

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

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



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

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Chief Executive
January 2024

Michael Walsh
Príomhfheidhmeannach
Eanáir 2024

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements December 2023.

FRIDAY 1st:	Launch of the Waterford Area Partnership Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Medieval Museum, Co. Waterford. Visit with the Mayor of Ramallah & Ambassador, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Enchanted Garden Winter Lights Japanese Gardens, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 2nd:	Waterford Filipino- Irish Community Group Christmas Party, Waterpark RFC, Co. Waterford. De La Salle Scout Group 95th anniversary, St. Patricks Gateway, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 3rd:	Down Syndrome Ireland Christmas party, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford. The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace, St. Johns Church, Parnell St., Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 4th:	Teachers / Youth Leaders! European Year of Skills for young people, Theatre Royal, Co. Waterford. Unveiling of the Restored Oil Painting, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 5th:	Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 6th:	Feast of St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 7th:	WYTEC Cert Presentation, Cork Rd, Ballynaneashagh, Co. Waterford W.B. Yeats and the Ireland of his Time, Book Launch, Waterford Treasures, Co. Waterford. UPMC Annual Memorial Service, UPMC Whitfield Hospital, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 8th:	Mayoral Reception Bohemians Girls Football Squad, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Tramore Christmas Lights, Main Street Tramore, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 10th:	Tree Planting with Society of Friends, Worship in Friends Meeting House at 61 Newtown, Co. Waterford. Symphony Club of Waterford & Winterval Waterford 2023, SETU Arena Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 11th:	Bus Eireann Photo Launch for 360 and 360A Route Change, Tramore, Co. Waterford. Christmas Concert at Central Library, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 12th:	WFC x WCCC Partnership, RSC, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 13th:	Launching the Library's Sensory Toys and Equipment collection, Ardkeen Library, Co. Waterford. Ladies Probus Lunch, The Granville Hotel, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 14th:	Book Launch 'An Anthology of Waterford people', The Book Centre, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 15th:	Graduation of training for life migrants, The Large Room, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 16th:	Waterford Lions Club Carol Concert, Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 17th:	Civic Carol Service, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 22nd:	Mayoral Reception for European Surf Champions, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Christmas Truce Vigil, Edmund Rice Chapel, Barrack Street, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 24th:	Christmas Eve Mass, Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 25th:	Christmas Day Dinner, St. Josephs School, Paranel Street, Co. Waterford.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays



The North Quays main contract works are progressing well. The Skerchi barge has relocated to the north side of the river to progress the northern cofferdam construction (gridline C). The fabrication of the superstructure is progressing in Belgium with over 10,000 work hours/ month being expended on its fabrication.

Forty sheet piles for the South Plaza quay wall (S37) are in situ and are currently being driven into position.

Works to complete the train station concourse supporting walls and columns is ongoing and visible in the image.

The road and access infrastructure is progressing well, the first bridge beams have been installed at the western access bridge (S19) and is illustrated in the image above, while the piling for southern bridge abutments to the eastern access bridge (S22) is complete and works are ongoing to the gateway underpasses (S23 & S24), visible below.

The two pumps station contract are c. 90% complete, but the programme has extended into Q2 2024.

Traffic management measures continues to be in place along Dock Road to install sewer and surface water network services. Phase 4 traffic management measures will commence in January 2024 and will progress to Abbey Road / Fountain Street junction. Traffic management details will be circulated in advance on local radio and social media.

Local Enterprise Office

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

Indicator	At end of Dec 2022	At end of Dec 2023
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	16	36
No. of Clients securing	16	36
Value of support approved	€437,317	€445,869
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	2423	2950
Value of support given	€471,366	€582,649

*Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grant (TAME) approvals are included in Measure 1 support figures above for 2023 but were not for 2022. TAME figures were reported separately in 2022 as a cumulative year end figure.

