



EDITOR'S COMMENT

The recent Grenfell Tower disaster in London has again highlighted the importance of having updated fire safety and building control regulations in place.

Dublin City Council will shortly be introducing an independent inspection regime for new buildings, according to chief executive Owen Keegan, which he said will involve "multiple inspections at various stages of development to ensure full compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations".

He made the announcement during his rejection of a recent RTE Drivetime programme, entitled 'Could a Grenfell Tower disaster happen here?' which, he said, gave the impression that the operational capacity of Dublin Fire Brigade was seriously inadequate both in terms of manpower and vehicles/equipment.

The report, which featured an interview with Brian Murray of the National Fire Fighters' Association, claimed that Dublin Fire Brigade was inadequate in this regard.

"The fact that this is not the case has been confirmed by an independent external review of DFB. Following recent recruitment campaigns, Dublin Fire Brigade now has a full complement of operational staff and of professional fire prevention staff."

He claimed that the recent reforms in the Building Control regime, and DCC's upcoming independent inspection protocols, will serve to strengthen the certification process.

"The cause of fire safety in Dublin is not served by grossly misrepresenting the actual position in relation to the operational capacity of Dublin Fire Brigade or its fire prevention service," Keegan said.

Meanwhile, the newly-appointed Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy has met with Dublin's Chief Fire Officer to discuss fire safety in light of the recent tragedy in London.

While noting that local authorities across the State already monitor fire safety measures, Minister Murphy says he will continue to engage with all chief fire officers across the country in the coming weeks.

In offering sympathy to the people of London affected by the tragedy, Minister Murphy said it's reminder of "the need for vigilance at all times" in relation to fire safety.

'Council Review' is planning a special report in the next issue on Ireland's building regulations, with contributions from fire safety experts on lessons learned from the UK.

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COUNCIL REVIEW
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Dublin City Council is making headway with the ambitious regeneration of its inner city housing complexes, with plans to complete and deliver some 4,200 quality homes in sustainable communities and create better urban places by 2022.



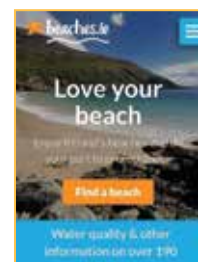
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33 GRAFFITI CAMPAIGN

Dublin City Council has joined forces with An Garda Síochána in its latest campaign to raise awareness among children about tagging and graffiti and how this criminal activity can have serious consequences for them in the future.

39 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new mobile-enabled website to provide information on water quality at over 190 beaches across Ireland, so that people can access any details they need before spending a day at the seaside. The website will be updated during the summer based on information from local authorities and Met Éireann.



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41 GALWAY 2020

Following the appointment of local business leader Hannah Kiely as 'Galway 2020' Chief Executive Officer, a major recruitment drive is now underway as the City of the Tribes puts plans in place in preparation for European Capital of Culture in 2020.

43 MID-WEST ACTION PLAN

In her new role as Programme Manager for the Mid-West Action Plan for Jobs, Economist Dr Órlaith Borthwick will be supported by three local authorities in Clare, Limerick and Tipperary, to create 23,000 new jobs across the region by 2020.



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49 RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Clare County Council has established the country's first Local Authority Rural Development Directorate, in response to the Government's National Action Plan for Rural Ireland. Clare's Chief Executive Pat Dowling says the Rural Development Strategy will be rolled out in early September.



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59 LIMERICK INVESTMENT

Work has now started on the largest commercial property development scheme outside the capital, following the recent signing of contracts for the first Limerick Twenty Thirty project, in attracting 5,000 jobs over the next five years.

63 CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork City's social housing needs, current schemes in the pipeline, and his belief that the solution to the housing problems depends on the private sector, are just some of the many issues on the agenda for Brian Geaney, Programme Manager of Cork City Council's Housing and Community Directorate.

71 CODEMA 20th ANNIVERSARY

As Codema celebrates its 20th anniversary, director Gerry Wardell reflects on key highlights and outlines the challenges faced by Dublin's energy agency in helping local authorities to meet their energy performance targets through professional development and implementation of best practice.



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77 LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Laois has completed a 'healthy public engagement' process in relation to the County Development Plan in order to meet the soaring population demands in the county. John Mulholland, chief executive of Laois County Council, gives us the lowdown.

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83 NAVAL SERVICE AWARD

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has awarded the Irish Naval Service the Honorary Freedom of Entry to the county in recognition of the Irish navy's ongoing humanitarian rescue missions in the Mediterranean.

88 AILG CONFERENCE REPORT

Progress to date on the Local Government Reform programme was reviewed at this year's AILG Conference in April by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, to see if it is operating effectively and as intended, and to see if any adjustment, or indeed reinforcement, of the reforms may be warranted.

105 SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

More than 700 projects have been approved to date under the Southern and Eastern Regional Programme, which is managed by the Southern Regional Assembly.

119 MUSIC GENERATION

Under a new project developed in collaboration between Wicklow County Council and Music Generation Wicklow, budding young musicians will now be able to rent guitars, saxophones, accordions, flutes and a whole host of other instruments.

121 KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

The official opening of the new St Francis Bridge in Kilkenny City will provide a much-needed third crossing over the River Nore and aims to transform movement around the city centre.

125 WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow County Council has moved one step further in securing a long-awaited €25 million retail and amenity development in Bray. Having drawn up a draft outline plan for the Florentine Centre in the town, it is now offering the site for sale through a pre-qualification process.

131 INNOVATION INVESTMENT

Fingal's Local Enterprise Office (LEO Fingal) is now calling for applications from small businesses for a new national €1.5m Innovation Investment Fund, which has been launched as new supports are rolled out by Local Enterprise Offices to help SMEs prepare for Brexit.

136 EUROPEAN MOBILITY

With European Mobility Week set for 16-22 September, Ireland is behind the curve in embracing car-sharing culture, and MEP Brian Hayes claims that local authorities here can do more to provide alternative modes of transport.



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