



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council



Annual Report 2022

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

'Voted as Ireland's Best Place to live - I believe that this report showcases the steps we have taken to be awarded this title, what we have achieved since 2021 and what we aim to achieve in 2023'

As Mayor of Waterford City & County, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2022. Voted as Ireland's Best Place to live - I believe that this report showcases the steps we have taken to be awarded this title, what we have achieved since 2021 and what we aim to achieve 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 2022 as we finally began to see the end of Covid restrictions and the return to normality. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of you for your contributions over the unprecedented times in the last few years and I am delighted to see our beautiful county so full of life again.



Cllr. John O'Leary
Mayor of Waterford City & County

As well as the return to normality, this year saw many welcome changes towards Waterford becoming decarbonised such as the introduction of the Active Travel Scheme. We also welcomed the additional funding towards the development of the North Quay's and look forward to this project commencing in 2023.

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 of 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 2023 brings for us.

Chief Executive's Introduction

'I welcome 2023 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 2022, I am proud to see what we have achieved as a council and as a county.

The health and wellbeing of our citizens and our staff is of the utmost importance to our organisation and we continue to engage in a large number of capital projects with a particular focus on the development and maintenance of leisure amenities throughout the county, such as the Waterford Greenway Bilberry Extension and the development of the North Quays.

Last year we announced our intention to become Ireland's first Decarbonised City and this continues to be at the fore of our green agenda. This year as a step towards achieving our aim we launched the Active Travel Scheme and the Bike Share Scheme. From an environmental angle, we also launched 2Go Cups which are reusable so as to cut down on the use of plastic and paper coffee cups.

I welcome 2023 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.



Michael Walsh

Waterford City & County Council Chief Executive

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BAM appointed as contractor for North Quays Public Infrastructure project



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 127,085.

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.



Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign Launch in Dungarvan

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
- Asset management
- 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

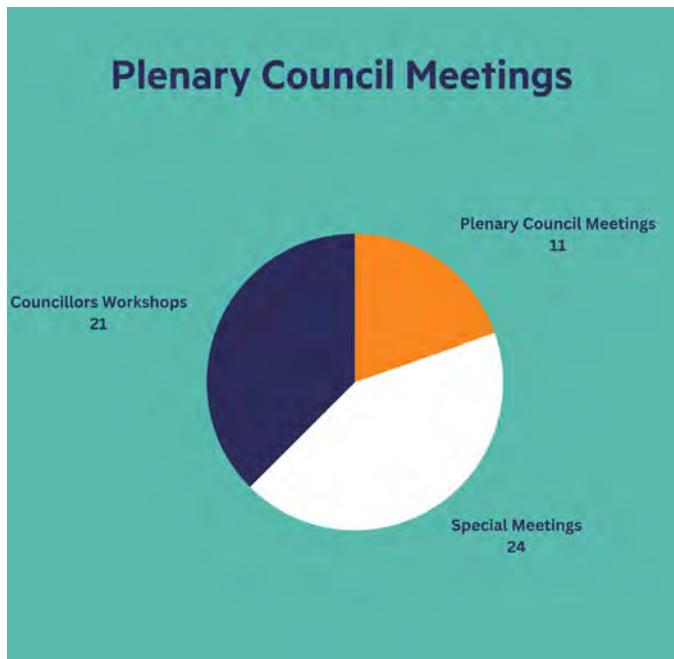
- Management of the financial resources of the Council
- Facilitation of borrowing and leases, and control the investment of fund
- Administer grants & subsidies under various funding schemes
- Preparation of financial statements, budgets and statements, etc.
- Administration of commercial rates, etc.

1.3 Council Meetings

There were 77 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
- 24 Special Meetings
- 21 Councillor Workshops



Metropolitan Council

- 11 Metropolitan Council meetings
- 25 Councillor Workshops

Comeragh Council

- 10 Comeragh Council meetings
- 8 Councillor Workshops

Dungarvan/Lismore Council

- 11 Dungarvan/Lismore Council meetings
- 15 Councillor Workshops

In addition, there were:

- 22 meetings across the 5 Strategic Policy Committees
- 5 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 6 times in 2022 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Capital Projects Review
- Town Centre First Policy
- Casual Trading Review
- LECP Advisory Committee
- Waterford Economic Strategy
- City & Town Centre Vibrancy
- Kinetic Labs
- Review of Rates Incentive Scheme

Presentations were made to the SPC by

- Waterford Local Enterprise Office
- Boxworks

Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald

This SPC met 4 times in 2022 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Draft Policy on Council Operated Burial Grounds
- Climate Action Plan 2021
- Draft Litter Byelaws 2022
- Leave No Trace Campaign
- Progress report on implementation of Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024
- Report on Bathing Water Quality at Dunmore East
- Reduce Your Use Campaign – Draft Energy Saving Booklet
- WCCC Climate Action Plan 2023
- Solid Fuel Regulations
- Smart Bottle Bank Project



Capacity Sensors in 70 Bring Bank Locations installed

Housing SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

This SPC met 4 times in 2022 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Ukrainian Accommodation and other services
- Affordable Housing Scheme
- Vacant Homes & Derelict Buildings
- Choice-based letting Scheme
- Waterford Communities Grants
- Anti-Social Behavioural Strategy
- Library services new Arts Plan
- Community Safety Partnership
- Creative Ireland Strategy
- Disability Steering Group Strategy
- Proposals for the Gaeltacht Area
- Keep Well Programme
- Walk of Fame



Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 launched

Transportation & Infrastructure SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Seamus O' Donnell

This SPC met 4 times in 2022 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- City Bike Scheme
- Waterford City Cycle Network Plan
- NTA - BusConnects Project
- Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (WMATS)
- Local Link Routes
- Active Travel Projects.
- Safe Route to Schools Programme (Active Travel)
- Parking - Campervans, Temporary Carparks, Tramore Parking
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Bye-laws - Control of Parking, Special Speed Limits, Beach



Housing Minister launching new development in Carrickperish

Planning SPC

Chaired by Cllr. Thomas Phelan

This SPC met 4 times in 2022 to consider policies in relation to the following areas:

- Development Plan 2022-2028
- Development Contribution Scheme 2022-2028
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Local Area Plans - Dungarvan & Tramore
- Derelict Sites
- Taking in Charge Policy 2023
- Interpretation Plan for Waterford's Medieval City



Launching of Transport For Ireland Bike Share scheme in Waterford City

1.5 Festival Snapshots

2022 saw the return to normality which meant the return of festivals and events. After 2 years of cancelled events and restricted numbers to events that did happen, it brought great joy to see people being able to partake in them again.

