



Donegal County Council



Annual Report 2005

Donegal County Council

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FOREWORD

- Activity continued at a high level in 2005
- as reflected in a total spend by Donegal
- County Council of €282,762,017.00, of which
- €138,307,696.00 related to Capital Projects
- and €144,454,321.00 Revenue. The report,
- which is compiled on a Directorate basis,
- aims to convey an appreciation of the type
- and extent of that activity.
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FOREWORD

Activity continued at a high level in 2005 as reflected in a total spend by Donegal County Council of €282,762,017.00, of which €138,307,696.00 related to Capital Projects and €144,454,321.00 Revenue. The report, which is compiled on a Directorate basis, aims to convey an appreciation of the type and extent of that activity. This foreword is a snapshot of some of the key developments and achievements during the year.



Michael McLoone
County Manager

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY

Establishment of Donegal Inter-Governmental Group

A cross party deputation from the Council met with An Taoiseach and Government Ministers on 8th February 2005 at Government Buildings to make a submission for the establishment of a special Donegal Interdepartmental Group to plan and implement a programme of key investment priorities to make Donegal a prime, competitive and attractive location for job creating investment. The key areas identified for such investment were:

- Access – air, road sea etc
- Telecommunications
- Energy
- Social Infrastructure Health/Education
- Human Resource Development – labour market issues
- Employment/Job Creation Strategies



Cllr. D. Larkin
Cathaoirleach

The Cathaoirleach of the Council (to June 2005) Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan and Cllr. Francis Conaghan, Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Development Board led the delegation that included Cllrs. Slowey, Pringle and Larkin as well as the County Manager, Mr Michael Mc Loone. Deputies Blaney, Keaveney and McDaid were also in attendance.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern T.D. greeted the deputation. The meeting, with eight Government Ministers in attendance, proceeded with Minister Martin T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in the chair.

The other Ministers in attendance were Noel Dempsey, T.D. Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Mary Hanafin, T.D. Minister for Education and Science, Dick Roche, T.D. Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mary Coughlan, T.D. Minister for Agriculture and Food, Martin Cullen T.D. Minister for Transport, Pat the Cope Gallagher, T.D. Minister for the Marine and Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D. Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Minister Martin indicated that the Taoiseach was interested in a special initiative that had a cross border dimension. It was generally agreed that such an initiative needed to be 'mainstreamed' across the main spending departments as well as the Spatial Planning Unit of our own Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government where responsibility rests for rolling out the National Spatial Plan (NSS). This would ensure that development objectives set out in the Regional Spatial Plans and Strategies were prioritised and the necessary funding for their implementation identified in the spending plans of the relevant departments.

From the viewpoint of Donegal County Council and the County Development Board, such a special initiative would breathe new life into our attempts to implement the recommendations in the Donegal Employment Initiative Taskforce Report (now incorporated into An Straitéis). It would also bring the funding implications of the work of regional spatial planning under the N.S.S. (including the concept of a cross border gateway acting as the 'Capital' of a cross border region) into sharp relief. Finally, it would set a National and Regional context for the work of many cross border groups (such as N.W. Cross Border Group, ICBAN etc) that necessarily are restricted to local development initiatives and to lobbying for the strategic priorities to be funded.

We were delighted with the announcement on 12th October that the Donegal Inter-Governmental Group had been established.

The first meeting of the group took place on Thursday November 3rd 2005 in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE). Sean Gorman, Secretary General, Department of Energy, Trade & Employment, Chair of the Group chaired the meeting which was attended by representatives of each Government Department. The County Manager was invited to attend and make a presentation.

The Group will provide development agencies such as IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Udaras, Donegal County Enterprise Board, FAS, Failte Ireland, Intertrade Ireland with an opportunity to set out for their government departments the issues outside of their remit inhibiting their ability to achieve the objective of supporting enterprise development in the County.

INFRASTRUCTURE

5 Year Action Plan for Social & Affordable Housing 2004 – 2008

In January, notice was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government that our 5 Year Action Plan 2004 – 2008 had been approved. The Department's approval related to the broad approach outlined in the plan to all aspects of the delivery of social and affordable housing for this period while specific allocations will continue to be given on an annual basis within the context of the plan now approved.

The plan covers the County Council and the 3 Town Councils to ensure an integrated approach for the whole county for housing output.

The overall plan envisages expenditure of the order of €414m of which €321m refers to County Council activity and €93m by the 3 Town Councils. A breakdown of the various elements of the plan, in so far as it relates to the County Council, is as follows.

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED EXPEND.	ESTIMATED OUTPUT
Social Housing	€165m	1300 No. new starts
Voluntary & Co-operative Housing	€58m	520 new units
Remedial Works to existing stock/central heating etc	€26.8m	900 units
Essential Repairs/Disabled Persons Grants	€22.5m	ERG – 2000 grants DPG – 1250 grants
Affordable Housing	€25m	185 units
Shared Ownership Housing	€15m	100 units
Traveller Accommodation	€4.5m	96 units
Planned Maintenance	€2.5m	700 units
Repairs to Casual Vacancies	€2.5m	

Arrangements are ongoing to ensure that the housing activity of all Housing Authorities in the county are synchronised to maximise the benefits of the plan to meet housing needs. The Elected Council agreed a breakdown of the distribution of units between electoral areas later in the year and this is dealt with in the body of the report.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008

On 27th February 2001, an emergency plan of action was put in place that made provision for emergency accommodation for 43 families on 13 sites as well as up to 40 places for transient families on a further 4 sites. It was expected at that time that the use of the sites would be required to the end of 2003. While substantial progress has been made since the inception of the programme (55 families housed with all but 10 of the 43 families listed on the emergency programme having been accommodated or left the area), there yet remains a need for a number of the sites pending the provision of permanent accommodation. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005 – 2008, adopted by Council members on 29th March 2005, identifies 47 families in need of permanent accommodation together with the need for three permanent transient sites.

The County Manager, therefore, ordered the continued use of the temporary emergency halting sites for a further period until the end of 2006, except those sites listed below ordered for closure: Nailors Row, Elaghbeg, Carrickboy, Finner, Glencar Scotch, Sentry Hill, Dooballagh, Lismonaghan, Killyclug/Killylastin, Meencrumlin.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Services through Irish

In July, the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs announced that he had approved, without amendment, the Donegal Local Authorities Scheme, prepared by the County Council in association with the four Town Councils, under the Official Languages Act 2003. The scheme, which commenced on 1st October 2005, sets out the strategies to be pursued over the next three years

with the objective of achieving significant improvements in the range and quality of services to be delivered through the Irish language. An internal Implementation Plan for the scheme has also been prepared. Donegal County Council is one of the first public service agencies to have an approved scheme under the Act.

National Disability Strategy – Disability Act 2005

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocated a total of €1m to the Council under the above Strategy to commence the provision of services and activity as contained in the Outline Sectoral Plan. This allocation was on foot of a submission by the Council to carry out an audit of requirements and to put in place a programme of remediation for a range of Council facilities including offices, roads, libraries, leisure facilities etc.

This is the first allocation to the Council under this new Strategy and it is anticipated that further allocations will be available to enable the Council to implement the new legislation.

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY

Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

A new Regional Cultural Centre is being developed by Donegal County Council at Port Road Letterkenny, adjacent to An Grianán Theatre, on a site provided by Letterkenny Town Council.

This landmark building has been designed by award winning Letterkenny based MacGabhann Architects. The €4.5 million, 1,700 m² Centre will consist of art galleries, workshops, a 140-seat studio cinema/ theatre, digital media studios

and music rehearsal rooms. The new centre is one of the key items in Saol agus Saoithiúlacht, (Donegal County Council's Strategic Plan for Cultural Services) and a flagship cultural project in An Straitéis, the County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development.

The Centre will be one of the finest facilities of its type in Ireland and the combined Regional Cultural Centre/An Grianán Campus will be a major cultural and tourism resource for the North West region. Construction commenced in July.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

The Fleadh Cheoil returned to Donegal for the first time in 25 years with Letterkenny hosting the event. Commencing on 21st August with Scoil Eigse, the Fleadh proper took place from 26th – 28th of the month with an estimated quarter of a million people attending. Funding was provided by Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Town Council, Fáilte Ireland, North West Tourism and Guinness (the main sponsors).

At the launch of the Fleadh, the Mayor, Cllr. Larkin pointed out that the Council and other agencies spend a total of €14million per annum on Culture and the Arts: Donegal County Council contributes €4million each year to Cultural programmes.

The Fleadh was a resounding success and the organising committee are hopeful that its bid to retain the event in 2006 will be successful. Tremendous credit is due to all concerned and particularly the organising committee led by Paddy Tunney.

Entente Florale 2005 – Glenties Awarded Silver Medal

The village of Glenties had a notable achievement during the year with the award of a silver medal in the competition. Glenties was selected by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to represent Ireland in the village category of the 2005 Entente Florale because of its long history of success in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

The competition was founded more than twenty-five years ago and was, at first, a local competition between France and Britain, but very soon many other European Nations, including Ireland had joined. There are now eleven countries taking part in the competition.

