



Comhairle Cathrach Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

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Chief Executive
January 2022

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Eanair 2022

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate

Plenary Mayor December Engagements

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Prize Giving – St Augustine’s Abbeyside – Deputy Mayor	2 Tramore Christmas Lights	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Certificate Presentation – Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Photocall – The EU in my Region Exhibition – Central Library Metro Mayor	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

All meetings in January are to be On Line.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

- a. **SDZ Developer**
 - i) WCCC is having ongoing engagement with private developers to review options and markets for SDZ site.
- b. **Main contract**
 - i) The main construction tender for the infrastructural works, including the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works was issued on etenders, with a return date of 8th March 2022.
- c. **Planning applications**
 - i) An Bord Pleanála received four submissions in relation to the Western Flood Defence planning application.
- d. **Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works**
 - i) Tenders have been returned for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station, they are currently being assessed by Roughan O’Donovan Consulting Engineers.
 - ii) Work is ongoing by Kilkenny County Council on the Greenway Access Ramp at Abbey Bridge.
 - iii) It is proposed to commence the South Plaza Enabling Works in late January 2022.
 - iv) Tender for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station was reissued in December 2021.

Communications

Public relations

- ACT calls for Creatives
- Eight new housing posts for WCCC
- Funding schemes for Build Heritage
- Storm Barra updates
- LEO launches Student Enterprise Website
- Santa goes green
- Waterford Firedance events
- Civic Amenity Opening hours

Storm Barra UPDATES

Throughout the duration of Storm Barra, the Communications team worked closely with Customer Services and the Roads department to disseminate real-time information and updates about fallen trees, road closures, flooding, diversions, etc. via media releases, and social media channels.

Storm Barra social media activity (Dec. 7th)

Facebook:	50 posts	Reach: 91,825
Twitter:	53 tweets (plus 8 RTs)	Reach: 74,145
Web activity:	24 updates on dedicated Storm Barra ‘Ongoing alerts’ page	Views: 1,458

Media Campaigns

Best Place to Live Campaign: Continuation of Best Place to Live Radio ad on WLRfm from December 25th to January 6th – with many people returning home for the Christmas break, the copy serves to remind them of why Waterford is Ireland’s Best Place to Live.

WLRfm Ad campaigns in December

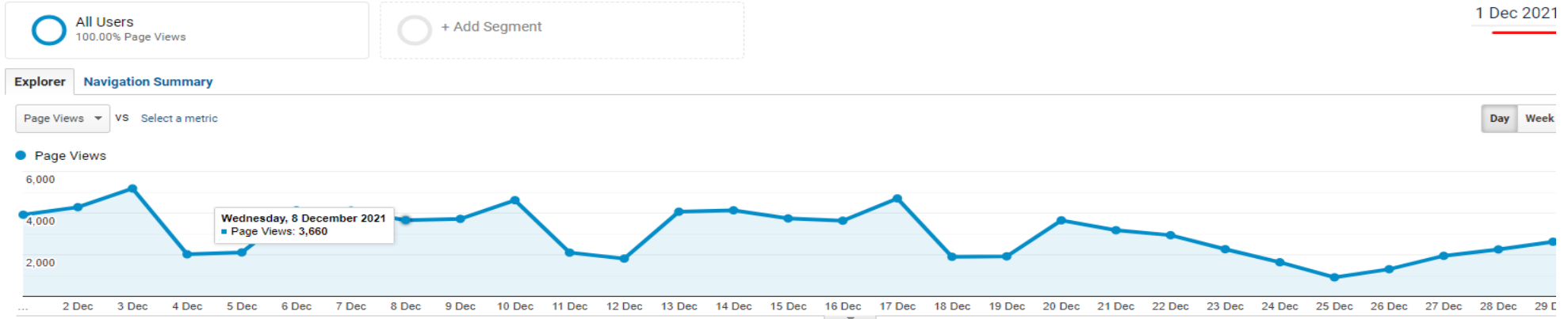
- Customer Services Christmas Opening Hours
- 0818 Customer Service Number change (English and Irish Version)
- Beat Radio Campaign in association with Regional LAs
- Covid Safety campaign in association with HSE
- Tree recycling campaign – early January 2022

Social Media Stats January to December 2021 (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB / Twitter / LinkedIn combined)

