

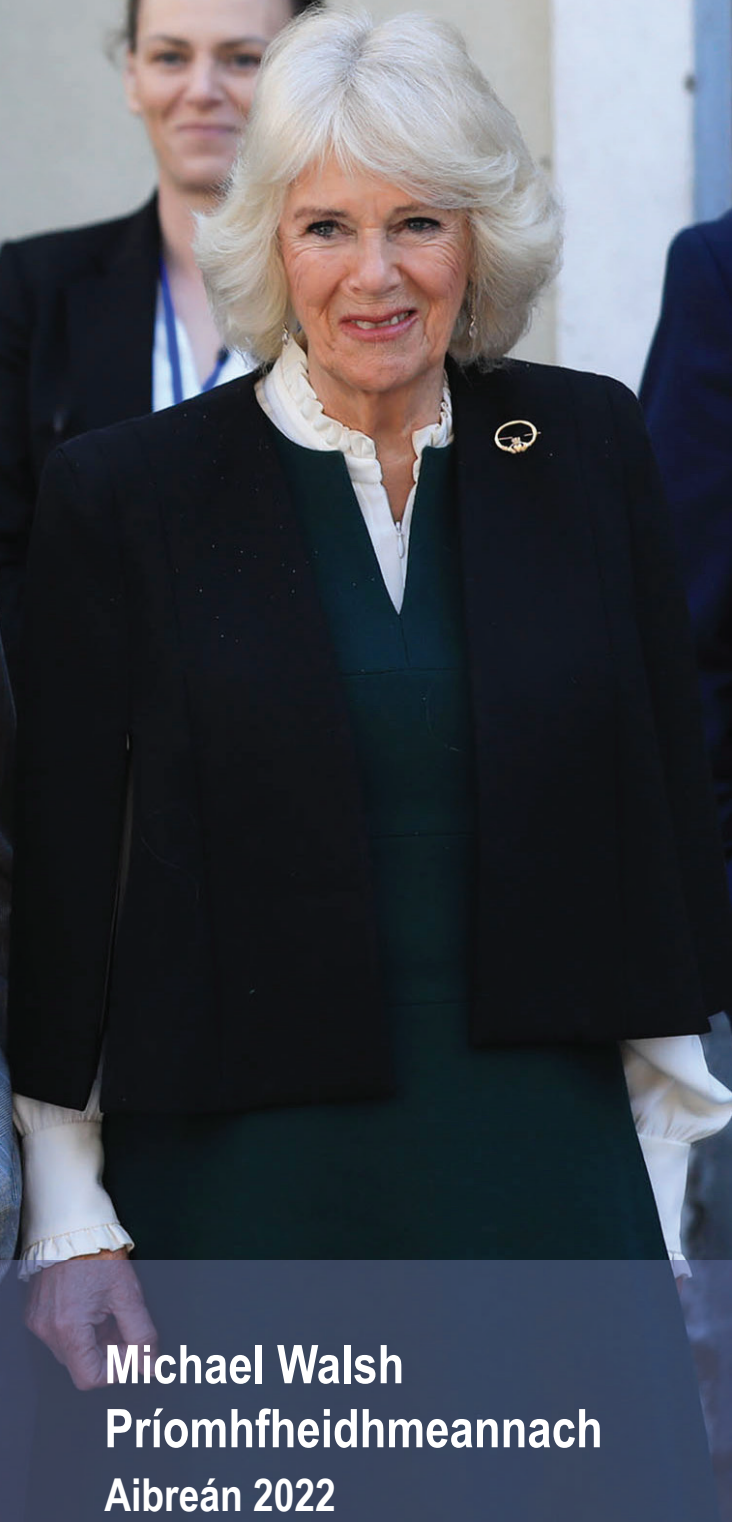
MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council



PREPARED BY:
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Chief Executive
April 2022

Michael Walsh
Príomhfheidhmeannach
Aibreán 2022

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate Mayors Official Engagements March 2022

TUESDAY 1ST:

WEDNESDAY 2ND:

Waterford Business Awards- Mayors Parlour.

LEO Student Enterprise Award- Mayors Parlour.

THURSDAY 3RD:

ESB Brighter Future Arts Fund launch- Theater Royal.

FRIDAY 4TH:

Thomas Francis Meagher Breakfast- Granville Hotel.

SATURDAY 5TH:

Tree Planting-Urban Woodland.

Commemoration Event-Centenary of taking of Dungarvan Castle by LRA- Dungarvan.

Book Launch- The Bad Times- Woodhouse Stradbally.

SUNDAY 6TH:

Launch & Official Opening Soroptimist Celebration of International Women's Day- Dungarvan.

MONDAY 7TH:

Mayoral Reception for St Pauls Boxing Club- Mayors Parlour.

TUESDAY 8TH:

Global Women's Conference- International Women's Day- Theatre Royal- Cllr. Roche attended.

WEDNESDAY 9TH:

THURSDAY 10TH:

Waterford Student Enterprise County Final- Virtual Event.

