

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Review of Planning and Infrastructural Projects in Ireland

JOURNAL

IRELAND'S LARGEST REGENERATION PROJECT SET TO LAND IN CORK CITY

**€3.1BN HOUSING BUDGET - BIGGEST BUILD
PROGRAMME IN THE STATE'S HISTORY**

**TOP MARKS FOR MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2020**

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
MEETING CLIMATE TARGETS FOR 2030**



SPORT
IRELAND

www.sportireland.ie



CONTENTS

Winter 2020



4 NEWS UPDATE

13 SOCIAL HOUSING EXCHANGE

A UK online home exchange service which has landed in Dublin and Cork to enable council tenants in both cities to swap properties for free, plans to roll out the scheme to all social tenants in Ireland during 2021.

14 BUDGET 2021

With over €5.1bn allocated to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Budget 2021, €3.1bn has been ear-marked for the social housing sector, representing a major 24% increase of €733m on last year's Budget.

20 CORK CITY DOCKLANDS

Ireland's largest regeneration project – the Cork City Docklands – will see the development of thousands of homes and the creation of a new urban centre for international investment in the city over the next two decades.

24 CLIMATE CHANGE

A radical shift in gear is required to meet Ireland's climate targets for 2030, according to Prof John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council. He says that the policy focus must be on delivering cost-effective, socially sustainable and environmentally compatible measures to achieve decarbonisation and climate resilience by 2050.

29 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Mayo County Council made its mark at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards by winning the 'Local

Authority of the Year' award for 2020, in addition to a hat-trick of category wins, while it was also shortlisted in two other categories.

35 PLANNING REGULATIONS

Over the next six years the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) will evaluate close to 200 draft plans from around the country to measure how well they are aligned with existing planning policy and regulatory requirements.

38 INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

County councils from Clare, Fingal, Meath and South Dublin were the four Irish finalists in the European Innovation in Politics Awards for 2020, for projects ranging from age-friendly housing, urban rejuvenation to community arts and playground facilities.

43 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal County Council's new €767m Capital Programme (2021-2023) has set out significant investment on projects in North County Dublin, with a strong emphasis on housing, active travel measures and expanding greenway infrastructure over the next three years.

47 WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

A key strategic goal of Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is to focus on an excellent service delivery by promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users. A major part of this plan has been the development of the Customer Service Hub, which is now fully operational since October 2020.





Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

SOUTH CAMPSHIRE FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT



Flood Protection – Enhanced Environment Civic Amenity

***Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath TIONSCADAIL TUILTE AGUS RANNÁN UM CHREAT-TREOIR UISCE,
Dublin City Council, Flood Projects & Water Framework Directive Division***



www.dublincity.ie



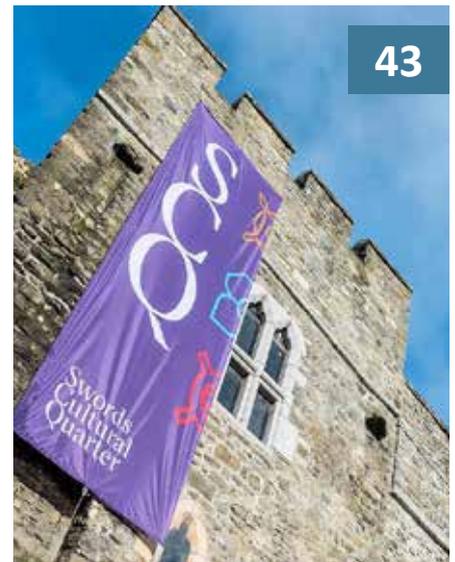
35



48



60



43

48 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The Irish Local Development Network's five-year strategic plan aims to enable the local development sector to support rural and urban communities, and also takes account of the Covid-19 challenge, which has seen over 2,200 individuals daily seeking the assistance of local development companies nationwide.

54 DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK

South Dublin County Council's Tallaght District Heating Scheme will be the first large-scale district heating network of its kind in Ireland, which aims to reduce carbon emissions in the area by almost 1,500 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

57 SOUTH DUBLIN - ADAMSTOWN SDZ

Work is now underway on three significant infrastructure projects at the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in South Dublin, with the €20m development due for completion in 2022.

59 DODDER VALLEY GREENWAY

The 14km Dodder Valley Greenway in South Dublin, which aims to be on a par with the best greenways in the world upon completion, will provide a unique combination of off-road and on-road facilities to utilise existing amenities within the area.

60 SEAI ENERGY AWARDS

Dublin City Council, NUI Galway and SSE Airtricity Energy Services were among the winners of the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards, announced by the Sustainable Energy Authority of

Ireland (SEAI) during an online awards ceremony at the end of October.

62 EU WORKPLACE INNOVATION

Cork City Council is one of four consortium partners of the European 'Start at Best' project, which is funding workplace innovation practices to support and drive competitiveness across the SME sector. Five Irish SMEs received grant-aid under this 'Horizon 2020' project to support their own initiatives.

67 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Local authorities place a great emphasis on future planning to improve the quality of life for everyone. This sense of community within the workplace should be as equally important for all council employees, notes James Scott, CEO of tech communications company Thrive.

71 NORTH-WEST PARTNERSHIP

The importance of cross-border collaboration to deal with the challenges of Covid-19 and Brexit and to deliver on the planned regional growth projects were outlined at a recent virtual North-West Strategic Growth Partnership meeting.

72 ELECTRONIC VOTING SURVEY

The majority of Irish people favour electronic voting from home in future elections and referenda, in addition to the introduction of a national identity card, according to the findings of a nationwide survey by the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software.

LOCAL AUTHORITY JOURNAL
14 Upper Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6785165
Email: info@localauthorities.ie

Managing Director: Patrick Aylward

Editor: Grace Heneghan

Graphic Design: John Sheridan

Advertisement Co-ordinator
Audrey Fitzgerald

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information included is correct, the publisher cannot accept responsibility for errors, omissions or discrepancies. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. All rights reserved Local Authority Journal © 2020



'EXPERIENCE CLARE 2021 HOLIDAY CALENDAR' TARGETS TOURISM SECTOR

The Tourism Department in Clare County Council has produced a special Experience Clare 2021 Holiday Calendar to encourage visitors to choose Clare as the destination for their holiday breaks, when it is safe to do so.

Launching the new calendar, the Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, said: "2020 has been an incredibly difficult year and is one that we will remember for a long time to come. A break in wonderful Clare will be just the tonic for people to unwind and recharge."

The calendar features a range of attractions in Clare, from activities in coastal locations on the Wild Atlantic Way to more tranquil venues in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in the eastern part of the county. They offer opportunities for dining, shopping, heritage, activity and adventure, and much more.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, said: "The tourism industry worldwide has suffered a massive economic shock in 2020. The local economy and businesses in Clare have not escaped its devastating impact. Before Covid-19 halted travel, the tourism sector in Clare supported over 6,600 jobs. The Clare Tourism Recovery Taskforce has been working to help ensure Clare tourism recovers strongly."

Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism at Clare County Council, explained: "The Experience Clare 2021 Holiday Calendar promotes

County Clare on a worldwide stage, with the calendar both internationally through Tourism Ireland and domestically through Fáilte Ireland, media, tourism networks and the hospitality sector. It will be a subtle reminder of the huge appeal of Clare to visitors."



Pictured launching the Experience Clare 2021 Holiday Calendar at Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis were (l-r): Clare County Council's Chief Executive Pat Dowling; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism; Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer; and the Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard.

'RIOT SLIGO' TO ZOOM IN ON CULTURE, COMMUNITY & BUSINESS

An international virtual conference – RIOT: SLIGO 2021 – on 23 & 24 March will look at how to re-imagine Sligo, and other towns and small cities using culture as a stimulus.



Sligo Culture Team invites ideas and comment from the general public through social media channels using #riotsligo, in advance of the conference. Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Dara Mulvey, stated: "We look forward to the outcomes of this conference – a series of recommendations towards an inclusive and practical approach to re-imagining Sligo and other small towns through collaboration between their creative, cultural, society and economic resources."

"Covid-19 has forced us all to re-examine how we live, and RIOT: SLIGO gives us the opportunity to do this as a collective. Let's think creatively of how we want Sligo to be in the coming years, for individual, for groups, for business, for culture," noted Donal Tinney, co-ordinator of Sligo Culture Team.

"There is an opportunity here for new collaborations that will benefit all sectors of our society. RIOT: SLIGO will ask the hard questions about how values of culture, community and business can be mutually beneficial. We will curate conversations with a cross-section of experts and innovators from places and projects that have been transformed through ground-breaking collaborations," Tinney added.

Contributors include Prof Arjo Klamer, expert in the Economics of Art and Culture, Helen Marriage, a visionary cultural city events curator, Rossella Tarantino from Italy, where her work with Matera's 2019 Capital of Culture continues to attract more investment and visitors.

For further details visit www.riotsligo.ie.



YOUR HEART DOESN'T CARE ABOUT OPENING HOURS, SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY.

Ireland's only private 24/7 Urgent Cardiac
Care unit. Our expert team is always here
when you need us.



Making lives better, together.



www.materprivate.ie

Tel: 1800 247 999



TIPPERARY'S LANDFILL SITE IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

Tipperary County Council is doubling its solar panel capacity by adding a further 250kW, with the addition of four more generating sites, including panels on two leisure centres and a ground mounted array on a landfill site near Roscrea. Energy generated from these sites would be enough to power 50 houses.

Marion O'Neill, Head of Environment at Tipperary County Council, said: "The installation of the solar panel arrays at this landfill in Tipperary is a great example for other local authorities to use such sites to generate renewable energy and reduce energy costs."

Tipperary County Council made headlines in 2014 with Ireland's largest solar panel (photovoltaic) project. The panels were installed on fire stations, libraries, offices and leisure centres in a project which increased Ireland's total solar PV capacity by 44%.

During that time the energy generated from these panels has saved the council well over €19,000 and has reduced carbon emissions by 41 tonnes. Directly converting the sun's light into electricity and with a lifespan of 25 years, these solar panels are different as they use the sun to heat water.

The difference between this project and the project six years ago is that excess electricity can be sold to Ireland's only community-owned renewable electricity supplier 'Community Power'.

One of the founders of Community Power, John Fogarty said: "It is our vision that every citizen and every community in Ireland can have the opportunity to really be active participants in the energy transition. This means inspiring people to build their own

renewable project, whether on a farm or on a roof, and then buying and selling that clean power to and from themselves."

Together with Tipperary Energy Agency, Tipperary County Council is a partner on a European project called 'Community Virtual Power Plant', which is helping communities across Ireland to generate their own electricity which they can sell to Community Power.

Electricity supplier Community Power is looking for homeowners and businesses to purchase their community renewably-generated electricity. Homes and businesses can switch on communitypower.ie.



Kieran McKenna, Tipperary County Council, Alan Jackson, Tipperary Energy Agency, and Sarah Fogarty, Community Power, at the Solar PV (photovoltaic) array, at Ballaghveny Landfill in Tipperary.

EU PROJECT CALLS FOR COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY ACTION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Cork City Council will manage a three-year Citizen Engagement and Energy Collective Action project with €2m funding, in partnership with the International Energy Research Centre at UCC's Tyndall National Institute, as part of EU Horizon 2020.

The project, which will run until August 2023, aims to accelerate the growth of energy communities throughout European regions by developing an inclusive standard framework. It also aims to facilitate citizen participation in the transition from a 'consumer-market' to a 'prosumer-market'.

The project is one of the regional actions that Cork City Council wishes to pursue following its participation in the Interreg Europe INTENSIFY project. As part of this learning project, nine European regions came together to take decisive actions about intensifying community engagement in order to increase the rate at which greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced.

As project partner, Cork City Council will oversee the management of its 'One Stop Shop' model. One of the key features of the project is to train 'Implementation Champions' on key topics such as behaviour change, prosumerism, collective actions and their benefit to consumers, becoming energy citizens in sustainable energy communities. These champions will act as local energy experts, closely working with local authorities and providing advice to local citizens and communities.

The project will run under the EU partnership banner of 'UP-STAIRS', which stands for Uplifting Communities: Structuring collective action for sustainable local transition and identifying regulatory solutions for adopting frontier technologies and disruptive business models.

Initial pilot locations are Cork City, Ireland; Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Catalonia, Spain; Brunnthal, Bavaria, Germany; Upper Austria Region, Austria; and the Municipality of Asenovgrad, Bulgaria.



SUPPLIERS OF SUSTAINABLE CORRUGATED PACKAGING



Ashbourne Industrial Estate, Ballybin Road, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
01 801 0400 | www.saica.com



COLD WEATHER CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY DUBLIN'S LORD MAYOR

Dublin's Lord Mayor, Cllr Hazel Chu, was on hand to help launch the Cold Weather Campaign by Dublin City Council and ALONE on the first Friday in December.

Dublin City Council's Community Development Section, in association with ALONE, the Gardaí and Dublin Fire Brigade, is urging members of the public to check in on older people in their community this winter.

Lord Mayor Hazel Chu said: "We appeal to Dubliners and people across the country to be mindful of older people in our communities who may live alone or be at risk of struggling with loneliness, health difficulties or fuel poverty.

"The Cold Weather Initiative represents the community and the entire city working together to make a difference in the lives of older people, many of whom face worries about warmth, shelter and essentials such as food and medication at this time of year."

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE, said: "We regularly work with older people who don't have central heating, live in challenging housing conditions, and even people who have used their free travel and stayed on buses and trains during the day to keep warm.



Lord Mayor Cllr Hazel Chu pictured with elderly residents at the launch of the campaign. For more information visit www.alone.ie or contact ALONE on 0818-222-024.

"Colder temperatures can have a serious impact on the health and safety of older people, and Ireland has among the highest levels of excess winter mortality in Europe. It's really important that we reach out to people who may be finding things difficult due to ill health, financial worries, or housing difficulties.

"We encourage anyone who may be concerned about their own wellbeing or someone else's to reach out for assistance from ALONE if needed. We want people to know that ALONE is here to help with any problems they may have this winter season, from housing conditions to loneliness."

BUILDING STARTS ON BORD NA MÓNA €100M OFFALY WIND FARM

Bord na Móna has started building a €100m wind farm at Cloncreen, Co. Offaly, and says the new plant will be able to supply up to 55,000 homes with electricity every year.

The company, which is seeking alternative businesses to managing and harvesting peat, is working on several renewable energy projects around Ireland, including wind farms. It confirmed that work has started on the 75MW wind-energy plant at Cloncreen, for which Bord na Móna recently secured permission from Bord Pleanála.

Bord na Móna (BnM) will get a guaranteed price for the electricity that the wind farm will generate under the State's Renewable Energy Support Scheme, which is funded by a levy on domestic and commercial electricity bills.

BnM's Chief Executive, Tom Donnellan, said: "We're now on track to be able to supply approximately one third of Irish homes with renewable energy by 2030."



Bord na Móna is also building a wind farm at Oweninny, Co. Galway, in partnership with the ESB.



QUINTAIN

BRINGING PLACES TO LIFE

Quintain is one of the largest residential developers in Ireland and the mastermind behind Wembley Park, London one of Europe's biggest regeneration projects. Our ambition is to create exceptional and affordable places to live, which are at the forefront of sustainability, design and placemaking for our communities.



Our landbank can accommodate over 9,000 units and 95,000 square metres of commercial space. Since 2016 we have delivered approximately 1,000 homes within our Adamstown and Portmarnock neighbourhoods.



Portmarnock
1,000 NEW HOMES



Cherrywood
2,600 NEW HOMES



Adamstown & Lucan
5,800 NEW HOMES



Clonburris
350 NEW HOMES



INTERNATIONAL GREEN FLAG AWARDS FOR DUBLIN, GALWAY AND WATERFORD

International accreditation for park excellence in Ireland jumped again for 2020, which has seen a massive increase in park visitors, with a surge in urban park Green Flag accreditations across cities in Dublin, Galway and Waterford.

There has also been a further expansion of the scheme to include new types of public green spaces. For example, the Waterford Greenway was accredited, while in Cavan a UNESCO Global Geopark became a Green Flag Award Site for the first time.

Numbers of International Green Flag Award Sites for the best parks and gardens in Ireland surged again for 2020. New green flag parks and gardens, accredited by teams of trained volunteer judges, include for the first-time sites from Cavan, Donegal, and Waterford.



The Waterford Greenway was accredited with an International Green Flag award for 2020.

Only awarded for exceeding tough environmental standards in green space management, and excellence of visitor attractions – the Green Flag Award for Parks is the mark of a quality park or green space and is recognised throughout the world. A total of 84 Irish Parks and Gardens from across the Republic of Ireland received their 2020 Green Flags.

From among 15 countries whose parks met the standard this year there were once again more Green Flag Awards secured by Irish parks and gardens than by any country, other than the UK where the scheme originated in 1996.

Participating countries included Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, UK, and the USA.

The 2020 awards were available to public town parks, country parks, gardens, cemeteries, nature parks and green spaces from across the country. This year has seen the number of Green Flag Community Award sites in Ireland more than double from last year.

Additional community run parks and gardens were accredited in Carlow, Donegal, Fingal - North County Dublin, Kildare, Galway, Roscommon, and Wexford.

The Green Flag Community Award extends the scheme to include community initiatives such as community gardens and parks, and Tidy Towns projects. In Ireland the Green Flag Community Award Scheme is co-ordinated with the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

For further information about the Green Flag Award or other programmes run by An Taisce Environmental Education e-mail Robert Moss at rmoss@eeu.antaisce.org

€8M BRIDGE PROVIDES BOOST FOR GREENWAY IN THE MIDLANDS

A total investment of €8.1m has been announced for the construction of a new bridge over the Shannon River in Athlone as part of the Dublin to Galway Greenway.