	Reach	Posts
Jan-21	289,270	191
Feb-21	370,053	235
Mar-21	303,448	223
Apr-21	320,368	244
May-21	235,933	299
Jun-21	385,221	273
Jul-21	510,926	462
Aug-21	549,488	351
Sep-21	790,482	469
Oct-21	621,821	425
Nov-21	724,124	446
Dec-21	681,666	422
Total	5,782,800	4,040

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Waterford CCC Website Traffic (December 1st – December 31st 2021)



Primary Dimension: **Page** Page Title Other ▼

Plot Rows
Secondary dimension ▼
Sort Type: Default ▼
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Page ?	Page Views ?	Unique Page Views ?	Avg. Time on Page ?	Entrances ?	Bounce Rate ?	% Exit ?
	93,533 <small>% of Total: 100.00% (93,533)</small>	67,908 <small>% of Total: 100.00% (67,908)</small>	00:01:28 <small>Avg for View: 00:01:28 (0.00%)</small>	37,463 <small>% of Total: 100.00% (37,463)</small>	54.33% <small>Avg for View: 54.33% (0.00%)</small>	40.05% <small>Avg for View: 40.05% (0.00%)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. /index.htm 🔗	13,224 (14.14%)	9,874 (14.54%)	00:00:44	8,298 (22.15%)	34.14%	36.61%
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. /departments/planning/planning-enquiries/online-planning-enquiries.htm 🔗	10,345 (11.06%)	7,452 (10.97%)	00:02:53	4,603 (12.29%)	70.43%	62.32%
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. /departments/housing/choice-based-lettings.htm 🔗	6,383 (6.82%)	4,309 (6.35%)	00:01:43	3,451 (9.21%)	57.78%	47.36%
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. /onlinepayments/onlinepayments.htm 🔗	3,642 (3.89%)	3,021 (4.45%)	00:03:08	1,140 (3.04%)	50.18%	42.64%
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. /departments/planning/planning-enquiries/viewing.htm 🔗	3,409 (3.64%)	2,028 (2.99%)	00:00:15	1,505 (4.02%)	5.32%	8.39%
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. /media/planninglists/index.htm 🔗	3,143 (3.36%)	2,114 (3.11%)	00:02:49	1,191 (3.18%)	73.80%	52.91%
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. /departments/planning/index.htm 🔗	3,087 (3.30%)	2,129 (3.14%)	00:00:25	811 (2.16%)	17.88%	12.89%
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. /departments/index.htm 🔗	2,567 (2.74%)	1,854 (2.73%)	00:00:20	221 (0.59%)	24.89%	7.67%
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. /departments/human-resources/vacancies.htm 🔗	2,527 (2.70%)	2,139 (3.15%)	00:01:00	1,469 (3.92%)	78.42%	64.66%
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. /departments/housing/index.htm 🔗	1,910 (2.04%)	1,310 (1.93%)	00:00:34	473 (1.26%)	35.52%	18.90%

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Local Enterprise Office

LEO Figures year to date (2021) and comparison of current month with previous year												
Indicator	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Dec-20
Measure 1												
No. of clients applying	0	6	6	6	15	23	23	27	27	27	33	37
No. of clients securing	0	6	6	6	14	22	22	26	26	26	32	35
Value of support approved	-	€137,308	€137,308	€137,308	€337,777	€629,104	€629,104	€733,251	€733,251	€733,251	€886,189	€835,970
Measure 2												
No. of clients receiving	219	375	659	1,052	1,317	1,363	1,592	1,918	2,089	2,250	2,318	3,361
Value of support given	€20,147	€81,907	€137,884	€298,202	€397,047	€448,324	€522,768	€590,583	€627,577	€682,665	€726,073	€1,498,632

Support		Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Trading Online Voucher	No. of Approvals	34	46	53	67	78	85	88	95
	Value of Approvals €	€66,364	€88,941	€100,101	€135,113	€156,108	€171,240	€176,240	€192,609
LEO Client Stimulus Scheme	No. of Approvals	37	43	49	53	54	57	57	56
	Value of Approvals €	€95,552	€110,176	€125,263	€135,053	€137,753	€140,453	€142,648	€142,648
Micro Finance Loan Applications	No. of Approvals								11
	Value of Approvals €								€213,500
<i>Figures included in cumulative table</i>									

