

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT
DECEMBER 2017



January 2018

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the January Monthly Meeting

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report—(Appendix 1).

**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**

31st January, 2018: Closing date for receipt of applications for Waterways Ireland Heritage Community Grant Scheme, 2018.

31st January, 2018: Closing date for receipt of Applications under the Structures at Risk Fund.

23rd February, 2018: Conferring of Freedom of the City of Kilkenny on Mr. Eddie Keher in Kilkenny Castle.

29th January 2018: Closing date for receipt of submissions for Arts Act Grants.

29th January 2018: Closing date for receipt of submissions for Artlinks Proposals.

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A GLANCE**

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COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The purpose of the LCDC is to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. It brings together the expertise and skills of local authority members, officials, state agencies and people actively working with local development, community development and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development programmes.

The functions of the LCDC include the following:

- the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Kilkenny Local Economic Community Plan (LECP),
- monitoring, and reviewing the implementation of the plan on an ongoing basis,
- co-ordination, management and oversight of the implementation of agreed community development programmes in accordance with the community elements of the LECP,
- to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoid duplication between local and community development programmes,
- the co-ordination of all local community and coordination of programmes to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improved efficiency of publicly funded local and community development resources,
- reviewing and amending the plan as necessary and
- adopting and submitting to the Local Authority a report relating to the performance of its functions in the preceding calendar year.

The work of the LCDC is guided by a number of key principals including meaningful community

participation, recognition of the expertise of all members, a clear focus on social inclusion in planning and decision making, the promotion of enterprise, training and education to support and build capacity of marginalised individuals and communities, promotion of voluntary activity and active citizenship.

The membership of 19 is drawn from public sector interests including elected members, officials of state agencies including the Council and from private sector interests include PPN nominees from various pillars, business/employers, farming and local development companies. The Committee is supported on an ongoing basis by the Council through its chief officer and administrative supports as required.

The LCDC is the conduit through which the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is being implemented (worth €3.16m) over the next 5 years and it is also a conduit through which other community funding initiatives are developed and implemented (e.g. Community Facilities Grants Scheme, Healthy Ireland Funding and Rapid Funding).

The LCDC's Annual Report will be considered by the LCDC at its meeting in January 2017 and it will be forwarded to Council following its adoption by the Committee.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The implementation of the Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan involves 22 Agencies delivering actions so as to address 4 High Level Objectives as follows:

- Improve deprivation of those in small pockets of disadvantage
- Addressing poverty and social inclusion
- Enhancing community facilities and participation
- Improving health & wellbeing.



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The Plan contains 121 Actions in total, each of which has been assigned a lead agency, supported by one or more agencies as implementing partners. An implementation report is prepared and presented to the LCDC at six monthly intervals. The report is compiled by Community Dept staff which arranges for each of the 22 Agencies to complete an on-line template.

In the six month period January-June 2017 58 actions were reported on with various levels of success expressed in percentage terms –up to 100% in some cases. None were reported as being unsuccessful. All agencies reported. The report was accepted by the LCDC.

A workshop was held in November for all the stakeholders involved in the Community Plan, at which views were obtained on the reporting system, any changes required, etc. The workshop was addressed by a key note speaker Mr Denis Leamy CEO of Pobail, who provided valuable insights on the importance of inter-Agency engagement in the delivery of integrated services including the use of Pobail's Service Integrated Toolkit.

The 2018 annual implementation plan was also discussed in the context of new and improved funding streams across community and rural development including CLAR, RAPID, SICAP programme, Healthy Ireland, Rural Recreation, Community Facilities Scheme, Family Resource Centre funding and other initiatives such as Town & Village Renewal and the Council's Community and Culture Facilities Grant Scheme. The final outcomes from the workshop and the 2018 Community work Programme will be presented to the LCDC on January 26th and will be available to the full Council in due course.

LECP Advisory Group

The LECP Advisory Group comprises of 6 members, 3 from SPC 1 and 3 from the LCDC.

Its role is to have oversight of the actions to be covered respectively by the economic elements and the community elements of the LECP, to monitor performance, to keep sight of areas of complementary and co-ordinated activity, to take account of the need to reduce duplication and overlap and to maximise the use of available resources within the county. It also has a role to make certain the integration of both the economic and community elements into a single, coherent LECP implementation process and to make sure that, for each action, there is clarity as to where responsibility rests for leading and/or coordinating. It also works to highlight any barriers that exist for any given action or implementing agency and work to reduce or remove them.

The LECP Advisory Subgroup is accountable to its representative committees- the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development, Enterprise Supports and Tourism (SPC1).

At a recent meeting the LECP Advisory subgroup has considered a number of initiatives including:

(a)The Castlecomer – Family Service, Community Development, Jobs & Enterprise Action Plan 2016-2020:

This is a joint Kilkenny Leader Partnership (KLP)/Kilkenny County Council action and is an action in the LECP. KLP is lead agency. Following an area profile and needs analysis an action plan was developed. The plan contains 29 actions to be implemented by nine agencies, including the Council and its various departments.

