



Annual Report 2023



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City
& County Council

Our Mission

Waterford, as the Capital of the South East will be a vibrant and sustainable place for all its people who live, work, visit or invest here.

Our Vision

That Waterford is ambitious, progressive and connected, a place where all our people enjoy life, well-being and opportunity at its heart.

That Waterford people have access to a responsive, professional, and people-focused local authority which is connected at a strategic level to the wider public service.

That Waterford and the South East are positioned to lead in terms of business development, economic growth and educational excellence .

That Waterford offers a unique quality of life for all with outstanding world class amenities and a natural unspoiled landscape and scenery. A recognised tourism destination which honours its cultural and historic heritage as Ireland's Oldest City.

Mayor's Foreword

'As we enter 2024, the final year of our 2019-2024 Corporate Plan, it is great to look back and see how much significant progress has been made in 2023.'

As Mayor of Waterford City & County, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2023. As we enter 2024, the final year of our 2019-2024 Corporate Plan, it is great to look back and see how much significant progress has been made in 2023.

The people of Waterford, the staff of Waterford City & County Council, the wider statutory, cultural, community and voluntary sector and the elected representatives welcomed 2023. The year saw the skyline of Waterford change to feature the appearance of cranes thanks to the commencement of works on the North Quays, Waterford was announced as the European City of Christmas for 2024, we continued our work towards the decarbonisation of Waterford, and we watched our county coming to life with festivals and parades.

We welcomed many sporting achievements; sunny days meant our beautiful beaches were filled with happy faces and various schemes launched by Waterford City and County Council as well as initiatives from the Healthy Ireland strategy meant Waterford continued to strengthen our sense of community.

I would like to thank Michael Walsh, Chief Executive, and his Management Team, all the staff of Waterford City & County Council and my fellow Councillors and Oireachtas members for all their continued hard work over the last year.

Waterford continues to be a place of welcoming people with a strong sense of community, and I look forward to seeing what 2024 brings for us.



Cllr. Joe Conway
Mayor of Waterford City & County

Chief Executive's Introduction

'I welcome 2024 and see it being a very positive year for Waterford. I hope the developments of this year continue to show why we were voted Ireland's Best Place to Live'

Looking back on 2023, I am proud to see what we have achieved as a council and as a county.

The commencement of construction on the North Quays as well as the completion of the Waterford Greenway Bilberry Extension were great achievements in working towards the delivery of our 2019-2024 Corporate Plan.

A new Community Climate Action Programme was launched which aims to support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action at a local level and provide these communities with the opportunities to take a holistic approach and actively shape their transition to a low carbon and sustainable community.

As part of Waterford City and County Council's objective to deliver a carbon neutral Waterford by 2040, we reintroduced the Commercial Rates Energy Discount Scheme, to support and enable businesses and service providers to transition to carbon neutrality after it's success in previous year.

I welcome 2024 and see it being a very positive year for Waterford. I hope the developments of this year continue to show why we were voted Ireland's Best Place to Live.

I look forward to engaging with the public, with my management team and indeed the staff of the organisation on the proposed sustainability initiatives, and I am excited at the prospect of making Waterford City & County a sustainable place to live, work, visit and invest.



Mr. Michael Walsh
Waterford City & County Council
Chief Executive

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1 Overview

1.1 About your Council

Waterford City & County Council came into being in 2014, after the amalgamation of Waterford City Council and Waterford County Council. County Waterford is bounded by Cork, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford, and Waterford City is the principal City and economic driver for the South East region of Ireland, the 6th fastest growing region in the EU. The county has a population of 127,363.

The Council is made up of 32 elected representatives spread across 6 electoral areas with the Mayor elected by the members annually. Along with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG), 5 Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) develop and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of the business, farming, environment, community, and trade union sectors.



The Bealtaine Dawn Chorus

1.2 Principal Areas of Service

Waterford City & County Council's management structure is split into 5 directorates, each headed by a Director of Services. The Chief Executive, Mr. Michael Walsh, leads the management team.

Economic Development

- Economic development and promotion of the county for investment
- Enterprise development and supports
- Capital Project Management
- Communications and Marketing
- County promotion and tourism development

Housing, Community and Emergency Services

- Social housing programme
- Housing allocations, maintenance, and refurbishment
- Social services, estate management and community development
- Age-friendly and social inclusion initiatives
- Sports programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives
- Local and community development programmes
- Connecting with the public through Public Participation Networks (PPN)

Planning, Corporate, Culture, HR and IS

- The successful operation of meetings of the City and County Council and SPCs
- Organisation of civic and mayoral receptions
- Customer Services
- Publication of supplements to the Register of Electors
- Ongoing implementation of the Irish Language Scheme
- Human Resources and Training
- Information Services
- Library services, the arts office & cultural infrastructure
- To provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county
- To promote and facilitate the development of sustainable communities and enterprise

Roads, Water and Environment

- Air Pollution, Beaches, Dog Fouling
- Litter, Noise Pollution, Schools and Awareness
- Parks & open spaces
- Roads and Parking
- Veterinary Services
- Waterford Energy Bureau
- Climate Change
- Waste Management

Finance and Cost Management

- Management of the financial resources of the Council
- Facilitation of borrowing and leases, and control the investment of fund
- Administer grants & subsidies under various funding schemes
- Preparation of financial statements, budgets and statements, etc.
- Administration of commercial rates, etc.

1.3 Council Meetings

There were 58 meetings of the full Plenary Council, Metropolitan Area, Comeragh Electoral Area, Dungarvan-Lismore Area, Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and Area Committees comprising:

Plenary Council

- 11 Plenary Council meetings
- 7 Special Meetings
- 16 Councillor Workshops



Metropolitan Council

- 12 Metropolitan Council meetings
- 2 Special Meetings
- 16 Councillor Workshops

Comeragh Council

- 10 Comeragh Council meetings
- 2 Special Meetings
- 8 Councillor Workshops

Dungarvan/Lismore Council

- 11 Dungarvan/Lismore Council meetings
- 3 Special Meetings
- 15 Councillor Workshops

In addition, there were:

- 21 meetings across the 5 Strategic Policy Committees
- 6 Audit Committee Meetings
- 11 Corporate Policy Group meetings

1.4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Pat Nugent

This SPC met 4 times in 2023 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Waterford Economic Strategy
- Casual Trading – Amendment to Byelaws
- Waterford 2040 Strategy
- Draft policy on the LECP
- Rural Economic Development
- Town Centre First Policy
- Tourism Development
- Presentations were made to the SPC by
 - SETU
 - Leader
 - Failte Ireland
 - Waterford Local Enterprise Office
 - Port Of Waterford
 - Waterford City & County Council – Economic Development Team

Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action SPC

Chaired by Cllr. John Hearne (Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald resigned as chair in June 2023)

This SPC met 5 times in 2023 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Climate Change in the Irish Mind
- Community Climate Action Fund
- National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
- Incentivised Waste Collection Charging in the Commercial Sector
- Life Emerald Air Pollution Monitoring Project
- Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy - Statutory Consultation
- Report on Research in Respect of the Re-municipalisation of Waste Services in Dublin City Council
- Climate Action Plan Pre-consultation
- National Food Recycling Week
- Draft Climate Action Plan (Pre-Design)
- RMCEI EPA Report
- Noise Byelaws consultation update
- Climate Change Consultation update



New BMX Pump Track at Fairlane Park, Dungarvan

Housing SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

This SPC met 4 times in 2023 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Allocations Policy
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- Vacant Homes Office
- Rightsizing policy
- Housing Disability Steering Group (HDSG) report
- Single Rural Housing
- Southeast Homeless Action Plan 2023 – 2026
- Mobile Library
- Library of Toys
- Library of Things
- Age Friendly Strategy
- Local Economic and Community Plan



Breaking ground at the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project

Transportation & Infrastructure SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Tom Cronin

This SPC met 3 times in 2023 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- City Bike Scheme
- Active Travel Projects
- Sustainable Transport – Electric Vehicles
- Bye-laws: Dungarvan/Lismore Control of Parking Bye-laws Review, Speed Limit Bye-Law Review
- Camper Van Parking
- Local Link Rural Transport and Policy Changes
- Severe Weather Report - Storms Reviews and Updates
- NTA Bus Connects



Meeting with residents of Slí na Coille, Tramore

Planning SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Thomas Phelan

This SPC met 4 times in 2023 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- URDF – Dereliction & Vacancy
- Development Contribution Waiver Scheme
- Development Plan Monitoring Report
- Planning Policy Priorities
- Regeneration and Active Land Management
- Rural Development Strategy
- Heritage Plan Review
- 2022 Census of Population



Blackwater House, Cappoquin after refurb

1.5 Festival Snapshots

March 7th, 1848 saw Thomas Francis Meagher fly the Tri Colour for the first time at 33 The Mall. March 2023 saw the celebration of this historic moment on Thomas Francis Meagher's bicentenary birth year. The Mall was awash with green to commemorate the 175th anniversary of our flag's first flight.



St. Patrick's Day celebrated "The Best of Waterford" with three days of craic agus ceol, live entertainment, music, and tradition. The parade took centre stage on March 17th with the following two days also packed with music and entertainment.