Festivals were kicked off by Spraoi's Salute to Spring which took place from February 1st in Dungarvan. Spraoi created a large-scale art installation on the Arts Centre's external walls which was illuminated at night and remained in-situ throughout February. St. Patrick's Day returned with not just a parade for the first time since 2019, but also a new three-day festival from March 17th to 19th. The parade was welcomed through the streets of Waterford and was followed by a festival of music, fairground rides, entertainment, and fireworks.

March also saw the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall arriving in Waterford City under blue skies and warm sunshine. Prince Charles and his wife Camilla did a walkabout where they were shown the history of our city before going on to visit other notable areas of Waterford.



King Charles during his visit to Waterford

Waterford was voted Ireland's Best Place to Live in 2021 and this was celebrated in 2022 when John Roberts Square in Waterford City became a hive of music, magic, and free family entertainment. Followed by an afternoon of community fun to the new plaza in Tramore, with live music and street entertainment to mark the official opening of the new urban renewal space.

The 13th annual West Waterford Festival of Food took place in June after a two-year absence. Producers, chefs, suppliers, growers, and brewers prepared for one of Ireland's biggest foodie festivals which shines a spotlight on West Waterford and the amazing culinary talent that comes from the area. June saw the celebration of LGBTQ+ people, culture and communities during Pride month. Dungarvan held their first Pride Parade and adorned Grattan Square with Pride banners and with almost 800 ft of Pride bunting along Main Street, O Connell St, Meagher St and along the Causeway. The festival programme also included workshops, a Pride March from Cathedral Square to the Cultural Quarter, GAYREA Youth Pride Party, PRIDE Ride Greenway Cycle and Rural Pride celebration.

Waterford's long-awaited Comeragh's Wild Festival was back from July 7th to 10th after a two-year COVID-enforced break and it was bigger and better than ever with loads of fabulous, family-focused events and plenty to see and do for lovers of the great outdoors.



Comeragh Wilds Festival 2022

The 30th Spraoi Festival made a welcome return on the August Bank Holiday weekend. A weekend filled with entertainment and live performances culminated in a parade and a spectacular fireworks display.

The Vitamin Sea Festival which celebrates Tramore's food and outdoors saw a fun filled, family weekend take place in September. Dunmore East saw the

return of the Bluegrass Festival and the seaside town saw an influx of people ready to don their best Cowboy attire and enjoy the musical going-ons over the weekend.

The Harvest Festival returned to Waterford City for the 13th year. This years festival focused hugely on sustainability while showcasing Waterford's rich food heritage and celebrating the County's diverse restaurants, eateries and producers. Imagine Arts Festival celebrated its 21st year



Winter Solstice Firedance



Winterval

with visual artist Gottfried Helnwein and Irish author, singer and songwriter Declan O'Rourke in attendance in Christ Church Cathedral. There was a number of events throughout the city over the 5 day festival including musical performances, tours of the Distillery and tours of the historical sites.



Harvest Festival

Winterval returned for it's 10th year and came back bigger than ever. This years festival saw food and craft markets, the return of lots of the original attractions and the introduction of new attractions, live music and performances and an enchanting display of festive decoration.

2022 closed out with the Winter Solstice Firedance. The evening saw the unveiling of a gigantic outside clock at the Museum of Time at Greyfriars. This was followed by live performances on the South Plaza and yet another fantastic fireworks display. Dungarvan also saw musical performances and a fireworks display along the Quay's.



St. Patrick's Day Festival



2. Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

The Corporate Plan 2020 - 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

As the South East's largest urban area, Waterford is a key driver for the growth of the region. Having been identified in the National Planning Framework as the principal urban centre and the economic engine for the region, Waterford, traditionally renowned as an industrial centre, has evolved and is attracting global tech and pharma companies and talent.

While we retain a strong manufacturing sector with an impressive global reach, the diversity of sectors means that more overseas tech, pharma, and life science companies are choosing Waterford.

As Ireland's largest city region with 635,000 people within a 60-minute catchment, the city offers a real counterbalance to Dublin, particularly considering its connectivity, infrastructure and specialist talent.

The recent announcement of Government approval for €170.6m of investment in the Waterford North Quays Infrastructure Project heralds a game-changing era for Waterford's future economic development, along with its environmental, tourism, retail, and cultural sectors. BAM, was appointed for the construction of the new integrated transport hub and the sustainable transport bridge, while Harcourt Developments, was appointed for the commercial development of the site.

This project is quickly becoming a reality as enabling projects got underway: construction has begun on the new Ferrybank Pump Station, enabling works on the South Plaza for the sustainable transport bridge, and rock stabilisation works at Plunkett Station.

With the launch of Waterford's Decarbonisation Roadmap last year, the Council's Environment department has begun taking steps to achieve carbon neutrality. Public lighting, the largest energy user, are being replaced with new energy efficient LED lights. A Rates Discount was offered to businesses engaging in energy efficiency works to support their transition

to carbon neutrality. The Council has also begun the electrification of its own fleet with the delivery of two new electric vans.

On the 1st of May 2022, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris established South East Technological University (SETU). SETU will play a pivotal role in Waterford's development, attracting SMEs, foreign direct investment (FDI) and inward investment by linking knowledge, research, education, innovation, and international collaboration.

The introduction of the region's first technological university provides a strong academic talent pipeline of 15,000 students, with 5,000 graduating annually, with a robust focus on STEM.

Construction on the Waterford Greenway extension to Bilberry began. This €6.8 million investment in the Greenway will link Dungarvan straight into the City Centre and facilitate the link to the New-Ross Greenway also, thereby strengthening the network of Greenways across Waterford and the Southeast region.