The funding, part of an overall package of €63.5m for Greenways in 2021, has been welcomed by Peter Burke TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Hopes are high that the centre point of Athlone's newest bridge over the Shannon going from Leinster to Connaught will become an 'Instagram location' for visitors when it's in place. The new bridge will cross the river from the Radisson Blu Hotel to the Luan Gallery.

Minister of State Burke hailed the total investment for 2021 as the highest single-year amount ever allocated to greenways in this country, since the initiative was trialled and introduced by the Fine Gael Labour Government in 2011.

Minister Hildegarde Naughten, Fine Gael TD for Galway has said that this figure nearly equals the total amount originally allocated for the four years 2018-2021 (€53m) "and shows the commitment of this Government to providing a step-change in the way in which we fund walking and cycling".

This investment will support even greater numbers enjoying



Minister Peter Burke (right) with former Sports Minister Brendan Griffin.

our outdoors by cycling and walking for school, work and leisure," Minister Burke said.

"All families will welcome the roll-out of a new 'Safe Routes to School' programme, which will seek to accelerate the delivery of improved walking and cycling infrastructure to schools; enhance sustainable access onto school grounds; and expand the amount of cycle parking available at schools. Underpinning this

new initiative, we will see almost €1 million per day spent on our walking and cycling infrastructure in 2021," he added.

"Prior to the pandemic, local authorities were funded 60% by the Government for these provisions. However, in recognition of the significant financial constraints put on our county councils since the onset of the restrictions, government has increased this funding to 100% of the total cost."



IRISH REGIONS EUROPEAN OFFICE PRESENTATION AT EWRC 2020



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC 2020) took a slightly different turn, with events taking place online.

The Irish Regions European Office (IREO) hosted an event entitled 'Green Cities by Co-Design'. Co-organised by the Greater London Authority, the

seminar brought together representatives from nine European cities to examine how citizen engagement and smart technology work in building green cities.

Speakers from Ireland, UK, France, Estonia, Belgium, Italy and Germany provided examples of how citizen engagement is essential to building more

liveable cities. They each outlined the need for new ways of thinking on how to design, plan sustainable cities and sustain urban growth in conjunction with local stakeholders.

The work of Limerick City and County Council and Smart Dublin was showcased at the seminar as representatives from both city councils outlined how engagement with the local community is essential to combat climate change and the impact on the urban agenda.

Parallel sessions focused on citizen centric innovation and examined a range of innovative solutions for adapting to a smart city, and the importance of building new alliances with citizens. A range of effective engagement strategies were highlighted, and innovative initiatives showcased, which showed how to implement green cities, using research, innovation and good governance.

For a full recording of the workshop on 21 October, together with the recordings of the two breakout sessions visit <https://bit.ly/378cEa8>

€50M WALKING AND CYCLING FUND FOR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Local authorities are set to receive €50m in funding as part of a new investment package for walking and cycling projects in towns and villages across the country.

The aim of this funding, recently announced by Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD and Minister of State Hildegard Naughton TD, is to support the development of high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure outside of the Greater Dublin Area and regional cities who are already eligible for Active Travel funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Local authority applicants should identify convenient and direct routes for active travel modes, including, and where necessary, aims to reallocate space from motor traffic and car parking. Funded projects should be accessible, age-friendly and maximise comfort to people of all ages and abilities.

Minister Ryan said: "Since Covid we have seen an increase in cycling and walking, and a reconnection to our local areas as well as some inspired ideas from our local councils. Now is the time to build on that by providing this specific funding for 2021 for high quality cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in towns and villages across the country."

Minister Naughton added that this additional funding was a great opportunity, "particularly for those local authorities who have not yet had the resources to develop Active Travel



strategies".

Anne Graham, CEO of the NTA said: "The number of people who are choosing to get around by Active Travel modes is growing steadily, and we are responding to this by funding local authorities who want to invest in providing new infrastructure and new supports.

"We will be calling on the relevant local authorities to engage with us, and we're particularly keen to ensure that those that do not already have detailed active travel network strategies are given the technical and financial support they need."



KENNEDY WILSON



Making a difference,
being part of the
change



www.kennedywilson.com
www.kennedywilsonresidential.ie



EXPANSION OF HOME SWAP SERVICE IN DUBLIN AND CORK



A UK online home exchange service has landed in Dublin and Cork to enable council tenants in both cities to swap properties for free, with plans to roll out the scheme to all social tenants in Ireland during 2021.

HomeSwapper – the online platform operated by Housing Partners (an MRI Software company) – has already enabled the exchange of more than 260,000 homes swapped by tenants in the UK.

Cork City Council and Dublin City Council are taking part in this pilot project with HomeSwapper.ie in Ireland to help their tenants find a mutual exchange (home swap). It will now enable council tenants in both cities to swap properties for free. The solution is part of MRI Social Housing, a suite of applications supporting millions of social housing tenants and their home providers.

HomeSwapper gives social housing tenants greater flexibility and choice, allowing them to switch homes for a number of reasons. These can include moving to a new job, school, or dealing with a change in family circumstances.

The mutual exchange scheme allows two local council or housing association tenants to officially swap their homes anywhere within – or even between – the two cities.

“The council has a substantial waiting list of tenants who have applied for transfer to other social housing areas,” said Suzanne Lacey from Dublin City Council. “The reason tenants seek a transfer can vary from overcrowding, wanting to move closer to family or friends, to having a larger tenancy than they require.”

A MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL MOVE

She added that this self-service platform allows tenants to look for a transfer match that will suit their household bedroom requirements. “HomeSwapper will allow our tenants to make moves that are mutually beneficial without waiting for years on lists.”

“The online platform makes searching simple. If you are a tenant of Cork City Council or Dublin City Council, you can now

register for the service for free and start the search for your new home. Once a swap has been found, your housing team will begin to process the application.”

HomeSwapper’s Account Director, Eddy Irvine, said he was excited to work with both city councils in Dublin and Cork to mirror the success of mutual exchange in the UK. “We want to assist social tenants in Ireland to find the perfect home through swapping rather than spending a long time on a waiting list. Once the initiative is fully up and running for Dublin and Cork, we will look to roll it out to all social tenants in Ireland in 2021.”



The HomeSwapper app can be download from the Apple Store or Google Play for free, or alternatively, tenants may register on www.homeswapper.ie.

'HOUSING FOR ALL' BUDGET BONANZA

The housing package of €3.1bn announced in Budget 2021 – an increase of over €730m on Budget 2020 – is the biggest social housing programme in the history of the State. The Government's commitment to deliver 12,750 social homes this year and to focus on the prevention of homelessness has been welcomed, in particular, by the housing agencies.

The significant €3.1bn spend in housing, which represents the highest investment in housing by any Government in a single year, forms part of the overall budget package for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2021 of over €5bn.

Key areas of spending for the year ahead will include social housing delivery, affordability measures, homelessness provisions and rental measures, while €1.3bn has also been announced for investment in water services.

The Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, said that the Budget demonstrates the Government's commitment to tackling homelessness, increasing the number of new build social houses, and providing more affordable homes to those trying to get on the housing ladder.

"This budget is the very definition of a 'Housing for All' budget. Importantly this budget has also seen €1.3bn allocated to Irish Water, so that critical infrastructure can be provided, which will have knock-on effects on our supply of housing.

"We have also secured further increases in planning, local government and heritage as well as vital access to ring-fenced Covid-19 funding."

Through the increased capital and current funding provision, 12,750 new social homes will be delivered through build,



"This budget is the very definition of a 'Housing for All' budget," according to Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. (Pic: Dermot Byrne)

acquisition and leasing programmes. Capital funding of over €2bn has been allocated for housing in 2021, a large element will be used to support approved housing bodies (AHBs) and local authorities to deliver over 10,300 new social homes through build and acquisition programmes.

The current funding allocation will support a range of other programmes, and, in particular, the delivery of 2,450 social homes through long-term leasing by local authorities and AHBs.

CRITICAL FOCUS ON HOMELESS CRISIS

The Minister added that homelessness prevention is a 'critical focus' for the Department of Housing in Budget 2021, and to deliver services for those experiencing homelessness.

He does not accept the criticisms of others who simultaneously say that nothing has been provided for renters while dismissing the 76,500 tenancies assisted by the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and Rental Accommodation Schemes (RAS).

"While building our long-term stock, we must continue to provide immediate

options to support households in having their housing needs met under these schemes – this is absolutely necessary if we are serious about reducing homeless presentations."

An increased allocation of €218m has been provided, representing a 31% increase on €166m allocated in Budget 2020. This will support over 6,000 exits from homelessness and help support the Housing First Model. "As the pandemic continues, it is imperative that local authorities and their NGO partners are supported in their efforts to reduce homelessness and to care for the

vulnerable.

"Specific funding of €21m has also been allocated to support the housing needs of members of the Travelling community while €60m has also been allocated to fund adaptation grants, which will support older people and people with a disability to remain in their homes.

"These are just some of the key areas of Budget 2021 provisions in my department. We have set ourselves ambitious but realisable targets that will benefit all of our citizens," the minister noted.

KEY ELEMENTS OF HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- Funding of €220m will continue to support the delivery of new social housing homes by the AHB sector, via the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). The increase in funding will allow for the provision of 3,800 additional social homes through new build and acquisition in 2021;
- Funding of €11m for the Repair and Leasing Scheme will allow local authorities and AHBs to provide financial assistance to property owners to remediate up to 170 vacant private homes so they can then be leased for social housing;
- €23m will support the continuation of the Mortgage-to-Rent Scheme and will allow for 330 additional households to be supported and to remain in their own homes.
- Funding of €65m is available in 2021 to retrofit 2,400 social housing homes to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2 or cost optimal equivalent;
- A number of affordability measures with funding totalling €468m will include:
 - » A new funding model to accelerate the delivery of 400 cost rental homes through the AHB sector as part of an €110m Affordability Measures package [new Cost Rental Equity Loan Facility (CRELF) will allow AHBs to borrow up to 30% of the cost of rental homes from the State]. This package also provides for the recently-announced new national Affordable Purchase Shared Equity Scheme for first-time buyers.
 - » €50m will be allocated to the Serviced Sites Fund (SSF) to provide infrastructure to support the delivery of homes to purchase or rent at discounted prices.
 - » The Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) will be supported by an allocation of €38m in 2021, to go towards funding major public
- infrastructure projects and the ongoing delivery of up to 20,000 new homes across public and private sites over the lifetime of the scheme.
 - » Funding package for the Land Development Agency: The LDA has nine sites with the potential to deliver in the region of 4,000 new homes, and the majority of these homes will be made available for cost rental or affordable purchase.
- €73m provided for the National Regeneration Programme, which will benefit some of the most economically disadvantaged communities;
- €218m to support and help those experiencing homelessness to successfully exit homelessness as well as support the roll-out of the Housing First model;
- Additional funding of €59m under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP), giving a total provision of €250m, will help to deliver 6,450 additional social housing homes in 2021, as well as supporting over 20,800 leased homes already in place;
- An allocation of €558m for the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) will enable 15,000 new households to be accommodated in 2021, as well as continuing to support over 59,000 households already in tenancies by end 2020.





**Oakston Property Company Limited
2 Prospect Court, Prospect Ave.,
Glasnevin, Dublin, D09 YX54.**

JV TIERNEY & CO

MECHANICAL ELECTRICAL & SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERS

J.V. Tierney are
Industry Leaders in Energy
Efficient & Sustainable
Building Services Design &
Building Information Modelling



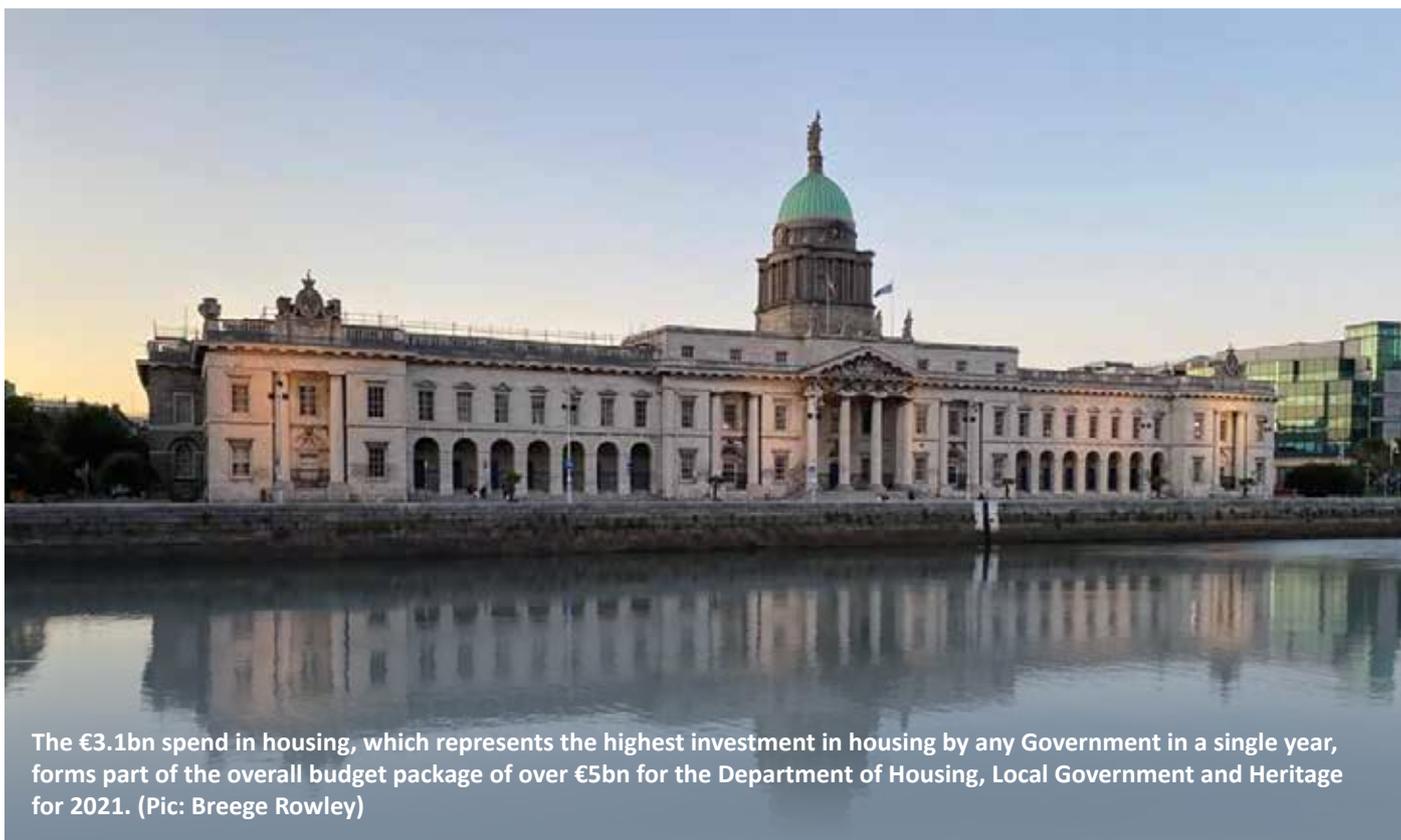
BREEAM Assessments
LEED Commissioning Agent
BER Certification
Part L Compliance
Building Modelling

MEMBER OF

ACEI

Tel: 01-421 4900
mail@jvtierney.ie
www.jvtierney.ie





The €3.1bn spend in housing, which represents the highest investment in housing by any Government in a single year, forms part of the overall budget package of over €5bn for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2021. (Pic: Breege Rowley)

REACTION FROM SOME HOUSING AGENCIES....

HOUSING ALLIANCE: Declan Dunne, Chair of the Housing Alliance, said they're delighted to see that Government has provided funding for the Affordable Rental Scheme. "Since taking office Minister O'Brien has been receptive and collaborative and this announcement is testament to his willingness to work with us and other partners in the housing sector to help address the urgent housing needs across all demographics of Irish society.

"The Capital Advanced Leasing Facility (CALF) funding is a proven mechanism through which AHBs provide significant numbers of affordable social rental homes right across the country and it is a welcome development that the funding model announced represents a form of secondary CALF funding.

"It is vital that the nature of the finance available is long-term to allow AHBs to future plan in a sustainable way to deliver secure homes for those on income levels who have found themselves falling through the net by being unable to qualify for social housing yet also struggling to pay market rents at current rates."

RESPOND: Welcoming Budget 2021 measures to address housing and homelessness, Respond said it is positive to see the Government take a counter-cyclical investment approach, increasing investment in social and affordable housing in 2021. Niamh Randall, Respond's Head of Advocacy and Communications, said that the inclusion of the affordable rental measures has the potential to transform the Irish housing landscape.

"This will offer an alternative rental option, allowing for

greater housing affordability and choice. Prior to this there was no funded model to provide affordable rental housing. The lack of affordable housing, whether renting or buying, has had greatest impact on those in low incomes and living in poverty.

"We are keen to continue playing our part in delivering social homes for individual and families who need them. The commitment of €65m for the deep retrofitting of social housing is also particularly welcome to allow for upgrades of older housing stock."

IRISH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL HOUSING: The capital investment in public housing, according to the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH), sends a clear signal to approved housing bodies (AHBs) and local authorities to meet and even exceed existing targets that will boost the delivery of permanent social housing.

Welcoming the €3.1bn housing fund, Dr Donal McManus, ICSH Chief Executive, said: "The pandemic has intensified the housing crisis, and the significant capital funding increase is a commitment to protecting the social housing pipeline and increasing delivery to the 2021 target of 12,750 new social homes. We must ensure that we can actually spend this money and that any obstacles to the local authority and approved housing body construction pipeline are removed."