In preparation for the adjudication, a multi agency group that included the Council and the Glenties Tidy Towns Committee implemented a substantial programme of works. We congratulate the Glenties Community, and particularly its Tidy Towns Committee, on their success.

In conclusion we extend our thanks to members and staff for their work during the year and to those who assisted in the compilation of this report. We trust you will find it informative.



Cllr. D. Larkin
Cathaoirleach



Mr. Michael McLoone
Donegal Co. Manager

ELECTORAL MAP



- Glenties Electoral Area
- Letterkenny Electoral Area
- Milford Electoral Area
- Inishowen Electoral Area
- Donegal Electoral Area
- Stranorlar Electoral Area



OBITUARY

Tribute to the late Cllr. Peter Kennedy

Following a brave battle with illness, the death of Councillor Peter Kennedy occurred on 29th May 2005 at the age of sixty-five years.

Cllr. Kennedy was a member of the Council for 20 years having been first elected at the local elections in June 1985. He held the office of Cathaoirleach for the 1999/2000 year, and was the first Cathaoirleach to wear the new Chain of Office, that had been specially commissioned to mark the new millennium; an honour he valued immensely. His long political career had seen him work tirelessly on a range of committees, most notably the Border Regional Authority, Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly, Irish Central Border Area Network, and the Vocational Education Committee. The fact that he had held the chairmanship of a number of these committees was testament to his outstanding ability to get the job done.

At a meeting of the Council held on 30th May 2005, the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Patrick McGowan paid tribute to the late Cllr. Kennedy and expressed deep regret at his untimely passing. He extended deepest

sympathy to Cllr. Kennedy's wife Nancy, his son's, Rory, Pauric, Jonathan, Ciaran and the extended family circle. The Cathaoirleach noted that over the years Cllr. Kennedy had worked extremely hard to ensure that a range of projects were progressed in the Donegal Electoral Area, namely the Donegal Public Service Centre, Donegal Main Drainage Scheme, Donegal Town Fire Station, Water Street Bridge, and the Tirconaille Street Bridge. His distinguished career stretching over thirty-two and a half years with the Council's Fire Service was also commended.

Other members joined in expressing their sympathies and paying tributes to Peter whose sudden passing had been met with deep regret and sadness. He was remembered as someone who at all times brought an element of common sense and a direct approach to the Council table, characteristics which stood him in good stead over the years. He was a decent, honest, straight talking politician, and a committed family man with a strong sense of humour, which he had brought to every occasion. It had been a pleasure to know him.

The County Manager extended sympathy on behalf of the Staff to the Kennedy family. Peter's commitment to the Donegal Electoral Area had been second to none, he noted, and undertook to make every effort to complete the agenda and business he had initiated. Acknowledging the great dignity with which Cllr. Kennedy had borne his illness, it was fitting, he added, that he had died in office.

A minute's silence was then observed as a mark of respect to Peter and the meeting adjourned.

Ar dheis Dea go raibh a n'anam dilis

Elected Members

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA



Brian O'Domhnaill
Falcarragh - F.F.



David Alcorn
Burtonport - F.F.



Padraig Doherty
Gweedore - F.G.



Enda Bonner
Dungloe - F.F.



Pearse
Falcarragh - S.F.



Terence Slowey
Ardara - F.G.

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA



Dessie Larkin
Letterkenny - I.F.F.



Gerry Crawford
Lifford - F.F.



Jimmy Harte
Raphoe - F.G.



Tony McDaid
Lifford - S.F.



Ciarán Brogan
Letterkenny - F.F.

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA



Ian McGarvey
Ramelton - Ind.



Liam Blaney
Tamney - I.F.F.



Noel McBride
Carrigart - F.G.

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA



Denis McGonagle
Carndonagh - F.F.



Marian McDonald
Moville - F.F.



Bernard J. McGuinness
Culdaff - F.G.



Padraig MacLochlainn
Buncrana - S.F.



Rena Donaghey
Buncrana - F.F.



Francis Conaghan F.F.
Newtowncunningham

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA



John Boyle
Dunkinneeley - F.G.



Brendan Byrne
Carrick - F.F.



Sean McEniff
Bundoran - F.F.



Barry O'Neill
Ballyshannon - F.G.



Jonathan Kennedy
Donegal - F.F.



Thomas Pringle
Killybegs - S.F.

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA



Alice Bonner
Stranorlar - F.F.



JJ Reid
Stranorlar - F.G.



Patrick McGowan
Killygordon - F.F.



FANAD LIGHTHOUSE



A VIEW FROM KNOCKALLA



HOUSING AND BUILDING

-
-
- The overall aim of our housing policy is to
- enable every household to have available an
- affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to
- its needs, in a good environment and, as far
- as possible, at a tenure of its choice.
-

HOUSING AND BUILDING

The overall aim of our housing policy is to enable every household to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and, as far as possible, at a tenure of its choice.

2005 witnessed a high level of activity with direct housing assistance having been provided to over one thousand (1,000) individuals/families which represented a significant contribution to the accommodation and well being of the people of Donegal.

The types of assistance provided included:

- Allocation of tenancies under our own Social Housing Programme and the Voluntary Housing Programme
- Loans for the purchase, construction and reconstruction of dwellings
- The provision of loans under the Affordable Housing Loans Scheme, the Shared Ownership Scheme, the Tenant Purchase and Caravan Loans Schemes
- Provision of grant assistance through the Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Schemes.
- Improvement to both the internal structure of the Council stock and schemes generally with funding being sourced under the Central Heating Programme and under the CLÁR and Peace II Programmes for regeneration of estates.

MAIN ACTIVITIES 2005

Provision and management of Rented Council Housing

APPLICATIONS

The most recent statutory Housing Needs Assessment was carried out during the year and indicated that there were 2,205 persons in need of direct assistance as at 15th June, 2005. The Assessment, which forms the basis of the Council's demand for new units, showed a significant change in the make up of the list as to a number of years previously. The most significant change was a shift in the make up of the need in relation to the number of one-person households requiring accommodation that comprised 42% of the waiting list with two person households making up a further 26%.

In addition to the traditional role of meeting the needs of applicants on the housing waiting list, the Council now also has the responsibility of meeting the long term needs of persons in receipt of rent supplement, whether they are on the waiting list or not.

These matters raised the need for a number of key decisions to be taken by the Council in relation to make up of need, type of accommodation to be provided, acquisition of units, prioritisation/allocation of units, rent levels, maintenance of units and sale of units. These are being considered by the Housing SPC. The increase in the number of separated applicants or divorced applicants, which comprises 16% of the list, is a further trend that has significant implications in terms of how the Council meets that need.

ALLOCATIONS

A total of 340 dwellings were allocated during the year consisting of individual rural cottages, scheme dwellings and individual purchases. In addition houses that became vacant were reallocated.

All dwellings are let in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Letting Priorities which was adopted in July 2000. The introduction of the new scheme, which is points based, has streamlined the Council's assessment process for applicants and has resulted in a more efficient and effective allocation procedure.

Provision of New Housing

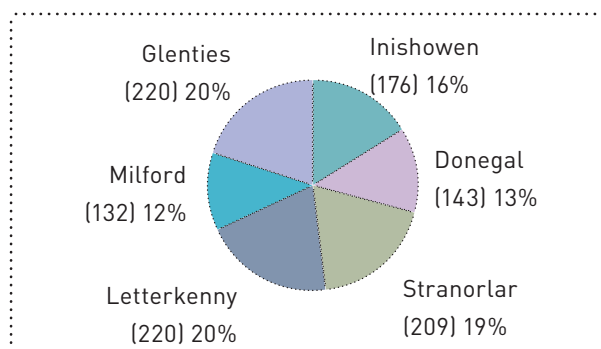
SOCIAL HOUSING

The 5 Year Action Plan on Social and Affordable Housing 2004-2008 includes for the provision of 1300 new houses.

In 2005, the make up and distribution of the programme was finalised as follows, Scheme Houses 1100 and Rural Cottages 200. The Scheme houses were distributed among the Electoral Areas as shown in the following chart.

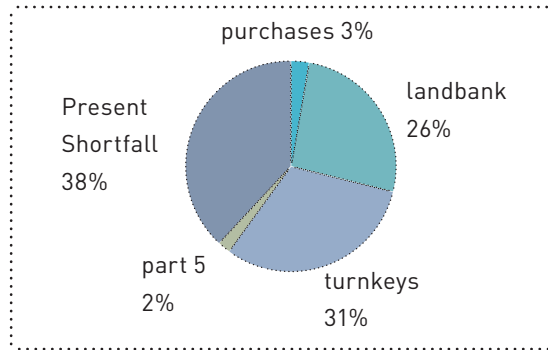
DISTRIBUTION OF SCHEME HOUSING STARTS IN EA

TOTAL 1100



Various procurement options are being used in delivery of the programme including construction on the Council own Landbank, Purchases, Turnkey Housing Schemes and through Part-V of the Planning and Development Act. It is envisaged that within the life of this programme about 45% of the starts will be delivered on the Council's own landbank, 45% through Turnkey Contracts and the remainder through other means.