Additional Supports

	Trading Online	IP Start Fund	Ekraine Crisis	Students	Micro Finance Loans
No. of Approvals	67	2	3	13 Schools	6 Applications
Value of Approvals	€134,476	€4,320	€91,660	849 Students	€76,600

Figures not included in cumulative table.

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Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 11 media releases.

Six Mayoral speeches were drafted (this function is now being shared with Corporate)



The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland has awarded the Gandon Medal of Lifetime Achievement in Architecture to Rupert Maddock of Waterford City and County Council. The Gandon Medal is the highest personal award given to an architect in Ireland. Rupert has led the urban regeneration of Waterford in his 25 years working for Waterford City and Council, taking many derelict and vacant sites and transforming them into places for people in the form of pedestrian-friendly spaces, museums and gardens. Gaeilge.

In-house design reports:

- LECP REPORT
- European City of Christmas submission
- TechPulse Tech sector survey
- NQ Christmas Newsletter



An Nollaig 2023

Uaireanta Oscailte Seirbhísí Custaiméara

Mi na Nollag Eanáir

L M C D A S D L M C D A S D

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Uaireanta Oscailte: 9:30 f.n. go 4 i.n. arachas 22 Nollag (ag dúnadh ag 2 i.n.) agus 29 Nollag (ag dúnadh ag 2 i.n.)

Christmas 2023

Customer Service Desk Opening Hours

December

H T W T F S S

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

January

M T W T F S S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Opening hours: 9:30 am to 4 pm except Friday, Dec. 22nd and Dec. 29th (closing time 2 pm)

WATERFORD North Quays

NORTH QUAYS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Newsletter Update December 2023

Submissions completed:

All – Ireland Community and Council Awards

Cities of the Future 2024

Achtanna na dTeangacha Oifigiúla:

Waterford City and County Council operates primarily through the medium of the English language. However, the Local Authority has made significant developments in its provision of Irish medium and bilingual services.

Communications and Corporate teams were successful in reaching the target (Irish language statutory legislation) which states that at least 20% of all advertising placed by the Council and 5% of all paid advertising, per annum, must be as Gaeilge.

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

October	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
November	591,852	13%	45,480	-7%
December	589,641	-0.4%	49,925	10%
	238,759	-60%	50,397	1%

Top 10 pages not including homepage:

- Planning Enquiries
- Choice Based Letting
- Vacancies
- Viewing a Planning Application
- Departments Homepage
- Planning Homepage
- Parking
- Housing Homepage
- Affordable Housing Page
- Customer Care

WCCC Website Stats: November 2023

Page Views: 107,701 Unique Page Views: 83,219

Downloads: 12,597

Viewing Device: Smartphone 18,322
Desktop 11,284
Tablet 559

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RURAL TOURISM

Waterford Trails

Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

TOURISM

Waterford selected as European City of Christmas 2024

The International Jury of the European Capital and City of Christmas 2024 competition has unanimously voted to award the European City of Christmas 2024 title to Waterford City.

The International Jury, chaired by Danuta Hübner, Member of the European Parliament, and comprised of Mr Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Mr Francisco Fonseca Murillo, Ms Marisol Garmendia, Ms Ainhoa García Jabonero, Mr Massimo Ruggero, Ms Mercedes Guillamón, assisted by the president of Christmas Cities Network, Alberto Gutiérrez Alberca, congratulated the city for "the high level of the projects presented, their proposals and the commitment of these cities to the European values of Christmas."

Visit Waterford Update

Visit Waterford are responsible for the overall marketing and promotion of Waterford as a Tourism Destination. They are funded by the Council and Membership fees.