Ireland's largest food festival, the West Waterford Festival of Food, returned for its 14th year in the Spring bringing with it an assortment of foods showcasing the beautiful West Waterford region and its produce.

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival (BVOF), Ireland's Summer Opera, returned for eight magical days from 29th May to 5th June with an impressive programme of 21 events at 12 stunning venues. Now in its 13th year, the festival attracted top talent from international and Irish artists.

Following the success of last year's inaugural Pride Festival in Dungarvan, June saw the town's festival returning bigger, brighter, and better. The month-long festival was packed with performances, cinema screenings and information sessions alongside the Pride March and the Culture Quarter Block Party.



Waterford's Comeragh's Wild Festival filled July with loads of fabulous, family-focused events and plenty to see and do for lovers of the great outdoors from yoga to sheep shearing to cooking demos.

The August Bank Holiday Weekend presented performers, artists, and musicians from around the world on Waterford's streets for Spraoi. The festival highlight was the Spraoi Parade featuring hundreds of costumed performers and spectacular floats weaving through the city's medieval streets at night and culminating in an amazing firework display.



Waterford Walls splashed derelict buildings with vibrant colours and images, giving a new life to the City while showcasing the talent of the incredible artists involved.

Summer in the City saw every weekend of summer filled with big bands, funk bands, rock bands, and pretty much all kinds of bands, alongside poetry, theatre, family fun, community involvement, and above all laughter in our city.

The annual Harvest Festival returned in September for the 14th year with a focus on food sustainability and a celebration of the Irish Apple to the fore. The best of Waterford's food and drink took centre stage at the giant Harvest Festival Market with a craft market and demonstrations also taking place.



The 2023 Imagine Arts Festival united the boundless realms of creativity within Waterford City. Showcasing a vibrant and varied assortment of artistic expressions across multiple disciplines. Its mission was to actively illuminate Waterford's cultural tapestry, ensuring a profound and enriching journey for both artists and spectators, all while keeping Waterford at its core.

Waterford celebrated the folklore, magic and myth of Samhain in October. Scáthanna weaved through the city centre with fantastical floats and scary special effects, followed by a weekend of spook-tacular family events and live music. Waterford's Writers Weekend featured a jam-packed



programme with a broad and engaging range of events and workshops to suit all ages and all genres, dedicated to writers and those who love the work of writers.

As dusk fell on November 30th, Waterford City transitioned into a vibrant spectacle of light and colour with the official launch of the "City of Lights" project. This innovative project illuminated the city's iconic buildings and medieval walls at 19 strategic locations, promising a transformative experience for residents and visitors alike.



Winterval closed out the festivals for 2023. Returning for its 11th year, Winterval came with plenty of festive fun, attractions, workshops, food and craft markets and events. Such is the success of Ireland's biggest and best-loved Christmas festival, that will form the basis for Waterford as the European City of Christmas 2024 after being awarded the title by unanimous decision by the International Jury.





2 Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

The Corporate Plan 2019- 2024 for Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) identifies five high-level corporate aims with corresponding objectives and strategies. This chapter reports on the progress made on those objectives and strategies under each theme.

2.1 Waterford as the economic driver for the South East region

In November 2022 WCCC entered into a contract with BAM Civil Ltd for the North Quays Public Infrastructure works. Works commenced in early 2023 and progress is evident throughout the works site with construction cranes dotting the skyline and structuring emerging in the river and along Dock Road. Off site, in Belgium, the steel superstructure for the new bridge is being fabricated and will be transported to Waterford in 2024. The works contracts for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have also progressed. In February 2023 An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the flood defence works to the west of Plunkett Station and consultants have been appointed to progress the design.

The Council is committed to balancing development across Waterford City & County by encouraging development of our primary urban centres; Waterford City, Tramore & Dungarvan while planning for Dunmore East, Portlaw, Lismore, Tallow, Kilmacthomas, Passage East and Cappoquin to continue to be key drivers of rural growth. The Council's first objective in this area is the development of our primary urban centres to ensure that all are vibrant, well-presented centres, where retail, business and quality of life are to the fore. The Projects Team progressed a number of projects sponsored by the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) addressing City Centre regeneration. Work was completed on 16-18 Barker Place, to provide a community and arts/entertainment space on O'Connell St, WCQ Place. The space will allow local groups a facility for workshops, meetings and events within the heart of the Cultural Quarter.

The Parade Quay Project completed its preparatory work and public consultation process. The project will regenerate a further element within the Viking Triangle to provide urban living above reconfigured commercial spaces in the city and enhance the public realm through Friary Square, opening pedestrian routes around Greyfriars Church. Works will commence on site mid-2024.

The Smart SE Project on the site of the former Munster Express Offices on Hanover Street completed its statutory planning process and is now at detail design stage with works expected commence on site early in 2025. This exciting project is a collaboration with South East Technological University and will bring a forth level research unit into the city centre. This project will be an essential driver in developing Waterford as a smart city.

Working in collaboration with the Rural Development Team, a number of projects sponsored the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) are being delivered across the county. In Cappoquin, the repurposing of the derelict former Moore's Hotel is underway. This project will deliver an exemplar residential over commercial, main street town house. The refurbishment of six houses on Main Street and Green Street will commence on site in the coming weeks and will provide an alternative town centre housing offer.

Works on developing the Town Centre First initiative have been progressing in Portlaw and Ardmore, with new town teams established and a draft Town Centre First Plan delivered.

The Projects Team in collaboration with other Council Sections completed several projects over the past twelve months. The Irish Wake Museum was opened at No. 3, 4 & 5 Cathedral Square, conserving, and successfully repurposing some of the oldest domestic buildings in Ireland. Tramore Library was successfully refurbished receiving the highest maintenance grant allocation nationally. Delivering a modern repurposed facility to accommodate the new open library model. Works to the library completes the first phase of the Tramore Town Centre Regeneration Project.



Opening of the WCQ Place, Community and Cultural Hub

Land and Property Management

The Property Management Department manages land and property (other than local authority houses) owned by Waterford City & County Council.

Projects across the directorates in 2023 included:

- Completed CPO for Greenway extension from Bilberry to City Centre; the acquisition of lands at Ballinroad, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford for road improvements; the acquisition of lands at Knockanore, Co. Waterford for footpath improvements; continued regularisation of title on Council Car-Parks throughout County for the Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure Directorate
- Progressing disposal to HOPCAST for development of the North Quays; progressing conveyancing on Transport Hub and Pedestrian Bridge; continuing of acquisitions and disposals for new road network; vesting and disposals of the Flood Defences CPO lands.
 - Managing acquisitions/leases/short term lettings; facilitating vacant possession for 2024 URDF project
 - Working with the URDF team to redevelop Viking Triangle and Cultural Quarter properties; acquisition of Portlaw GAA Club; acquisition at Church Road, Ballyduff
 - Continuation of Cappoquin Regeneration Programme; Ardmore regeneration plan-proposed acquisition, disposal & CPO; Remote Working hubs City and County for the Economic Development
- Property Management provides support to the Waterford Cultural Quarter (WCQ) Team on a programme of property acquisitions/disposals

possibly through Compulsory Purchase Orders under URDF funding; also provide support to annual arts projects through the provision of leases and licences for Winterval, Spraoi and other festivals for the Arts and Culture Department

- The acquisition of 116 houses and 17 apartments for Social Housing; 4 compulsory purchase orders and 18 compulsory purchase acquisitions

Planning and Heritage

Key Heritage Projects delivered in 2023 include continued survey of the Woodstown Viking site with visits to the site by the Norwegian Ambassador in May, Heritage Council Board in July, and University of Stavanger Museum in November. 2023 saw the conclusion of a very successful Decade of Commemorations Programme which concluded with a Reflections on a Commemorations Conference in City Hall in November. A full Heritage Week events programme was delivered across the city and county and heritage training was also delivered.

In 2023 the Active Land Management Section had under its remit Derelict Sites, Vacant Sites, Short Term Lets, Taking in Charge and URDF Call 3 and is committed to supporting communities by taking a proactive approach to dereliction and vacancy in Waterford City and County. The team administered the €9M funding received under URDF Call 3 as part of a three-year plan to tackle long-term vacancy and dereliction in Waterford City, Dungarvan and Tramore. The fund will help restore and transform the urban heart of many of our communities providing homes for people in sustainable locations, allowing them to live close to local services, amenities, and employment.



Views of the bridge cofferdams

Following the final adoption of the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022, the key focus of the forward planning team in 2023 was to initiate the implementation of the various policy objectives of the development plan, designing and setting up a GIS map-based methodology to monitor the implementation of the development plan and core strategy, and reporting on that implementation to the Office of the Planning Regulator.

2.2 Creating a balance between Rural and Urban Development

In 2023, WCCC's Rural Development efforts were concentrated on priority projects under a number of funding regimes, particularly the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The focus of the Town Centre First team, was on Portlaw where a new Town Centre First Plan was unveiled, and which will lead to a significant number of regeneration projects. A similar process has been begun for Ardmore and its plan is due to be launched in early 2024. The Council also received funding from the Shared Island Fund, and this allowed a rural regeneration project to be delivered in Dunmore East and Portlaw in combination with two similar towns in Mid and East Antrim.