04-08 CURRENT STATUS PROCUREMENT TYPE

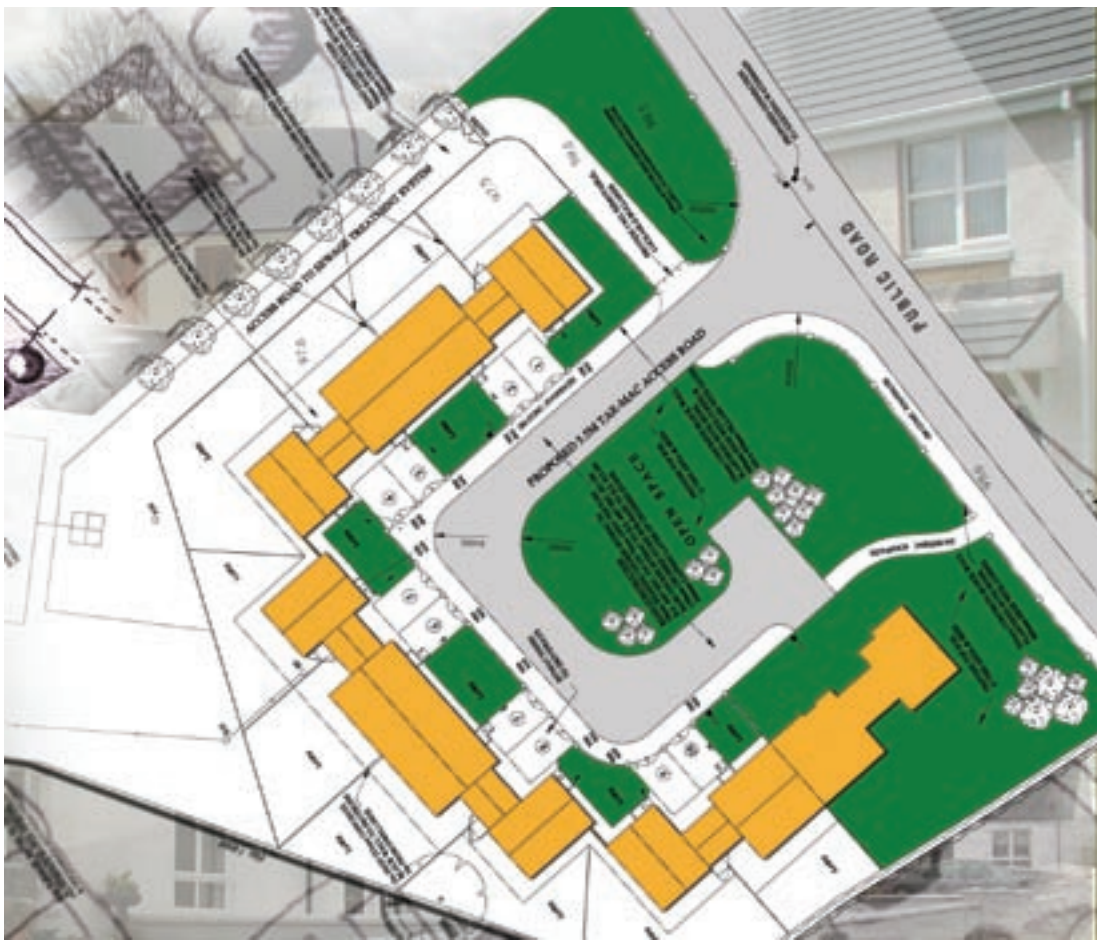


ENHANCING THE DESIGN QUALITY

The Council intends, through its 'in house' design teams, to develop high quality schemes in terms of house design and scheme layout and this should set a useful example to the private sector in developing multiple housing layouts.

In order to create sustainable communities, the scheme designs include provisions to discourage anti-social behaviour, provide security and safety to the residents, integrate well with the surroundings, be pedestrian friendly and create a distinct sense of place for the residents.

OUTLINE SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME AT TAMNEY



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council recognises the importance of the Affordable Housing Scheme as a mechanism to enable lower income families who would not necessarily qualify for social housing but who would be unable to obtain a dwelling in the open market, to acquire their own homes.

During 2005, Guidelines for the implementation of Part V were agreed which formalised the basis for discussions with developers and as a result of this new process, more Part V units came on stream with some 24 units nearing completion.

In addition to delivery through Part V, affordable housing has also been incorporated into social housing schemes to promote better social integration. Some of these schemes are already under construction e.g. in Stranorlar, Ballybofey and Manorcunningham.

Part V measure of the Planning and Development Act 2000

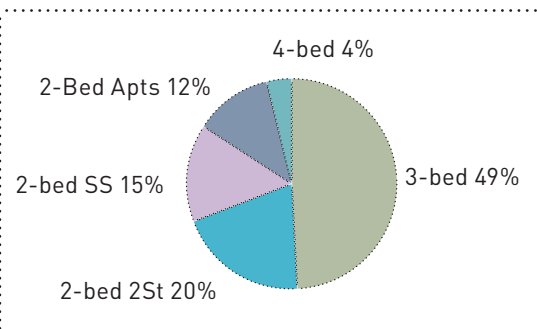
Although the Guidelines were approved and issued in 2005, the delivery through Part V measure of the Planning and Development Act 2000 has not been at the pace anticipated. This provision however, will deliver affordable housing predominantly rather than Social Housing.

New Challenges - Changing need Patterns

The change in the make up of the housing list, as identified in the recent housing needs assessment, is also being reflected in the current supply. At present 47% of the housing list is made up of single adult households, which proportion may further increase in the years 2006-2008. It is envisaged that 2 bed apartments will be supplied particularly in the urban areas of Letterkenny, Stranorlar,

Buncrana, Donegal Town and Ballyshannon to meet this emerging need. This is a challenge as this type of accommodation should be within walking distance of the amenities and town centres, where suitable land is difficult to acquire.

HOUSING MIX IN THE CURRENT SUPPLY COMMITMENTS (696)



Voluntary Housing Schemes

Accommodation provided under this programme is in addition to the Council's own Construction Programme. Under the Capital Assistance Scheme, accommodation can be provided for the elderly and people with special needs whereas the Rental Subsidy Scheme is more geared towards the provision of family accommodation. In addition to these schemes, communal facilities can also be provided where they are of direct benefit to the occupants of the proposed scheme.

Significant progress has been made in the provision of voluntary housing in Donegal and, in particular, in relation to the provision of general needs housing under the Rental Subsidy Scheme. Accommodation has been provided at 36 Centres with a total of 578 units of accommodation provided.

A number of Voluntary Housing Schemes consisting of both special needs and social housing units were progressed during 2005. One scheme at Kerrykeel was completed,

while construction of some 156 units at Stranorlar, Convoy, Carndonagh and Moville commenced. A further 275 no. units at various locations were at an advanced stage of planning at year-end.

Examples of Social Housing Schemes completed in 2005

MILFORD HOUSING SCHEME



SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEME AT MALIN



HOUSING SCHEME AT BALLYSHANNON



HABINTEG VOLUNTARY HOUSING SCHEME AT LIFFORD DUE TO START IN SEPTEMBER 2006.



SOCIAL HOUSING AT GLENTIES



Maintenance

In the Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004-2008, the Council had indicated that remedial works would form an important aspect of the programme. Agreement was reached locally during the year on the schemes/houses to be targeted and an assessment was carried out to determine the works necessary to bring the units up to present day standards. Funding was approved by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to carry out works to the value of €728,823 at a prioritised scheme in each of the 6 electoral areas. Subject to availability of Department funding, this Remedial Works Programme will continue in succeeding years.

The 5 Year Action Plan had also identified some 887 local authority rented houses as being without central heating. An allocation of €972,500 (80% Department Grant plus 20% from own resources) enabled the Council to provide central heating in 149 dwellings with storage heating/ancillary works being carried out at another 15 dwellings. The programme will continue in succeeding years and it is anticipated that provision of central heating to all rented houses will be achieved in approximately 5 years from the date of its commencement subject to Department grant and own resources availability.

**Estate Management/
Tenant participation**

Funding was secured under the Housing Management Initiative Grant Scheme 2005 for the continued employment of 3 no. Tenant Liaison Officers. With the extension of their contracts, their remit was extended to cover all local authority estates in 2 electoral areas each.

The main purpose of the Housing Management Initiative Scheme is to provide assistance to local authorities for new projects that allow them to improve the quality of their housing management service.

Promotion of Home Ownership

The Council continued to promote home ownership through the Tenant Purchase, Annuity, Reconstruction and Shared Ownership Loan Schemes.

LENDING SCHEME	NO. APPROVED TENANT
Purchase Loans	18
House Purchase/ Construction/ Reconstruction Loans	24
Shared Ownership Loans	54

**Disabled Persons Grants
and Essential Repair Grants**

A total of 371 applications under the Essential Repair Grant Scheme and 193 applications under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme were approved.