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Support: Student Enterprise Programme 2021	No. of Schools	No. of Students
Figures not included in cumulative table	9	665

Measure 1 Approvals 2021 by Sector		
Sector	No. Approved	Total Grants
Engineering	3	€93,127
Food Manu	8	€231,174
Green	1	€13,746
Manu	12	€295,954
Pharm	1	€49,368
Tech	8	€202,821
Total	32	€886,189

Pleanáil / Planning

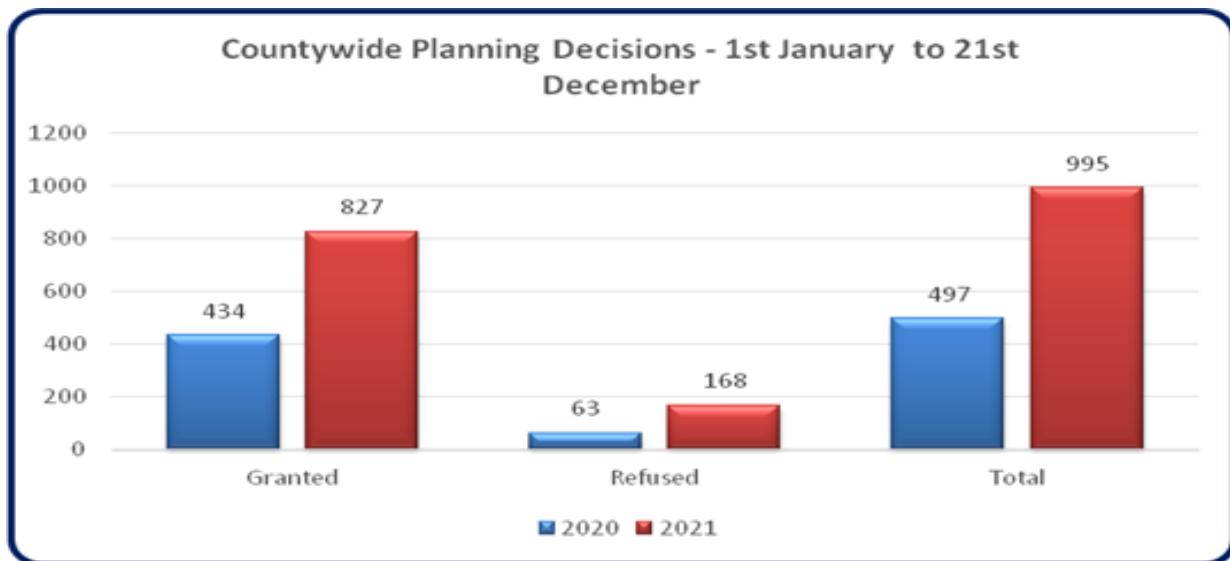
Planning Applications Received – Countywide

92 Planning applications were received in the month of December countywide (to 21st December). This compares with 133 planning applications received in the full calendar month in 2020. In November, 107 planning applications were received in the calendar month, compared to 93 received in November 2020. A total of 1200 planning applications were received in the year to 21st December 2021. This compares to 987 planning applications which were received to the 21st of December 2020.

Planning Decisions

137 applications were decided from the 1st of November to 21st December 2021 compared to 133 for the same period in 2020.

The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased significantly, as seen below.



Forward Planning January 2022 Plenary Report

Update on preparation of the draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Chief Executive Report on the draft development plan public consultation phase has now been submitted to the elected members on the 22nd November and is available for public view on the consult.waterfordcouncil.ie website. Hard copies of the report and book of maps have also been issued. A number of successful workshops have been held in December and will continue during January. The focus of the workshops heretofore has been on issues such as strategic flood risk assessment, wind energy, rural housing area types, rural villages and other local matters.

Further to Section 12(5) & (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, no later than the 18th February 2022 the members of the council may, having considered the CE Report and the draft plan, make a resolution to accept or amend the draft plan. Where any amendment is considered to be a material alteration to the draft plan a further round of public consultation will be required, subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment as necessary as per the timeline below.