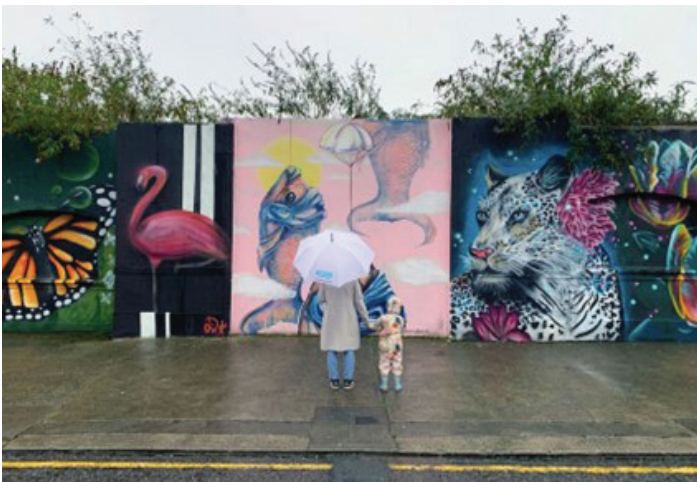
- Membership increased to 47 members in Dec 2023 (up from 32 in January 2023)
- 'Take a Hike' was the third successful Marketing campaign by Visit Waterford, delivered in 2023.

Recent PR as a result of Visit Waterford:

Journalist Stella Forte visited Waterford last month and the resulting feature was on the Independent : "Our Waterford weekend – gorgeous gardens, seaside treats and an afternoon tea to remember - A family getaway sees young hearts run free in and around Ireland's oldest city" and featured her stay at Dooley's Hotel, she explored the Waterford Walls, Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens, the Waterford Greenway and enjoyed afternoon tea at Mount Congreve Gardens

•Donnchadh O'Ceallachain featured on 'Today with Maura and Daithi' on Monday 13th November at 3:30 pm on RTÉ ONE speaking about Waterford Treasures with a special appearance from our favourite Viking Bartłomiej Gozdur!

Curraghmore Estate were featured in a recent article in the Irish Farmers Journal focusing on the release of their limited edition whiskey.



Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

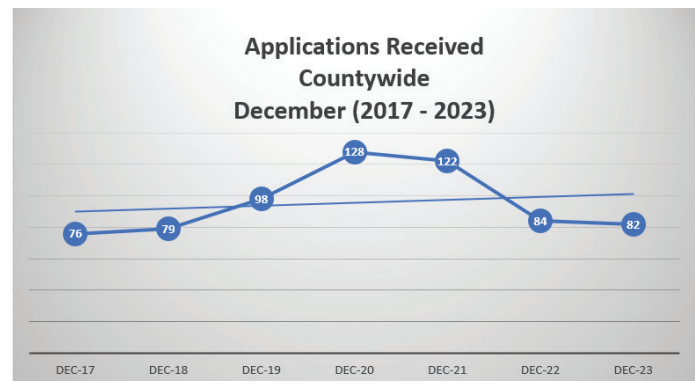
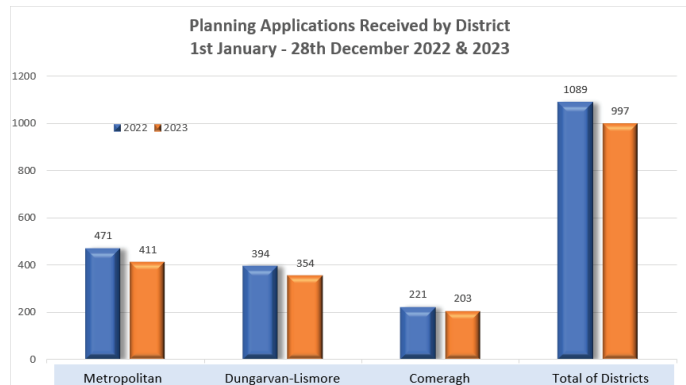
The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled for February 2024.

Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

82 planning applications were received countywide in December 2023. This compares with 84 planning applications received for the same period in December 2022.

A total of 997 planning applications were received in the year to 28th December 2023. This compares to 1089 planning applications which were received for the same period in 2022.



Derelict Sites

The activity in recent months has substantially increased with 81 derelict properties identified and on the Derelict Sites Register. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to understand the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage.

Community Monuments Fund 2024

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage launched a Call for Projects for the Community Monuments Fund 2024 on the 16th November 2023. Funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments.

