

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

Waterford City & County Council



Management Report to Council

Aibreán 2021

Michael Walsh,

Príomhfheidhmeannach

April 2021

Michael Walsh,

Chief Executive

Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate

How to protect yourself from COVID – 19



IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL

Check if you have symptoms of coronavirus. These are a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, fever (high temperature).

If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, phone your GP or local Emergency Department [ED] immediately.

Do not go to your GP or ED. Phone them first. Tell them about your symptoms. Give them the details about your situation. Avoid contact with other people by self-isolating. If you do not have a GP, phone **112** or **999**.

IF YOU ARE FEELING WELL

If you are feeling well, carry on with your normal routine.

Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other infections such as flu.

Avoid spending time with people who are ill with a cough, high temperature, or breathing problems.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus:

- avoid contact with people by self-isolating
- phone your GP or emergency department
- tell them your symptoms and the details of your situation

Meetings

All council meetings, CPG and SPC's to continue as remote meetings for the month of April.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

1. North Quays - Infrastructural works

- a. **Planning applications.** A Part 8 planning application is being prepared for changes to the layout of the South Plaza, the Part 8 process is due to commence in mid April.
- b. **Ongoing contracts.** Final accounts for the Utility Diversion Contracts and Demolition and Site Clearance Works Contracts are agreed. Transport Hub Independent Design Safety Certification by a Notified Body (NoBo) and Sustainable Transport Bridge Cat 3 Independent Design Check contracts are progressing with Atkins and Hewson Consulting Engineers respectively.

2. Local Enterprise Office

*No monthly meeting in April 2020, Feb 2020 figures supplied for comparative purposes.

Indicator	At end of *Feb 2020 Cumulative Figure	At end of Mar 2021 Cumulative Figure
No. of clients applying for Measure 1 support	3	6
No. of clients securing Measure 1 support	2	6
Value of Measure 1 support approved	€40,200	€137,308
No. of clients receiving Measure 2 support	235	659
Value of Measure 2 support given	€54,395	€137,884

First virtual Local Enterprise Week a success for Waterford

Hundreds of budding entrepreneurs and business owners in Waterford have taken part in online events across Local Enterprise Week (March 1st – 5th). More than 270 events took place online under the theme of ‘Making It Happen’ attracting over 10,700 bookings nationally.

Supported by Waterford City and County Council and Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Waterford hosted four events for local businesses this week, in addition to ten Spotlight events which were open to businesses across the country.

LEO Waterford moved all of its events for Local Enterprise Week online for the first time, making them as accessible as possible for local businesses. More than 300 start-ups and businesses from the county registered for these events to learn about areas like the green economy, becoming more competitive and leaner, exploring new opportunities online, as well as finding out about the vision for Waterford, as a place of innovation and enterprise.

Highlights from the week included Food, The Waterford Way Huddle; the Social Media Mash-Up 2.0; a Craft Industry virtual workshop and key event “Waterford, A Vision for the Future - A place of Innovation and Enterprise”, which was facilitated by Zara King of Virgin Media.

3. Rural Economic Development

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 – Invitation for submissions of Expressions of Interest to commence week beginning 15th March 2021; closing date 23rd April 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020 Measure 2 and 3 Funding announcements:

- WCCC allocated €370,134.00 under ORIS 2020, Measure 3: To upgrade the existing walk way/cycle way between Clonea Road and Ballinacourty to Greenway standard. To provide shared walking and cycling links to Ballinclamper and Ballinacourty car parks at Clonea Strand. Amenity infrastructure to be provided. Subject to planning approval.
- WCCC allocated €247,270 under ORIS, Measure 2 for two separate projects as follows:
 - €200,000 in funding towards extension and enhancement of existing trailhead and car parking facilities, walking trail maintenance and improvement of road access/passing bays at Mahon Falls, Comeragh Mountains, Co. Waterford. Subject to planning approval.
 - €47,270 in funding towards works at Owenashad River, Lismore where significant erosion has occurred to river walkway at Ballyrafter.
 - Works funded under above measures to be completed and funding claimed by 31st August 2022.

4. Tourism

Fáilte Ireland platforms for growth – facility centres for water-based activities scheme

This scheme is designed for Local Authorities only and is anticipated to deliver a network of Water-sports Activity Facilities Centres around the country via a collaborative approach to assist in the development of Ireland as a destination for outdoor activities. Facility Centres for Water-Based Activities will include all-weather changing facilities at existing water-based locations.

Key Information:

- €15mil funding available for 20-25 sites nationally (approx 600k per site)
- In consultation with FI 2 sites in Waterford have made it through the pre-approval process:
 - Ardmore
 - Tramore
- Applications for Ardmore & Tramore have been submitted and we will hear about the status of these applications in by mid-April 2021

TRT: tourism resilience taskforce

A stakeholder workshop held in December 2020 identified 5 Destination Momentum projects:

1. Greenways & Trails – Seasons and Reasons to Explore
2. New Market Targeting
3. Coastal County
4. Evening time in Waterford
5. Waterford Family Experience

The first 2 projects are being developed in the marketing sub-group and will be finalised in April/May with the launch of the new Visit Waterford Promotional Campaign for 2021 and improved/dedicated Trails/greenway section of the website and associated images/videos.