FRIDAY 11TH:

Photocall Launch- "The People we grow up to be" Creative Waterford Project- attended by Deputy Mayor in Central Library.

National Enterprise awards-County Winner- Mayors Parlour.

Photocall- Mayor with Woodstown Viking site Steering Committee.

SATURDAY 12TH:

SUNDAY 13TH:

Launch & Official Opening Soroptimist Celebration of International Women's Day- Dungarvan.

MONDAY 14TH:

Photocall- Launch exhibition- "The Cherish Project"- Attended by Deputy Mayor.

TUESDAY 15TH:

WEDNESDAY 16TH:

Flag Raising-St Pauls Community Collage

THURSDAY 17TH:

St Patricks Day Parade-Waterford

FRIDAY 18TH:

SATURDAY 19TH:

SUNDAY 20TH:

MONDAY 21ST:

TUESDAY 22ND:

WEDNESDAY 23RD:

THURSDAY 24TH:

Visit of HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall to Waterford

FRIDAY 25TH:

Tree Planting for National Tree Week in Acre Park at Farronshoneen.

SATURDAY 26TH:

Blackwater Opera Festival- 100 Club Lunch.

SUNDAY 27TH:

MONDAY 28TH:

TUESDAY 29TH:

WEDNESDAY 30TH:

Photocall- Visit Waterford attended by Deputy Mayor.

Photocall Launch- Restoration Art Trail- Garter Lane

THURSDAY 31ST:

Coffee Morning in aid of Ukraine in WCFE.

Opening night- Gealach Gorm Fit Up Festival- Kill.

All meetings in April are to be On Line.

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Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

A. SDZ DEVELOPER

i. WCCC 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.

B. CONTRACTS

i. A contractor is being appointed for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station, works are due to commence towards the end of April 2022.

ii. A contractor has been appointed for the South Plaza Enabling Works and works are due to commence mid April.

iii. The main construction tender for the infrastructural works is currently being tendered, this includes the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works. The tender period has been extended to 9th May 2022.

iv. Tenders for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have been assessed by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consultants and recommendations for appointment are currently being made.

v. Tender documents will be issued shortly for two enabling works contracts - footpath widening on Abbey Road and Pump station enabling works.

Local Enterprise Office

No Evaluation Committee meeting took place in February 2022. Last meeting held on April 1st 2022

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

Indicator	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-21	Mar-22
Measure 1				
No. of Clients applying	0	0	6	0
No. of Clients securing	0	0	6	0
Value of support approved	€	€	€137,308	€
Measure 2				
No. of clients receiving	78	185	659	772
Value of support given	€17,523	€43,394	€137,884	€80,552

Support	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
Trading Online Voucher			
No. of Approvals	4	8	21
Value of Approvals €	€7,599	€17,588	€48,779

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O'CONNELL WHISKEY MERCHANTS WINS WATERFORD'S TOP ENTERPRISE AWARD

Marking the end of a busy and productive Local Enterprise Week in Waterford, O'Connell Whiskey Merchants took the top prize and will now represent Local Enterprise Office Waterford at the 22nd National Enterprise Awards at the Mansion House in Dublin on June 2nd.

Daithí O'Connell says this is just the next step in his entrepreneurial adventure, "We bring small batch whiskey to market in the premium plus whiskey sector by sourcing and maturing premium whiskies. We are an independent bottler and bonder of spirits, especially Irish whiskey. Our warehouse and bottling line are in Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford, next to the Waterford Greenway in a 1830s-era famine workhouse and 1970s Flahavan's grain store house."



The Waterford Enterprise Awards took place as part of a very successful Local Enterprise Week programme of events. There were over 220 physical and virtual events taking place across the country and 26 in Waterford alone, run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices from March 7th to 11th.

WATERFORD STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2022

Charlotte Balfe, from Ard Scoil na Mara, Tramore was announced as the winner at the Local Enterprise Office's Student Enterprise Programme Virtual Awards earlier this month.

Charlotte (pictured below with her Teacher, Maria Malone, Principal, Padraig Cawley and Jacqui Gaule, Senior Development Officer at Waterford's Local Enterprise Office) is the founder of Handy Hurleys, a convenient and cost-effective way to store Hurleys in the home or club.

Charlotte will represent Waterford when she competes against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Final, taking place on May 18th, 2022.



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TOURISM

This week, Visit Waterford launched its 2022 summer tourism campaign, 'Waterford - Your adventure starts here' which will showcase what Waterford city and county has to offer as a tourism destination in Ireland's Ancient East.

