



## EDITOR'S COMMENT

With the ongoing debate and analysis over the implications and challenges which an impending Brexit will present after 29 March 2019 for Ireland and, in particular, the border counties, events could now take a very unexpected turn, following the latest news of a vote of no confidence in Conservative Leader Theresa Maye.

And at the time of going to press, the result had not been announced, with political analysts on both sides of the Irish Sea speculating as to the future of Theresa May, not to mention the likely outcome in long-term and short term for the future of Brexit, or even if there would now be a Brexit, hard or soft.

Whatever the outcome, there are uncertain times ahead for business and enterprise on both sides of the border. The issue of Brexit and the Border was analysed by the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) during its Autumn Training Seminar in late October in Monaghan Town.

The border county town certainly provided the perfect backdrop for an event that outlined a range of perspectives on the implications of Brexit for the border counties, from a selection of guest speakers that included Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council, Martin McVicar, Managing Director of Combilift (Monaghan's leading export company), and Samantha Leslie, Estate Manager for Castle Leslie Estate.

And councillors from Monaghan and around the country also had an opportunity to share their own thoughts and concerns with guest speakers on an uncertain future, and on ways to plan ahead.

Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) has also claimed that local authorities face a number of uncertainties due to Brexit but are focussed on building resilience in their areas to prepare for any eventuality.

CCMA chair Jackie Maguire told delegates that Brexit has been to the forefront of local authority considerations since the UK vote to leave the EU. Addressing a recent conference in Dublin titled 'Local Authorities – Implications for Local Authorities and their Areas', organised by the Local Government Management Agency, she said that "preparing for the unknown" is a huge challenge.

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## 4 NEWS UPDATE

## 15 BREXIT DEBATE

Local authorities face a number of uncertainties due to Brexit but are focussed on building resilience in their areas to prepare for any eventuality, a recent conference in Dublin was told by Jackie Maguire, Chairperson of the County and City Management Association (CCMA).



Brexit Debate  
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## 19 IRISH REGIONS EUROPEAN OFFICE

The Irish Regions European Office (IREO) has revamped and relaunched its website www.ireo.eu which it aims will be the prime source of EU information, particularly for local and regional authorities.

## 23 EUROPEAN GREEN AWARDS

Limerick is now in the running for the European Green Leaf 2020 Award, and hopes to emulate the success of Galway, after the City of the Tribes won the award for 2017. Overall a total of 21 towns and cities from across 14 European countries will compete for the 2021 European Green Capital and 2020 European Green Leaf Awards.



Chambers Ireland  
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## 24 CHAMBERS IRELAND AWARDS

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.

## 33 AILG AUTUMN SEMINAR

The government's programmes in place to address the ongoing homelessness crisis, a baseline review of Local Property Tax, plus the proposed roll-out of a survey on the role and remuneration of individual councillors, were some of the many issues addressed by Damien English TD, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development, at the recent AILG Autumn Seminar Dinner in Monaghan. And the main focus during the day's events was on the future implications and impact of Brexit on this border county.



AILG Autumn Seminar  
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## 61 ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A meeting recently took place between a delegation from the City & County Management Association (CCMA) and the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) – the first such meeting to take place at the AILG office in Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

## 63 REBUILDING & REGENERATION

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- 93 Peter McVerry Trust



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## 95 LONFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

With work on 'Longford Forest' progressing well, the Center Parcs resort is due to open in summer 2019. The benefits of the project are already being experienced in this Midlands County, with an upturn in tourism and community development since work started on the project last year.



Green Public Procurement  
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## 97 LOUTH COUNTY MUSEUM

Louth's award-winning County Museum in Dundalk celebrates the story of the north east county's rich social, cultural and industrial history from the pre-Christian era up to the present day over three galleries of permanent exhibition space.

## COUNCIL REVIEW

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### 99 GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Wexford County Council and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) recently hosted the 'GPP4Growth' project partners in Wexford to showcase local and national case studies of green public procurement, and to learn how public money can improve our local environment.

### 103 LIMERICK DIGITAL CITY

A new strategy, which has set out the framework for the digital transformation of Limerick into a Smart City Region, aims to assist in the promotion of Ireland's first digital city as a top international destination for investment, innovation, equal opportunities and a better quality of life.

### 105 DUBLIN HOUSING OBSERVATORY

The Dublin Housing Observatory – a new research unit based in Dublin City Council and overseen by an independent advisory board – continues to strive to provide evidence to inform housing policy, leading to better practice.

### 110 OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

Bord na Mona and Offaly County Council have welcomed the prestigious award for Lough Boora Discovery Parklands, which was recently crowned Ireland's Best Place by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

### 113 CHERRYWOOD DEVELOPMENT

Nestled at the foot of the Dublin Mountains in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown – between the M50 and N11 transport corridors – Cherrywood's Strategic Development Zone is on course to become the major new town in South Dublin, and will accommodate an estimated population of 20,000 residents.

### 114 INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

Nine impactful and diverse Irish projects were shortlisted for this year's Europe-wide Innovation in Politics Awards. And whilst they may not have won any of the award categories, it nonetheless provided the Irish finalists with a great opportunity to share their experiences on community initiatives with their European counterparts.

### 120 CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Seven major climate change projects will share €77 million government funding, leveraging a total investment of €300 million in round one of the Climate Action Fund, with potential to reduce annual emissions by over 200,000 tonnes of carbon as a result of the new initiatives.

### 122 KEVIN STREET LIBRARY

The €3.9m modernisation and refurbishment of Kevin Street Library by Dublin City Council's architects has seen the start of a whole new chapter for the local community in the south east inner city.

### 123 SUPREME SAFETY AWARD

Tipperary's Chief Executive Joe MacGrath congratulated Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service for being the first public service to win a National Supreme Safety Award, in recognition of its safety management system and innovative wellness programme.

### 124 PLANNING VIEWPOINT

The words 'balance' and 'consultation' come up quite a lot when Donegal County Council's senior planner Eunan Quinn discusses the work of the planning service, claiming that planning is about more than just regulations, it's also about facilitation.

### 125 SHANNON FLOOD RELIEF

A €9m funding package will be provided by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to cover the capital cost of a range of flood relief schemes along the Shannon as part of the Government's projected €1bn flood relief investment over the next decade under Project Ireland 2040.

### 126 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The number of social housing units delivered by local authorities in 2017 increased by 43% on the previous year, according to the latest report from the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), which revealed that local authorities continued to deliver improved performance and efficiency last year.



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