

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

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



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Prepared By:
Michael Walsh
Chief Executive
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Michael Walsh
Príomhfheidhmeannach
Deireadh Fómhair 2022

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate Mayors Official Engagements September 2022

THURSDAY 1st:	Restoration Art Exhibition in the Index Gallery at Central Library Waterford.
FRIDAY 2nd:	Sensory Garden Launch - Carrickpheirish Library.
SATURDAY 3rd:	
SUNDAY 4th:	
MONDAY 5th:	Launch of the Mannion Project- Cork City Hall. WCFE Graduation- Tower Hotel, Waterford.
TUESDAY 6th:	
WEDNESDAY 7th:	
THURSDAY 8th:	
FRIDAY 9th:	Taste Waterford Business Networking Lunch- Granville Hotel. Delegates of Malta- Mayors Welcome- The Mayors Parlour.
SATURDAY 10th:	Waterford Honey Show 2022- City Square, Waterford. Harvest Festival Dinner- Grow HQ Waterford.
SUNDAY 11th:	
MONDAY 12th:	Cadaujac Twinning - Coastguard Station, Tramore.
TUESDAY 13th:	Enhancing participation in Public Life & Politics- Dublin Castle.
WEDNESDAY 14th:	
THURSDAY 15th:	
FRIDAY 16th:	Waterford Business Awards Launch- Photo- Kilmachthomas. Imagine Arts Festival launch- Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford.
SATURDAY 17th:	The Cheekpoint Community Pontoon Launch- Pier at Cheekpoint harbour.
SUNDAY 18th:	
MONDAY 19th:	European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reform (remit for ERDF) to Waterford - Elisa Ferreira.
TUESDAY 20th:	
WEDNESDAY 21st:	
THURSDAY 22nd:	'Tales of Unexpected'-comedian Jon Kenny's performance: The Gealach Gorm Theatre at Kill Community Centre.
FRIDAY 23rd:	Launch urban biodiversity garden at Theatre Royal. Seeding the Barracks- Top of the City Garden, St Carthages Avenue, Waterford.
SATURDAY 24th:	SEMRA Base Opening- Heywood Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
SUNDAY 25th:	
MONDAY 26th:	
TUESDAY 27th:	
WEDNESDAY 28th:	Photo Op- Make Way Day- City Hall, The Mall, Waterford. Waterford OPC AGM- Large Room, City Hall, The Mall. Coiste Cúram Leanaí Phort Láirge- Launch of Strategic Plan, Coach House, Waterford.
THURSDAY 29th:	Reuse Month at the Central Library- Photo op. Photo Shoot Launch of Activator Pole Loan Scheme Partnership- Represented by Liam Brazil. Decade of Centenaries projects- Book Launch Deise Day Centre. Ambassador of Romania- Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Waterford. Mens Shed- Photo Op- Durrow Train Station. Series of videos to aid jobseekers- Photo Launch Dungarvan Library.
FRIDAY 30th:	Launch of the South East Energy Agency- Grow HQ, Waterford. Towards a Learning Region- Southern Regional Assembly- Large Room, City Hall, The Mall.

Attended by Mayor:

Attended by Deputy Mayor:

Attended by Mayor of the Metropolitan District:

Attended by Metro Deputy:

Attended by a Representative:

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

Waterford City and County Council is in active dialogue with potential developers, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) and the Land Development Agency in respect of the North Quays SDZ site and intends to progress a proposal to conclusion in the coming months.

CONTRACTS:

The Final Business case for the North Quays project has been submitted to Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for cabinet approval as part of the Public Spending Code Gateway 3 approval and also to the NTA. WCCC is engaging with the Dept and addressing any queries being raised.

Suir Plant Civil Engineering Ltd is expected to complete the South Plaza Enabling works by end of October 2022.

Rock Stabilisation contract - Works ongoing by Cumnor Construction Ltd to be completed by February 2023.

Abbey Road footpath widening contract - Mallwood Construction has been appointed and plans to commence works in October 2022.

Pump station contract - David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed and proposing to commence works in October 2022.

Tenders for Water Sampling Contract were returned, Tellab Ltd has been appointed to carry out water sampling in the River Suir for a six month period prior to main construction works.

Local Enterprise Office

LEO Figures year to date (2022) and comparison of current month with previous year

Indicator	At end of Sept 2021	At end of Sept 2022
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	27	10
No. of Clients securing	26	10
Value of support approved	€733,251	€253,317
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	1918	1477
Value of support given	€590,583*	€268,261

Support

Trading Online Voucher

No. of Approvals	58
Value of Approvals	€129,623

Figures not included in cumulative table.

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WATERFORD LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE HOST TASTE WATERFORD ANNUAL BUSINESS NETWORKING LUNCH

As part of the 2022 Harvest Festival, Local Enterprise Office Waterford hosted its seventh annual business networking lunch on Friday the 9th of September in Granville Hotel, Waterford.

The business networking lunch has become an annual event of many business calendars as it is a great opportunity to network, whilst enjoying a delicious three course lunch celebrating local food and local food producers. The kitchen team in the Granville Hotel used their talents to showcase the quality products and producers of the region allowing diners to enjoy the best of what Waterford has to offer.