South Plaza realm and Sustainable Transport Bridge

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 2022 included:

- The development of the Greenway extension from Bilberry to City Centre; acquisition of lands at Ballinroad, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford for road improvements; acquisition of Lands at Knockanore, Co. Waterford for footpath improvements; began the acquisition process for development of new car park at Ardmore; investigation of Dromore Quay public access; acquisition of lands from CIE at Abbey Road for the Greenway; and continued regularisation of title on Council Car-Parks throughout County for the Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure Directorate.
- The completion of disposal to Harcourt Developments, the completion of disposals and acquisitions of land to and from CIE to facilitate the development of the new Transport Hub and Pedestrian Bridge for the development of the North Quays; working with the URDF team to redevelop Viking Triangle and Cultural Quarter properties, including CPO of 25&26 O'Connell Street, Waterford City, acquisition of former Munster Express, 37 The Quay and 1-7 Hanover St, acquisition of the former Bank of Ireland Premises at Lismore and acquisition of Portlaw GAA Club for the Urban Regeneration Development Fund; and the continuation of Cappoquin Regeneration Programme, the Ardmore regeneration plan-proposed acquisition and disposal and remote working hubs in the city and county for the Rural Regeneration Development Fund for the Economic Development Directorate.
- Disposal of land, sales of property and local plans at Lidl, Fairlane, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; Lidl, Carrickpherish, Waterford City; Ballybeg, Waterford City; and Crematorium, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
- The acquisition of 38 houses and 26 apartments for Social Housing, sites at 49 Ballybricken, 2 sites at 8 & 9 Chapel Lane for housing development and acquisition of a site at the former De La Salle Monastery for the Housing Directorate.



Cultural Quarter property

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

2.2 Creating a balance between Rural and Urban Development

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 Council was successful in receiving funding for €1.4m for three Digital Transformation Hubs in Dungarvan under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) to provide remote working facilities in the town centre. This will provide capacity for 190 people working in Dungarvan town centre. €5m in funding was also made available through the RRDF to officially open Enterprise Hubs in Tallow, Lismore, Cappoquin and Villierstown.

Last year, Waterford City was successful in securing an allocation of €27,660,000 under the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien for an ambitious City Centre regeneration project. In 2022, WCCC commenced work on 16-18 Barker Place, which will refurbish the ground floor of the building to provide a community and arts/entertainment space on O'Connell St. The space will allow local groups a facility for workshops, meetings and events within the heart of the Cultural Quarter. The project is expected to be completed in Q2 of 2023.

The Parade Quay scheme is due to commence statutory proceedings in 2023 after being announced in November. 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.

Tramore Public Realm works were completed in 2022, helping to improve the offering of Main Street for visitors and residents alike. No.9 Main Street also had works done to restore the property to use with the aim of creating an additional retail offering with a



Minister in Waterford officially opened Enterprise Hubs in Tallow, Lismore, Cappoquin and Villierstown

residential unit above. Works began to refurbish and redevelop the offering of Mount Congreve Gardens and Estate, to be officially opened in Q1 2023.

The Council aims to maximise the impact of rural development utilising national funding through the LEADER programme in conjunction with the Local Community Development Committee, and to access central government/EU funding under Rural Regeneration Development Fund, Town and Village Renewal Scheme, CLÁR and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, among others.



Carroll Cross Road Works

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

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

In 2022, Waterford Libraries returned to full hours and full services after a long period of remote services due to Covid-19. Waterford Libraries were also awarded over €310,000 under the 'My Open Library' initiative to extend opening hours for wider access to services as well as €33,597 to assist in extending services to marginalised groups.



Tracy McEaney Waterford Libraries

Tourism, Enterprise & Economic Development

The Council's tourism team had a year of exciting activity with the launch of South East Food Stories, spreading awareness of the fantastic food offering in Waterford. The Museum of Time was elected as the only Irish Finalist for the British Guild of Travel Writers International Tourism Awards 2022 and had the 'Flying Clock' sculpture installed at the entrance.

The refurbishment of Mount Congreve Gardens took place to further improve its fantastic offering and will be officially opened in 2023. The Activity Facility Centres in Tramore and Ardmore received the greenlight in 2022 with a view to start works in 2023. Waterford Greenway celebrated its fifth birthday since its launch highlighting the opportunities this amenity had brought to Waterford.

The Economic Development department had a busy year with the conclusion of the Local Flavours Interreg Project which aimed to improve the reputation and profile of Waterford's tourism offering. Business supports continued to be offered through the Economic Incentive Scheme for new businesses and the Shop Front Improvement Scheme for the presentation of urban centres. Economic Development also had a very successful year for festivals with the full return of Comeragh Wilds, the Harvest Festival and Ireland's largest Winter festival; Winterval.

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.



Waterford Local Enterprise Digital Awards

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

Cultural life

The Arts Service took to the ground running this year with a vibrant arts programme. This includes the inaugural St. Valentines Festival, Poetry Day, the Foolhardy Festival of Comedy and Commedia, the Winter Firedance, and the Imagine Arts Festival. Arts funding continued with the new Music and Entertainment Business Assistance Scheme (MEBAS) rolled out to support self-employed performers and artists who had lost out in revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Arts Practice, Venue and Festival Grants were also offered with a budget of €90,000.

Waterford Cultural Quarter hosted a wide variety of festivals including St Patricks Festival, Africa Day, Summer in the City and Winterval. Plans to redevelop several vacant buildings progressed with acquisitions and construction works including the forthcoming WCQ Community and Cultural Hub on O'Connell Street. Collaborations with SETU, Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford Integration Services produced the Crafts Market Co-Design Project. The Waterford Gallery of Art began to be reopened.

Creative Waterford was involved in a wide variety of projects promoting creativity in the community. These included the Waterford Designers and Makers exhibition, Diverse Waterford, an oral history project, Waterford Intergenerational Music Project and Re-fashioning the Future which examined the role of smart textiles. Creative Waterford and Calmast in SETU delivered ACT Waterford, a Creative Climate Action project funded by Creative Ireland which worked with communities on five environmental themes with creatives and artists.

A highlight of cultural life in 2022 was the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall who toured Waterford City. The two guests were very impressed by the city with the Prince of Wales remarking during their visit "...Waterford is a city of promise and hope for the future".



St. Valentines Post Box of Love Arts Office



Biodiversity Garden and Sculpture unveiled in Theatre Royal



Mayor of Waterford City and County Cllr Joe Kelly Celebrating Africa Day

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

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 the 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

2022 has been a notable year for Community Services as Waterford City & County is one of three areas chosen as a pilot for the Local Community Safety Partnership. It is a new government initiative that brings together statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, local councillors and community members to work together to identify and tackle community safety issues locally.

2022 also saw Waterford taking on the role of hosting refugees as part of the Ukrainian Community Response. 1,054 refugees were taken into the Council's rest centres during 2022 of which 759 were matched with longer term accommodation. Throughout the year various community and voluntary groups hosted several events and activities for our Ukrainian friends and work is ongoing to with helping them integrate into the community.

