



4 NEWS UPDATE

16 HOUSING ACTION PLANS

A key action of the Government's Housing for All strategy to tackle Ireland's housing crisis is that all 31 local authorities will develop their own action plans to detail social and affordable housing delivery over the next five years. So, just how well are local authority plans currently progressing nationwide.

20 VACANT PROPERTY GRANTS

Under the terms of the new Croí Cónaithe (Town's) Fund scheme, first-time buyers will get grant aid of up to €30,000 to refurbish a vacant property as their principal private residence, in addition to €20,000 to convert a derelict property not previously used for residential purposes.

23 SOCIAL HOUSING IRELAND

Despite government commitments to increase the delivery of social housing units, a rising number of tenants are now forced into the private rental sector, according to Colette Bennett, Economic and Social Analyst with Social Housing Ireland. She points to an urgent need to build up the social housing sector rather than subsidising a dysfunctional private rented sector.

25 WATERFORD DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Measures contained in the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 will help the south east county continue to grow and become an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable place, according to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR).

27 INNOVATION FUNDS

Seventeen projects chosen for this year's Public Service Innovation Fund, set to receive support funding of €725,000, include initiatives from Cork City Council, Dublin City Council, Waterford City & County Council, Leitrim County Council and Donegal County Council.

31 MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) has partnered with the Willing Able Mentoring (WAM) Programme to recruit graduates with disabilities across Ireland for a variety of roles within several participating local authorities – Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Kerry and Waterford – in areas such as Human Resources, Climate and Environment, Community and Sport, Communications and ICT.

35 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal County Council's unique conservation grazing project, which drafted in a group of goats (heralded as 'little firefighters') from Mayo to help reduce the growth of vegetation and thereby preventing the spread of wildfires near residential properties in Howth, is one of six projects from Fingal shortlisted for this year's Excellence in Local Government Awards.

37 DUBLIN CITY EDGE PROJECT

The City Edge Project – an urban regeneration partnership between Dublin City Council and South Dublin County Council – is part of a national strategy to rejuvenate the western edge of the city. With significant areas of underutilised land, this part of the city could be further developed by the project to accommodate 75,000 jobs and 40,000 homes in the future.





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40 DRONES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An international best practice report on Dublin City Council's new initiative to accelerate the potential of drones across Ireland's local government sector has predicted thousands of UAV flights to be in operation by 2030, while the benefits of drone technology are increasingly realised by emergency response, public safety and environmental monitoring applications.

44 DIGITAL RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

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

47 SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Government has approved over €186m of Urban Regeneration and Development Funding to support the delivery of a €2.9bn regeneration programme at Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in South County Dublin, which will enable over 8,700 homes to be built in the new neighbourhood for approximately 23,000 people between now and 2030.



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49 CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPIONS

A group of 'climate champions' who recently graduated from the first climate action course in Ireland will now become community-based environmental ambassadors. The eight-week pilot programme run by Laois County Council in partnership with Laois and Offaly Education & Training Board could now be rolled out on a nationwide basis.

50 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ireland's Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Southern Regional Assembly and UCD's School of Geography shared best practice guidelines on improved landscape governance for sustainability with European colleagues during an international training workshop in Italy earlier this year.

55 EUROPEAN FOCUS

A new initiative to strengthen democracy across Europe has seen an impressive response from capital cities across Europe, according to Helfried Carl, founder of the European Capital of Democracy initiative. A total number of 22 cities from 13 countries have applied to become the first European Capital City of Democracy.



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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: Niall Mc Hugh

Advertisement Co-ordinator
Audrey Fitzgerald

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