

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001,
SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
MARCH MONTHLY
MANAGEMENT REPORT**



MARCH 2017

To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the March Monthly Meeting

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report–(Appendix 1).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th April, 2017: Official Opening of St. Mary's Medieval Mile Museum at 11.00 a.m. by Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Mr. Patrick O'Donovan, T.D.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

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ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

TII HD 28 Management of Skid Resistance Programme

Under the 2017 HD28 Programme, Kilkenny County Council received a combined Capital allocation of €205,000 to carry out remedial works on the National Road Network. The sections of road to be targeted for treatment were identified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In total 18 sites were identified with 16 of same requiring surface re-texturing treatment. Recently a contract was awarded for this re-texturing requirement and works have now commenced on site.

Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2015 -2020

A key action under the Kilkenny Road Safety Plan is to increase the number of checkpoints and inspections for abnormal loads and safety checks on commercial vehicles. To deliver on this objective, Kilkenny Co. Co., in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, identified two sites where purpose built weighbridge stations would greatly improve the deliverability of this objective.

It is noted the Weighbridge Station on the R912 in Paulstown was recently completed and the station on the N25 Glenmore Hill will be completed in the near future.



R912 Paulstown Weighbridge Station

An Garda Síochána, in partnership with Kilkenny County Council, will operate these mobile weighbridge stations to ensure heavy goods vehicles comply with the weight limits set out in the road traffic legislation.

HOUSING:

February 2017 Housing

Number awaiting social housing support at 28th February, 2017	2119
Number of assessment interviews carried out in February :	30
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	10
Number of HAP tenancies to 28th February	741
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	3
Anti social behaviour cases:	9
New Homeless Presentations:	26
Maintenance Calls for February 2017	460
Maintenance Calls year to date	912
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	7
Amount of Loans Approved to 28th February , 2017	€828,800

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PLANNING:

Development Management

Planning Summary	Total to February, 2016	Total to February, 2017
Planning Applications Received	104	121
Planning Applications Granted	139	123
Planning Applications Refused	11	13
Complaints Received	13	14
Warning Letters Issued	10	15
Enforcements Notices Issued	6	7

Forward Planning:

- The Council held a Public Information Evening on the 8th March in relation to the National Planning Framework, which was launched on the 2nd February. The Council will continue to engage with stakeholders to encourage submissions from all sectors in the County, and is currently finalising its own submission to the process. Closing date for submissions to the NPF is the 16th March.
- Loci Consultants were appointed to carry out the “*Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Implementation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan*” and work on this has commenced.
- Following a very well attended public consultation on the 1st Feb on the Urban Design Strategy for the Hebron Road a further engagement took place with Comhairle na nÓg on the 22nd Feb. Proposals are being formulated

and will be brought to Council for consideration in April.

- Survey work is underway for the Vacant Sites Register.
- The Ferrybank/Belview LAP is very close to finalising the draft for publication. The Council had engagement with IDA in relation to land located at the Belview Port. The Council are having ongoing discussions with TII in relation to access arrangements for the zoned land along the N29. Both these issues are now close to finality and it anticipated that a draft plan will be published over the coming weeks.
- Work is also continuing on the preparation of the Draft Castlecomer Local Area Plan for publication. This involves statutory environmental assessments and compilation of the written plan.
- The planning section is involved in formulating the upcoming Council’s submission on the Report of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee as part of NPF process.

Conservation:

- The Department of Arts Heritage Regional Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs announced two conservation grant schemes for remedial works to our built heritage earlier this year.

The closing date for receipt of applications for both schemes was the 28th February 2017. Grant applications are being currently assessed.

- Application for funding from the Irish Walled Town Network is being prepared for signage and works to upstanding sections of the City Wall.