TASTE WATERFORD

A new Taste Waterford brand and website launched on Monday 28th March, aiming to build on the work done under the previous Food the Waterford Way brand which was launched in 2017. A quality food offering is a motivating factor for visitors when choosing a destination, so Taste Waterford is an important marketing element in elevating the overall profile of Waterford as a tourism destination.

www.tastewaterford.ie



Public relations

18 press releases issued including:

- Waterford Libraries return to full opening hours
- Mayor holds vigil in support of Ukraine
- Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership safety consultation workshop
- Mayor opens online Book of Solidarity with Ukraine
- Affordable Housing Scheme launched

Communications

- Europe Direct Climate Action Series of online talks
- Council launches eParking app
- Waterford St. Patrick's Day celebrations draw record crowds
- Waterford Greenway celebrates five great years
- Sun shines for warm Royal welcome in the Déise
- Tree-planting to celebrate National Tree Week

ROYAL VISIT

Visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to Waterford on the 24th March 2022. The Royal Highnesses arrived at the Viking Triangle where they were welcomed by the Mayor of Waterford City and County Cllr. Joe Kelly and met with members of the Waterford Viking Re-enactment Group, Spraoi, Mount Sion Choir, Waterford Walls, frontline workers and the ACT group. This was followed by a visit to the Medieval Museum and a reception with councillors and representatives from Waterford communities.



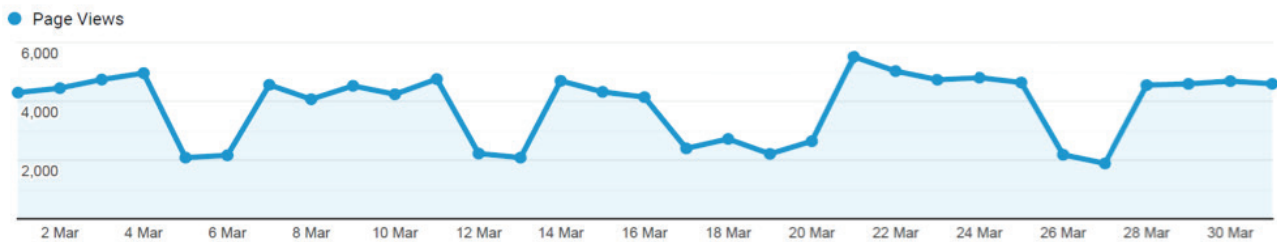
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RADIO ADVERTISING:

- Waterford, Ireland's Best Place to Live copy
- Today fm w/c March 14th and March 21st
- WLRFM w/c March 14th and March 21st

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

	Reach	+/- Previous month	% Change		+/- Previous month	% Change
January	799,327					
February	865,418	66,091	27%	Followers		
March	924,139	58,721	6.8%	40,863		



Page	Page Views	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances	Bounce Rate	% Exit
	119,570 % of Total: 100.00% (119,570)	92,689 % of Total: 100.00% (92,689)	00:01:24 Avg for View: 00:01:24 (0.00%)	50,318 % of Total: 100.00% (50,318)	54.08% Avg for View: 54.08% (0.00%)	42.08% Avg for View: 42.08% (0.00%)
1. /index.htm	17,909 (14.98%)	14,099 (15.21%)	00:00:45	11,829 (23.51%)	34.42%	36.86%
2. /departments/planning/planning-enquiries/online-planning-enquiries.htm	11,984 (10.02%)	9,360 (10.10%)	00:03:00	5,548 (11.03%)	73.00%	67.48%
3. /departments/housing/choice-based-lettings.htm	6,977 (5.84%)	5,319 (5.74%)	00:01:38	4,183 (8.31%)	59.17%	52.74%
4. /onlinepayments/onlinepayments.htm	4,496 (3.76%)	3,727 (4.02%)	00:03:07	1,338 (2.66%)	48.21%	43.19%
5. /departments/planning/planning-enquiries/viewing.htm	4,226 (3.53%)	2,660 (2.87%)	00:00:13	2,069 (4.11%)	4.69%	7.12%
6. /departments/index.htm	3,995 (3.34%)	2,951 (3.18%)	00:00:18	438 (0.87%)	18.95%	8.34%
7. /departments/human-resources/vacancies.htm	3,757 (3.14%)	3,203 (3.46%)	00:01:45	2,103 (4.18%)	79.65%	67.55%
8. /departments/planning/index.htm	3,567 (2.98%)	2,664 (2.87%)	00:00:28	959 (1.91%)	22.63%	13.99%
9. /media/planninglists/index.htm	3,494 (2.92%)	2,718 (2.93%)	00:03:47	1,436 (2.85%)	77.09%	61.10%
10. /departments/housing/index.htm	2,733 (2.29%)	2,086 (2.25%)	00:00:51	860 (1.71%)	33.37%	23.49%