The implementation of the plan is in its early stages. To date supports have been provided



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to Castlecomer Community Hall and its organisation and management, possibilities of Castlecomer becoming a creative area (craft hub) are being explored, supports to Castlecomer Enterprise Centre, the potential for furniture up cycling in the area is being examined as is the provision of improved Broadband. The development worker was responsible for co-ordinating the very successful Festival of Light, which took place in Castlecomer on Friday 1st December. The whole community came together to participate and celebrate the event. Castlecomer was also one of three towns from County Kilkenny which entered the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Towns Initiative and although Castlecomer was not successful in the competition the initiative proved to be a huge success in bringing together both community and enterprise groups to showcase the town at its best.

**(b) Ferrybank Community Development
Strategic Plan 2015-2020**

This is also a joint KLP/County Council action in the Plan. A needs analysis and area profile was undertaken, from which a community development plan was developed. It contains 40 actions to be implemented by 26 agencies, with regards to community development activities and governance, children, young people and families, socio economic responses, arts, culture tourism and heritage, education health and wellbeing, management, review and steering .A Development worker has been put in place by KLP place to drive its implementation. A review of its implementation/preparation of progress report is pending. This is a good example of two Local Authorities and two Partnerships working together with communities to address local needs in an area of disadvantaged.

**(c) Funding Applications-Collaboration and
Co-operation**

A number of national funding initiatives, which are aimed at addressing rural development issues, have been rolled out through the Council and through the LCDC. These provided opportunities for collaborative working and a co-ordinated approach by various Departments of the Council in addressing both community and economic elements of the LECP including the following:

-Healthy Ireland Initiative where the LCDC and the CYPSC (Children's and Young People Services Committee) was successful in obtaining €127,000 towards 11 projects,

-Rapid Funding where the LCDC obtained an allocation of €64,500 and is funding 5 projects in areas of urban disadvantaged,

-Town & Village Renewal where the Council was successful with 10 (out of 12) applications and received an offer of funding for an 11th application.

(d) Future Opportunities.

The LECP Advisory Group also considered Future Opportunities for collaborative working and maximising the value of multiagency working and community and social inclusion in the context of the proposed Callan Town Renewal Plan, proposed Inistioge Village Renewal Plan and proposed Thomastown Age Friendly Town.

ARTS

Arts Act Grant

The open call for submissions for the Arts Act Grant was advertised on the 11th December and the deadline for submissions is the 29th January 2018. This open call was advertised through the arts office Facebook Page, the Arts Office web page, our email database and in the Kilkenny People newspaper.



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Art Links

The Open call for 2018 Artlinks proposals was advertised on the 11th December with a deadline of January 29th for submissions. It was advertised through Facebook, The Arts Office webpage and email database and in the Kilkenny People newspaper.

New members for 2018

24 new women have received places on the project starting in January 2018, they will engage in a programme of challenging and innovative workshops, supported by the ETB and Kilkenny Art Office. Facilitated by professional artists, these workshops will give employment to artists within the community. The current group of women will continue to use the house as a studio space running their own workshops, skills sharing and developing as a self-directed independent group.

Arts Facilities Audit & Survey

The results of the Arts Facilities Questionnaire have been collated into a Facilities Report and this forms part of an overall report for Kilkenny Community, Sports, Arts and Youth Facilities Programmes being carried out by Kilkenny County Council Community Development Division. Conducted by the Dublin based team Nexus, the purpose of the arts questionnaire was to collect and collate important information about what is happening in the arts sector in Kilkenny. The information will be utilised in the shaping of the Integrated Cultural Strategy for County Kilkenny, which sets out to reinforce the unique character of our Cultural Heritage.

TOURISM & MARKETING

Exciting Tourism Developments at Inistioge / Woodstock Estate

Sensitive and sustainable development of Inistioge/Woodstock, which has fantastic tourism potential, has long been an objective of

Kilkenny County Council, and Woodstock Estate is a key site in achieving this objective, with the potential to deliver considerable social and economic benefits to the wider community, in line with the adopted policy objectives and vision of the Kilkenny Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Plan 2017 – 2022, and the Kilkenny County Development Plan.

In order to give effect to the Council's aspirations and objectives Kilkenny County Council and Coillte have recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the feasibility and scoping of the Woodstock Estate, Inistioge, as a major tourism and recreation flagship project for Kilkenny.

This agreement allows us to consider the entire Estate, incorporating the Council's land holding of 50 acres and the surrounding Coillte Forest of circa 900 acres, setting out the parameters for the assessment and development of a major recreation and tourism destination for the county and the entire region.