Expenditure incurred in the year on DPGs was €1,644,869 and €1,510,435 on ERGs.

Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on 4 occasions during the year and at its meeting held on February 8th, 2005 approved and recommended to the Council the adoption of a new Accommodation Programme for Travellers 2005-08. The Accommodation programme was subsequently adopted by the Council on 29th March, 2005. The Consultative Committee considered and reviewed progress on the implementation of the agreed programme at its subsequent meetings in 2005.

The new Programme identified 47 no. families as in need of permanent accommodation during the lifetime of the programme. All 47 families had opted for local authority housing as their preferred option - 42 no. families opting for standard housing with 5 no. families preferring group housing.

15 no. families identified in the Programme were accommodated in 2005. In addition expenditure of €175,000 was incurred in 2005 on the maintenance of existing halting sites in the county including caretaking costs.

HOUSING/BUILDING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) – ACTIVITIES IN 2005

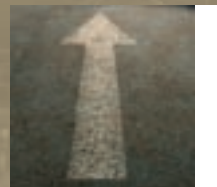
The Housing/Building SPC held four (4 no.) meetings during 2005 and continued the activities of the previous committee including review, where applicable, of policies and procedures in relation to the following topics:

- Housing/Building Policy Issues – identification of priorities
- 2005 Housing Needs Assessment
- Tenants Handbook
- Policy on Rural Cottages
- 5-Year Action Plan 2004-2008
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Dad's House
- Review of levels of Disabled Persons Grants
- Review of levels of Essential Repairs Grants
- Housing Strategy

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr. Francis Conaghan
 Cllr. Denis McGonagle
 Cllr. Pádraig O'Dochartaigh
 Cllr. Jimmy Harte
 Cllr. Tony McDaid
 Cllr. Marian McDonald
 Cllr. Liam Blaney
 Cllr. Joseph Doherty (Buncrana Town Council)
 Mr. Oliver Duffy
 Mr. Jack Hickey
 Ms. Siobhan McLaughlin
 Mr. Brendan O'Donnell

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION



- Substantial National Road Funding has
- continued in County Donegal. Construction
- on the N15 Bundoran Ballyshannon Bypass
- and the new bridge over the River Erne is
- now well advanced. Construction on the
- N56 Mountaintop-Illistrin project has also
- commenced.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Substantial National Road Funding has continued in County Donegal. Construction on the N15 Bundoran Ballyshannon Bypass and the new bridge over the River Erne is now well advanced.



Construction on the N56 Mountaintop-Illistrin project has also commenced.

NATIONAL PROJECTS

N15 Bundoran/Ballyshannon Bypass

Construction work by the contractor SIAC/ Wills JV for this Design and Build project is expected to be complete by April 2006. It is hoped that the southern section of the road will be open to traffic early in 2006. Land payments are ongoing. The Ballyhanna Archaeological Research Project is expected to commence in April 2006. This research programme, funded entirely by the National Roads Authority, is a cross-border

collaboration between Sligo IT, Queen's University Belfast, Donegal County Council and the NRA. The project sees the funding of 3 studentships carrying out detailed scientific research (DNA analysis, Trace Element Analysis) on the human skeletal remains excavated at Ballyhanna

N15 Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass

This 16km scheme is a proposed Design and Build Project and has been selected by the NRA as a pilot scheme for their proposed new "2+1" road type. McCarthy Hyder Consulting Engineers have been appointed to prepare the preliminary design and the Environmental Impact Assessment. Work is currently progressing towards publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement. These documents will be published when approval to proceed with the scheme has been obtained.

The current estimated construction completion date is 2010.

N13/N14 Manorcunningham/Strabane

INTERREG and NRA funding has continued in 2005. Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment are continuing and the Geotechnical Investigations Contract was completed in August 2005. It is anticipated that the publication of the Compulsory Purchase order and Environmental Impact Statement will take place in 2006. Subsequent to the publishing it is expected that An Bord Pleanala will convene an Oral Hearing as part of the CPO/EIS procedures in 2007. Subject to a positive decision from An Bord Pleanala and depending on funding the current estimated construction start date is mid 2008 with a completion date mid 2010.

N15 Lifford to Stranorlar/Ballybofey

This scheme is still active but progress is limited due to funding difficulties. The

Route Selection Report has been adopted by Donegal County Council with the exception of the tie-in to the N13/N14 (Manor) Lifford/Strabane Scheme. This section needs to be approved and adopted by Donegal County Council and the NRA. We are optimistic that funding will become available to resolve this issue in 2006.

N15 Tullyearl Roundabout

Construction was completed in August 2005. Landscaping consultants are to be appointed in late 2005 to enable landscaping to commence on site in the Spring of 2006.

National Primary Pavement Strengthening

Significant funding was made available in 2005 allowing pavement strengthening on the N15 at Laghey to Ballintra and the N13 Moness to Bohullion to be carried out.

NATIONAL SECONDARY PROJECTS

N56 Mountaintop to Illistrin

The project commenced on site on 19 September 2005 with an initial urban Phase 1 contract extending 1.4km to the northern boundary of Letterkenny. This initial contract will be completed in the summer of 2006 and includes a major new roundabout at the Calhame junction and major diversions of Water Supply, ESB and Eircom services. Contractor for Phase 1 is Wills Bros Ltd. Detail Design for the remaining length of the route is ongoing and

.....
MOUNTAIN TOP CONSTRUCTION



tender documentation will be completed during 2006. Land acquisition is continuing.

N56 Mountcharles to Killybegs Junction

The Draft Route Selection Report has been completed and forwarded to the NRA. Preliminary Design Works commenced on the section from Mountcharles to Inver Bridge.

N56 National Secondary Pavement Strengthening

This was again a very successful programme in 2005. A Draft Five Year Plan was completed.

Work in Other Counties

The Donegal NRDO continues to be involved in various projects in other counties, in addition to ongoing projects in County Donegal. This work involves, Road Design, Road Safety, Safety Audits, COBA, Archaeology, Bridge Management and Signing and Lining.

The following sections outline the work carried out through the Council's Non-National Road Design Office in 2005.

Non-National Road Design

The work involves designing and setting-out improvement projects on the 6,000km of Non-National Road network. The nature and extent of projects can vary, and may be as diverse as designing a new 2km road on a green field site or improving an existing junction layout to revising road marking layouts in an urban environment.

Regional Roads Signage Scheme

This Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government funded project involves the upgrading of directional signage on all Regional roads. Phase 1 and 2 are complete, while approximately 750 signs will be erected under Phases 3, 4 and 5 in 2006.

Road Design Strategic Planning Projects

The Road Design Strategic Planning Team was set up in mid-2004. In 2005, this team progressed 16 different future road projects in various parts of the county including Letterkenny & Environs, Killybegs, Buncrana, Milford, and Ballybofey/Stranorlar. The projects will help meet future traffic needs, and have been progressed through some of the following stages of design: Constraints Study, Route Selection, Preliminary Design, Part 8 Planning and Detailed Design.

Other works carried out include dealing with traffic management issues, on-going review of referred Planning Applications, partaking in pre-planning meetings, and assessing transportation issues to be incorporated into Development and Local Area Plans.

Urban & Village Renewal Programme

Road Design provided technical assistance on all matters in relation to the following Urban & Village schemes which were commenced/constructed in 2005 – Herron's Field Ardara, Moville Phase 2, Rathmullan EIS, Burtonport Phase 4, Derry Beg/Bun Beg Continuation Works. This involved attending public consultation meetings, preparation of sketch drawings, consulting with other services, preparation of contract documents, dealing with appointment of both Consultants and Contractors and assisting with all scheme finances.

Road Safety

Various road safety initiatives were progressed to try to curb the worrying trend in accident statistics on our roads. During 2005, over 40 accident-prone sites around the county were treated under the Low Cost Accident Remedial Measures, which were funded by the Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government, NRA and Own Resources.

The Donegal Road Safety Working Group, made up of representatives of Donegal County Council, An Garda Síochana, National Roads Authority and North Western Health Board, continued its work in promoting road safety through poster and leaflet campaigns and the locally based Speed, Anti-Drink Driving and Courtesy campaigns that will be continued in 2006.

School Safety Measures – Flashing Lights & Engineering Measures

During 2005, 31 schools in County Donegal benefited from the provision of new safety

measures, lines, signs and/or flashing lights, outside their premises. In addition, several other schools have had on-going problems outside their premises satisfactorily resolved.

There are 8 adult school wardens throughout the county, while Junior School Warden Schemes also operate at the following schools:

GLENTIES

BALLYSHANNON

CLONMANY

Other schools are being encouraged to participate in this scheme.

Bridge Maintenance Strengthening & Repair

The Non-National Discretionary Improvement Grant funded the strengthening and repair of 12 bridges on Non-National Roads.



ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Boyle, held a total of two meetings in 2005.