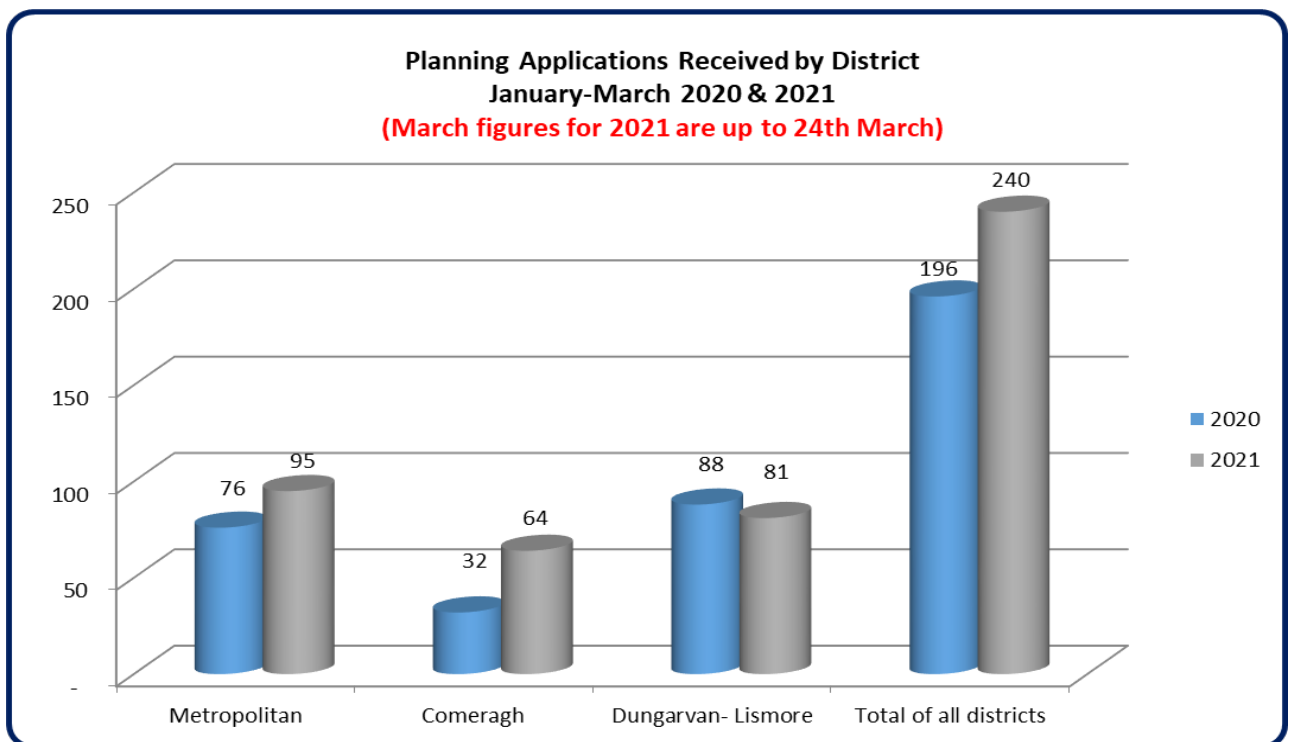
Projects 3-5 are being developed in the activation sub-group and a Programme run by Fáilte Ireland will launch on 30th March with selected industry to develop family, evening and coastal/outdoor offer in Waterford.

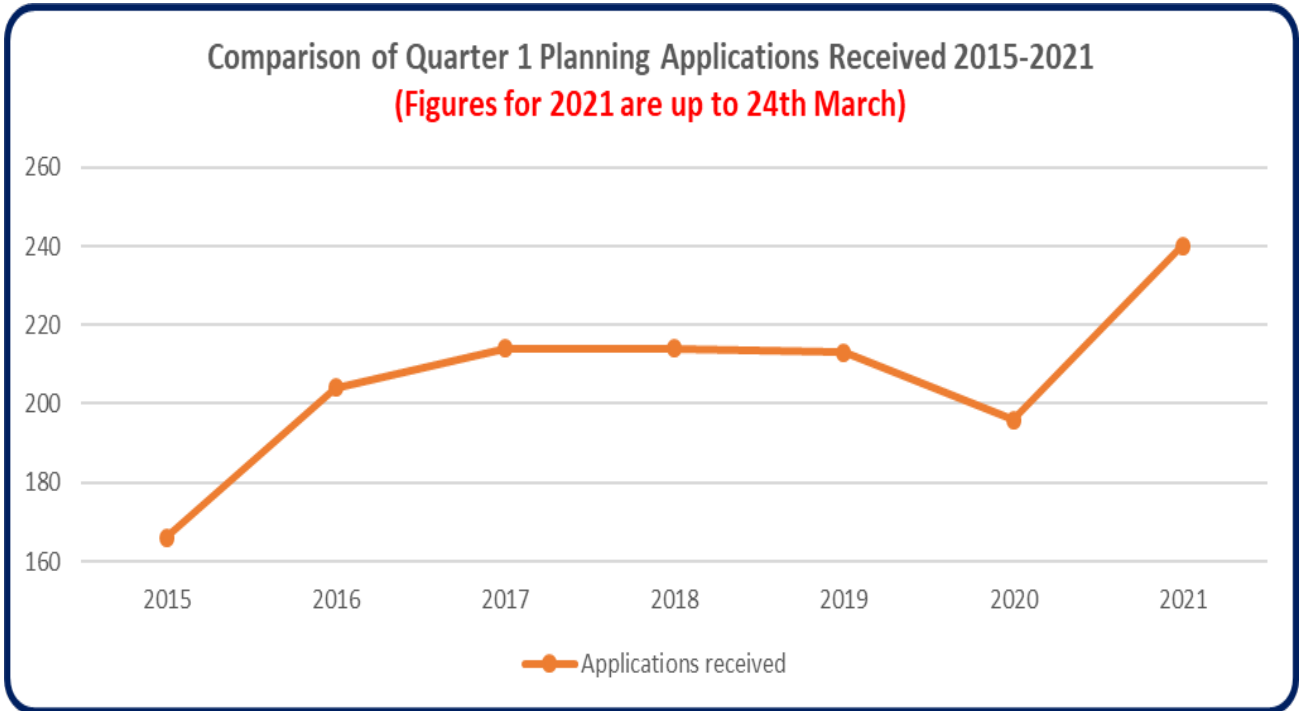
- **Aim:** optimise domestic visitor engagement, spend and dwell time.
- FI are delivering a dedicated marketing and communications programme with TV advert to propel the Waterford messaging and consumer demand between June and December. This programme with the industry in Waterford will compliment this campaign.