To date, significant projects have been delivered under the RRDF programme in Mount Congreve, Cappoquin and Dungarvan and with further applications due to be advanced for Ardmore, Portlaw and Dunmore East. So far, over €12 million has been acquired in RRDF funding.

The **Town and Village Renewal Scheme** is an initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development and is part of a package of national and local support measures to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland through the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme. Since 2016, Waterford City & County Council have accessed grant funds of €5.6m delivering 60 projects in Waterford.

Six projects delivered in 2023, with a total investment of €1.175m. Project locations were Touraneena, Dunmore East, Ballyduff Upper, Villierstown and Tallow; project elements included public realm works, creation of remote work/meeting facilities in rural areas, acquisition of a site and building regeneration.

Currently there are six active projects being delivered, with a total investment of €694K.

- Passage East
- Tramore
- Dunhill
- Clonea Power
- Cappoquin

In 2023, five applications, investment value €1.4m submitted to Department for consideration.

- Kill
- Lismore
- Lemybrien
- Kilmacthomas
- Knockanore

The Rural Economic Development section has the remit for the development and promotion of Outdoor Recreation amenities and in particular recreational walking and cycling trails in Waterford. The development of outdoor recreation is guided at national level by 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023 – 2027'. In late 2023 WCCC and Waterford Leader Partnership supported Waterford Sports Partnership in submitting a successful application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for Waterford to become one of six counties funded to appoint an Outdoor Recreation Officer in order to prepare a County Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The drafting of this strategy will be a significant focus of the sections' work in 2024.

WCCC continues to work with stakeholders including TII and neighbouring Local Authorities on Greenway feasibility studies. We also continue to work with other sections within WCCC on maintaining and developing the existing, award winning, Waterford Greenway.

Rural Economic Development staff support the work of local communities and trail development groups all across Waterford in monitoring, maintaining, managing and promoting the ever-growing number of recreational trail across Waterford.



Official opening of the newly extended Mahon Falls Car Park

2.3 Fostering a growth culture

The Council's Corporate Plan objective is to have an integrated plan for the future sustainable development of the Waterford region, for the Metropolitan Area to be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, and for state agencies to ensure that the City's identified role as the principal urban centre in the South East region is enhanced and supported.

The Council recognises that a strong Waterford will lead to the development of the South East region which will enhance economic growth and create added value employment opportunities.

In support of these objectives, we aim to promote sustainable population growth across the county through the identification of a clear settlement hierarchy in support of adopted National and Regional planning policy, to deliver and aim to exceed the targets for housing supply as set in Rebuilding Ireland and to support green enterprise initiatives which help the transition to a low carbon economy

Waterford Libraries

Waterford Libraries partnered with the Waterford CYPSC Child and Youth Mental Health Subgroup and the Waterford HSE Primary Care Child Psychology Services to produce a bibliotherapy booklet 'The Way Forward' containing library book titles to promote wellbeing among children and young people. It was launched in June alongside the new Waterford Referral Pathways poster of mental health and support services for children and young people in partnership with the HSE Regional Suicide Resource Office and Waterford CYPSC.

In 2023 Waterford Libraries operated two My Open Library locations, Dungarvan and Lismore. In Tramore work was completed on an extensive refurbishment with totally new access, upgraded insulation, energy improvements, a new meeting and event room and a new space saving internal layout. Tramore will open as a My Open Library location in early 2024.

All 12 Libraries achieved Age Friendly status in 2023. Our Age Friendly programme takes a holistic approach to service provision. From suitable furniture in branch to events, partnerships, and programming we are constantly working to provide resources where they are needed.

Writers at Waterford Libraries began as a pilot project in 2023. Using Library branches as venues for a yearlong programme, we offered interactive and creative experiences with interesting and exceptional writers from Ireland and beyond. Ten Authors appeared in our branches for engaging and insightful conversation with the avid readers of Waterford City and County including Kevin Barry, Claire Keegan and Megan Nolan.

2023 was another busy year for Local Studies in Waterford Libraries. With a variety of events, talks and workshops taking place throughout the year in various locations.



Summer Stars reading challenge in Dunmore East Library

Tourism, Enterprise & Economic Development

In February, a new digital story trail featuring augmented reality and audio was launched in Waterford City. It gives visitors the opportunity to discover the captivating stories from Waterford's rich history at 15 different locations across the city centre, using their smartphone.

The reopened and re-developed Mount Congreve Garden in March 2023 following a €7million investment, is the largest single investment in a tourism project in Waterford's history. Mount Congreve welcomed 72,000 paying visitors to the gardens, with a further 85,000 visiting the Stables Café and Secret Garden shop.

In April, a Waterford delegation led by then Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. John O'Leary, travelled to Märkischer Kreis in Germany where the official twinning ceremony took place to cement the relationship between the two regions. A delegation from Märkischer Kreis reciprocated with a visit to Waterford in October.

The Waterford Greenway extension to the City Centre was officially opened in June, funded to the tune of €12.5 million by the National Transport

Authority and delivered and managed by Waterford City & County Council. The extension allows locals and visitors to start or finish their Waterford Greenway journey in the City Centre.

Waterford featured in two national television programmes this year; Waterford Greenway and the exceptional food producers along the trail from Dungarvan to Waterford City featured as part of Neven Maguire's RTE series 'Neven's Irish Greenways'. The new Grá ar an Trá series, aired on Virgin Media, was filmed in Woodstown and across county Waterford.

At the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government awards Waterford City & County Council had two category wins, for the Irish Museum of Time and the Irish Silver Museum, and Mount Congreve Gardens. The museums of Time and Silver took top honours in the Heritage and Built Environment category while Mount Congreve Gardens clinched the title in the 'supporting tourism' category, sponsored by Fáilte Ireland.

Visit Waterford is responsible for the overall Marketing and Promotion of Waterford as a tourism destination to national and international visitors. Take a Hike, Visit Waterford campaign launched in April 2023 and highlighted the extensive hiking and walking offerings throughout Waterford City and County. The campaign ran on-screen, print, radio, social and digital channels.

Waterford Treasures Museums had a phenomenally busy and successful 2023, opening a sixth visitor attraction – the Irish Wake Museum - and welcoming a record 104,000 fee-paying visitors.

16th June 2023 was a day for all in Waterford to celebrate just how far we have come in protecting Waterford's heritage and making it accessible to all, with the opening by Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of The Irish Wake Museum in the refurbished 3, 4 & 5 Cathedral Square. These tiny buildings which were lived in right up to the 1990s were originally an Alms House set up in 1478 by the Dean of the Cathedral and Mayor James Rice.

Another highlight was 'First Peoples in Waterford' exhibition now in City Hall in partnership with SETU and the McDonagh family, exhibiting the tools found by Noel McDonagh and other stone tools kindly loaned by the National Museum of Ireland.

Waterford received the coveted Purple Flag accreditation, which represents the gold standard

of the management of evening and night-time economies. In recognition of Waterford's commitment to creating a dynamic, secure, and vibrant evening and night-time economy, the Purple Flag accreditation process is similar to the Green Flag Award for parks and Blue Flag for beaches.

This prestigious award highlights Waterford's blend of entertainment, dining, and culture, all the while ensuring the safety and well-being of residents, and visitors in the evening and night-time economy, between the hours of 5pm and 5am.

In addition, the Waterford Local Enterprise Office (LEO) team played a pivotal role in helping businesses to move to online trading during the year. They also continued to provide valuable resources online, by phone and in person.



The Irish Wake Museum

Cultural Life

Waterford Cultural Quarter in the O'Connell Street area of Waterford City continues to be an active and vibrant place – WCQ Crafts Market took place each weekend from May until October and at weekends for the duration of the Winterval festival. The market welcomed a wide variety of eager stallholders and was supported with lots of festival activity as well as Active Cities and Open Mic events. A highlight of the year was the opening of WCQ Place, Community and Cultural Hub in October. Waterford Integration Services are the primary tenant in the multipurpose building, providing classes and information to the diverse communities of Waterford as well as planning for flexible use of the space for community development.

Creative Waterford had a busy programme of activity including the launch of the "Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027", Creative Communities Open Call, numerous local authority projects and additional

projects such as Creativity in Older Age. A successful application to Creative Ireland's Shared Island Fund strengthens existing Council relationships with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and several community projects will be rolled out. The second iteration of ACT Waterford, a Creative Climate Action project funded by Creative Ireland which works with communities, creatives, and artists on five environmental themes was kicked off. A new role of Creative Communities Engagement Officer was filled which will strengthen community links and partnerships.

The Arts Service had a busy and vibrant 2023. A full range of festivals and events was supported by the Council via the Arts Practise, Venues and Festival grants. In addition, artists were supported through various bursary schemes and by working on arts programmes. Of particular note was the rollout of events for the Waterford Writers Weekend in both Waterford City and Dungarvan, the exciting offering across the summer months of Summer in the City and the inaugural Grianstad Solstice Festival in West Waterford.