Local Enterprise Office Waterford also sponsored 'The Kitchen Stage' as part of the Harvest Festival. This included a range of cooking demos showcasing & celebrating Waterford chefs, restaurants and producers.



Communications

Public relations

1 Press releases issued in September 2022.

Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2022

	Reach	+/- Previous month	% Change	Followers	+/- Previous month	% Change
January	799,327			40,863		
February	865,418	66,091	27%	41,064	201	1.9%
March	924,139	58,721	6.8%	41,700	636	1.5%
April	740,040	-125,378	-13.56%	42,280	1,116	2.7%
May	427,208	-312,832	-42.3%	42,610	430	1%
June	814,680	23,341	2.9%	42,966	356	0.8%
July	689,393	-125,287	-15.4%	43,392	426	1.0%
August	699,485	10,092	1.5%	43,985	593	1.4%
September	755,126	66,277	9.5%	44,325	933	2.2%

WCCC Website stats: September 1st – September 30th

Page Views 121,120 % of total.

/index.htm	17,194	14.20%
/departments/planning/planning-enquiries/online-planning-enquiries.htm	10,116	8.57%
/departments/housing/choice-based-lettings.htm	8,327	6.88%
/departments/human-resources/vacancies.htm	4,804	3.97%
/onlinepayments/onlinepayments.htm	4,406	3.64%
/departments/index.htm	4,119	3.40%
/departments/planning/planning-enquiries/viewing.htm	3,672	3.03%
/departments/planning/index.htm	3,074	2.54%
/departments/housing/index.htm	2,851	2.35%
/media/planninglists/index.htm	2,765	2.28%

GREENWAY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Working with Tipperary County Council with regard to feasibility study into a Waterford Greenway to Suir Blueway Connection. The first public consultation period with regard to the study area closed for comments and observations on 7th October 2022. The findings of this public consultation will form part of the stage 1 feasibility report into the project.



OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS)

Currently implementing 18 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2019 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 new Project Development Measure was also initiated under the 2021 scheme.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE SPC

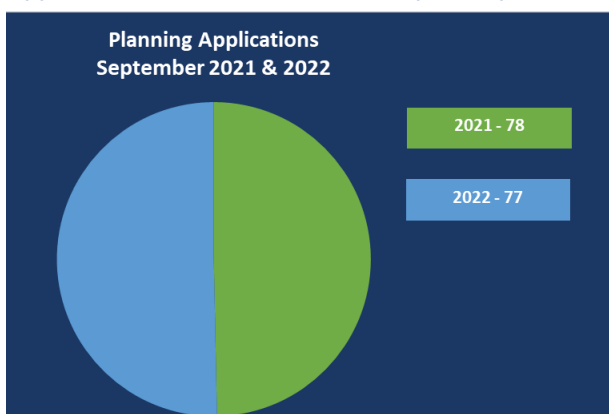
The Economic Development & Enterprise SPC met on 29th September. The SPC proposed the extension of the current Economic Incentive Scheme be extended up to 31st December 2024. The SPC also reviewed the approved Kinetic Labs Loan Agreement. The next meeting of the SPC is scheduled for 14th December 2022.

Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

77 Planning applications were received countywide in September 2022. This compares with 78 planning applications received for the same period in 2021.

A total of 846 planning applications were received in the year to 30th September 2022. This compares to 901 planning applications which were received up to September 2021.



PLANNING DECISIONS

756 applications were decided from the 1st of January to 30th September 2022 compared to 802 for the same period in 2021. Of the 756 decisions, 647 decisions were granted and 109 decisions were refused.

FORWARD PLANNING SEPTEMBER PLENARY REPORT REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme	
Prepare draft scheme	September to mid-October
Public consultation on draft scheme	Mid October to end November (not less than 6 weeks period)
Prepare and submit CE Report to council	Early December to late December (not less than 4 weeks period)
Council to consider CE Report	Late December to early February (not more than 6 weeks period)
Resolution to make the scheme	On or before 12th of February 2023

Heritage Officer Report

HERITAGE OFFICER REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

Decade of Commemorations

Research is almost complete for the GIS Story Map on Civil War events in Waterford and a new website Waterford 1916 to 1922 is being developed which will host all material relating to the Decade of Commemorations Programme in Waterford from the past 8 years including history publications, school resources and talks by the local authority and community organisations. Documentary films on the Siege of Waterford, Liam Lynch and the end of the Civil War and internment at Ballykinlar are nearing completion and will be screened in the coming months.

Biodiversity

A conference on what Local Authorities can do to address the Biodiversity Loss Emergency was hosted by Limerick City and County Council in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre on September 21st. Heritage Officer Bernadette Gust presented on the links between Biodiversity and Climate Action and what actions councils can take to address these areas.

Funding of €14,000 under the National Biodiversity Action Plan was awarded to three biodiversity projects in Waterford this year including installation of nesting boxes for barn owls and swift, an environmental DNA survey for Freshwater Pearl Mussel and wildlife signage.

Bird Flu

The Avian Influenza virus has fatally affected bird populations along the Waterford coastline and Waterford Council staff are collecting and disposing of bird carcasses as reports are submitted. This is a devastating impact on sea bird colonies such as gannets and may also affect migratory wildfowl such as geese and swans. The public are requested to report any finds and avoid contact of finds with humans and pets.



Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	Sept 2021	Year 2021	Sept 2022	Year to date 2022
Applications received	77	670	81	754
Applications assessed *	101	818	105	783
Applications Validated*	41	442	30	331
Approved for social housing supports following interview	43	446	52	340

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies Sept 2021	Cumulative Tenancies 2021	New Tenancies Sept 2022	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2022
Total	62	464	25	17	396

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1090 There have been 334 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
2022 Housing Loans					
September	6	3	1	0	1
Year to date	63	3	40	11	1

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment					
	September 2021 HAP Tenancies	Sept 2022 HAP Tenancies set up	2022 No. of active HAP tenancies set up	Cumulative no. of HAP Tenancies set up to date	Cumulative no. of active HAP Tenancies to date
HAP Tenancies	33	25	-23*	4,466	1,822

* Minus figure as more tenancies left the programme in the month then new tenancies signed up

Housing Loans applications					
	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
2022 Housing Loans					
September	6	3	1	0	1
Year to date	63	3	40	11	1

Inspections of Dwellings

Inspections of Dwellings

<i>HAP</i>	34
<i>HAP Non- Compliant</i>	34
<i>Total</i>	34

In Sept, Waterford City & County Council carried out 137 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 14 properties has had improvement works carried out to meet the standards for rented accommodation.

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

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

Grant Scheme amount	No of applications approved Sept 2022	Value of applications Sept 2022	Cumulative number of applications approved 2022	Cumulative value of 2022 applications
<i>Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000</i>	10	€117,762.00	101	€1,454,180.46
<i>Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000</i>	7	€44,670.26	74	€396,569.25
<i>Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000</i>	16	€95,363.16	107	€580,842.61
<i>Total</i>	33	€257,795.92	282	€2,431,592.32

<i>Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:</i>	<i>Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:</i>	<i>Housing Grant Applications Approved</i>
33	0	33

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

<i>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)</i>	<i>1st-30th Sept 2022</i>	<i>Cumulative 2022</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
<i>Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service</i>	345	2,901	3,516
<i>Assessments by a Homeless Officer</i>	82	747	760

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	<i>30th Sept 2022</i>	<i>30th Sept 2021</i>
<i>Number of Single Persons</i>	44	53
<i>Number of Families</i>	20	11
<i>Number of Adults in Families</i>	26	13
<i>Number of Children</i>	39	28

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HAP PlaceFinder Service

	30th Sept 2022	Cumulative 2022
<i>Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer</i>	34	264
<i>Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete</i>	10	100

Housing First Programme

	Tenancies 2022
<i>Number of Tenancies in place at 30th Sept 2022 with Housing First supports.</i>	32

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Current Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Total WCCC Projects	288	Countywide	Various Stages	
<i>Part V</i>	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2021 – 10 (est)
<i>Repair and Lease</i>	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 41 2021 – 50 (est) 2022 – 50 (est)
<i>Leasing</i>	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 From end of 2021 scheme closed to new applicants
<i>Buy & Renew- Countywide</i>	48	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress – Refurbishment Contractor Framework Appointed

Total units including WCCC Projects: 643

There are 130 units in progress under the Housing Capital Schemes for Approved Housing Body projects.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>September 2022</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/</i>	
<i>Works completed</i>	14
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	18

92 Units approved by the Department for Refurbishment in 2022.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

HEALTHY WATERFORD:

Healthy Waterford Committee met on the 5th, 16th and 28th. The key objectives of the meetings were to draft updated terms of reference and a restructuring of the current committee and local implementation team. One of the key objectives of the committee is to ensure coordination and collaboration of a number of different Health and Wellbeing projects and to avoid duplication of same. The HW coordinator gave updates on his current work plan along with an outline of the current project for allocation of existing funding (see below). The new guidelines for round four of the Healthy Ireland fund have been sent to all Chief Officers and Healthy Ireland Coordinators. A national in-person support event in relation to the roll out of HIF Round 4 will take place on Wednesday 5th October. The HW & SEO will be in attendance.

Expression of Interest Report 29/9/2022 (Deadline 7th of October)

- Over 600 surveys to community groups were issued via the PPN and Community Section. Reminder sent on the 3rd of October.
- Social Media Campaign from Waterford City & County Council via Twitter, Facebook & LinkedIn up until 7th of October
- 81 responses have been recorded to date with a 21% conversion rate and 399 views of the expression of interest form.
- Community & Voluntary make up 31% of respondents with Sports clubs 39% and registered charity 27%.
- 20% of respondents are city based organisations while 54% are rural and towns based organisations.
- The supports mainly revolve around physical activity 23%, mental health 26% and spaces and places for health and wellbeing 22%

The report will lead to a consultation period up until the 7th of November where groups will be met and contacted about pursuing with a number of the ideas outlined in their applications. Following a selection process based on the criteria set out by the committee a list of successful projects will be brought to the November LCDC meeting for approval. October workplan will also consist of developing the three year plan for the application process.

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

The Council through the LCDC has been tasked with the oversight and implementation at local level of elements of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. These include the employment of a SHCP Local Development Officer; the setting up of a SHCP Local Implementation Team (LIT) which has commenced and the Enhancement Funding Scheme. An application for €250k funding was successful and 2 projects have been completed under the programme.