Kilkenny County Council and Coillte will ensure that all plans and proposals relating to the development of Woodstock Estate as a regional and national amenity are compatible and in accordance with the stated objectives of the most recently adopted Kilkenny County Development Plan and in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area, and proposals relating to the development of the Woodstock Estate will have full regard to the protection and conservation of any protected structures, monuments or sites of archaeological interest or significance within the estate.

We will now create a tender specification for the procurement of specialist services to develop a draft business plan for the Woodstock Estate which sets out all the opportunities and issues relating to the development and management of the site as a major tourism facility. The



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procurement process will be commenced immediately in consultation with Coillte.

During the assessment process there will be community consultation with key stakeholders and interest groups, including other existing and proposed attractions in the South East Region.

Coillte will retain ownership of their lands and the right to continue forest operations, subject to the provisions of future agreements, and the Memorandum of Agreement will expire after three years or the signing of a new formal final legal agreement.

SPC 1 Meeting held on 15th December 2017

Brian Tyrrell, SEO, Tourism and Marketing provided members of SPC 1 with a Powerpoint presentation outlining some of the progress to date in 2017, and a list of significant items which will be scheduled for progress in 2018, at the SPC meeting held on 15th December.

The presentation covered recent activity in Tourism over the previous few months including Subtitle and Kilkonomics and engagement with the PPN Plenary.

Issues for 2018 in the presentation were:

- WEBSITE, DIGITAL PRESENCE WITH CONSISTENT MESSAGING, MARKETING
- ONE KILKENNY, PPN AND COMMUNITIES
- BUSINESS TOURISM
- QUALITY vs QUANTITY

Kilkenny's Summer Campaign is ready for an early start in 2018.



ROADS:

N24 Granny & New Aghlish Pavement Improvement Scheme

The N24 Granny & New Aghlish Pavement Improvement Scheme which consisted of a 2 km overlay / inlay, the provision of a dedicated right-



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turn lane at both the Tirlough Junction (Thatch Bar) and Portnahully Junction (Croke's Shop), improvements to the Aghlish Junction at Roadstone, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works was completed in December 2017. The total cost of the scheme amounted to €709,000.



Completed works N24 Tirlough Bar Junction

Capital Investment in the National Road Network

The Council successfully secured the following additional TII funding since the 2017 allocation was first announced on the 21/12/16, this extra allocation is in addition to the figures presented in the Roadwork's Scheme Report 2017:-

• N24 Carrick Road Improvement Scheme	€23,500
• N24 Granny Pavement Imp. Scheme	€608,400
• N24 Tower Road HD15/HD17	€66,082
• N24 Thatch Pub Junction HD15/HD17	€14,000
• N76 Callan Road Improvement Scheme	€969,863
• N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee	€78,100
• N77 Connahy	€19,200
• N77/N10 Public Lighting Upgrade	€145,000
• N78 Ballycomy to Castlecomer	€668,903
• B.1.2. National Primary	€123,000
• B.1.2. National Secondary	€82,000
• <u>N25 & N78 Pavement Scheme Testing</u>	<u>€99,379</u>
Total	€2,897,427

The total TII funding secured for Kilkenny for 2017 amounted to €9,890,479.

N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme

Works on the contract for the N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme, which was awarded in December 2016, progressed well in the final quarter of 2017 and the newly realigned section of the road, south of Tenny Park Cross, was opened up to traffic. It is anticipated the scheme, which extends for 4.38km's from the N76 Callan Road Roundabout to the Brownstown Junction, will be completed in the first Quarter of this 2018.



December 2016 - North of Brownstown Junction - December 2017

N78 Ballycomy to Castlecomer Pavement Improvement Scheme

A 1.4 km overlay / inlay was completed in December at Ballycomy, Castlecomer, in December 2017, the works also included an extension of the existing footpath to the GAA Grounds, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works. The cost of the scheme amounted to €668,903



N78 Ballycomy December 2017

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

In October 2016, the Council submitted an application to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, for funding to deliver two projects, the Kilkenny

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Western Environs Infrastructure, and Ferrybank Recreational Park, under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund.

This application was successful with grant funding of €5,070,000 and €350,000 awarded respectively in March 2017. Details of both schemes are outlined below;

1. Kilkenny Western Environs Phase 1 Infrastructure

The infrastructure required to remove the impediment to enable the development of the Western Environs in Kilkenny City consists of the following key elements:

- Construction of a roundabout on the N76 Callan Road at the intersection of the proposed Western Environs distributor road.
- 1.3km Western Environs distributor road, linking the N76 with the existing Circular Road at Robertshill, provision of a new roundabout at Robertshill, and the upgrade of the existing Circular Road from Robertshill to the R695 Kilmanagh Road.
- Construction of a roundabout on the R695 Kilmanagh Road at the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road.
- 1.3km upgrade of the R695 Kilmanagh Road from the proposed intersection with the Western Environs distributor road to the north western extremity of the Western Environs footprint.
- Provision of Linear Park

Planning for this scheme, under Part 8, was obtained in 2005. The Compulsory Purchase Order for the lands required to deliver same was confirmed An Bord Pleanála in June 2007. The detailed design of the Phase 1 Infrastructure scheme is nearing completion. The tender process to appoint a contractor for the road project is due to commence in January 2018, with construction to follow. Projected scheme completion date is late 2019.