The Waterford Gallery of Art had three major exhibitions - Portraits: People and Place, A Survey of the Landscapes and Arnold & Hilda: The life and works of Arnold Marsh and Hilda Roberts – it had an extensive outreach programme that included talks by Marie Bourke, Annie Shaw, and collaborative initiatives with Garter Lane, SETU and Studio Array. The WGOA featured on RTE's Culture Night special and was subject of a major feature in the Irish Arts Review and also in the Irish History magazine.



Washed Out in concert in Dungarvan

Partnerships have been forged with arts organisations and colleagues in the region, yielding joint projects such as the Mór Artists collective with Cork County Council; the ArtLinks partnership with Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford Councils continues to grow; Art at the Kitchen Table with the Waterford Healing Arts Trust (now Réalta) and several engagements with our arts venue colleagues.

Partnerships in 2023 with SETU and Garter Lane have been renewed for 2024.

Nationally we collaborated with national resource organisations on the delivery of Poetry Day Ireland, Bealtaine/Celebrating Creativity in Older Age and of course our Culture Night in September was exceptionally well attended. The Arts Service, working with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport & Media commissioned a large portable stage complete with Lighting and Sound.

Waterford Music Generation continued with Music provision for young people across a range of musical genres. We delivered artform specific projects in film, dance, visual arts, literature, youth arts and arts education and music.

2.4 People and Communities

Waterford will be a place where all are included as active participants in the cultural, environmental, social and economic fabric of our community.

Waterford will be a place of resilient communities. Our work within urban and rural communities will be to strengthen connections, improve facilities and quality of life. We will work in partnership with agencies and communities to prioritise initiatives that impact positively on the health and wellbeing of all.

Community

2023 has been a successful and productive year for Community Department with the preparation and adoption of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 - 2029 (LECP) on 14th December 2023.

Following extensive and active stakeholder engagement, the LECP sets out agreed objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of Waterford over a six-year period. The community element of the LECP outlines 4 high level goals on the liveability and quality of life, health and wellbeing, inclusion and accessibility, and resilience and sustainability.

Healthy Waterford significantly grew its presence within Waterford last year by delivering on various successful initiatives and exceeding the 2023 targets set by the Department of Health.

Work is ongoing on the process of making Waterford an accredited city under the WHO Healthy Cities and Counties programme. One of Healthy Waterford's flagship collaborative initiatives for 2023 was the roll

out of 'Playful Streets' initiative in over 18 venues. In 2023, the Community Safety Partnership pilot continued to gather momentum and successfully sourcing funding under the Community Safety Innovation and the Community Safety Small Grants Funds. The Partnership rolled out four community safety innovation fund projects during 2023 – Northwest Suburbs Community Action Plan; Dungarvan Community Horticultural Education Programme; Consent Matters Project; and the City Centre Safety Wardens Project – as well as leading out on and supporting several collaborative initiatives on Anti-Social Behaviour, Safety at Halloween, Portlaw Engages Youth project, a Road Safety Week, Drug Awareness, Prevention and Support initiative, City Centre Safety and the Purple Flag projects, amongst others.

In March, Minister for Justice Simon Harris TD launched the Waterford Community Safety Plan 2023 – 2028 which sets out objectives and actions for the Partnership and key partners to implement during the lifetime of the Plan. The pilot is a new government initiative bringing together statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, local councillors, and community members to collaboratively work together to identify and respond strategically to safety issues locally.

During 2023 significant work and consultation continued on the Waterford Age Friendly Alliance Strategy 2023 – 2028 which was officially launched by Minister Mary Butler TD. In delivering this strategy, the Waterford Age Friendly Alliance will ensure that the City and County continues to have an age-friendly approach to policies, programmes, services, and infrastructure relating to the physical and the social environment, enabling older people to live in security, good health and continue to participate in society in a meaningful way.



Community Safety Plan Launch

Housing

In 2023, the Council's Housing department continued its work in identifying vacant properties and working with landlords on the Repair & Leasing Initiative. The Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme was available to assist first time buyers who are unable to get approval for a mortgage for a new house in Waterford city by assisting in the purchase of homes from Waterford Council's partnered developers.

Under the Housing for All initiative, Waterford City and County Council unveiled new social housing units at various locations, including Ballygunner (37 units), Green Road (5 units), 22/23 Mary St Dungarvan (7 units), Cuil na Circle, Cappoquin (7 units), and Ormonde House, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford (19 units). Additionally, 44 Part V units were distributed across Waterford, and the completion of 8 regeneration/derelict properties was achieved. Construction also commenced on 50 new units at An Garran, Crobally Upper, Tramore, and 14 new units in Fountain Street, Waterford City.

Housing also completed:

- 110 properties received Energy Upgrade works as a part of the Governments Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme with an expenditure of over €3.5million. These works included new heating systems, new doors and windows, ventilation and insulation works, and brought all of these properties to a minimum Building Energy rating of B2, exceeding this rating in many cases
- Over 110 vacant units were returned back into stock for re-allocation
- 71 units for older people were provided by the refurbishment of St Joseph's House and the surrounding out-buildings and were delivered through the Repair and Lease Scheme. The units themselves are located very centrally for all amenities, they are energy efficient, creating a safe environment and provide a safe environment and safe tenure for the residents. We incorporated a rightsizing approach to the allocation of the units

The post of Tenant Engagement Officer has been created to the development in order to provide tenancy support, develop a social enterprise for the chapel area and to co-ordinate community, health and social benefits for those living there. This project was shortlisted for an Age Friendly Housing Award 2023 under the Age Friendly Ireland Recognition & Achievement Awards.

2023 also saw the continuation of the partnership and collaborative approach to homelessness with all agencies working together and focusing on homeless prevention, tenancy sustainment and supported exits for homeless clients. Waterford Integrated Homeless Services received 3,392 callers seeking their services in 2023. 913 formal homeless assessments were carried out and a total of 72 families and 165 individuals were supported by WIHS to move into permanent accommodation and away from homelessness.



Mount William estate officially opened

Customer Services / Communications

The Irish Office continued to support the delivery of services through the Irish language under the Official Languages Acts 2003 & 2021 and other legislation, as well as the Council's Language Scheme 2022-2025. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services was appointed as senior management representative to oversee the Council's compliance with its obligations under the Acts. The Office of the Language Commissioner received a single complaint from a member of the public in relation to Waterford City & County Council in 2023. The complaint related to English only signage on the Greenway and was resolved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner's Office.

The Council, through the Irish Office, continued to support the work of Comhlucht Forbartha na nDéise and Dún Garbhán le Gaeilge, the Language Planning lead organisations in Gaeltacht na nDéise and in Dungarvan as a Gaeltacht Service Town. The Council's Placenames Committee approved names for a total of eleven housing developments in the city and county.

The highlight of the Irish Office's promotional work was a special screening of the Irish language film *An Cailín Ciúin*, which took place in the SGC Cinema, Dungarvan. The screening was organised during *Seachtain na Gaeilge* in March to celebrate the film's

Oscar nomination and was attended by a number of cast members. Other highlights of the year included the unveiling of a special heritage sign in Bunmahon to celebrate Philip Barron's Irish College and the *Tionól na nDéise* event with guest speaker Éamonn Ó Bróithe during *Tionól Niocláis Tóibín* in An Rinn.

The Council's Information Systems department published the Digital Strategy 2022-2026 which aims to enhance the digital maturity of the county through collaboration with local and national stakeholders. 2023 also saw the roll out of the WiFi4EU Programme where a number of open Wi-Fi zones were established in various towns and locations. 2023 also saw the Council migrating to Office 365 which has benefits for communication and resiliency in the work being done.

The Communications department continued to deliver a high volume of editorial output in 2023. Over 250 press releases were distributed to local, regional and national media, along with over 150 responses issued to media queries in the year.

Waterford City and County Councils' social media channels performed particularly well. Impressions on Waterford City and County Councils' combined social media platforms reached 8,307,878 people.

Website traffic remained steady with Waterford City & County Council's main website recording 1.32 million page views in 2023.

The most visited pages on the website were 1) Online Planning Enquiries, 2) Choice Based Lettings, 3) Vacancies, 4) Online Payments and 5) Planning Related Information.

Think Waterford First Campaign was launched nationally and put the spotlight on Waterford as the perfect location to live, work, invest and do business in.

The campaign ran over two six - week bursts and featured prominently on the Irish Times (special features and digital content), OOH campaign on populous commuter routes in and around Dublin, local, regional, and national radio campaigns.

The social and digital campaign was hugely successful in increasing brand awareness and reach with the campaign reaching 7.2 million unique users and delivering 1.8 million video views.

Waterford City and County Archives works on an ongoing basis to ensure the preservation and access to the records and archives of Waterford

City and County Council and to document the story of the people of Waterford. Through its Records Management Services it provides support to the work of Council departments to facilitate the provision of services and compliance with legal requirements and ensure that the delivery of services is documented in a transparent and accessible manner.