As part of Healthy City and County programme, phase 3 was completed, the recruitment phase began for a Healthy Ireland Coordinator to deliver on round 4 funding for the period June 2022-December 2025. One of the projects was to launch a specific Healthy Ireland grant scheme along with a survey to gather information on the needs of groups in Waterford. 21 groups were allocated funding to complete projects in line with the Healthy Ireland guidelines with over 180 surveys being completed.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a complex change programme which will address the root causes of health behaviours which stem from negative exposure to the wider determinants of health. A Sláintecare Local Development Officer (LDO) was employed by the Council in Q1 2022 to implement the programme in the identified areas of deprivation in Waterford City. Lots of work has been progressed in Waterford with various community groups which has led to funding 3 organisations directly and matching others with similar work. 4 projects were funded through the Enhancement Fund in 2022 which include footpath works at Mount Sion, improving the playing surface at Bernard Place Tennis Courts, extension of the range of play equipment at Ballybeg Playground, improved footpaths, and seating at Ballybricken Green.



Sláintecare Healthy Communities launched



Ukrainian Community in Waterford

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

Housing

In 2022, 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 launched 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.

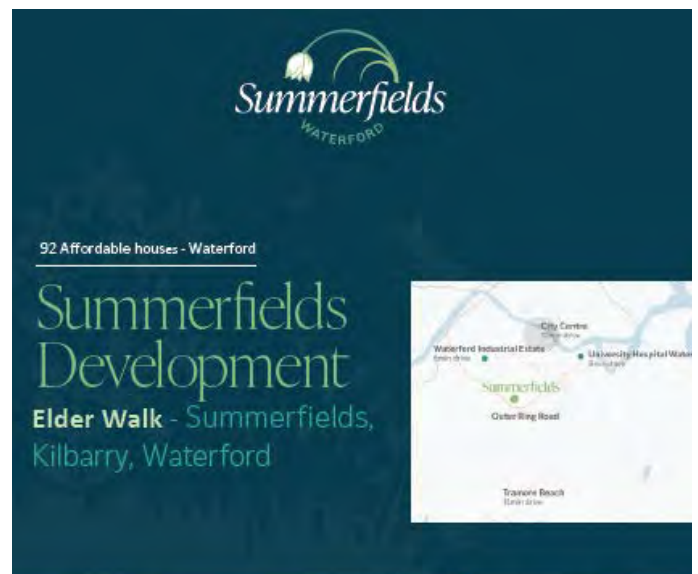
Through Housing for All new social housing units were launched at Ballytruckle (14 units), Kilmacthomas (16 units), Carrickphierish (57 units) and construction began on 49 new units at Ballygunner. The social housing development at Larchville, built in 2021, was shortlisted as a finalist in the Irish Building and Design Awards, “Public Sector – Housing Project of the Year”.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax draft map was launched. This draft map laid out the first steps of the introduction of a new tax to incentivise the construction of new housing by activating zoned, serviced residential development land which will begin in 2024.

2022 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 3,618 callers seeking their services in 2022 (2.9% increase), and 1,331 homeless presentations (16.8% increase). 954 formal homeless assessments were carried out (26% increase).



Mount William estate officially opened



Affordable Housing Scheme Launched



Waterford’s social housing development, Port na Machan in Kilmacthomas officially opened

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

Customer Services / Communications

The Irish Office continued to support the delivery of services through the Irish language under the Official Languages Acts and other legislation. The Council agreed a new Irish Language Scheme for the period 2022-2025 with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, and it came into effect in February.

Certain provisions of the Official Languages Act, 2021 were enacted during the year, most noticeably Section 10A in relation to Advertising by Public Bodies. Waterford City & County Council developed and began implementing a new procedure for ensuring compliance with these legislative provisions towards year end.

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. 2022 also saw the roll out of the WIFI4EU Programme where a number of open Wi-Fi zones were established in various towns and locations. 2022 also saw the Council migrating to Office 365 which has benefits for communication and resiliency in the work being done.

The Councillors Representations Portal was launched which allows Elected Members to raise issues directly to the Council using an online portal that filters issues to the relevant department. The new e-Planning portal also went live to allow for the submission of planning applications online.

The Office of the Language Commissioner received a single complaint by a member of the public in relation to Waterford City & County Council in 2022. The complaint related to the production of the Council's new Development Plan.

The Communications department continued to deliver a high volume of editorial output in 2022. Over 200 press releases were distributed to local, regional and national media, along with over 100 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 an unprecedented level; a 55.5% to 8,817,471 compared to 5,782,800 in 2021. Website traffic remained steady with Waterford City & County Council's main website recording 1.3 million page views in 2022.

The most visited pages on the website were 1) Online Planning Enquiries, 2) Choice Based Lettings,

3) Online payments, 4) Vacancies and 5) Planning Related Information.

There were 1.05 million unique visitors to our main website, each spending an average of 2 minutes on the site.

In recognition of Waterford being awarded the title of Best Place to Live by the Irish Times, the Communications department organised an event to celebrate the accolade on April 29th in Waterford's Theatre Royal.

The event celebrated and explored what makes Waterford Ireland's Best Place to Live. It featured lively and engaging conversations with the Irish Times editorial staff and local business leaders, discussing a wide range of topics including the region's burgeoning talent pool; our sustainable future and Waterford culture, community & connectedness.

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 Library Service continue to work with Creative Waterford to develop the Diverse Waterford Oral History Project to facilitate and support communities and individuals in collecting the diverse voices and stories of Waterford. A website <https://www.diversewaterford.ie/> was made available to make the collections available and to celebrate the voices of Waterford.

File deliveries to staff continued throughout 2022 on a weekly basis and 1192 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.

File due for destruction were confidentially disposed of and works 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 of for the revision of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records produced by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

Progress on Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024

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.

2022 was the first full working year for the newly established Active Travel team. There were 80 individual schemes on the 2022 programme including the widening of footpaths, segregated cycle lanes, improved crossing facilities, provision of cycle parking and the Safe Routes to School Initiative. Waterford's first School Street was officially launched in Tramore at Glor na Mara National School in 2022. Their impact on the city can already be seen through the installation of 14 docking stations for the TFI bike rental scheme.

2022 was a busy year for Climate Action Team. Works continued improving the energy efficiency of Council buildings and as energy costs rose, we joined the Reduce Your Use campaign to save energy within Council buildings.