He said that the dedicated €110m allocation towards affordable housing and the delivery of 400 cost rental homes by AHBs in 2021 was very welcome. "The AHB sector has been calling for the cost rental intermediate model to be developed as a matter of urgency. Cost rental housing will assist those on modest incomes who are struggling with high rents and will help build mixed income communities."

Is your child protected against flu?

Ask about the free flu vaccine for your child aged 2-12 years

Your child is more likely to get flu than adults

Your child is twice as likely to get flu.



Your child can be seriously ill from flu

Your child may develop: pneumonia, bronchitis and painful ear infections.

Almost 5000 children in Ireland were hospitalised with flu in the last 10 years and 40 children died.



Flu vaccine protects your child from flu

It also stops the spread of flu to those around them.

It's quick and easy to get the vaccine

It's given as a spray up the nose, there's no need for an injection.

Flu vaccine is free

Talk to your GP (doctor) or pharmacist today about getting the flu vaccine for your child.



Why do you need flu vaccine?

Flu isn't just a cold

Flu can cause pneumonia and bronchitis and can make chronic health conditions worse.



Flu is serious

Up to 500 people die from flu every year in Ireland.

Flu vaccine protects you

You should get the flu vaccine if you:

- are 65 years and older or
- have a chronic health problem such as heart or lung disease or
- are pregnant



Flu vaccine protects others too

You should get the flu vaccine if you are a healthcare worker or a carer or if you live with someone with a chronic health condition.

Flu vaccine is free for people at risk

Talk to your GP (doctor) or pharmacist today about getting the flu vaccine.



IRELAND'S LARGEST REGENERATION PROJECT SET TO LAND IN CORK CITY

Cork City Council, in partnership with the Land Development Agency, aims to unlock the potential of Cork City Docklands over the next two decades, in which Ireland's largest regeneration project will roll out the development of thousands of homes and the creation of a new urban centre for international investment into the city.

The partnership between Cork City Council and the Land Development Agency in setting up the new Delivery Office for Cork City Docklands will seek to promote a regeneration project of international scale and significance in Cork City.

Over 146ha of land will be developed over a 20-year period as part of Ireland's largest regeneration project, to accommodate a population of c.25,000 and a workforce of c.29,000 along with a student population of c.3,700.

Funded by project partners LDA and Cork City Council, who are now seeking substantial funding from Government under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), the Delivery Office will work to unlock the regeneration of the Cork City Docklands. It will be tasked with creating partnerships and removing obstacles to development, and co-ordinating stakeholder engagement and consultation.



Construction at Penrose Quay in Cork City.



Before and after the development of the Cork City Docklands regeneration

It is intended that the office build an internationally recognised brand for the Cork City Docklands, which will act as a magnet for major inward investment projects, similar to the IFSC in Dublin, and across Europe, such as Hammarby in Stockholm, Aarhus in Denmark, and HafenCity in Germany.

PROJECTS UNDER EXAMINATION

Among the projects which are being examined by the partnership are developments at Marina Park, further embracing the River Lee as an amenity,

and the improvement of transport with the development of a transport hub at Kent Station.

A priority will be given to sustainable and active transport along with a mix of amenity and transport infrastructure. The developments will include homes, schools, medical and social services, sports and recreation facilities, office space, pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels retail and two new bridges for the city.

Sustainable development and access to public transport links will be at the heart of the project. The Delivery Office

will be guided by a steering group led by the CEOs of Cork City Council and the LDA and will involve a range of state bodies and local stakeholders.

The LDA and Cork City Council will begin the search for a Programme Manager immediately, to lead the Cork Docklands Delivery Office. The Docklands area is already seeing extensive development; 82,475 sqm of office development is in construction or completed with over 12,000 sqm in the planning process. Over 1,600 residential units are currently in the planning process in the area; 136 hotel rooms are constructed or in construction with 265 rooms seeking planning.

AMBITIOUS FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

In the first 12 months of operation, it is intended that the new Docklands Delivery Office will review all existing plans, meet key landowners and stakeholders and develop a deliverable but ambitious five-year strategy for the Docklands. The plan will also identify early deliverables to build momentum.



An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin said that the redevelopment of the Cork City Docklands will be a project of international significance.

Cllr Joe Kavanagh, Lord Mayor of Cork, described the development as “a major step forward” in unlocking the potential of Cork City Docklands. “This new partnership and Delivery Office, which will be fully resourced, will build momentum and bolster the environment in which development can take place.

“Cork City Docklands will be a nationally and internationally renowned



“Cork City Council and the LDA will bring many partners together for the benefit of the city. The scale of ambition will leverage new opportunities for Cork” - An Taoiseach Micheál Martin

**Manufacturing facility at the port of Foynes in Co. Limerick
Manufacturing Low Smoke, Low Emission Fuels and Supporting Irish Jobs**



REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

Every day we hear about the effect on the environment when we put our waste to landfill, everybody is talking about the circular economy - Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Waste sent to landfill produces dangerous gases such as CO₂ (Carbon) and Methane.

So where do CPL come in?

We have been working with Nottingham University to take this waste and turn it into fuel!

We are excited to introduce a new technology to Ireland which is capable of converting waste into a Carbon Tax Free high quality fuel. The fuels tested produce more heat than peat briquettes whilst saving Carbon at the same time!

With a track record through our manufacturing plant in Foynes, opened in 2017 and now fully operational, this move further indicates CPL Fuels Ireland's commitment to a greener Irish economy and to playing its part in the de-carbonisation of Ireland.



According to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, this project will deliver much-needed affordable accommodation in Cork City in addition to office accommodation and other services.



project. The city is poised to be a key driver of Ireland's economic growth to 2040. In the National Planning Framework, the Government set a range of targets for Cork to ensure that it can deliver this ambition.

"The population of Cork City is targeted to grow by 50% by 2040. This will strengthen Cork as a city of scale, whose citizens can enjoy the benefit of significant economic expansion."

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, said: "The redevelopment of the Cork City Docklands will be a project of international significance. This Delivery Office offers an opportunity to create a magnet for investment into Cork City. It will further establish Cork's position as a major city and the initiative underlines this Government's commitment to balanced regional development.

"The establishment of strong regional cities is a key aim of the National Planning Framework and will help create opportunities for people across the island. By creating this new office, I am confident that Cork City Council and the Land Development Agency will bring many partners together for the benefit of the city. The scale of ambition which is being shown will drive investment and leverage new opportunities for Cork."

KEY ENABLER FOR REGENERATION

According to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, the establishment of this new Delivery Office is an important enabler for the regeneration of Cork's Docklands.

"The Land Development Agency's

partnership with Cork City Council is an exemplar of how the LDA and local authorities can deliver projects which will make a real difference to our cities and our people. This project will deliver much-needed affordable accommodation in Cork City in addition to office accommodation and other services," he noted.

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council, said Cork Docklands represents the most exciting urban regeneration site in Ireland and Europe and is a key component of the development strategy for Cork City.

"This is another milestone in our vision to develop Cork City Docklands as one of the best places in Europe to live and work. Cork City Council and the LDA will work in partnership with

government departments, state agencies, local representative organisations and community and voluntary groups to achieve the exciting development objectives for Cork Docklands."

From the Land Development Agency's perspective, Chief Executive John Coleman said their mission is to work with local authorities and others to facilitate the development of housing and urban regeneration projects.

POTENTIAL OF STATE-OWNED LANDS

"Across the country, we are working with local authorities to unlock the potential of state-owned lands and other strategic sites to increase the supply of affordable housing in Ireland.

"We're confident that the team, which will be put in place, will write a new chapter in the history of this city. It is rare to have such an opportunity in a modern city to create an attractive live-work proposition on this scale.

"The initiative is a major demonstration of the LDA's commitment to advancing the scale and development of Cork in collaboration with our valued partners at Cork City Council."

The Land Development Agency (LDA) was created in September 2018 to open up state-owned land for development. The Government has committed to capitalising it with €1.25bn following enactment of its grounding legislation. The LDA is currently active on sites that will deliver around 4,000 homes and is also currently developing a planning application for the St Kevin's Hospital site in Cork City.



Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council, said: "it is another milestone in our vision to develop Cork City Docklands as one of the best places in Europe to live and work".

MEETING CLIMATE TARGETS FOR 2030 IS IN OUR HANDS!



A radical shift in gear is required to meet Ireland's climate targets for 2030, according to Prof John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council. He tells Deirdre O'Flynn that with limited resources, the policy focus must be on delivering cost-effective, socially sustainable and environmentally compatible measures that achieve decarbonisation and climate resilience by 2050.

With Ireland having missed its climate change targets for 2020, the Climate Change Advisory Council urges the Government to act now to reduce emissions. Whilst the European Union had set a target of sourcing 20 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by the end of 2020, Ireland has had a lower target of 16 per cent (due to a poor renewable energy infrastructure).

"The government committed to meeting its targets and failed to take action," said Professor John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC). "Now, bigger actions are required to get our emissions down by 2030 – tackling climate change very rapidly is more expensive, but failure to act makes it more difficult and expensive to achieve our targets."

The Council's Annual Review 2020 stressed the urgency of shifting from planning to action to reduce emissions, to meet Ireland's climate targets and to put this country on track to achieve a net-zero emissions economy and society by 2050.

In October 2020 it was revealed that Ireland will have to pay €50m to other EU

countries under an EU credit purchase scheme to make up for missing our overall climate target by the end of 2020. “That €50m may be reduced, as Covid-19 will result in emissions being down, but we will still to exceed our target”, Prof Fitzgerald noted.

Interestingly, the EU may be moving from a system of national penalties for non-compliance to setting a collective target to which all nations would contribute to meeting.

The CCAC’s annual review contains strong recommendations for additional policies and measures to ensure Ireland meets its existing targets. Areas of concern include no significant change in national emissions in 2018, rising temperatures with 2019 the ninth consecutive year with temperatures above normal in Ireland and the winter of 2018-2019 the warmest winter on record in 119 years.

CLIMATE ACTION BILL

The annual review also notes that in order to better prepare for current and future climate extremes, Ireland must implement priority measures (already identified) at both national and local level. Some of those priorities are contained in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2020 published in October 2020.

One of its measures is a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by, on average, at least seven per cent per annum for the next 10 years. “The increased ambition is good, but that means doing more and putting measures in place to achieve it,” said Prof Fitzgerald.

A radical shift in gear is required to meet Ireland’s 2030 targets, he said.



“Retrofitting at scale, where local authority engineers can tender for builders to work on local authority housing, allows for better pricing and quality” – Prof John Fitzgerald

“With limited resources, the policy focus must be on delivering cost-effective, socially sustainable and environmentally compatible measures that achieve decarbonisation and climate resilience by 2050.”

CARBON TAX INCREASES

Steps have already been taken by the Government with carbon tax increased to €33.50 per tonne in Budget 2021. By 2030, it is planned that carbon tax will be €100 per tonne, in line with a key recommendation from the Climate Change Advisory Council.

According to the Council, the increase in the carbon tax is required to address the effects of the fall in fossil fuel prices over the last year, which would otherwise lead to an increase in emissions.

“We welcome that commitment and that the government has laid out how that increased revenue will be spent.”

The Budget outlined that €100 million of carbon tax revenue generated would be invested in increasing the energy efficiency of homes, including expanding the Warmer Homes Scheme and providing for new energy efficiency schemes, such as the National Home Retrofit Scheme.

RETROFITTING DUTIES

“Landlords have a duty to retrofit houses for their tenants – the State is the biggest landlord in the country, so it has a duty to retrofit its own stock of houses,” said Prof Fitzgerald. This will benefit people with low incomes in local authority or social housing by reducing their outgoing on energy “and it will have significant health benefits for older people who may not heat their homes properly”.

This is in line with the Council’s stand that “the burdens and benefits of policy measures necessary to tackle climate change must be fairly distributed across

WISH LIST FOR CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS

Changes in Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to encourage changes in farming

“I’d like to see farmers moving to more environmentally and financially sustainable approaches, as they will also be hit by Brexit. We need to incentivise farmers so that they can make more money by changing what they are doing and do good for the environment.”

“The Council recommends that CAP income support payments should be tailored to encourage farmers to reduce emissions, through reduced fertiliser use, reduced animal numbers and increased carbon sinks. The Council recommends setting a separate 2050 target for significant reductions in biogenic methane emissions, consistent with the objective of carbon neutrality and the Paris Agreement. In relation to land use, the obstacles to forestry need to be removed.”

Reduce transport emissions, including implementation of transport infrastructure

“Improved spatial planning was identified by the Council as one element of emission reduction along with public transport investment. Spending money on public transport in a decade will not change emission figures in that decade, but not spending money on public transport means we will not reach our 2050 targets.”

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Eliminate the most carbon-intensive fuels, coal and peat, from space and water heating in homes and other buildings.
- Utilise innovation and research to ensure that Ireland achieves a net-zero society and economy in 2050.
- Explore use of zero-carbon fuels such as biomethane and green hydrogen which may also create economic opportunities for Ireland

ballymore.

3 AND 4 BEDROOM FAMILY HOMES IN NAAS CO.KILDARE



LONGSTONE



FROM €350,000

BELLINGSFIELD



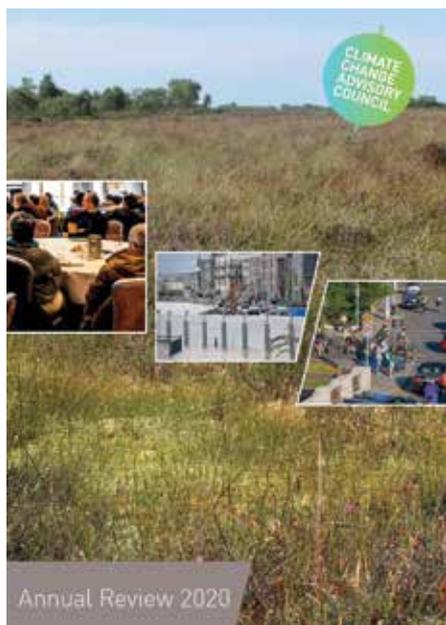
FROM €345,000



LAUNCHING SOON IN MALAHIDE AND NEWBRIDGE



www.ballymoregroup.com



To download a copy of the CCAC Annual Review 2020 visit bit.ly/38jh2U2

the population, ensuring that those on lower incomes or with other vulnerabilities are not disadvantaged – in other words, that there is a ‘just transition’, outlined Prof Fitzgerald.

He also pointed out that retrofitting at scale, where local authority engineers can tender for builders to work on local authority housing, allows for better pricing and quality.

And he cited the case in one local authority where private householders, living on an estate that included social housing, were willing to pay the local authority-sourced builder to also retrofit their houses.

EXEMPTION ON ELECTRIC CARS

The Annual Review 2020 has given particular attention to the transport sector, identifying the potential for a substantial reduction in transport emissions through improved spatial planning, public transport investment and the widespread deployment of electric vehicles.

However, the Council is concerned that the current approach relies too heavily on very rapid deployment of electric vehicles – the Government is committed to replacing one million petrol and diesel cars with electric cars by 2030.

“It’s great if that can happen but we would be concerned about the practicality of it – if it doesn’t happen, we’re not going to meet our climate targets,” noted Prof Fitzgerald.

Incentives for electric vehicles need to be better targeted towards those with high mileage, including commercial and rural drivers. These should be supplemented by disincentives for petrol and diesel vehicles, according to the Climate Change Advisory Council.

In Europe, for instance, initiatives being considered by the EU to boost electric vehicle sales include a potential EU-wide VAT exemption on electric cars. “A price differential in favour of electric cars will help to facilitate a changeover,” he said.

However, to reach the Government’s target of one million electric vehicles in circulation by 2030 will require significant changes in behaviour. “Electric cars

will have to have a big share of new car sales over the next decade – and when will second-hand electric cars become available? It’s not just about price.”

RURAL DRIVERS TARGETED

In the United States, he said, people underestimate the potential savings from fuel-efficient cars by 50 per cent, so policies and better communication is needed to persuade people to make the switch.

Prof Fitzgerald believes that emissions will be cut by a move to electric cars for people living in rural areas, in particular on the basis that they drive longer distances so there are bigger savings to be made than for urban drivers with shorter journeys.

“That will happen if electric cars are cheaper – with an increase in carbon tax, the price of fossil fuel cars and a decrease in the price of electric cars and savings on longer journeys. So, it makes sense to target rural drivers.”

Contingent on targeting rural drivers is ensuring that electricity distribution is consistent with charging cars at home, he said. This is especially the case on farms where there are other farm-related demands on electricity. “So, there is the issue of rolling out high-speed charging,” he added.

“If done right, climate action can bring resilience, employment opportunities, improved air and water quality, biodiversity, health benefits and warmer homes,” according to the Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council.



CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CCAC): The role of this independent statutory body, established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, includes the provision of advice to Government on national policy relating to climate change. It was formally established in January 2016. For further information visit www.climatecouncil.ie/

Prof John Fitzgerald is the Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council. He is adjunct professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin and Electrical and Electronic Engineering at UCD. He is a former research professor and currently a research affiliate at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Prof Fitzgerald is also a member of the Commission of the Central Bank of Ireland, and is a member of the governance board of both the UCD Energy Institute and the Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences (iCRAG) in UCD.



C

CREEDON GROUP LTD.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT



11-12 NEWMARKET, DUBLIN 8.

TEL:(00353) 86 3436 114.

EMAIL: CREEDONGROUP@GMAIL.COM

AWARD-WINNING STREAK FOR MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2020

Mayo County Council made its mark at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 by winning the 'Local Authority of the Year' accolade, in addition to a record hat-trick of category wins, and was also shortlisted in two other categories.

Mayo County Council was named 'Local Authority of the Year' at the Excellence in Local Government Awards, which took place online on 26 November 2020.