The Archives Service and the Oifigeach Gaeilge continued work on the Schools Placenames Project and launched an interactive map showing the local placenames collected by schools as part of the project in August as part of Heritage Week. The map is available on the website www.deiselogainm.ie

As part of the Decade of Centenaries programme a conference was held in May to commemorate the Waterford Farm Labourers' Strike of 1923 in Dungarvan. The event was filmed and is available online on the www.waterford1916to1923.com website where the resources and projects for the Decade of Centenaries in Waterford have been made available.

File deliveries to staff continued throughout 2023 on a weekly basis and 1,343 files were issued on request to Council departments. Transfers to the Records Centre from departments in the Council continued and work is ongoing to upload the data on the files onto the Records Centre software system.

Files due for destruction were confidentially disposed of and work is ongoing to identify files due for destruction and ensure safe confidential destruction of files.

Waterford City and County Council is a member of the review team for the revision of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records produced by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

2.5 Strengthening foundations

Waterford will continue developing an attractive environment with good quality access to services to ensure a high quality of life, thus attracting investment, economic activity, increased visitors and a skilled and talented workforce.

The Elected Members of Waterford City and County Council adopted the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 which came into effect the 19th of July 2022. This is the first unitary Development Plan for the entire functional area of Waterford City and County Council and sets out the strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the City and County over the plan period from 2022 to 2028.

Funding of €11million was provided to Waterford City and County Council by the National Transport Authority in 2023 for a total of 35 Active Travel projects throughout the City and County. These projects included footpaths, segregated cycle lanes, improved pedestrian crossing facilities, the provision of cycle parking and the Safe Routes To School programme. Of particular note was the completion of the Bilberry to City Centre – Waterford Greenway Link project which extends the hugely popular Waterford Greenway from the Greenway car park at Bilberry, all the way into Waterford City centre. This project was officially opened on June 2nd, 2023, by the Mayor of Waterford City and County, Councillor John O'Leary.

Once again Waterford emerged as Ireland's Cleanest City in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League. The city ranked 13th out of 40 cities and towns and was classed as Clean to European norms. Waterford City continues to score very well in the IBAL litter league. Seventeen out of the twenty-four sites surveyed got the top litter grade and there were no litter blackspots.



An Garrán rin Tramore named as runner-up at the All-Island IPB Pride of Place awards



Railway Square improvement works

The report found that it was not just the litter situation which set Waterford City apart but the overall presentation and maintenance of the sites.

A public consultation was held on the draft Climate Action Plan which was published in 2023. Measures implemented through the WCCC Climate Action Team include:

- The “Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project” (PLEEP) is in progress with the planned retro fitting of public lighting from the Department of Communication, Climate Action, and Environment under the Climate Action Fund. Approximately 16,000 lights will be retro fitted under this process throughout Waterford.
- Additional electric vehicle charging points installed across the City and County.
- Heating System Upgrades: Fossil fuel boilers have

been removed from the following buildings and replaced with heat pump installations:

- Tramore and Portlaw Library, Dungarvan Depot, Dungarvan Fire Station, Bolton Street Yard, Active Travel Building and Mount Congreve
- A heat pump and building insulation was installed during the retro-fitting of Barker Place Theatre. Building Insulation improvement measures have also been undertaken.
- WCCC has reduced energy related consumption by 25%, which is contributing to the committed 50% energy related reduction targets by 2030.
- Energy Efficient flood lighting has been installed at the WRSC which has resulted in a 40% reduction in flood lighting electrical costs.



The official opening of the Bilberry to City Centre Waterford Greenway extension

2023 in photos



Climate Change Plan Roadshow



Beach Wheelchair Launch in Tramore



Communications Boards installed in various parks



Ballot Bins installed in Tramore and Dungarvan



Schools Litter Challenge 2023



Floodlights installed at the RSC



Digital Help Workshops



Age-Friendly Strategy Launched



BoxUp at People's Park



SS Port Láirge propeller unveiled as monument



Building conservation works



Healthy Waterford Playful Streets



Waterford FC & Waterford City & County Council sign 50-year contract for the use of Regional Sports Centre



Breaking ground at the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project



Estonian Ambassador visiting City Hall



Waterford Glas Awards Launch



Homecoming for Waterford Senior Camógie All-Ireland finalists



Gort na hInse housing development



North Quays presentations at Toys4Engineers



Successful conclusion of Destination Town



Check My Register Roadshow



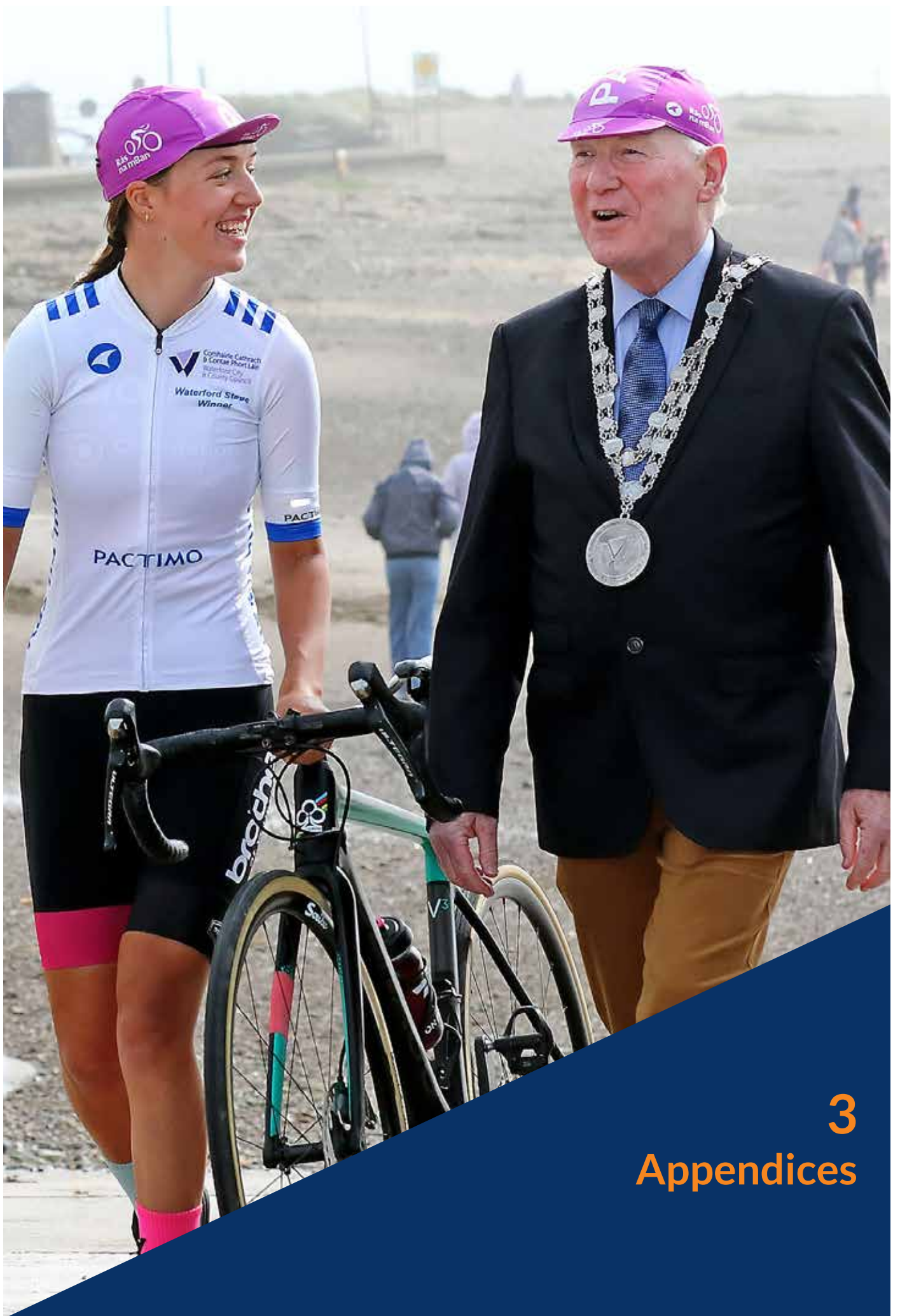
Gum Litter awareness campaign



Clothes Swap Event at the Central Library



MEPs Visit



3 Appendices

Appendix 1

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

The financial position of Waterford City and County Council continued to improve in 2023. For the first time since the Merger in 2014, the consolidated entity reported a positive general reserve and are therefore out of a deficit position for the first time in a decade.

Income from Goods and services increased 8.5% from 2022. Income streams from areas such as Rents, Car parking, Road Opening Licences, Festivals, Interest Income, NPPR, etc. all generated income that exceeded the 2023 Budget expectations.

There were variances, both positive and negative, across most operational areas such as, Fire Service, Street Cleaning, Library service, Archive services, Economic Development, Tourism, and the Arts program etc., however for the most part these variances were not materially outside the normal parameters.

There were areas where cost variances were material, these included Housing Maintenance, Road reconstruction, transfers to Capital necessary to fund the Capital program, and an unbudgeted contribution to Mount Congreve of €1M, However, these material cost variances were more than offset from savings in Energy of over €850K, further releases from Debtor provisions and increased income, resulting in a surplus of €1.43M for the year.