In late 2022 work commenced on the County Climate Action Plan, to date a Baseline Emissions Inventory and a Climate Risk Assessment have been completed.

A draft of the Plan will be available in early 2023. Measures implemented through the WCCC Climate Action Team Include:

- Solar Photovoltaic installation completed at Dungarvan Fire Station
- New WCCC electric van delivered for use by Environmental Inspector.
- Air to Water heat pump installation completed at Dungarvan Sports Centre.
- WCCC "Energy Saving Booklet" distributed to 35,000 houses in Waterford in November 2022. The booklet highlights energy savings that can be made by homeowners and the funding available for energy upgrades.



First SafeRouteToSchool implemented



Solar Photovoltaic installation at the WCCC Dungarvan Depot

2022 in photos



Waterford ranked as Ireland's Only Clean City - IBAL



Waterford Digital Strategy launched



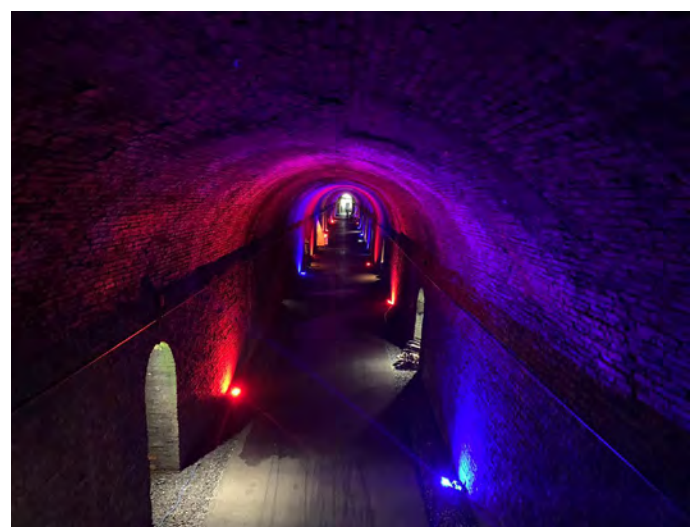
Dungarvan Skate Park Opened



Mallow-Dungarvan greenway link feasibility study launched



Schools Litter Challenge 2022



Spooky Tunnel at Waterford Greenway



Bike parking Active Travel scheme



Waterford Welcome Ambassadors back after COVID-19 hiatus



Waterford Digital Story AR Trail Launched



'Blacksmith' Sculpture Officially Unveiled at Durrrow Station



Waterford Greenway named 'Best Visitor Attraction' in the Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards



€7m Ferrybank Pump Station Construction work began



Launching of Your Waterford



Waterford Gallery of Art



Announcement of RRDF Funding- Cappoquin Regeneration Project



Churchyard Sessions



Waterford Gallery of Art



Waterford Walls at the library



Waterford Greenway – Suir Blueway connection



Waterford wins Share Island Fund



Make Way Day



US Ambassador visit



Irish Language Plan for Dungarvan approved



Pride Month

Waterford
Ireland's Best
Place To Live

Our Sustainable Future



KEVIN O'SULLIVAN
Environment and
Science Editor
The Irish Times



FERGUS GALVIN
Director of Services
Waterford City and
County Council



COLIN JEPHSON
Director
Ardkeen Quality
Food Store



FRANK RONAN
Chief Executive
Port of
Waterford

THE IRISH TIMES



Appendixes

Appendix 1

Financial Review 2022

Social and economic activity returned to more normal levels as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic subsided from the start of 2022. With this improving situation the level of support provided by central Government also reduced significantly from the level supports provided in 2021. Total COVID economic supports reduced €10.8M in 2021 to €1.04M in 2022 with supports being restricted to the hospitality sector in Q1 of 2022.

Income from Goods and services returned to levels like pre-pandemic levels. Income streams from areas such as Rents, Car parking, Road Opening Licences, Leases, Festivals, NPPR, etc. all generated income that exceeded the 2022 Budget expectations.

There were variances, both positive and negative across most operational areas such as, Fire Service, Street Cleaning, Library service, Archive services, Civil Defence, Economic Development, Tourism, and the Arts program, however for the most part these variances were not materially outside the normal parameters. The major exception was energy costs which cut through many operational areas. This cost increased by €1.6M or almost 42% from 2021 costs.

Notwithstanding the scale of the energy costs, the two most significant areas that warrant note relates to the Collections of Debts and the Capital account, both of which were positive for the year.

Collections

Collections across the three major Debtor groups, (Rates, Rents & Loans), improved in 2022 showing an overall reduction to the arrears position of almost 30% versus the 1st of January 2022.

This result is particularly pleasing given the uncertain conditions that pertained at the beginning of the year, and the fact that this improvement came on top of a strong performance in 2021. In the period from the 1st of January 2021 to 31st of December 2022 the arrears across these income groups fell by more than €8.8M, equivalent to a 51% reduction in arrears. Of the €8.8M reduction almost €8M relates to rates.

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 2022 was €0.2780.

The COVID-19 support from central Government fell to €1.04M in 2022 from €9.88M in 2021 and €14.8 million in 2020.

A continued and concerted effort by the rates team applying newly developed processes and escalation strategies drove this improvement and while COVID & COVID supports may have muddied the waters in relation to collection performance, the rates collection performance has moved from the last quartile to being comfortably within the first quartile of collection performances amongst all 31 LA's.

Housing Loans

We have continued to offer sustainable solutions to borrowers in arrears and have used various mechanisms available to re-structure distressed loans. The closing arrears have reduced by almost €400K since Jan 2021, a 20 % reduction in arrears.

While we consider this performance to be satisfactory, it is anticipated this will improve significantly over the next two years.

Capital

The improved position with regard to collections has allowed us to release over €6M of Bad Debt reserves which in turn has allowed us to provide for a significant proportion of the WCCC contributions that will be required to complete the 2022-2026 Capital plan approved during 2022. Approx 30% of the requirement under this plan have now been transferred in the 2022 accounts.

The cumulative deficit has also been reduced by €1.4 to €1.3M.

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.

