

PEAK PERFORMANCE BY 90 PROJECTS TO REACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS FINAL

A total of 90 projects from 20 local authorities have reached the final of the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021, following the release of this year's shortlist by Chambers Ireland recently. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 27 November in Dublin's Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santry.

This year's Excellence in Local Government Awards will be held in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to further highlight the positive impact of local government across Ireland.

The Minister for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke TD, said that in another year that has had many challenges, local authorities have continued to be at the forefront of serving our communities, the arm of the state closest to the citizen.

"The agility of our local authorities is self-evident again this year as we see the continued delivery of excellent and innovative services to local communities nationwide. These awards provide a platform to showcase the activities of our local authorities, allowing us to display and publicly acknowledge the hard work that is done by officials, community groups and their partners in local government, often carried out quietly and behind the scenes.

"From projects on the environment, the economy, communities, and the well-being of our citizens to name but a few, we can see the wide range of skills and expertise present in our local authorities and the creativity shown in the face of adversity," Minister Burke noted.

RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION

Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland, Ian Talbot, said: "As an organisation that represents both businesses and communities across Ireland, we have a deep appreciation for the role played by local government in delivering the infrastructure and services needed by towns and cities in every part of the country.

"This has become particularly clear over the last 18 months as local authorities responded to a rapidly changing situation.



The winners will be announced at an online awards ceremony at an awards ceremony on Saturday 27.

While this was a significant test for all, we can see from the strength of submissions that local government came through this period with flying colours.

"In that context, this year's awards represent an important opportunity to thank all council members and staff

for their resilience and hard work. Our communities are stronger for their efforts, and we look forward to recognising their achievements in November."

For further information and updates visit www.chambers.ie/events/elg-awards/.



"Over the last 18 months local councils have responded to a rapidly changing situation" – Ian Talbot, Chief Executive of Chambers Ireland.



Mayo County Council made its mark last year by winning the 'Local Authority of the Year' award in addition to a record number of wins across three categories and was also shortlisted in two other categories.

A SHORTLIST OF THE FINALISTS FOR 2021

Supporting Sustainable Communities

Clare County Council – Cappa Village Enhancement strategy
 Fingal County Council – Gearing Up For Training
 Laois County Council – Abbeyleix Community Climate Action Project
 Monaghan County Council – County Monaghan Wetland Action Plan
 South Dublin County Council – Redevelopment of Killinarden Park and new Green Link

Best Practice in Community Engagement

Cork City Council – Engaging with Young People on the Future of the City
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – County Development Plan Virtual Public Consultation
 Limerick City and County Council – First Issues Consultation – Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028
 South Dublin County Council – South Dublin County Council Development Plan (CDP) Public Consultation
 Wicklow County Council – 'Include Me' Visibility Campaign

Health & Wellbeing

Clare County Council – 'Not Around Us' Towards a Tobacco/Vape Free Clare campaign
 Cork City Council – Sports on the Green
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown – Cuairt agus Cultúr 2020
 South Dublin County Council – Zooming through Lockdown
 Wicklow County Council – Virtual Couch to 3K – Walk to Jog Programme

Supporting Tourism

Clare County Council – Share Clare Tourism Marketing 'Resource Bank'
 Kerry County Council – Safe Destination Kerry Programme
 Limerick City and County Council – 50 Days of Summer
 Monaghan County Council – The Patrick Kavanagh Centre and the branded Kavanagh Trail
 South Dublin County Council – The Dodder Greenway
 Wexford County Council – The Celtic Routes Project

Promoting Economic Development

Cork City Council – Parklet Partners Project
 Donegal County Council – #BuyDonegal
 Limerick City and County Council – Happen-Mid West Network of Co-Workspaces
 Mayo County Council – Mayo – A World Class Place to do Business
 Monaghan County Council – Monaghan Town Voucher
 Tipperary County Council – Nenagh Live

Local Authority Innovation

Clare County Council – Online Ethics Register
 Fingal County Council – Inside Fingal Podcast
 Kerry County Council – Supplygov.ie – Dynamic Purchasing System for Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Works
 Kildare County Council – Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme
 Limerick City and County Council – 'Council Connect' Staff app
 Longford County Council – Longford County