Collections:

The Overall arrears across the three major Debtor groups, (Rates, Rents & Loans), remained relatively static in 2023.

The Rates & Loans arrears fell in 2023 recording a 32% and 11% reduction in arrears respectively, while Rent arrears increased, this was primarily as a result of a major rent review exercise that was carried out during 2023.

These on-going improvements in Rates and Loans collection performance is particularly pleasing, given the uncertain conditions that pertained at the beginning of the year the fact that the improvements came on top of strong performances in 2022. The Collection performance across the three streams were, Rates (98%), Loans (72%) and Rents of (78%)

Commercial Rates

Commercial rates are payable on a diverse range of commercial properties such as factories, offices, shops, hotels and restaurants. The Valuation Office determines the valuation of all rated properties to which a multiplier called an ARV is applied. The elected members determine this multiplier annually during the budgetary process. The rate applied in 2023 was €0.2863.

A continued and concerted effort by the rates team applying newly developed processes and escalation strategies drove this on-going improvement.

Housing Loans

We have continued to offer sustainable solutions to borrowers in arrears and have used various mechanisms available to re-structure distressed loans.

While we consider this performance to be satisfactory, it is anticipated this will improve significantly in 2024.

Capital:

The improved National economic background, Government Support and our improved financial position over the last few years has led to a significantly improved Capital position. The Capital funding position has improved by €5.7M in 2023.

This improved position is critical to fund our expansive Capital program.

Finance Directorate

The Finance Directorate continued to promote appropriate oversight and control of the organisation's finances by ensuring that each section and directorate maintained a strong focus on prudent financial management and debt collection/management and has worked proactively to enhance systems and controls.

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Michael Walsh, Chief Executive (CE) of Waterford City and County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Waterford City and County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Waterford City and County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Waterford City and County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Waterford City or County Council.

The key sources of income for Waterford City and County Council are as follows:

	Current Year €	Current Year €
Goods & Services	€41,154,858	€37,902,534
Grants & Subsidies	€82,643,823	€69,484,414
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	€127,407	€1,121,276
Rates	€36,035,961	€34,967,971
Local Property Tax	€19,667,628	€19,668,516

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows:

	Current Year €	Current Year €
Income	€179,629,676	€163,144,711
Expenditure	€170,270,160	€151,522,684
Transfers to Capital	€7,929,332	€10,147,48
Exceptional Item	€0	€0
Surplus/(Deficit) for	€1,430,185	€1,444,545
Prior Year Adjustment	€0	€0
Opening Revenue Reserve	-€1,271,105	-€2,715,650
Closing Revenue Reserve	€159,080	-€1,271,105

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Waterford City and County Council at the end of 2023 total € 2,432 million and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Current Year €
Fixed Assets	€2,311,074,819	€2,278,230,487
Works in Progress	€153,919,193	€76,600,117
Long Term debtors	€83,236,967	€68,377,187
Current Assets	€69,944,576	€115,229,238
Current Liabilities	€54,663,225	€108,267,464
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	€15,281,350	€6,961,774
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	€131,032,431	€113,954,518
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	€2,432,476,898	€2,316,215,048

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Waterford City and County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Waterford City and County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Waterford City and County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As CE of Waterford City and County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Waterford City and County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

Waterford City and County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Waterford City and County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Waterford City and County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Waterford City and County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Waterford City and County Council.

Risk and control framework

Waterford City and County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April 2024 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2024.

Signed by:

Dated:

Michael Walsh

18th April 2024

Chief Executive

Appendix 2

Councillors Meetings Attendance 2023

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Meetings Held*
Joanne Bailey	39	41
Ger Barron	32	39
Donal Barry	33	36
Liam Brazil	29	34
Declan Clune	28	34
Joe Conway	38	41
Tom Cronin	44	51
Declan Doocey	29	39
Pat Fitzgerald	40	47
Damien Geoghegan	36	41
Jim Griffin	36	41
John Hearne	38	42
Joe Kelly	35	41
Cristiona Kiely	37	41
Conor McGuinness	34	40
Jason Murphy	35	36
Pat Nugent	44	47
Seamus O'Donnell	28	36
John O'Leary	33	40
Lola O'Sullivan	34	36
Thomas Phelan	44	51
Jody Power	30	36
Seanie Power	34	39
John Pratt	30	36
Eamon Quinlan	41	51
Frank Quinlan	29	36
Mary Roche	30	40
Seamus Ryan	31	36
Adam Wyse	30	36
Stephanie Keating	32	36
Mairead Tobin	30	36
David Daniels (Co-opted 09/03/2023)	26	30
Total	1,095	1,263

*Number of meetings held varies for each councillor, depending on number of meetings held in each municipal district.

Current Membership of Waterford City & County Council

NAME	PARTY	ELECTORAL DISTRICT
Liam Brazil	Fine Gael	Comeragh
Declan Clune	Independent	Comeragh
Ger Barron	Labour Party	Comeragh
John O'Leary	Fianna Fáil	Comeragh
Seánie Power	Fine Gael	Comeragh
Tom Cronin	Fianna Fáil	Dungarvan / Lismore
Declan Doocey	Fine Gael	Dungarvan / Lismore
Damien Geoghegan	Fine Gael	Dungarvan / Lismore
Pat Nugent	Fine Gael	Dungarvan / Lismore
Séamus O'Donnell	Independent	Dungarvan / Lismore
John Pratt	Labour Party	Dungarvan / Lismore
Thomas Phelan	Labour Party	Dungarvan / Lismore
Conor D. McGuinness	Sinn Féin	Dungarvan / Lismore
Mairead Tobin	Fianna Fáil	Dungarvan / Lismore
Joe Conway	Independent	Tramore & Waterford City West
Jim Griffin	Sinn Féin	Tramore & Waterford City West
Cristiona Kiely	Green Party	Tramore & Waterford City West
Joe Kelly	Independent	Tramore & Waterford City West
Lola O'Sullivan	Fine Gael	Tramore & Waterford City West
Eamon Quinlan	Fianna Fáil	Tramore & Waterford City West
Jody Power	Green Party	Waterford City East
Pat Fitzgerald	Sinn Féin	Waterford City East
Mary Roche	Social Democrats	Waterford City East
Stephanie Keating	Fianna Fáil	Waterford City East
David Daniels	Independent	Waterford City East
Adam Wyse	Fianna Fáil	Waterford City East
Joeanne Bailey	Sinn Féin	Waterford City South
Frank Quinlan	Fine Gael	Waterford City South
John Hearne	Sinn Féin	Waterford City South
Donal Barry	Independent	Waterford City South
Séamus Ryan	Labour Party	Waterford City South
Jason Murphy	Fianna Fáil	Waterford City South

List of other Designated Public Officials

NAME	ROLE
Mr. Michael Walsh	Chief Executive
Mr. Michael Quinn	Director of Services for Economic Development
Mr. Fergus Galvin	Director of Services for Roads, Water & Environment
Mr. Kieran Kehoe	Director of Services for Corporate, Culture, IS and HR & Planning
Mr. Paul Johnston	Director of Services for Corporate, Culture, IS and HR & Planning (Acting since December 2023)
Mr. Bernard Pollard	Head of Finance & Cost Management
Mr. Ivan Grimes	Director of Services for Housing, Community and Emergency Services

Payments to Councillors in 2023

Payments made to Councillors under Section 142 of the Local Government Act

Representational Payments	€898,352
Local Representative Allowance (*)	€67,516
Annual Expense Allowance	€233,143
Security Allowance	€279
Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Allowance Total	€30,000
Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cathaoirliagh Allowances (January to December)	€65,538
Training and Conferences	€53,999
Total payments to Councillors	€1,348,827

Training & Conference Expenses

Councillor	Conferences	Training	Total Payments
Cllr. Ger Barron	-	€3,032.57	€3,032.57
Cllr. Donal Barry	-	-	-
Cllr. Liam Brazil	-	€755.08	€755.08
Cllr. Declan Clune	€452.01	€3,623.03	€4,075.04
Cllr. Joe Conway	€643.93	€3,703.98	€4,347.91
Cllr. Tom Cronin	€678.08	€4,278.0	€4,956.58
Cllr. Declan Doocey	€771.64	€4,108.61	€4,880.25
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	-	-	-
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	€661.50	€6,712.42	€7,373.92
Cllr. Jim Griffi	-	€243.52	€243.52
Cllr. John Hearne	-	-	-
Cllr. Joe Kelly	-	€822.00	€822.00
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	-	€1,779.08	€1,779.08
Cllr. Jason Murphy	€621.08	€5,105.34	€5,726.42
Cllr. Pat Nugent	€917.66	€2,839.77	€3,757.43
Cllr. Seamus O' Donnell	-	-	-
Cllr. John O' Leary	€627.30	€2,109.42	€2,736.72
Cllr. Lola O' Sullivan	-	€243.52	€243.52
Cllr. Thomas Phelan	-	€667.69	€667.69
Cllr. Jody Power	-	€146.13	€146.13
Cllr. Seanie Power	-	-	-
Cllr. John Pratt	€714.07	€5,472.75	€6,186.82
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan	-	€728.26	€728.26
Cllr. Frank Quinlan	-	€243.52	€243.52
Cllr. Mary Roche	-	-	-
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	-	-	-
Cllr. Adam Wyse	-	€243.52	€243.52
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey	-	-	-
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	-	€243.52	€243.52
Cllr. Stephanie Keating	€809.58	-	€809.58
Cllr. Mairead Tobin	-	-	-
Cllr. David Daniels	-	-	-
TOTALS	€6,897.12	€47,102.23	€53,999.35

