Festival Investment Programme Leitrim County Council provides direct investment to organisations in Leitrim that produce unique, high-quality festivals that engage with the fabric of the county, providing valuable opportunities for residents and visitors alike to come together. A total of 12 applications were approved to a value of €8,000 under this scheme.

Community Support Fund (CSF) The Community Support Fund was announced in November 2022 and Leitrim County Council received an allocation of €265,201. 144 Letters of offer issued to all successful groups in June 2023.

Playgrounds Refurbishment works were completed at Mohill Playground under the Clar Programme and funding was also received from the DCEDIY (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth) for the playground in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Love where you Live Awards

Leitrim County Council and the PPN sponsored 'Love where you Live' Awards were held in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon on Wednesday 27th September 2023. A total of 98 entries were received and a large attendance of approximately 250 people attended the event. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Justin Warnock presented 31 awards on the night including a Special Recognition Award to Carrick-on-Shannon Tidy Towns. The winning entries in the Schools Category were presented separately to the winning schools by the Cathaoirleach of each Municipal District.

Pride of Place Leitrim County Council nominated three Community Groups for Pride of Place 2023 under the following categories: Carrigallen GAA Healthy Clubs in the ‘Welcoming new Communities’ category, Eslin Healthy Clubs in the ‘Community Wellbeing Initiative’ and Kiltyclogher Community Council in the category ‘Populations under 500’. The outcome of the competition will conclude with an Awards Ceremony in November 2023.

Community Information Event A very successful ‘Community Information Event’ was hosted in the Bees Park Resource Centre, Manorhamilton on 22nd March 2023.

Delivering for our Economy

Tourism, Economic Development and Regeneration

Economic Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP):** Throughout 2023, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Planning, Economic Development and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee have continued their work to implement the current LECP. The process of preparing a new LECP is almost complete.
- **SICAP:** Year six of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) through the LCDCs was completed.
- **LEADER:** The transitional and EURI LEADER Programme continued during 2023, supported by Leitrim Development Company as Implementing Partner and Leitrim County Council as Financial Partner.
- **Town Teams:** The Council continues its ongoing work to support Town Teams in relation to project development, delivery and support with developing Town Plans and Strategies. 2023 saw the completion of the Dromahair Development Framework. In addition to this, the Drumshanbo and Leitrim Village Tourism and Economic Development Strategy and 5 Year Action Plan was finalised in 2022 and launched in early 2023. The Town Masterplan for Carrick on Shannon was completed in 2023 and it is intended that other towns will also avail of Town Masterplans.

50 miles in January 2023: The Council engaged with the Leitrim GAA 50 miles in January challenge in 2023, with a focus on engaging the international diaspora and promoting the County as a place to visit and enjoy outdoor recreation.

Recruitment and Enterprise Expo: This event took place at the end of January and proved hugely successful.

Promotional Events: Two events complimented this promotion firstly NorthWest in the City Event in February 2023 and the New York promotional event in April 2023, both events communicated what the County has to offer companies and individuals considering a move.

Streetscape Improvement Scheme: The Council succeeded in securing Department approval for streetscape enhancement in Carrick on Shannon under the 2022 scheme. The works through this scheme were delivered in 2023 with the Local Authority overseeing 34 applications from businesses and property owners in Carrick on Shannon through to completion.

Other Schemes: In 2023 The Council, working collaboratively with community organisations, submitted a range of substantial applications under the Town and Village Scheme, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme, Clár and the Building Acquisition Measure Schemes.

Knock Airport: Leitrim County Council continued to support Ireland West Airport in 2023 by supporting the sectoral stake in the Airport.

Digital Strategy: “Digital Leitrim”, is the title of the Leitrim Digital Strategy, adopted in September 2022. A Digital Strategy Steering Group was established in 2023 to devise an action plan based on the four pillars featured in the Strategy.

USEFE: 2022 is the 8th year of the USEFE jointly funded programme between ESB and the counties of Leitrim, Cavan and Longford. The 2022 work programme continued to focus on Tourism, Renewable Energy and Digital Strategies.

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) were engaged in the following initiatives in 2023:

- Hosted Jobs Fair in January 2023 with 37 exhibitor booths with over 200 positions advertised.
- **Supported the Micro Enterprise Sector** – In 2023 the LEO supported the Micro Enterprise sector with grant supports, online and in person training and mentoring supports.
- Continued to support the development and enhancement of ecommerce activities through website and social media review clinics and **Trading Online Vouchers**.
- LEO assisted business with applications to Micro Finance Ireland.
- **Enterprise Education** – Grasper, a team from Drumshanbo Vocational School won the Junior Category award at the Student Enterprise Awards Final in Croke Park in May.
- **Enterprise Promotion** - LEO delivered a successful weeklong programme of events during National Enterprise Week in March.
 - LEO engaged with counties Longford and Westmeath to deliver 2 joint womens networking events in 2023 and jointly hosted National Women’s Enterprise Day in October in conjunction with Sligo and Donegal LEOs.
 - Promoted the cost cutting supports available to Leitrim business including **Lean for Business, Green for Business and Digital for Business**.
 - Rolled out information sessions on the various Energy schemes including Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme, Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme and the Energy Efficiency Grant.
 - Continue to promote the Business Incentive Scheme through development of marketing materials and are working in conjunction with Economic Development and town teams to promote same.
 - Delivered timely and relevant training across a wide remit including Cyber Security, Canva, Unlocking AI for Marketers, Procurement, GDPR and other topical areas
 - Facilitated attendees at the National Ploughing Championships in September
 - Export/Brexit supports including training and mentoring was made available free of charge.
 - LEO Leitrim has worked with Taste Leitrim on the launch of the new and updated Sustainable Food Trail.
 - LEO Leitrim on behalf of Leitrim County Council together with The Food Hub were partners in the “Shared Island Agri-Food Infrastructure Enabling Growth Project”. Through this project, Leitrim County Council began a collaborative relationship with Galway County Council and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council to explore the Development of Food Innovation and Agri-Tech across our regions.
 - LEO Leitrim also attended as an exhibitor/presenter at several stakeholder events across the county to take the opportunity to showcase LEO Supports and Services.
 - LEO Leitrim have provided outreach support to Leitrim businesses through the provision of business advice clinics throughout the county in locations such as Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, Kinlough and Drumshanbo.
 - LEO supports are promoted through monthly newsletters, social media, case studies, dedicated quarterly Green Newsletter, website and development of a brochure outlining supports available through the LEO office.
 - Management of the Creative Heartlands Project continued throughout 2023. The project is now in its final 9 months and to date over 300 participants have taken part in events and training workshops across Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon. Film and Design Project Managers have been employed to run the programmes and over €75,000 has been invested in Film and Design equipment for the region.