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Pleanáil / Planning

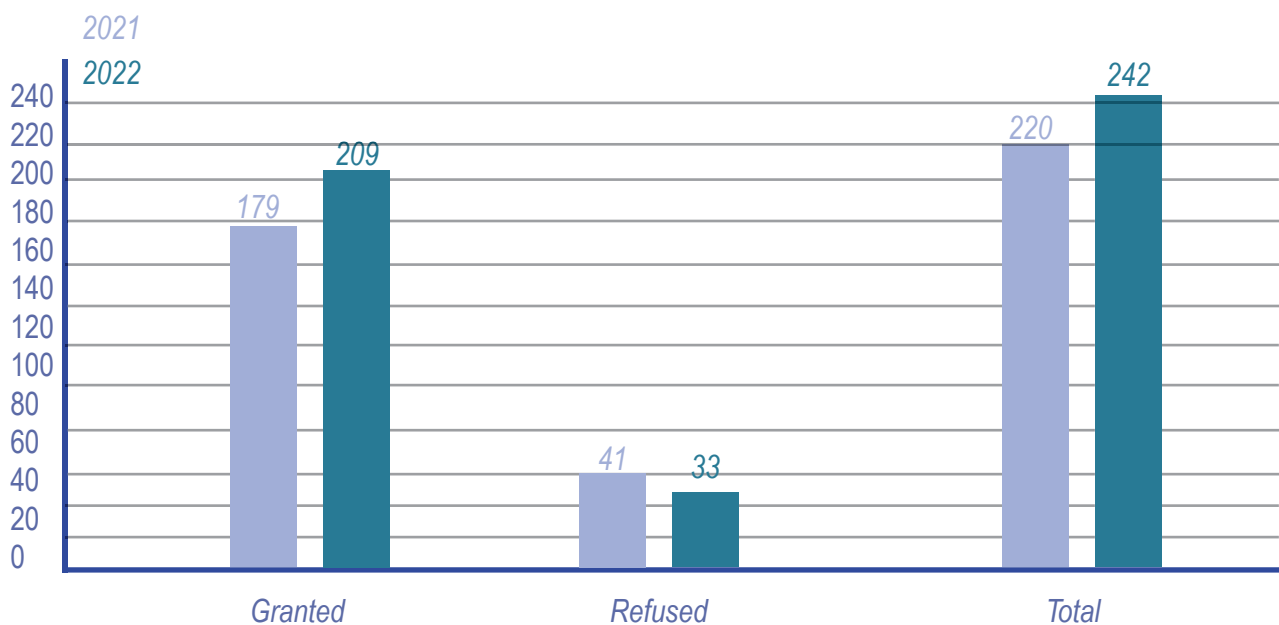
PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

95 Planning applications were received countywide in March 2022 up to and including 28th March. This compares with 120 planning applications received in the full calendar month in 2021.

A total of 240 planning applications were received in the year to 28th March 2022. This compares to 254 planning applications which were received to the 28th of March 2021.

PLANNING DECISIONS

242 applications were decided from the 1st of January to 31st March 2022 compared to 220 for the same period in 2021. Of the 242, 209 decisions were granted and 33 decisions were refused.



FORWARD PLANNING

UPDATE ON PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028.

The Material Alterations to the Draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 were placed on public display for the period Thursday 3rd March to Friday 1st April 2022. Written submissions/observations were invited and at time of writing a total of circa 450 written submissions had been received. A Chief Executive Report will be prepared and submitted to the Plenary Council by the 28th April giving further details of the submissions and the response and recommendation of the CE with regard to same. Further workshops will be arranged to consider the CE Report thereafter with the making of the Development Plan on or before the 9th of June. The new Plan will come into effect 6 weeks after the date on which it is made.

PRE-PLANNING MEETINGS.

The following times have been allocated for pre-planning meetings in order to improve the preplanning service:
Dungarvan / Lismore & Comeragh Planning districts - every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 12:30pm in 30-minute slots.

Metropolitan Planning district – every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 4:30pm in 30-minute slots.

Meetings will be held mainly by remote means using MS teams. Preplanning meetings for larger scale proposals will be arranged outside these times where deemed appropriate.

Heritage Officer Report

HERITAGE

Waterford Commemorations Programme

The launch of *The Bad Times*, a publication by William Fraher, Waterford County Museum took place in Woodhouse, Stradbally also on March 5th. Other events being planned this year include a documentary film on the Siege of Waterford, a GIS Story Map on Civil War events in Waterford, display of the National Archives Exhibition on the Signing of the Treaty, publication by Waterford County Museum on Cumann na mBan and documentary film on Liam Lynch and the end of the Civil War.

Community Monuments Fund

Twelve applications were submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 2022 Community Monuments Fund and the outcome will be known by late April.

CONSERVATION

Historic Structure Fund (HSF)

Waterford applied for 5 projects under the Historic Structure Fund (HSF) and they all got the full funding requested which is €339,755. Details to be provided in the relevant district reports.

This means that in total Waterford City and County Council has received €522,155 for built heritage for 2022 from the Dept.