2. Ferrybank Recreational Park (Total Cost 0.62 million)

This proposal is for a Neighbourhood Park at Aylesbury in Ferrybank County Kilkenny. At present Ferrybank, with a population of approximately 6,000 people, is lacking in services and has little in the way of amenity facilities. The provision of a Neighbourhood Park will increase the attractiveness of the area leading in turn to the activation of the housing market locally. The balance of funding for this scheme is being provided jointly between Kilkenny County Council and Waterford County Council.

A 2.1 hectare site for this project was purchased by Kilkenny County Council in 2014. Planning for this scheme, under Part 8, was obtained in September 2017. Detailed design of the park is due to commence early in 2018 with the tender process and construction to follow. Projected scheme completion date is late 2018.

HOUSING:

Private Grants

Opening of Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant (HOP) Scheme 2018: The Housing Aid for Older Persons is a grant to assist older people over 66 years living in poor housing conditions mainly covering rewiring and re-roofing and is assessed in-house by technical staff. Due to limited funding and increasing numbers of applications the Council has decided again to advertise the scheme giving a 6 week window for receipt of applications starting 30th October 2017 to Friday 11th December 2017. This date was extended to Friday 29th December at 12 noon. The total number of HOP grants received is 227. The other two grant schemes based on medical need remain open.



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The number of Private grants approved in 2017 is as follows;

Scheme	No.	Approved Amt
HGD	76	€905,195.38
MAG	27	€128,937.10
HOP	170	€874,481.79
	273	€1,908,614.27

The number of Private grants paid in 2017 is as follows;

Scheme	No.	Paid Amt
HGD	74	€858,635.17
MAG	28	€134,837.10
HOP	162	€869,021.24
	264	€1,862,493.51

Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month of 2017 along with the comparative, monthly presentations for 2016 are set out below. There were 319 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/12/2017. The number availing of emergency accommodation at year end is 49.

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	28
June	31	June	24
July	31	July	34
August	32	August	27
September	27	September	24
October	30	October	27
November	32	November	29
December	21	December	19
Total	349	Total	319

There were no persons found rough sleeping in Kilkenny City & Environs on the night of the Official Rough Sleepers Count carried out on Tuesday 28th/Wednesday 29th December.

Private Rented Inspections

There are 4,296 private rental housing stock in Kilkenny City & County (September 2017). The

Table below outlines the estimated inspections completed up to 31st December 2017 with a comparison with previous years' outcomes.

Private Rented Inspections	2017 11 mths	2016 12 mths	2015 12 mths	2014 12 mths	2013 12 mths
RAS	26	100	115	116	233
HAP	444	279	211	0	0
Private	5	35	11	228	2
Follow Up	395	0	35	37	0
Total	870	414	372	381	235

The target for 2017 is 790 and 110% is achieved to date.

December 2017 Housing Statistics:

Number awaiting social housing support at 31st December, 2017	2,180
Number of assessment interviews carried out in December:	8
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	9
Number of HAP tenancies to 31st December:	836
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	5
Anti social behaviour cases:	8
New Homeless Presentations:	19
Maintenance Calls for December 2017	429
Maintenance Calls year to date	5,649
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	44
Amount of Loans Approved to 31 st December, 2017	€ 5,084,782

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Housing List at 31st December 2017

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	APPLICANTS	1BED	2BED	3BED	4-BED
Ballyhale	11	5	2	3	1
Ballyragget	48	17	19	5	7
Bennettsbridge	34	16	10	5	3
Callan	93	34	28	30	1
Castlecomer	60	23	19	16	2
Clara	1	0	0	1	0
Clogh	9	3	3	2	1
Coon	3	0	1	2	0
Ferrybank	67	37	15	13	2
Fiddown	8	3	2	3	0
Freshford	24	10	5	8	1
Glenmore	4	2	2	0	0
Goresbridge	8	5	2	0	1
Gowran	31	10	13	6	2
Graiguenamanagh	50	24	17	7	2
Hugginstown	2	1	1	0	0
Inistiogue	19	11	4	4	0
Johnstown	27	9	8	6	4
Kells	13	5	5	2	1
Kilkenny Both	1335	524	506	263	42
Kilmacow	39	11	16	10	2
Kilmanagh	7	2	3	2	0
Kilmoganny	4	0	2	2	0
Knocktopher	5	2	3	0	0
Moneenroe	24	5	10	8	1
Mooncoin	32	10	12	9	1
Mullinavat	5	1	2	2	0
New Ross Environs	12	9	1	2	0
Paulstown	12	5	7	0	0
Piltown	39	11	7	20	1
Skeoghvosteen	2	1	1	0	0
Slieverue	12	3	4	5	0
Stoneyford	8	5	1	1	1
Thomastown	84	39	26	16	3
Tullaroan	3	2	1	0	0

