

# MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE  
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL.



Prepared By:  
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Chief Executive  
May 2023

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Príomhfheidhmeannach  
Féadfaidh 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<i>Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate</i>	Page 2
<i>Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development</i>	Page 3
<i>Pleanáil / Planning</i>	Page 7
<i>Tithíocht / Housing</i>	Page 9
<i>Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services</i>	Page 12
<i>Seirbhísí Éigeandala / Emergency Services</i>	Page 15
<i>Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services</i>	Page 16
<i>Ealaíona &amp; Cultúr / Arts &amp; Culture</i>	Page 18
<i>Airgeadas / Finance</i>	Page 21

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate.

### Mayors Official Engagements April 2023.

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**SATURADAY 1st:**

**SUNDAY 2nd:**

**MONDAY 3rd:**

**TUESDAY 4th:**

UCC Governing body, UCC, Cork.

**WEDNESDAY 5th:**

Visit Waterford Photcall, Mahon Falls, Co. Waterford.

St Patrick's Parade 2023 Award Ceremony, The Garden Room, Medieval Museum, Co. Waterford.

**THURSDAY 6th:**

**FRIDAY 7th:**

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**SATURDAY 8th:**

**SUNDAY 9th:**

**MONDAY 10th:**

**TUESDAY 11th:**

St. Herblain Rush Rugby Club Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

**WEDNESDAY 12th:**

Freewheelers Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

JAM@ The Royal, Theater Royal, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

**THURSDAY 13th:**

Creative art for survivors exhibition, Central Libraby, Co. Waterford.

**FRIDAY 14th:**

Meeting with Minister Kieran O'Donnell, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Park Rangers AFC, Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Rinnashark Sea Angling Club, Mayoral Reception, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Waterford Rising GAA Dinner, Croke Park, Co. Dublin.

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**SATURDAY 15th:**

LAMA Awards, Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

**SUNDAY 16th:**

Launch for our bid to be become the first Autism Friendly City, the Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

**MONDAY 17th:**

**TUESDAY 18th:**

Lunch with Ambassador Maruyama Norir, Momo Resturant, Patricks Street, Co. Waterford.

**WEDNESDAY 19th:**

**THURSDAY 20th:**

Launch of National Tree Week, N25 Youghal Road, Co. Waterford.

**FRIDAY 21st:**

The Brass Band Concert, Sacred Hearts Church, The Folly, Co. Waterford.

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**SATURDAY 22nd:**

The Mayors Ball, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

**SUNDAY 23rd:**

**MONDAY 24th:**

School Visit with An Méar, The Chamber, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

**TUESDAY 25th:**

Twinning trip in Märkischer Kreis.

**WEDNESDAY 26th:**

Twinning trip in Märkischer Kreis.

**THURSDAY 27th:**

Twinning trip in Märkischer Kreis.

Newly refurbished House of Waterford unveiling, Waterford Crystal, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Blackwatervalley Opera Festival Launch Event, Lismore Heritage Centre, Lismore, Co. Waterford.

Attended by Cllr. Damian Geoghegan.

**FRIDAY 28th:**

Twinning trip in Märkischer Kreis.

Exhibition opening in partnership with SETU, The Garden Room, Medieval Museum, Co. Waterford.

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**SATURDAY 29th:**

**SUNDAY 30th:**

## Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

### North Quays

In mid April a North Quays Newsletter was issued and distributed to local representatives, residents, agencies and local interest groups, providing details on the project, an update on current and upcoming works and contact details for the Construction Liaison Officer.

Harcourt Developments in continuing with pre-planning meetings with the Planning section of Waterford City and County Council, regarding development of the North Quays SDZ site.

#### CONTRACTS:

- Ferrybank Pump station contract and enabling works - David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing well on relocating the Ferrybank Pump Station and Pump Station enabling works contracts. 40 % of the pump station contract is deemed to be complete.

- Abbey Road footpath widening contract - Mallwood Construction has completed works.

### Local Enterprise Office

#### LEO Figures year to date (2023) and comparison of current month with previous year

Indicator	At end of April 2022	At end of April 2023
<b>Measure 1</b>		
No. of Clients applying	3	11
No. of Clients securing	3	11
Value of support approved	€73,220	€117,963
<b>Measure 2</b>		
No. of clients receiving	885	1108
Value of support given	€109,632	€131,933

#### Support – Trading Online Voucher

##### Trading Online Voucher

No. of Approvals	29
Value of Approvals	€58,798

Figures not included in cumulative table.

#### Waterford Local Enterprise Pitch Perfect Start Up Competition

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Waterford, ArcLabs Research and Innovation Centre and Boxworks joined forces to deliver Pitch Perfect on 21st and 22nd April. The competition was aimed at discovering innovative startups that could help transform the business landscape in Waterford. Seven successful applicants participated at a 2 day Business Bootcamp where they were guided through the initial stages of developing their idea and learning how to pitch it. Participants then pitched their business ideas to the judges who selected the winner. The judges were highly impressed by the quality of the pitches and selected Praveen Kaur of Uoto as the winner on the day. Uoto is centred around the sharing economy and will target incoming passengers to an airport and offer them the ability to rent cars that are owned by individuals who are flying out of the same airport. Praveen will receive a cash prize of €1,000 and along with all the other participants will receive mentoring from the LEO.