Pleanáil / Planning

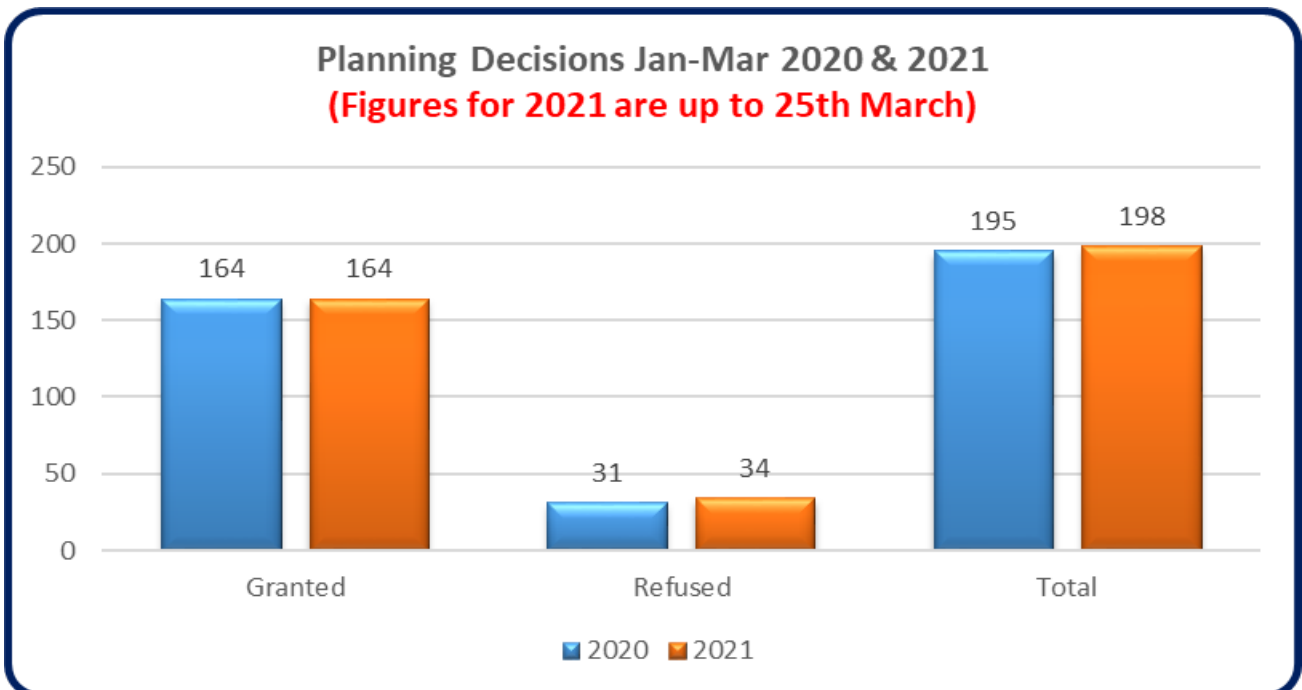
Planning Applications Received – Countywide

96 Planning applications were received in the month of March countywide (to 24th March). This compares with 82 planning applications received in the same month in 2020. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests. A total of 240 planning applications were received in the year to 24th March 2021. This compares to 196 planning applications which were received to the end of March in 2020





The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased slightly. 198 applications were decided in 2021 up to 25th March 2021 compared to 195 for the first three months of 2020. The annual difference in decisions made will increase in the coming months as the increased amount of applications received in the first quarter of 2021 come due for decision.



5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 8TH APRIL 2021

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

The draft development plan is currently being prepared for your consideration, having regard to the content of the Report of the Chief Executive and subsequent Direction by the Council to the Chief Executive, given in January. The timeline for preparing the draft development plan indicates that it will be presented to the Plenary Council in April as per the table below.

This will be followed by a series of discussions and workshops with the Plenary Council throughout the months of April, May and early June to allow full consideration of the draft development plan and associated documents. A 10 week phase of public consultation will then take place from late June to late August during which time written submissions will be invited from members of the public and other interested parties. It should be noted that written submissions regarding the zoning of land for particular purposes should only be made during this 10 week period.