Urlingford	43	12	18	9	4
Windgap	2	0	2	0	0
Total	2,180	857	778	462	83

Housing List

The current Housing List at 31st December 2017 is 2,180 and a comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

Year	Number on Housing List
December 2017	2,180
December 2016	2,059 (Statutory Assessment 2016)
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144 (Statutory Assessment 2013)
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

The housing demand broken down by bedroom size is as follows:

One Bed	Two Bed	Three Bed	Four Bed
857	778	462	83
39%	36%	21%	4%

Allocation of Houses

There were 156 offers of accommodation made during 2017 arising from casual vacancies and new units of accommodation acquired or constructed by Kilkenny County Council. A further 26 were also made by Approved Housing Bodies that were approved housing applicants from the Waiting List.

Capital Delivery 2017

The Minister for Housing by letter dated 5th January 2018 has notified Kilkenny County Council of its delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland i.e. 627 units for the period 2017 to 2021. A report on housing delivery will be provided at the February Council meeting. During 2017 a number of housing capital schemes advanced and progress is outlined below;



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	No of Units	Status
Acquisitions	39	Units purchased , Buy & Renew (1)
	2	Purchases in progress.
New Houses delivered	7	The Haven Newpark (March 2017);
	11	Togher Way, Urlingford (July 2017)
Delivery Imminent (Jan 2018)	4	Wetlands, Kilkenny
	8	Abbeygate, Ferrybank
	5	Togher Way, Urlingford
Part 8 Permission Granted	5	Greensbridge House, Kilkenny City
	33	Donaguile, Castlecomer
	1	Hebron Road, Kilkenny
	1	Blackstaff, Callan
Tender Issued for Works Contractor	38	Bolton Callan
	154	

Total	158	
LA Houses Extensions/ Adaptations	29	Works completed
Voids	17	Works Completed (14) Work in Progress (3)
Retrofitting	180	Works Completed
Total:	226	

Rent Review 2018

Members are reminded of the pending rent review to be carried out in Quarter 1, 2018 for all our tenants.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness is the Repair & Leasing Scheme which was rolled out nationally in March 2017. The Scheme targets owners of vacant properties as a possible source of social housing, enables funding to support necessary repairs to vacant properties and also provides the property owners with an income stream that may, otherwise, be unavailable. Following an extensive advertising programme, Kilkenny County Council has received 17 Expressions of Interest:

- 4 applications were considered suitable but owners did not proceed
- 6 applications have been inspected and request for itemisation and costing of works have issued to owners
- 2 applications were deemed beyond the scope of the scheme due to the level of finance required to bring the property to the relevant standards
- 1 application was withdrawn as property was sold
- 3 applications have been referred for inspection
- 1 application was incomplete and further information has been requested from the owner.

	No of Units	Status
Capital Assistance Scheme CAS	21	Thomastown (10), Callan (1), Kilk (6)
		Acquisitions (4)
SHCEP Leasing Total Leased Units 130	15	Completed - Logan Square, Thomastown (16)
		MTR (1) Withdrawn (2)
RAS Total RAS Units 548	27	New Units taken on in 2017
	-30	Units left the Scheme
HAP Total HAP Units 836	272	New Units taken on in 2017
	-147	Units left the Scheme



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The delivery target for Kilkenny County Council was revised to 13 units for 2017.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

As part of the Irish Government's commitment to provide safety to those fleeing war, conflict and persecution, the Department of Justice and Equality requested that Kilkenny County Council be a part of this response and provide assistance with the resettlement of 140 refugees into County Kilkenny during 2017 and 2018. The 140 people will be made up of 25 to 30 families

Kilkenny County Council is one of six counties who are currently participating in resettlement processes with a further ten counties that have already been involved in the resettlement and integration of refugee families and children under the current protection Programme.

Kilkenny County Council has established a local Resettlement Inter-Agency Working Group which acts as a management committee to oversee the development and implementation of the local resettlement Programme. A national tender process was undertaken and Respond Support has been appointed as the agency to deliver the resettlement Programme in Kilkenny.

Respond Support has recruited a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Worker to support the families upon their arrival in Kilkenny. It is hoped that the workers will be in place in January 2018.

KCC will continue to identify units through acquisitions, turnkey and Approved Housing Bodies to avoid any major impact on our current housing delivery Programme around the City and County. It is intended to take 2 to 4 families at any one time in order to assist the transition process for the families.

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP): 2017 is the penultimate year of the 5 year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2014 – 2018.

