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EDITOR'S COMMENT

As Editor of 'Council Review', I am proud to note that this year we celebrate our landmark 10th anniversary. For the past decade we have published this top-class magazine to provide a major focus and in-depth analysis of the local government sector in Ireland.

The decision to publish 'Council Review' was taken after our research revealed a dearth of top quality Irish local government magazines on the market. Since the first issue was published in May 2003, we have consistently continued to provide a vital communications platform for city, county and town councillors, local authority management personnel, in addition to state and semi-state agencies.

There have certainly been some major changes in the local government sector in Ireland over the past decade, and none more so than the latest offering from Phil Hogan's department.

The Local Government Reform document entitled 'Putting People First' has been cautiously greeted across the board, and whilst these cost-cutting measures are due to be implemented before the Local Elections 2014, one wonders if this is the reform that Ireland needs right now.

As reported in this issue of 'Council Review' some of the measures are already in place with the merger of Limerick County and City Councils, to be followed by the downsizing of other local authorities such as Tipperary.

However, is this another knee-jerk reaction by a government that promised so much to get this country back on track when it came into power in February 2011?

This reform document will be central to a debate by councillors at this year's ACCC Conference in Waterford on 8 March. A councillor's view of the implications of 'Putting People First' will be presented by Cllrs Constance Hanniffy (Offaly), Pdraig McNally (Monaghan) and Michael O'Brien (Kilkenny) of the ACCC Change Advisory Team.

The next issue of 'Council Review' will feature a full report on the ACCC conference proceedings.

Grace Heneghan

Editor

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COUNCIL REVIEW
JOURNAL FOR TOWN, CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

5 NEWS UPDATE

13 EU CRISIS REPORT

A new study reveals that employment and unemployment issues remain central in EU countries worst hit by the economic crisis. Seán Healy, Director of Social Justice Ireland and co-author of the study, outlines some key recommendations for local government in Ireland.

14 AMAI CENTENARY

Paying tribute to the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland on its recent centenary, President Michael D. Higgins says the AMAI has retained its commitment to forswearing party politics for the greater good of Ireland's city and town councils.

19 SEAI ENERGY SHOW

The SEAI Energy Show 2013 at Dublin's RDS on 10 and 11 April is the key energy showcase in the Irish calendar and a must for those who want to be up to speed on the latest energy-saving solutions

21 "CORK MEET" 2013

Ireland's largest business networking forum, which will take place in Cork from 10 to 12 April, aims to arrange 10,000 one-to-one pre-scheduled meetings for over 600 Irish and international small to medium-sized businesses.

25 ACCC NEWS

In his role as chairman of the Commission for the Economic Development for Rural Areas, GAA All Star Pat Spillane will be the keynote speaker at this year's ACCC Annual Conference in Waterford City on 7 & 8 March.

33 LAMA AWARDS

LauraLynn House scooped the top award for its excellent redevelopment of the Children's Hospice at the recent Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA) Awards 2013.

37 KILKENNY TOURISM

The Medieval Mile Project forms part of an €11 million investment over the next four years that aims to transform Kilkenny city from a prominent tourism location into a 'must see' destination for overseas visitors, with economic benefits for the entire south east region.

43 EU BUDGET

Offaly's Cllr Constance Hanniffy, member of the Committee of the Regions, outlines how the next EU Budget could positively impact the development of Europe and, more specifically, Ireland and its regions.

45 EUROPEAN STRATEGY

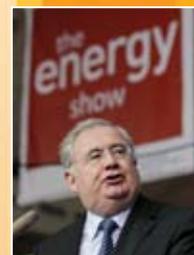
There is a need for greater awareness and understanding of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy' across the public service in Ireland, according to Robert Collins, Head of Office at the Irish Regions Brussels Office.

53 DUBLIN CITY WI-FI

Dublin's free WiFi service offers access at 12 key locations around the capital, as it forms part of the new digital masterplan for the capital, due to be in place by June.



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57 PROPERTY TAX

A real debate on the forthcoming property tax is needed, claims Dermot Lacey, leader of the Labour Group on Dublin City Council, who proposes a series of refinements to the new tax.



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Property Tax
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61 FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Tony Smyth, OPW's Director of Engineering Services and Chief Engineer, outlines their efforts to revolutionise flood risk management in Ireland.



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67 TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

The 9th European Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems is due to take place at the Convention Centre Dublin from 4 to 7 June,

73 TIPPERARY AMALGAMATION

Tipperary has been split into two counties for election purposes since 1837, but the partition of the Premier County is due to be reversed as part of the local government reforms.

77 LIMERICK REORGANISATION

The planned merger of Limerick City and County Councils by 2014 has taken a step forward with the publication of the blueprint by the Limerick Reorganisation Implementation Group.



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Limerick
Reorganisation
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85 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

As part of The Gathering 2013, the Boyne Valley opens its arms to friends and family from all over the world, inviting them home to villages and towns across Meath and Louth.

87 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Following the success of Dublin's bike scheme, the National Transport Authority plans to roll it out in Galway, Cork, Waterford and Limerick later this year.



Regional Bike
Scheme
Page 87

91 WESTMEATH SAFETY AWARDS

Westmeath Local Authorities has scooped two major awards - the NISO (Midlands) Safety Award for workplace safety standards and the Charles Thomson Award for its promotion of water safety across the Lake County.

101 DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council scored a double at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2012 - the County Council of the Year, and 'Innovation in Technology'.

104 WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Wexford's MapAlerter project - a new unique text and email alert system scooped the 'Innovation in Technology' award at Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2012.

105 ENNISCORTHY TOWN COUNCIL

Enniscorthy Castle - the historic landmark in the south eastern town - won the 'Supporting Tourism' category at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2012.



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107 NAVAN TOWN COUNCIL

The new student exchange programme between Navan and the Italian town of Broccostella, and the Points of Pride tour are just some of the reasons why it landed the 'Town Council of the Year' award for 2012.

114 ATHLONE TOWN COUNCIL

Athlone's Luan Gallery is one of a number of cultural developments by Athlone Town Council as part of its continuing investment in arts and heritage projects.