- As part of the Atlantic Economic Corridor Leitrim County Council are a sponsor in the 3rd season of the TV series Moving West. Filming has already taken place and featured small and large enterprises in Leitrim who are providing employment to people who have relocated to Leitrim and two remote working hubs in the county.
- Supports in Mohill during public realm works: LEO are working with Mohill Town Team to roll out supports while works are ongoing in the town under the RRDF Public Relam Scheme.
- Working in partnership with the Western Development Commission under AEC the LEO office co-hosted an Interreg Peer Review visit from Estonia. The visit focussed on remote working facilities in the county and attracting people back to the region.

TOURISM

Leitrim County Council continued to invest in the promotion of County Leitrim as a tourism destination during 2023 in collaboration with key partners such as Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, and Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Council supported a Leitrim Tourism marketing campaign in partnership with the tourism trade. The following initiatives were implemented to maximise grant aid and promote the County:

- Collaboration with the Tourism Trade to promote County Leitrim as a Staycation location of choice 2023.
- Delivery of an extensive marketing campaign to promote Leitrim to the domestic and GB market, including radio, social media, digital marketing, media trips, video on demand and cinema advertising.

Supported the operation of the Carrick on Shannon Tourist Office in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland.

- The Council continued to update and promote Leitrim Tourism through ongoing website development - enjoyleitrim.com. The Council supported priority investment areas in tourism based upon an open call for projects under the General Municipal Allocation.
- Leitrim County Council continued to support the development of the Hidden Heartlands brand proposition, which overlaps collaboratively with the Wild Atlantic brand proposition.

Tourism Strategy: The Council has conducted a review and analysis of the tourism sector in the County, taking into account the outgoing Tourism Strategy and, in particular, the impact of the last two years on the Tourism sector and the unprecedented operating environment. The resulting Framework which has now been developed will assist in guiding Leitrim County Council in its role in the development of the County's Tourism sector over the next five years.

Slow Adventure: Leitrim County Council continues the development and promotion of Slow Adventure Experiences.

Support: Throughout 2023, the Council issued fortnightly newsletters to all trade/tourism providers in the County to ensure that they are kept informed on tourism matters throughout the County and nationally.

Regeneration Office

During 2023 and in line with the Town Centre First policy, a Regeneration Office was established within Leitrim County Council to address the decline in the health of towns across the County and support measures to regenerate and revitalize them.

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Regeneration Office during 2023:

- A Town Regeneration Officer was appointed in line with the Town Centre First Policy.
- A Multi-disciplinary team was established within Leitrim County Council to drive the implementation of the Town Centre First Policy.
- Work was undertaken with Town Teams on areas of Governance and Constitution and regular Town Team meetings were facilitated.
- The Carrick on Shannon Town Centre First plan was developed and adopted.
- An application was successfully progressed for the purchase of three vacant buildings in the County under the Town and Village Building Acquisition 2023 measure.
- An application under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund was submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage.
- The CPO Activation Programme under the Department of Housing Local Government was progressed.

ROADS, TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

The 2023 Roads Programme was agreed by the Municipal Districts under the Schedule of Municipal District Works. In addition, funding was also received for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS), Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) and Active Travel Program (Funding from the National Transport Authority) and under the Climate Change Adaptation Program. In addition to the works outlined in the Roadworks Program, the following are the main projects of note:

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

Preferred Transport Solution – Phase 2 Options Selection phase is now concluded, and the consultants have commenced Phase 3, the Design and Environmental Evaluation. In line with the Ministers wishes, the by-pass element of the N4 Carrick to Dromod Project is being prioritized.

Surveys 2023 – The following Contracts are ongoing in 2023:-

- Ground Investigation Contract
- Topographical Survey Contract
- Archaeological Geophysical Survey Contract
- Ecology Survey Contract

N16 Realignment at Drumamahon: This Realignment Scheme was substantially completed in 2022 and Defects Certificate will issue before year end 2023. This scheme was a full realignment of the N16 for a 1.55 km length.

N16 Realignment at Munakill: The Design Team are currently working on Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) which is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The project will then progress to Phase 4 subject to TII approval.

Pavement Overlays:

- **N15 Pavement Overlay Scheme - Redbrae to Donegal County Boundary** – All works have now been completed.
- **N16 Pavement Overlay - Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 1** – A Contractor has been appointed and works have commenced on site and are programmed to be completed by mid-November 2023.
- **N16 Pavement Overlay Scheme - Manorhamilton to Cornacloy Phase 2** – Consultants have been appointed and are currently completing the design of this pavement overlay scheme.
- **N4 Pavement Overlay Scheme – Carrick on Shannon** - Consultants have been appointed and are currently completing the design of this pavement overlay scheme.

Safety Works on National Roads

- **N16 Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) Provision at Glencar** – Works are substantially complete.
- **Safety Improvement Works:** Works at various locations have been carried out under the HD15 and HD17 safety programs on our National Roads.