The following work programme for 2005 was agreed at their meeting in June:

1. Policy on Take Over of Housing Estates
2. Policy on Road Openings
3. Policy on Prioritisation of Safety Measures
4. Bridges
5. Policy on Distribution of Road Maintenance Monies
6. Review of Hedgecutting Policy/Policy on Vision Lines/Policy on Handling Dangerous Trees
7. Policy on Public Lighting Locations
8. Provision of Motorway to Donegal/ NW region – Access to County
9. Policy on Street Cleaning/ Litter along roads
10. Policy on Take-Over of Non-Public roads
11. Policy on Islands Roads
12. Border Roads
13. Provision of Matching funding 2006 and Provision of Road Maintenance funding
14. LIS Guidelines
15. Funding for Strategic roads/access roads

At their meeting on the 8th September 2005 the following was agreed:

Motorway:

Committee recommended Council should approach Government for funding for motorway to Northwest region. Also recommended that the Council provide €25,000 for the project – planning phase of the motorway project.

Road Opening Policy:

Agreed and submitted to Corporate Policy Group (CPG) for consideration, which requested clarification on charges

Low Cost Accident Remedial Works:

Policy accepted by Committee and forwarded to the CPG.

Regional Road Pavement Analysis & Funding Prioritisation:

Agreed that study on comparative costs of surfacing works be prepared.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor

Cllr John Boyle
 Cllr David Alcorn
 Cllr Liam Blaney
 Cllr Enda Bonner
 Cllr Noel McBride
 Cllr Sean McEniff
 Cllr Patrick McGowan
 Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn
 Cllr Terence Slowey
 Cllr Victor Fisher

Sectoral

Mr Brian Brogan
 Mr Rodger Gibbons
 Mr Martin Hilferty
 Mr John McFadden



WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Donegal County Council operates 52 public
- water supplies, from which 95% of the
- population is served, the balance being
- supplied from private sources. The table
- below sets out the volume of water produced
- for consumers in the county and the source
- of this water.
-

WATER, ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

OPERATION OF WATER SERVICES

Drinking Water Supplies

Donegal County Council operates 52 public water supplies, from which 95% of the population is served, the balance being supplied from private sources. The table below sets out the volume of water produced for consumers in the county and the source of this water.

WATER PRODUCTION (CUBIC METRES)	PUBLIC SUPPLY	PRIVATE SUPPLY	N. IRELAND
23.9 million	22.7 million	1 million	0.2 million

The significant growth of housing throughout the county has led to an increased domestic water demand. This has been sustained by water conservation measures and by a reduction in non-domestic demand.

Wastewater Treatment

The table below sets out the wastewater treatment schemes operated by the Council

NO. OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT SCHEMES	POPULATION EQUIVALENT (PE) BEING TREATED
14	Excess of 2,000
27	Between 500 and 2,000
56	Less than 500

Water Quality and Pollution Control

The quality of drinking water is monitored by staff of the Health Services Executive (formerly the North Western Health Board) and by Donegal County Council and reported

on annually by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA report (The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland) for 2005 has yet to be published. A preview of the 2005 results compared with 2004 is contained in the table below.

WATER QUALITY - PERFORMANCE INDICATOR				
Year	2004		2005	
	Public Schemes	Group Schemes	Public Schemes	Group Schemes
Compliance	%	%	%	%
TABLE A				
E. Coli	99.5	65.5	97.7	87.4
TABLE B				
Trihalomethanes (THM)	92	N/A	92	N/A
TABLE C				
Coliform Bacteria	95	45	90.75	62
Aluminium	77	N/A	82.22	N/A
Colour	87	91	83.28	73
OTHER				
Flouride	100	N/A	100	N/A

The 2005 results show some deterioration in the quality of water from public schemes and an improvement in quality of group schemes over 2004. The public scheme non-compliances are attributable to a range of factors including instrumentation failure and source water quality. Capital schemes to improve treatment are reported on below. It is also planned to upgrade monitoring instrumentation in water treatment plants during 2006. The improvement of group schemes quality reflects the success to date of an ongoing upgrade programme for these schemes.

Monitoring of influent and effluent at sewage treatment works is conducted by Donegal County Council and results reported to the EPA. Infrastructural constraints at many of these works limit the extent of monitoring and compliance achievable. Discharges to air and water were monitored at landfill sites and all industrial discharges, covered by the licensing requirements of the Water Pollution Act 1977/90, were monitored by the service. 40 licensees discharging to water and 31 discharging to sewers were being monitored at the end of 2005.

Lake waters were also monitored as part of an EPA requirement covering approximately 40 lakes per year on a 4 year programme. Designated salmonoid river monitoring is part of the routine work carried out by the service. Other rivers, not designated, but considered significant are also monitored.

The Council Laboratory continues to carry out monitoring work to determine compliance with the Phosphate Regulations and the new Dangerous Substances Regulations. As part of this work, a programme of Farm Surveys was undertaken, in the autumn of 2005, to identify medium and high-risk locations. Much of the focus for this work came from the EPA's annual report on the Biological Classification of Rivers, and subsequent follow-up from its Office of Environmental Enforcement, which adopted a more proactive approach in 2005.

NS SHARE Project

The EC Water Framework Directive (WFD), which came into force on 22 December 2000, is widely regarded as the most important piece of European water legislation to date. It establishes a new, integrated, approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters. It proposes a system of water quality management based on natural river catchments.

The Directive provides for a new, strengthened system for the protection and improvement of water quality and dependent ecosystems. It aims at maintaining "high status" of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters, and achieving at least "good status" in relation to all waters by 2015. Implementation of the Directive on the

island of Ireland provides the opportunity to co-operate, North and South, on the sustainable management of the shared water environment. As a first step, the Department of the Environment in the North and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in the South have delineated three international river basin districts, (IRBDs). The study area comprises the Neagh Bann International River Basin District, (IRBD) the North Western IRBD and the North Eastern RBD), together with all remaining areas that comprise the INTERREG 3A area (Counties Donegal, Derry, Antrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Armagh, Down, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth). The study is now called the NS SHARE project.

The project acronym comes from North South SHaring Aquatic RESources. Donegal County Council was invited by the two government departments to act as the lead authority for the implementation of the project. We have been awarded funding under the INTERREG IIIA programme in the amount of €7.47 million. Progress to date is as follows:

1. INTERREG funding secured
2. A Steering Group has been established representing EHS(DoE NI), EPA, GSI, DoEHLG and DCC which met at regular intervals in 2005
3. The further Characterisation Report deadline was met
4. The spend profile for the project has been achieved.
5. A very successful symposium involving technical staff from County Councils, The EPA, The EHS(DoENI) and DoEHLG was held in Letterkenny in November 2005.
6. A website for the project has been developed

Capital Programmes – Water Services Investment Programme

The Water Services Investment Programme consists of the Major Capital Programme, the Serviced Land Initiative Programme, and the Water Conservation Programme.

Major Capital Programme

The Major Capital Programme for Water Services is the programme under which major water and wastewater infrastructure is planned and implemented. The programme if implemented will result in an approximate investment of €198m in wastewater infrastructure and €127m in water infrastructure. Many of the schemes

on the programme are complex in nature and involve the preparation of detailed Preliminary Reports, Environmental Impact Assessments, Network/Outfall Models, and involve liaison with and the approval of bodies such as Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources and the Loughs Agency. Each project must be approved by the Department at Preliminary Report stage, Contract Document stage, Tender Invitation stage, and Tender Approval/Construction stage. Planning approvals are also required by An Bord Pleanála and Donegal County Council.

The following milestones were achieved on the Major Capital Programme in 2005.

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme. Contract 1	Trunk sewer contract advanced to substantial completion.
Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme. Contract 2	Wastewater Treatment Works Compulsory Purchase of land approved by An Bord Pleanála
Letterkenny Water Supply Augmentation No 2 Boreholes	Approved by the DEHLG to go to construction.
Letterkenny Water Supply Lough Greenan	Sustainable abstraction proposal developed
Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme	Environmental Impact Assessment and CPO advanced to Oral Hearing stage; CPO objections subsequently withdrawn; Preliminary Archaeological Investigations carried out; preliminary Report for the Scheme submitted to DEHLG.

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Malin SS	Site investigation contract commenced.
Moville/Greencastle SS	Advanced to detailed site selection stage and outfall modelling and assessment commenced. Consultation process continued.
Inishowen Sludge Centre	Draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed. Draft Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Reports substantially completed

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Fanad Water Supply Stage 1	Contract advanced to substantial completion.
Fanad Water Supply Stage 2	Environmental Impact Assessment, Water Abstraction Order and land acquisition progressed. Approval sought for advancement of Stage 1 Contract 2 - Glenvar area.
Rathmullan Sewerage Scheme	Draft Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report completed; draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed.