In order to assist the making of the resolution on or before the 18th February, it is intended that the plenary and metropolitan district workshops will provide the basis for an addendum to the CE Report, in particular where matters

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raised at the workshops have not already been included in the CE Report or where further consideration is required of any recommendation made by the CE in the report. This final addendum to the CE Report will be further discussed with the council prior to the meeting at which the resolution referred to above will be made.

It should be noted that Section 12(5)(aa) of the Act states that following consideration of the draft plan and the report of the chief executive where a planning authority, after considering a submission of, or observation or recommendation from the Minister, the Office of the Planning Regulator or from a regional assembly made to the authority, decides not to comply with any recommendation made in the draft plan and report, it shall so inform the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Minister or regional assembly, as the case may be, as soon as practicable by notice in writing which notice shall contain reasons for the decision.

Stage in the Development Plan Process	Duration	Target
Public Notice of Formal Commencement of Process		Commenced 20 th July 2020
Initial Public Consultation – Strategic Issues Paper	Not less than 8 weeks - Week 8	Closed 14 th September 2020
Chief Executives Report on Pre-Draft Consultation	Within 16 weeks of public notice - Week 16	Presented 5 th November 2020
Direction from Elected Members	Within 10 weeks of receiving the CE Report - Week 26	Adopted 14 th January 2021
Presentation of Working Draft to the Elected Members	Within 12 weeks of members direction - Week 38	8 th April 2021
Consideration, amendment and adoption (making) of Draft Plan	Within 8 weeks of receipt of Working Draft - Week 46	3 rd June 2021
Publish notice of commencement of public consultation	Within 2 weeks of Draft being made - Week 48	17 th June 2021
Public Consultation on Draft Plan	Not less than 10 weeks - Week 58	Closes on 30 th August 2021
Chief Executives Report on Public Consultation	Within 22 weeks of public notice - Week 70	22 nd November 2021
Consideration and adoption (making) of Material Amendments	Within 12 weeks of receiving the CE Report - Week 82	18 th February 2022
Publish notice of commencement of public consultation	Within 3 weeks of passing of resolution - Week 85	11 th March 2022
Public Consultation on Material Amendments	Not less than 4 weeks - Week 89	Closes on 8 th April 2022
Chief Executives Report on Public Consultation	Within 8 weeks of public notice - Week 93	6 th May 2022
Consideration of Chief Executives Report and Adoption of Plan	Within 6 weeks of receiving the CE Report - Week 99	17 th June 2022
Publication of notices and coming into operation of the Plan	Plan comes into operation 6 weeks later - Week 105	29 th July 2022

Heritage

Waterford Commemorations Programme The Waterford Commemorations Committee is planning the 2022 programme of events which will mark the centenary of the Civil War. Events being considered include a living history commemoration of the Siege of Waterford in July, display of the National Archives Exhibition on the Signing of the Treaty, publication by Waterford County Museum on Cumann na mBan, a Community Commemorations Grant Scheme and mapping of Civil War events in Waterford. The programme will be submitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media for funding approval at the end of January.

Community Monuments Fund Applications are being prepared for the 2022 Community Monuments Fund which are required to be submitted by March 1st. In 2021 Waterford City and County Council received an allocation of over €100,000 under this fund towards conservation works.

World Wetlands Day World Wetlands Day takes place on February 2nd and events will be hosted in Tramore and Dungarvan to highlight the importance of these sites which are 2 of 45 wetland sites in Ireland designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention. Details of the events will be include on the Irish Ramsar website <http://irishwetlands.ie/world-wetlands-day-2022/>

Conservation

Conservation is working with the elected members on protected structures as per the draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Bóithre agus Iompar / Roads and Transportation



The Active Travel team was established in July 2021 and currently has 5 team members.

The associated programme is funded by the NTA and there is an extensive programme of work identified for delivery over the coming 5 years.