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.



## Communications

### Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 9 media releases and drafted 9 Mayoral speeches.

### IN HOUSE DESIGN:

- Bike Week Flyer
- Scanlon's Yard Car Park signage
- NQ Newsletter
- Social media assets including Recruitment (Retained Firefighters / LEO Head of Enterprise / Creative Communities Engagement Officer)

**WATERFORD North Quays**

**NORTH QUAYS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

**Project Partners**

The North Quays Public Infrastructure Project is being funded in partnership between the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Waterford City & County Council. The overall level of estimated public infrastructure investment is €207m. Kilkenny County Council & Birr and Fecora are also key partners in the delivery of the project.

**Contact us**

**Address**  
BAM Project Site Office  
Frank Casin Wharf

**Construction Liaison Officer**  
Mr. Des Gilsehan  
✉ wccpi@bam.com  
☎ 051 364077

**Dear resident.**

We are getting in touch to update you on the current status of the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project. As you may be aware, the main construction contract was awarded to Bam in November 2022 and a ground breaking ceremony held in early March marked the opening start of the works on the main contract. The Public Infrastructure Project comprises three main elements; a new Sustainable Transport Bridge across the River Suir for cyclists and pedestrians with a new public plaza on the South Quays, a new Integrated Transport Hub on the North Quays including the relocation of Plunkett Train Station, and enhanced multi-modal access infrastructure including improved road, rail and cycling access. You may also be aware that over the last few years, Waterford City and County Council has been carrying out extensive enabling works for the project. These works include contracts for demolition, investigative works, site clearance, utility diversions, rock slope stabilisation, footpath widening and pump station drainage. These contracts are now either complete, substantially complete or in progress, and they enable the main works contract to be completed. It is expected that the works will be completed in 2025, and we are conscious that by their nature, the works will cause some disruption to local residents, businesses, commuters and visitors. As the works progress, the project will engage with these stakeholders, and a dedicated Construction Liaison Officer has been appointed to lead this important engagement process. In the meantime, we hope this newsletter, is helpful in providing information on the upcoming works.

[www.waterfordnorthquays.ie](http://www.waterfordnorthquays.ie)

Health & Wellbeing Home & Garden Family Parenting Food & Drink Motoring

**THINK WATERFORD FIRST FOR WORK LIFE BALANCE**

**Life**

**Property, homes & gardens**

**The power of virtual staging for empty**

**POPULAR**

**Full team line-out: Ireland battle it out with France today in the Women's Six Nations**

**Bartender praised for handling woman rescue message disguised as...**

**Molly-Mae Hague mum-shamed after sharing Bam's feeding routine**

**The 5-star hotel Joe**

**Sponsored**

**waterford2040.com**  
[www.waterford2040.com/](http://www.waterford2040.com/)

**Think Waterford First | Think Like The Vikings | The Best Place To Invest**

We Provide Investment Support & Advice On Doing Business In Waterford. Discover More Today. Discover A Place Built For A Modern Ireland. Live And Invest In

**THINK WATERFORD FIRST FOR WORK LIFE BALANCE**

**THE IRISH TIMES**

14 Apr 2023

**Biden arrives in west for Knock**

Biden - President Biden's Visit

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Think Waterford First Campaign:

Think Waterford First Think Waterford First Campaign continued with digital and audio rollout through standard display, premium display, video display, social:in feed, Google ads and YouTube.

Print advertising including two x special reports in The Irish Times

- Business Ireland
- Sustainability Ireland
- Podcast sponsorship – The Other Hand with Economist Jim Power

## Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2023

	Reach	% Change	Posts	% Change	Followers	% Change
March	661,668	30.6%	415	54%	46,636	0.9%
April	842,008	27.3%	247	40.5%	46,901	0.6%

## WCCC Website stats: February 1st to March 30th, 2023

	Page Views	Unique page views	Avg. Time on Page
	98,169	78,011	00:01:28
1.Online Planning Enquiries	11,512	9,026	00:03:56
2.Choice Based Lettings	6,225	4,616	00:01:36
3.Index	5,978	4,729	00:00:35
4.Job Vacancies	5,385	4,342	00:01:57
5.Planning Enquiries	4,650	3,112	00:00:14
6.Online Payments	3,549	3,146	00:02:52
7.Departments Index	3,211	2,557	00:00:14
8.Planning Index	2,659	1,966	00:00:28
9.Planning Lists Index	2,364	1,974	00:02:58
10.Housing Index	1,885	1,427	00:02:14

\*Page views represent the total amount of 'hits' to any given webpage - one person can make multiple page views

\*\*Unique Page views count unique views of a page only once, regardless of how many pages they have visited during one visit.

\*\*\* This month there was a Advertising campaign running for Waterford 2040 so that impacted the total figures.