At the end of December 2017, Kilkenny County Council had delivered 56 units of accommodation. This exceeds the target of 54 units of accommodation set out in TAP for this time period.

January 2018 will see the completion of Phase 2 of the redevelopment of St. Catherine's Halting Site with the allocation of 4 houses and the design of the third and final phase to commence i.e. 3 units.

Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation Status, 2017:

This count took place on November 24th 2017 as directed by Circular Letter 41/2017. The total number of Traveller families known to be resident in the county on the day of the count was 198, an increase of two families compared with 2017.

Estate Management

Estate Management Strategic Plan 2015-2020 - 2017 Budget €150,000.

- To assist in the provision of a framework to develop sustainable communities in County Kilkenny Housing Estates.
- to provide funding and supports to residents to enable an appropriate level of estate management e.g. Estate Management Grants,
- to assist in the development of larger scale estate enhancement projects in identified County Council estates.

Estate Management Grants

In 2017 Kilkenny County Council awarded funding to 67 groups in total, this is an increase from 44 in 2016.

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Large Estate Management Grant Scheme
 Groups awarded funding under the Large Estate Grant Scheme for 2017 include:

Chapelfield (Urlingford)	€ 500.00
Father Rafter Place (Mooneenroe)	€4,000.00
Castle Avenue (Thomastown)	€6,500.00
Church Avenue (Castlecomer)	€3,120.00
Hillcrest Avenue (Piltown)	€3,000.00
Whites Castle (Knocktopher)	€2,043.00

Housing Loans Activity

The number of loans approved is in line with previous years. The Annuity Loan Variable Interest Rate is 2.30% and the fixed Interest Rate for first 5 years of loan is 2.25%. The Maximum Loan is €200,000. The average loan in 2017 was €120,029.

	2017				
	No of apps Recvd	No. Approved	% Apprvd	No. Paid	Amount Paid
			%		€
Annuity Ten Purch /Annuity Recons. Loan	42	36	86	32	3,840,923.05
Caravan Loan	10	8	80	7	413311
	2	0	0	1	6,150.00
	2	2	100	2	18,750
Total	56	46	82	42	4,279,134.05

Planning Applications Refused	46	53
Complaints Received	99	107
Warning Letters Issued	74	103
Enforcements Notices Issued	33	35

The table above shows that planning applications for 2017 were similar in volume to those received in 2016.

Taking-in-Charge

The Council took in charge fifteen housing developments throughout the county in 2017. At the end of the year there were 45 valid taking in charge applications on hand. Work continues on proactively progressing these applications to successful conclusion, and it is anticipated that a similar number of estates will be taken in charge in 2018.

Unfinished Housing Developments

The number of unfinished housing developments in County Kilkenny was reduced from 27 to 15 during 2017.

Forward Planning:

- Having considered the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received to the Draft Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan, the Council published material alterations to the Draft Plan. The material alterations were on public display from Friday, 6th October to Friday, 3rd November, 2017. A total of 9 submissions were received and the Chief Executive's report was considered and the Plan adopted at the December Council meeting.
- A Draft Local Area Plan for Castlecomer was published in October and was on public display between the 6th Oct and the 17th November. As part of this, an Information Evening was held on Tuesday 17th of October in the Castlecomer library, and this was very well attended. Twenty seven submissions were made to the draft and the Chief

PLANNING:

PLANNING: Month of December 2017

Planning Summary	Total to December, 2016	Total to December 2017
Planning Applications Received	883	871
Planning Applications Granted	744	717



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Executives report on the submissions will be considered at the January meeting of the Council.

- The Draft National Planning Framework was published by the Government in October 2017 for public consultation. The closing date for submissions was the 10th November. The Council's Chief Executive made a submission to this process, as did the Piltown Municipal District Members. The National Planning Framework is expected to be finalised by Government early in 2018.
- Preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) by the Southern Regional Assembly has commenced with the publication of an issues paper. The closing date for submission to the Regional assembly is 5pm on the 2nd February
- A workshop organised through SPC has been arranged for the 19th January which will form the basis of Kilkenny County Council's submission to the RSES.
- Background work has commenced on the Thomastown local area plan with a view to progressing to public consultation and a draft plan later in 2018.
- Work on the preparation of the Callan local area plan will commence in March. A brief for the appointment of consultants to carry out that work has been advertised.
- The Urban Design Criteria and Development Code for the Abbey Quarter was placed on public display before Christmas. A total of 20 submissions were received and the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received will be considered at the January Council meeting.
- Vacant site register has now been populated and is available for inspection on the Council's web site. Notices have been served on registered owners and owners have 28

days to appeal the entry on the register to AN Bord Pleanala. The last day for lodging of appeals is the 16th January.