Appendix 2

Councillors Meetings Attendance 2022

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Meetings Held*	
Joeanne Bailey	45	45	
Ger Barron	37	45	
Donal Barry	38	41	
Liam Brazil	37	39	
Declan Clune	36	41	
Joe Conway	35	41	
Tom Cronin	43	48	
Declan Doocey	35	41	
Pat Fitzgerald	57	58	
Damien Geoghegan	38	45	
Jim Griffin	43	45	
John Hearne	41	41	
Joe Kelly	44	51	
Cristiona Kiely	43	47	
Conor McGuinness	43	47	
Jason Murphy	39	41	
Pat Nugent	51	54	
Seamus O'Donnell	32	47	
John O'Leary	46	50	
Lola O'Sullivan	41	43	
Thomas Phelan	55	58	
Jody Power	36	41	
Seanie Power	38	39	
John Pratt	39	41	
Eamon Quinlan	48	56	
Frank Quinlan	35	41	
Mary Roche	45	47	
Seamus Ryan	31	41	
Adam Wyse	37	41	
Stephanie Keating	10	11	
Mairead Tobin	8	10	
James Tobin R.I.P	20	21	04/07/2022
Davy Daniels R.I.P.	36	41	10/01/2022
Eddie Mulligan	25	26	Resigned 21/08/2022

*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
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
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
Mairead Tobin	Fianna Fáil	Dungarvan / Lismore (Co-opted October 2022)
Stephanie Keating	Fianna Fáil	Waterford City East (Co-opted October 2022)
Eddie Mulligan	Fianna Fáil	Waterford City East (Resigned Aug 22)
James Tobin	Fianna Fáil	Dungarvan / Lismore (R.I.P. 04/07/2022)
Davy Daniels	Independent	Waterford City East (R.I.P. 10/01/2023)

List of other Designated Public Officials

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. Bernard Pollard	Head of Finance & Cost Management
Mr. Ivan Grimes	Director of Services for Housing, Community and Emergency Services

Payments to Councillors in 2022

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

Representational Payments	€853,029
Local Representative Allowance (*)	€115,317
Annual Expense Allowance	€220,403
Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Allowance Total	€29,770
Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cathaoirliagh Allowances (January to December)	€63,808
Training and Conferences	€36,667
Total payments to Councillors	€1,318,994

Training & Conference Expenses

Councillor	Conferences	Training	Total Payments
Cllr. Ger Barron	-	€1,449.23	€1,449.23
Cllr. Donal Barry	-	-	-
Cllr. Liam Brazil	-	€478.45	€478.45
Cllr. Declan Clune	€521.98	€3,546.36	€4,068.34
Cllr. Joe Conway	-	€2,801.55	€2,801.55
Cllr. Tom Cronin	€789.91	€3,679.50	€4,469.41
Cllr. Declan Doocey	-	€990.25	€990.25
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	-	-	-
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	€890.49	€2,217.28	€3,107.77
Cllr. Jim Griffi	-	-	-
Cllr. John Hearne	-	-	-
Cllr. Joe Kelly	€297.15	€893.79	€1,190.94
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	-	€1,184.72	€1,184.72
Cllr. Jason Murphy	€866.76	€3,294.18	€4,160.94
Cllr. Pat Nugent	-	-	-
Cllr. Seamus O' Donnell	-	-	-
Cllr. John O' Leary	€601.28	€3,046.71	€3,647.99
Cllr. Lola O' Sullivan	€350.74	-	€350.74
Cllr. Thomas Phelan	€176.87	-	€176.87
Cllr. Jody Power	€557.45	€22.79	€580.24
Cllr. Seanie Power	-	-	-
Cllr. John Pratt	€499.61	€4,375.95	€4,875.56
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan	-	€774.72	€774.72
Cllr. Frank Quinlan	-	-	-
Cllr. Mary Roche	-	-	-
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	-	-	-
Cllr. Adam Wyse	€192.77	-	€192.77
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey	-	-	-
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	-	-	-
Cllr. Stephanie Keating	-	-	-
Cllr. Mairead Tobin	-	-	-
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	-	-	-
Cllr. James Tobin R.I.P.	-	€2,166.47	€2,166.47
Cllr. Davy Daniels R.I.P.	-	-	-
TOTALS	€5,745.01	€30,921.95	€36,666.96

Council Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

Cllr Pat Nugent (Chairperson)
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
Cllr Declan Clune (resigned October 2022)
Cllr Eddie Mulligan (resigned August 2022)
Mr. Garrett Wyse, (PPN) Social inclusion rep.
Ms. Gerty Murphy, (PPN) Community & Voluntary rep.
Mr. David Lane, SIPTU, Trade union rep.
Mr. Oren Byrne, Business
Ms. Maoliosa Ni Chleirigh, Environment
Mr. Kevin Kiersey, Irish Farmers Association rep
Mr. David Walsh, Business rep. (resigned May 2022)

Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Action SPC

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald (Chairperson)
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. John Hearne
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
Ms. Laura Forbes-O'Brien – IFA rep.

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.

Planning SPC

Cllr. Thomas Phelan (Chair)
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Cllr. Seáníe Power
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Mairead Tobin
Cllr. Davy Daniels (R.I.P. January 2023)
Cllr. James Tobin (R.I.P July 2022)
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.
Mr. Donal Lehane, 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.

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 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 2022, by directorate

Economic Development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Shop Front Improvement Scheme 2022	€60,000
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE	
LEO jobs supported	1,222
Net jobs created by LEO clients	61
No. of LEO clients securing financial grants	29
Value of LEO grants	€465,713
No. of clients approved Trading Online Vouchers	65
Value of Trading Online Vouchers	€145,340
LEO training events	109
LEO training participants	1,725
LEO mentoring sessions	299
LEO core clients companies	280
LEO Local Enterprise Week	10 Events, 421 Participants
LEAN for Micro Programme	8
Green for Micro Programme	15
No. of schools in Student Enterprise Programme	11
No. of students in Student Enterprise Programme	720
PROJECTS	
URDF funding	€27.66m
Investment in Waterford Greenway	€6.8m
Water Activity Centres	€2,43m
TOURISM	
Funding secured for Tourism projects (Watersports centres)	€1,715,000 – ongoing project
Social media followers to Visit Waterford socials	Facebook: 30,000 – Instagram: 7,391 – Twitter: 6,301
Social media followers to Waterford Greenway socials	Facebook; 34,000 – Instagram; 5,464 – Twitter; 6,455
No. of tourism centres supported by WCCC	4



Housing, Community, Planning and Emergency Services

HOUSING

No. of callers to Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	3,618
No. of homeless presentations to WIHS Homeless Team	1,331
No. of formal homeless assessment carried out	954
No. of Housing First tenancies in place at 31/12/2021	32
HAP Placefinder Tenancies created	132 - 62 Singles, 70 Families
Homeless Preventions	107 Families, 186 Singles adults
No. of people assisted to exit homelessness	47 Families, 104 Singles adults
Number of Households assisted in Sustaining their tenancies	7
Choice Based Letting	28,169 expressions of interest, all from 1,988 distinct applicants
Total properties advertised on CBL in 2022	
• Metro	Expressions of interest : 24,961 Properties :165
• Comeragh	Expressions of interest: 1,799 Properties:25
• West	Expressions of interes: 1,409 Properties: 20
• Total	Expressions of interest: 28,169 Properties: 210
Housing applications received	959
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	434
Housing Allocations	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2022
• Comeragh Municipal	26
• Dungarvan/Lismore Municipal	27
• Metropolitan	268
• Approved Housing Bodies	166
• Totals	487

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.