## **TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION:**

### ***Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)***

- Currently implementing 18 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2020 and 2022. The scheme funds the ongoing maintenance of existing trails and outdoor recreation amenities, development of new and enhanced amenities as well as promotional activities.
- A May call for funding is anticipated for ORIS 2023.

### ***Waterford Greenway***

- Ongoing development projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII including.
- Greenway Feasibility Studies
- Continuing to work with Cork County Council and Tipperary County Council on two Greenway Feasibility studies:
  - Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway Study
  - Kilmeaden to Carrick-on-Suir Greenway Study
- Further landowner, stakeholder and public engagement will take place throughout 2023.
- Waterford Trails
- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. [www.visitwaterfordtrails.com](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)
- New trails booklet and map brochure to be distributed to key stakeholders before end May.
- New resources to be added to website.

### ***Tourism***

- A delegation from Waterford recently travelled to Germany to create a partnership/twinning with Märkischer Kreis. Märkischer Kreis is a district in central North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany and has approximately 410,000 inhabitants. The delegation, as part of the itinerary, were able to experience some of the region's most notable tourist attractions such as Sauerland Park including The Jüberturm Tower, Altena Castle & the beautiful town of Menden. The delegation were also able to experience one of the region's best examples of sustainability within the area of industry with a visit to 'MPG' - Mendener Präzisionsrohr GmbH. Waterford Council looks forward to working with Märkischer Kreis in the future to assist in improving our respective areas of Tourism, Culture & Industrial best practice.

### ***Economic Development & Enterprise SPC***

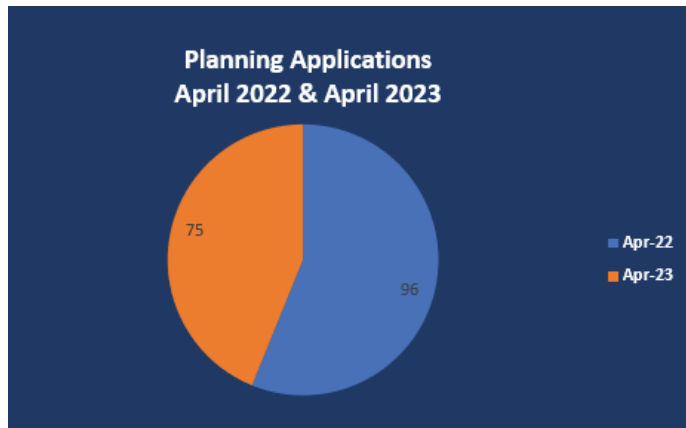
The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled on May 31st 2023.

## Pleanáil / Planning

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

75 Planning applications were received countywide in from 1st-28th April 2023. This compares with 96 planning applications received for the same period in 2022.

A total of 295 planning applications were received in the year to 28th April 2023. This compares to 354 planning applications which were received in the same period in 2022.



## Heritage Officer Report

### Decade of Commemorations

A seminar on the Centenary of Waterford Farm Labourer's Strike 1923 will take place in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan on May 4th and includes talks by Dr. Emmet O'Connor, Dr. Pat McCarthy, Dr. Terry Dunne and Kieran Allen(UCD). The Waterford Commemorations Website [Waterford1916to1923.ie](http://Waterford1916to1923.ie) will be launched at the event. Registration is available on [Eventbrite.ie](http://Eventbrite.ie)

Five applications were received under the Community Commemoration Grant Scheme for projects commemorating the 1921-1923 period and are currently being assessed by the Waterford Commemorations Committee.

### Heritage Funding 2023

Four projects have been awarded funding under the Community Monuments Fund allocated by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €270,000 for conservation and survey of a range of archaeological sites across the city and county.

Funding to a value of €100,000 has been awarded under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund allocated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for projects on Brent Geese, Barn Owls, control of invasive species, wetland management and control of invasive species.

The Heritage Council have awarded €35,000 under the Heritage Plan Fund.

