4  News Update
The Government has agreed with local authorities to defer rates payments due from those businesses most immediately impacted, primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure and childcare sectors, until the end of May.

13  Cork City Developments
Cork has been hailed the number two small city in Europe for economic potential, according to the Financial Times ‘FDI European Cities and Regions of Future’ League. Cork City’s Lord Mayor Cllr John Sheehan described the ranking as an “encouraging endorsement” of the Leeside.

19  Gas Networks Ireland
Gas Networks Ireland continues to invest in new technologies this year, including an investment into renewable gas, feasibility planning for the introduction of hydrogen onto the network and the roll-out of additional CNG refuelling stations across the country.

24  Irish Planning Awards 2020
Limerick City and County Council won this year’s Irish Planning Institute’s overall award for excellence in planning for its ‘Living Georgian City Strategy’.

30  Centre of Energy Efficiency
Wexford County Council is now in the process of developing a UN Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficiency in Enniscorthy, in collaboration with Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB).

55  Energy Transition Strategy
A ten-year Energy Transition Strategy (2020-2030) has been rolled out by the 3 Counties Energy Agency (3cea) in a bid to produce surplus green energy by 2030, by making the counties of Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford more sustainable, cleaner and national leaders in delivering low carbon homes, jobs and enterprise.

56  Greenway Developments
‘Council Review’ gives a rundown of some current and upcoming projects (north and south) under the Greenways Development Strategy, in response to a growing appetite by overseas visitors and locals alike to enjoy Ireland’s walking and cycling routes.

62  Women in Politics
Ireland’s General Election 2020 has been heralded as an election of change – change for the parties and change in government. However, it was not an election of change for women, says Ciarín de Buis, CEO of Women for Election.

67  Meath Employee App
Meath County Council has developed a new user-friendly App for outdoor staff as a cost-effective solution to keep them well connected on staff updates, social club events and much more, and in time it will be made available to indoor-based council staff.

68  Celtic Routes Tourism
Local authorities in Ireland and Wales have launched an innovative €1.9m tourism initiative. Wicklow, Waterford City and County Council and Wexford are collaborating with colleagues in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion in the Celtic Routes Project to boost tourism in both regions.

88  CCMA Profile
Housing, climate change and economic development are the three main challenges facing the country’s 31 local authorities, according to Michael Walsh, Chair of the County and City Management Association (CCMA).
CLIMATE ACTION

74 LGMA Report
A new report has outlined for the first time the range of new plans local authorities have undertaken to tackle climate change and to promote climate action within their own communities, including the roll out of training for 28,000 council staff members.

81 ESB Networks
ESB Networks has developed an innovation strategy. The Dingle Project is a significant part of this strategy, as it’s an opportunity for ESB Networks to collaborate with local communities and to explore how customers will interact with new energy systems.

84 CCMA-GAA Partnership
Under a new partnership agreement between the CCMA and the GAA to develop a National Sustainable Club and Community Programme, the Climate Action Regional Offices will represent the local authority sector to co-ordinate the development of this initiative.

87 Meath Climate Academy
The ‘Meath Climate Academy’ programme, which is the first of its kind in the country, is rolling out a series of workshops to inform local communities on the climate crisis, climate justice and climate action.

91 University of Limerick
University of Limerick’s new initiative – the Knowledge for Change (K4C) Programme – aims to ensure that engagement between higher education institutions and local communities is of the highest standard.

92 AILG Conference
At this year’s AILG Conference, Michael McCarthy, Chair of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), outlined its role in providing an independent scrutiny to local government performance at local, national and regional level.

99 LAMA Awards 2020
Clare County Council won the overall ‘Council of the Year’ award at the 14th All-Ireland Community and Council Awards, in recognition of the range and depth of community projects, which the council is involved with right across the county.

106 Innovation in Politics Awards
Irish nominations to this year’s Innovation in Politics Awards are now being invited, and it will again provide an opportunity to recognise Irish politicians who are making a difference. Innovative political projects can be submitted by politicians and/or nominated by citizens until 15 June, before the European awards final takes place in Berlin in December.

114 PEL Waste Equipment
PEL Waste Reduction Equipment is leading the way in the development of IoT litter bin technologies, and CEO Tommy Griffith outlines the environmental benefits of their SolarStreetBin™ technology to councils and local authorities both at home and abroad.

117 AllOne Corporate Solutions
AllOne Corporate Solutions Ltd has signed a new two-year contract with the Office of Government Procurement and the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform’s Central Policy Unit as the single provider of FOI Training courses to public bodies in Ireland.

120 IPA Training & Education
The Whitaker School of Government and Management at the Institute of Public Administration will provide up to 70 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes this autumn.