Total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2024 will be €7,000,000. The Community Monuments Fund invests in archaeological heritage and helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

The core aims of this Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. It will:

- enable conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support
- build resilience in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change
- encourage access to monuments and improve their presentation.

The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in projects.

The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

- Stream 1 will offer grants up to €100,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments

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- Stream 2 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- Stream 3 will offer grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to:

- Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended)
- Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects will be drawn from the following categories:

- projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to archaeological monuments in public ownership, where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated
- projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians of relevant archaeological monuments where there is a tangible public benefit
- projects with a clearly defined heritage focus and community or public benefit proposed directly to the department by a State-funded organisation working in the heritage area.

Last date for submission of projects for consideration is close of business on the 14th of February 2024

Planning and Development Bill 2023

Government published the Planning and Development Bill 2023 on the 21st of November.

At over 700 pages in length, Minister O'Brien describes the legislation as "the cornerstone for Irish planning for the coming decades". The Draft Bill which was published last January has undergone months of Oireachtas scrutiny and stakeholder engagement. And the recently published Bill is the culmination of an intensive review lead by the Office of the Attorney General.

The current legislation has been subject to a complete review to identify reforms to deliver key infrastructure in housing, transport and renewable energy.

Key reforms include:

- Improved consistency and alignment throughout all tiers of planning;
 - Significant restructuring and resourcing of An Bord Pleanála, which will be renamed An Coimisiún Pleanála;
 - Increased certainty across the planning system through the introduction of statutory timelines for decision-making, including for the first time, for An Coimisiún Pleanála;
 - New strategic ten-year Development Plans for Local Authorities;
 - Reform of planning Judicial Review, including the introduction of a Scale of Fees and Environmental Legal Cost Financial Assistance Mechanism; improving access to justice whilst regulating excessive legal costs;
- New provisions for Urban Development Zones, underpinning key growth areas.

Forward Planning

The final map of lands identified as being in-scope for the RZLT has now been published by Waterford City and County Council and all local authorities across the country. The final map has had regard to the determinations of An Bord Pleanála on all appeals and recent circular letter from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The final map is available on the council website.

A new phase of consultation relating to the draft revised annual map for 2024 will begin on 1st February 2024. This consultation process will facilitate landowners to make written submissions to the local authority and make subsequent appeals to An Bord Pleanála with regard to the content of the draft revised annual map. This revised annual map will consist of the recently published final map along with highlighted proposed exclusions and/or inclusions.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	December 2022	Year 2022	December 2023	Year to date 2023
Applications received	65	959	185	2127
Applications assessed *	10	434	27	561
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	90	N/A
Approved for social housing supports following interview	N/A	N/A	60	N/A

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies Dec 2022	Cumulative Tenancies 2022	New Tenancies Dec 2023	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2023
	39	487	35	4	388

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1309 There have been 443 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
2023 Housing Loans					
December	9	6	3	4	12
Year to date	91	6	44	29	12

Tenant Purchase applications

	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
2023 Tenant Purchase					
December	5	5	0	0	1
Year to date 2023	58	11	24	27	23

Housing Assistance Payment

	December 2022 HAP Tenancies	October 23 HAP Tenancies	23 No. of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	22	23	-13	4,810	1650

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Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	3
HAP Non- Compliant	3
Total	121

Housing First Programme

Tenancies 2023	
Number of Tenancies in place with Housing First supports.	December 34

In November , Waterford City & County Council carried out 404 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 17 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	No of applications approved Dec 2023	Value of applications Dec 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	11	€46,616.77	143	€1,134,008.80
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€6,000.00	20	€78,720.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	12	€55,519.89	172	€717,459.11
Total	24	€301,376.65	335	€1,930,187.90

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
42	11	24

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	27th Nov – 24th Dec	Cumulative 2023	Total 2022
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	236	3,392	3,618
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	56	913	954

