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EDITOR'S COMMENT

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5 NEWS UPDATE

15 EURO FOCUS

20 'UNIQUELY DUBLIN'

Dublin City Council is inviting people from all over the world to enter the 'Uniquely Dublin' competition worth €10,000, which runs until 28 January 2013.

22 THE GATHERING 2013

Local authorities are putting plans in place in advance of The Gathering 2013, in a bid to target 70 million Diaspora worldwide to return to Ireland and hopefully do business here,

29 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Action Programme for Effective Local Government sets out in succinct manner surprisingly radical reforms which, if implemented, will return local government to the core of public service delivery at local level, writes Dr Séan O'Riordain.

43 ACCC PRESIDENT

Waterford Councillor Hilary Quinlan, president of the Association of County and City Councils, will draw on the experience of members across a multitude of local government settings on how to best position the ACCC for the future.

47 LOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM

Collaboration between State development agencies and the business community was vital in promoting economic development in Louth, according to Dr Pat McCloughan, managing director of PMCA Economic Consulting, who prepared the report on behalf of Louth County Council.

54 IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE

The new president of the Irish Planning Institute, Joanna Kelly, wants more public involvement in the country's planning system, citing the need for a civics course that encompasses local government and planning and how they're intertwined.

61 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

Dublin's four local authorities have joined forces with the Gardaí and the transport agencies under a new Casualty Reduction Implementation Plan, in a bid to reduce the number of road users killed and seriously injured in the capital.

65 OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS

One initiative topping the agenda for OPW Commissioner John McMahon is to develop a greater relationship with local authorities. He wants to meet all city and county managers over the coming months to see how they can work with the OPW in a complementary way.

73 ENVIRONMENT IRELAND

Prof James Curran, chief executive of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, told delegates at Environment Ireland that the concept of the polluter pays principle needs to be rebranded and changed to the user of the environment pays principle.

83 WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

Dublin City Council is on track to meet the targets laid out by the EU Water Framework Directive for 2015, according to Tom Leahy, Executive Manager of DCC's Engineering Department.



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The Gathering
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Joanna Kelly,
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85 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Meath county manager Brendan McGrath outlines the progress made by the Royal County in previous years and the success it aspires to build upon with a new seven-year County Development Plan.

88 CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Jack Keyes, Cavan county manager, says the role of local government in the community is shifting as local authorities move away from a total focus on service provision to community leadership.

94 CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Local government is leading the way in public sector reform with €830 million saved over the last four years. Cork county manager Martin Riordan says the Government should see local government as a template for best practice within the public sector.

99 S&E REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Stephen Blair, Director of the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly, outlines highlights of the fifth year of the implementation of the S&E Operational Programme 2007-2013.

101 WATER MONITORING

Cork City Council, Cork County Council and the Cork Institute of Technology are rolling out their first collaboration in smart water management. The water complaints will soon be sorted in a much more efficient manner, says Pat Casey, senior engineer with Cork City Council.

105 INNOVATION DUBLIN

The organisers of Innovation Dublin are now calling on local authorities around Ireland to join forces with them in order to make the event a national one.

107 SOCIAL HOUSING

Nearly 4,000 properties around the country have been identified by NAMA as having potential for social housing use. This was a major issue topping the agenda at a seminar organised by the Irish Council for Social Housing in Athlone.

113 AMAI CENTENARY

Councillors, the Government and backbench TDs must "grasp the nettle" of imposing local taxes and charges if they want to achieve real local government reform in Ireland, AMAI delegates were told by University of Limerick's Dr Brid Quinn at their centenary conference.

138 HEALTH & SAFETY

Health and safety management within all local authorities should remain paramount for the sake of the workforce and public services alike, writes safety consultant Mary Darlington.

147 COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING

Local authorities can assist the production of quality compost by providing information on how to avoid contamination in bio-waste collections at civic amenity centres and door-to-door collections, according to Conor McGovern, organics manager with rx3.

151 MID-WEST ENERGY

Fresh moves are being made to further enhance the mid-west region's status as a sustainable energy region, following the allocation of €180,000 to the Mid-West Regional Authority as part of the European STEP Project.

153 ELECTRIC VEHICLES

ESB ecars is on track to achieve its target for 1,500 charge points across the country by early 2013. Dermot McArdle, manager of ESB ecars, says that about 90 per cent of major towns and cities in Ireland now have coverage.



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