3. Derelict Sites – Update
4. Medieval Walls Interpretation Plan - Presentation
5. Taking in Charge Policy 2023 – Update



## Forward Planning Report

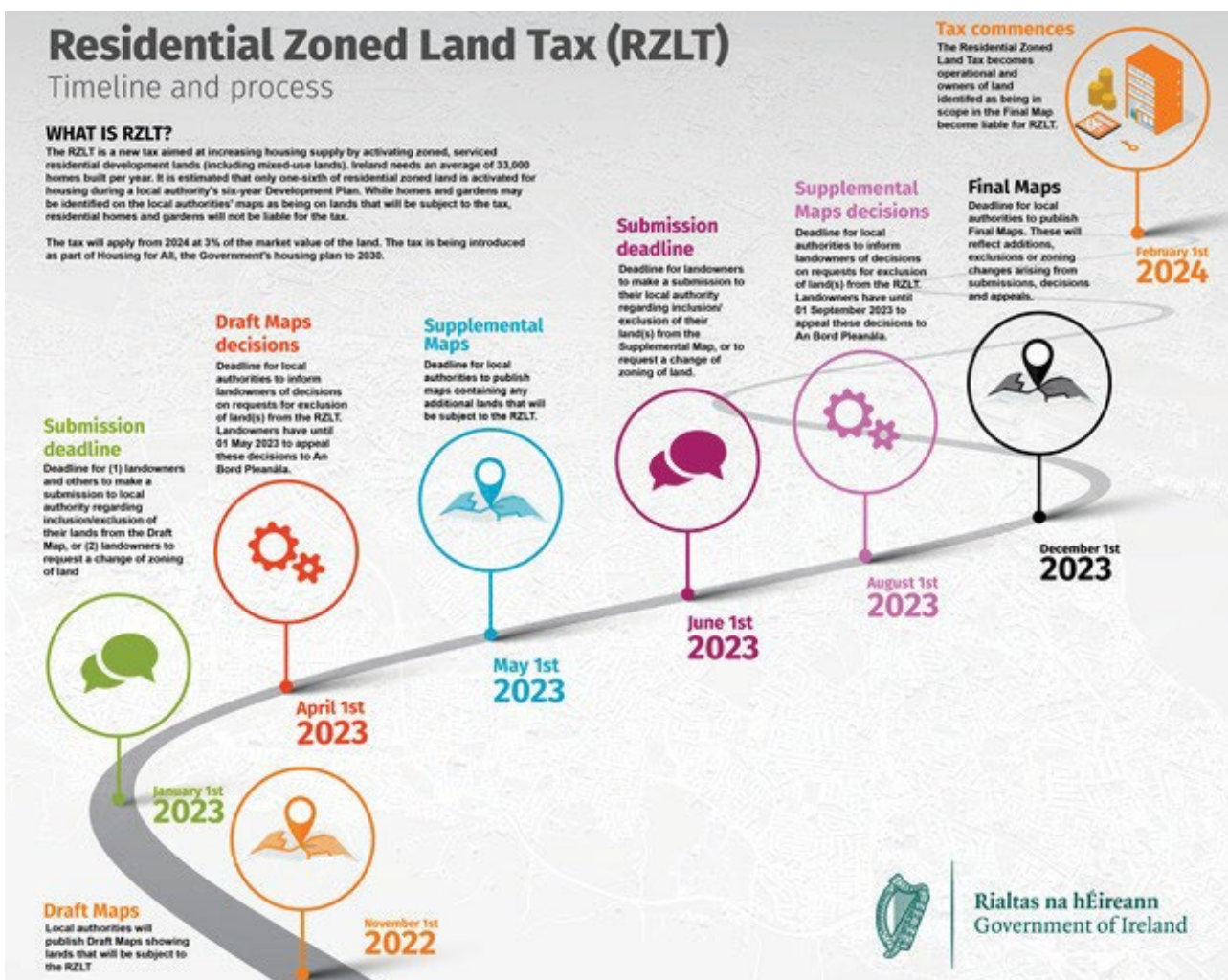
### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Draft Map of land in-scope

A draft map indicating land considered in-scope for the purposes of the RZLT was prepared by Waterford City and County Council, was placed on display over the period November-December 2022 and written submissions were invited. There are two issues of note resulting from this process:

1. A total of 67 written submissions were received. The planning authority provided a written determination to each submission received, the result of which was to retain lands in-scope which were the subject of 57 submissions while the land referred to in the remaining 10 submissions was considered out of scope for the purposes of the tax. Persons aggrieved by such determinations have opportunity to make an appeal to An Bord Pleanála and at time of writing a total of 5 such appeals have been made but this will likely increase. It is intended that all appeals will be determined by An Bord Pleanála within 16 weeks of 1st of May.

2. It should be noted that Waterford City and County Council has not prepared a supplemental map identifying additional lands for the purposes of the tax and a statement to this effect along with social media and newspaper notices have now issued.

As per the timeline below, the final map of lands identified as in-scope for the RZLT will be published by the planning authority on 1st of December. The final map will have regard to the determinations of the planning authority on written submissions received and those of An Bord Pleanála on all appeals.



## Tithíocht / Housing

### Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	April 2022	Year 2022	April 2023	Year to date 2023
Applications received	100	959	135	669
Applications assessed *	82	434	47	185
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	65	375
Approved for social housing supports following interview	N/A	N/A	43	51

### Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies April 2022	Cumulative Tenancies 2022	New Tenancies April 2023	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2023
Total	12	621	40	5	105

### CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1194 There have been 374 refusals on properties.

### Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
2023 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
April	5	4	3	2	4
Year to date	23	4	12	3	4

### Tenant Purchase applications

2023 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
April	3	3	0	1	1
Year to date 2022	55	17	17	20	1
Year to date 2023	30	1	7	17	9

### Housing Assistance Payment

	April 22 HAP Tenancies	April 23 HAP Tenancies	2023 No.of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	37	29	-20	4,649	1786

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Inspections of Dwellings

### Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	37
HAP Non- Compliant	34
Total	37

### Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aid Grants

Grant Scheme amount	No of applications approved April 2023	Value of applications April 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	10	€59,145.00	32	€206,669.00
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	2	€8240.00	6	€21,110.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	3	€14,596.26	35	€139,004.86
Total	15	€81,981.26	73	€366,783.86

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
49	25	15

## Homeless Services

### Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	27th March – 23rd April 2023	Cumulative 2023	Total 2022
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	235	1,032	3,618
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	68	306	954

### Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	23rd April 2023	23rd April 2022
Number of Single Persons	45	49
Number of Families	13	17
Number of Adults in Families	15	21
Number of Children	23	35

### HAP PlaceFinder Service

	27th March – 23rd April 2023	Cumulative 2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	17	103
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	11	49

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Housing First Programme

	Tenancies 2023
Number of Tenancies in place at 23rd April 2023 with Housing First supports.	33

## Capital Projects

### Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

Project Type	Units
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	344
Part V	295
<b>Total Units in WCCC Projects</b>	<b>639</b>

### Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	Units
<b>Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects</b>	<b>155</b>

### Housing Efficiency Retrofit (Total Units for 2022)

	Units
<b>Total Units Housing Efficiency Retrofit 2022</b>	<b>68</b>

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING APRIL 2023:

Consideration is under way for submission relating to properties for 2023 and a submission will be made to the Department in the coming weeks once confirmation of allocation is confirmed.

## REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

April 2023	Total
Handed over/	
Works completed	9
Newly Vacant	9

## Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- The programme is fully allocated.
- Payments are progressing well on remaining projects.
- The drafting of the LDS (Local Development Strategy) is progressing. Closing date for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development is 14th July.
- Four themes have been selected in the Draft LDS four themes in our draft LDS.
  - 1.Economic Development and Job Creation
  - 2.Rural Tourism
  - 3.Social inclusion
  - 4.Rural Environment

### COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

The topic for 2023 has been identified as Relationships and Sexual Education in schools. Progress on 2023 activities is being made weekly by the young people. Funding application for 2023 and 2022 Annual Report have been completed and submitted to Pobal. Valuable submissions were made by the young people during the LECP data gathering stage..

### WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

The new strategy is now finalised having been presented to the Alliance on March 19th. A launch of the strategy is planned for May 2023 with initial action plan now available.

### ST PATRICK'S FESTIVAL 2023

The St Patrick's Day Parade took place on Friday 17th March 2023 and was attended by approximately 15,000 spectators. There were 2000 participants in the parade and 80 community groups took part. The parade ran smoothly and was well received by the public despite dreary weather conditions. A Thomas Francis Meagher flag presentation and an exhibition of Irish dancing preceded the parade on The Mall. All festival events were well attended including the outdoor spoken word stage, Booley House traditional variety act in Garter Lane, City Fairground, music workshops, Wobbly Circus and Active Cities entertainments. Greening took place on the traditional parade route along The Quay, City Marina, Reginald's Tower, Bishop's Palace, Theatre Royal, 35 The Mall, City Hall and Waterford Crystal. A 'Museum Free Day' in the Medieval Museum saw record numbers pass through the doors on the 18th March, the attraction was at full capacity for the entire day. 220 musicians and performers were on show on stages in the Applemarket, Garter Lane and the Cultural Quarter. 45 Harpists performed at a very unique concert in St. Patrick's Gateway Centre. Live streams of festival highlights were broadcast on social media.

Social Media Statistics

'Visit Waterford' Posts Reached over 75,000 views

The 'St Patricks Festival Waterford' page on Facebook reached over 20,000 people

28,000 people viewed the 'St Patrick's Festival Website'

Coverage on 'Waterford in Your Pocket' reached 140,000 viewers over the three days.

Fáilte Ireland arranged for a contingent of international Tour Buyers (Meitheal) to visit Waterford on St Patrick's day. The group were treated to a visit of Mount Congreve Gardens, a tour of the Medieval Museum, a cycle on the Greenway and Grandstand Parade viewing seats followed by Irish Coffees in The Reg. The tour buyers were from France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Great Britain and The Netherlands, all were highly impressed with their experience in Waterford

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## **HEALTHY WATERFORD - ONGOING PROJECTS**

The confirmation of the funding contract is expected by mid May. The delay in the funding has affected the roll out of some of the projects that were to run in Q2 of 2023. Throughout this period we have remained in contact with our key partners and delivered non – funded related services to local communities.

The next meeting of the Well Waterford committee takes place on the 23rd of May.

### **SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):**

A lot of progress has been made under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme with Waterford City & County Council and the HSE working together on promoting and implementing the programme locally. Various projects are progressing in conjunction with Waterford Sports Partnership, SETU and Healthy Waterford. Seed funding of €75,000 from the Department of Health has been allocated to these projects.