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	20th Dec 2023	20th Dec 2022
Number of Single Persons	69	56
Number of Families	22	18
Number of Adults in Families	28	16
Number of Children	48	27

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	27th Nov – 24th Dec	Cumulative 2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	23	312
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	4	112

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	375
<i>Part V</i>	34
Total Units in WCCC Projects	659

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	<i>Units</i>
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	91

Housing Efficiency Retrofit

Funding has been recouped for 1 claim made earlier in 2023, 1 Claim has recently been submitted and due for recoupment.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>September</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/ Works completed</i>	13
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	5

TENANT "IN-SITU" SCHEME

- 115 Enquiries received
- 22 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information
- 27 Sale Completed
- 30 Sale Agreed
- 6 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors
- 5 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation
- 25 Not proceeding (reasons below)
 - o3x Tenant left property themselves
 - o2x Tenant doesn't want to stay in the property and has requested transfer
 - oTenant's allowed stay in property by landlord, landlord didn't want to proceed further.
 - o7x Not suitable for tenant in-situ scheme and informed about Cost Rental Tenant in-situ scheme
 - oLandlord want's to sell to highest bidder on the open market
 - o3x Can't reach agreement with Landlord.
 - o4x Tenants accepted alternative social housing unit.
 - o2x Vendor wanted property back for themselves to live in.
 - o2x Property is located in Kilkenny and being looked at by Kilkenny Co Co.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2024

Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) has been allocated capital funding of €190,945.68 under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

This total amount comprises of:

- €159,121.40 capital funding for the LEP main funding stream to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €31,824.28 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups. The LCDC is asked to identify Women's Sheds, Groups and Networks in their areas, and to use this ring-fenced funding to provide support and assistance same.

It should be noted that Women's Sheds, Groups and Networks are not precluded from applying for the general funding available for community groups under the main fund.

The grant will be open for applications in the coming weeks.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

Payments on the current LEADER programme are progressing well and two projects will continue into 2024.

The Local Development strategy has been approved by the Department and the contract for LEADER 2023 – 2029 has been signed by Waterford Leader Partnership, Waterford LCDC and the Local Authority and awaits ministerial sign off presently. The budget for the new LEADER Programme 2023 to 2029 is €6.1m with €4.5m allocated to projects.

Supplementary funds may be allocated over the course of the programme.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

The topic for 2024 has been identified by the young people and this will now be the basis for work in the coming year. The Podcast series on the young peoples chosen topic is fully complete and published. The AGM took place in November in the Tower Hotel, Waterford with a huge attendance. The young people continue to participate in their nominated local and national committees.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Delivery of the year 1 action plan has begun with six of the seven Implementation Subgroups (the majority having met multiple times). The remaining group will have initial meeting in early December. The new Age Friendly Alliance is due to have its initial meeting during during early December.

WELL WATERFORD (LCDC SUB-GROUP)

Connecting Communities

The Community Team are leading out on a 'Connecting Communities' Roadshow in February 2024 to deliver key messages on service delivery at local level, promote community engagement and to create community connections. This is an opportunity for a collaborative approach on community engagement and participation for community facing departments of WCCC and its key partners.

We have a working group in place which includes colleagues from Community, Environment, Climate Action, Libraries, Culture, Waterford Leader Partnership, Waterford Area Partnership, PPN and Waterford Sports Partnership at present and hope to expand on that before the first roadshow on the 7th February. Dates and venues of the Connecting Communities Roadshow will be publicised in the new year.

WHO Healthy Cities Conference

"Health and Well-being for All: celebrating 35 years of the Healthy Cities movement" was attended by Waterford Council. The business meeting had a strong focus on the wellbeing economy, planetary health and learning from experiences. Cork Healthy Cities and Cork City Council presented on several fronts and the inputs and parallel sessions have laid a strong platform for other Cities and Healthy Ireland City & County Programmes to present at future WHO events. Our aim in 2024 is to re-establish Waterford to be an official member of the network.