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Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	Mar 2021	Year 2021	Mar 2022	Year to date 2022
Applications received	79	805	108	209
Applications assessed *	97	815	85	210
Applications Validated*	50	510	23	64
Approved for social housing supports following interview	53	526	32	93

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tanancies Mar 2021	Cumulative Tenancies 2021	New Tanancies Mar 2022	Refusal of new Tenancys	Cumulative Tenancies 2022
District	33	433	29	9	76
Approved housing Bodies	3	31	12	6	10
Total	36	464	41	15	86

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1009 There have been 276 refusals on properties

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
2022 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/ Deffed for 6 months
March	11	9	2	0	0
Year to date	17	9	2	2	0

Tenant Purchase applications

Tenant Purchase applications					
2022 Tenant Purchases	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
March	9	1	4	5	
YTD 2022	27	1	7	14	3

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Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment					
	Mar 2021 HAP Tenancies	Mar 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	40	44	-15*	4,308	1,972

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

Inspections of Dwellings

Inspections of Dwellings	
HAP	9
HAP Non- Compliant	9
HAP Non- Compliant	9

In February, Waterford City & County Council carried out 234 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 23 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 Mar 2022	Value of applications Mar 2022	Cumulative number of applications approved 2022	Cumulative value of 2022 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	10	€123,066.14	48	€677,270.56
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	11	€61,726.87	34	€178,168.99
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	13	€85,203.52	39	€205,198.85
Total	34	€269,996.53	121	€1,060,638.40

Homeless Services

Homeless Services			
Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	24th of Feb to 31st of March.	Cumulative 2022	Total 2021
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	339	992	3,516
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	100	250	760

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	31st March 2022	31st March 2021
Number of Single Persons	62	51
Number of Families	16	8
Number of Adults in Families	20	12
Number of Children	33	25

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HAP PlaceFinder Service

	1st- 31st March	Cumulative 2022
<i>Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer</i>	30	78
<i>Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete</i>	9	30

Housing First Programme

	Tenancies 2022	Tenancies 2021
<i>Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 28th February 2022</i>	0	30

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Location</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Current Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Total WCCC Projects	470			
<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
	355			

Total units including WCCC Projects: 777

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING 2022:

The allocation by the Department to WCCC for Energy Efficiency Retrofitting has not been determined as yet. Childers Estate in Dungarvan will be the main focus by WCCC for submission to the Department for 2022. A submission will be made in the next week or so upon direction from the Department. It is hoped to commence works on 24 houses approximately in the next month or so with more houses to follow later. Progress reports will follow once confirmed.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>March 2022</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/ Works completed</i>	4
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	10

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- The payments on all LEADER Projects are progressing well.
- Between now and the end of the year over €2m will be paid out to applicants.
- The Departmental Auditor carried out a random audit project inspection. This went well.
- The March application was approved for €150,000.
- Training session was provided in early March for all the potential applicants under the February Call.

ST PATRICK'S DAY/ FESTIVAL 2022

The return of the first St. Patrick's Day Parade to Waterford since 2019 saw record crowds in attendance on March 17th. The spectacular Parade was the main event for the inaugural three-day Waterford St. Patricks Festival which was well received by the public. The theme of this year's parade was "Waterford: Ireland's Best Place to Live". Over 70 community groups participated in the parade, including Spraoi, drama societies, community groups, sports clubs, youth groups and notably a Ukrainian contingent who received a warm welcome and great applause from the crowds. Waterford's St. Patricks Festival took place from Thursday March 17th to Sunday 20th and included 30 live variety acts across four outdoor stages, fairground attractions, a number of historical features and a spectacular fireworks display.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FUND 2021:

All 146 applicants have returned their signed the terms and acceptance form and the grant payments has been processed for all groups.

THE SUPPORTING WATERFORD COMMUNITY FUND 2022:

350 applications were received, which is a slight increase from last year. The recommended allocations report has been circulated to the elected members prior to this meeting for their approval..

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

Progress on 2022 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 2021/22, the Communitree app is being launched imminently. Phase one and phase two of the multi-annual tree planting programme has been completed at the WIT Arena and in Cherry-mount This activity is in partnership with WCCC, WIT and the Lions club. Meetings are ongoing to identify additional sites with engagements taking place with the trails officer in WCCC. A new coordinator (Amy Doherty) is now in place and assisting the young people to deliver on their action plan.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Work continues through the Thematic sub-groups to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. Round 1 of the AF Business Recognition Programme for Waterford City and County is complete with 11 AF Charters having being issued during March. Work on the new five year Strategy has begun with a steering group having been formed to review progress.

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.

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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:

A public consultation on Community Safety was held on Wednesday 9th March 2022, the results of this consultation will form the basis of the Community Safety Plan. Following a meeting with the Department of Justice we have secured additional funding to allow us to retender for a consultant for the development of the CSP. Offices have been secured for the LCSP in 8A Catherine Street and we hope to move there in the coming weeks. Paula Hilman, Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing & Community Engagement, has also agreed to come and meet the partnership later this year.

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, will now take place in Killarney, Co. Kerry on May 16th 2022. Waterford's main entry for the 2022 competition will be the Surprise Surprise Group having won the 2021 PPN awards.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

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

SICAP:

Work in ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC with 79 local community groups and 953 individuals in Waterford expected to benefit in 2022.