### **WATERFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WCSP):**

The Community Safety Innovation Fund, increased to €3 million for 2023 will close for applications on Friday 19th May 2023. Established in April 2021, the Fund uses money seized by An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau from the proceeds of crime to fund innovative new projects to support community safety. Last year a total of €2 million was granted across 22 projects, of which Waterford was successful in two. Grants will range from €20,000 to €150,000 and for more information visit: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a5d23-2022-community-safety-innovation-fund-funding-call/>

The CoOrdinator presented to the Older People's Council on the Community Safety Plan, attended the new City Centre Retail Forum Meetings, met with other organisations requesting meetings on community safety matters such as approved housing bodies and potential applicants for the Community Safety Innovation Fund.

The Chair and the Coordinator attended the launch/discussion of the LCSP Pilot Interim Evaluation Report Launch/Discussion in Dublin. A copy of the report was circulated to all Councillors and members of the Partnership.

The next plenary Meeting of the WLCSP is on Monday 8th May 2023 in the Civic offices, Dungarvan at 6pm.

The call for applications for the Fund runs from 27 March until Friday 19 May 2023 and grants will range from €20,000 to €150,000.

### **UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY RESPONSE FORUM:**

The Ukrainian CRF is in place to assist with housing, supporting and integrating Ukrainian refugees into our communities. All key agencies are working in collaboration to provide services and supports to all Ukrainians arriving into Waterford. Approximately 2,400 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,578 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City. To date 1,129 Ukrainians have been matched with pledged and other accommodation sourced by Waterford Council. Waterford Area Partnership are supporting those who have moved with integration into our communities.

A new local ad for 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties went live on 17th April on WLRFM running for 21 days. We will be posting the ad on our social media pages also for May. Any queries on same should be directed to [offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie) or 058 22059.

### **PRIDE OF PLACE:**

The National Coordinators meeting took place on March 9th to formally begin the 2023 process with the categories for the competition clarified. Preparation for the 2023 competition has begun with entrants currently being identified.

## **SICAP**

Work in ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC.

SICAP Budget allocations for 2023 have now been confirmed and the budget for Waterford City & County (24-1) is €1,319,399 excluding the Ukrainian budget allocation which has been set as €232,758 by the Department.

## **TIG**

The Community Department continue to support the Waterford Traveller Interagency Group which continues to meet regularly.

## **LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

Progress on the preparation of the new LECP is ongoing. The Socio-Economic Statement has been prepared in line with Department issued guidelines. The data collection phase has now been completed with all key stakeholders, agencies, representative groups and the broader public having been consulted with. Work is ongoing now to merge the data gathered into a coherent draft linked to the high level goals identified. The LECP is on schedule for adoption at the July Plenary Council meeting.

## **THE SUPPORTING WATERFORD COMMUNITY FUND 2023**

The 2023 Supporting Waterford Community Fund recipients were formally approved at the April Plenary meeting. A total of €193,457 was divided among 294 successful applicants.

## **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023**

Following the public online expression of interest survey, projects were assessed and Waterford Council's submitted an application to the Department on the 15th March. In total 13 projects were submitted to the Department and we are awaiting the Department's approval of same.

## **CLÁR MEASURE 1 - DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES & AMENITIES**

Applications are now open for Measure 1 of the CLÁR scheme with funding for the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities. Up to 15 applications in total can be submitted from the relevant Local Authorities in respect of Measure 1. Priority for 2023 will be given in respect of small scale renovation works to community buildings (e.g. floors, windows, doors, heating upgrades, kitchen upgrades) and in particular community centres that did not receive funding under the Community Centres Investment Fund. The maximum level of funding for any individual project is €50,000 and grant-funding is at a rate of 90% of total project costs. Closing date for applications is Thursday 11th May 2023 at 4 p.m. sharp.

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Seirbhísi Éigeandála / Emergency Services

### FIRE SERVICE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY:

Total call outs to incidents attended by the 10 fire stations of the Fire Authority are shown for the year to date and for the month of March. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of the fire crews and the community it serves.

#### Fire Service Operational Activity:

Area	Fires	Special Services	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious
Total for April	35	53	17	0
Year to date	201	179	79	0
Total for April 2022	61	41	20	0
Total for 2022	199	159	77	0

### FIRE SAFETY:

The following applications for fire safety certificates have been received with comparison shown for the same period last year

#### Fire Safety:

	April 2023	2023 YTD	April 2022	2022 YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	5	43	8	34

### BUILDING CONTROL:

#### Building Control:

Applications received	April 2023	2023 YTD	April 2022	2022 YTD
Commencement Notices	18	80	41	310
Completion Certificates	19	60	17	204
Disability Access Certs	2	32	5	57

### CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of April 2023 continues with assistance in the response to the urgent needs of the Displaced Persons (DP's) fleeing from the effects of the Ukraine Crisis.

- Logistical support & Transport of over 42 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

For Local Events we were involved in supporting:

- Special Olympics Event
- Suicide or Survive 20Km & 50Km Charity Cycle Event

The Civil Defence volunteers are also working on retraining and recertifying their core skills in their different service area's like Communications, First Aid, Search etc.



## Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

### Environmental Enforcement Statistics

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 26TH APRIL 2023

##### EnforcEmEnt undEr thE LittEr PoLLution Acts 1997 (As AmEndEd)

Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	54
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	32
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

##### EnforcEmEnt undEr thE WAstE MAnAgEmEnt Acts 1996 (As AmEndEd)

No of Complaints	1129
Legal Actions	2
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	0
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	8
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	4
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	57
Section 14 Directions	5
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	2
Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice.	0
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0

#### ANTI-DUMPING INITIATIVE 2023

11 projects in the functional area of Waterford City & County Council have been approved for funding under the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment sponsored Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023.

#### CLIMATE ACTION

##### Climate Action Plan

A pre-draft consultation for the Climate Action Plan will be live in May and we will share it with elected members when it is available.

##### Climate Community Action Fund

The Climate Action Team are working with the libraries to deliver climate change awareness programmes. We are working with the knitting groups to create a piece of art showing climate change over the last 100 years and we are working with the literacy programmes in the Education Training Board.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

##### Green Flag Programme

School visits and assessments were completed for both green flag renewals and first time applications. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. 24 schools will be awarded their flags at a Green Schools ceremony on 10th May.

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## **Community Clean-Ups**

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then arranged following the clean-up. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations are now being taken at [www.national-springclean.org](http://www.national-springclean.org) ; as part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

## **Tidy Towns**

We have been working with Tidy Towns groups to further their work towards the 2023 competition. The closing date for entries this year is 10th May. Tidy Towns groups around the county will be working towards keeping their area looking well for adjudicators over the coming months. The national SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes are awarded to the best under many different categories, from Litter to Sustainability. The overall winner is "Ireland's Tidiest Town" which is announced at a national ceremony in September each year.

## **Grants**

A local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant and a local Circular Economy Grant have been advertised on the website, social media and in local newspapers. Application forms and further information on both grants is available through the website.

### **Local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant:**

this is for community groups, youth groups, schools or other community development organisations, based in County Waterford, who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti.

### **Local Circular Economy Grant:**

a circular economy is based on long-life products that can be renewed, reused, repaired, upgraded and refurbished to preserve natural resources, protect habitats and reduce pollution. It is about finding ways to keep items in use longer and not generating as much waste in the first place. It is about rethinking the way we do things – redesigning the items we use – changing attitudes and changing behaviours about what we buy and what we throw away. The main focus for applications this year should be on projects to promote a circular economy e.g. repairing, reusing, building skills and knowledge in the community to facilitate repair and reuse, changing attitudes and behaviours to how we use items, reduce use of single use items (encourage use of reusable items).

## Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

### Arts

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport & Media will be having a Zoom meeting with the Arts and Culture Department to discuss the current shortage of spaces for the production of Art projects and groups such as Music Generation, Rogue Gallery etc.

Poetry Day was on April 27th but was sadly foreshadowed by the deaths of Actor Jenny Ledwell and young creative artist Erika Tammen. Both were due to be involved events during the day. While a number of events got cancelled the vast majority went ahead with most events centred around Waterford and Dungarvan.

The 27th also marked the first official showing of The Hurler film by Tony Kelly in Garter Lane.

The new exhibition for the Waterford Gallery of Art has had a soft opening. It is based on interpretations of Landscapes and will have a strong outreach programme attached. Directors and Donors of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville are coming to view the show continuing a relationship brokered between the two collections when the Arts Office was based in Greyfriars.

Music Generation and the Theatre Royal produced an evening of rock and pop with the next generation of musicians. Mayor, Cllr. John O'Leary and the head of Music Generation Ireland Rosalyn Molloy was in attendance. Waterford will feature strongly in the summer edition of the Irish Arts Review.

The Townhall Theatre in Dungarvan has been populated with artwork from the Waterford Collection.

The Old Market House Dungarvan features a Landscapes Exhibition by Uri Blayer and also our Pauline Bewick Exhibition from the Waterford Art Collection.

In SETU all the artwork supplied by Waterford Council, with the exception of a piece by Ger Sweeney in the Boardroom, has been collected. We will consider giving them prints in the future as some of the artwork was in poor condition upon inspection.

The Bryan Flynn Painting is to be reframed with Museum/UV resistant glass and returned to the Theatre Royal.

Work continues on a storage unit to replace the current Art Storage Room in City Hall as the Council building is to be re-roofed.

Storage solutions are also being examined for other art and culture temporary infrastructure.

The Invitation to Collaboration partnership (Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Carlow, Arts Council, Creative Waterford) is now moving into a 2nd phase after launching the report two months ago. GOMA has had a major facelift with proper Gallery Windows installed on the street side. It has also had its leaking roof repaired.

Plans are nearing completion for SITC. This years festival may have to be curtailed due to the exorbitant cost of insurance. The Arts Office is going to tender for a portable trailer stage. It will be full speced out for theatre and music performances. The Arts Office is also going to tender for a number of Dome Tents that can be used for performance and events.