Now in its 17th year, the event was again organised by Chambers Ireland in association with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to showcase and celebrate the best of local government in Ireland.

"Local authorities are at the heart of local economies right across the island and make significant contributions to Irish society and the communities they serve," noted Ian Talbot, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland.

And he added that the value of the contribution made by local authorities has never been felt as strongly than over the past year, as towns, villages, cities and regions continue to cope with the impact



of Covid-19 on lives and livelihoods across all communities.

"As ever, it is an honour to host the Excellence in Local Government Awards. Our aim is to shine a spotlight on the valuable work of local authorities and

profile the excellent projects and initiatives undertaken by teams in local government right around the country.

Congratulations to all those shortlisted and to the winners, each of whom set an example of what excellence in local government should look like.

"Finally, congratulations to Mayo County Council – 2020 Local Authority of the Year – and we commend their commitment to excellence and the commitment across their work to ensure the sustainable development of the localities they represent, raising their county's profile nationally."

IMPORTANT SENSE OF COMMUNITY

According to Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD: "Local authorities have achieved the highest standards of performance, despite this year of great uncertainty. These standards are evident in the applications that were both entered and featured as the category prize winners in these awards.

"Having local government structures working to such a high level has helped to maintain an important sense of community



The value of the contribution made by local authorities has never been felt as strongly than over the past year, as towns, villages, cities and regions continue to cope with the impact of Covid-19 on lives and livelihoods across all communities, according to Ian Talbot, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland.

Building Ingenuity cabinpac

We are expert in adaptable & innovative design and the manufacture & installation of modular buildings

Contact Martin to discuss your needs

Ph: 01-8250622 / Mh: 087-3900274

Email: martin.murray@cabinpac.ie Website: www.cabinpac.ie



Site Office - 28m²



Cannistown N.S. Co. Meath - 160m²



Cavan General Hospital - 637m²



University Hospital Galway - 395m²



Connolly Hospital Dublin - 800m²





“The Communications Department strives to develop Mayo Day in new and novel ways that will capture people’s imagination.....the event for 2020 went beyond our expectations,” noted Martina Hughes, Head of Communications at Mayo County Council.

in these difficult times and an inclusive, caring society for all,” the Minister noted.

There were 16 awards presented plus the overall award for Local Authority of the Year.

Individual awards were sponsored by European Recycling Platform (ERP), TEKenable, Healthy Ireland, LGIU Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and EirGrid. Meanwhile, a specially commissioned crystal awards designed by Waterford Crystal will be presented to the winners when restrictions allow.

MAYO’S THREE CATEGORY WINS

‘Making Positive Choices’ was a winner in the Health & Wellbeing category, ‘Weather Impact Register (WIRE) App’ won the Local Authority Innovation category, while ‘Virtual Mayo Day 2020’ won the Festival of the Year.

Mayo County Council’s two other shortlisted entries included ‘A Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo in Sustainable Environment’ and ‘Through the Ages, An Age-Friendly Initiative’.

Mayo’s Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Finn said that projects such as ‘Making Positive Changes’ and the ‘Weather Impact Register App’ were great examples of the innovative work that can be done when people come together with pride in their county at the heart of their work.

He added that the exemplary work done by the team behind this year’s virtual

‘Mayo Day’ projects is a leading example of Mayo’s ability on a national stage.

Mayo’s interim chief executive Peter Duggan congratulated all those involved in this record award win for the local authority, those who were shortlisted in their categories, and to all staff whose work has resulted in the overall accolade of ‘Local Authority of the Year’.

“2020 has been an extraordinary year, which has been challenging for everyone including our staff. These awards are testament to all who have put in hard work, showed great commitment and resilience throughout what has been unprecedented times,” he stated.

“We strive to make Mayo a county

which values health and wellbeing. We also work hard in Mayo County Council to understand and respect our powerful coastline and its weather systems. It is, therefore, significant to have won an award for the pioneering weather impact and climate change work that is ongoing in the council.”

Martina Hughes, Head of Communications at Mayo County Council, said they’re exceptionally proud of the recognition that winning ‘Local Authority of the Year’ award brings for the council on a national stage, in addition to a hat-trick of category wins.

“The Communications Department strives to develop ‘Mayo Day’ in new and novel ways that will capture people’s imagination. The event for 2020 and the short film produced to celebrate the day went beyond our expectations,” she added, noting that the council was thrilled it has been recognised on a national stage.

HAT-TRICK OF CATEGORY WINS

Making Positive Choices: The Road Safety Office, within Mayo County Council’s Communications Department, collaborated with An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders on Clare Island to address road safety issues, with a focus on emphasising to young people the importance of making such positive choices and providing them with necessary tools and knowledge to prevent collisions and road traffic incidents in future.

Weather Impact Register (WIRE) App: A simple tool for local authorities and other



“2020 has been challenging for everyone including our staff” – Mayo’s interim chief executive Peter Duggan



Tallaght
University
Hospital

Ospidéal
Ollscoile
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

*People Caring for People
to Live Better Lives*

Tallaght University Hospital is proud to work in partnership with South Dublin County Council and greatly appreciate their ongoing support of the Hospital
#TUHWorkingTogether



www.tuh.ie

Tel: 01 414 2000



**Test smoke alarms
regularly**

**Unplug chargers at
100%**

Close doors at night

**Have a home
evacuation plan**



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council





Mayo's Cathaoirleach Cllr Richard Finn said the winning projects were great examples of community innovation.

and solidarity for a special 'Mayo Day' from well-known people from Mayo. The show concluded with the launch of a poignant short film #OceansApart (a haunting film depicting how emigration and Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on Mayo families and friendships).

CATEGORY SHORTLISTS

A Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo: Mayo is a rural county where agriculture plays a vital role in underpinning the rural economy. The council has engaged with stakeholders to develop a sustainable agriculture strategy to drive economic development, support employment and create sustainable jobs in the county. The purpose of this strategy is to set out a series of actions that will help Mayo capitalise on opportunities and overcome barriers to developing this critical component of the local economy.

Through the Ages: This unique collaboration was set up during Covid-19 Lockdown 2020, whereby participants (aged 6 to 16) were asked to interview their grandparents about their childhood memories and record these stories in essay format for publication in a souvenir magazine, as well as for preservation to Mayo County Library's local library section. Interviews took place remotely due to Covid restrictions and participants were encouraged to handwrite their essays, thus creating an authentic record for preservation in the library.



Mayo's interim chief executive Peter Duggan said it was significant to have won an award for the pioneering weather impact and climate change work that is ongoing in the council.

state agencies records and collates actual impacts and some associated costs of climate change within their areas. The GIS-based dataset together with the dashboard and filters developed alongside the App will pinpoint the location of the risks and help identify the increasing severity and frequency of events that will inform climate adaptation planning.

Virtual Mayo Day 2020:

The 'Mayo Day Live Show' on 2 May last was a mix of chat, interviews, music and messages of hope

A-Z OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2020

Clare County Council: Best Library Service

Connections: Stories by Syrian Families in County Clare

Cork City Council: Best Practice in Citizen Engagement

Social Distance Park Rangers Programme (Covid – 19 Response)

Cork City Council: Promoting Economic Development

Reimagining the City' – Pedestrianising Cork City Streets

Donegal County Council: Heritage & Built Environment

Thatch Repair Grant Scheme

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council:

Commemorations & Centenaries
Divine Illumination – Oratory of the Sacred Heart

Fingal County Council: Supporting Active Communities

Shop Local Website

Limerick City & County Council: Age Friendly Initiative

Putting Your House in Order

Longford County Council: Initiatives through the Municipal Districts

Embracing Remote Working Technology to Support Community and Voluntary Groups

Limerick City & County Council: Enhancing the Urban Environment

Living Georgian City Programme

Mayo County Council: Festival of the Year

Virtual Mayo Day 2020

Mayo County Council: Health & Wellbeing

Making Positive Choices

Mayo County Council: Local Authority Innovation

Weather Impact Register (WIRE) App

Offaly County Council: Sustaining the Arts

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath

Tipperary County Council: Supporting Tourism

Suir Blueway Tipperary

Wexford County Council: Disability Services Provision

Min Ryan Park Communications Board

Wicklow County Council: Sustainable Environment

Relove Fashion Competition



**EXCELLENCE IN
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
AWARDS 2020**

— IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS —
YOURS TO UNCOVER



OPR REPORT OUTLINES PLANS FOR IRELAND'S FUTURE

Over the next six years the State's planning oversight body will evaluate close to 200 draft plans from around the country to measure how well they align with existing planning policy and regulatory requirements, State Planning Regulator Niall Cussen noted following the launch of the OPR's inaugural Annual Report for 2019.

Proper and effective planning is needed now more than ever in helping to lay the foundations for national recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Niall Cussen, Head of the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR).

"The Government has correctly prioritised the importance of joined-up planning and investment in both meeting immediate pandemic-posed economic recovery challenges, while at the same time addressing the global climate challenge and realising the potential of a greener future."

On launching the OPR's first Annual Report for 2019, Cussen said that Ireland's planning process directly affects every citizen of the State in meeting housing, physical and social infrastructural requirements, enhancing the quality of our environment and enabling the economic functioning of our country.

The OPR is operating at a time when the planning process will play a central role in how our cities, towns and villages develop, he said, adding that over the next six years his office will evaluate close to 200 draft plans from around the country.

"This will measure how well they align with existing planning policy and regulatory requirements with view to ensuring that the plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned."

FOUNDATION-BUILDING YEAR

Commenting on the OPR's activities during 2019, Cussen highlighted that it had been a foundation-building year in terms of recruitment and putting in place the various policies and procedures necessary for the new oversight body.

However, he added that his office has hit the ground running since it was established. "In total, we made 31 recommendations and 16 observations on local authority statutory plans.

Through proactive engagement with local authority staff and elected members, every recommendation in respect of the 11 adopted plans – subject to OPR assessment in 2019 – has been implemented.

As well as ensuring that the planning process runs well, Cussen said it's necessary that everybody understood the process. This is why, he noted, that training and raising public awareness of best practice in planning is one their central remits.

"So, we intend to continue collaborating closely with stakeholders, providing training and engaging with local authority members and officials."

PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS DURING 2019

The OPR's annual report identified some significant trends and indicators, which reflect Ireland's planning performance during 2019, as follows:



Niall Cussen said his office has hit the ground running since it was established in 2019, having made 31 recommendations and 16 observations on local authority statutory plans.

- The Office assessed and reviewed 25 local authority statutory plans. All recommendations made by the OPR relating to 11 statutory plans adopted by local authorities in 2019 were implemented.
- Assessments by the OPR included 31 recommendations and 16 observations to the relevant local authorities on the statutory plans referred to above.
- Most recommendations (39%) concerned better implementation of guidelines on planning published by the



Belvedere College SJ

When the Jesuits opened St. Francis Xavier's College in 1832, there were just nine students' names in the roll book. Nearly two centuries later, Belvedere remains by conscious choice in the heart of Dublin within the Jesuit-run parish of Gardiner Street. Belvedere College SJ is a Catholic secondary school for boys and students from all over the city and beyond come together here and form lasting friendships.

It may seem an anomaly or even an anachronism to have an all-boys, fee paying school, in an area of such deprivation. The traditional charity model evolved into an extensive social justice programme where students become actively engaged with the challenges of inner-city homelessness, deprivation and isolation. Far from resisting change, the College has been driven by a passion to build on its traditional strengths to evolve into a learning community where stereotypes are challenged. Subjects and activities which have traditionally been gender stereotyped as female, thrive in the College – Choir, Drama, Home Economics and Art. The development of the College facilities strives to retain the beauty of Georgian Dublin, while providing state of the art facilities for the students many of which are used by the local community. The curriculum too has evolved in an environment which nurtures creativity. We have introduced subjects like Chinese, Coding, Computer Studies, Artistic Performance, Philosophy, Agricultural Science and Urban Farm, while retaining traditional subjects such as Classics, Latin and Greek. To adapt Socrates, the secret to change is not to focus your energy on fighting or preserving the past, it's to build anew. It's an environment to see more so please visit our website for more information.

BELVEDERE COLLEGE SJ

Great Denmark Street

Dublin 1

D01 TK25

T: 01 858 6600

E: admin@belvederecollege.ie

W: www.belvederecollege.ie

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to ensure a consistent approach in relation to matters including flood risk management (2009), preparation of local area plans (2013), preparation of development plans (2007), and policy regarding national roads (2012).

- Of the 91 unique cases raised by members of the public on planning matters in 2019, none were found to meet the statutory criteria for commencing examinations of the planning authorities concerned. Most complaints related to individual planning application or planning enforcement cases which the OPR cannot become involved in, rather than systemic issues that the OPR is mandated to examine.
- The Office initiated the first multi-annual national training programme for local elected councillors on their planning functions in 2019 with a number of training seminars on the planning process attended by 225 elected members.
- The Office established a National Planning Knowledge Group to guide the development of the OPR's research and public awareness programmes.
- The Office also developed a free online planning library service, providing easy-to-access information on planning documents, research papers and resources.

The report also highlights key outputs from the work of Ireland's 31 planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in 2019 including:

- Approvals of apartment developments, key to sustainable urban development, exceeded housing for the first time in 2019. This was influenced by the Strategic Housing Development process of An Bord Pleanála, revised national guidance on apartment development and the Government's National Planning Framework.
- However, 55% of all houses in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area were permitted in the four commuter counties outside of Dublin (Kildare, Louth, Meath and Wicklow) which poses a challenge to the Government's planning objectives in tackling the sprawl of major urban areas, including Dublin.
- Just over 32,000 planning applications were submitted to local authorities in 2019 and while there were variations in the levels of invalid planning applications, almost 90% of valid planning applications were approved.
- The response to climate change was increasingly felt with significant approvals for renewable energy in terms of wind and solar energy.
- Approvals by planning authorities of industrial and manufacturing development proposals doubled in 2019, underscoring the importance of the planning process to economic recovery and progress.
- The pandemic has highlighted the need to deliver new and improved online planning services such as an online application and submission system. This may also require a review of existing planning fees (in place since 2001) resulting in only €24m of income in 2018 to planning authorities against a €140m cost of providing all planning services.

AN INDEPENDENT BODY

The Office of the Planning Regulator, which was established in 2019 on foot of recommendations made by the Tribunal of Inquiry into Certain Planning Matters and Payments (The Mahon Tribunal), is empowered to examine complaints about



Having initiated the first multi-annual national training programme in conjunction with the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) for councillors on their planning functions in 2019 and 2020, the OPR will continue with a series of training webinars in January and February 2021.

planning authorities which relate to the organisation of planning authorities and the systems and procedures used by planning authorities in their planning functions.

Cussen indicated that it was taking time for the public to understand that the OPR is an independent office where complaints about overall local authority planning systems and procedures across a range or pattern of decisions could be examined, rather than another level of planning appeal above An Bord Pleanála.

"Although none of the 91 unique cases raised in 2019 resulted in a formal statutory examination within the meaning of the OPR's functions under the Planning Act, matters raised by members of the public are not without merit because they illustrate a picture of the overall system and quality of service delivery.

"In many cases, complaints made to the OPR relate to individual applications which are more appropriately considered through local authority internal complaints procedures and the Ombudsman's Office, with which the OPR entered into a memorandum of understanding in 2019."

INNOVATIVE STORY MAP

A highlight of the annual report is an innovative story map to take members of the public through the work of the office in a highly interactive and interesting way. The story map was developed by the OPR's 'in-house' geospatial team.

The OPR is the first organisation in Ireland, and within the Irish planning sector, to illustrate its Annual Report through this medium. And the Planning Regulator indicated that the inaugural annual report afforded the OPR team an opportunity to be creative and to establish and further the OPR's position as a leader in the digital planning space. The story map is available on the OPR's website www.opr.ie

Niall Cussen paid tribute to the extensive efforts that his staff and a wide range of stakeholders including the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage had made in enabling the establishment of the OPR in 2019.

He pointed to the fact that for much of the year pending recruitment, it had been operating with fewer than 10 staff. The OPR is now almost up to full complement, enabling another strong year for thorough and independent delivery of oversight of Ireland's planning process in 2020.

FOUR IRISH COUNCILS REACH FINAL OF INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS 2020

County councils from Clare, Fingal, Meath and South Dublin were the Irish finalists in the European Innovation in Politics Awards for 2020, for projects ranging from age-friendly housing, urban rejuvenation to community arts and playground facilities.

Commenting on the experience of participating in the European Innovation in Politics Awards, Cllr David Gilroy Mayor of Meath Council Council, said he found it very refreshing to be in a space in which people speak strongly and proudly about politics.

"I think this is something that's not done enough. Often politicians, in particular, are a bit shy about talking about politics in any kind of positive way. And I think that this is something we need to look at," he added.

For the second consecutive year Meath Council Council was a finalist in the Innovation in Politics Awards, in the 'Quality of Life' Category for its work to improve housing options for older people through its Age-Friendly Housing Technical Support Service.

This initiative, which was put in place to prepare for population ageing, is a direct action arising from the 'Housing Options for our Ageing Population' policy statement, published jointly by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Department of Health in 2019.

MEATH'S AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING

Across Irish local authorities, Age-Friendly Housing Technical Specialists offer a service to ensure that older people have greater choice by developing a range of housing options suited to their needs.

These specialists act as the key points of contact for technical queries, specifically around designing for life and universal design principles. They progress referrals from local authority staff, external stakeholders and agencies, private sector developers, Approved Housing Bodies, social housing tenants,



Meath Council Council was a finalist in the 'Quality of Life' Category for its work to improve housing options for older people through its Age-Friendly Housing Technical Support Service.

and private homeowners interested in rightsizing. Meath County Council facilitates the Age-Friendly Ireland Shared Service across local government.