Council Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

Cllr. Pat Nugent, (Chair)
Cllr. Conor D McGuinness
Cllr. Gerard Barron
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely
Cllr. Stephanie Keating
Mr. Garrett Wyse, (PPN) Social inclusion rep.
Ms. Gerty Murphy, (PPN) Community & Voluntary rep.
Mr. David Lane, SIPTU, Trade union rep.
Ms. Oren Byrne, Business
Ms. Maoliosa Ni Chleirigh, Environment

Housing, Community, Culture, Fire, Sport & Recreation SPC

Cllr. Eamon Quinlan (Chair)
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joanne Bailey
Cllr. Conor D McGuinness
Cllr. Adam Wyse
Ms. Úna Dunphy, Trade Union rep.
Ms. Rosemary Kennedy (PPN) Community & Voluntary rep.
Mr. Mike Farrell (PPN) Environment rep.
Mr. Richie McDonald (PPN) Development/Construction
CIF rep.
Mr. Vince Rellis, (PPN) Social Inclusion rep.

Transportation & Infrastructure SPC

Cllr. Tom Cronin (Chair)
Cllr. Joe Conway
Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. John O' Leary
Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr Declan Doocey
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell (resigned as Chair July 2022)
Mr. Thomas Holden, Development/Construction rep.
Ms. Marian Walsh, Business/Commercial rep.
Ms. Elaine Mullan, Environment rep.
Mr. Farid Ahmad Mohamman, Social inclusion rep.
Mr. Jim Farnan, Community & Voluntary rep.

Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action SPC

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald (resigned as Chair June 2023)
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. John Hearne (Chair)
Cllr. Ger Barron
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Christina Kiely
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey
Mr. Tom Hogan, Trade Union rep.
Ms. Ithel McKenna, Irish Wildlife Trust
Ms. Obianuju Ekedozie (PPN) – Social Inclusion (Resigned
November 2023)
Ms. Laura Forbes-O'Brien – IFA rep.
Ms. Mary Greene, PPN – Community & Voluntary

Planning SPC

Cllr. Thomas Phelan (Chair)
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Cllr. Seánie Power
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Mairead Tobin
Cllr. David Daniels
Mr. Seán Carey, Construction Industry rep.
Mr. John Galloway, Environment rep.
Mr. John Heffernan, Farming rep.
Mr. Niall Harrington, Business rep.
Ms. Mary O' Halloran, Community & Voluntary rep.
(Resigned 2023)
Sandra Crowley, Community & Voluntary rep.
Mr. Donal Lehane, Social inclusion rep.

Regulation of Lobbying

On commencement of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015, on 1st September 2015, each public body with Designated Public Officials is required under section 6(4) of the Act to publish a list showing the name, grade and brief details of the role and responsibilities of each "Designated Public Official" of the body.

The purpose of the list is twofold: 1. To allow members of the public to identify those persons who are Designated Public Officials; and 2. As a resource for lobbyists filing a return to the Register who may need to source a Designated Public Official's details.

Appendix 3

Full Statistics for 2023, by directorate

Economic Development

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

LEO jobs supported	1,232
Net jobs created by LEO clients	47
No. of LEO clients securing financial grants	36
Value of LEO grants	€445,869
No. of clients approved Trading Online Vouchers	68
Value of Trading Online Vouchers	€136,976
LEO training events	141
LEO training participants	2,530
LEO mentoring sessions	397
LEO core clients companies	280
LEO Local Enterprise Week	12 Events, 368 Participants
LEAN for Micro Programme	14
Green for Micro Programme	10
No. of schools in Student Enterprise Programme	13
No. of students in Student Enterprise Programme	849

PROJECTS

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funding	€759,226.82
Funding allocated to Waterford Greenway development projects by Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€82,329.81

TOURISM

Funding secured for Tourism projects (Watersports centres)	Increased to €2.4 million - on going project
Social media followers to Visit Waterford socials	Facebook: 31,000 - Instagram: 8,513 - Twitter: 6,413
Social media followers to Waterford Greenway socials	Facebook; 35,000 - Instagram; 5,865 - Twitter; 6,495
No. of tourism centres supported by WCCC	4

Housing, Community, Planning and Emergency Services

HOUSING

No. of callers to Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	3,392
No. of homeless presentations to WIHS Homeless Team	1,420
No. of formal homeless assessment carried out	913
No. of Housing First tenancies in place at 31/12/2021	34
HAP Placefinder Tenancies created	112 - 72 Singles, 40 Families
Homeless Preventions	93 Singles and 23 Families
Families exited Own Front Door units	9
Choice Based Letting	31,801 Expressions of Interest, all from 2,106 distinct applicants
Total properties advertised on CBL in 2023	
• Metro	Expressions of interest: 29,198 - Properties :164
• Comeragh	Expressions of interest: 1,046- Properties: 7
• West	Expressions of interest: 1,557 - Properties: 17
• Total	Expressions of interest: 31,801 - Properties: 188
Housing applications received	2,127
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	561
Housing Allocations	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2023
• Comeragh Municipal	26
• Dungarvan/Lismore Municipal	27
• Metropolitan	282
• Approved Housing Bodies	40
• Total	388
Affordable Housing	Sales Closed: 51 Contracted: 22 Sales Agreed:15 Available: 29
In Q3 2023 22 Cost Rental homes were advertised.	110 applications were received. A lottery process was run, and all 22 homes were allocated by year end.
Tenant Purchase	Applications Received: 58 Applications Approved: 27 Applications Refused: 24 Sales Closed: 23
Local Authority Home Loans	Applications Received: 91 Applications Approved: 29 Applications Refused: 44 Applications Invalid: 12

COMMUNITY & SPORTS

The Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 – 2029 process commenced in 2022 with the Socio Economic Statement agreed in Q4 following which the engagement process commenced with key agencies/organisations that provide services within Waterford.

Number of groups registered with the PPN	626
Percentage of schools/groups involved with Comhairle na n-Óg	90%
Supporting Waterford Community Grant Scheme	€194,122 – grants awarded to 294 projects
Community Activities Fund	€320,195 was allocated across 180 projects
Community Recognition Fund 2023	€1,351,000 was allocated across 13 projects
Community Department Festivals support	€121,208 (18 Festivals)
St Patrick's Day Festival 2023	over 15,000 viewers of the parade
Clár Measure 1	9 Applications submitted
Waterford Traveller Inter-Agency Group 2023 meetings	3
Yellow Flag schools	8
Migrant Integration Strategy Focus Group meetings	4
Ukrainian Community Response	Over 1,024 refugees were taken into the Council Rest Centres and 734 were matched with long term accommodation
No. of LCDC meetings held in 2023	12
Skills Enhancement LCDC subgroup meetings	5
'Well Waterford' healthy Ireland sub committee of the LCDC meetings	7
Social Inclusion Community Activation Fund assistance	€1,552,157: 79 community groups and 1,013 individuals
Verification reviews of the implementation of the SICAP programme	3 on site verification visits
Waterford Local Action Group (LAG) meetings	12
LAG projects approved	5
Total LEADER Funds claimed	€739,912.67
LAG evaluation committee meetings	2
LAG public meetings held	10
No. of visitors to Local Authority operated sports facilities	153,212
Williamstown Golf Club	20,313 visitors

COMMUNITY & SPORTS

Improvements to Williamstown Golf Course	New paths were installed on 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th holes for easier access; 1.5 additional acres of wildflowers were planted with a total of 2.5 acres now planted in total; Bunkers on 5th hole were remodelled, with one bunker having capillary concrete installed; Bunker on 6th hole was removed and seeded to make hole more user friendly; Open drains crossing 8th, 9th, and 11th holes were filled in and seeded for easier access
Golf societies hosted in 2023	17
Regional Sports Centre (RSC)	95,478 visitors
Improvements to Regional Sports Centre	Upgrade of floodlights on main pitch to energy efficient LED lights at a cost of €320,000 with the assistance of a grant from Sports Capital; Professional deep clean of running track and remarking of all lines on the track bring it back up to IAAF standard; Upgrade of emergency lighting system bring it up to current standards; Upgrade of CCTV system to improve the safety of both staff and costumers; Signed 50-year operational agreement with Waterford F.C
Carrickphierish Sports Hall	15,480 users
Dungarvan Sports Centre	21,941 users
National Play Day	200 play-packs were distributed to West Waterford Community & Family Hub, Barnardos Cappoquin, Portlaw Community Resource Hub and the TYRE Project (Garda Youth Diversion Tramore)
Healthy Ireland funding	€75,000 to 8 organisations
Healthy Waterford have been involved in the organisation of a Comeragh Collaborative Network of Villages developing 21 profiles	
Playful Streets organised by Healthy Waterford	18 events with over 1,500 participants
The 'Well Waterford' healthy Ireland subcommittee of the LCDC meetings 2023	6
Sláintecare Healthy Communities seed fund	€75,000 supported 5 community projects
Community Safety Partnership Plenary meetings	5
WCSP Steering and Thematic Working Group Meetings	12
WCSP Stakeholder Meetings	99
WCSP Public Engagement Meetings	10
WCSP Small Grants Fund 2023	€50,000 distributed amongst 25 community safety initiatives