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.

The Annual Plan for 2022 and the Annual Performance Review for 2021 have been approved by Waterford LCDC.

TIG:

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

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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 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.

<i>Fire Service Operational Activity:</i>				
<i>Area</i>	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Special Services</i>	<i>False alarm/ Good intent</i>	<i>False alarm Malicious</i>
<i>Total for March</i>	66	52	11	0
<i>Year to date</i>	138	118	57	0
<i>Total for March 2021</i>	64	26	10	0
<i>Total for 2021</i>	672	460	184	3

FIRE SAFETY:

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

<i>Fire Safety:</i>				
<i>Applications received</i>	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>	<i>March 2021</i>	<i>2021 YTD</i>
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	8	26	1	12

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.

<i>Building Control:</i>				
<i>Applications received</i>	<i>March 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>	<i>March 2021</i>	<i>2021 YTD</i>
<i>Commencement Notices</i>	28	81	23	352
<i>Completion Certificates</i>	19	59	10	195
<i>Disability Access Certs</i>	2	12	0	57

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CIVIL DEFENCE:

Early in the month Civil Defence teams held an exercise in preparation for the Radiation Monitoring Service in support of the Environmental Protection Agency. The exercise was to practice our techniques and procedures on gathering Low level Background Radiation data in the form of Grass and Soil Samples to be used as a comparison Data Set to what the EPA record themselves.

This month also saw the safe return to in person training, where we are working on our core skills to retrain our volunteers in their different service area's like First Aid, Communications etc.

St Patrick's Day Parade was also a big day for Civil Defence volunteers who took part in the parade.

Civil Defence have been making preparations to assist the welcome of Ukrainian Refugees to Waterford. Emergency capabilities have been reviewed and a delegation travelled to Dublin to assist in the set up and management of reception centres for Ukrainian Displaced Persons. We continue to provide technical assistance and logistical support for the provision of rest centres.

Whilst the easing of Covid 19 restrictions has been positive we are monitoring and reviewing the situation in general but looking forward to working with our volunteers to identify what training is required to get back to a new normal.



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Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services *Environmental Enforcement Statistics*

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

1ST JANUARY 2022 – 31ST MARCH 2022

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	24
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	9
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	1

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	593
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)	12
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	12
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	65
Section 14 Directions	12
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	1
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.	6
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0



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Environmental Education & Awareness

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. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations have commenced at www.nationalspringclean.org ; as part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

GREEN FLAG PROGRAMME

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals and first time applicants. Fifty one schools are due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, April 1st 2022 for the 2021/2022 academic year. Green School visits can take place either in person or virtually, however most schools have chosen to have an in-person visit.

BIODIVERSITY

The interactive “Growing Together” course ran during March and continues into April. Participants learn to grow their own vegetables and pollinator plants. It has proven to be of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators. A once off “Wildflower Masterclass” took place in March and provided advice on how best to re-wild/plant a wildflower area to help pollinators and biodiversity.

National Tree Week took place 20 – 26th March. Waterford City & County Council distributed 300 free native saplings to schools across Co. Waterford. A tree planting event also took place on Friday 25th March to mark National Tree Week.

TIDY TOWNS

A series of short online talks for Tidy Towns groups will continue during April, on the topics of litter management, sustainability, special awards categories and planting for pollinators. Speakers taking part include a winning Tidy Towns groups from Clare, the Biodiversity Data Centre about the Pollinator Plan and the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural & Community Development. All local Tidy Towns groups were contacted with details of these events and invited to attend.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In conjunction with the Europe Direct Centre at Central Library a number of online lunchtime events were held during March, entitled ‘Climate Action – what changes can I make?’. The events explored what action we can all take to contribute to the Waterford and National Climate Action Plans to create a better local and national environment for the present and the future. Events included talks on furniture upcycling demonstration using locally recycled paint from Renew Enterprises, a talk about wildflowers, how to grow your own vegetables active travel and how climate change is affecting our coastal heritage locally.

Waterford City & County Council has been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this Spring. This involves a ten week Climate Literacy programme, focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behavior change in schools. The course is developed to include teacher training, resources, and lesson plans. The teacher training is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and skills required to effectively and confidently deliver not only this course, but also across their curriculum subject as the course can complement any subject framework that has an environmental strand. There will be training sessions weekly online to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. Following training teachers will be able to deliver the course by themselves to groups of students.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Arts Report

The inaugural 'Foolhardy Festival of Comedy and Commedia' was held in the Waterford Cultural Quarter from April 1 – 3. In all there were 23 events featuring over 100 slots. The festival gave short-term employment to 50 people (performers, programmers, producers, technicians, videographers) under the guise of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports and Media's LLPPS3 scheme. Local hospitality businesses reported a healthy increase in sales. Foolhardy was a diversity friendly festival that mainly covered 'Stand-up' routines but also had a strong academic and professional development programme. It was produced by the Waterford Arts Service.