In 2019 the council was a finalist in the 'Human Rights' Category for its Athboy Walkability initiative, which was led by Cllr Gilroy. Promoting Athboy as an inclusive and progressive town, he led an Age-Friendly Walkability Audit in the town to address accessibility. A unique aspect of

this audit was considering cognitive and sensory impairment as well as physical access issues.

SOUTH DUBLIN'S NATURAL PLAYSPACE
South Dublin County Council was also a finalist in the 'Quality of Life' Category for its Natural Playspace Programme for children. With a population of almost 280,000, South Dublin County has one of the youngest populations in Ireland,



South Dublin County Council was a finalist in the ‘Quality of Life’ Category for its Natural Playspace Programme for children in the region.

and faces the same global challenge of sedentary lifestyles, decreased activity and increased childhood obesity.

The six-year project started with play locations close to children’s homes and children were asked what games they liked to play and what sort of spaces they liked most. Based on their feedback, the local playgrounds were converted to natural playspaces, developed in tandem with people in each neighbourhood, and children of all abilities were involved to help make them inclusive and welcoming.

South Dublin County Council had previously reached the finals in 2018 – the second year of the European Awards – in the ‘Democracy’ Category for its ‘300K – Have Your Say’ initiative. In 2017, SDCC’s Participatory Budget initiative, the first in Ireland, allowed citizens to vote for projects designed and submitted by citizens.

An additional €300,000 was provided specifically for this purpose. Citizens took part in facilitated workshops to generate ideas, identify community needs and develop supportive networks.

The initiative was rolled out under the brand name ‘300K – Have Your Say’ and attracted some 160 project submissions; 17 were shortlisted for public voting, of which eight (ranging from €5,000 to €120,000) were successful.

CLARE’S VISION SYMPHONY

Clare County Council reached the finals for the first time in 2020 in the ‘Education’ Category for its work on ‘The Vision Symphony’. This initiative of Clare Arts Office creates opportunities for visually impaired musicians, both nationally and internationally, who face specific challenges, particularly when it comes to memorising long passages of music.

The Arts Office partnered with Dave Flynn’s Irish Memory Orchestra (IMO) and

3L music in supporting seven musicians with various levels of visual impairments to participate in the research using the IMO’s memorisation techniques.

Clare Arts Office commissioned Dave Flynn to compose The Vision Symphony, which was performed by the IMO, joined by visually impaired musicians (including international musicians) and the Visionaries Choir, in Glór Theatre, Ennis, in October 2019.

Offering employment opportunities to those visually impaired musicians unable to professionally participate in an orchestra, the project received local, national, and international acclaim. And having won two awards at the 2020 All Ireland Community and Council Awards, the legacy continues with additional funding secured to develop elements of the symphony for younger visually impaired musicians to learn and perform with the orchestra in 2021.

FINGAL’S PLANS FOR BALBRIGGAN

Another first-time entrant for 2020, Fingal County Council reached the finals in the ‘Democracy’ Category for its work on ‘Our Balbriggan’ project, which saw 25% of the town’s population involved in the consultation process.

This led to the publication of the ‘Our Balbriggan’ Rejuvenation Plan and a commitment to deliver 93 action items with the aim of creating a vibrant, inspiring place, where residents to want live, relax, and work.



Clare County Council reached the finals for the first time in the ‘Education’ Category for its work on ‘The Vision Symphony’ to create opportunities for visually-impaired musicians.



THE NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE



In recent years, the NAS has embarked on a strategic investment programme to develop a modern, quality service that is safe, responsive and fit for purpose. The service is implementing a significant reform agenda which mirrors many of the strategic changes underway in ambulance services internationally as they strive for high performance and efficiency whilst coping with a continuously increasing demand on services.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) is the statutory pre-hospital emergency and intermediate care provider for the state. In the Dublin area, ambulance services are provided by NAS and Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB). Aero Medical services are provided by the Irish Air Corps and the Irish Coast Guard by agreement with each organisation. At a local level, the NAS is also supported by over 275 (Mar 2020) Community First Responder schemes, responding to particular types of medical emergencies (i.e. cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, chest pain, choking and stroke) where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving care whilst an emergency response vehicle is en route to the patient.

CAREERS IN THE NAS



PARAMEDIC



**ADVANCED
PARAMEDIC**



**INTERMEDIATE
CARE OPERATIVE**



**EMERGENCY CALL
TAKER**



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL
DISPATCHER**

CONTACT DETAILS: National Ambulance Service, Health Service Executive, Rivers Building, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 XNP2

PHONE: 01 463 1624/26

E-MAIL: director.nas@hse.ie

www.nationalambulance.ie



According to Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy, the project focuses on community-driven renewal by strengthening relationships between society and the economy to create a more resilient, sustainable Balbriggan. “It is a great honour for Fingal County Council that ‘Our Balbriggan’ project was short-listed for a pan-European award.”

Fingal’s Chief Executive, AnnMarie Farrelly, said it is one of the council’s flagship projects and has already received awards in Ireland for the innovative way it harnessed the community to participate in the making of a plan for their town.

In 2019 the project won an Excellence in Local Government Award for 'Best Practice in Citizen Engagement' and an Excellence in PR Award for 'Best Public Sector Campaign'.

‘COPING WITH COVID’ CATEGORY

Ireland’s four councils were among 90 finalists from 389 project entries across 22 EU countries. The winners for 2020 come from Austria, France, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine, as well as two winners each from Slovakia and the UK.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic a new category – 'Coping with Covid-19' – was established for 2020. Reflecting today’s most pressing issues, a citizens’ jury of 1,058 Europeans rated projects in the ‘Ecology’ and ‘Coping with Covid-19’ categories particularly highly.

Patricia Kahane, Co-Founder of The Innovation in Politics Institute, said: “The meaning of ‘innovation’ in politics cannot be decided by experts but only by citizens themselves. Cherishing our core European



Another first-time entrant for 2020, Fingal County Council reached the finals in the ‘Democracy’ Category for its work on ‘Our Balbriggan’ project.

values – human rights, democracy, social balance and prosperity – should not be tied to party tickets. We all live and die by politics. We commend those who produce results by opening up new paths in politics.”

For the first time, the Innovation in Politics Awards took place digitally, and thousands of viewers throughout Europe followed the project presentations and their initiators across nine categories on YouTube.

Commenting on the changing context for the Awards, Edward Strasser, Co-

Founder and CEO of The Innovation in Politics Awards, said: “Since our Awards Finals in December 2019, politics has changed drastically. For months, politicians at all levels of governance and from across the political spectrum have been in survival mode.

“That’s why we are all the more impressed by the outstanding achievements of both the finalists and winners for 2020. Their political work will be of great value long after we have overcome the virus.”

ABOUT THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

The initiative was established in 2017 by the Innovation in Politics Institute, to give recognition to political work, showcasing it as an example of best practice for others.

The Institute’s mission is to support initiatives at any level of governance and across the political spectrum that break new ground, are creative and achieve results.

This Europe-wide organisation has offices in Vienna and Berlin as well as associated partners in Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

For more information visit www.innovationinpolitics.eu/ and for the full list of award winners and finalists for 2020 visit <https://innovationinpolitics.eu/en/awards/awards-2020/>



SHANNON HOMES

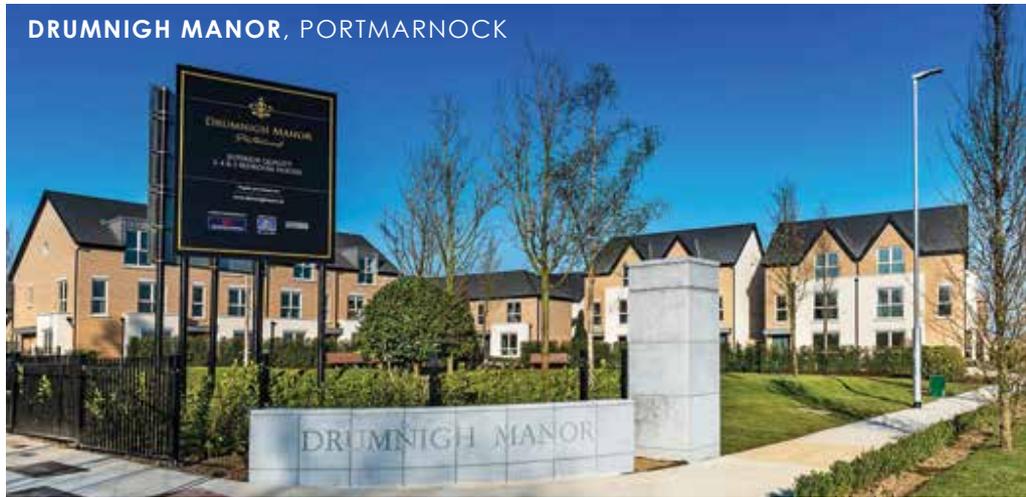


LIVING SPACE, DRUMNIGH MANOR, PORTMARNOCK



CASTLEMOYNE DEVELOPMENT, BALGRIFFIN, DUBLIN 13

DRUMNIGH MANOR, PORTMARNOCK



ST. RAPHAELS, STILLORGAN

Building Quality Projects
in Dublin for
over 40 years





Fingal County Council's ambitious €767m three-year Capital Programme sets out significant investment on projects across the county, with a strong emphasis on the delivery of housing, active travel measures and expansion of greenway infrastructure over its lifetime.

The three-year rolling programme (2021-2023) identifies 233 individual projects across all seven council divisions with an estimated spend of €767.12m, representing a 24% increase on the previous plan. The programme projects a capital spend of €217m in 2021, followed by €246m in 2022 and a further €303m in 2023.

The Council's commitment to delivering housing and meeting Government targets, having delivered over 6,150 social housing solutions between 2015 and 2019, will continue with €334m set aside over the next three years. Over €116m has been earmarked for housing in 2021 with €218m due to be spent over the following two years.

Up to €146.69m has been allocated towards Fingal's active travel and greenway infrastructure projects, which will allow work to continue on delivering key schemes such as the Broadmeadow Greenway, the Sutton-to-Malahide Greenway, Fingal Coastal Way, Royal Canal Urban Greenway, Harry Reynolds Road Cycleway and the Damastown-Clonsilla Cycle Route Design.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENT

Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy said: "This is a comprehensive investment programme from Fingal County Council which has a strong emphasis on housing and development of greenway infrastructure across the county.

"Our commitment to Climate Change Action is reinforced with significant funding set aside for active travel infrastructure to enable walking and cycling throughout the county. This is in addition to completing the conversion of public lighting to LED and the provision of electric vehicle charging points."



"The investment programme has a strong emphasis on housing across the county" – Mayor of Fingal Cllr David Healy



He also referred to the continued vital investment in Fingal's range of parks, which he said, are playing a key role for the health and wellbeing of citizens in Fingal, as the county deals with the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fingal's Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly described the

A School for Life

Girls age 3 to 19 • 5-day, 7-day and short stay boarding from age 10 • A community of learners from all over Ireland and the world • An holistic education across academics, music, sport and the arts • A full eLearning & coding programme with plenty of devices in Junior School classrooms and one-to-one devices in the Senior School

Alexandra College is a happy place in which girls question, challenge, learn and thrive.



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE
DUBLIN

Milltown, Dublin 6 | +353 (0)1 4977571 | info@alexandracollege.ie
www.alexandracollege.eu

programme as “an ambitious investment” across all areas of the county. “Despite the challenges that have been brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, Fingal County Council is committed to fulfilling our mission to be a great place to live, work, visit and do business.

“Given the growing nature of our county, there are always competing demands the latest capital programme sets out a strategic and balanced approach to



Fingal’s Chief Executive AnnMarie Farrelly noted that despite the challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the council is committed to fulfilling its mission.



During 2020 Fingal spent €19m on projects such as the ‘Our Balbriggan’ community initiative, which was a finalist in the EU Innovation in Politics Awards in the ‘Democracy’ category. The project saw 25% of the population of Ireland’s youngest town involved in the consultation process which led to the publication of the rejuvenation plan for Balbriggan.

delivering infrastructure to meet the needs of all our communities and stakeholders.”

SWARDS CULTURAL QUARTER

Under the three-year programme, a further €20m has been set aside for the delivery of the Swords Cultural Quarter, which will include a county library, performance areas and arts spaces; with €2.5m allocated for 2021.

Some €5.8m has been set aside for libraries in 2021 with €2.5m earmarked for the refurbishment of Skerries Library next

year as part of an overall expenditure of €5.7m over the course of the programme.

Meanwhile, Fingal’s Community, Culture and Sports Departments have been allocated a total of €13.7m over the course of three years, with an expenditure of €2.7m set aside for next year which will see continued investment in Community Centre upgrades and the Rush multi-purpose facility.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Significant investment in road transportation projects will also continue with €8m set aside for the Snugborough Road Interchange in both 2021 and 2022 as part of an overall capital expenditure of €17m on the project. Investment in developing recreational hubs including River Valley Park all-weather pitch and Porterstown Park has also been set aside.

The Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Department will account for €73.95m during 2021-2023 with €19m having already been spent on projects in 2020 such as the ‘Our Balbriggan’ community initiative, plus the development works at Newbridge House, Malahide Castle and Ardgillan Castle.

The Operations Department has been allocated €40m, which will see continued investment in the LED Public Lighting Improvement Programme, playground upgrades, electric charging points and public toilet refurbishment at various locations, as well as development of parklands and recreational areas across the county.



Under the programme, a further €20m has been set aside for Swords Cultural Quarter, which will include a county library, performance areas and arts spaces.



ABM DELIVERING QUALITY ACCELERATED BUILDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

- Residential
- Educational
- Medical
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Retail and Hospitality
- Social & Recreational



ABM Design and Build Ltd
Unit 2b, Feltrim Business Park, Drynam Road, Swords, Co. Dublin. K67 TX95

Tel: +353 (0)1 890 0919 **Email:** info@abmdesignandbuild.com

www.abmdesignandbuild.com

WICKLOW WELCOMES INNOVATIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE HUB

A key strategic goal of Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is to focus on an excellent service delivery by promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users. A major part of this plan has been the development of the Customer Service Hub, which has been open and fully operational since the start of October 2020.

Wicklow County Council's new Customer Service Innovation Hub at County Buildings aims to bring about major organisational change and improvements to promote efficiency of the council's operations and customer service.

The service at the 'Hub' is delivered by a team of highly trained staff, with a clear focus on citizen centric approach, committed to providing efficient and professional customer service throughout the county.

All public counters, including motor taxation, cash desk and housing are now incorporated into the Hub, providing a much-improved comprehensive space for customers to do their business.

In addition, all queries and correspondence are centrally managed and supported by Microsoft Dynamics Customer Relationship Management system which will facilitate case management and timely responses to customer queries.

Welcoming the completion of the Customer Service Innovation Hub, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, said: "The new Customer Service Hub provides an inclusive environment for a range of services and will significantly improve communication and engagement with our citizens."

MUCH-IMPROVED CUSTOMER SERVICE
Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive, Frank Curran, stated: "The delivery of an efficient and effective service to the highest possible standard is one of our main overarching goals in the Council's Corporate Plan.

"The development of the new Customer Service Innovation Hub at



Wicklow County Council's Chief Executive Frank Curran, Director of Service Lorraine Gallagher, Administrative Officer Gemma Whitty and Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Kennedy pictured at the opening of the new Customer Service Innovation Hub in Council Buildings in Wicklow Town.

County Buildings will be a key channel in 2021, to deliver a much-improved customer service, reflecting the importance of innovation in our service delivery."

The public foyer has been refurbished to create a bright modern area with upgraded public facilities, while separate private meeting rooms are available to discuss matters in a confidential environment. Essential improvement works have also been carried out on the Council Chamber and the elected members' rooms, creating a warm inviting

civic space which is fully accessible to all.

The state-of-the-art Customer Care Innovation Hub aims to improve communications with Wicklow County Council's service users and to provide greater facilities for visitors to Ireland's Garden County.

Supported by a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system and a customer care team, the hub aims to provide a clear, consistent and appropriate communications and service delivery between Wicklow County Council, the people of Wicklow and other stakeholders.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY TO ASSIST LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The Irish Local Development Network's five-year strategic plan aims to enable the local development sector to build and deliver for rural and urban communities. It has also taken account of the Covid-19 challenge, which has seen over 2,200 individuals daily seeking the assistance of local development companies nationwide.

The support of the local development sector to rural and urban communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been acknowledged by Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State for Community Development and Charities at the Department of Rural and Community Development.

"Given their presence in every community rural and urban, the response has been rapid and widespread assisting the statutory services in reaching people it may not otherwise reach," the Minister noted as he launched the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 last November.

The five-year strategy entitled 'Supporting Local Development Companies to Build Vibrant, Inclusive Communities' sets out the role of the ILDN in facilitating Ireland's local development companies to deliver services such as social inclusion, education

and training, employment services, urban and rural development, climate change and just transition.

"This plan positions the network as a critical partner in terms of the delivery of these important objectives. It will also build upon my department's five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector," the Minister noted.

SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

According to ILDN Chairman Jim Finn, the network provides a channel for stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally to engage with ILDN's 49-member Local Development Companies who directly assist over 170,000 individuals and 15,000 communities and community groups annually, as a collective.

"As we proceed through the challenges posed by the Covid-19



The support of the local development sector in response to the Covid-19 pandemic was acknowledged by Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State for Community Development and Charities, on launching the ILDN's Strategic Plan, on 26 November 2020.