No of visitors to Local Authority operated sports facilities	127,647
Number of groups registered with the PPN	581
Percentage of schools/groups involved with Comhairle nan-Óg:	90%
Supporting Waterford Community Grant Scheme	€195,500 – grants awarded to 336 projects
Community Activities Fund	€288,997 – grants awarded to 146 groups
PPN Membership 2022	581 member groups
Community Department Festivals support	€74,937 (11 Festivals)
St Patricks Day Festival 2022	over 20,000 viewers of the parade
Waterford Traveller Inter-Agency Group 2022 meetings	6
Yellow Flag schools	6
Migrant Integration Strategy Focus Group meetings	6
Ukrainian Community Response	Over 1,054 refugees were taken into the Council Rest Centres and 759 were matched with long term accommodation

No. of LCDC meetings held in 2022		11
Skills Enhancement LCDC subgroup meetings		6
'WellWaterford' healthy Ireland sub committee of the LCDC meetings		8
Social Inclusion Community Activation Fund assistance	€1,423,339: 66 community groups and 1,013 individuals	
Verification reviews of the implementation of the SICAP programme	6 on site verification visits	
Waterford Local Action Group (LAG) meetings		12
LAG projects approved		17
Total LEADER Funds claimed		€2,275,499.14
LAG – Public targeted calls for projects		4
LAG evaluation committee meetings		9
LAG public meetings held		12
Waterford LAG nationally ranked in the Top 5 for project delivery		
Williamstown Golf Club		21,500 visitors
Improvements to Williamstown Golf Course	One acre of wildflowers was planted Practice net was installed on practice green Concrete steps were installed at some tees to assist access for elderly visitors	
Golf societies hosted in 2022		13
Improvements at Regional Sports Centre (RSC)	200 new trees planted Improvements made to back pitch drainage Upgrading of all internal lighting to energy efficient lighting	
Carrickphierish Sports Hall		11,870 users
Improvements to Dungarvan Sports Centre	Heating system was upgraded to an energy efficient heat pum	
New play facilities	Fairlane Park Dungarvan: skateboard park, disability swings and performance area	
National Play Day	200 play-packs were distributed to Oasis House, Barnardos and Dungarvan Traveller Health Community	
Healthy Ireland funding	€21,000 to 21 community and voluntary groups	
Healthy Ireland Round 4 consultation day	39 organisations represented	
Healthy Ireland carried out a survey of over 800 community and voluntary groups in Waterford to gather information for the Local Strategy		
Sláintecare Healthy Communities enhancement fund	€250,000 supported 4 community projects	
Sláintecare Healthy Communities seed fund	€75,000 supported 7 community projects	
Waterford Community Safety Partnership Plenary meetings		5
WCSP Steering and Thematic Working Group Meetings		11
WCSP Stakeholder Meetings		14
WCSP Public Engagement Meetings		4
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 firecalls	691
No. of special services calls	510
No. of false alarms	244
Total calls	1,445
Turnout Times	244
	4 min 21 secs (Retained brigades)
	1 min 3 secs (Full-time brigade)
Fire Safety Certificate applications assessed	108
Fire Safety inspections	81
Licence applications processed	96
Buildings inspected	73
Valid commencement notices issued	310
Completion certificates issued	204
PLANNING	
Draft Plan – January to February 2022 submissions received	479
Community Monuments Fund	€180,000
Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)	€193,965
The Historic Structures Fund (HSF)	€339,720
Heritage Council/ Irish Walled Towns Network	€15,000
Planning applications received (2022)	1,090
Planning application decided (2022)	1,024
Planning applications received (2021)	1,233
Planning application decided (2021)	996



Corporate, Culture, HR and IS

Digital Strategy 2022-2026

This strategy, which was produced by Waterford County Council in collaboration with local and national stakeholders, sets out our vision and key focus areas for the county for the next four years.

The Waterford Digital Strategy aims to enhance the digital maturity of the county and mobilise its strengths to become a smart, inclusive, and innovative place to live, work and visit. The strategy will initiate, and support, the development of actions that lead to a connected and collaborative digital society and economy over 4 years from 2022 to 2026.

The Strategy was informed by a public consultation process. It is a living document that will change and adapt with an ever-changing digital society, as such the actions of this plan will be continually monitored and updated.

The Waterford Digital Strategy 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

2022 saw the completion of a number 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 in Waterford city and a number of towns and villages across the county and provide access for all to hi-speed broadband at these locations. Waterford City and the towns of Lismore, Tramore, Dungarvan, Portlaoise, 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 2022. Free Wi-Fi is available at these locations. Several primary schools were also connected under the Schools BCP initiative and were supported by the Waterford broadband officer and The Department of Rural and Community Development.

2022 saw the IS team successfully complete the ambitious project to migrate the entire Waterford Council technical staff to Microsoft Office 365. As technology advanced, more reliable email solutions and systems such as the cloud hosted Office 365 from Microsoft have been developed to replace our traditional, on-premise Microsoft servers.

The Office 365 migration (that is the shift from the common Microsoft Office to Office 365) holds in store many benefits to Waterford City & County Council operations, with online access to email, presence/communication, collaboration, office web apps and more.

During 2022 the Council's internal digital mapping and spatial data environment was consolidated and upgraded. The new environment has enabled increased data enrichment, analysis, and presentation of valuable spatial datasets to decision makers throughout the council. The new environment also enabled the Planning department to review the draft development plan and to switch seamlessly to its adoption in July 2022.