WATER SERVICES

Non-Domestic Water Charge Customers

Migration of the non-domestic water charge customers to Irish Water is scheduled from 22nd to 24th March 2017. If the migration is successful Irish Water will contact customers week beginning 27th March regarding new arrangements and issuing all customers with a “Welcome Pack”. Charges and billing frequency are to remain the same with bills being issued by Irish Water. General enquiries, including billing, payments and customer service will now be dealt with by Irish Water. Contact no. 1850 778 778.

The Scheme offers a maximum grant of €1000. Funding can be provided to projects that include development/renovation of community centres, community amenities, youth clubs, sports/recreation facilities, enhancements to Town Parks and open spaces and projects consistent with the Creative Ireland Programme.

Applications for funding will be submitted to the local LCDC who will review and assess the applications in keeping with the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan. The applications and the recommendation of the LCDC will be forwarded to the Municipal District Committees who will make the final decision on project approval.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government – Communities and Facilities Scheme 2017

On the 10th March 2017 Catherine Byrne TD, Minister for Communities and the National Drugs Strategy announced a new €2million Communities and Facilities Capital Grants Scheme for disadvantaged urban and rural areas. The Scheme is being administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). The LCDCs will be responsible for targeting and allocating funding.

The Capital Grants Scheme is to operate in a complimentary manner including the SICAP, a recast RAPID and Clar Programmes. Locally based community and voluntary groups are eligible to apply with projects that have a clearly defined community and social cohesion focus. Eligible facilities include community centres, youth clubs, sports/recreation facilities and other not-for-profit organisations and facilities.

A grant allocation of circa €65,000 is anticipated for County Kilkenny and further details will follow in the coming weeks.

LIBRARY

Overview February 2017

Kilkenny Library Service



22,702 visits to our libraries



24,276 Items borrowed



1,028 Library Members



2,583 Internet & Wifi Sessions



Digitize the Nation

Kilkenny County Library Service partnered with the Irish Internet Association in a digital inclusion campaign to provide accessible information and training in a local, welcoming environment. A very successful series of free internet classes were held in Thomastown, Castlecomer, Loughboy & City Libraries. Further classes are planned due to demand.



Programming

One Book One Community

Graiguenamanagh Library was transformed into a scene from the Titanic recently, when it played host to a Titanic Tea party for their One Book One Community Initiative with Duiske College. Afternoon tea was served, with traditional musicians and set dancing to entertain all in attendance.



Dates for your Diary (April)

- Spring into Storytime – Storytelling for children in all library branches during the month of April as part of our Right to Read Literacy Campaign.
- 23rd April World Book Night – Books will be gifted to local groups, focusing on those that don't read regularly.
- 27th April National Poetry Day – “Poetry Aloud with Afternoon Tea” in Castlecomer Library at 3.00p.m.

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Appendix 1.

Kilkenny County Council

Finance Report – March 2017.

The expenditure by service division for two months to the end of February 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €9.626m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

Table 1	Actual YTD February 2017	Budget Full Year 2017
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	2,471	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	1,830	17,093
Water Services	907	6,778
Development Management	1,194	7,894
Environmental Services	883	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	900	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	94	798
Miscellaneous Services	1,347	6,661
Overall Total	9,626	70,165

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the two months to the end of February.

The Annual Financial Statement for 2016 is being finalised but based on preliminary figures, collection levels for Commercial Rates have increased by 2 per cent to 94%. The 2017 Rate Demands have been issued to property owners. Details of the early payment grant scheme as agreed in the last two Budgets has been enclosed to each account holder.

Further to the presentation made to Elected Members regarding the National Revaluation Programme at the September 2016 Council Meeting and subsequent updates, the Valuation Office have informed us that the planned issue date for Proposed Valuation Certificates for Kilkenny is 13th April 2017. Property owners will then have 40 days to make representations to the Valuation Manager. The final Valuation Certificates are to be issued in late August 2017 with the new list scheduled to be published on 16th September 2017. The period for any further appeals to the independent Valuation Tribunal is 28 days from 16th September.