Tipperary's Jim Finn, who was appointed ILDN Chairperson in January 2020, is also Chairperson of North Tipperary Development Company and broadcasts extensively on rural and community affairs for Tipp FM. ILDN Manager Joe Saunders has worked in community and local development for 35 years as a youth worker, community worker, trainer, researcher, consultant and manager, having started in 1985 in the Community Department of Dublin City Council, then known as Dublin Corporation.

pandemic, the ILDN through this strategic plan, further empowers Ireland's local development companies in building a more just, inclusive and sustainable society. The plan is focused on giving a coherent voice to the local development sector and those who depend on it, such as individuals, families and communities most at risk of poverty and social exclusion," he noted.

ILDN members deliver over €300m worth of Government-funded programmes, in addition to philanthropic sources, supporting and empowering communities and enabling the State to reach people it would not otherwise reach, thus ensuring effective use of taxpayers' funds, according to ILDN Manager Joe Saunders.

"In supporting our members, the ILDN facilitates research, policy development, networking opportunities, group procurement and advocacy. The strategic direction as detailed in this plan is vitally important not just to the ILDN and its members but also to Irish society generally," Saunders pointed out.

The ILDN Strategic Plan sets out key objectives for 2020-24 and primarily it

is intended that the network establishes itself as a leading voice in policy development within the context of local development. It seeks to build strategic relationships with key stakeholders across all sectors.

"The ILDN will become a platform for its members to network effectively and share experiences. Finally, we aim to build structurally from a communications and resource perspective to best serve the needs of the network's membership," Saunders said.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
The Irish Local Development Network is the representative body of Ireland's 49 Local Development Companies (LDCs), which have been in existence for 28 years (under various names such as Partnerships, LEADER companies) as a delivery arm to provide State programmes in rural and urban development, labour market activation, social inclusion and social enterprise services.

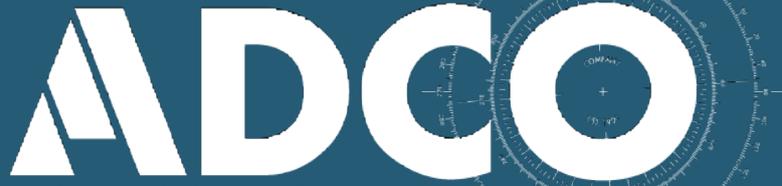
ILDN is the largest Community Development/Anti-Poverty Network in the State, with 2,100 employees and 9,800 Tús

and Rural Social Scheme (RSS) workers on the ground in communities, supporting 15,000 community groups and 173,000 individuals annually through State-funded programmes, worth in excess of €300m.

As active members of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) across the country, ILDN's member companies work with these committees in the delivery of the LEADER Programme and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) as well as other schemes.

"As key providers of Department of Social Protection schemes such as Tús, RSS, Local Employment Service and 'Back to Work' Enterprise Allowance, LDC staff and scheme participants interface with local authorities and their staff on an ongoing basis both formally and informally in the areas of social inclusion, community development and community response," noted Joe Saunders.

"From a governance perspective, local authority members frequently sit on the boards of our member LDCs as well as LDC representatives sitting on LCDCs. In recent times all of our LDC members participated



Professional Diving Solutions

Leading Maritime Archaeology

Providing effective underwater and land-based archaeological solutions since 1999.

Conducting intelligent diving and underwater/marine inspections for the civils and scientific sectors.

Specialised in marine geophysical data interpretation.

ADCO works closely with clients from project inception, through EIS, to full construction stages, delivering the highest quality effectively.

www.adco-ie.com
info@adco-ie.com
+353 (0) 1 908 1541

Irish Residential Properties Reit plc



better living made simple



Bakers Yard, Dublin 1



Rockbrook, Sandyford, Dublin 18



BSQ, Sandyford, Dublin 18



Beechwood Court, Stillorgan, Co Dublin

Building communities & professional management of residential homes



Elm Park, Merrion Road, Dublin 4



Richmond Court, Fairview, Dublin 3



Semple Woods, Donabate, Co Dublin

Irish Residential Properties Reit plc
South Dock House, Hanover Quay, Grand Canal Square, Dublin 2
www.iresreit.ie

T: 01 5634 000 / E: s.stokes@iresreit.ie

in the Government’s ‘Community Call’ initiative. ILDN has recently been included as a nominating body for Seanad Éireann,” he added.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

There is now a statutory strategy for the community, voluntary and local development sectors entitled ‘Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities’. This strategy recognises that ‘policy developments and funding reductions during the recession impacted the capacity of community development, local development... sector to support communities’ and that a ‘renewed community- statutory partnership is essential to bring about better outcomes for communities... partnership underpinned by strong, autonomous community development and local development structures’ (Government of Ireland, Sustainable, Inclusive & Empowered Communities, 2019, p.16)

According to Joe Saunders, this statutory strategy is more urgent than ever, given the challenges of Covid-19. “The response to the pandemic from the local development sector has been immense, putting into focus our best attributes – agility, commitment, person-centred, value-for-money, connected to and trusted by the most vulnerable in our society.

“The socially excluded have sought out their Local Development Company – these people and groups have been hit hardest by the crisis, as they have been in every downturn and emergency. They have turned to our members at this time and it been the proud duty of LDCs to respond to their needs.

“How we serve them in an increasingly digital future will be a huge challenge given the digital divide that many of our groups already experience. Nevertheless, we will use all our capacity and influence to herald the digital dividend that has eluded many of our communities to date,” he pointed out.

MAIN LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID-19

During the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020, ILDN members fielded up to 2,200 calls per day and reached out to over 170,000 individuals to offer assistance. Both members and staff adjusted their usual services to ensure that their local communities were supported throughout the restrictions.

ILDN members continued to offer a diverse range of supports for local communities at this time and were part of the ‘Community Call’ initiative in conjunction with local authorities across the country.

Some popular supports ILDN members have offered throughout the pandemic include the following:

- Friendly call services
- Employment services
- Online training services
- Mental health and well-being classes and activities
- Critical Home delivery services for food and medicine
- Food bank and food distribution

“ILDN believes it is critical to prioritise social inclusion throughout these difficult times, and our members deliver the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which supports many of the important Covid-19 response measures provided by LDCs.

“As providers of state-supported labour activation schemes (Tús, RSS and CE) ILDN members were adaptable in providing the services of scheme participants, vans, equipment and premises for deployment at community level into the Covid-19 response where safe to do so,” concluded the ILDN manager.



KEY OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGIC PLAN

The ILDN Strategic Plan 2020-2024 has identified four key objectives:

1. Secure an Enabling Policy Context for the Irish Local Development Network’s Vision for Local Development
2. Build Strategic Relationships and Partnerships with Key Stakeholders across all Sectors
3. Serve as a platform for Irish Local Development Network Members to network and share experiences.
4. Strengthen the potential and processes of the ILDN Network.

This plan also sets out ILDN’s role in facilitating Ireland’s 49 LDCs in the delivery of important services such as social inclusion, personal development and well-being, early years and family support, education and training, employment services, enterprise and social enterprise, urban and rural development, climate change and just transition.

For further information visit www.ildn.ie



Face coverings can help prevent the spread of Covid-19

Please remember you must wear face coverings on board and in all station areas
#InThisTogether



ON TRACK TO TRANSFORM PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACROSS DUBLIN

From major capital programmes, which will dramatically increase the number of trains and number of people who can switch to public transport, to working with local authorities in providing a better environment at the heart of our cities, Iarnród Éireann is working to transform Dublin and other major cities around the country for the better.



In Dublin, the company has just launched the DART+ Programme (formerly DART Expansion), a transformative programme of investment to provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable, frequent rail service. This will significantly increase capacity on all the rail corridors serving the Greater Dublin Area, through infrastructural investment and a fleet of new trains.

DART+ PROGRAMME

The DART+ Programme will allow more people to make sustainable travel choices and will contribute to a reduction in emissions within Dublin while providing a reliable alternative to private cars. The programme includes the following:

- New DART services to Maynooth/M3 Parkway, to Hazelhatch and Celbridge, and Drogheda;
- Enhanced DART services to Bray/Greystones on the South-East Line;
- Purchase of additional trains to support new and enhanced DART services;
- Upgrade of existing railway infrastructure in the city centre;
- Elimination of a number of level crossings that limits train capacity.

DART+ WEST

DART+ West – the first of the infrastructural projects of the DART+ Programme to be delivered – will significantly increase rail capacity on the Maynooth/M3 Parkway Lines.

Once complete DART+ West will enable an increase in

capacity of services from 7 to 15 per hour, subject to demand, increasing the current passenger capacity of 4,500 per hour to 13,750 per hour.

This will be achieved by investment in infrastructure, changing to electrified, high capacity DART trains and increasing the frequency of trains, for communities along the lines. As well as more frequent and higher capacity, communities will also benefit from reduced noise and emissions from electrification of the route.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- 40Km of electrification and re-signalling of the Maynooth and M3 Parkway lines to the city centre;
- Capacity enhancements at Connolly Station;
- Capacity enhancements at Docklands Station at current or an alternative site;
- Closure of six level crossings and provision of replacements accesses where required for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, to ensure increased service frequency does not result in road congestion at level crossings or impact on connectivity within communities;
- Construction of a new DART depot facility west of Maynooth Station, to maintain the new DART fleet;
- Development of a DART Metrolink interchange station (Phibsborough/Glasnevin);
- All civil, bridge and ancillary works as necessary to accommodate the project;
- New carriages for the will be deployed on Maynooth/M3 Parkway services.

NORTH EAST INNER CITY PROJECT

In Dublin city centre, Iarnród Éireann's work with Dublin City Council (DCC) in the North East Inner City shows transformation is not just about major infrastructure investment.

At 20 sites in the area, primarily at railway bridges, Iarnród Éireann has worked to improve the local environment for the community, ranging from pathway improvements and cleaning to graffiti and vegetation removal, ensuring that the railway heritage and community environment are shown to their fullest.

It ensures safer walking and cycling areas and supports DCC's programme to improve the North East Inner City for all who live and work there. And with DART+ now on the way, more people than ever before will be able to access and enjoy the city, and the wider region.

For more information on DART+ visit www.irishrail.ie/DartMaynooth

TURNING UP LOW CARBON HEAT IN SOUTH DUBLIN

South Dublin County Council has established Ireland's first publicly-owned, not-for-profit energy company to provide low carbon heat to local community buildings, and it is believed that the scheme has the potential to become a template for other districts across Ireland over the coming years.

Ireland's first large-scale district heating scheme will initially involve a number of South Dublin County Council's buildings and the Tallaght campus of the Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). And it will connect other public, private and residential customers in the Tallaght area to the network over subsequent phases.

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme is being led by South Dublin County Council in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Finnish energy supplier Fortum eNext, with support from Codema (the energy agency for Dublin's four local authorities).

Trading as Heatworks, the company will operate as Ireland's first not-for-profit utility and will make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions

in the area, saving almost 1,500 tonnes of CO2 each year. It will establish the Tallaght District Heating Network as a leader in innovation in the area of climate change.

PROVISION OF RECYCLED HEAT

The network will use excess heat from a customisation to Amazon Web Services' (AWS) recently-completed data centre to provide low carbon heat to public sector, residential and commercial customers.

AWS will provide recycled heat free of charge to the scheme as part of its broader sustainability activities, and its continued assistance to Ireland in meeting its EU 2030 national heating and carbon-reduction targets.

The district-heating company has contracted Fortum, a large Finnish energy supplier with extensive district-heating

experience throughout Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, to carry out the design, installation and operation of the Tallaght network.

The system will initially heat 47,000 m² of public sector buildings, 3,000m² of commercial space, and 135 affordable rental apartments. The supply of low-cost, low-carbon heat is expected to increase commercial competitiveness and attract more innovative businesses and development to Tallaght town centre.

It also aims to facilitate educational programmes and start-up opportunities in renewable energy solutions, as well as helping to mitigate fuel poverty as the heat network expands over time.

TEMPLATE FOR OTHER DISTRICTS

Daniel McLoughlin, SDCC's Chief Executive, said, "Tallaght District Heating Network shows how public-private collaboration, using well-established district-heating technology, can construct a system to recycle heat from an Amazon Web Services data centre to meaningfully contribute to helping Ireland achieve its 2030 sustainability targets.

"We believe the work we have done with Fortum eNext and Amazon Web Services to create this scheme can become a template for other districts across Ireland. We look forward to future collaborations as South Dublin County moves towards a low-carbon future."

Codema's CEO Donna Gartland said: "This is a landmark for Ireland's low-carbon heating sector. We are highly reliant on fossil fuels for heat, but we have the solutions to change this. For example, in Dublin we have enough waste heat and renewable heat sources to heat the equivalent of over one million homes.

"This highlights the huge potential to roll out low-carbon district heating



Mike Beary, Amazon Web Services (AWS) country manager, pictured with SDCC's chief executive Daniel McLoughlin and county architect Eddie Conroy.



Mike Beary, country manager with Amazon Web Services, pictured with Daniel McLoughlin, SDCC Chief Executive.

schemes across the region and I would like to congratulate South Dublin County Council and all parties involved on delivering the first of what will hopefully be many district heating projects to be delivered in the years to come.”

A LOW-CARBON FUTURE

The collaboration between SDCC, AWS engineering teams, Fortum eNext Ireland Ltd and Codema (the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency) has resulted in a low-carbon solution. This will optimise the potential of recyclable heat combined with additional heat-pump technology – the first example of its kind in Ireland.

Once the first phase of the network is completed, the project will be supplying

heat by the end of the year firstly to SDCC’s County Hall and Tallaght County Library, and the Tallaght campus of the Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin), followed by the Rua Red community arts-hub and the Civic Theatre.

By 2024, the heat will also be supplied to nearby developments recently approved with planning permission, including affordable housing units, residential properties and student accommodation.

2030 RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS

Mike Beary, country manager for Amazon Web Services (AWS) Ireland, said they were thrilled to support Ireland’s first district heating scheme, which will see the excess heat from Amazon’s data centre being used

to reduce carbon emissions in Tallaght over time.

“Our support for the district heating scheme demonstrates our continued commitment to building a more sustainable future for Ireland. We are pleased to participate in this unique project that will help the country meet its 2030 renewable energy targets,” he added.

“We are extremely proud that we were chosen to provide this low-carbon heat solution as part of an innovative project in a strongly competitive market,” according to Kari Lahti, Fortum eNext’s general manager.

“Our know-how has been developed and tested during our 25-year-long presence in Ireland and the UK, where we have delivered power plants and long-term operation and maintenance services for different kinds of power plants and customers.”

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) will receive funding of almost €4.5m for the Tallaght District Heating Scheme through the Government’s Project Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund, as well as support from the EU’s Interreg North-West Europe HeatNet NWE project and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

TALLAGHT DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME

The Tallaght District Heating Scheme will deliver a high level of innovation, as waste heat from the nearby Amazon data centre will supply the heat to the network. During normal operation, heat demand will be 100% covered from the data centre waste heat.

- This is the first large-scale district heating network of its kind in Ireland.
- The scheme will operate under the name ‘Heat Works’ as the country’s first not-for-profit energy utility, owned by South Dublin County Council.
- Carbon emissions in the area will be reduced by almost 1,500 tonnes of CO₂ each year.
- It is the first scheme in Ireland and UK to use waste heat from a data centre.
- It will provide a 100% fossil-free solution.



Building The Future South Dublin

Since opening our doors in 1994, SDCC has transformed our County through setting ambitious goals and exceeding them through a dedicated and passionate workforce.

But this is just the start. We are now building the future South Dublin with exciting housing plans and innovative projects to enhance the quality of life of everyone who lives, works, learns in and visits our County.

Find out more by visiting our website.

WWW.SDCC.IE



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

SOUTH DUBLIN'S STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES IN ON ADAMSTOWN

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD joined the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, and SDCC's Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin, in September as work commenced on three significant infrastructure projects at the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), which are due for completion in 2022.



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD pictured with South Dublin's Mayor Cllr Ed O'Brien and SDCC's CEO Daniel Mc Loughlin, at the Celbridge Link Road site in September.

The ambitious large-scale delivery of essential infrastructure in Adamstown consists of the construction of three separate projects at Airlie Park, Tandy's Lane Park and the Celbridge Link Road.

A combined investment of €15 million was allocated for the three projects by the former Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government through the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Funds (LIHAF) with South Dublin County Council providing the extra €5 million in funding.

A key element of the Government's drive to build more homes, the objective of the LIHAF is to provide public off-site infrastructure to relieve critical infrastructure blockages. This enables the accelerated delivery of housing on key development sites in Dublin and urban areas of high demand for housing nationally.

South Dublin County Council's successful LIHAF funding bid for financial support was linked to the delivery of 2,000 new homes within the Adamstown SDZ. The delivery of these homes is currently underway with over 1,500 homes already completed or contracted and the remaining 500 homes under construction.

Within the large-scale delivery of homes, there are 300 homes at or below a cost of €300,000 and a further 500 at or below €320,000. It is expected that work on all three projects will be completed in 2022.

LARGE-SCALE HOUSING DELIVERY

"LIHAF funded infrastructure projects nationally are now beginning to deliver on the fund's objective and yield the large-scale housing supply. The projects in South County Dublin are at the forefront of this housing delivery. I commend South Dublin County Council for the work it has done using the LIHAF grant funding to drive the delivery of these much-needed homes and providing them to families at below-market price," the Minister noted.

"Whilst just one element of our response to ensure we build more homes, LIHAF will support the delivery of many of thousands of homes nationally. These social, affordable and private homes will help create new and sustainable communities across the country," he added.

Cllr Ed O'Brien, Mayor of South Dublin County, said: "This Council has used LIHAF funding very effectively to unlock lands for development of homes for the residents of South Dublin. It is another indication of the Council's commitment to meeting its housing targets and the proactive approach which it is willing to take to ensure these targets are met.

"During his visit Minister O'Brien also spoke of his commitment to dealing effectively with the housing crisis and in particular the need for affordable housing in areas like South Dublin County."