Early 2022 saw the introduction of the online Councillors Representations Portal, which allows the Elected Members to log issues that they notice themselves or that have been brought to their attention by members of the public, e.g., littering, graffiti, road/footpath issues, derelict sites, etc

The new e-Planning portal went live mid-year. This allows applicants and agents to submit planning applications and all associated documentation online. The system is linked to the Council's back-office planning system so that the entire application process can be conducted online.

The Council's Electoral Register system was upgraded to facilitate the Electoral Registration Modernisation Programme, the main feature of which is the move away from static draft/live registers to a rolling (continuous) register.

A major project was also completed, in co-operation with our Finance department, to upgrade our Financial Management System (FMS), Agresso.

Corporate, Culture, HR and IS

CULTURE

No. of Creativity and Culture Team projects	18
No. of Creative Community projects funded	13
Creativity in Older Age	60 concerts held in care centres
Additional projects funded	3 Economic Action Fund, Creativity in Older Age, Social Prescribing Pilot Funding

LIBRARIES

No. of visitors to Waterford Libraries	308,141
No. of events held by Waterford Libraries	3,121
Annual expenditure on stock/ head of population	€1.70
No. of items issued	269,223
Registered members	26,122
No. of eaudiobook & ebook downloads	68,588
No. of emagazine downloads	11,908
Issues on Pressreader	70,191
Transparent Language sessions	38,135
Universal Class lessons viewed	5,793
Exhibitions	59
Healthy Ireland at Your Library	113 events - 1,522 attendees
Work Matters at the Library:	376 events - 2,734 attendees
Bealtaine events	28 events, 278 attendees
Children's Book festival Events	28 events, 1,979 attendees
Well festival of Mental Health and Wellbeing	4 events, 882 participants
Spring into Storytime events	34 events, 925 participants
Little Library book bags distributed to Junior Infants	1,380
Summer Star reading challenge events	21 events, 2,126 participants
Family time at your Library events	55 events, 1,194 participants
Read your Way challenge	900 students from 10 Secondary Schools
School service	773 primary school Library visits, 14 Post Primary visits, 15,362 class novels and services to 1,345 teachers. 6,965 Subscriptions to Times Tables Rockstars and 1,600 to Touch Type Read Spell
My Open Library services	€310,000 total funding: Tramore - €225,859. Dungarvan - €52,672, Lismore - €33,379
Dormant Accounts Fund	€33,597

ARTS

Income from Arts Council	€86,700
Arts Festivals	€294,000
Funding from Department of Arts	€200,000

ARCHIVES

Archives Service	132 queries received
Files issued on request to Council departments	1,192

IRISH LANGUAGE OFFICE

The Office of the Language Commissioner received a single complaint by a member of the public in relation to Waterford City & County Council in 2022.	
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Roads, Water and Environment

ENVIRONMENT

FOI Requests received	9
FOI Requests granted	6
FOI Requests part-granted	1
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
Large on-street planters maintained [Sustainable planting used within all on-street planters with pollinator friendly plants]	130
Woodland trail enhanced, for new Suir River Walk	3km
Ballybeg Playground amenities upgraded	
Ballybricken Green refurbishment completed	
Dungarvan Skatepark opened in May	
Disability swings installed in playgrounds in Dungarvan, Tramore and Waterford City	3
Bring banks capacity sensors installed	70
Moresby Park redevelopment in Dungarvan completed	
Native saplings were distributed for planting	300
Schools which took part in the Green Schools Programme	86
Environment Inspectors employed	4
Litter fines issued	166
Fines issued under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations	7
Cases where legal proceedings have or are about to be initiated	8
Warning letters issued	214
Directions under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (WMA)	24
Statutory notices under Section 55 of the WMA	32
Statutory notice under Section 18 of the WMA	12
No. of households contacted re waste	303
Total environmental complaints/reports received	2,664
• Litter	601
• Waste Complaints	1,775
• Constructions and Demolition Waste Complaints	29
• Arts & Odour	76
• Noise	135
WCCC Bring-bank locations	71
WCCC Civic Amenity Sites	2
Waste collected	338.49 tonnes textiles, 2,829 tonnes Glass, 39 tonnes Aluminium cans, 3 tonnes plastic bottles
Certificate of Registration	4
Waste Facility Permit	2
Technical Amendments	1

Roads, Water and Environment

Dogs taken into Pound	191
Dogs reclaimed	63
Dogs rehomed	58
Dogs rehomed to Dog charities	66
Dogs euthanised (died in kennels)	1
Dogs on-hand at year end	10
Veterinary inspections	60
Stray horses seized	7
Stray horses reclaimed	3
Stray horses rehomed	3
ROADS	
Kilometres of National Primary Road Strengthened	3.8 km
Kilometres of National Secondary Road Strengthened	690 m
Kilometres of Regional Road Strengthened	11.6 km
Kilometres of Regional Road Surface Dressed	25.2 km
% of Non-National Roads Surveyed	26.25%
Number of Bridges Repaired/Restored (Regional Roads)	3
Kilometres of Local Road Strengthened	34.6 km
Kilometres of Local Road Surface Dressed	46.4 km
Number of Bridges Repaired/Restored (Local Roads)	12
Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes (8)	€378,900
Local Improvement Schemes (11)	€576,080
Community Involvement Schemes (8)	€538,450
CLÁR funding	€130,050

Accolades received in 2022

- Discover Primary Science and Maths Discovery Centre - Kilbarry Nature Park
- IBAL ranking 12/40
- WCCC supported various Tidy Towns initiatives in 2022, with 2 Gold medal winners (Stradbally, Lismore), 4 Silver Medal winners (Ardmore, Ballymacarbery, Dungarvan, Tramore) and an Endeavour Award for Ballyduff Upper. Ardmore also received an Air Quality Award, a highly commended in the Young Persons in Tidy Town Award and St. Declan's National School in Ardmore was a Regional Winner in the Super Valu School Award.
- Waterford City and County Council's 'Learn to Cycle Track' in Dungarvan was announced as winner of the Health and Wellbeing category at the recent Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.
- The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools was run for all secondary schools in Waterford City and County in 2022. 15 secondary schools across the city and county entered the competition and received litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags to allow them to carry out litter picks of their local area. Over a six-week period, schools carried out clean ups, with many schools embracing the competition fully, carrying out 3 clean ups a week with different classes. Blackwater Community College won this year's competition.



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council