In addition to developing major capital schemes we aim to deliver the following projects which include:

- Permeability measures – Creating links with improved access within and between local communities and local services. These are typically short journeys and promote walking/cycling. Often, obstacles like walls and fences prevent us from taking the shortest route to where we want to go so these types of schemes help to remove those boundaries.
- Safer routes to schools and clubs - The Safe Routes to School programme aims to create safer walking and cycling routes within communities, alleviate congestion at the school gates and increase the number of students who walk or cycle to school or college. The improvements to the school commute could range from an upgraded footpath or new cycle lane to a complete reworking of a school's streetscape.
- Provision of new/widened footpaths or segregated cycle tracks and the reconstruction/upgrade of defective footpaths and cycle tracks.
- Provision of new and improvements to existing crossing facilities for pedestrians/cyclists including raised surfaces, zebra crossings, provision of lighting and signalised crossings.
- Installation of cycle parking, short term, and longer-term secure bike storage.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing applications	Dec 2020	Total Number of Applications Year 2020	Dec 2021	Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2021
Applications received	76	1118	16	805
Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	87	1317	50	815
Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	56	817	25	510
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	56	753	27	526

Housing Allocations

District	New Tenancies during Dec 2020	Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2020	New Tenancies during Dec 2021	Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2021
Total MDs	12	207	20	2	433
Voluntary Bodies	1	89	0	0	31
Totals	13	296	20	2	464

Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 947. There have been 255 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications - The no's for this section will be provided at next month's meeting

Tenant Purchase applications - The no's for this section will be provided at next month's meeting as tenant purchase sales closed in December

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment	Dec 2020 HAP tenancies	Dec 2021 HAP tenancies set up	2021 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	636	28	-123	4216	2009

Inspections of Dwellings

2021	Dec-21
HAP	2
(HAP) Non-Compliant	2
LTL	24
(LTL) Compliant	2
(LTL) Non-Compliant	22
Total	26

In December, Waterford City & County Council carried out **156** planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections **9** 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

Grant Scheme Amount	Number of applications approved Dec 2021	Value of applications Dec 2021	Cumulative number of applications approved 2021	Cumulative value of 2021 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	11	€88,935.68	50	€622,640.85
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	12	€60,019.94	56	€288,273.34
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	15	€73,095.80	79	€347,517.38
Total	38	€222,051.42	185	€1,258,431.57

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS) (Opened 25 th February 2019)	Dec 2021	Dec 2020
Number of callers seeking services in WIHS 1 st to 31 st December 2021 (Up to the end of 2020, the Service has had over 7,100 visitors since opening on 25 th February 2019).	261	270
Number of presentations to WCCC Homeless Services 1 st to 31 st Dec 2021 (1,671 presentations in total in 2020)	92	93
Number of Formal Homeless Assessments 1st to 31st December 2021	69	61
Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation (EA) on:	31st Dec 2021	31st Dec 2020
Number of Single Persons in EA	55	46
Number of Families in EA	10	13
Number of children in EA	26	34

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HAP Place Finder Service (06.11.18 to 25.11.21)	Dec 2021	Cumulative
Number of approval letters issued 26th Nov to 31st December 2021 (565 approval letters issued to 31/12/2020)	24	880
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies HUB Complete (312 tenancies set up to 31/12/2020)	17	475
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies currently being processed (as at 31/12/2021)	18	N/A

Housing First Programme	Tenancies
Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 31st December 2021 (Target = 30 by December 2021)	30

Homeless preventions, supported exits and sustained tenancies continue to be the priorities for Homeless Services in 2021. This will be achieved by continuing our partnership and collaborative working with the HSE and the various Homeless Service Providers in Waterford and by utilising our various projects in WIHS including our Homeless Prevention & Support Service, Advice & Information Service, Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service, HAP PlaceFinder and the Housing First Service.

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects				
Total	403	WCC Districts		Various Stages
Part V	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2021 – 10 (est)
Repair and Lease	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 41 2021 – 50 (est) 2022 – 50 (est)
Leasing	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 From end of 2021 scheme closed to new applicants
Buy & Renew – Countywide	60	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress – Refurbishment Contractor Framework Appointed
Total	367			
Total Units in WCCC Projects 770				

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects 88 units

Housing Efficiency Retrofit - Total Units for 2021 of 59 units

Refurbishing of houses becoming vacant for relet

- (1) Total Handed Over/Works Completed 4 Units
- (2) Total Newly Vacant 7 units

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

Rural Development Programme:

- The September Call for Equipment and Feasibility Studies have been evaluated.
- The outcome of the evaluation process is that a total of €333,000 in projects has been recommended to the LCDC
- The Capital Projects will be evaluated in January 2022
- Expected value of the December applications is €750,000
- The next Call for Projects will be in early January 2022.
- Payments from LEADER/RDP1420 are progressing well, with very few decommitments.