Bridge Works Programme 2023: The Bridge Rehabilitation Works Programme 2023 is progressing and remediation works will be completed on 11 number bridges by year end.

Annual Roads Programme: The Annual Area Programme of Works 2023 is progressing well and will be completed by year end.

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS): A new Policy on LIS's was approved by the members of Leitrim County Council in 2022 and the Scheme was opened to new applications for a limited period from November 2022 to January 2023 inclusive. Over 200 LIS applications were received of which 177 have been validated and placed on our Prioritised LIS Waiting List. Leitrim County Council has received LIS Funding of €1,135,919 in 2023. A total of 23 LIS's will be completed in 2023 with this Funding.

Community Involvement Schemes (CIS): The 2023 Allocation for CIS's is €307,350 and a total of 7 CIS's will be completed in 2023.

Lennox Bridge: Phase 2 Options Report was submitted to Department of Transport for approval to proceed to Phase 3 Design & Environmental evaluation earlier this year. The Department of Transport, Regional & Local Roads Division reviewed the Options Report and following further discussions and clarifications with the design team, the initial Phase 2 Options Report was revised and resubmitted to the Department. We are awaiting approval from the Department to proceed to Phase 3.

Hartley Bridge: Application for Planning Approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in October 2021. Two Further Information requests were received, and the necessary information has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála and we are awaiting a decision.

Active Travel: Active Travel received an allocation of €2,000,000 in 2023 for progressing 22 Schemes and Staff costs. All of these Schemes are being advanced with some completed, some to be completed by year end and some at Planning & Design Stage.

Road Safety: The County Leitrim Road Safety Strategy 2023 – 2030 and Phase 1 Road Safety Action Plan 2023 – 2024 has been approved and will be launched in the coming weeks. The Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) has been reviewed and new members added to the Group. This Group has met on one occasion to date in 2023.

The Road Safety Office of Leitrim County Council organised a Road Safety Education event for Mohill Community College on 11th and 12th October, 2023. The event was very successful and good feedback was received from the students and the school.

Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme: This Scheme continues to be promoted on an annual basis in order to encourage the cutting back of roadside trees and hedges in order to improve road safety.

Capital Projects Office

In 2023 the Capital Office continued project delivery in the following areas:

Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme: Design work is continuing with the project. 4 no. viable options were presented to the public during a Public Consultation in July. The Design Team is currently evaluating these options to choose the preferred option. Expect to notify public of preferred option in early 2024.

Leitrim Village Flood Relief Scheme: Design work is continuing with the project. The Design Team is currently working on options to protect property. This scheme will be dependent on which option is picked for the Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme.

Mohill Flood Relief Scheme: The OPW are currently working on the hydrology and hydraulic modelling for the scheme. Once complete, Leitrim County Council will engage a design consultant and contractor to design and build any flood defences required.

Carrick on Shannon Public Regeneration Scheme:

- Reconstruction of Footpaths/Roads - Main Street/St George's Terrace/approach roads – Works complete.
- Construction of Car Park at Flynn's Field – Works complete.
- Construction of Boardwalk along river edge – Works complete.
- Lighting of N4 Bridge and Boardwalk at Linear Park – Contractor appointed. Currently manufacturing the light fittings.

Manorhamilton Public Realm Scheme: Contract completed for the street works on Carrick Road and Main Street. Currently working on securing land agreements for the works in the business park.

The Road Safety Office of Leitrim County Council organised a Road Safety Education event for Mohill Community College on 11th and 12th October, 2023. The event was very successful and good feedback was received from the students and the school.

The Junction Project Ballinamore: Under construction. Estimated completion in Q4 2023.

SLNCR Greenway – Sligo to Enniskillen: Design Consultant appointed. Preliminary design completed. Advised the public of Route Options during public consultation in Oct 2023.

Cavan Leitrim Greenway – Corgar to Aghawillin: Currently under construction. Expect to be completed in early 2024.

Carrick on Shannon Destination Towns: Signage contract completed. Street works completed. New bus stop under construction.

Leitrim Way Trail: Improvement works completed at Stoney River and Yellow River.

Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway: Preferred route selected, and public consultation held on this route. Currently at detailed design stage.

Hartley Bridge: Planning application for new bridge submitted to An Bord Pleanála in October 2021. Awaiting decision.

Mohill Public Realm Scheme: Contractor appointed. Expected to commence construction in October 2023.

UFHD: Works completed on 10 estates to date. Works underway on a further 5 estates. Consultant appointed for further 13 estates to complete design work.

OPW Minor Flood Schemes: Funding received from OPW to progress the Dromahaire Flood Relief Scheme. Design Consultant appointed. Preliminary design works commenced. 3 no. schemes at Ballinaglera completed.

Acres Lake Facility Centre: Construction of new car park commenced in September 2023. Expect to advertise tender for construction of new facility building before year end.

Tullaghan Access to the Sea: Work completed on this scheme.

Drumshanbo ExChange: Funding received under RRDF programme. McCabe Architects appointed as design architect for the scheme. Preliminary design work underway.

Mass Rock Mullagarve: Works completed on this scheme.

Carrick Business Campus: Funding received under the RRDF scheme. Building purchase has been completed. Design consultant appointed to progress refurbishment of building.

Delivering for our Places

Forward Planning and Development Management

Work was completed in February 2023 on the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the period 2023-2029. The Plan was adopted by the Elected Members at a Special Meeting of Leitrim County Council on Tuesday 7th February taking effect on 21st March 2023. The formal publication of the full suite of documents will be completed in October.

The Planning Authority prepared a new Development Contribution Scheme for the period 2023-2026.

The Planning Authority published draft and supplemental maps identifying the lands considered within scope of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) over the course of the year. The supplemental maps, published on 1st May, identified additional lands that are liable to the tax primarily on foot of the changes in zoning as a result of the newly adopted Leitrim County Development Plan. The final maps will be prepared for publication on December 1st.

