

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR IS A CLARE WINNER!

Nominated for a record 11 out of 16 categories at this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, Clare County Council took home the 'Local Authority of the Year 2018' at the 15th Awards ceremony, and also scooped three other award categories.

The awards which were presented at a ceremony in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin on 22 November, in association with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, again acknowledge best practice and constructive initiatives by local authorities.

Clare County Council's category award wins included: Friars Walk Coach Park Ennis (Outstanding initiative through the Municipal Districts), Community Mobilisation Unit: Rural & Community Development Officer (Best Practice in Citizen Engagement) and The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark (Sustainable Environment).

Councillor Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare, who described the Excellence in Local Government Awards as the "Oscars for the Local Government sector", said that being named Local Authority of the Year is "a well-earned acknowledgement of the hard work of all of the staff of Clare County Council and is reflective of energy and initiative being shown by management across the organisation with the support of all 28 Elected Members".

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, thanked and congratulated the local authority staff and elected members for their efforts and commitment to delivering a quality public service to the people of Clare.

"During the past two years, Clare County Council has developed and commenced implementation across all Directorates of an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of investment and development that will benefit our county.

"All of the Clare initiatives nominated for an Excellence in Local Government Award reflect the level of positive activity underway in the county and it is important that we see the national recognition of this work as a vote of confidence in our continued efforts to further improve the quality of life in County Clare.

"Clare County Council is committed to continuing a partnership approach that engages businesses, local Chambers of Commerce, State agencies, Government Departments, key influencers and most importantly, local communities in expanding and delivering improved Local Government and key



Clare County Council officials and elected members pictured at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin:

Seated (l-r): Pat Dowling, Chief Executive; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development; Cllr Michael Begley, Mayor of Clare; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District; and Cllr Pat Hayes; Leas Cathaoirleach of Killaloe Municipal District.

Standing (l-r): Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development; Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development; Cllr Pat McMahon, Leas Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District; Liam Conneally; Director of Economic Development; and Cllr Ian Lynch, Cathaoirleach of West Clare Municipal District.

community services," added Dowling.

Other Clare County Council initiatives nominated for an award:

- Clare Library Outreach Service to Kilmaley Daycare and Health Centre Clare (Supporting Active Communities)
- Addressing the Rural Development Challenge (Promoting Economic Development)
- Clare County Council's Digital Hub Programme (Local Authority Innovation)
- Disability Services at Active Ennis Leisure Complex (Disability Services Provision)
- Lough Derg Blueway (Joint Local Authority Initiative)
- 'BiaFest - Food of the Banner County' (Festival of the Year)
- Ennis Peace Park (Commemorations and Centenaries)
- The Aisling Development (Enhancing the Urban Environment)

Visit www.chambers.ie for more on the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.