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Gweedore Sewerage Scheme	CPO documentation for pumping station sites progressed. WWTW site purchase finalised with Udaras na Gaeltachta
Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme	Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report substantially completed.
Gortahork Water Supply Scheme (Major Scheme)	Work on Preliminary Report and Water Charging Policy Report progressed.
Ardara Sewerage Scheme	Construction commenced in 2004. Substantial progress was made in 2005 and the Civil Contract is substantially complete.
Dungloe Sewerage Scheme	The draft Preliminary report for the was completed during 2005
Glenties Sewerage Scheme	The draft Preliminary report for the was completed during 2005

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
DBO Group A (Donegal, Rossnowlagh, Ballyshannon) Wastewater Treatment Works, Main Pumping Stations, Rising Mains, Outfalls	The Tender Recommendation Report was approved by the DEHLG. Contract formalities commenced
Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme	The Tender Recommendation Report for Contract 2 Sewer Network was submitted to the DEHLG.
Rossnowlagh Sewerage Scheme	The Tender Recommendation Report for Contract 2 Sewer Network and Pumping Stations was submitted to the DEHLG
Ballyshannon Water Supply Scheme Advance Works	Works commenced on the Boreholes in 2005 and the work is substantially complete.

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water Supply Scheme	Environmental Impact Assessment and CPO advanced to Oral Hearing stage; CPO objections subsequently withdrawn; Preliminary Archaeological Investigations carried out; preliminary Report for the Scheme submitted to DEHLG.
Ballybofey Stranorlar Sewerage Scheme	CCTV, Manhole Survey and Network model commenced and are substantially complete

Serviced Land Initiative

The Serviced Land Initiative Programme provides for investment in small to medium scale water and wastewater infrastructure. The schemes on this programme are 40% funded by the Department

of Environment Heritage and Local Government based on accepted tender costs. The remaining 60% is funded from Development Charges levied by Donegal County Council under the Development Contribution Scheme.

Progress on Serviced Land Initiative Programme in 2005 was as follows:**LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA**

Project	Milestone
Oldtown Phase 2	Involved construction of a pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer linking Oldtown Phase 1 to the main Letterkenny sewer network.
Glencar Reservoir	Planning difficulties which prevented the completion of the project were resolved and work re-commenced on the scheme
Sallaghagrane	Construction was completed prior to 2003, which included a pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer
Manorcunningham	Construction was completed prior to 2003, which included a Treatment Work and Sewer Network.
St. Johnston Sewerage Scheme	Part 8 Planning approval was granted for the WWTW site and the main pumping station site. Preparation of tender documents commenced. The scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Killea	Completed
Lisfannon	Completed
Newtowncunningham Sewerage Scheme	Significant works including construction of a 1200m sewer extension, a Pumping Station and rising main were completed
Bridgend and Burnfoot Sewerage Schemes	Strategy for short term and long term works was advanced.

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Kilmacrennan	Preliminary design was completed.

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

All Serviced Land Initiatives within the Glenties Area were completed prior to 2003

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Drumrooske	This Scheme is now under review.
Bundoran UDC Brandra	Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council. This Scheme is now under review.
Bundoran UDC Church Road	Being progressed in conjunction with Bundoran Town Council. This Scheme is now under review.

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Project	Milestone
Ballybofey Navenny	Completed and handed over to operations.
Convoy	Construction commenced. The scheme is being funded by both the SLI and Small Capital Schemes programme.

The Water Conservation Programme

The Water Conservation Programme provides for the implementation of Water Conservation Measures and focused pipe replacement to assist in the effective management and operation of the Councils considerable water supply infrastructure. Water Conservation Measures are 100% funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government and Pipe Replacement is now 90% funded by the DEHLG. The remaining 10% is funded from development charges levied by Donegal County Council under the Development Contribution Scheme.

In 2005, planning and implementation work continued on the following Water Conservation schemes:

Letterkenny Electoral Area

- Letterkenny Network Water Conservation Project

Inishowen Electoral Area

- East Inishowen Water Conservation Project
- Carndonagh Water Conservation Project

Milford Electoral Area

- Milford Ramelton Water Conservation Project
- Rathmullan Water Conservation Project
- Emergency works in both Carrigart and Cranford.

Glenties Electoral Area

- Rosses Regional Water Conservation Project
- Creeslough Dunfanaghy Water Conservation Project

Donegal Electoral Area

- River Eske Water Conservation Project
- Cullionboy Water Conservation Project

Stranorlar Electoral Area

- Lough Mourne Water Conservation Project.

Non-Domestic Metering Project

Donegal County Council is required by Government to meter all non-domestic water supply customers by 2006.

The National Water Service Pricing Policy requires that non-domestic customers be charged for the full cost of providing them with water and wastewater services. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has developed the National Water Pricing Policy Framework, which has been rolled out through the issuing of Circular Letters and Guidance Documents, the undertaking of Pilot Projects, Training and Seminars, and the inclusion of funding and project programmes in the National Development Plan. Water charging is to be transparent and equitable, without any profit-making by the Local Authorities.

Work on this project commenced during the year with the appointment of consultants. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 water service connections will require to be metered on Public Water Supply Schemes at the point of connection by the end of 2006, compared to 3,000 connections at present. In addition, approximately 1,000 non-domestic Group Water Scheme customers may require to be metered.

Rural Water Programme

Since 2002, the Rural Water Programme has been particularly focused on assisting existing Group Water Supply schemes become compliant with the Drinking Water Directive in terms of water quality. Twenty nine such schemes are targeted in Donegal. Six schemes have already been brought into compliance, nine are to be resolved by

extending supply from the Owenteskna Dam in south Donegal. A new supply for Tory Island is being investigated and the balance of schemes can be resolved by connecting to public mains. The Council has encountered resistance from a number of groups who don't want to connect to public mains.

The following new group schemes commenced construction during 2005:

- Creggan, Mongorry, Leiter extension, Blanketnook, Clonglash Aghilly, Meena-ward Sledrin, Tirhomin, Corcashy, Castle-forward, Upper Corrairie, Ardmiran GSS, Fallask and Glenmaquin.
- Commitments to grant aid were advised to Brae Road and Loughnanoran groups, both of which are expected to progress to construction shortly.

Grants of up to 85% of the cost of works, or €6,475 per grant eligible house are available to support the cost of these schemes. Subsidies are made available to private group schemes to offset operational costs. Three levels of payment exist depending on the source of water serving the scheme (€50.79, €100.58 or €196.81). A proportion of eligible expenditure by the group will be refunded (up to 100%), depending on the proportion of domestic connections in the scheme.

The Small Public Water and Sewerage Schemes allocation provides funding for minor upgrades to our public schemes. 75% of the cost of works is grant funded, up to a ceiling cost of €472,500. Through these schemes the quality of drinking water produced and the standard of sewage treatment at a number of treatment plants is improved annually.

The following schemes commenced construction in 2005:

- Cranford WS pipeline contract
- Convoy SS
- Carndonagh WS
- Frosses/Mountcharles WS

Also, under the Rural Water Programme, grants are made available to individual households for water supply (normally wells). The grant covers 75% of the cost up to a maximum of €2,032.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Disposal

The Council has six landfill sites licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Five of these are closed landfill sites at Muckish, Glenalla, Churchtown, Balbane and Drumaboden. The one operational landfill is at Ballinacarrick, Ballintra. In 2005, major capital works continued at Ballinacarrick to develop a new engineered lined cell, capable of holding 70,000 tonnes of waste. Further work planned will include the extension of the facility through the construction of a further lined cell, as well as restoration works to areas already filled. Waste accepted in 2005 amounted to 36,140 tonnes.

The Council continued to monitor fully both its open and closed landfill sites in compliance with EPA requirements. This involved regular sampling and testing of air emissions, groundwater, surface water and leachate by qualified staff.

Planning permission (Environmental Impact Assessment) and a licence was sought for a proposed landfill at Meenabol in 2005. A review of the Council's Waste Management Plan also commenced in 2005 and will be finalised in 2006.

Recycling

The Council has 56 bring sites around the county with banks for recycling glass and cans. 44 of these sites also have banks for recycling textiles, while a further three sites have banks for paper and plastic. The Council has two Civic Amenity Sites (CAS)

at Carndonagh and Stranorlar, which have facilities for recycling all of these materials and others such as waste electrical and electronic equipment, waste oils, batteries and tetrapak. The site at Carndonagh has been in place for several years and the Stranorlar site opened in December 2005. A site in Laghey, outside Donegal Town, was advanced to tender stage, and a new site in Letterkenny was advanced to planning. The Council has decided to introduce charges at Civic Amenity sites to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability.

Home composters are sold at a subsidised price to householders, with some 6,000 sold by end of 2005. Substantial progress was made with the roll out of kerbside collection by refuse collectors. Some 6,000 households now avail of this recycling service at their doorstep. A mobile collection of household hazardous waste was extended in 2005.

A new European Directive in respect of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) came into force in 2005. Shops will now accept return of old items for recycling when new items are purchased. Households may also dispose of WEEE at Council Civic Amenity Sites. In addition, 2005 saw one-off collections of WEEE around the county, including Tory Island.

24.6% of household waste is recycled.

Regulation

All waste collectors are required to hold a valid Waste Collection Permit (WCP). 29 new Waste Collection Permits were issued in 2005. In addition, 13 Waste Collection Permits were reviewed and issued. These revisions included the insertion of conditions covering "pay-by-use" and kerbside collection of dry recyclables. There is now a total of 122 valid Waste Collection Permits granted in Donegal.