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021: On the 7th December, the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced the awardees for the capital funding for social enterprises All applicants have been notified of the Minister's decision and successful applicants will receive their grant fund by year end.

Community Activities Fund 2021: The Waterford scheme was launched in early December. The closing date to submit applications is noon on Friday, 14th January. It is expected that the LCDC Assessment Group will meet at the end of January and forward their recommendations to the February LCDC meeting. **The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities, such as carrying out necessary repairs and purchasing equipment.**

Comhairle na nÓg: Progress on 2021 activities is being made weekly by the young people and these are reviewed regularly by the steering committee members. One of the main projects for 2021, the Communitree app is being launched shortly. Phase one of the multi-annual tree planting programmes has been completed at the WIT Arena with Comhairle members now working closely with WCCC, WIT and the Lions club with progress being made on a new site in Cherrymount, Waterford City.

Waterford Age Friendly Programme: Work continues through the Thematic sub-groups to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. The AF Business Recognition Programme for Waterford City and County is progressing. The tender for the retention of a Consultant to assist with the preparation of the new 5 year strategy has been issued with closing date January 14th 2022.

Healthy Waterford: Current priorities include: Oversight of Healthy Ireland projects and active travel/ active communities. Extension of Healthy Ireland Round 3 funding deadline to end of March 2022. Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund and programme expected to commence in May 2022.

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 projects will be commencing shortly.

Local Community Safety Partnership:

The CSP had a meeting on 6th December 2021 with presentations and discussions on DRIVE and Restorative Practices. A consultant for the development of the Community Plan was not secured in November but will be retendered in January 2022. The next meeting of the Partnership will be on Monday 7th March 2022 @5pm.

Covid 19 Community Response Forum: The CRF – various agencies and organisations working together to address Covid-related issues - continues to meet on a monthly basis.

Pride of Place: The 2021 National Awards, due to take place in Killarney on February 21st 2022, have been postponed due to Covid 19. Waterford's main entry for the 2022 competition will be the Surprise Surprise Group having won the 2021 PPN awards.

Social Inclusion

Migrant Integration: Various initiatives being followed up on to progress the Strategy adopted by Council in 2020.

SICAP Waterford Area Partnership continue to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC with 79 local community groups and 953 individuals in Waterford expected to benefit in 2021. SICAP Budget allocations for 2022 have now been confirmed and the budget for Waterford City & County (24-1) is €1,280,970. This is an 11% increase on 2021. Priorities for 2022 and the remainder of the Programme have been determined by the LCDC.

TIG The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group continues to meet regularly by way of Zoom.

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 December. 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.

Area	Fires	Special Service	False Alarm Good Intent	False Alarm Malicious
Total for December	46	56	30	0
Year to date	672	460	184	3
Total for December 2020	39	45	15	1
Total for 2020	701	448	179	16

Fire Safety:

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

Applications Received	December 2021	2021 Year to date	Total for December 2020	Total for 2020
Fire Safety Certificates	7	73	8	84

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.

Application/Notification	Dec 2021	Cumulative Total for 2021	Total for Dec 2020	Total for 2020
Commencement Notices	15	352	18	285
Completion Certificates	12	195	12	224
Disability Access Certificates	4	57	3	45

Civil Defence:

Civil Defence activities during the month of December 2021 consisted mostly of Covid-19 Response duties. Essential Tasks undertaken were:

- PPE training.
- Vehicle preparation.
- Vehicle Cleaning and Decontamination.
- Patient Transportation for cancer treatments.
- Vaccination Centre Transport Requests and Coordination of Humanitarian Requests for Transport.

Patient Transportation was provided by Civil Defence volunteers to members of the community with no other available means of transport. This was only made possible by the cooperation and dedication of Civil Defence Volunteers.

Transportation tasks included to and from:

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- Clinical appointments (e.g. doctors, dental, radiotherapy, etc).
- Hospital Appointments in South Tipperary General Hospital Clonmel, Cork CUH, Waterford UHW and Whitfield.
- Vaccination Centre Transport's to WIT Arena.

At all times stringent measures were put in place to ensure the safety of Civil Defence volunteers and those members of the community served.