Work has commenced on the preparation of the Joint Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan. This Joint Local Area Plan (JLAP) will be the first joint Plan for the town and will have a strong focus on the development of both the Carrick-on-Shannon and Cortober areas.

Leitrim County Council went live for E-Planning on 11th April 2023 whereby planning applications can now be submitted in electronic form. 70% of all applications received in the intervening period were submitted in this manner.

- In 2023 to date, the Planning Department has received 80 no. formal requests for pre planning advice, which is an increase of over 40% on the previous year.

- In 2023 to date, Leitrim County Council has received 156 no. valid planning applications (157 no. applications for same period in 2021) of which 19 no. were for commercial development proposals. Planning permission was granted with respect to 142 no. applications received, with permission refused in the case of 9 no. applications. It is encouraging to see multiple house developments permitted in Manorhamilton (outline permission for 10 no. units), Carrick-on-Shannon (5 no. units), Dromod (4 no. units) and Drumshanbo (2 no. units). The completion of Prior's Point in Carrick-on-Shannon is underway with a further 41 houses under construction.
- 3 no. decisions on planning applications have been appealed to An Bord Pleanála in the year to date
- The Planning Department have completed 3 no. Part 8 Public Consultations over the course of 2023 to date to facilitate Active Travel projects in Carrick-on-Shannon and Drumshanbo, an Outdoor Recreational Project in Drumshanbo (Narrow Gauge Rail line) along with assisting the Housing Department on a Section 179A Scheme at Kilboderry comprising of 18 no. social houses.
- With regard to Enforcement, the Planning Authority have opened 25 no. new enforcement cases in 2023 with a further 55 no. active older cases still live at the start of the year.
- Considerable progress has been made in reviewing the **Derelict Sites Register** with a project underway scanning historic files.
- Work continues to realise actions contained in the **County Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025**. The Heritage Officer was approved funding for 2 projects through the Heritage Council funding programme – The Mummies Join Project and The Leitrim Hawthorn Tree Project, both of which are nearing completion.
- Both of the **Local Biodiversity Action Fund** projects are also nearing completion- The Leitrim Wetland Survey Phase III and The Leitrim Hedgerow Appraisal Survey.
- The **Shared Island** Killahurk Ringfort, Co. Leitrim and Tullaghoge Fort, Co. Tyrone project is progressing with the Killahurk Fort Heritage Audit and Interpretation Plan completed.
- Heritage Week took place from 12th to 20th August with 21 events taking place across Leitrim.
- Successful applications were also assisted through the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**, the Historic Structures Fund and Community Monuments Fund.

CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- **Leitrim Sustainable Agriculture Group:** Leitrim Sustainable Agriculture Group operates under the oversight of the Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture SPC. The aim of the group is to promote sustainable environmentally friendly farming practices in Leitrim leading to reduced carbon output, higher carbon sequestration, enhanced biodiversity, improved water quality and greater sustainability for the agricultural sector in County Leitrim. The group is made up of farmer exemplars who will demonstrate and champion sustainable environmentally friendly farming practices.
- **RMCEI Plan:** The Environment Department submitted the 2022 RMCEI Report together with the 2023 RMCEI Planned Target Environmental inspections to the EPA in February 2023. The 2022 RMCEI programme is proceeding on target.
- Work commenced on preparation of the **Leitrim Climate Action Plan**. A baseline emissions inventory for the county and the decarbonisation zone of Carrick on Shannon was prepared along with the climate change risk assessment for County Leitrim. Public consultation ahead of preparing the draft climate action plan was undertaken to ensure inclusion of the views of the public in the draft plan. The draft Climate Action Plan was put on public consultation in November 2023.
- **Historic Landfills:** Leitrim County Council secured funding in 2022 to undertake an environmental risk assessment of the 6 historic / legacy landfills throughout the county. Environmental Consultants were procured, and work is ongoing in this regard.
- **National Inspection Program (DWWTS):** Leitrim County Council have completed 15 verification inspections, 6 full inspections and 12 follow up inspections under the 2023 programme to date.
- In 2023, **the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority** (WERLA) delivered priority actions in line with Government Policy surrounding waste enforcement.
- The 3rd cycle of **River Basin Management Plan** (RBMP) for the period of 2022-2027 is currently being finalised by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) with a final version expected in Q4 of 2023.
- By the end of 2023, Leitrim County Council will have undertaken 550 water quality samples in the County from 13 Lakes and 15 Rivers for the EPA; part of our ongoing implementation of the River Basin Management Plan.

ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Throughout 2023 Leitrim County Council continued to play a key role in providing communities across the county with access to the arts and opportunities to explore their creativity.