COMMUNITY & SPORTS

AGE FRIENDLY

Number of Alliance meetings	3
Number of thematic subgroups	9
Number of OPC meetings	12

EMERGENCY SERVICES

No. of people employed in Fire Services	137
No. of fire stations	10
No. of fire calls 2023	571
No. of special services calls	540
No. of false alarms	235
Total calls	1,346
Turnout Times	4 min 39 secs (Retained brigades) 1 min 7 secs (Full-time brigade)
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed	127
Fire Safety inspections	95
Licence applications processed	91
Buildings inspected	87

PLANNING

Community Monuments Fund	€64,311
Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)	€209,660
The Historic Structures Fund (HSF)	€294,000
Planning applications received (2023)	1,008
Planning application decided (2023)	654
Planning applications received (2022)	1,090
Planning application decided (2022)	1,024
Number of Derelict Site Files Opened	260
Statutory Notices issued under Derelict Site Act, 1990	268
Properties added to Derelict Site Register	48
Properties removed from the Derelict Site Register	3
Compulsory Acquisitions were commenced under Derelict Site Act 1990	24
Properties vested in the name of the Council	3

Corporate, Culture, HR and IS

The Waterford Digital Strategy 2022- 2026 prioritises 6 key themes, The Digital Economy, Citizen & Community, Digital Infrastructure, Smart City, Digital Council and Climate action. By working with all stakeholders, the Waterford Digital strategy sets out the objectives and actions to support the citizens of Waterford and its Digital Economy.

During 2023 WCCC, in support of the Digital Strategy 2022-2026, developed a detailed ICT Strategy and Action Plan outlining key action areas for the development of ICT services and operations. Waterford City and County Council ICT Strategy 2023-2026

The rollout of Fibre broadband continued in Waterford in 2023 and it a priority for the Broadband office. NBI have now passed nearly 7,000 of the 16,000 premises in intervention area. The broadband office also helped elected members and citizens with broadband queries during 2023.

2023 saw the continued support of open Wi-Fi zones in various towns and locations throughout the county. This initiative was developed and rolled out by WCCC in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Commission following the successful application to both organisations for funding under the WIFI4EU Programme.

These open internet access points are located Waterford City and the towns of Lismore, Tramore, Dungarvan, Portlawn, Dunmore East, Kilmacthomas and Tallow have

now been completed. To date this service has proved to be extremely popular with both locals and visitors finding the service to be hugely beneficial in facilitating access to broadband and the internet.

High speed broadband continues to be available across 4 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across Waterford. The broadband office continued to support communities to leverage the technology in 2023. Free Wi-Fi is available at these locations.

2023 saw the IS team continue to migrate systems to the Cloud. As technology advanced, more reliable solutions cloud based systems have been implemented in a continuation of the cloud migration project.

During 2023 the Council's internal digital mapping and spatial data environment continued to be consolidate and upgraded with some services moving to the cloud. The new environment has enabled increased data enrichment, analysis, and presentation of valuable spatial datasets to decision makers throughout the council.

A new, environmentally focussed, managed print service was successfully rolled out across multiple council locations for all staff.

During 2023 the IS team continued to enhance IT services internally and externally, including expansion of the WCCC wide area network and enhanced information security measures.



Corporate, Culture, HR and IS

CULTURE

No. of Creativity and Culture Team projects	13
No. of Creative Community projects funded	13
Additional projects funded	3 – Creativity in Older Age, Creative Climate Action, Shared Island

LIBRARIES

No. of visitors to Waterford Libraries	403,776
No. of events held by Waterford Libraries	5,135
Annual expenditure on stock/ head of population	€1.92
No. of items issued	322,986
Registered members	33,797
No. of eaudiobook & ebook downloads	81,746
No. of emagazine downloads	17,746
Issues on Pressreader	99,209
Transparent Language sessions	47,766
Wi-Fi sessions in branch	22,035
Healthy Ireland at Your Library	378 events - 4,635 attendees
Work Matters at the Library	962 events
Bealtaine events	27 events, 500 attendees
Children's Book festival Events	21 events, 1,350 attendees
Spring into Storytime events	97 events, 4, 125 participants
Little Library book bags distributed to Junior Infants	1,335 in English and 211 As Gaeilge
Summer Star reading challenge events	256 events, 6,491 participants
Family time at your Library events	57 events, 1,329 participants
Read your Way challenge	350 students
School service	1491 class visits from Primary Schools, 138 Outreach visits to Primary Schools, 66 class visits from Post-Primary Schools, 29 visits to Post-Primary Schools, 14,686 class novels borrowed by teachers, 1,256 active Teachers' cards 2023, 4,600 Touch Type Read Spell subscriptions to support students with Dyslexia
My Open Library services	Dungarvan – 778 new members, 30,002 visitors Lismore – 279 visitors
Dormant Accounts Fund	€5,024.96
Community Recognition Fund	€45,000
Healthy Ireland Event Funding	€3,600.03
DRCD Healthy Ireland Funding	€3,689.83
ARTS	
Income from Arts Council	€86,700
Arts Festivals	€294,000
ARCHIVES	
Archives Service	103 queries received
Files issued on request to Council departments	1,343

Roads, Water and Environment

ENVIRONMENT

FOI Requests received	9
FOI Requests granted	7
FOI Requests part-granted	0
FOI Requests refused	1
FOI Requests on-hand at year-end	1
Grass maintained & managed (emphasis on biodiversity)	144 Hectares
Open spaces left to meadow (Wildflower Meadows Initiative)	9.29 Hectares
Coastal flower meadow	2 Hectares
Dungarvan Presentation Community Employment Scheme continued to operate successfully in 2023	
Children's sensory play equipment installed in Playground, Walton Park, Dungarvan	
Discover Primary Science and Maths Discovery Centre: Kilbarry Nature Park	
IBAL ranking 13/40	
Cemetery improvement works undertaken at St. Declan's Cemetery, Tramore and Kilbarry Cemetery	
Phase 1 of Tramore Sensory Garden completed	
Commenced refurbishment of fountain in the People's Park	
Boules Court completed in the People's Park	
BMX Pump Track Opened in Fairlane Park, Dungarvan	
Outdoor Adult Exercise Areas opened in Tramore, Dungarvan and Carbally	
Resurfacing of playground at Manor St. John undertaken	
Amnesty day held in Dungarvan Civic Amenity Site for hazardous household waste	
Free collection days held across the County for householders to return electronic waste	5
Native saplings were distributed for planting	200
Schools which took part in the Green Schools Programme	86
Environment Inspectors employed	4
Litter fines issued	132
Fines issued under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations	7
Cases where legal proceedings have or are about to be initiated	8
Warning letters issued	31
Directions under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (WMA)	10
Statutory notices under Section 55 of the WMA	25
Statutory notice under Section 18 of the WMA	0
No. of households contacted re waste	327
Total environmental complaints/reports received	3,127
• Litter	668
• Waste Complaints	2,324
• Constructions and Demolition Waste Complaints	29
• Arts & Odour	43
• Noise	63
WCCC Bring-bank locations	71
WCCC Civic Amenity Sites	2

Roads, Water and Environment

385 tonnes textiles, 2,666 tonnes Glass, 36.68 tonnes Aluminium cans, 3 tonnes plastic bottles

Waste collected

Certificate of Registration	2
Waste Facility Permit	2
Technical Amendments	0
Dogs taken into Pound	228
Dogs reclaimed	55
Dogs rehomed	92
Dogs rehomed to Dog charities	80
Dogs euthanised (died in kennels)	3
Dogs on-hand at year end	8
Veterinary inspections	939
Stray horses seized	7
Stray horses rehomed	7

ROADS

Kilometres of National Primary Road Strengthened	3,230 m
Kilometres of National Secondary Road Strengthened	4,200 m
Kilometres of Regional Road Strengthened	12,826m
Kilometres of Regional Road Surface Dressed	20,329m
% of Non-National Roads Surveyed	RR 95% LPR 58% LSR 52%
Number of Bridges Repaired/Restored (Regional Roads)	5
Kilometres of Local Road Strengthened	53,078m
Kilometres of Local Road Surface Dressed	48,427m
Number of Bridges Repaired/Restored (Local Roads)	7
Safety Improvement Schemes (12)	€350,000
Local Improvement Schemes (12)	€760,000
Community Involvement Schemes (5)	€440,000
Climate Adaptation Schemes (12)	€475,000



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council