Activity	Duration	Start	Finish
Development Plan Preparation Period.	Max 104 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Fri 15/07/22
Pre Draft Plan Public Consultation. NOW COMPLETED	8 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Mon 14/09/20
Prepare CE Report on submissions and submit to Plenary Council. NOW COMPLETED	8 wks	Mon 14/09/20	Mon 09/11/20
Liaise and discuss with Plenary Council and obtain Resolution on CE Report. NOW COMPLETED	10 wks	Mon 09/11/20	Mon 18/01/21
Prepare a Draft Dev Plan. CURRENT PHASE	12 wks	Mon 18/01/21	Mon 12/04/21
Submit Draft Dev Plan to Plenary Council and obtain Resolution.	8 wks	Mon 12/04/21	Mon 07/06/21
Notice of preparation of Draft Dev Plan.	2 wks	Mon 07/06/21	Mon 21/06/21
Public Consultation on Draft Dev Plan.	10 wks	Mon 21/06/21	Mon 30/08/21
Prepare CE Report on submissions received and submit to Plenary Council for consideration.	12 wks	Mon 30/08/21	Mon 22/11/21
Resolution of Plenary Council on CE Report and Draft Dev Plan.	12 wks	Mon 22/11/21	Mon 14/02/22
Notice of Material Alterations if necessary.	3 wks	Mon 14/02/22	Mon 07/03/22
Final Public Consultation on Material Alterations.	4 wks	Mon 07/03/22	Mon 04/04/22
Prepare C.E. Report on submissions.	8 wks	Mon 04/04/22	Mon 30/05/22
Plenary Council to consider CE Report and make Resolution.	6 wks	Mon 30/05/22	Mon 11/07/22
New Dev Plan comes into force.	6 wks	Mon 11/07/22	Mon 22/08/22

Planning SPC

A meeting of the Planning SPC was held on 23rd March to progress their deliberations on the Draft City & County Development Plan.

The items for discussion on the agenda were:

- City & County Development Plan
- Planning Enforcement
- PPN submission on engagement with Irish Water

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement service of Waterford City & County Council continues to operate throughout the current lockdown as planning enforcement is deemed as an essential service.

The following figures show the work undertaken in 2021 up to 24th March:

New enforcement cases opened:	26
Warning letters issued:	29
Enforcement notices issued:	4

Conservation Grants

All applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) have been assessed. We await the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approval of the recommendations and all applicants will be contacted by email in due course.

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI)

On 4th of March, Minister O’Brien and Minister of State Malcolm Noonan of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, announced that Tramore will receive funding under the Historic Towns Initiative 2021. In keeping with the Government commitment to a Town Centre First policy, Minister O’Brien stated “that it is his hope is that these heritage-led regeneration projects will bring economic benefits to our historic towns, thereby helping them to prosper once again.”



This programme is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Heritage Council. Waterford City and County Council has been allocated €75,000 for works to the Victorian railway station in Tramore.

When Waterford City and County Council acquired the Victorian Railway Station in 2017, it was in a derelict condition due to fire damage. Since then Waterford City and County Council have carried out some enabling works and conservation works to the roof and parapets. In 2021 Waterford City and County Council propose to carry out further conservation works to the windows and doors of the station. The funding will address the vacancy and dereliction of this building, promote conservation and prepare the building and its curtilage for occupancy. The past and proposed works ensure the embodied energy retention by reuse of our historic stock.

The proposed works to the building and the other works proposed for the curtilage and adjacent ground endeavour to re-establish Railway Square as the town’s transport hub and the terminus of a proposed greenway from Waterford City to Tramore.

Waterford Wetland Survey

An application for funding to the Heritage Council for a wetland survey has been successful and Wetland Surveys Ireland have been appointed to carry out a survey of 39 wetland sites. These habitats are important for biodiversity, flood attenuation and climate change but are under pressure from drainage and reclamation. The survey will inform the biodiversity section of the City and County Development Plan.

Biodiversity Funding

Three funding applications have been submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Biodiversity Fund for funding towards a survey of swifts and survey of the Saltmarsh Habitat at Tramore Dunes and co-funding for the Waterford Wetlands Survey.

Woodstown Viking Site

An application for funding to the Heritage Council for project management of the Woodstown Plan in 2021 has been successful and Abarta Heritage have been appointed to oversee delivery of key actions including heritage information signage for the site, Viking artwork and inventory of artefacts.

Decade of Commemorations

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media have allocated €50,000 to Waterford City & County Council for the 2021 programme of commemorations.

Ten applications were received under the Community Commemorations Grant Scheme with a total funding allocation of €23,000

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The Community Heritage Grant Scheme administered by the Heritage Council has opened for applications with a closing date of 29th March.

Bóithre agus Iompar / Roads and Transportation

Road Works Programme 2021

All District Councils have met and agreed their respective Road Works Programmes for 2021.

Road Works have commenced in Dungarvan/Lismore Area, with preparation work and drainage works in progress in the other Districts.

Active Travel 2021

Active Travel Design Works and Section 38's are in progress for all Districts, with schemes to commence on a phased basis once the necessary approvals are received at District Level. All current Section 38 projects are available to view on the website www.waterfordcouncil.ie with submission deadline dates.

Winter Maintenance Programme

Gritting and salting of roads continued during the month of March with crews out on 4 nights during the month.

Clár Scheme 2021

The Department of Rural and Community Development DRCD recently launched the 2021 Scheme. Local authorities are invited to submit applications for Measures 1 & 2 by 7th May for approval (a maximum of 10 applications for both). The measures being funded under this year's programme applicable to WCCC are:

Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures

Measure 2 – Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing applications	March 2020	Total Number of Applications Year 2020	March 2021	Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2021
Applications received	116	361	79	227
Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	111	356	97	275
Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	68	206	50	149
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	68	198	53	155

Housing Allocations

District	Tenancies during March 2020	Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2020	New Tenancies during March 2021	Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2021
Comeragh Municipal	1	9	3	0	5
Dungarvan/Lismore Municipal	2	46	2	7	9
Metropolitan	15	152	28	8	62
Voluntary Bodies	1	89	3	0	10
Totals	19	296	36	15	86

Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 758 There have been 189 refusals on properties to date.