The Waterford ArtLinks Bursaries 2023 have been awarded to Waterford artists across a variety of artforms to support their professional development. The full list of recipients can be seen on [waterfordarts.com](http://waterfordarts.com)

Entries are currently open for the Arts Office national Molly Keane Creative Writing Award 2023 to stimulate new writing in Irish short stories.

The Arts Office is assisting a project with the writer Lani O' Hanlon to co-create a book of poems, some written in collaboration with those coming towards the end of life or with bereaved people. This project is in association with the Arts Council, Réalta (formerly Waterford Healing Arts) and the Irish Hospice Foundation.

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Libraries

In April, Waterford City & County Libraries provided access to information, to culture, to technology and to community space. Statistics: figures represent 30 days of activity until April 26th.

<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	32,205
<i>Active members</i>	22,771
<i>Issues in Branch</i>	28,517
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks &amp; emagazines</i>	8,504
<i>Events &amp; Activities</i>	431

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL:

- Spring into Storytime is a national family literacy programme to mark this there were 33 Story Time events in Library branches in Waterford with approximately 1,000 attendees in April.
- A taster session of 'Yarning Connections', funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Walton Institute was held on April 18th prior to six weekly workshops which will begin in May in Central Library Waterford. This innovative programme aims to engage knitters and crocheters in electronic textiles.
- To celebrate Poetry Day Ireland, Molly Twomey read from her JACAR award nominated book, 'Raised Among Vultures' on April 27th. While her co nominee Mark Roper read from his shortlisted work, 'Beyond Stillness', in on April 28th. Poems and Poetry were also celebrated with Share a Poem.
- A two-week home DIY skills programme in association with Waterford Area Partnership and Marianne Heaphy took place in on April 20TH and 27TH.
- As part of the West Waterford Festival of Food local author Richard Shore Local children's author Richard Shore was here to read from his book 'The Tangled Tuna' which is full of magic, adventure and helping ocean plastic pollution. 30 Children attended on the day.
- Metropolitan Mayor of Waterford Cllr Jason Murphy opened the Right of Place Second Chance art exhibition, Creative Art for Survivors, on Thursday 13th April. Right of Place Second Chance is Ireland's largest organisation supporting survivors of institutional abuse in Ireland and their families.

### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- New RFID kiosks have been installed. These kiosks are more user friendly.
- Waterford Libraries ongoing support of Ukrainian refugees provided 29 English classes or groups to 232 attendees in the month of April.
- The Library Writers events team successfully got €4,200 in funding from Creative Waterford to provide high quality creative writing workshops for Waterford people in 2023. These are being organised in association with the Irish Writer's centre and details will be available shortly.

# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Our Bealtaine programme will take place across County Waterford in May. Our Bealtaine Choir is this year's National flagship choir, selected from choirs from all around Ireland, which will make our dawn chorus even more special this year.
- The Towers and Tales Festival will take place in Lismore on the May Bank Holiday weekend. Towers and Tales is a celebration of contemporary children's literature and illustration.
- Bestselling Authors Liz Nugent and Aingeala Flannery will be appearing in Libraries on May 4th and May 10th, respectively.
- The Library Life podcast is on its third episode. In the latest instalment Angela and Tracy reviewed 'Waterford Women of the Revolution 1914-1923,' by Christina Knight-O'Connor and Eddie Cantwell and discussed Local Studies resources available online with Waterford Libraries.



# Management Report Plenary 11th May 2023.

## Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

### Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to March 31, 2023

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	7,727,677	35,728,461	22%	8,309,541	38,036,305	22%
B Road Transport & Safety	7,387,307	49,146,777	15%	3,537,096	33,752,918	10%
C Water Services	2,785,121	11,790,929	24%	2,646,567	11,163,993	24%
D Development Management	5,810,538	21,992,796	26%	3,147,438	11,448,028	27%
E Environmental Services	5,347,144	21,512,181	25%	684,056	2,875,458	24%
F Recreation & Amenity	3,787,346	15,464,575	24%	358,167	1,614,234	22%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	208,184	1,068,270	19%	76,796	399,696	19%
H Miscellaneous Services	1,963,901	9,678,508	20%	2,225,560	10,749,476	21%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	4,916,907	19,667,628	25%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	9,168,690	36,674,758	25%
	<b>35,017,218</b>	<b>166,382,494</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>35,070,818</b>	<b>166,382,494</b>	<b>21%</b>
Surplus/Deficit				53,600	0	

## Collections

Airgeadas  
Finance

Summary of main collections Mar 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Mar 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Mar 2023	Gross Bal 31-03-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	3,008,361	36,137,031	136,855	-	39,008,537	6,010,639	32,997,898	1,391,804	16%	17%
Loans	1,534,038	825,499	-	-	2,359,537	812,749	1,546,788		34%	98%
Rents	3,903,206	4,030,606	-	-	7,933,812	4,050,541	3,883,271		51%	100%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				31,556,223			1,441,675			32,997,898
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				162,880	59,747	105,616	1,218,545			1,546,788
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				101,360	81,356	141,292	3,559,263			3,883,271
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Mar 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-