- A variation to the County Development Plan (Variation 3) will be published in January for a period of public consultation. The purpose of the variation is to incorporate the expired local area plans for Piltown, Fiddown and Gowran into the County Development Plan and to amend the development boundary to Ballyragget.
- A variation to the City Development Plan (Variation 5) will also be published in January for a period of public consultation. The purpose of the variation will be to allow for temporary carparking on the Abbey Quarter Masterplan area as a temporary/meanwhile use.

ENVIRONMENT:

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) 2017

Results

Kilkenny County Council welcomes the joint 6th position which Kilkenny City received in the recent 2017 IBAL results. This represents an improvement on the 11th position that Kilkenny achieved in 2016. Kilkenny City has consistently achieved a rating of 'Cleaner than European Norms' over recent years.

Education & Awareness

Preparation of the Litter Management Plan

The draft 2018-2020 Litter Management Plan was advertised for public consultation on the 5th January 2018.

Methods of Consultation will include:

- The consultation phase (5th Jan.-2nd of Feb.) will be advertised via local papers, radio and social media.
- The draft plan will go live on the Councils consultation platform www.consult.kilkenny.ie



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this Friday to make it easy for the public to make a submission

- Hard copies of the draft plan are available in municipal district offices and local libraries with advice on how to make a submission should postal submissions be preferred.
- The draft plan will be presented at each Municipal District meeting during January
- The PPN will assist by informing it's members that the public consultation phase is open.
- A Tidy Towns forum is scheduled for the 17th of Jan. in the New Park Hotel, Castlecomer Rd, Kilkenny City @ 7.30pm to outline the draft plan summary to tidy town representatives.

Anti-Dumping Initiative.

A successful clean-up of a historic stockpile of tyres was completed at Raheen, South Kilkenny during December. Approximately 300 tyres were collected with the costs 100% recoupable from the department as part of the anti dumping initiative. Waste Tyres is one of the national waste enforcement priorities for 2018.

December Statistics - Environment	
Inspection Type	
Complaints Investigated	85
Litter Patrols	45
Waste Facility inspections	3
Discharge Licenses Premises	6
Septic Tank Inspections	0
Joint Inspections with TFS Office	0
Out of hours coal patrol	13
Litter Pollution Surveys	22
ATM Surveys	0
Regulation	
Planning Reports	29
Planning Inspections	3
Tyre Regulations	0

Monitoring

Historic Landfill monitoring	2
WWTP Ambient Monitoring	16
Priority Site Monitoring	0
Operational & Surveillance Monitoring	15
Groundwater Monitoring	3
Monitoring for Water Services	42

Note: The Council's targets as per the RMCEI Plan for 2017 for the following: septic tank inspections; joint inspections with TFS Office; ATM Surveys; Tyre Regulations; and Priority Site Monitoring were achieved by year end.

PARKS:

New Ross to Waterford Greenway

Circa 72 submissions were received following the public consultation on the Council's Part 8 planning application outlining the proposed route for the New Ross to Waterford Greenway. The majority of submissions received are supportive of the proposed Greenway, which is located mainly along the disused railway line in South Kilkenny from Ferrybank to New Ross.

Following submissions received in relation to a short section of the route outlined in the Part 8 application that is diverted on-road, consultants were retained to review alternative route options along this section. The consultants having reviewed the available options and have recommended in their report that the route along this section be relocated to the disused rail line for a number of reasons, not least that this provides the safest possible environment for Greenway users.

The findings of the report are deemed acceptable and a new Part 8 planning application has been initiated specifically for this section of the Greenway accordingly. A brief for the detailed design of the Greenway along the entire c22km



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route will then be prepared. This will include the proposed accommodation works that will need to be provided for landowners impacted by the Greenway and further discussions will take place with landowners as part of this process.

HERITAGE:

County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy 2018-2022

The Draft County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy 2018-2022, which addresses Kilkenny County Council Heritage, Arts and Library Services, has been prepared. 120 submissions were received from the public, and the strategy will be brought to SPC3 in March 2018 for discussion. It will then be brought to full Council meeting for discussion and sign off. This 5 year strategy replaces the individual Heritage, Biodiversity, Arts and Library Plans, with one integrated document for the first time. The strategy addresses Pillar 5 of the national cultural framework policy "Culture 2025 – Éire Ildánach" to develop a more collaborative approach to cultural services delivery at a local level.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

The Local Authority Tidy Towns Pollinator Award (a special award in the National Tidy Towns competition developed by Local Authority Heritage Officers and Biodiversity Officers, with the National Biodiversity Data Centre) received applications from 71 Tidy Towns committees across 26 counties in 2017. The award committee is chaired by the Kilkenny County Council Heritage Officer. 3 Tidy Towns committees in Co. Kilkenny entered the award in 2017. The Heritage Officer will continue to work with Tidy Towns committees in Kilkenny to encourage participation. This work addresses Action A44 of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*.

Kilkenny County Council Parks Department is currently uploading information to the national online mapping system at <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie> on sites and areas that Kilkenny County Council is managing for pollinators. This addresses Action A76 of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020*.