Housing Loans applications

2021 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with Housing Agency/deferred for 6 months
March	5	3	6	2	6
YTD	18	3	7	6	6

Tenant Purchase applications

2021 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
March	3	0	0	3	4
YTD 2021	11	0	1	7	7
YTD 2020	61	2	21	34	13

4 Tenant Purchase sales closed in March -

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1 in Dungarvan, 2 in Waterford City West, 1 in Lismore

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment	March 2020 HAP tenancies	March 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	46	40	12	3,942	2,170

Inspections of Dwellings

	2021	March-21
HAP		3
Compliant		1
Non-Compliant		2
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>		1
New Build		41
Compliant		23
Non-Compliant		18
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>		
LTL		8
Compliant		1
Non-Compliant		7
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>		1
Total		52

In March, Waterford City & County Council carried out 185 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 15 properties have 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 March 2021	Value of applications March 2021	Cumulative number of applications approved 2021	Cumulative value of 2021 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	3	€53,897.13	9	€110,120.17
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€6,000.00	6	€32,826.42
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	2	€5,738.45	5	€18,386.75
Total	6	€65,635.58	2	€161,333.34

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS) (Opened 25th February 2019)	March 2021	March 2020
Number of callers seeking services in WIHS 27th February to 26th March 2021. The Service has had over 7,100 visitors since opening on 25th February 2019.	272	311
Number of presentations to WCCC Homeless Services 27th February to 26th March 2021 (1,267 presentation in total in 2021)	88	105
Number of Formal Homeless Assessments 27th February to 26th March 2021	62	73
Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation (EA) on:	25th March 2021	25th March 2020
Number of Single Persons in EA	50	65
Number of Families in EA	8	12
Number of children in EA	25	37

HAP Place Finder Service	March 2021	Cumulative (06.11.18 to 26.03.21)
Number of approval letters issued 27th Feb to 26th March 2021 (565 approval letters issued to 31/12/2020)	20	649
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies HUB Complete (312 tenancies set up to 31/12/2020)	21	378
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies currently being processed (as at 26/03/2021)	24	N/A

Housing First Programme	Tenancies
Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 26th March 2021 (Target = 30 by June 2021)	27

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 Service and the Housing First Service.

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
The Glen Waterford	17	Metropolitan	Appraisal/Design Stage	Stage 2 Approved. Revised proposal to be brought to Council workshop
Summerland Square Waterford	12	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021.
Ardmore Park / Priory Lawn	5	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Larchville	5	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Dungarvan Ballinroad	21	Dungarvan-Lismore	Completed	Completed
Tramore An Garran	50	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021
Doyle Street	4	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Slievekeale	58	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount William, Williamstown Rd	65	Metropolitan	Turnkey	Construction in Progress
Clarendon Court	24	Metropolitan	CPO	Negotiations with owners on-going – potential Repair and Lease Scheme
Knight's Grange	55	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
Ballynaneashagh	22	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Part 8 approved
Ballygunner	49	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021
Kilmacthomas	16	Comeragh	Tender Design	Tender in progress
Mount Esker, Ballytruckle	14	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Part 8 approved.
Estuary Heights, Shandon, Dungarvan	20	Dungarvan/Lismore	Completed	Completed
Railway Gardens, Lismore	17	Dungarvan/Lismore	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount Suir, Carrickphierish	18	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Brideview Close, Tallow	2	Dungarvan/Lismore	Completed	Completed
Barnes Lane, The Glen	2	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Part V	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2020 – 16 2021 – 10 (est)
Repair and Lease	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going

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				2020 – 41 2021 – 40 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Leasing	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 2021 – 50 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Buy and Renew – Barker Place	16	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Buy & Renew – Thomas Court	11	Metropolitan	Tender Preparation	Works Tender Q4 2021
Buy & Renew – Manor Court	4	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Buy & Renew – 42/43 Doyle Street	2	Metropolitan	On Site	Construction in progress
Buy & Renew – Countywide	8	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress
Total Units in WCCC Projects 824				
Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
Tramore, Ballycarnane <i>Tramore Voluntary Housing</i>	18	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Awaiting progress from AHB.
Dunhill Gleann Ealach	8	Comeragh	Design Stage	Planning refused
Powersfield, Hennessy's Road <i>Focus Ireland</i>	3	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Awaiting progress from AHB
The Paddock's Anvers/Acquired <i>Brain Injury Ireland</i>	9	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
Wadding Manor, Ferrybank <i>Respond!</i>	10	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Completion Q4, 2021.
Kilbarry, 6 Cross Roads <i>Respond!</i>	69	Metropolitan	Appraisal	Completed
Fairfield Park Circle VHA	40	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects 157				

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Refurbishing of houses becoming vacant for re let:

March 2021	Metro	Comeragh	Dungarvan / Lismore	TOTAL
Handed Over / Works Completed	13	1	1	15
Newly vacant	5	1	1	7

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

Rural Development Programme:

- Eleven projects were approved at the March LCDC Meeting totalling E566,000.
- The March LCDC marks the end of the 1420RDP/LEADER Programme with just over E6.0m allocated.
- E2,500 remains unallocated from the RDP1420 Programme.
- The LEADER Transitional Programme budget for 2021/22 has been increased nationally to E70m. Waterford's portion of this increased fund still has to be determined by the Dept of R.C.D.
- The Budget should be available late April 2021
- WLP Clg is in a solid financial position for the year.
- The New Transitional Programme will focus on a number of Key areas in preparation for the 2023 LEADER Programme.

Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2021

328 applications were received which is a substantial reduction from 2020. An allocation report will be sent to the members for their approval for the April meeting.

Waterford Age Friendly Programme:

The Age Friendly Alliance has met twice already in 2021. The Thematic sub-groups continue to meet to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. The OPC have actively engaged in the Community Response Forum and have finished their 'By the Fireside' Covid support events. The OPC continues to assist the Keep Well Campaign through the Stay Connected Programme providing valuable support to identified projects e.g., Nursing Home Tablets, AF photographic competition.

JPC:

The next JPC meeting will be held on Monday 14th June at 7pm.

Meetings are continuing with the Department of Justice to progress the proposed Local Community Safety Partnership pilot project for Waterford. The position for the Co-ordinator post will be advertised in the coming weeks.

St Patrick's Day Parade 2021, Waterford City and County

The countywide greening programme was well received by the public and calls to use similar lighting effects to mark other important occasions have been submitted. The content created from the event will be used to help cultivate future tourism opportunities as Waterford looks to re-launch the hospitality sector post-Covid. A number of other community engagements i.e. competitions and an online virtual parade were also undertaken to create some fun activities for families on the national day of celebration. Engagement on Waterford Council's online platforms increased by 30,000% and #WaterfordGoesGreen trended on Twitter on the 17th March.

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 fire crews and the community served.

Area	Fires	Special Service	False Alarm Good Intent	False Alarm Malicious
Metropolitan	43	16	9	0
Comeragh	3	2	0	0
Dungarvan/Lismore	18	8	1	0
Total for March	64	26	10	0
Year to date	145	99	43	2
Total for March 2021	55	25	9	0
Total for 2021	707	455	182	16

Fire Safety:

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

Applications Received	March 2021	2021 Year to date	Total for March 2020	Total for 2020
Fire Safety Certificates	1	12	4	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	March 2021	Cumulative Total for 2021	Total for March 2020	Total for 2020
Commencement Notices	23	55	22	285
Completion Certificates	10	44	16	224
Disability Access Certificates	4	9	2	45

Civil Defence:

Civil Defence activities during the month of March 2021 consisted solely of Covid-19 Response duties with the exception of a search for a missing person in Athy Co. Kildare (11 members)

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

1st January 2021 – 26th March 2021

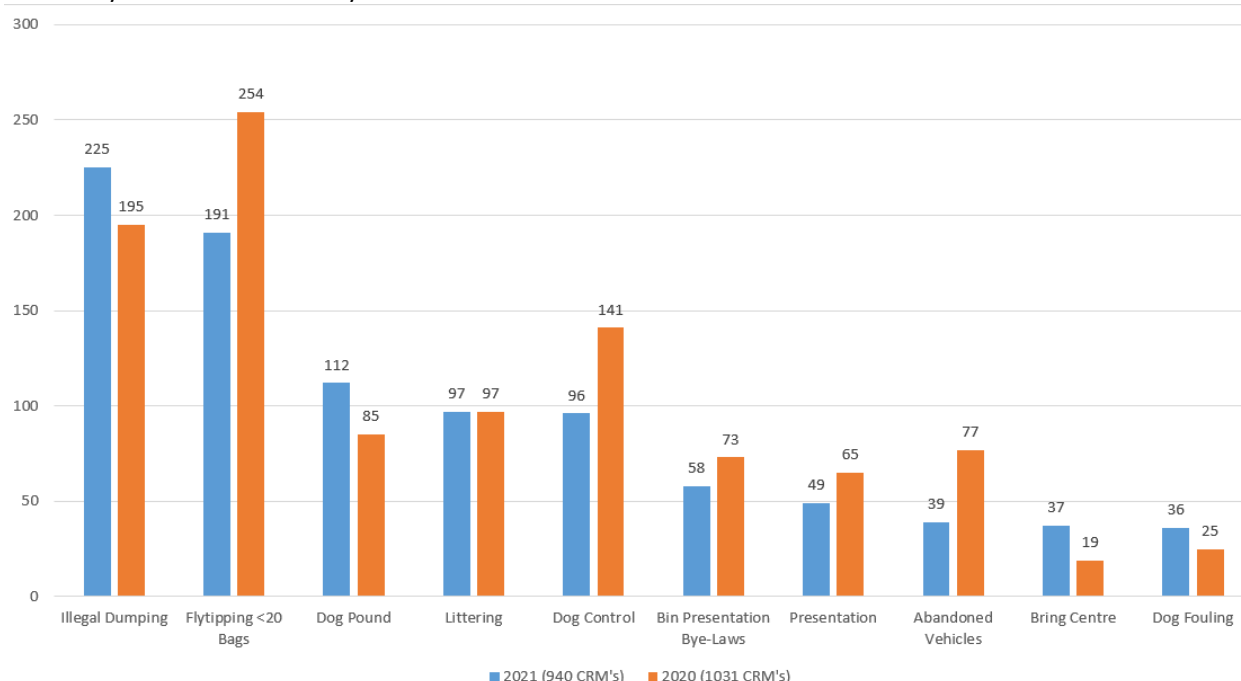
Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended)

Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	52
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from 2016 paid in 2017)	9
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended)

No of Complaints	723
Legal Actions	0
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)	6
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	16
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	18
Section 14 Directions	18
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	0
<u>Regulation 33</u> – Requirements on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility (European Union End of Life Vehicles) Regulation 2014	0
<u>Regulation 25</u> of the European Union (packaging) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 282 of 2014) as amended.	0

The following graph shows a comparison of the top ten categories of CRM cases recorded during the period from 1st January to 26th March in the years 2020 & 2021.



