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4 NEWS UPDATE

16 BUDGET 2023

Ongoing investment in housing, local government and heritage was announced on vDay for the year ahead, with an overall package of €6.3bn unveiled, which includes investment of more than €4bn in the Government's 'Housing for All' strategy in 2023.

20 LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Dr Pat Daly, Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council, says that Limerick's ambitions to become a Green City Region on the Shannon Estuary by 2030 – connected through people and places – will be achieved through engagement, innovation, resilient urban development and self-sustaining rural communities.

27 EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has been a steady source of support for communities across the Irish regions for decades and the benefits can be seen through sustainable urban development projects delivered by local authorities across the country.

30 SOUTH EAST ENERGY AGENCY

Ireland's dependency on imported fossil fuel is "a root cause of high energy costs", harming our economy and the security of our energy supply, one of the country's top climate experts warned at the launch of the new South East Energy Agency for Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and now Waterford.

35 ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY

Dublin's four local authorities have rolled out the capital's first EV strategy, which will see 1,650 charge points deployed across the city and county by 2025, as part of the delivery of the charge point infrastructure under the Climate Action Plan.

37 HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY

The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has developed an e-Learning module to help local authorities meet their statutory obligations to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of public sector staff and service users.

38 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

A total of 23 local authorities have been shortlisted for this year's Excellence in Local Government (ELG) Awards, across over 15 categories, including some new additions such as 'Climate Change', 'Communications' and 'Diversity & Inclusion'.

41 HOUSING DELIVERY ACTION PLANS

Under the Government's 'Housing for All' plan, all 31 local authorities have been directed to develop their own action plans in detailing social and affordable housing delivery over the next five years. So, just how well are councils currently progressing with these plans?

49 FIRST HOME SCHEME

Since the First Home Scheme was launched in July, the volume of applications has exceeded expectations, according to Interim CEO Michael Broderick. He details the main features of the new initiative, in making it easier for first-time buyers to afford a new build home.

53 CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Co-operative Housing Ireland (CHI) would not be able to take its first step in delivering houses without its invaluable collaboration with local authorities, according to Padraic Clancy, CHI's Head of Development. He outlines some of their current housing projects and achievements to date.

54 CLÚID HOUSING

Clúid Housing's sustainability objective has influenced new developments, ensuring that they contribute to national climate goals, and motivates the agency's programme of retrofitting existing homes, to improve the carbon footprint.



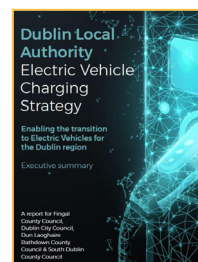
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57 SOCIAL JUSTICE IRELAND

The Government needs to increase spending on building social homes instead of subsidising a dysfunctional private rented sector, according to Colette Bennett, Economic and Social Analyst with Social Justice Ireland.

61 SHARED ISLAND FUNDING

More than €4.3m has been allocated to 15 lead local authorities in the south, working in partnership with nine councils in the north to develop collaborative cross-border investment projects over the next 12 months, under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme.

65 LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

The seventh Annual Public Lecture organised by UCC's Centre for Local and Regional Governance in October highlighted the need for greater diversity and gender equality, the issue of directly elected mayors, including calls for a devolution of powers and finance within the local government system.

67 AN BORD PLEANÁLA

The first phase of a review by the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) into certain systems and procedures used by An Bord Pleanála in delivering its statutory planning functions has been published in a new OPR report.

71 PLANNING REGULATOR'S REVIEW

The final review by the Office of the Planning Regulator of the planning systems and procedures used by local authorities has found that Kildare County Council is providing its key planning functions effectively, with the forward planning function being delivered in a highly effective manner.

73 DIGITAL RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Dublin has been selected as one of four European capital cities to pilot the Digital Rights Governance Framework over the coming years to develop a foundational educational module on digital rights, ethics and privacy targeted at young people and local authority workers across these cities.

77 SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo County Council is on track to complete a major €15 million regeneration scheme by 2024 to improve the energy efficiency of homes on the Cranmore Estate in Sligo Town. It's the first time that a local authority in the northwest has undertaken such a retrofitting scheme of this size and scale.

81 SMART COMMUNITIES

Opportunities and possibilities of adopting smart community planning at the county level are explored by Pat Kennedy, Chief Executive of eTownz. He analyses how this approach may align community planning with county planning.

85 AGE FRIENDLY IRELAND

The voice of the older person is central to the Age Friendly Programme in Ireland, delivered through a team-based framework of 31 local authority-led programmes, supported by the national shared service which is hosted by Meath County Council.

92 DRONES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A new report has looked at the latest initiative by Dublin City Council to accelerate the potential of drones across Ireland's local government sector, with thousands of UAV flights predicted to be in operation by 2030.

97 CLIMATE ACTION

Following a pilot programme to train community-based 'climate action champions', rolled out by Laois County Council in partnership with Laois and Offaly Education & Training Board, there are plans to run the course on a nationwide basis.

100 WOMEN IN POLITICS

See Her Elected (SHE) – the award-winning Government funded project which aims to encourage women to engage in local politics – received a great level of feedback at this year's National Ploughing Championships in Co. Laois.



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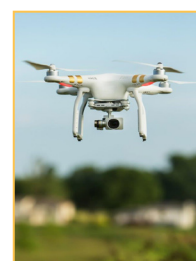
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