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Projects Committed to for 2024

- Playful Streets
- Social Farming
- Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing
- Connecting Community Roadshows Contribution
- Healthy Growing in the Community
- Autism Friendly Cities
- Aiseiri Communities project
- TREO and RENEW Enterprises
- Additional Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing area

General Update

- INTEREGG Funding for Waterford is being applied for through a European consortium bid. The application is being processed currently. A meeting took place on the 22nd of November in Amsterdam in which the next stages of the application were processed. The next meeting will take place in January. After which we will be identifying a stakeholder group to represent Waterford.
- We are finalising our funding commitments with the Healthy Ireland fund for 2024. Some projects will carry over from 2023. Reporting to the department will begin in January 2024.
- Several areas are being highlighted with a view to provide support throughout 2024. This will lead to a targeted approach to Community Wellbeing and capacity building training for community and voluntary groups.
- The Well Waterford Strategic Group met on the 5th of December where the Terms of Reference were finalised.
- We will be arranging a meeting to give elected members input in January & February of next year to Healthy Waterford projects.

For more information contact: eoinmorrissety@waterfordcouncil.ie

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

- Work continues on progressing the various projects under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.
- The employment training for migrants in Waterford ended with 5 participants securing full time employment and other 2 part-time employment.
- Work is ongoing with community organisations in supporting their work and identifying new projects in the areas of deprivation for 2024.
- Ongoing work with HI Coordinator on the Playful streets planning for 2024 and the Connecting Communities Roadshow.

For more information contact: omatiut@waterfordcouncil.ie

WATERFORD LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WLCSP):

Community Safety Innovation Fund Projects:

The lease in relation to the house and half the adjacent allotment site at Colligan View Dungarvan has now been finalised by Waterford City & County Council and the WWETB. The WWETB have commenced the process of alarm installation, electrical upgrade and the furniture & equipment fitout for the centre. The additional fencing and access changes agreed have been priced and are expected to be completed in early January 2024. It is intended to now revert to the residents in January 2024 also, now that we have definitive agreements, information and plans.

The drafting of the North West Suburbs Community Action Plan is well underway. The preliminary review of the 'drop in' consultation held in the Carricphierish Library on Monday 20th November 2023 was that public want to see more things for young people to do, more supports like the library, more parks & outdoor spaces, a bigger focus on community safety, schools in the area being praised and protected and access to playgrounds for kids in the area. An online survey finished on Friday 15th December with numbers in excess of 200 having completed it at 13th December. Currently, consultations are taking place with stakeholders and first draft is expected by February.

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The next meeting in relation to the Portlaw Engages Youth Project, with the Chair, Youth Justice, Gardai, WSTCYS, WWETB and TUSLA is scheduled for 7th February 2024.

Preparatory work is in hand for the two successful 2023 Grant Applications to the Community Safety Innovation Fund, Consent Matters and A Community Safety Warden Initiative for Waterford City and these will be advanced with haste, in January 2024.

LCSP Small Grant Fund

The twenty five successful applicants in the Department of Justice Waterford Community Safety Partnership Small Grants Fund, have had their allocations advanced with innovative projects and initiatives that respond to the needs identified in the WLCSP Community Safety Plan 2023-2028, underway.

WLCSP Meetings:

The WLCSP Plenary Meeting took place on 4th December at 630pm in the Civic Offices, Dungarvan and items on the Agenda included; presentations from Property Marking Ireland, the Garda Cyber Crime Bureau, and Restorative Justice in a Community Safety sense. The next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th February 2024 at 5pm in the City.

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY RESPONSE FORUM:

The Ukrainian CRF is in place to assist with housing, supporting and integrating Ukrainian refugees into our communities. All key agencies are working in collaboration to provide services and supports to all Ukrainians arriving into Waterford.

To date over 101,600 (@ 8th December) temporary protections have been granted to Ukrainians arriving to Ireland, with in excess of 2,758 of those registered here in Waterford.