Climate Change

The recently announced [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Bill 2021](#) sets Ireland on the road to net zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Bill makes the Government legally accountable for this target. This means a huge step up in climate ambition – cutting emissions in half over the next decade on the path to net zero.

The 2021 Climate Action Plan will be a roadmap for getting to net zero. As part of the development of the 2021 Climate Action Plan the views of citizens and communities are invited on how Ireland can be transformed and support given to people who want to take their own climate actions. Further information can be obtained here:

<https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/climateactionplan2021/>

The closing date for submissions is the 18th May 2021.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign

The regional dog fouling campaign was launched on 22nd March in Dungarvan. A press release was issued to coincide with this, along with radio ads on WLR FM, social media posts and newspaper ads. This campaign will run throughout the remainder of 2021.

Biodiversity Events

A Sustainable Gardening course is running for 5 weeks. There was great interest in this; we had over 3 times more applicants than places on the course. Tidy Towns, community groups and community gardens were prioritised for places. Feedback has been excellent to date. This project aims to enable community groups to effectively improve their area for wildlife, increase pride of place and reduce pollution. By teaching a practical class on how to take cuttings, how to identify what creatures live in your area and what plants most benefit wildlife to community leaders we can enable them to improve local areas with a limited budget. Participants learn why they should protect the environment, how to protect it and who to turn to for support in doing so.

Let Dandelions Bee – this campaign encourages leaving dandelions grow during March and April, instead of mowing them and is in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This provides early pollinators such as bees with an early source of food. This is of great importance to pollinators and is a simple action that we can all take. A competition is being run during March and April to take a photo of your dandelions in bloom and photos can be emailed to letdandelionsbee@gmail.com. Signs are also being put in place on grassy verges to highlight that the grass is being left uncut to help pollinators such as bees.

National Tree Week – this took place slightly later this year from 21st – 27th March. Under normal circumstances, National Tree Week brings about the opportunity to promote tree awareness. Communities, associations, workgroups and family groups get together and organise lots of tree planting events, making Ireland greener. This year, with Covid-19, things were different. We are mindful of government guidelines surrounding gatherings and so virtual events were held. These were available through the Tree Council's website and we hosted a talk on choosing and planting the right tree for the

right place on the 23rd March. A number of saplings were made available to groups who had been allocated saplings in 2020 but were unable to access them due to Covid-19 restrictions, etc.

Tidy Towns

The national Tidy Towns competition will go ahead this year, with groups encouraged to include relevant photographs wherever possible with their entries in case judging cannot take place in person due to COVID-19. Groups have also been encouraged to focus on biodiversity, green spaces and sustainable living. With this in mind, a webinar on how to write an application will be held for Tidy Towns groups on 13th April at 7.00 p.m. This webinar will include a talk by Consultant Ecologist, Botanist and National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Fiona MacGowan, on how to write the application to gain marks when an adjudicator cannot visit as well as tips for how to include photographs as evidence of work completed.

Invitations have been emailed to all Tidy Towns groups for these events and the event has been advertised on the Councils website and social media as well as through the PPN, however registrations have been slow. It is important that Tidy Towns groups attend this event. It would be greatly appreciated if any local Tidy Towns groups in your area could be notified of the importance of this workshop; at a workshop on 22nd March, not all groups were aware that judges will not be able to visit their town/village this year or that the application must be submitted digitally this year.

A webinar on Sustainability & Sustainable Development Goals was held on 22nd March, with excellent attendance. Tidy Towns Adjudicator Debbie Reynolds provided advice and examples on projects, as well as introducing the new Sustainable Development Goals element of the competition to groups.

Climate Change for Those Under 16

Waterford City & County Council have recently been working with members of Comhairle na nÓg on local climate change conversations. As part of achieving the goals of a Carbon neutral society by 2050, the Government of Ireland has established a National dialogue on Climate action. As part of this dialogue, in 2021 a series of interlinked Climate conversations are being piloted to feed directly into the Climate Action Plan 2021 and the wider enduring National process. Young people can feed into the conversations in a number of ways- the broad online climate conversations which is about their own individual views on climate change or via the local Comhairle Conversations. The local Comhairle conversations are focused on local climate change issues, and how to encourage behaviour change to address these. We will meet (virtually) with members of Comhairle to discuss what they are doing in their own communities or homes and gather their suggestions on how to encourage new behaviours at a local level- focusing on areas where they can have an impact- travel, home, shopping and recycling, food and environment.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Libraries

In March, all branches were closed to the public under Level 5 restrictions; staff continued the book delivery service for schools and vulnerable patrons with 5553 items issued as part of 153 deliveries to households and schools during the month. In March 7906 eMagazine, eBooks and eAudiobooks were checked out, active membership of the library service was 8900 and staff delivered 103 events including;