Anyone operating a waste facility is required to hold a valid waste permit (WP) and to operate in accordance with its conditions. The activities subject to these permits include materials recovery facilities, sites for disposal or recovery of construction and demolition waste and central composting facilities. In 2005, 21 waste permits were issued, bringing the total granted to 42. The operation of these sites is closely monitored.

Enforcement operations have been undertaken to control the transfrontier shipment of waste, including vehicle checkpoints and detentions and site inspections.

Other regulatory and enforcement activities include the investigation of illegal dumping, illegal burning enforcement of Packaging Regulations, Farm Plastics Regulations and Plastic Bag Levies. All of these are carried out in conjunction with the Litter Wardens.



Environmental Education and Awareness

The Council's Waste Awareness Officer promotes good practices in relation to waste prevention, reduction and recycling, including home composting. An environmental newsletter "Greenpiece" was also developed and published in local papers on a quarterly basis.

Much of this programme of work is done through links with schools, community groups and businesses in the county. The Council continued to support and promote the Green-Schools Programme and 32 green flags were flying in Donegal in 2005, an increase of 12 from 2004, with 96 schools actively working towards the Green Flag.

Clean Up Activities

Throughout the Spring and Summer, the Council worked in partnership with Community/Tidy Towns groups to clean up their areas. Assistance was given in the form of bags, gloves and refuse skips. These activities supported The Spring Clean Up Campaign run by An Taisce.

The Council assisted voluntary groups in tidying illegal dump sites through the Community Incentive Scheme. The Council deployed two Mobile Litter Units to patrol the county to clear litter from roadsides, picnic areas, beaches and illegal dump sites. The Council provided grants to assist Tidy Town Committees/Voluntary Groups with litter control and grass cutting on the approaches to towns.

A reception was held in November 2005 to acknowledge the efforts of the voluntary committees who were successful in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Awards were presented by the Cathaoirleach and prize money was paid to all groups who participated in National Competition.

Litter Management

Six full-time Litter Wardens were employed in 2005, an increase of 3 from 2004. The Wardens enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 and Waste Management Act, 1996. This is in addition to the Traffic/Litter Wardens in Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Ballybofey/Stranorlar and Letterkenny Town Council. The wardens' duties include investigation of cases of illegal dumping, issuing on-the-spot fines and written warnings for littering offences. They also assist the Waste Regulation Officer, in relation to various matters, such as enforcing and monitoring compliance with waste permits, setting up vehicle checkpoints and checking compliance with the farm plastics regulations. 439 on the spot fines were issued under the Litter Pollution Act in 2005.

Blue Flag Beaches

County Donegal retained eleven Blue Flag Awards in 2005, as follows:

Murvagh	Shroove
Magherawarden	Fintra
(Portsalon)	Rossnowlagh
Lisfannon	Bundoran
Culdaff	Carrickfinn
Marble Hill	Killaheoy

The beach at Narin-Portnoo was not awarded a Blue Flag in 2005. Due to issues raised by the International Jury in relation to development on the dunes in the beach hinterland. The Council is seeking clarification on the matter and will endeavour to regain the Blue Flag in 2006. It should be noted that the water quality at this beach continues to meet the strict standards required for Blue Flag compliance.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Meat Production

The Council continued to provide supervision of the domestic meat supply working under a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The County Veterinary Inspector, backed by one full time Veterinary Inspector and four part time Veterinary Inspectors, carried out inspections on all domestic abattoirs in the county. During 2005, the Council took responsibility for the licensing of these premises and at the end of the year there were eight domestic abattoirs licensed to operate in the county. All animals presented for slaughter for human consumption are inspected, both before slaughter and before the meat is released onto the market. 109 samples were tested to ensure that meat on sale in the county was free from illegal residues and/or contamination.

Milk and Dairies

Donegal County Council is responsible for monitoring the standard of all liquid milk production units in the county and continued to assist liquid milk producers to reach the required standards. In 2005, there were 97 farms in the county in this category.

Dog Control

In co-operation with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Donegal County Council employs two dog wardens who are active throughout the county checking dog licences and dealing with complaints about stray and dangerous dogs. The dog pound at Glencar Scotch, Letterkenny, opened six days a week, handled 1169 dogs in 2005 - 185 of these were reclaimed or re-homed. Forty nine fines were issued for breaches of the Control of Dogs Act and 5948 licences were issued.

The Veterinary Section continues to issue advice dealing with the problems associated with the disposal of animal carcasses.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE SERVICE

Donegal Fire Service continues to provide fire and emergency cover with fast response to all emergency calls within its functional area as well as advice on fire prevention and building control.

Staff and Cover

There are 10 full time staff in the Fire Service who are based in Fire Brigade H.Q. in Letterkenny with responsibility for the administration of the service, training, processing Fire Safety Certificates and providing advice to Planners and Developers and the Courts on fire risk related matters.

There are 150 retained fire fighters based in 15 locations around the county.

There are voluntary brigades on Arranmore and Tory Island.

Northern Ireland Fire Authority provides cover in the County in the vicinity of Derry City, Strabane and Pettigo.

We continue to provide emergency cover into parts of Leitrim and Sligo counties from Bundoran and Ballyshannon.

Staff Changes

Sub Officer John Morrow, Donegal and Fire Fighter Driver Michael Herrity, Letterkenny retired. We thank them for their service and wish them well for the future.

Sub Officer Michael Goodwin was promoted to Station Officer and Fire Fighter Eamon Dowdican to Sub Officer in Bundoran.

The following firefighters joined the service:

Michael James Purtill, John McMenamin, Patrick Dunleavy, **Letterkenny.**

Thomas Stewart Norris, Maurice Harkin, **Moville:** Kathleen Gallagher **Falcarragh:** James Keaney **Bundoran:** Charlie Kane Ballyshannon. Martin Boyle (Volunteer) **Tory Island.**

KATHLEEN GALLAGHER



Fire Station Building Programme

The five-year Fire Station Building Programme plan adopted by Donegal Fire Authority and agreed with The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, is still progressing, albeit running late. The position at the end of 2005 is as follows.

Letterkenny, Bunrana, Falcarragh, Carndonagh, Milford, Donegal Town, and Killybegs and Arranmore are now complete.

Construction of Dungloe and Glenties has started and Moville is about to go to tender.

Ballyshannon and Bundoran: We are establishing a case for 2 separate stations (following the Fire Authority changing the programme plan from 1 to 2 stations).

Glencolmille, Gweedore and Stranorlar are to be progressed as a single project.

Official Opening of Fire Station

Mr. Batt O'Keefe, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government officially opened the new fire station in Carndonagh on 8th July 2005.

Arranmore Island

The existing station on Arranmore Island was extensively refurbished in 2005. The project was jointly funded by the DOEHLG, Roinn na Gaeltachta and Donegal County Council.

The Island received a new midi tender and new equipment for dealing with road traffic accidents and other rescues.

3 no. New Class "B" Fire Appliances (DOEHLG funded) were also added to our fleet in 2005.

There were 1102 callouts in 2005. Average turnout time, from receipt of a call to the fire appliance leaving station was 5.68 mins.

CAMP (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project) Regional Control Centre

A new Call Out system for the Fire Service became operational for Donegal and Connaught in May 2005 with Mayo County Council providing the Centre in Castlebar, which compliments Limerick and Dublin, to cover the 26 counties. The Eircom operators will ultimately transfer all 999/112 fire brigade calls to the Regional Control Centres (RCC's). The RCC's will decide which station is required and alert them.

Donegal County Council contributed €273,000 to Mayo County Council for the operation of the system in 2005.

Donegal also has a contract with the Northern Ireland Fire Service to provide fire cover for portions of the county bordering Northern Ireland.

Training

Operational training is ongoing in order to maintain the high standards of skills achieved and also to maintain the health and safety standard adopted by fire fighters. The following courses were organised by Donegal Fire Authority in 2005 as well as fortnightly training in each of the stations.

- Fire Behaviour Training.
- B.A. Initial Wearers Course.
- B.A. Refresher Course.
- Hydraulic Platform Course.
- E.F.A.D. Driver Refresher Course.
- Recruit Induction Course: The latter was held in Letterkenny Fire Station in October 2005 with 9 new recruits attending including our first female firefighter from Falcarragh, Kathleen Gallagher.

Fire Safety Certificates

The number of Fire Safety Certificates issued in 2005 was 220 and this generated an income of €383,000.

The Fire Service is committed to ensuring that Fire Safety Certificates are issued to applicants well within the prescribed period i.e. two months. However, where further information is required the duration depends on the agent making an accurate and speedy response.

Fire Service Charges

Fire Service Charges are another important element of the financing of the Fire Service. 657 invoices were issued in 2005 and this generated an income of €144,000.

The scale of charges for fire brigade attendance at incidents is as follows:

Domestic Incidents	€63.00
Chimney Fires	€63.00
Commercial Incidents	ie commercial premises and road traffic collisions: Total payment to brigade plus 30% to cover overheads and use of equipment.

Charges may be waived for senior citizens or in hardship cases.