Update:

- A mapping exercise took place to set up the Local Implementation Team and to agree on the ways we can work together in the wellbeing area.
- 2 out of the Enhancement Funding Scheme projects were completed and work started on the other two with an expected completion by the end of October.
- Ongoing consultations with community and other organisations regarding the needs or gaps in services.
- The set up of an 'implementation group' in the area of wellbeing with the role of identifying community projects that can be done in partnership between the Council, the HSE, Waterford Sports Partnership and the Community & Voluntary sectors.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP:

The Community Safety Plan draft process is in its final stages with Focus Groups underway by Hub Planning and the Co-Ordinator working with the library network to capture a section of the Community throughout the County, that may not be online. It is expected that a first draft will be completed before the next WLCSP Meeting on 7th November 2022.

There remains three vacancies on the WLCSP, two Councillor and one Business representation from Dungarvan. Councillor nominations are sought and it is expected that the Business vacancy will be filled before next WLCSP Meeting.

Update is still awaited on the, Waterford LCSP, four submitted applications under the Community Safety Innovation Fund. The Education, Training & Awareness and Building Community Capacity, and, Crime & reducing Criminality and Safe Environment & Infrastructure Working Groups had their inaugural meetings and plan to meet monthly here after.

Members of the WLCSP will attend the Beyond Borders, an All Island Community Safety Conference organised by Department of Justice on 16th & 17th November 2022 in Newry.

Community safety issues that require a collaborated approach are beginning to be brought to the Office's attention by members of the public .

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. To date just over 811 Ukrainian refugees have been received into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City, with 644 exits, of which 510 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.



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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 September. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of fire crews and the community served.

Fire Service Operational Activity:				
Area	Fires	Special Services	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious
Total for September	88	40	20	0
Year to date	530	373	164	0
Total for September 2021	57	46	15	0
Total for 2021	520	323	128	3

FIRE SAFETY:

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

Fire Safety:				
	Sept 2022	2022 YTD	Sept 2021	2021 YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	5	65	3	50

BUILDING CONTROL:

New functions associated with the Building Control Regulations, introduced on 1st March 2014, are being delivered within Emergency Services. Notices and applications associated with these regulations are shown below.

Building Control:				
Applications received	Sept 2022	2022 YTD	Sept 2021	2021 YTD
Commencement Notices	28	244	31	352
Completion Certificates	17	160	13	195
Disability Access Certs	4	41	4	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of September 2022 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 73 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

In Community support and Events we attended:

- World Mountain Running Championships, Comeragh Mountains near Clonmel, First Aid Support.
- Athletics Cross Country Charity Run, St Sennans AC, Kilmacow, Ambulance & First Aid Support
- Inter Agency Ukraine Medical Support Meeting.

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 2022 – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	136
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	95
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	1

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	1954
Legal Actions	2
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	12
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	21
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	34
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	154
Section 14 Directions	23
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	1
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	7
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.	2
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0

CLIMATE ACTION

Commercial Rates Energy Credit Scheme

Businesses and industry account for approximately 41% of County Waterford's carbon emissions. A successful transition to a carbon neutral county and city requires businesses to play their part. With that in mind Waterford City & County Council has put in place an Energy Credit Scheme this year for rate payers. Businesses who attended a short training on energy efficiency and downloaded the information on the energy saving supports available, were eligible to receive a credit on their rates account. The scheme was open to businesses with an annual rates bill of less than €10,000, and all hospitality businesses. The closing date was September 30th at 6.00pm. As of 26th September 571 businesses are eligible for the credit. This compares favourably with other campaigns to engage with businesses.

Local Climate Action Plan

Guidance has been published for formulation of Local Climate Action Plans. The Council will have one year to complete this plan. The Local Climate Action Plan will include Climate Adaptation and the Decarbonisation Zone as chapters. The current Climate Adaptation Strategy goes to 2023. The Local Climate Action Plan will be a comprehensive roadmap as to how we will achieve emissions reduction across the city and county while preparing for climate impacts.

Climate Adaptation Strategy Report

A progress report on how the Council is meeting the goals set out in the Waterford Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2023 is being sent to the Department of the Environment, Climate Action and Communications.

Reduce Your Use Campaign

Waterford City & County Council will participate in the Government's Reduce Your Use campaign with a goal of reducing energy use by 15% this winter. Council staff will be encouraged to complete several actions each month and to be mindful of energy use. This is a competition with the winning department being announced in the Spring.

UPDATE FROM WATERFORD ENERGY BUREAU

- The launch of the "South East Energy Agency" took place on 30th September. SEEA is a non for profit Regional Energy Agency, committed to supporting every energy user in using energy more efficiently, monitoring energy use and towards a greater choice of renewable energy sources. Working in Partnership, raising awareness, providing support, and delivering low carbon in the region.
- WCCC are open to partner with community groups to include buildings within the 2022/2023 WCCC application to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under the "Better Energy Communities Scheme". Funding of between 30% is available for businesses and 50% for community projects. Community building upgrades can include insulation, heating system, renewable energy technologies.
- The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, has launched a "Support Scheme for Renewable Heat" (SSRH). This scheme includes grant funding for air-source heat pumps for businesses and farmers and tariff payment for biomass boilers, biomass / anaerobic digestion CHP's and anaerobic digestion boilers. The SSRH scheme is operated by SEAI and open to applications.
- A draft "WCCC Electrical Vehicle and Charging Strategy", has been prepared for approval of WCCC Management and details a phased transition of WCCC vehicles to EV's with appropriate charging infrastructure being installed where operationally feasible by 2025. It is projected that up to 30%-40% of WCCC vehicles could be EV's by 2025.
- An order has been placed for the purchased of three electric vans for the WCCC environmental inspectors. These vans should be delivered by late 2022 and will replace the existing diesel vans.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Waste Prevention