- The Waterford Film Centre has been commissioned to do a documentary on the Foolhardy Festival, again under the LLPPS3 scheme.

- The Arts Service was involved with the St. Patrick's Festival. Conor Nolan was one of the judges at the parade. The Service also provided for the Jazz event at the Bishop's Palace on the Sunday. The concert was paid for by the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports and Media's LLPPS3 scheme.

Poetry Day is just around the corner with a strong programme of City and County events.

- The Waterford Gallery of Art and the Waterford Art Collection is continuing its outreach programme which is aimed at community focused groups. In Early March a talk and workshop was delivered to Ferrybank Scouts and the Gallery hosted a visit by a retirees group. A programme is being developed for Primary Schools. The current exhibition (Aspects) is due to close in May.

- GOMA Gallery has a wonderful exhibition by Japanese artist Seiko Hayase – 'World in Between'. It is part of the Gallery's 'Connect 5 Award' partnered with BKB Studios, Engage Artists Studios, Sample Studios and Wickham Studios.

- The Arts Service was delighted to have been part of the entourage that met the British Royal Couple Charles and Camilla on their visit to Waterford. A copy of Dr Peter Jordan's book on the Waterford Collection was presented to Prince Charles to commemorate the event. Prince Charles was introduced to a selection of Artists and arts organisers. The British Royal couple also met with and talked to the Music Generation Waterford Harp Quintet.

- Planning for the Summer In The City is well underway. Activities are being looked at with placements in the Cultural Quarter, the Retail Quarter, the Hospitality Quarter and the Viking Triangle. It's a co-production between Anna Jordan and the Arts Service.

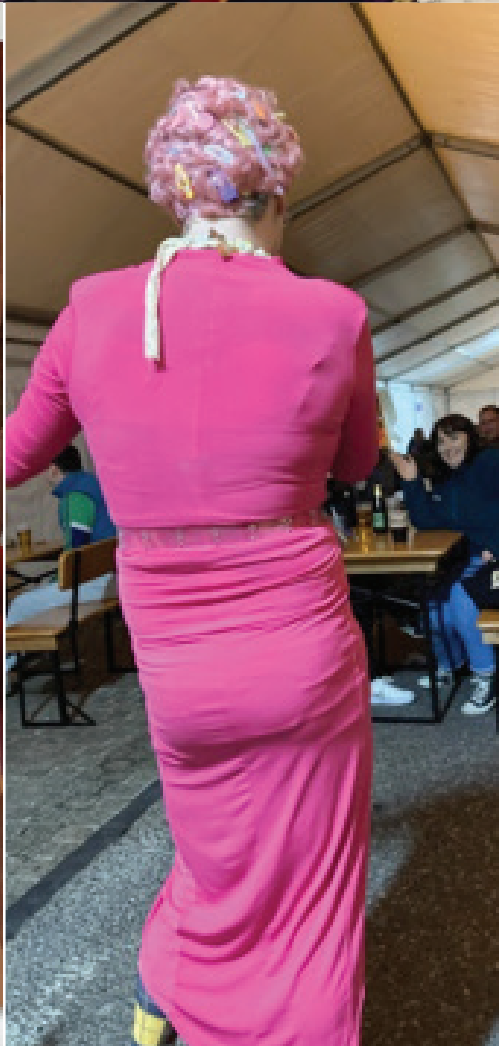
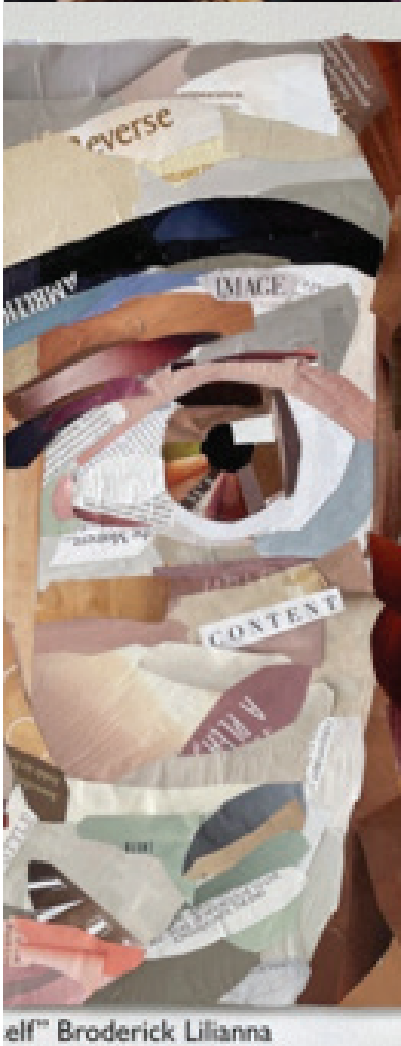
- Poetry Day is on April 28th this year. A full programme is planned with poets for events in the City and County and a possible tie-in with the Waxed Lemon and the Waterford Gallery of Art.

