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4 NEWS UPDATES

12 EUROPEAN FOCUS

'Galway 2020 Capital of Culture' will share its experiences on the link between regional development and culture at this year's European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels on 7-10 October.

16 INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

Now in its third year, the Innovation in Politics Awards 2019 will highlight new and inspiring projects that have made an impact at local, regional and national levels across Europe.

20 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

AnnMarie Farrelly, Interim Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, outlines their latest corporate plan, the development of the iconic Swords Cultural Quarter, plus a range of new housing and economic projects as part of the council's key priorities over the next five years.

29 PUBLIC SECTOR DUTY

Key steps to be taken by local authorities and other public bodies to meet their obligations under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty have been published in a new guidance document published by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

32 MAYORAL GOVERNANCE

The rejection by Cork and Waterford citizens to elect directly-elected mayors for their cities raises some challenging questions for the future of local government reform in Ireland, writes Dr Deiric Ó Broin, DCU's School of Law and Government.

37 EU ROAD SAFETY

From 2022 new vehicles sold in Europe will be fitted as standard with a range of new safety features. Laurence Atchison, Project Manager with the European Transport Safety Council, details the range of road safety proposals designed to clamp down on the rising number of road collisions and deaths.

41 WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

With technology now set to transform rural Ireland into a smart and connected region over the next 10 years, the Western Development Commission is seeking to develop a global niche with a multi-million ten-year investment as part its new 'Work Smarter, Live Better' Strategy (2019-2024).

45 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Government's new Climate Action Plan sets out over 180 actions and hundreds of sub-actions that need to be taken at a time when the warning signs are growing and it's now time to take action.

51 CLIMATE ACTION REGIONAL OFFICES

Ireland's four Climate Action Regional Offices have been co-ordinating the local authority response to climate change since 2018, and the structures deployed have proved highly effective and may be utilised to direct local authority actions within the Climate Action Plan.

57 CLIMATE FINANCE WEEK

A series of events taking place during Climate Finance Week Ireland 2019 (4-8 November) will include climate-themed talks and interactive workshops.

59 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

South Dublin County Council's River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme is due to come on stream in early to mid-2020, and forms part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan with a focus on flood resilience, biodiversity and providing more accessibility to the river.



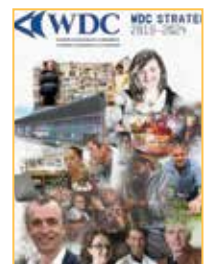
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63 MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Under a new framework agreement, Mayo County Council has signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The council is involved in a research project in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and UCD, to formalise its long-term commitment to conserve pollinators in the county.

99 SLIGO TOURISM

Sligo Tourism, the agency tasked with promoting the northwest county to national and international markets, is embarking on an ambitious year-long digital marketing campaign, with social media and creativity powering the entire initiative.

103 COUNCILS' 120TH ANNIVERSARY

With 2019 marking the 120th anniversary of the advent of the county councillor on Ireland's democratic landscape, local government historian Liam Kenny looks back at the characters who featured prominently in Kildare County Council's first local elections in 1899.

109 LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

The €230m Center Parcs holiday resort, which will open for business later this summer in Longford, forms a major part of the overall Action Plan for Rural Ireland, which firmly puts the spotlight on the midlands county by placing it on the national stage.

117 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Meath County Council has agreed its most ambitious Capital Programme ever, with a projected spend of €454m mapped out over the next three years, and the most significant investment will be in the area of housing, which makes up 50% of the total programme.

124 COMMUNITY BROADBAND

Kilkenny is leading the charge ahead of the National Broadband Plan roll-out with a landmark drive to turn one of Ireland's biggest broadband 'not spots' into high speed 'hot spots' with a far more affordable and community-based broadband service.

126 WEEE IRELAND

Irish consumers and businesses alike collected over 36,100 tonnes of e-waste and 856 tonnes of waste batteries for recycling last year. The findings are contained in the annual report of WEEE Ireland, which revealed that the largest electrical and battery recycling compliance scheme in the country surpassed national targets yet again in 2018.

134 WIND ENERGY

Ireland is witnessing one of the greatest climate change movements of this century, while there is an urgent need for reasonable commercial rates for wind farmers, delegates at the Wind Farmers' Association annual workshop were told.

137 IRISH GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

The Irish Green Building Council says that the government can play a significant role in supporting energy renovation in the rental property market, by introducing a series of regulatory and financial measures to improve energy efficiency performance in the sector.

139 VIEW FROM THE NORTH

The new President of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) has called for Northern Ireland's councils to be offered access to the £60m Brexit Support Fund, with similar funding being available to local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales.

140 FILM INVESTMENT

The Western Region Audio-visual Producers (WRAP) Fund will ensure investment in the film industry in the west until 2020, in association with local authorities in Clare, Donegal, Galway City and County, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo, and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

142 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

A framework of strategic collaboration that will include key modules such as Research & Development, Talent Promotion plus Diversity and Inclusion forms part of a Memorandum of Understanding, recently signed between Technological University (TU) Dublin and ESB.



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