Due to the rising Covid 19 numbers our training has been postponed but Plans are in place for a Safe return to Training under Covid 19 restrictions when the situation improves.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021

Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended)

Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	207
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	142
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended)

No of Complaints	2573
Legal Actions	1
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)	16
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	87
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	146
Section 14 Directions	29
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	0
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	1

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

We continue to receive requests for clean up materials and collection of litter. Waterford City & County Council offers assistance throughout the year for groups/individuals who volunteer to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas.

Waste prevention

Workshops continue to be offered online for the moment. A workshop on the topic of how to have a sustainable Christmas took place on November 29th with discussion on food waste prevention, recycling and reducing packing at Christmastime taking place alongside a demonstration on how to make a Christmas wreath from your garden materials. This event was fully booked.

There are still a few places left on the a 5-week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment, beginning in January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. A place can be requested at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201968442047>

Funding has been received from the EPA for a water station at each of the 5 Blue Flag beaches in Co. Waterford. The contract has been awarded for the installation of these water stations and it is expected that they will be in place

before the beginning of the summer. These water stations will enable beachgoers to refill a water bottle instead of using and disposing of single use plastic bottles.

Home Energy Saving Kits

Home Energy Saving Kits will be available to loan from Libraries from the New Year. The kit contains five tools and practical exercises to help save energy at home. The kit includes a user manual, thermal leak detector, plug-in energy monitor, temperature and humidity meter, radiator key, stopwatch and fridge/freezer thermometer.

Schools

Workshops have been taking place online with secondary schools, on a number of topics, from litter and recycling to fast fashion and waste prevention.

Waterford Energy Bureau

NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building)

Waterford City & County Council have adopted an energy policy whereby WCCC will strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, improve the energy efficiency of the public building stock to comply with NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) standard by 2030 where possible and the consumption of fossil fuels in Waterford City and County Council public buildings will cease by 2025.

Better Energy Communities Scheme

Waterford City & County Council are open to partner with community groups to include buildings within the 2022 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. Approximately €100,000 has been received in 2021 for a range of funded projects in Waterford city and county including energy upgrades to community buildings etc.

Retro fitting of street lights

Contracts have been signed for the led retro fitting of street lighting within the city & county. Funding has been received to complete the retro fitting from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment under the Climate Action Fund. Retro fit works to begin in 2022.

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The WCCC “Climate Change Adaptation Plan” is currently being implemented. The plan details the how Waterford City and County Council will implement Climate Change Adaptation measures to reduce the impact of Climate Change. WCCC have an internal “Climate Action Team” in place that is implementing the actions of the CCAP. WCCC will have to develop a new Local Authority “Climate Action Plan”, in 2021 for adaptation and mitigation measures as required under the new Climate Action Bill.

Covenant of Mayors Initiative

WCCC have joined the “Covenant of Mayors Initiative”, which is the world’s largest movement for local climate and energy actions. Signatories have endorse a share vision for 2050, accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories, strengthening their capacity to adapt to the unavoidable climate change impacts and allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy. WCCC have pledged action to support implementation of the EU 55% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Support Scheme for Renewable Heat

The “Department of Communication, 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 is currently open for applications.

EV charging points

WCCC have prepared a strategy for the 1st phase of electrical vehicle charging point's role out in Waterford. EV charging points will be located at 10 strategic locations throughout Waterford. A funding application is being prepared for submission to SEAI to cover part of the EV installation operational costs.

Sustainable Energy Communities

WCCC are supporting communities in joining the "Sustainable Energy Communities" initiative, where funding is available through SEAI, for the development of "SEC Master Plans" and funding is available for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

In December, all 12 library branches were open to all for browsing, reading, newspapers, studying, public computer access and printing services. Services are offered in line with changing National Guidelines to ensure safe services to patrons and staff. During the month, 13,386 people visited Waterford libraries and borrowed 22,936 items and 6,192 online resources including eMagazines, eBooks and eAudiobooks. Active membership for December was 10,952 and during the month 81 service wide activities and events took place including:

- EDIC sponsored the, 'Soapbox' public speaking competition. Our 2 regional finalists went on to compete in the national competition on the 9th December; this was broadcast on the Libraries Ireland YouTube channel.
- Metropolitan Mayor of Waterford Cllr Seamus Ryan officially launched Waterford as one of the seven new generation Europe Direct centres by opening the, 'EU in my region' exhibition which will illuminate the windows of Central Library until February. In partnership with the Southern Regional Assembly it features 10 snapshots of the work of both agencies across Waterford.
- Healthy Ireland at your Library held the event 'The Five Ways to Wellbeing' webinar with Mental Health Ireland on 3rd December which was attended by 14 people.
- Librarian Tracy McEaney featured on the Claire Byrne live show to give her expert book recommendations for Christmas for teens and young adults.
- To mark, 'Family time at your Library' the Oliver Carroll show on WLRfm featured a daily competition for the week of December 13th – 17th.
- Seven days of Christmas Story times were broadcast online via Library social media channels. Libraries also celebrated with a 'Design a Christmas decoration' competition, prepared craft bags, numerous colouring competitions and even Festive Jumper days.
- For the Right to Read programme Little Library First 5 book bags were distributed to Early Learning Centres in partnership with Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Upcoming Events in January:

- Healthy Ireland at your Library, Practical self care with Gina Delaney will take place on January 7th.
- The Glass Room EU Media Literacy project will begin its schools outreach phase.

Library Development:

- In December there were 52 new subscriptions to the Touch Type Read Spell Software and there are 20 schools with 4,333 users of 'Times Tables Rock Stars' Software both funded through Dormant Account Funding.

Library images from December include:



Annie Birney, Library Assistant, Sinead O’Higgins Executive Librarian, Central Library, Dave Hennessy, Assistant Director S.R.A., Paula Paul, Library Assistant, Pip Breen, Chair Southern Regional Assembly, Ann Woodworth, Music Director Bealtaine Library Choir, Siobhan Rudden, S.R.A. and Sinead Cummins, Assistant Librarian Work Matters at your Library Co-ordinator, at the launch of Europe Direct at Waterford Central Library



Photo of Christmas Crafts via Zoom with students in DP centre.

THE WATERFORD WINTER FIREDANCE – SOLSTICE 2021



The Waterford Winter Firedance was six specially curated concerts and exhibitions spread across the County that culminated with a spectacular Sky Firedance fireworks display on December 21st 2021. Funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Media & Sport and produced by the Arts Service of Waterford City & County Council - the Winter Firedance combined the skills of professional curators, community groups, professional musicians, artists and senior event managers and technicians to bring together one of the most spread-out and varied programmes seen in this country all on one evening. The locations were Waterford City, Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Ballymacarbery, Ballyduff Upper and Kilmurrin.





Airgeadas / Finance

Revenue Account

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	29,046,258	29,905,750	97%	30,271,076	32,231,369	94%
B	Road Transport & Safety	47,508,177	46,501,378	102%	35,774,971	34,342,105	104%
C	Water Services	9,794,623	10,831,808	90%	9,418,255	10,419,107	90%
D	Development Management	16,664,938	16,894,259	99%	9,266,108	8,467,777	109%
E	Environmental Services	16,519,076	19,210,509	86%	1,927,365	2,847,343	68%
F	Recreation & Amenity	12,745,238	14,454,154	88%	1,492,777	1,806,387	83%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	975,760	979,517	100%	555,051	528,623	105%
H	Miscellaneous Services	18,489,007	9,620,230	192%	15,099,227	4,668,005	323%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	18,026,265	19,665,016	92%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	30,636,717	33,421,873	92%
		151,743,078	148,397,605	102%	152,467,812	148,397,605	103%
Surplus/Deficit					724,734	0	

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH JANUARY 2022

Collections

Summary of main collections Nov 2021 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2021	Accrued ytd to Nov 2021	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Nov 2021	Gross Bal 30-11-2021 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2021 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	11,042,246	33,542,481	- 1,856,093	- 10,012,015	32,716,619	24,773,357	7,943,262	2,800,000	83%	74%
Loans	1,912,249	3,082,462	- 1,391		4,993,320	3,239,840	1,753,480		65%	105%
Rents	4,364,161	13,748,064	- 20,942		18,091,283	13,864,461	4,226,822		77%	101%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	-	4,014,482	3,928,780			7,943,262
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				167,582	75,800	129,632	1,380,466			1,753,480
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				135,469	96,882	137,534	3,856,937			4,226,822
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Nov	0		Cost -	0	€0.00	Avg. € in O/D			€	-