Council Strategy and Guidance for Rural Working Hubs
 Meath County Council – MCC Connect App
 Monaghan County Council – Virtual Reality 360-degree tour and house inspection app
 Roscommon County Council – My Online Services
 South Dublin County Council – Tallaght District Heating Network

Sustainable Environment

Clare County Council – Demonstration of biodiversity management in public open space/recreational areas
 Cork City Council – Climate Action Committee – Local Scale Air Quality Monitoring System
 Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council – dlr's Coastal Mobility Route
 Kildare County Council – Kildare Green Kilometre
 Monaghan County Council – Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot Scheme
 South Dublin County Council – SDCC Pollinator Action Plan 2021 – 2025

Best Library Service

Cavan County Council – Cavan Library Covid-19 Book Delivery Service
 Cork City Council – From the Jaws of Disaster: Douglas Library's amazing rebuild
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – dlr Scéal Trail (Story Walk)
 Kildare County Council – 'Supporting Families, Sharing the Learning'
 Meath County Council – Laptops for Loan
 South Dublin County Council – The Creative Studio as part of NCL (North Clondalkin Library)

Sustaining the Arts

Cork City Council – Cork City Street Arts Development Programme
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – dlr Artworks Home
 Fingal County Council – Transcending Time – Artist Aoife Dunne
 Kildare County Council – Kildare Covid Notebook project
 Meath County Council – RE:Form

Age Friendly Initiative

Clare County Council – Clare Digital Smartphone Project for Older People
 Cork City Council – Cork City's Age Friendly Covid Response
 Meath County Council – Purls of Wisdom – Joint Age Friendly & Climate Action
 Monaghan County Council – It's Good to Talk GAA
 South Dublin County Council – Policy for Rightsizing and Allocation of Age Friendly Accommodation

Festival of the Year

Cavan County Council – Cavan Day 2020
 Cork City Council – Re-imagine GLOW 2020
 Limerick City & Council Council – Limerick St Patrick's Festival 2021: Tune in to Take Part
 Monaghan County Council – Cavan Monaghan Online Science Festival 2020
 South Dublin County Council – (SnaGÁCT) Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas

Wexford County Council – New Ross Christmas Festival 2020

Initiatives through the Municipal Districts

Clare County Council – Restructuring of Municipal Districts to improve community and economic outcomes
 Meath County Council – Meath County Council Municipal District Allocation Scheme
 Monaghan County Council – Clones Town Interactive Heritage Tour

Enhancing the Urban Environment

Clare County Council – Drain art – Ennis
 Cork City Council – Re-Opening a More Resilient Cork City Centre
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – Blackrock Village – Liveable Space
 Kildare County Council – Kildare Market Square Tactical Urbanism Covid-19 Response Pilot Project
 Kilkenny County Council – Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park
 Tipperary County Council – Interreg North-West Europe (NWE) Smart Space Project

Heritage and Built Environment

Cork City Council – Infill Housing Conservation Project, 5-6 Shandon Street & JP Curran St
 Fingal County Council – Swords Castle Conservation Project
 Limerick City & County Council – Limerick

Greenway – Barnagh Station House Building Revival
 Monaghan County Council – The Carrickmacross Workhouse – Visitor Interpretation & Education Project
 South Dublin County Council – Grange Castle Pocket Park

Disability Services Provision

Cork City Council – A Space for All – Tory Top Library Community Garden
 Fingal County Council – Digifit For All
 Monaghan County Council – My Right to Vote – General Election voter education
 Wicklow County Council – Inclusive Online Easter Camp

Commemorations & Centenaries

Cavan County Council – Bringing History to Life Despite the Odds!
 Cork City Council – Cork City Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme
 Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – What's in a name? Dun Leary–Kingstown – Dún Laoghaire
 Longford County Council – County Longford Decade of Centenaries Programme, 2020-21
 Monaghan County Council – Monaghan's War of Independence 1919 – 1921
 Wicklow County Council – Wicklow and the War of Independence: The Historians' Project

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