Reuse Month takes place during the month of October. The Environment Department are launching a toolkit for swap events to encourage reuse and repair; this toolkit will provide tips, posters and social media posts to enable community groups, schools, etc. to run swap events for items such as sports equipment, clothes, musical instruments, school supplies and more. Waterford City & County Council are also hosting a clothes swap at Central Library on 19th October, with a Repair demonstration and fast fashion exhibit on the night also.

Waterford City & County Council have been chosen for the Reuse Month Flagship event 2022, a Repair Café to be held on 22nd October. This event will feature experts in textiles, furniture and bicycle repair demonstrating practical examples of repair. Waste prevention workshops will be held in libraries for Reuse Month. The focus of these workshops is making a reusable food wrap that provides a natural alternative to plastic wrap. These wraps are a great way to start out on your waste reduction journey and offer an easy switch from plastic. Each participant can make their own wrap to take home with them and are encouraged to bring along any other waste prevention or recycling questions they might have. The workshop provides a forum to discuss reuse, composting and recycling as the wraps are being made. A sustainable living workshop will also take place, incorporating Greener Cleaning (environmentally friendly cleaning in the home, how to reduce the use of chemicals and hazardous materials), Greener Gardening, Composting, food waste prevention and waste prevention tips.

Waterford is taking part in the Commercial Waste Campaign run by the Regional Waste Management Office, a waste audit project was commissioned in small food businesses. As part of this, a waste characterisation is completed, then the commercial waste assets are deployed and a follow up review is done two months later. Each business is also encouraged to give feedback on their experiences. Two businesses in Waterford have agreed to take part in this survey.

The Environment Department continue to work with 2GoCup to encourage the use of the deposit return reusable cups at cafes. 10 cafes are taking part in a three month pilot initiative with deposit return reusable cups that cost €1 each. It is hoped that these 10 cafes will then encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

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. The Environment Department continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards

National Litter Monitoring System report for 2021

The report of the Litter Monitoring Body for 2021 was published. It consists of two parts, one which quantifies the types of litter found around the country and the other provides cleanliness scores for areas surveyed. The surveys are based on 50 locations in Co Waterford for the quantification survey and 50 locations for the Litter Score surveys, which are selected according to the guidance from the Litter Monitoring Body.

One again cigarette related litter represents over half of the amount of litter discovered, followed by food related litter (mainly chewing gum) and packaging items.