FIRE SERVICES:

1) Community Engagement & Education:

- KCLR96FM held an OB (outside broadcast) in Kilkenny City Fire Station on 21st December. The purpose was to highlight the role of the Emergency Services that work for their communities throughout the Christmas holidays. Members of the Fire Service, Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, St Luke's Hospital and the Defence forces gave interviews in the fire station during the three hour slot highlighting their work and providing safety advice.

2) Influencing and Regulating the built environment:

- We have administered 99 No. Fire Safety Certificate Applications in 2017.
- In 2017 we have carried out 109 inspections under KFRS Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020.
- Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service fire prevention officers held fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ. This initiative has been a huge success in 2017 as it has aided greatly in reducing 1) our Fire Safety Certificate invalidation and 2) our Fire Safety certificate refusal rates. This has produced a positive culture of compliance amongst the business/commercial community and the professional bodies in relation to fire safety in Kilkenny.

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
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3) Fire Service Operations:

We attended numerous calls over the Christmas period. Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service were called in to battle a serious blaze at McDonalds just before Christmas.

Firefighters from Kilkenny City, Freshford and Callan did a great job by quickly bringing it under control and prevented it spreading into the building. Due to the actions of the firefighters the premises was able to open for business the following day.

4) Facilities and general news, new PPE, new equipment, new fire station approvals etc.

- We are upgrading our fire service vehicles as per the section 26 Plan. 1no second hand fire engine arrived at Christmas for Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade.
- The new fire station for Graiguenamanagh Fire Brigade is at snagging stage.
- We received funding for upgrading our Road Traffic Equipment and are in the process of going to tender in January 2018.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Some of the Numbers 2017

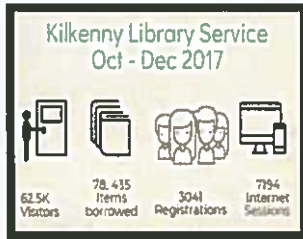
26	businesses approved a total of €503,643 in grant aid creating 40 jobs in the first year and a projection of 95 jobs within 3 years	
594	people participated in 49 LEO training courses ranging from Start Your Own Business programmes to Social Media for business, to Financial training. An additional 232 people attended 7 seminars	
381	entrepreneurs received one to one mentoring support including those who participated in Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur competition and business owners who availed of the Trading Online Voucher scheme	
539	students from 12 secondary schools throughout the County participated in the Student Enterprise Programme 2016-2017	
28	Trading Online Vouchers were awarded in 2017 totaling €59,340 which enabled these small businesses to develop an e-commerce strategy and enabled them to sell their products and services online, opening their business up to a range of new markets	
31	young entrepreneurs under the age of 35 entered Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (BYE) Competition - 19 in the Business Idea category, 8 in the Best Start-Up category and 4 in the Best Established Business Category	
12	applications were approved Technical Assistance for Micro Export Grants, which enable them to access new markets	
14	businesses were assisted with applications under the St. Canice's Credit Union Smart Options Loan Scheme	
8	businesses were assisted with applications under the Micro Finance Ireland Loan Scheme	
411	people availed of Business Advisory clinics with LEO staff	

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LIBRARY SERVICES:



New and Recent Initiatives

Healthy Ireland at your Library is a new service which will be rolled out in 2018, providing resources, supports and programming on various health & wellbeing topics across the library network.



Policy

A National Library Strategy entitled “Libraries Ireland-Transforming Irish Public Libraries 2018-2022” has just gone for public consultation and is due to be published in March 2018. See www.kilkennylibrary.ie for more details.

Aligned to this is the Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy 2018-2022, which is an integrated approach to Library, Arts & Heritage development for the next 5 years. The plan is in draft format & will be published in early 2018.

Upcoming Events

Library card Sign-up month is an initiative which will be run in February 2018 to encourage people to join their local library.



Funding
 Funding of €12,000 has been awarded by the Dept. Of community & rural Affairs to support the following elements of the National Strategy:

RFID Self Service Machines in all 8 Library branches

Literacy stock to support the Right to Read Literacy Initiative

Resources to support the Work Matters Initiative

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, SECTION
51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)
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APPENDIX 1

Finance Report – January 2018.

The Annual Financial Statement for 2017 is currently being prepared and a draft will be presented to Council at the March meeting.

The expenditure by service division for the eleven months to the end of November 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €70.29m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the twelve months to the end of December. The final results on cash collection for the year will be available for the February meeting. IPB have indicated that they will be confirming the capital distribution previously advised in the coming weeks.

Table 1	Actual YTD Nov 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	16,989	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	19,126	17,093
Water Services	5,826	6,778
Development Management	7,390	7,894
Environmental Services	8,166	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	5,541	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	558	798
Miscellaneous Services	6,695	6,661
Overall Total	70,291	70,165