- Seachtain na Gaeilge events and activities
- Launch of Waterford Libraries 'Blaa Book' Borrowbox Podcast Series
- Switching Off and Being Creative online events and activities
- Work Matters Local Enterprise Week events and activities
- WIT collaboration Lunchtime talks
- Music Generation Workshops
- St. Patrick's Day short story competition with WCCC and Waterford Parade Committee
- Launch of Grow it Forward seed growing kits campaign partnering with GIY funded by Healthy Ireland
- 'Creative Portrait' Photography Workshops with Julia Dunin Photography
- 'Tune In and Tune Out' with Sound and Silence meditation workshop
- Installation of Dungarvan Camera Club window exhibition in Dungarvan Library
- Installation of Educate Together School window exhibition in Carrickphierish Library
- Healthy Ireland Mind and Body Wellness and 'Healthy Eating Made Easy on a Budget' Workshops
- Engineers Week Zoo Workshops for Schools across the county
- EDIC sponsored International Women's Day 'Choose to Challenge' event
- Staff Interview event with European Commission Spokesperson for Health, Food Safety and Transport
- 'Glass Room Misinformation Edition' media literacy online exhibition
- Online Inner City Baby and Toddler Group events and activities
- Local History online talks with Local Historian Maxine Keogh
- Spokes Poetry online events
- Staff online poetry videos, scrabble club, craft sessions, story times, and Facebook book club
- Waterford Dyslexia Zoom coffee morning
- 'Introduction to Sensory Play, playing creatively with your baby' with Waterford Artist Eilis O'Toole

Upcoming Events in April:

- Continuation of 'Glass Room Misinformation Edition' media literacy online exhibition
- Events and Activities to mark World Autism Day
- Healthy Ireland 'PhysioPilates' Workshop & 'Healthy Vegetarian Eating' talk
- Easter Art Competition for Teens with Dungarvan Community Project and Feroige
- 'Spring into Storytime' events and activities

Library Development:

- Website development focus to remain connected to patrons with Podcast, competitions and events
- First Time Parents and Teenage Wellbeing with Art support groups launches, Age Friendly Digital Ambassador training, Community Call work, Digital Development Team creation, snuggle stories and Touch Type Read and Spell programs management, distribution of 800 seed growing kits for GIY 'Grow it Forward' initiative, radio coverage of Dungarvan Camera Club exhibition in Dungarvan Library
- EDIC 'Choose to Challenge' International Women's Day event attracted 153 online engagements
- Publication of GIY 'Grow Cook Eat' and 'Know It Almanac' by Waterford Libraries on Borrow Box for all of Ireland to access
- Staff training included LGMA Skills Share, Waterford as a place of innovation and enterprise, Zoom Webinar Training, Youth Library Recommending with Confidence, My Open Library Webinar and Project Management

Arts Report March 2021

Waterford Film artist James Phelan has been announced as a recipient of the **PLATFORM 31** artist bursary. This nationwide artist development scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council aims to develop their practice and test new ideas of collaboration, research, audience development, place based arts and sharing their work.

- The ArtLinks Collaboration Award for artists from the ArtLinks counties to partner on projects is now open for applications with an April deadline.
- The Arts Office supported Ted and Mary O' Regan Arts Bursary is now open for applications to support Waterford artists.
- Artifice the Arts in Education project in association with Lismore Castle Arts is showcasing the work of Transition Year students from five Waterford Secondary schools online. One hundred and thirty students participated.
- Under the Keep Well Programme, a series of literature workshops for Waterford writers commenced this month and will run weekly over a period of five weeks.
- Council programmes in Arts in Health, Literature and Education continued along with Dance, Theatre, Youth and technology. Music Generation continued its programme with young people via digital platforms.
- Both GOMA and Rogue Galleries & Studios were successful with their Arts Council and Department of Culture applications for funding under the resilience programmes. GOMA has created a safe area for outreach for when the Gallery re-opens (hopefully in May) and Rogue is starting to stream live performances from its current base on Michael Street.
- Discussions are at a final stage for a new Arts Storage unit which will then free-up the space in City Hall for other purposes.
- Plans are being drawn-up for a further programme of art conservation once Covid restrictions ease.

Airgeadas / Finance

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division							
Y.T.D. to February 28, 2021							
		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	4,615,940	29,905,750	15%	4,695,805	32,231,369	15%
B	Road Transport & Safety	5,526,984	46,501,378	12%	3,082,058	34,342,105	9%
C	Water Services	1,624,230	10,831,808	15%	1,585,462	10,419,107	15%
D	Development Management	3,208,196	16,894,259	19%	1,704,867	8,467,777	20%
E	Environmental Services	2,843,825	19,210,509	15%	395,199	2,847,343	14%
F	Recreation & Amenity	2,117,160	14,454,154	15%	252,485	1,806,387	14%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	124,053	979,517	13%	62,523	528,623	12%
H	Miscellaneous Services	3,213,914	9,620,230	33%	2,544,435	4,668,005	55%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	3,277,502	19,665,016	17%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	5,570,312	33,421,873	17%
		23,274,302	148,397,605	16%	23,170,650	148,397,605	16%
Surplus/Deficit					(103,653)	0	

5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 8TH APRIL 2021

Summary of main collections Feb 2021 YTD									
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]			[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2021	Accrued ytd to Feb 2021	Write Offs and Vacancies	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Feb 2021	Gross Bal 28-02-2021 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2021 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€	€	€	€		€	
Rates	11,063,411	33,549,986	-	44,613,397	5,007,015	39,606,382	3,450,000	12%	15%
Loans	1,912,249	539,681	-	2,451,930	551,435	1,900,495		22%	102%
Rents	4,368,711	2,269,741	6,169	6,644,621	2,283,361	4,361,260		34%	101%
Aged Analysis :									
			Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates			-	33,076,669	-	6,529,713			39,606,382
			0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans			154,752	62,675	180,806	1,502,262			1,900,495
			Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents			110,623	77,098	154,293	4,019,246			4,361,260
Overdraft Levels									
Days in Overdraft in Dec	0		Cost -	€0.00	Average Value when in O/D : N/A			€	-