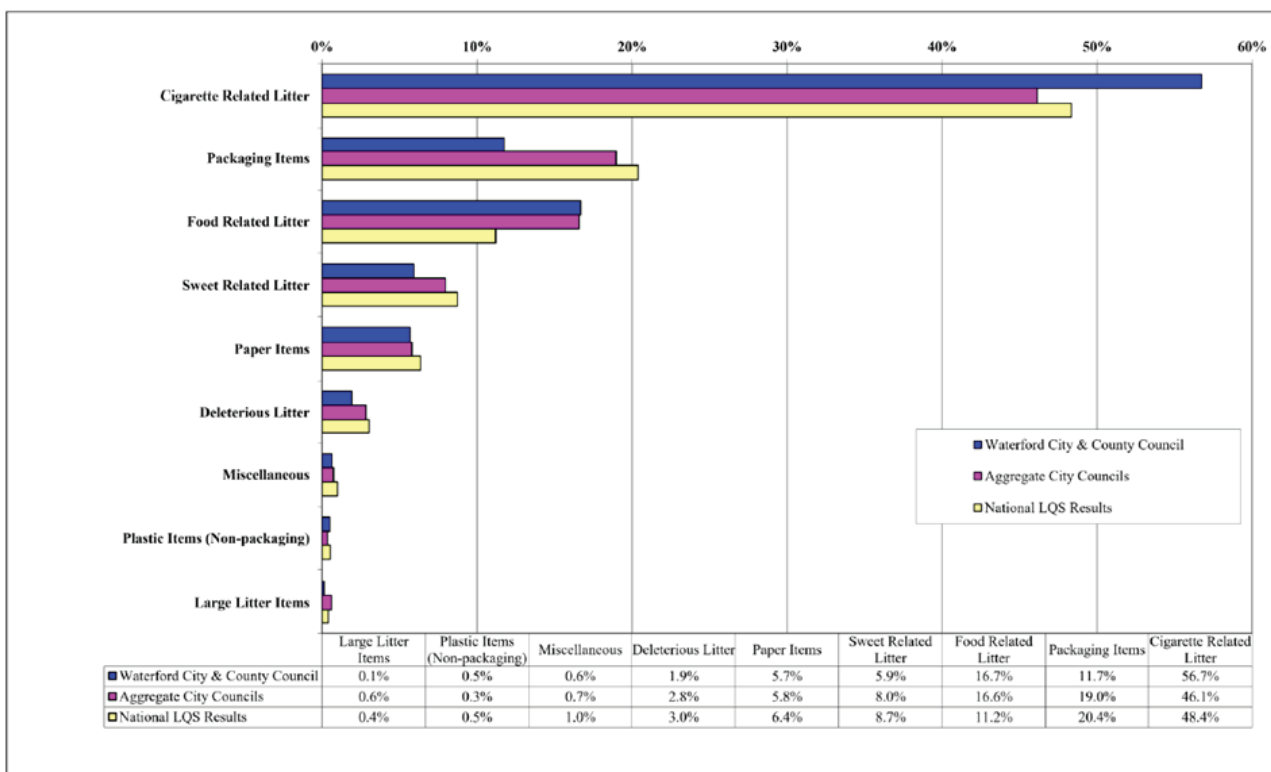
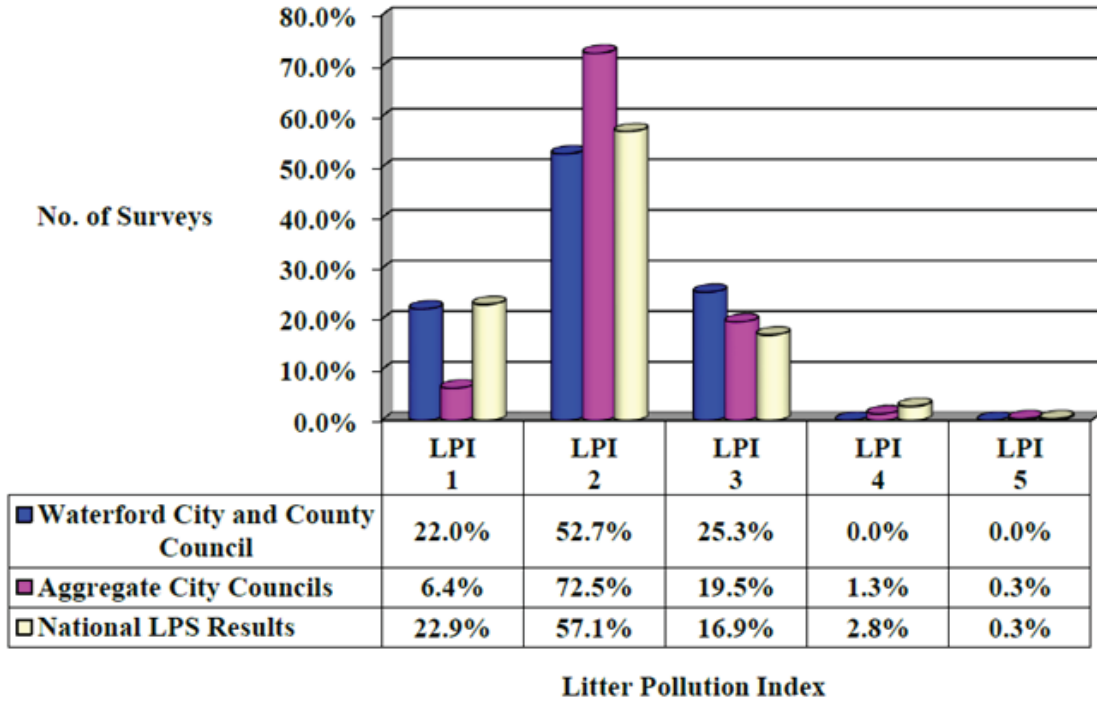


Figure 2-3 Comparison of Litter Composition in Waterford City and County Council with Aggregate Results for City Councils and National Results

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The primary sources of litter are passing pedestrians and motorists, followed by gathering points and retail outlets.



The primary sources of litter are passing pedestrians and motorists, followed by gathering points and retail outlets