- **Community Engagement:** 23 projects were completed as part of Leitrim County Council's Creative Ireland Open Call programme. Among the projects this year was "Amach - to the Fields" led by Edwina Guckian and the Save Leitrim Environmental Group featuring 21 doors in fields in 21 townlands telling individual stories about the history, folklore, and people who live and have lived around each field. The project was featured on national media and has reached over 100,000 people on social media. Leitrim County Council was also shortlisted in the 2023 Age Friendly Recognition Awards for the Creative Ireland funded 'Sweeter the Tune' project featuring three older artists Charlie McGettigan, Cathy Carmen and John McDwyer working with three older people's groups in Mohill and Dromahair and Annaduff.
- The **SPARK** programme, in partnership with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office, fosters collaboration between artists and businesses. In addition to the culmination of the project with HABIC funded through Creative Ireland, Fionnuala Maxwell continued her residency Jinny's Bakery; while Karen Webster residency at The Old Rectory in Fenagh will culminate in the publication of a new book in early 2024.
- **Festivals** are vital opportunities for people to come together and experience activities and performances in their own communities. In 2023 Leitrim County Council advertised for three strands of festival funding at the same time – Arts, Tourism and Community. Festivals supported under the arts strand this year included Adaptation Film Festival, Glen to Glen Piping Festival, Hunters moon Festival, Outside the Lines Disability Arts Festival, Leitrim Dance Week, the John McKenna Festival and the Written Word Weekend in Drumshanbo. New voices and migrant populations continued as central themes for the Iron Mountain Literature Festival this year.
- **Culture Night** continues as a valuable platform for venues throughout the county to build their audience and to provide opportunities for people to try something new. Events this year included the premiere of a new site-specific aerial performance by Undercurrent Dance Company in the Market Yard in Carrick on Shannon and events in The Dock, St. Georges Heritage Centre, Island Theatre Ballinamore; Fenagh Visitors Centre; the New Ballagh Centre in Rossinver, Leitrim Volunteer Centre and Mohill and Manorhamilton branch libraries while RTE's arts show, Arena, was broadcast live from The Glens Centre in Manorhamilton.
- Leitrim County Council developed The Dock in 2005 to be a cornerstone of the county's cultural infrastructure, a beacon for visitors and a crucially positive endorsement of the rich cultural offering of Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim and the Northwest. Each year The Dock welcomes over 30,000 visitors to more than 300 performances, workshops and other activities annually.
- **Professional development:** Throughout 2023, Leitrim County Council's artist's networking and professional development programme - Creative Frame – continued to provide for the network's membership of over 400 professional artists. In addition to maintaining the interactive website www.creativeframe.eu with up-to-date information on events and opportunities in the sector, training provided in 2023 included: Mentorship training, Screenwriting Workshops; Music Publishing Programme; Peer Critiquing for Visual Artists; Financial and Tax Management; Child Protection Training; and an Ecoliteracy workshop with Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald.
- **NEXUS** – The Arts Office is working with Konstnärscentrum in Sweden, Centro Huarte in Spain, and the Youth Cultural Centre in Skopje, Macedonia to develop a two-year programme of professional development training, networking and residential opportunities in the four regions.
- **Youth Theatre:** Leitrim County Council in partnership with The Glens Centre and Carrigallen Youth Theatre have re-established Junior and Senior youth Theatre Groups in Manorhamilton, Carrigallen and Leitrim village. Cruinniú na nÓg 2023 took place on the 10th of June and included 22 local events across the county ranging from eco-art youth camps, music workshops, storytelling, screen-printing, STEAM workshops, stained glass, youth theatre and much more.
- **New Developments:** In 2023 Leitrim County Council purchased the building formerly known as Colemans on Main Street, Carrick on Shannon to become a new Community and Youth Arts Centre. Leitrim County Council also created a new specialist post in Children and Youth Arts with funding allocated by the Arts Council. 2023 also saw the development of the new Creative Communities Engagement Officer part-funded by Creative Ireland.
- **Youth Theatre** - Leitrim County Council in partnership with The Glens Centre and Carrigallen Youth Theatre recruited new leaders for youth theatre groups in Manorhamilton, Carrick on Shannon and Carrigallen.

- Finally we will shortly be publishing a **new Arts Plan** that has three priorities – Community Engagement (this is how we serve the public); Professional Development (this is how we support artists) and Children & Young People (this is how we make sure children can make, share, and enjoy the arts) – with two new priorities that look to how we respond to the climate emergency, and how we promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion through our work in the arts.

Our Organisation

FACILITIES ENERGY & ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Facilities, Energy & Assets Department continue to manage the organisations portfolio of facilities and assets and to respond to the national 2030 and 2050 energy targets as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Key achievements for 2023 include:

Refurbishment works, Áras an Chontae: In preparation for refurbishment works at Áras an Chontae, several departments across the organisation were relocated including the Finance, Motor Tax and the Environment department. Sammon Developments Ltd. were awarded the contract for the construction of the Central Customer Services Unit (CCSU) on the upper ground floor of the Áras an Chontae. Construction has now commenced.

Border Region Energy Unit: As part of the Border Region Energy Unit, Leitrim County Council continue to collaborate with SEAI, Monaghan and Cavan County Councils to pool resources and maximise funding opportunities to reduce energy usage and emissions by 50% by 2030 and improve energy management within the organisation. Through the pathfinder programme, MosArt Architects have been appointed to design and manage a range of energy retrofit projects on selected buildings. Air permeability and Asbestos surveys were carried out on several buildings.

FINANCE

The Agresso Project Team implemented the upgrade of the Financial Management System in February 2023 to Agresso MS7.

- New Low Value Purchase Cards system implemented.
- AFS 2022 prepared, submitted to the Department and the audit completed by the Local Government Auditor in late 2023.
- Revenue collection across the income streams of Commercial Rates, Rents and Housing Loans maintained and improved.
- Continued administration of the Local Authority Housing Loans Scheme (LAHL).

As an organisation Leitrim County Council continues to adapt and respond to the needs of the people for Leitrim and the challenges that arose in 2023. Throughout 2023, we have continued to deliver our services to the highest possible standards.

Other achievements in 2023 and delivered through the ICT, Human Resources and Corporate Services functional areas include:

Development and design of a suite of branded template documents and logos for deployment across entire organisation. Template documents will be ready in early 2024 and will be implemented across the organisation.

