

contents



EDITOR'S COMMENT

News that Britain has voted to leave the European Union was totally unexpected, sending shock waves throughout Europe, and it goes without saying that the result will have a huge implications for Ireland – in the short and long-term.

After months of campaigning by both sides of the Brexit camp, it was a relatively close marginal win on the day as 52% (17 million) people in the UK voted to leave the EU while 48% (16 million) voted to remain under the umbrella of Brussels.

Some UK political commentators have noted that David Cameron perhaps took the UK electorate for granted and presumed that when push came to shove, they would vote to stay within the EU.

So, the fallout is certainly not good news from any perspective for Ireland, both in political and economic trade terms. The UK has always been our biggest export market, and whilst other markets have opened up in Eastern Europe, China and further afield, what happens to our neighbours across the water will have a ripple effect on Irish trade.

And from political viewpoint, the Brexit vote also has massive repercussions for Enda Kenny's administration. Having weathered the storm for a second term of office (which seems likely to be a short run), he is now faced with further uncertainty, as the whole political landscape has changed across the water. David Cameron has issued his resignation and will step down in October and former London Mayor Boris Johnson has been hotly tipped to take over as next Prime Minister.

Ever since Cameron announced that he would hold a referendum in 2012, Irish officials and ministers regarded the prospect of a British exit from the EU as the worst thing that could happen to the country. And they're right.

In 'Easter 1916' Irish poet William Butler Yeats penned these words – in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising – all has 'changed, changed utterly, a terrible beauty is born'. And now 100 hundred years on, a terrible problem is born for Ireland with 'Brexit'.

Grace Heneghan
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5 NEWS UPDATE

- Cork County Council first to attain ISO50001 accreditation
- Councils can play key role in health promotion
- Green steps towards employment
- Climate change advice for local authorities
- Municipal districts need greater powers
- Home Index label for sustainable homes in Dublin



Personal Injuries
Page 15

15 PERSONAL INJURIES

'Compo culture', which has seen personal injury awards spike to unprecedented levels, may be about to end, if recent court decisions are anything to go by. This new development will certainly be welcomed by local authorities, who are regularly on the receiving end of such claims.

16 AILG PRESIDENT

The new President of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) believes that councillors give a dedicated and high level of service to the public. However, Cllr John Crowe points out that they urgently need improved resources to continue to deliver and develop their roles as public representatives.



AILG President
Page 16

23 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

A new website, which aims to make it easier for people to get information about water quality and to get involved in protecting their local catchment, has been developed by the Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office.



Environmental
Protection
Page 23

27 DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Internships for council staff in other cities, application of technology to solve urban challenges, student scholarships, tourism promotion, and sporting and library connections were just some of the projects considered at the recent US-Ireland Sister Cities Summit, hosted by Dublin City Council's International Relations Division.



Sister Cities Summit
Page 27

31 LIMERICK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

There is something happening in Limerick. With 7,300 jobs created within the last two years in the mid-west capital, the Treaty City now bids to be awarded the European Capital of Culture 2020, and follows its success as Ireland's first National City of Culture in 2014.

33 CORK CITY COUNCIL

Ireland's second largest city is not without its challenges when it comes to the housing crisis. However, Cork City Council's Housing and Community Division is approaching the delivery of its 2015-2017 Social Housing Programme and the North City Quarter Regeneration Programme on several fronts.

37 SOCIAL HOUSING

The Oireachtas Housing and Homelessness Committee is calling on the Minister for Housing to establish a Housing Procurement Agency. It claims this would assist local authorities and approved housing bodies to deliver their social housing programme through supports including funding and procurement.



Terry Twomey
LIT President
Page 31

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39 RECYCLING SCHEME

Following a recent pioneering community initiative and battery recycling drive, in partnership with Laois County Council and Abbeyleix Tidy Towns, WEEE Ireland now hopes that this will become a nationwide recycling scheme in other local communities.

41 COILLTE LAND SOLUTIONS

As the custodian of Ireland's forests, the commercial state-owned company Coillte manages the estate for commercial forestry, recreation purposes and biodiversity, as well as buying and selling land for a range of uses such as renewable energy, infrastructure, community projects and strategic commercial developments.

43 IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE

For Ireland to avert repeating its past planning mistakes, the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) has called for an Office of the Planning Regulator to be established immediately, in addition to a free Planning & Environmental Advice Service for the public. At its annual conference, the IPI also pointed towards the need for a new Minister for Planning & Housing.

47 SHANNON GROUP

Shannon Group is delivering on its €21 million redevelopment programme at Shannon Free Zone, starting in the autumn with the construction of a new landmark office block at the entrance to the airport, which aims to attract investment and jobs as the revitalisation of the Zone continues.

51 MUSIC GENERATION

Ireland's National Music Education Programme has been gifted with a \$1 million donation, which will support the expansion of the Music Generation initiative in up to nine new areas of the country by 2021 and create access to music education for thousands more children and young people.

53 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

You don't have to work for large multinational companies such as Microsoft, Google or Disney to realise the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Here is an outline of the top five tips to improve your own organisation's ranking on the CSR scale.

57 CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Despite the economic downturn, the generosity of the Irish public towards fundraising initiatives for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers remains fantastic, according to Philip Watt, CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Ireland.



Cork City Council
Page 33



Social Housing
Page 37



Irish Planning Institute
Page 43



Shannon Group
Page 47

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