Waterford City & County Council have provided temporary accommodation to over 2,051 Ukrainian refugees in the Council run rest centres and have matched over 1,954 of those with pledged and Council sourced accommodation.

The 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties has been relaunched with over 265 Ukrainians being accommodated in pledged accommodation to date. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059

Waterford Area Partnership continue to provide supports to Ukrainians on community integration. Language classes for adults that recommenced in September have now reached capacity in Dungarvan and Waterford City. As a result we are currently mapping all language services, in consultation with the WWETB, to ascertain if other services can be utilised to meet the demand.

School places have been provided for all arrivals who wish to take up education and REALT continues to work on sourcing school transport for rural accommodation areas. GP places are limited but HSE team continue to source access for those in pledge accommodation.

PRIDE OF PLACE:

The National Pride of Place awards event took place in Armagh on November 10th where CAPE-ability Lismore (winners of the overall PPN award) and the Larchville/Lisduggan Residents Group (nominated by the Housing Dept.) represented Waterford. Congratulations to the Larchville/Lisduggan Residents Group who won their category.

The overall winner of the PPN Community & Voluntary Awards for 2023 were RENEW Enterprises, who will represent Waterford at the 2024 national Pride of Place awards.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on the 1st November 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 24th January 2024. A review of the Migrant Integration Forum is currently taking place with an addendum to the Migrant Integration Strategy currently being prepared to include the Ukrainian community in the strategy.

The Council's Integration Support Team is in place since early December. This team will take the lead in co-ordinating supports and services for International Protection applicants, those with refugee, subsidiary protection or permission to remain status, programme refugees and beneficiaries of temporary protection.

SICAP

Work in ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC. SICAP Budget allocations for 2023 and the budget for Waterford City & County (Lot 24-1) is €1,319,399 excluding the Ukrainian budget allocation which has been set as €232,758 by the Department.

The contracts for the SICAP 2024+ were signed on 14th December by Waterford Area Partnership, Waterford LCDC and Waterford City & County Council.

TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP (TIG)

The Community Department continue to support the Waterford TIG which continues to meet regularly. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 31st January 2024.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

The 2023 – 2029 LECP was adopted at the Plenary Council meeting on 14th December and will be available in both Irish and English on the Council's website in the new year.

CLÁR MEASURE 1 - DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES & AMENITIES

A total of 9 applications were received 8 of which met the criteria and were submitted to the DRCD in early June. Formal notice of the successful projects and funding under Measure 1 is awaited.

FESTIVAL GRANTS 2024

18 community festival grant applications were approved for 2024 at the December plenary Council meeting totalling €146,000. The Festival & Events Grants Scheme aims to help support events across Waterford which help contribute towards making Waterford a more vibrant and sustainable place.

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 months of December.

<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 November</i>	28	44	11	0
<i>Year to date</i>	577	556	241	0
<i>Total for November</i>	40	20	14	0
<i>Total for 2022</i>	674	492	235	0

FIRE SAFETY:

<i>Fire Safety:</i>				
	<i>December 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>December 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	6	87	2	75

<i>Building Control:</i>				
<i>Applications recived</i>	<i>December 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>November 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Commencement Notices</i>	17	280	22	310
<i>Completion Certificates</i>	17	204	10	204
<i>Disability Access Certs</i>	0	65	2	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

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

Logistical support & Transport of over 15 Ukraine related calls

Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

In Community support and Events, we attended:

Winterval Event both Medical and Logistics support.

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

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 20TH DECEMBER 2023

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	3
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	128
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	91
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	3106
Legal Actions	3
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)	26
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	24
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	230
Section 14 Directions	9
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	2
Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles)	
Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice.	2
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	6
Regulation 25 Notice under the Deco Paints – Vehicle Refinishers	0
Prosecution of Regulation 25 of the European Union (packaging) 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended.	2

Management Report Plenary 11th January 2024.