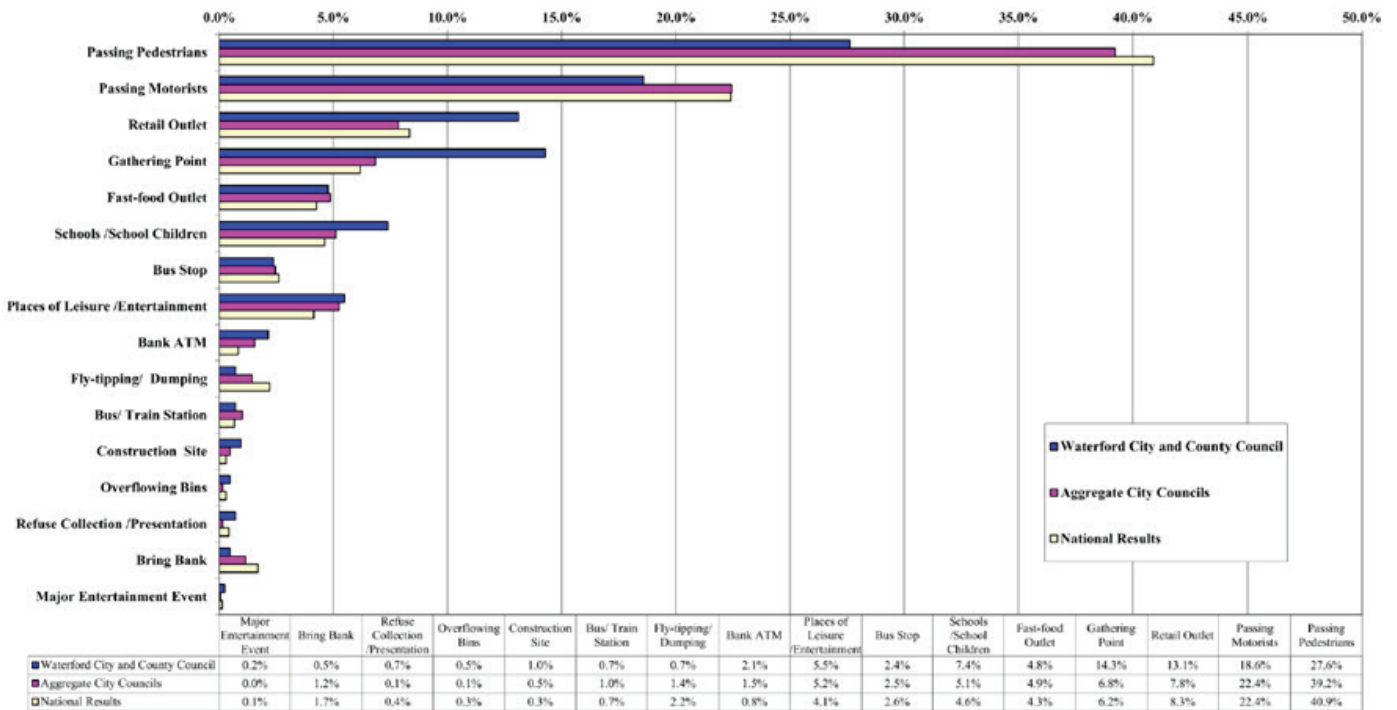
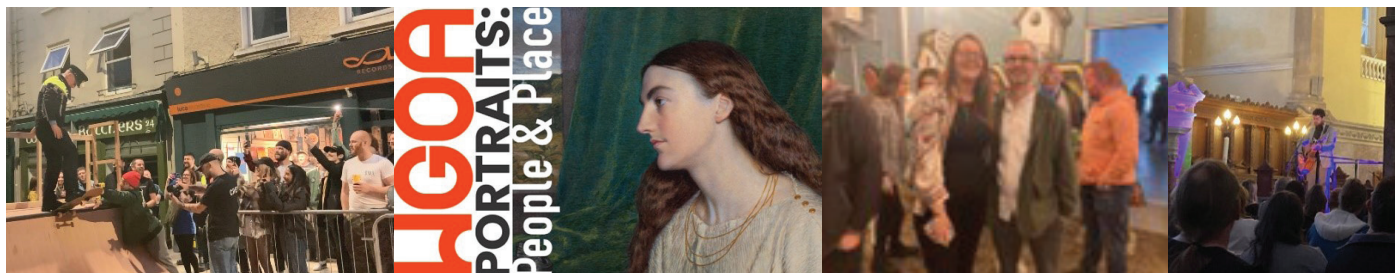


Figure 3-4 Comparison of Causative Factors in Waterford City and County Council with Aggregate Results for City Councils and National Results

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Arts Report

The deadline for Arts Practice, Specialist and Venue Grants has concluded. There is an increase in applicants this year over last year. The scheme opened in early September and was promoted through the local media. Reminders were sent out to last years applicants. It is hoped to have the independent adjudication in November and the recommendations to the Council for December's Plenary meeting.



- The Waterford Gallery of Art's major 2022/2023 exhibition 'Portraits : People and Place' has quietly opened but has proven to be an outstanding success already. The main artwork on show is the wonderful portrait of Mary Palliser by Sir Frederic William Burton on loan from the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Burton is most famous in Ireland for 'Hellelil and Hildebrand, the Meeting on the Turret Stairs'. The opening date of the Gallery and exhibition has been postponed (from October 17th) with a new date to be announced shortly. 'Portraits 2' a sister exhibition to the one in WGOA is being installed in the Old Market House Arts Centre, Dungarvan.
- Garter Lane Arts Centre had a sold out run of the Bilberry Goats. In the foyer is the excellent 'Brazen exhibition by Cira O'Connor and in the main gallery is 'WEAREFETISHISTS' curated by James Merrigan.
- GOMA Waterford has installed a traditional Print making machine in the Gallery. The Council is aiding this development with a new processes partnership which will enable the room have direct access to an exterior yard within the complex. Their 'To Ashes exhibition by Evgeniya Martirosyan has just ended.
- Waterford Film Maker Luke Corcoron has just completed his 1st full feature film 'Poppy Loftus' It will have a private preview in the Omniplex on Patrick Street on October 28th followed by an interview with Corcoron and a Q&A facilitated by the Arts Officer. Waterford Council was a funder on the film via the Specialists Arts Practice Grants.
- Meanwhile the Waterford Film Centre is preparing a programme of Waterford Films to be shown shortly .The Arts Service is a partner of the WFC and is currently looking at a possible update of some of the equipment.
- The Imagine Festival is just around the corner with a wonderful and eclectic series of events. An announcement of a major Irish star to add to its programme is expected soon. The Festival programme was launched recently with Declan o Rourke and Gotfreid Helnwein. Details of the Waterford Writers Weekend at the Imagine Festival have been unveiled. The winners of the Waterford Poetry Prize will be announced during the Festival.
- Arts In Health: Art at the Kitchen Table continues in partnership with the Waterford Healing Arts Trust with clients in the city and county receiving home visits from artists and with weekly group sessions in Waterford City and Dungarvan.
- A photography project is underway with clients of Waterford City Mental Health Services.

