

contents



EDITOR'S COMMENT

With the new public water utility now on stream, its newly-appointed managing director Dr John Tierney is now raising awareness of Irish Water.

Dublin's former city manager is getting the message out there that Irish Water will be setting up partnerships and key service level agreements with local authorities over the coming months. A key driver behind the establishment of the public water utility has been the necessity to introduce a new funding model, which will include the reintroduction of water meter charges in this country.

During his recent address at this year's Engineers Ireland conference in Dublin, Dr Tierney said that setting up a new utility to service 1.5 million households and businesses with responsibility for managing the water network, capital investment, fundraising and customer service was an enormous task.

He is looking to substantially increase the level of investment in water infrastructure in this country and said the current levels are unacceptable. But he was quick not to point the blame in any direction, citing the current financial crisis as a casualty of the recession. But he did note that combined with a predicted increase in the population over the coming decade, action needed to be taken.

This is where Irish Water is making its mark and also getting the message out there to change the public perception in Ireland when it comes to water schemes. Tierney claims that by wasting less, polluting less, investing wisely and becoming more efficient in all uses of water, Ireland has the potential to become one of the most water resilient countries in the world.

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COUNCIL REVIEW
JOURNAL FOR TOWN, CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

5 NEWS UPDATE

14 ENVIRONMENTAL APP

In a bid to help people report environmental pollution in their own towns and villages, the Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new iPhone App - See it? Say it!

18 ENVIRONMENT IRELAND

Now in its ninth year, Environment Ireland - the major annual conference on environmental policy and management - will take place on 12 September in Croke Park.

18 IRISH WATER

In his keynote address at the Engineers Ireland Annual Conference 2013, Dr John Tierney, Managing Director of Irish Water, outlined how the new public water utility in charge of metering will drive competitive advantage in this country.

25 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Irish Water will need to focus on energy efficiency and environmental performance when it takes legal ownership over water infrastructure and services from 1 January 2014, according to Alice Whittaker, partner with Philip Lee Solicitors.

29 ACCC CONFERENCE

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government issued a challenge to councillors at ACCC's annual conference to work with him on the Local Government Reform Programme.

37 ECONOMIC MASTERPLAN

Limerick is the first city in Ireland to have produced an integrated economic strategy and spatial plan. The movement towards integrated economic and spatial planning represents a critical element of wider local government reforms.

41 DIGITAL MASTERPLAN

The number of devices connected to the internet worldwide is expected to rise to 200 billion within the next 10 years. Peter Finnegan, Director of the Office of Economy & International Relations at Dublin City Council, discusses the ambitious plans to make Dublin a smart city.

49 DUBLIN WALK APP

Dublin City Council's first purpose-designed App is proving a very popular means for visitors and locals to navigate their way around the city and to obtain information about over 100 cultural and institutional attractions.

51 IPB INSURANCE

IPB Insurance Chairman George Jones outlines latest developments at the Local Authorities' Mutual Insurance Company and how they are working to make a difference for their members and wider society.

57 KILKENNY URBAN DESIGN

Kilkenny is leading the way in urban design in Ireland with a ground-breaking new approach in the development of the Diageo/Smithwicks Brewery site in the centre of the medieval city.



John Tierney,
Irish Water
Page 18



ACCC
Conference Report
Page 29



Peter Finnegan,
DCC
Page 41



George Jones, IPB
Page 50



Kilkenny
Urban Design
Page 57

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61 ENTERPRISE REPORT

A new report from the County and City Managers' Association highlights the role of local authorities in supporting enterprise, local development and economic growth throughout the country.

62 WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

The costs of the recent spate of wildfire incidents in western counties must again be absorbed particularly at local authority level. It has been suggested that collaboration between the authorities is the best way to address the issue in light of current resource constraints.

69 GREEN CAPITAL AWARD

With four cities shortlisted as finalists for the 2015 European Green Capital Award, RPS is finalising arrangements to announce the winning city.

76 NORTH WEST NETWORK

Donegal County Council is the lead implementing council of a new network of businesses and individuals interested in the green economy and the renewable energy sector in the north west region.

80 EUROPEAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment among young people in Europe is now at 5.7 million and with 73 million people with low-levels of education, programmes must focus on offering the next generation the right skills to meet the needs of the growth industries, such as the digital (ICT) sector.

83 400TH ANNIVERSARY

Historian Dr Matthew Potter from University of Limerick looks at the 400th anniversary of the creation of 40 cities and towns in what was dubbed the 'Greatest Gerrymander' in Irish history.

88 SOCIAL HOUSING CONFERENCE

EU investment in regeneration and retrofitting of social housing would have the benefit of reducing fuel poverty and improve living conditions for many tenants of older social housing schemes around the country, delegates at a recent housing conference in Dublin were told.

89 SOCIAL HOUSING OUTLOOK

Up to 270,000 Irish households are currently receiving housing support from the State, either through direct provision by the local authorities, approved housing associations, or rent supplement.

89 LIMERICK CITY OF CULTURE

The designation of Limerick as Ireland's first National City of Culture in 2014 will be an important catalyst beginning a renaissance of the image of our third largest city, and organisers are planning to exhibit the best the city has to offer.

105 NEW ROSS TOWN COUNCIL

A series of events in New Ross take place this summer to mark the life and achievements of one of its most famous emigrant sons, President John F. Kennedy, who visited his ancestral home in the County Wexford town 50 years ago.

107 IPA TRAINING PROGRAMMES

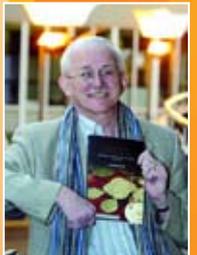
For public service personnel who wish to pursue further education programmes now is the time to check out the IPA's wide range of part-time certificate, diploma and degree programmes before classes start in September.



Wildfire Management
Page 62



EU Unemployment Summit
Page 80



Dr Matthew Potter,
UL, Page 83



Social Housing Outlook
Page 93



IPA Training Course
Page 107