MURPHY

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE



#MoreToMurphy

- **Civil Engineering and Building**
Design and Construction
- **Ground Engineering**
Wide Range of Piling Options
- **Steel Fabrication**
Portal Frames, Bridges and Specialist Structures
- **Mechanical Pipework**
High and Low Pressure, Fabrication, Installation and Testing
- **Process Engineering**
Design and Build of Water and Wastewater Facilities
- **Process Plant Operation**
Operation and Maintenance of Plants

Certification

ISO 9001 - ISO 14001 - ISO 45001
EN 3834 - EN 1090 Exc 4 - NHSS20



Email: mail@murphygroup.ie
Telephone: +353 (0)45 431384
Reg Office: Great Connell,
Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 HD6

www.murphygroup.com

SOUTH DUBLIN ON TRACK FOR DODDER VALLEY GREENWAY

South Dublin's Dodder Valley Greenway, which when completed aims to be on a par with the best greenways in the world, will provide a unique combination of off-road and on-road facilities to utilise existing amenities within the area as much as possible to connect the linear parkland along the 14km route.

Representing a major new transport and recreational facility for Dublin, catering for both commuter and social cyclists, the provision by South Dublin County Council of the new Dodder Valley Greenway will include the local townlands of Kiltipper, Tallaght, Old Bawn, Firhouse, Templeogue, Terenure and Rathfarnham.

The 14km route will pass along the Dodder Valley from Orwell/Terenure through the outer suburbs of Tallaght to rural and upland Dublin to the entrance to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glenasmole.

South Dublin County Council is building three new pedestrian and cycle bridges, 750m of new path and 2.6km of upgraded paths, as part of the bridges phase of the project. It will cost approximately €5.6m, with funding provided by the National Transport Authority (€4.1m) and the European Regional Development Fund's S&E Regional Programme (€1.5m). The council will tender and commence construction for the remaining phases of the project in South Dublin throughout 2020 and into 2021.

Co-funding by the National Transport Authority (NTA) has been described by its chief executive Officer Anne Graham as "an example of how NTA can work closely with local authorities to deliver on great infrastructure" to make walking and cycling safer, more sustainable and more attractive for more people.

"The Dodder Greenway will form an attractive, traffic-free environment, linking large populations to employment and

educational opportunities and these are precisely the kind of projects that we need to focus on as part of the effort to tackle climate change," she added.

Cllr Ed O'Brien, Mayor of South Dublin County, said: "These Greenways will be vital to the county in the coming years as we aim to provide an alternative to car transport whilst at the same time providing scenic routes to cycle through for residents. The route will be a great addition to the growing number of cycling paths and freeways, which South Dublin County Council is currently undertaking."



DODDER GREENWAY BRIDGES THE GAP

- It will provide for improved connectivity to communities, facilities and local business along the Dodder Valley corridor with a dedicated signage strategy.
- Where commuting currently exists and demand is anticipated to continue, the scheme either ensures it is facilitated in a pedestrian-priority environment with additional capacity for safe use at junctions or provide an alternative route for commuting cyclists where required.
- The Greenway will generally consist of a shared 3-4m wide bound surface on the off-road sections, tying into suitable bound surfacing for the on-road sections. It is proposed to utilise enhanced variations to reflect local context.
- Works will include widening and upgrade to existing paths, construction of new paths and a number of new bridges, upgrade of existing bridges and underpasses, junction upgrades, etc.
- The upgrade and creation of new entrances to the Greenway.
- Improved landscape treatment to provide a coherent and legible Greenway along the route.
- Ecological enhancements including species rich grassland management, the planting of native trees and the provision of bat boxes.
- CCTV will be provided at a number of locations, including each of the bridges.
- Drainage measures including swales, signage, markings and ancillary works.



South Dublin County Council's Mayor Cllr Ed O'Brien (centre) pictured with (l-r): Siobhán Rudden (Southern Regional Assembly's ERDF Programme), SDCC's Director of Services Mick Mulhearn, Chief Executive Danny McLoughlin, and Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority, at the sod turning ceremony for Dodder Greenway Bridges (linking the city centre to the Dublin Mountains via Ballsbridge, Miltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse and Tallaght).

PUBLIC SECTOR SUCCESS AT SEAI ENERGY AWARDS

Dublin City Council, NUI Galway and SSE Airtricity Energy Services were among the winners of the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards, announced by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) during an online awards ceremony.



Conor Healy, Energy Management Lead with Dublin City Council, described the SEAI award as “a reflection” on the quality of the work done throughout the entire organisation.

The Public Sector Energy Leadership Award went to Dublin City Council for achieving incredible results using innovative contracts to deliver significant energy projects and achieve 34% energy savings. In addition to environmental benefits, these projects are delivering improved air quality and better living standards in the city.

Commenting on DCC’s award win, Cormac Healy, Energy Management Lead with Dublin City Council, said it was a reflection on the quality of the work done throughout the entire organisation.

“Our senior management team

has gone to extraordinary lengths to facilitate the work that we have done. There are all the leaders in the different action areas across energy and buildings, transport, flood resources and waste management. Collectively we have been able to deliver this to the people of Dublin City and it makes us immensely proud.”

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SSE Airtricity Energy Services received the Energy in Buildings Award for their Moyola Court project in South Dublin, which consists of two rows of terraced houses owned by Dun Laoghaire

Rathdown County Council.

Built in the 1970s these houses were in poor condition when SSE was approached to do the deep-retrofit refurbishment works. The project showcases the benefits of deep retrofit – helping to bring old inefficient properties back to life, making them highly energy efficient and resulting in huge benefits in terms of comfort and wellbeing for the residents.

The VorTech research team, based in NUI Galway, took home the Excellence in Energy Research and Innovation Award and a €10,000 bursary. The team’s VorTech technology aims to revolutionise the energy intensive aeration process within wastewater treatment plants.

The team demonstrated the technology in practice, leading to 30% energy recovery. A spin-out company has been formed, VorTech Water Solutions, and aims to deliver energy savings at wastewater treatment plants both in Ireland and at international level.

Eoghan Clifford, Senior Lecturer at NUI Galway: “Research plays a fundamental role at NUI Galway from a teaching point of view and by helping us to solve some of society’s challenges through the development of the next



Eoghan Clifford, Senior Lecturer at NUI Galway – “Research plays a fundamental role at NUI Galway from a teaching point of view”

generation of technologies.

“The VorTech team’s technology and research looks at ways to treat wastewater using far less energy and improving environmental performance. The technology was launched in 2020 and we already have plans diversify. This is exciting both in terms of the research and the formation of our company as we are able to target new markets into the future.”

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ten awards were presented to individuals, businesses, communities and public sector organisations in recognition of their commitment and dedication to sustainable energy and climate action.



Will O'Shaughnessy, Head of Business Development at SSE Airtricity Energy Services, who won the Energy in Buildings Award for their Moyola Court project in South Dublin.

The online awards ceremony was hosted by broadcast journalist, Andrea Gilligan, who was joined by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, for a special interview. Commenting on the leadership shown by all the finalists and winners, Minister Ryan said: “The SEAI Energy Awards celebrate success, leadership and ambition in sustainable energy. Ireland’s energy transition is going to be good for us as a country and our people are going to be good at it.

“We have real skills and capabilities and it starts with everyone in their own way making change, demanding change and delivering it. I congratulate those participating in the SEAI Energy Awards who are committed to the change that’s needed and are already helping to create a cleaner energy future.”

ENERGY-SAVING PROJECTS

A total of 124 entries were submitted for the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards with projects delivering combined energy savings of €42m. William Walsh, CEO of SEAI, said: “Despite the significant challenges this year, the volume and quality of entries reflects an unwavering commitment of individuals, and organisations to sustainable energy and climate action.

“The next decade will demand accelerated and significant change in every part of our society to reduce our carbon emissions. SEAI will support those who want to take such action. The commitment shown by each of our finalists is hugely inspiring and now we want others to see how they too can benefit from sustainable energy.”

Other award winners included Seamus Hoyne (Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy); Jessica Kelly (Emerging Sustainable Energy Champion); Astellas Ireland Kerry Plant (Energy Team of the Year); Danone Wexford (Large Business – Exemplary Energy Management); Terra Spirits & Liqueurs, Cavan (SME – Exemplary Energy Management); Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community (Inspirational Energy Community); and Green Generation, Kildare (Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy).

2020 SEAI Energy Award Winners

- Public Sector Energy Leadership: Dublin City Council
- Excellence in Energy Research and Innovation: NUI Galway
- Energy in Buildings: SSE Airtricity Energy Services
- Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy: Seamus Hoyne
- Emerging Sustainable Energy Champion: Jessica Kelly.
- Energy Team of the Year: Astellas Ireland, Kerry Plant.
- Large Business: Exemplary Energy Management – Danone Wexford
- Small and Medium Business: Exemplary Energy Management – Terra Spirits & Liqueurs, Cavan.
- Inspiration Energy Community Winner: Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community
- Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy Winner: Green Generation, Kildare.



For full details on all winning projects visit www.seai.ie

EU FUNDING FOR FIVE INNOVATIVE IRISH WORKPLACE INITIATIVES

Cork City Council is one of four consortium partners of the European 'Start at Best' project, which is funding workplace innovation practices to support and drive competitiveness across the EU's SME sector. Five Irish SMEs recently received grant-aid of €7,500 each under the Horizon 2020 project to support their own workplace innovation initiatives.

Workplace innovation has emerged as a key driver for business competitiveness, according to Seamus Coghlan, Cork City Council's Head of Economic Development. "During the best of economic times, it has become an important consideration, and now during these Covid-19 times it has the potential to be a key tool for business recovery," he added.

With SMEs and micro-business in Ireland now facing an uncertain and challenging future, Coghlan said that any support which will help to re-orient business practices to improve productivity and thus competitiveness should be strongly encouraged.

Cork City Council's Head of Economic Development said research has shown that while there's significant variation in the types of workplace innovation practices (WPI) in companies, the process of why and how these practices are implemented shows considerable similarity.

"While the reasons for introducing WPI relate to efficiency, competitiveness and innovation, another positive result includes strengthening the working environment of employees and employee representatives.

"WPI outcomes, in the main, lead to an enhanced economic performance and a better quality of working life for all involved," he noted.

BETTER SUPPORT FOR SME SECTOR

The 'Start At Best' Horizon 2020 project has a total budget of €225,000 to support 30 individual companies or a consortium of firms and providers by allocating direct funding through grants of €7,500 (with no match funding required).

The project is aimed at regional and national innovation support agencies that design, implement and/or assist innovation support programmes for SMEs and micro-firms.

The aim is to contribute to the development of a European-led wave of workplace innovation among SMEs and to inspire small companies to adopt an innovative attitude towards business competitiveness.

Three national Open Calls

One Europe-wide Open Call

Total Budget of 225,000€

Individual grants of 7,500€

start at best
Workplace Innovation for Business Competitiveness

The 'Start At Best' Horizon 2020 project has a total budget of €225,000 to support 30 individual companies or a consortium of firms by allocating direct funding through grants of €7,500 (with no match funding required).



FIVE IRISH SMEs RECEIVE WORKPLACE INNOVATION FUNDING

- Celnis Ltd
- CitySwift Ltd
- Petro Systems Management Ltd
- Polar Ice Ltd
- The Rubicon Innovation Centre @ CIT

“The project has included everyone. By supporting workplace innovation, policy makers can foster behavioral changes of stakeholders and end users. They can also drive this new revolution in a more balanced way – making sure this digital transformation is an opportunity for all and not only for some,” noted Chiara Frenca, Head of SERN Secretaria and Project Manager of Start at Best.

A statement specially prepared by the ‘Start at Best’ project team stated: “Workplace innovation is not just about the addition of IT infrastructure of changing up workplaces. It is seen across Europe as an increasingly popular way of empowering teams, building on their strengths, and embedding an innovation culture across the company or organisation. The need for workplace innovation has driven the acquisition of new technology (like a licence or a new collaboration platform tool).”

A KEY BUSINESS FUNCTION

The statement also noted: “It has very quickly become evident that the technology is only the tip of the iceberg and the real workplace innovation is rooted in a much bigger and more complex process, and is driven by internal champions, thinking strategically, and supporting staff in adapting to the disruptive changes.

“Workplace innovation should be viewed as a key business function



Workplace innovation has emerged as a key driver for business competitiveness

CASE STUDY 1 – Petro Systems Management Ltd

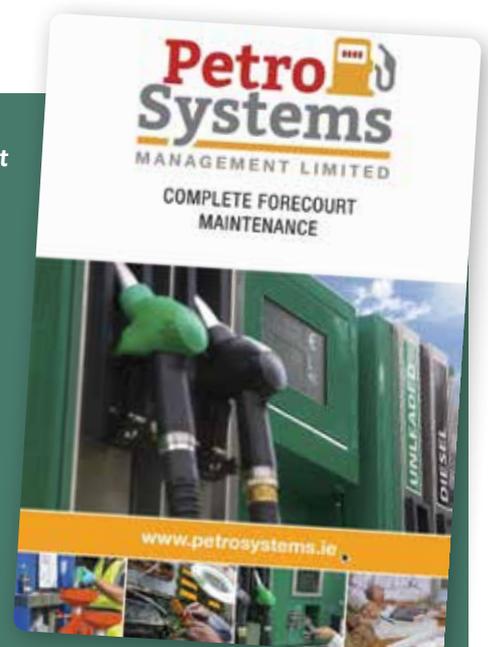
Petro Systems Management Ltd is one of Ireland’s leading suppliers of equipment and services to the forecourt industry. “We have always tried to innovate with the products and services that we provide as part of our ongoing continuous improvement programme,” according to Nora O’Leary, office manager.

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank Cork City Council for presenting us with this prestigious EU grant, and for helping us to realise our vision for this new and innovative, cloud-based platform.”

Over the past few months, she says that the company has been working hard in the background streamlining and taking their CRM and Operations Management processes online, to deliver a more transparent and more ‘real-time’ view of projects as they progress through their systems.

“All innovation takes courage and investment of time and money... so we are very happy that our innovation has been recognised at local and EU level, and that a special Start at Best grant has been awarded to us to help make all this happen,” Nora O’Leary noted.

“Drawing on the entrepreneurial atmosphere in the European Start-up scene, the objective is to attract more SMEs to jump aboard the innovation train! The main goal of the project, its partners and stakeholders, is to contribute to the development of a European-led new wave of workplace innovation among SMEs. Start-ups have initiated a new trend in workplace innovation which can inspire small companies to adopt a similar innovative attitude.”





**AVERY
DENNISON**

AVERY DENNISON: Templemichael Business Park, Ballinalee Rd, Lisnamuck, Longford

MEDICAL: IDA Business Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford

www.averydennison.com



Materials science
is our specialty
and patient care is
our passion.

Our commitment to science and innovation is a constant exploration and development of adhesive solutions that meet the needs of the ever-changing landscape.

INDUSTRIES INNOVATION:

Advertising and Promotions
Apparel and Footwear Branding
Architecture and Buildings
Automotive
Consumer Packaged Goods
Durable Goods and Equipment
Electronic and Electrical
Food
Government
Medical and Healthcare
Retail
RFID
Supply Chain and Logistics
Transportation



CASE STUDY 2 – Polar Ice Ltd

Polar Ice was delighted to be a recipient of ‘Start at Best’ €7,500 funding, according to general manager Ronan Berry, adding that it allowed their business to react and adapt quickly to an entirely new way of working and managing operations from the company's base in Portarlington, Co. Laois.

“The investment in IT equipment, training and software allowed for a seamless transition that continued right up to the end of the year and into 2021. We had applied for ‘Start at Best’ funding with guidance from Elizabeth Gavin and Sarah Adams of EUR Digital Village, a leading company on a mission to increase the value of EU funded projects managed by their clients.”

The following distinct areas of the business were identified, primarily in response to the seismic change to their ways of working entrusted on them by the first national lockdown due to Covid-19 in March 2020:

- * Assisting management and administration personnel in adapting to working from home
- * Investment in equipment, software and training in preparedness for virtual auditing
- * An employee well-being programme commencing with the transport team



Polar Ice has invested heavily in IT systems, infrastructure and security over the past four years so that the teams were ready to go remote if the need arose.

“Since March 2020 the management, administration and marketing teams have worked almost entirely from home in line with government guidelines. Nonetheless making the switch was still a major culture change but the team effort has allowed a seamless transition for customers, many of who found themselves in a similar situation.

“The company immediately purchased additional hardware, phone and office equipment for the employees, and assisted them in upgrading their home broadband service to fibre broadband where accessible or the next best available technology,” Berry concluded.

delivering value for the employee as well as driving business growth. By its very nature, workplace innovation should always be the result of shared a continuous process and with buy-in across the entire organisation.

“Having looked at the process part, we shall also make some consideration on the policies implications, impact, and side-consequences. Inclusiveness and fight against the digital divide are one of the most important point policymakers shall look at workplace innovation: it shall be framed as an opportunity for all, not for some restricted target, like big corporate or public administration.

“The regulatory framework shall be clear, flexible but requiring minimum standard and common ground for all, beyond the national or regional borders. Finally, trust and safety in the system shall always come first: digital data vulnerability comes together with this digital revolution.”

By supporting workplace innovation, policy makers can foster behavioral changes of stakeholders and end users, according to Chiara Frencia, Head of SERN Secretaria and Project Manager of ‘Start at Best’.