Libraries

In December, Waterford City & County Libraries were full of celebration and joy. Statistics are representative of 30 days of activity.

<u>No. of Visitors this month</u>	<u>35,921</u>
<u>Active members</u>	<u>33,397</u>
<u>Issues in Branch</u>	<u>23,145</u>
<u>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</u>	<u>9,360</u>
<u>Events & Activities</u>	<u>311</u>

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER:

- An extra special coffee morning was held on Wednesday 20th December to acknowledge the wonderful work that the craft groups have been doing, knitting, and crocheting toys for the Paediatric ward at UHW. A representative from Children's Hospital Ireland thanked the groups. Funding has been secured from Europe Direct for materials needed to make the toys.
- Clothes Swap on December 6th. Over 70 people attended and swapped an average of 3 items each.
- Waterford Integration Network's Childrens Christmas party was held on Saturday 16th December. Over 150 children attended.
- Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative, (Sli) hosted Winterval workshops.
- Europe Direct Waterford hosted a panel for secondary school students on the European year of Skills on December 4th. Speakers included Tia Weldon, Waterford Comhairle na nÓg Chairperson, Mayor of Waterford Cllr. Joe Conway, Grace O'Sullivan, MEP and Craig McCarthy, Professional Boxer among other. Over 200 attended.
- Family Time at your Library events took place across December in all branches, from a Polar Express story time to the annual Christmas concert with mayor of Waterford City & County Joe Conway and music from the Bealtaine Choir, readings from the Scribblers Writing Group and ISL carols from the students of Newtown School Waterford.
- Writers in Waterford Libraries welcomed Author and Chef Paul Flynn on December 9th. Paul discussed his new book, Butter Boy with senior Executive Librarian Mary Conway.
- On December 2nd Music Generation students performed some lovely tunes. For many of these budding musicians this was their first ever performance. Over 250 people attended.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Waterford Libraries were delighted to get a mention in a lovely news story about high achiever Katie Guiry from Tramore, scholarship recipient, Maynooth University English student, and proud library member. "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book," she said. "When in doubt, go to the library." Katie reminisced in the article about her time in a reading group in Tramore.

Management Report Plenary 11th January 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Art of Reading Book Club event on January 17th.
- On January 18th Writers in Waterford Libraries will host Sarah Breen and Emer McLysaght the authors of the Oh My God What a Complete Aisling.



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to November 30, 2023

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	34,520,932	35,728,461	97%	37,060,997	38,036,305	97%
B Road Transport & Safety	45,969,559	49,146,777	94%	32,084,467	33,752,918	95%
C Water Services	9,840,620	11,790,929	83%	9,332,843	11,163,993	84%
D Development Management	25,080,767	21,992,796	114%	15,216,116	11,448,028	133%
E Environmental Services	18,968,088	21,512,181	88%	1,958,378	2,875,458	68%
F Recreation & Amenity	14,439,600	15,464,575	93%	1,807,310	1,614,234	112%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	827,351	1,068,270	77%	241,110	399,696	60%
H Miscellaneous Services	8,528,357	9,678,508	88%	10,362,894	10,749,476	96%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	18,028,659	19,667,628	92%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	33,032,962	36,674,758	90%
	158,175,273	166,382,494	95%	159,125,736	166,382,494	96%

Surplus/Deficit

950,463 0

Collections

Summary of main collections Nov 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Nov 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Nov 2023	Gross Bal 30-11-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	€
Rates	3,008,361	36,035,258	- 1,806,606	-	37,237,013	32,626,480	4,610,533	1,391,804	91%	91%
Loans	1,534,038	3,064,826	- 329		4,599,193	3,235,729	1,363,464		70%	106%
Rents	3,903,206	15,865,850	- 3,256		19,765,800	15,063,376	4,702,424		76%	95%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	-	3,220,145	1,390,388			4,610,533
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				178,704	76,892	76,278	1,031,590			1,363,464
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				121,577	108,231	181,904	4,290,712			4,702,424
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Nov 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-