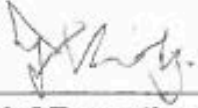
- Refresh of Leitrim County Council website as www.leitrim.ie to incorporate full range of services delivered by Leitrim County Council, with the content on services refreshed and organised in a manner that is consistent with the Live, Work, Invest and Visit theme of the Corporate Plan vision statement.
- Rollout of the Leitrim Alerts emergency messaging service in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, to Community Text Alert Groups and Business Groups in Leitrim. To date 1600 users have subscribed to the service and receive emergency messaging from An Garda Síochána, Met Eireann, Irish Water and Leitrim County Council.
- Following the enactment of the Electoral Reform Act in October 2022, there was a significant amount of activity carried out in updating and maintain the Leitrim Register of Electors in 2023, with over 3,400 amendments or updates carried out the Register in the year.
- Ukrainian response: Leitrim County Council in conjunction with many other agencies and community groups provides a range of supports to refugees living in the county and specifically work with new arrivals. The Council administers and chairs the Ukrainian Community Response Forum comprising of agencies, community, and voluntary organisations active locally, dealing with accommodation, health, education, employment, and integration issues. Leitrim currently accommodates 1900 refugees using commercial accommodation as well as the 'offer a home scheme' which takes advantage of unoccupied properties within the county.
- Under the Community Recognition Fund 2023, 13 community led projects were allocated €2.1 million in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development addressing local needs in community infrastructure & facilities and recognising the valuable contribution that communities have made in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.
- Implementation of Government 2030 "cloud first" policy which will see the movement of services to more secure, modern and cost effective cloud based computing.
- On premise email has been migrated to the cloud in 2023.
- Implementation of national Cyber Security strategy. Windows Defender for Leitrim CoCo mobile devices implemented, Cyber Security Training and Awareness software implemented. Further investigations and additions such as SOC/SIEM\Ransomecare Bullwall software\ Egress software ongoing to improve cyber security, email and infrastructure security in 2024.
- Development of Disaster Recovery & Incident Response Plans, as part of the overall review of the cyber security of our ICT infrastructure.
- Enhanced use of technology such MS teams to hold meetings in virtual or online environments implemented in 2023.
- Roll out of MS Teams telephony to all Leitrim County Council staff for outbound calling and removal of physical phones from desks implemented in 2023.
- Enhanced use of OneDrive integrated with Teams in progress.
- Blended Working Policy implemented with a total of 148 Staff approved for blended working arrangements across 2023.
- Significant training programme delivered including roll out of Line Management Training.
- Participated in the WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) Graduate Programme in 2023 - a work placement programme promoting access to the labour market for graduates with disabilities.
- 35 Recruitment Competitions completed in 2023 with a further 12 Competitions live at year end.
- A total of 32 staff left the organization to take up alternative opportunities during 2023, with an additional 6 staff retirements.
- National Industrial Relations issues impacted all Local Authorities during 2023 in relation to Water Services and the transition to Uisce Éireann and in relation to terms and conditions for the Retained Fire Service. Agreements were successfully negotiated at national level in relation to both industrial disputes.
- Continued engagement with the Employee Assistance Service to provide free and confidential counselling service and supports to staff and their immediate families.

Leitrim County Council has advanced as an organisation in 2023 and continues to develop a customer focused, innovative and creative culture within the organisation. Changing work practises, legislative and technological changes continue to be embraced by the Elected Members and staff alike. This has ensured that throughout 2023 the organisation has been fit for purpose to deliver for the People, the Places and the Economy of County Leitrim.

Conclusion

The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the Elected Members and Staff of this Authority and, together with the many voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacts. I wish to thank them for their commitment and dedication to securing our mission, vision, and goals in 2023. We look forward to continuing to deliver high quality services to all our customers and to working with all stakeholders in order to make County Leitrim the best place that in can be for those who choose to live, work, invest and visit our County.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive

Joseph Gilhooly
Interim Chief Executive



Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

H HOUSING		
H1	Social Housing Stock	
H1	A. No. Of Dwellings in the owership of LA at 1st January	1032
H1	B. Number of dwellings constructed (B1) or purchased (B2) during year	36
H1	C. No. of LA dwellings sold in year	6
H1	D. No. of LA dwellings demolished in year	0
H1	E. No. of dwellings in the owership of LA at 31st December	1062
H1	F. No. Of LA owned dwellings planned for demolition under Dept. HPLG approved scheme	0
H2	Housing Voids - 2019	
H2	A. Percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant at year end	3.77%
H2	B. The number of dwellings within the overall stock that were not tenanted at year-end.	40
H3	Average Re-letting Time and Cost	
H3	A. Time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in year when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let in year	26.33
H3	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in year ready for re-letting, averaged across all dwellings re-let in year	€22,501.91
H3	C. The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in year (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme). Date of re-tenanting is the date the keys have been issued to the tenant.	37
H3	D. The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted. (Date of vacation is the date the keys are handed back)	947.1
H3	E. Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwelling using direct cost calculations (see explanatory notes)	€832,570.54
H4	Housing Maintenance Cost	
H4	A. Expenditure during year on the maintenance of LA Housing from 1 January to 31 Dec, divided by the no. of dwellings in the LA stock at 31st December /12. i.e. Indicator H1E minus Indicator H1F	1552.21
H4	B. Expenditure on maintenance of LA stock compiled from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as SEAI grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works or the Fabric Upgrade Programme but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€1,648,443.81
H5	Private Rented Sector Inspections	
H5	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the Local Authority area at the end of June 2022	1629
H5	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2022	309
H5	C. % of inspected dwellings in the year that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	69.57%
H5	D. No. of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during the year	104
H5	E: The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by local authorities in the year.	421
H6	Long Term Homeless Adults	
H6	Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of year.	0%
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December as recorded on the PASS system.	8
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31st Dec, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months.	0

Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

R ROADS		
R1	Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index PSCI (No target set in Annual Service Delivery Plan)	
R1	A. (a) % Regional road kilometers that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2022 and 31/12/2022	95.00%
R1	A. (b) % Local Primary road kilometers that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2022 and 31/12/2022	97.00%
R1	A. (c) % Local Secondary road kilometers that received a PSCI rating between 1/1/2022 and 31/12/2022	97.00%
R1	B. (a)(i). % Total Regional Road kilometres with a PSCI rating 1-4	80.00%
R1	B. (a)(ii).% Total Regional Road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	13.42%
R1	B. (a)(iii). % Total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	39.62%
R1	B. (a)(iv). % Total of Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	46.01%
R1	B. (b)(i). % Total Local Primary Road kilometreswith a PSCI rating of 1-4	2.52%
R1	B. (b)(ii). % Total Local Primary kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	11.70%
R1	B. (b)(iii). % Total Local Primary kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	57.49%
R1	B. (b)(iv). % Total Local Primary kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	28.16%
R1	B. (c)(i). % Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	5.91%
R1	B. (c)(ii). % Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	17.79%
R1	B. (c)(iii). % Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	54.61%
R1	B. (c)(iv). % Total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	21.50%
R1	B. (d)(i). % Total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4	21.44%
R1	B. (d)(ii). % Total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6	25.09%
R1	B. (d)(iii). % Total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8	33.63%
R1	B. (d)(iv). % Total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10	16.24%
R2	Regional Roads Grants Works	
R2	A1. Kilometres of regional roads strengthened during 2022	15.6KM
R2	A2. The amount expended on regional road strengthening work during 2022:	€ 1,945,369
R2	Average unit cost of regional road strenghtening work per metre sq	€18.03
R2	B1. Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2022	6KM
R2	B2. The amount expended on regional road strengthening work during 2022:	€272,038
R2	B3. Average unit cost of regional road reselaing work per metre sq	€ 6.89
R2	C1. Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during the year	79KM
R2	C2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during the year:	€ 5,039,969
R2	C3. The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2):	€19.86
R2	D1 . Kilometres of local road resealed during 2022 and the amount expended on that work.	77.1KM
R2	D2. Amount expended on local road resealing work during 2022:	€1,468,354
R2	D3. The average unit cost of local road reseaking works per square metre (€/m2)	€5.71
R3	% of motor tax transactions conducted online	
R3	A. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued).	80.21%

W WATER SERVICES		
W1	% of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	
W1	Percentage of Private Drinking Water Schemes in compliance with statutory requirements.	98.60%
W2	Percentage of registered group schemes audited	
W2	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100%
W2	A. No. of Audits carried out in the year	5
W2	B. Total no. of Registered Schemes in the year	5

Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

E ENVIRONMENT		
E1	Number of households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service	
E1	A. No. Households based on 2016 census who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operation providing a 3 Bin Service at end of year.	8,633
E1	B. % of households within the LA that the number at A represents - (based on agglomerations > 500)	96.26%
E2	Total Number of pollution complaint cases	
E2	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2022	299
E2	B. Number of pollution cases closed from 1st Jan to 31st December	291
E2	C. Total number of cases on hands at 31st December:	29
E2	The opening number of cases carried forward from 31st December in previous year	21
E3	Litter Pollution	
E3	A. % of area unpolluted by litter	
E3	B. % of are slightly polluted by litter	
E3	C. % of area moderately polluted by litter	
E3	D. % of area significantly polluted by litter	
E3	E. % of are grossly polluted by litter	
E4	% of schools that currently hoold and have renewed their green flag status	
E4	The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2022:	23.53%
E5	The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by Year End relative to baseline year (2009)	Data to be supplied by SEAI
E6	Public Lighting	
E6	A. Total billable wattage of the Public Lighting System	2008.52MWh
E6	B. Average Billable wattage of the Public Lighting System	93.91 W
E6	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represents	42.39%
E6	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system:	1,970
E6	Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system	2,677
E7	Climate Change	
E7	A. Does the LA have a designated FTE Climate Action Officer	No
E7	B. Does the LA have a Climate Action Team	Yes

P PLANNING		
P1	New Buildings Inspected	
P1	Buildings Inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	37.84%
P1	Total No. of new buildings notified to the LA	111
P1	No. of new buildings notified to the LA that were the subject of at least 1 inspection.	42
P2	Number of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	
P2	A. Number of planning decisions subject of appeal to An Bord Pleanala determined by board in 2022.	11
P2	B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (with or without variations) the decision made by the LA.	64%
P2	C. Number of determinations confirming the LA's decision with or without variation.	7
P3	% of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	48%
P3	A. Total number of planning cases (as opposed to complaints) referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1 to 31/12 that were investigated	106
P3	B. Total number of cases that were closed during year	51
P3	The number of cases at B that were dismissed under Section 152 (2), Planning and Development Act 2000.	50
P3	The Number of the cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	1
P3	E: of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	0
P3	F: Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12.	55
P4	Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
P4	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census.	41.68
P5	% of Fire Safety Certificates processed	

Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

P5	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in the year that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	62.07%
P5	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in the year that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	31.03%
P5	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in the year that were not withdrawn by the applicant.	29
P5	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in the year that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	18
P5	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in the year that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	9

F FIRE SERVICES

F1	Cost per Capita of the Fire Service	
F1	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E data expenditure divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One Reports.	69.30
F1	C. the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One Reports.	35,087
F2	Service Mobilisation	
F2	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (Retained Fire Service) in respect of fire.	4.20mins
F2	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (Retained Fire Service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	4.40mins
F3	Percentage of Attendances at Scenes	
F3	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	31.08%
F3	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	51.35%
F3	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	17.57%
F3	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	35.77%
F3	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	53.66%
F3	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	10.57%
F3	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1st Jan to 31st Dec inclusive	74
F3	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	23
F3	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	38
F3	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13
F3	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1st Jan to 31st Dec inclusive	123
F3	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	44
F3	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	66
F3	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13

L LIBRARY

L1	Library Visits and Issues	
L1	A. Number of Library Visits per head of population	3.44
L1	A (a). Number of library visits during the year	120,659
L1	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers during the year	85,527
L1	C. Number of Registered Library members per head of population	5,195
L2	Cost of operating a Library Service	
L2	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data divided by 1,000 population of the LA area per the 2016 Census.	46.70
L2	B. The annual cost per capita expenditure on collections during the year	2.48
L2	C. AFS Programme F data	€1,638,717.22
L2	D. 2022 Census Figure	35,087

Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

Y YOUTH AND COMMUNITY		
Y1	Participation in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme	
Y1	A. Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	85.71%
Y1	Total number of second level schools in The LA area at year end	7
Y1	Number of second level schools in the LA area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2021	6
Y2	Groups associated with the Public Participation Network	
Y2	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2022 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College with the PPN.	346
Y2	Total number of registered organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College when registering for the PPN in the year	78
Y2	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2022	3
Y2	Number of organisations included in the County Register and the proportion who opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	346

C CORPORATE SERVICES		
C1	Total Number of WTEs	
C1	The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2022 (consistent with figures provided to D/ECLG by way of staffing returns for December 2022)	320.86
C2	Working Days lost to Sickness	
C2	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	2.73%
C2	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	0.29%
C2	C. Number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	1989.78
C2	D. Number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	208.43
C2	E. Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days -	22.5
C2	F. Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days -	0
C3	Total page views of the LA website	
C3	Total page views of the LA website	271,924
C3	Total number of social media followers following the LA on social media sites	17,392
C4	Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE	
C4	A. All ICT Expenditure in the period divided by the WTW @ C1.	€3,503
C4	B. Revenue Expenditure	€1,123,860
C4	C. Wholetime equivalent	320.86
C5	Overall cost of ICT	
C5	Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue Budget	2.17%
C5	Total Revenue expenditure in year before transfers to/from Reserves	51,751,722

J ENTERPRISE		
J1	Number of Jobs Created	
J1	The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1st Jan to 31 Dec	23
J2	Trading Online Vouchers	
J2	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in the year	11

Appendix 5 - National Performance Indicators 2022

J2	B. The number of online-trading vouchers that were drawn down by year-end	7
	No. of mentoring receipts	
J3	A. The number of mentoring participants who received mentoring during the year	363
J4	Tourism	
J4	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
J4	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
J5	Economic Development Spend per Capita	
J5	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2022 per head of population:	€214.38
J5	Total spend on Economic Development	€7,521,992.00
M FINANCE		
M1	5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance	
M1	B:The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018	-260,640.00
M1	C:The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019	-259,116.00
M1	D:The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020	-256,122.00
M1	D:The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021	-254,609.00
M1	F.The cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2022 as a percentage of Total Income in 2019 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS*	-250,581.00
M1	G. Revenue Expenditure per Capita in 2022	1,474.95
M1	H. Revenue Expenditure per capita in year excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	0
M1	The 2021 Total Income Figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	51,767,674
M1	The 2021 Total Expenditure figure on the Income and Expenditure Account Statement (i.e excluding transfers) of the AFS*	51,751,722
M2	5 Year summary of % collection levels for major revenue sources	
M2	Collection level of rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	83%
M2	Collection level of rents and annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	89%
M2	Collection levels of housing loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2018	63%
M2	Collection level of rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	83%
M2	Collection level of rents and annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	90%
M2	Collection levels of housing loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	65%
M2	Collection level of rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	72%
M2	Collection level of rents and annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	91%
M2	Collection levels of housing loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	70%
M2	Collection level of rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	72%
M2	Collection level of rents and annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	95%
M2	Collection levels of housing loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	75%
M2	Collection level of rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	79%
M2	Collection level of rents and annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	97%
M2	Collection levels of housing loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	81%
M3	Public Libability	
	In order to compile this data local authorities should submit the following information to the LGMA:	
M3	A:The number of notified claims in year 2022	24
M3	B:The number of settled claims in year 2022	9
M3	C:Total cost of settled claims in year 2022	240,472.00
M4	Overheads	
M4	A: Overall central management charge as a % of total expenditure on revenue account	14.58%
M4	B: Total payroll costs as a % of revenue expenditure	41.64%

Appendix 6 - Local Performance Indicators 2022

	HOUSING IMPROVEMENT WORKS	
LOC 1	No. of units upgraded under improvement works	63
LOC 2	New LA tenancies created from 1st January to 31st December	63
LOC 3	Number of private Housing Grants Paid	123
LOC 4	% Achievement on TAP 2019-2024	26 Units = 104%
LOC 5	No. of social housing support applications received	194
LOC 6	Total no. of presentations made to Leitrim County Council	35
	WATER SERVICES	
LOC 7	% Unaccounted for Water	41.20%
	PLANNING	
LOC 8	No. of formal pre planning enquiries and average waiting time	74 Pre-plannings. Average time 30 days
	ENVIRONMENT	
LOC 9	% Schools participating in Green Schools	70%
	YOUTH AND COMMUNITY	
LOC 10	Participation in sport (Leitrim Sports Partnership Events/Activities)	11,140
LOC 11	No. of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population directly provided by the LA	120,284
LOC 12	No. participating in Arts Activities	10,244
	CORPORATE SERVICES	
LOC 13	% of customer contacts closed within 4 weeks	81.33%
	FINANCE	
LOC 14	% Suppliers paid within 15 days	89.87%
	LEITRIM ENTERPRISE OFFICE	
LOC 15	Number of start-ups through LEO/local services	7
	Number of grants approved (LEO)	16
LOC 16	Number of participants on Start your Own Business Courses	142
LOC 17	Business vacancy rate	16.80%
	TOURISM	
LOC 18	No. of page visits to Tourism Website	259,871
	No. of facebook likes	17,704
	No. of Twitter followers	4,225
	No. of Visitors at Specific Points	
LOC 19	Glencar Waterfall	38,276
	Costello Chapel	23,801
	Lime Kiln	843
	St. Mary's Church Carrck-on-Shannon (Bridge St. Ck-on-Shannon)	184,339
	AIB Main St. Manorhamilton	66,574



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

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