‘START AT BEST’ CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

- **Cork City Council** is a partner in several EU projects across a number of different funding calls including Horizon 2020, Interreg Europe, Atlantic Area and URBACT. These projects help to advance the council’s knowledge of international best practice, promote transnational collaboration and to accelerate economic and community innovation activities for Cork. Current project themes include workplace innovation, SME innovation, smart cities, social innovation and engagement, energy efficiency and tourism.
- **SERN (Start-up Europe Regions Network)** is dedicated to providing start-up supports, and to reinforce the links between regional authorities, development agencies, universities and associations.
- **ANI** focuses on supporting technological and business innovation in Portugal. It contributes to the consolidation of the National Innovation System (SNI) and the competitiveness of the national economy in global markets. ANI also promotes collaboration between entities of the scientific and technological system and the business environment.
- **ART-ER** Attractiveness Research Territory is the Emilia-Romagna Joint Stock Consortium whose sole purpose is to foster the region’s sustainable growth by developing innovation and knowledge, attractiveness and internationalisation of the region system.

For full details visit <https://startatbest.eu>



Premier Engineering Ltd.

Build / Civil / Demolition

ESTABLISHED 1979



Premier Engineering Ltd was founded in August 1979 and has established itself since as a multifunctional Engineering Company. Specialising in Timberframe Manufacture and Civil Engineering.

Since 1979, we have earned a high reputation in our Timberframe Division, Civil Engineering works and Turnkey Developments.

Our Company's success is based on the extensive experience of our highly skilled and educated Staff who continuously update their skill sets through accredited training.

CONTACT US



PHONE NUMBER

+353 504 43612



EMAIL ADDRESSES

info@premierengineering.ie

adrian@premierengineering.ie

barry@premierengineering.ie



OUR ADDRESS

Glenbane, Holycross, Thurles,
Co. Tipperary, Ireland

LOCAL AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES THRIVE ON GREATER ENGAGEMENT

Local authorities are all about a sense of community, with many making the decision for future planning to encourage sustainable connections and improving the quality of life for everyone who lives within that area. So, a sense of community within the workplace should be as equally important for your employees, according to James Scott, CEO of Thrive.

Some local authority employees can have limited access to resources, company news, health and safety policies, important updates and more – with many 'outdoor', field-based employees having no access to a desktop or company email.

For example, at Meath County Council 35% of council employees had no regular access to work emails or a desktop. Along with the current challenges presented by Covid-19, enhancing communication and promoting employee engagement was essential for the organisation.

Another challenge is communication – not only with members of the public but with colleagues, internally. Consistent and relevant communication is the key to engaging employees in their role, empowering them to carry out their duties effectively and providing appropriate support and recognition, especially with various people across different departments and locations.

FOUR KEY TIPS OF ENGAGEMENT

At Thrive, we have detailed four key tips for enhancing communication and uplifting employee engagement within your local authority: employee feedback; company culture; employee connection to their roles; and digitalisation for the promotion of engagement & communication.



Meath County Council is the first local authority in Ireland to launch an employee engagement app, in partnership with Thrive, the Belfast-based software developer. Meath CEO Jackie Maguire is pictured at the launch of the employee engagement app with council workers Ferenc Dancsa, Kevin Murphy and John Collier.

(1) Employee Feedback

One way to uplift employee engagement is through constructive feedback – in a frequent and personalised and consistent matter. Employees today want to know their individual contributions are being recognised, noticed and appreciated. They also want their voices to be listened to – to be able to share their opinions, collaborate on ideas and get a sense that they are contributing to positive change.

Look for opportunities to encourage questions and answer sessions, run polls and surveys with employees to get regular feedback and promote celebrating success and recognising colleagues in your daily interactions. Use feedback to develop action plans that employees have contributed to are engaged with.

(2) Company Culture

At its heart, culture is often described as a shared set of values that encourages community. Engaged employees recognise culture manifesting itself in the form of:

- Trusted leadership
- Supportive management
- A positive work environment
- Opportunities for growth

Employee communication that engages employees from the perspective of culture should focus not just on publicising company values, but also on encouraging feedback and recognising value-centric actions and behaviours.

Employees should know the company's culture and feel that they are positively contributing to the culture, mission and values each day. Great culture sets the foundations for success of the company as well as its employees and is based on honest, productive conversations as well as access to knowledge and proactive knowledge sharing.

(3) Employee Connection to Their Roles

This can be tricky to do in a work environment that can be isolating – with remote working, distributed teams, social distancing or working from home. And from administrative work to tenancy management to support workers to frontline workers, there is a wide variety of roles within a local authority.



McGreevy Enterprises Limited Profile

McGreevy Enterprises are a family run company with a wealth of experience in the Construction Industry for over 30 years.

We specialise in mixed use developments, New builds and refurbishments, conversion and reconstruction projects throughout both North and South of Ireland.

Throughout the years we have built a reputable business relationship with many of the Social Housing Boards and have completed many housing schemes ranging in size and value.

The McGreevy Business commenced building family homes in 1989 and since then has completed approximately 6000 units. The residential developments range from 30 units up to 200 units and include a wide variety of homes including apartments, town houses, semi-detached and detached houses ranging from 700 square feet to 3,500 square feet.



048 406 38501



INFO@CARNCastle.COM

The services and trades we employ include; plumbers, tillers, bricklayers/builders, plasterers, joiners, electricians and more. Based outside Newry City, we strive to be the first choice local builder.

Together with our knowledge and experienced staff we provide a professional and competitive approach to this ever demanding Industry.



James Scott, CEO and Co-founder with Belfast-based software developer Thrive, says that effective employee engagement has never been so important, as businesses continue to navigate these challenging times.

So, how can you get employees to care on an emotional level about these kinds of jobs?

To feel connected to your organisation, employees need to know their responsibilities and how they play into the greater vision and purpose of the company. The employee should believe their work is meaningful and making a real impact. When that is communicated effectively to employees, they feel elevated from a ‘cog in the wheel’ position, and their sense of value within the organisation increases.

It is also human nature to crave social connections with other people, this can be challenging when teams are dispersed, and even more challenging with the current effects of Covid-19. Social connectedness is vital for employees to feel happy in their roles. This striving for connection begins at birth and continues throughout our life.

Encouraging employees to share their stories, talk about their feelings, share their hobbies and experiences will create a more personal, social culture which helps each employee to Thrive and creates true engagement for everyone.

(4) Tapping into New Technology

It is great to see many local authorities adopting new technologies that will improve the customer experience. Investing in technologies that improve

efficiency throughout automated processes will improve both the employee experience and employee communication.

It is important for local authority employees to be able to access information 24/7 on a real-time basis – particularly as different departments will work in different locations. Digital tools, such as employee apps, can be used for many things such as:

- Sharing critical health and safety information to everyone at the same time.
- Posting and updating company news.
- Sharing video updates or messages of encouragement from senior leaders.
- Promoting peer-to-peer recognition.
- Running charity events.
- Organising internal events such as training, town halls, seminars, wellbeing sessions.
- Integrated payroll and rota.
- Empowering employee-generated feedback and ideas.
- Sharing policies or procedures.

This list of content is entirely up to you and your organisation and most importantly your employees. Whether you manage Internal Communications, HR, Operations, Health and Safety or the CEO, implementing these suggestions can help you increase engagement and, therefore, productivity, innovation and success.

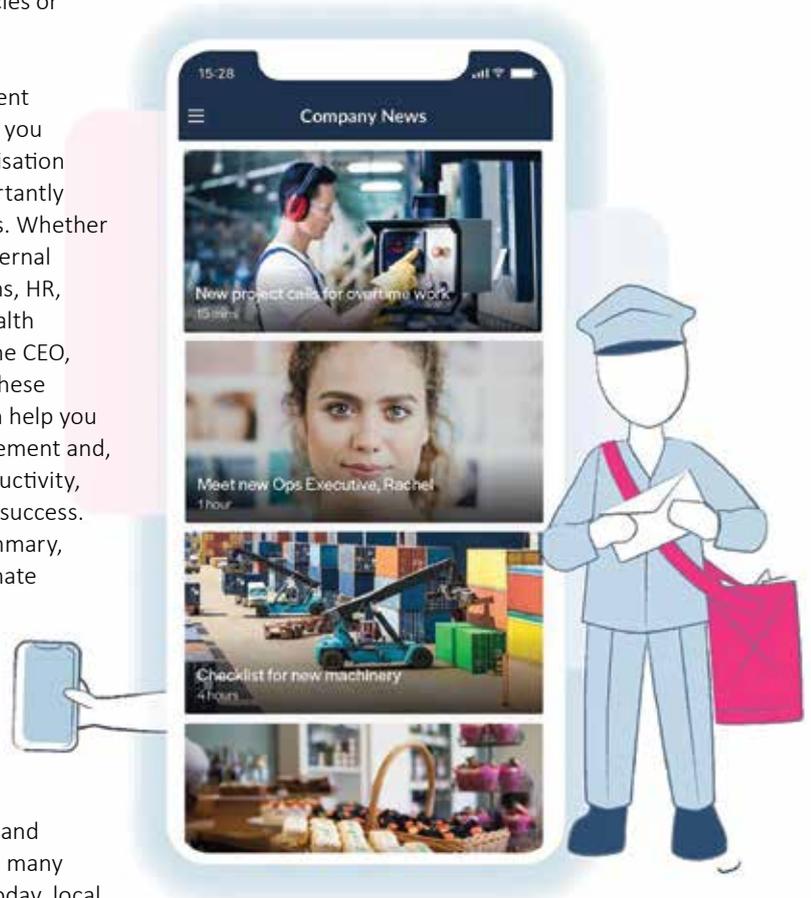
In summary, the current climate brought to us by Covid-19 has made us re-think how we

communicate with our teams and colleagues. Like many organisations today, local authorities are going through huge amounts of change, people need to be more focused in their roles with adding different skills.

Local authorities are relying on employees to work more productively and they, therefore, need to be engaged with employees as well as acknowledging how they are feeling. Local authorities need to ensure the environments their employees work in are the best so they can deliver what they need to deliver in the most efficient and effective way, the right people with the right skills doing the right work at the right time.

People who are out in the field need to see the same information at the same time as those who are working remotely from home or at a desk to increase employee experience for everyone, everywhere.

A connected culture should ensure inclusivity, support team members and provide a safe environment for employees to be able to give their best. Long standing and effective workforce engagement will lead to a productive, sustainable and effective organisation.



Employee apps can be used to share critical health and safety information to everyone at the same time, provide council news updates, empower employee-generated feedback and ideas, share policies or procedures etc.

ROHAN

Supporting Enterprise in Dublin for Over 45 Years

Rohan Holdings is Ireland's leading developer of logistics / warehouse space, high quality business parks and prestige offices. We are currently developing four business parks in Dublin: Dublin AirPort Logistics Park, North City Business Park, South West Business Park and North Dublin Corporate Park which will provide 3.5 million square feet of commercial space, accommodate over 5,500 jobs and contribute in excess of €5m per year in commercial rates. A consistent focus on quality, well-being and sustainability enables us to continue to create and deliver business environments for top industry leaders.



**Building
New
Opportunities**

**Facilitating
Development
and Growth**



Harvey Norman

HOLLAND & BARRETT



Gate Gourmet



dnata



**Attracting
Industry
Leaders**

Find out more at www.rohanholdings.ie

COLLABORATION TO MEET COVID AND BREXIT CHALLENGES

The importance of cross-border collaboration to deal with the challenges of Covid-19 and Brexit and to deliver on the planned regional growth projects were outlined at a virtual North West Strategic Growth Partnership meeting recently.

The North West Strategic Growth Partnership, a unique structure that was first established in 2016 through the North South Ministerial Council to provide support and discussion to the North West City Region, met virtually to get an update on the three key 'growth pillars' for growth in the region – Economy and Business, Physical and Environmental Infrastructure, and Social and Community Cohesion and Wellbeing.

The meeting between senior government officials from the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, was jointly led by Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council, and chaired by the two Mayors, with support by the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD).

Attendees heard at first-hand about the ongoing collaborative work that is being done by the two councils to continue to drive the ambitious growth plans for the region in terms of economic growth, investment, physical and environmental development as well as social and community cohesion and well-being.

The partnership also discussed deepening collaborative working with central government in both jurisdictions, across a range of key themes which are important for the region's future and which are also key government policy priorities.

Donegal County Council's Cathaoirleach Cllr Rena Donaghey said it was very important to get all the relevant personnel together to provide updates and share information. She said the cross-border regional collaborative approach to delivering on the region's plans for growth was the only way to do business.

Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council Alderman Graham Warke, said that the partnership meeting was hugely important in updating both governments on the excellent work being done on the ground to progress with strategic investment in the region. He noted it was also an opportunity to hear from senior government officials about the level of commitment and support that is available to assist drive forward these ambitious plans for the region.

Officials from the Northern Ireland Office provided updates in relation to the level of investment and support provided by the Northern Ireland administration while senior civil servants from An Taoiseach's Office outlined the activities and priorities agreed by the Irish Government for the north-west region.

COLLABORATING AGAINST COVID

Central to all discussions at the meeting was Covid-19 and the how the region is working collaboratively in dealing with the



Collaboration is key to successfully developing a city region that is thriving, sustainable and prosperous, according to John McLaughlin, Chief Executive of Donegal County Council.

pandemic. Department of Health officials from both jurisdictions spoke of the high level of work being done on a north-south co-operation level to manage the pandemic and plan for recovery.

A plenary session looked at investment in the region's third level education offering that was presented by representatives from the four key education institutions in the region – LYIT and the Donegal ETB, the Ulster University and the North West Regional College, followed by a discussion around a Green Transformation Framework for the cross-border region and a North West Planners Forum, that were both facilitated by ICLRd.

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive of Donegal County Council, said the meeting was hugely beneficial in further strengthening links between the two councils, its partners and the two governments. He emphasised the importance of collaboration saying it is key to successfully developing a city region that is thriving, sustainable and prosperous.

For his part, the Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council John Kelpie said it was more important than ever that these strong links with senior government officials are retained and re-emphasised the importance of collaboration.

"This partnership is truly unique and this week's meeting further emphasised the importance of regular communication, the alignment of our strategic policy plans and continued collaboration to allow us to deliver on our objectives and key strategic infrastructural and regeneration projects."

ELECTRONIC VOTING FROM HOME TOPS THE POLL IN IRELAND!

The majority of Irish people favour electronic voting from home in future elections and referendums, in addition to the introduction of a national identity card, according to the findings of a nationwide survey by the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software.



The survey found that almost six out of ten people (58%) favoured electronic voting from home in elections and referendums.

The study in October 2020 found that almost six out of ten people (58%) favoured electronic voting from home in elections and referendums. In contrast, just one in three (30%) opposed the idea, and 12% answered ‘don’t know’.

Data privacy and cybersecurity research company Lero, which RED C Research to conduct the survey of just over 1,000 people, also found that seven out of ten people (69%) favoured the introduction of a national identity card.

The card would be accessible by them and public services including local authorities and schools and colleges, 17% were



Prof Brian Fitzgerald, Lero’s Director, said Irish people’s support for the introduction of electronic voting and a national ID card has remained remarkably consistent

opposed to a national ID card while 14% responded they ‘don’t know’.

Prof Brian Fitzgerald, Lero’s Director, said Irish people’s support for the introduction of electronic voting and a national ID card has remained remarkably consistent. “Irish people are clearly at home in the digital world. This survey confirms they are comfortable with having important elements of their lives, such as elections and personal records, move online,” he added.

SECURE ACCESS TO SERVICES

Prof Regina Connolly from Dublin City University Business School said the survey’s findings highlighted the increasing digital literacy of Irish people. “National identity cards are used in most EU countries and have potential to fundamentally reshape the relationship between citizens and the state. They provide faster, safe and secure access to government services, increase transparency and strengthen the economy. However, public



National identity cards have the potential to fundamentally reshape the relationship between citizens and the state, notes Prof Regina Connolly, DCU Business School.

‘buy-in’ is essential for the success of ID cards and this survey provides encouraging evidence in that regard,” she added.

A similar survey of more than 1,000 adults, which was conducted by RED C for Lero in June 2018, also found that a majority (59%) favoured electronic voting from home for elections and referendums, while 75% were in favour of a national ID card. For this latest survey, RED C interviewed a random nationally representative sample

of 1,001 adults aged 18+ online between 8-13 October 2020.

Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software, brought together expert software teams from universities and institutes of technology across Ireland in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus.

Hosted by the University of Limerick, Lero’s academic partners included Dublin City University, TCD, UCD, Maynooth University, NUI Galway, UCC, Institutes of Technology in Tralee, Dundalk, Waterford, Limerick and Cork.



COLLABORATE. INNOVATE.

Achieve.

Abbott offers you enormous opportunities to achieve your career and personal best. Through our diverse work in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines, you can have a life-changing impact on the world.

Our business in Donegal Town is a world leader in the manufacture of revolutionary diabetes management devices, and we're growing our team. We're currently looking for a Technical Leader, Process Team Leaders and Engineers to become part of our global community of dedicated employees.

Are you ready to build a career with a purpose while helping change lives?

Discover the career of a lifetime. Learn more at [abbott.com/careers](https://www.abbott.com/careers).

Connect with us:     

An equal opportunity employer (EOE Minorities/Females/Protected Veterans/Disabled), Abbott welcomes and encourages diversity in our workforce.





CASTLE FARM

Naas, Co.Kildare
2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes
castlefarmnaas.ie



An Fuarán

Oranmore, Co.Galway
2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes
anfuran.ie



BALLINAHINCH WOOD

Ashford, Co.Wicklow
3, 4 & 5 bedroom homes
ballinahinchwood.ie



WHITE PINES

Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
3, 4 & 5 bedroom homes
whitepines.ie



furness wood

Johnstown, Co.Kildare
3, 4 & 5 bedroom homes
furnesswood.ie



Coming Soon

Scholarstown
Dublin 16

Celbridge
Co.Kildare

Kilcullen Road, Naas
Co.Kildare

Clane
Co.Kildare

Visit ardstonehomes.ie to keep
track of upcoming Ardstone
developments across Ireland.