Libraries

In September, the 12 branches of Waterford City and County Libraries welcomed back many students and lifelong learners to our branches, many of our clubs and term time visitors have resumed along with our events and programmes.

	September
<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	26,641
<i>Active members</i>	21,911
<i>Issues in branch</i>	29,421
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	5861
<i>Events & Activities</i>	283

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER:

- Our Libraries were buzzing for Culture Night.
- To Celebrate Positive Ageing Week a full programme of events took place across Libraries, Chair based Yoga sessions, Intergenerational Story times, Clay Jewellery making and a Still Life Workshop.
- Comeragh Cathaoirleach Liam Brazil represented the Mayor for the Launch of our new Activator Pole Loan Scheme, a Partnership between Waterford City and County Library Service and Waterford Sports Partnership on Thursday 29th September.
- Work Matters Waterford organised teatime information sessions on the 28th & 29th . With representatives from Intreo, EURES, the Waterford Integration Centre and Waterford Leader partnership.
- On September 18th Waterford Libraries in partnership with the Irish Deaf Society released a video of the wonderful children's book, 'Where are you Puffing,' by Gerry Daly in Irish Sign Language. This accessible story is another way for us to celebrate books and stories with all the people of Waterford.
- The Restoration Art Exhibition launch on Thursday 1 September by the mayor of Waterford City & County Council Cllr John O'Leary. The exhibition features photos of the six Restoration Artists and their artworks. The physical artworks are on display across five of our library branches until the end of the year as part of an Art Trail which runs from Waterford City to Lismore. Supported by Garter Lane Arts Centre, Creative Waterford, Europe Direct Waterford and the Arts Council.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Waterford Libraries will be working in partnership with the Imagine Festival in October.
- Digital Connectivity Classes with WWETB will run in a number of branches.
- Children's Book Festival in October.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Waterford Libraries received approval of Healthy Ireland DRCD Funding of €4,175 for the purchase of four high-back chairs.
- C-Pens; devices which make text more accessible for those with reading difficulties have been purchased with the support of Dormant Accounts Funding have been distributed throughout the County.
- An Able table to increase accessibility for the Tovertafel magic table has been purchased.

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CREATIVE WATERFORD:

The Creativity and Culture Team, made up of representatives from Culture, Planning, Corporate, Economic and other departments have been developing the Creative Waterford Strategy 2023-2027. The draft Strategy will be presented to the Housing, Community, Culture, Fire, Sport & Recreation SPC in October for discussion and will then go for public consultation with a view to presenting the document to the Waterford City and County Council Plenary Meeting in December.



Library Staff Officer Jennifer Loughran with copies of the work of J.R.R. Tolkien which she spoke about on Today with Claire Byrne on RTE



Launch of Restoration Art exhibition. Mayor of Waterford City & County Council John O'Leary, Restoration Artists and staff.



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Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to August 31, 2022

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	22,338,083	32,461,813	69%	23,862,754	35,042,973	68%
B	Road Transport & Safety	23,973,094	46,030,418	52%	15,300,943	33,445,608	46%
C	Water Services	7,048,050	11,141,683	63%	6,714,726	10,674,030	63%
D	Development Management	14,309,227	17,678,810	81%	8,373,043	8,494,376	99%
E	Environmental Services	13,417,529	20,905,703	64%	1,609,945	2,878,907	56%
F	Recreation & Amenity	9,866,687	14,951,207	66%	1,163,769	1,750,939	66%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	635,120	1,182,814	54%	276,363	501,962	55%
H	Miscellaneous Services	6,906,831	9,360,886	74%	4,917,489	5,744,486	86%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	13,112,344	19,668,516	67%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	23,674,357	35,511,536	67%
		98,494,621	153,713,333	64%	99,005,734	153,713,333	64%
Surplus/Deficit					511,113	0	

Collections

Airgeadas
Finance

Summary of main collections Aug 2022 YTD

	A Gross Bal as at 1-1-2022	B Accrued ytd to Aug 2022	C Write Offs and Vacancies	D Waivers & Credits	E Total for Collection [1+2-3]	F Collected ytd to Aug 2022	G' Gross Bal 31-08-2022 [4-5]	Specific Provision	[6] % Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	[7] % Collected ytd re 2022 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	6,132,653	35,338,680	-	1,176,137	39,637,338	24,710,951	14,926,387	2,123,073	66%	70%
Loans	1,702,320	2,250,525	-		3,952,845	2,370,146	1,582,699		60%	105%
Rents	3,938,392	10,524,817	-	2,403	14,460,806	10,394,213	4,066,593		72%	99%

Aged Analysis :

	Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths	Net Balance
Rates	-		11,388,995	3,537,392	14,926,387
Loans		173,550	64,116	98,360	1,582,699
Rents		140,888	91,191	128,839	4,066,593

Overdraft Levels

Days in Overdraft in Aug 22'	0	Cost -	0	€0.00	verage Value when in O/D : N/A	€	-
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