- Artifice , a visual arts education programme for TY students from the City and County in association with Lismore Castle Arts went on show in their venue during the month and can now be viewed online at their website.

- The Arts Office was represented at the national Arts Council/Local Government joint conference 'Places Matters' in Carlow.

- The 'Landscapes' exhibition continues at the Old Market House Arts Centre, Dungarvan plus 'Market 22' showcasing works from artists from the region.

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Libraries

In February, all 12 library branches were open to all. We are greatly enjoying meeting and greeting people as they come back physically to our Libraries and we look forward to meeting even more during March as we open up to events, meetings and in-house activities with more access to study and reading spaces.

<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	17,826
<i>Active members</i>	12,503
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	6,750
<i>Events & Activities</i>	152
<i>Users of Times Tables Rockstars</i>	399

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH:

Waterford's 3rd Global Women's Conference, 'Break the Bias' took place in the Theatre Royal on International Women's Day, March 8th with 130 attendees, the event was formally opened by Deputising Mayor of Waterford City & County Cllr. Mary Roche.

The CHERISH Project: Climate Change and Coastal Heritage exhibition highlighting the impact of climate change was launched by Mayor of Waterford City & County Joe Kelly on the 14th.

The book, 'The People We Grow Up To Be,' was launched by Deputy Mayor of Waterford City & County Council Seanie Power in the Index Gallery, Central Library. This work celebrates the Intergenerational Choir.

As part of Climate action week a series of lunchtime webinars took place on topics such as: pollinators, horticulture, growing your own food with Mick Kelly from GIY, active travel and up-cycling with 223 total attendees.

Seachtain na Gaeilge events included; Bingo, story times, quizzes, treasure hunts and the Ceol Cois Tinne virtual fireside concert which currently has 1600 views on Facebook.

Bhí maidin álainn bríomhar againn i Leabharlann Dhúngarbhán ar an 15ú lá de mhí Márta. Thánamar le chéile buíon bheag dinn maraon le páistí óga na háite chun 'cúpla focal' a labhairt in omóis do theanga oifigiúil na tire seo le haghaidh 'Seachtain na Gaeilge'.

World Book day on March 3rd saw 503 primary school students visit Library branches across the county for stories and fun.

Read your Way secondary schools reading challenge programme was ongoing with 13 schools participating under the #WaterfordSchoolsRead hashtag.

32 bookclubs, crafters, wordsearchers and knitters met in Libraries throughout County Waterford this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL:

- Spring into Storytime Literacy events will be held throughout April.
- 'Little Library Bags' being distributed via Libraries for all children beginning primary school in 2022.
- Misinformation project, The Glass Room exhibition will commence outreach.
- Access IT Beginners Computer, Smartphone and Tablet skills classes 7 week course in Dungarvan.
- Waterford VTOS, WWETB, Art, Craft and Design Graduate Exhibition.

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LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

The National Library system changed in March. Library staff across the county worked with the IT department and suppliers of services to ensure a smooth transition between systems, delivering training and troubleshooting the technology required to deliver Library services to the people of Waterford.

Waterford Library staff are actively working on developments to support Ukrainians seeking safety in Waterford.

Library images from March include:



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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 February 28, 2022

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	5,281,835	32,461,813	16%	5,705,429	35,042,973	16%
B	Road Transport & Safety	5,861,501	46,030,418	13%	3,743,167	33,445,608	11%
C	Water Services	1,670,696	11,141,683	15%	1,624,254	10,674,030	15%
D	Development Management	2,802,568	17,678,810	16%	1,278,558	8,494,376	15%
E	Environmental Services	3,327,415	20,905,703	16%	338,472	2,878,907	12%
F	Recreation & Amenity	2,376,210	14,951,207	16%	186,577	1,750,939	11%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	206,781	1,182,814	17%	95,839	501,962	19%
H	Miscellaneous Services	1,251,189	9,360,886	13%	669,987	5,744,486	12%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	3,278,086	19,668,516	17%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	5,918,589	35,511,536	17%
		22,778,195	153,713,333	15%	22,838,957	153,713,333	15%
Surplus/Deficit					60,762	0	

Collections

Summary of main collections Feb 2022 YTD (Pre-Y/E review)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2022	Accrued ytd to Feb 2022	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Feb 2022	Gross Bal 31-12-2021 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2022 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	6,132,653	35,379,997	-	1,050,810	40,461,840	3,434,019	37,027,821	2,123,073	9%	10%
Loans	1,702,320	564,682	-		2,267,002	504,111	1,762,891		22%	89%
Rents	3,938,392	2,652,842	5,268		6,585,966	2,459,908	4,126,058		37%	93%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				33,199,059	-	-	3,828,762			37,027,821
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				173,700	61,507	163,472	1,364,212			1,762,891
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				150,670	106,407	125,663	3,743,318			4,126,058
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Feb.	0		Cost -	0	€0.00	verage Value when in O/D :	N/A		€	-