Dangerous Substances Licences

Petroleum Stations continued to be upgraded and safety standards improved.

Vapour recovery is now a requirement for all petrol stations and most stations in the county have upgraded to this standard. Licences can be issued on an annual or three year basis.

Gaming & Lottery and Dance Licences

Halls, community centres, entertainment premises and hotels are inspected on an annual basis for fire prevention issues. A Fire Officer attends the District Court when the licence application is being considered to advise on the safe number of patrons the premises can accommodate.

The Chief Fire Officer advises all householders to upgrade their fire detection system to mains operated type.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The Government, in the White Paper on Defence dated the 29th February 2000, addressed Civil Defence in the context of current roles and activities. To this end Minister Willie O' Dea, T.D., officially launched the first Strategic Plan of the Civil Defence Board, on Wednesday 23rd November 2005 at a ceremony in the Civil Defence School, Ratra House, Dublin. The plan, having input from all the Local Authorities, outlines the aims and objectives of the organisation for 2005-2007.

Policy

Significant progress has been made this year on policy issues:

- A Volunteer Protection policy has been agreed and implemented.
- The Council's Dignity at Work Policy has been adopted and this will be used by Civil Defence to provide practical guidance to volunteers on issues of harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying during their work.

Membership

A Civil Defence member is regarded as 'anyone who voluntarily makes offers of ones services for the good of others'. Retaining the services of volunteers is essential to the organisation. Civil Defence were successful in that regard, increasing their membership by 12 in 2005.



Training

Donegal Civil Defence undertakes a variety of training programmes in order to be readily available to assist the main emergency services in times of local and national emergencies. These include

- First Aid/Casualty
- Radio Communications
- Auxiliary Fire Fighting
- Kayaking/Boating Techniques
- Radiation Monitoring
- Welfare Provision.
- Technical/Urban Rescue

Health & Safety

Certain Civil Defence activities may carry the risk of exposure to the Hepatitis B virus. The use of barrier devices where exposure to body fluids is possible, particularly when dealing with casualties and body recovery is considered essential. The Hepatitis B and Tetanus vaccinations were made available to all Civil Defence volunteers. 99 volunteers have been vaccinated, 68 volunteers have shown immunity with 21 volunteers continuing with the booster element of the programme.

Additional Equipment

A special once-off grant aid was awarded by the Civil Defence Board to each local authority area for the purchase of Civil Defence equipment. Donegal purchased a Fire tender and Nissan Patrol for conversion to a 4WD ambulance to complement their existing fleet of vehicles.

Emergency Assistance

- Supporting Gardaí and others in search and recovery missions. In June, Civil Defence assisted the Gardaí, Foyle Search and Rescue and the PSNI in the cross border search for a missing person.
- Civil Defence is part of the Donegal Emergency plan and took part in joint table exercises with our Council colleagues including the Fire Service, as well as the Health Service Executive and An Gardaí Síochana.

Non - Emergency Events

As always, volunteers give considerable time and energy to assisting the community and the Gardaí in the provision of First Aid, Stewarding and Traffic/Crowd Control at the various festivals, sporting activities, charitable walks etc throughout the year. This year has been no exception. 72 community events were covered between May and November with approximately 900 man-hours volunteerism donated to assisting the community. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, held in Letterkenny, was the highlight of the summer season. The winter season got off to a good start with the historical visit of the New Zealand All Blacks to Ramelton on 9th November where Civil Defence assisted in the provision of crowd control, traffic management and first aid.

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 DONEGAL CIVIL DEFENCE ASSISTING THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND ALL BLACKS TEAM IN RAMELTON



Volunteer Achievements

- Rescue Services: Denis Gallagher qualified as a Technical Rescue Technician and Rope Rescue Two Supervisor in The Centre for Search Research, Wales.
- Warden Syllabus & Radio Operators: Michelle Harkin and Peter Kane qualified as Instructors.
- Welfare Service: Carol Lapsley qualified in Food Handling Management.
- Casualty Service:
 - Packie Bonner has qualified at Mod 3 Casualty Instructor Stage 1 & 2.
 - Frank Kilpatrick & Michelle Harkin have qualified at Mod 3 Casualty Instructor Stage 1, 2 & 3.
 - 9 successful volunteers have qualified as Advanced First Aiders and are now qualified to work in the Ambulance and assist the medical services in the use of Defibrillators.
 - 7 volunteers progressed to Intimidate level in first aid this year.
 - 48 members of the public trained with Civil Defence to basic first aid level.

County Achievements

May – Multi Skilled team travelled to Monaghan town to contest the National Exercise and finished in 2nd place overall.

September – 1st County AFS Pump Drill competition was held at the Public Services Centre, Letterkenny on 18th September. Teams from Letterkenny, Carndonagh and Carrigart contested the event. Carrigart won the overall competition with Carndonagh finishing in 2nd place.

Carndonagh secured 1st place in the theory section of the competition.

October 7th – Carndonagh and Carrigart AFS teams travelled to Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on the 7th October to contest the Regional AFS Pump Drill Competition. Both teams excelled at the competition with Carrigart finishing in 1st place and Carndonagh securing 2nd Place. Both teams qualified for the National Finals in Co. Cavan.

October 22nd - Virginia Co Cavan, the AFS National Finals were held. Carndonagh finished in 1st place and Carrigart secured 3rd position. Donegal had won their first ever All Ireland Pump Drill trophy.

National Kayak Competition

For the first time in the history of Civil Defence in Donegal, Donegal was privileged to host the National Civil Defence Kayak (Pat Kennedy Memorial) cup competition.

The competition originated back in 1998, following the tragic death of South Tipperary, Civil Defence member, the late Pat Kennedy aged 28 years, who lost his life during kayak training. The competition highlights and enhances safety on the water amongst Civil Defence members and serves to raise awareness to the general public of the dangers of water if it is not shown the respect it deserves.

With Donegal being holders of the cup, it was a fitting tribute to the county that Lough Eske, Donegal was selected as the venue for the 2005 competition. The competition attracted teams from Clare, Dublin, Galway, Meath, Monaghan, Louth and South Tipperary. Competitors braved the challenges of river rescue, white water rescue, search and recovery, first aid, rope work and kayaking manoeuvres.

National Recognition

Special Olympic medals were awarded to Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers around the country in recognition of their contribution to the Special Olympics 2003. The Civil Defence Officer and 42 volunteers from Donegal were awarded medals for their dedication to the service during this time.

National News

Dr. Charles O'Malley has been appointed as the medical advisor for Civil Defence.

The OPW have awarded the contract fit-out of the New National Civil Defence Headquarters in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Work is expected to be complete by January 2006.

Minister Willie O'Dea launched the new Civil Defence website during the summer.

Mr. Gerry Naylor, Mayo was appointed to the Civil Defence Board as the National Volunteer representative.

Mr. Columba Gallagher, Donegal was appointed to the Civil Defence Board as the Regional Volunteer representative.

DONEGAL TEAM RETRIEVING A CASUALTY FROM A BURNING BUILDING DURING THE NATIONAL COMPETITION IN MONAGHAN.



WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SPC ACTIVITY REPORT

The Water, Environment and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee, under the Chairmanship firstly of the late Councillor Peter Kennedy, and then under Councillor Patrick Mc Gowan, held a total of three meetings in 2005.

The first meeting of the newly appointed Committee was held on May 12th, and an important policy on Long Leads was agreed and later endorsed by the Elected Council. This policy is outlined in the new County Development Plan.

The Committee met again on August 31st and agreed to put forward a three strand policy on Meeting the Costs of Future Recycling and this was adopted by the Council. The final meeting of the year was held on 7th December and a policy on Special Development Charges was agreed and recommended to go forward for adoption by the Council.

Position papers and/or presentations were presented on the following topics and the Strategic Policy Committee gave them careful consideration and feedback:

1. Review of Waste Management Plan
2. Service Indicators for Local Authorities 2004
3. Non-Domestic Metering Project
4. North West River Basin District Advisory Council
5. Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP)-current programme and cost implications

WATER, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SPC MEMBERS

Councillor

Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
 Cllr. Thomas Pringle
 Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
 Cllr. Pdraig Doherty
 Cllr. Alice Bonner
 Cllr. Brendan Byrne
 Cllr. Gerry Crawford

Sectoral

Mr. Mick Quinlivan
 Mr. Mickey Mullen
 Mr. Michael Chance
 Mr. Joe Gatins

Town Council

Cllr. Jim Lynch (Letterkenny Town Council)



PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- The Central Planning Unit has continued
- to produce an impressive programme
- of Development Plans and Local Area
- Plans during 2005. Work continued with
- the complex task of reviewing the County
- Donegal Development Plan resulting in the
- publication of the Draft Plan on 14th June
- for public consultation during the summer.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Central Planning Unit

The Central Planning Unit has continued to produce an impressive programme of Development Plans and Local Area Plans during 2005. Work continued with the complex task of reviewing the County Donegal Development Plan resulting in the publication of the Draft Plan on 14th June for public consultation during the summer. In the late autumn the Manager's Report was prepared following a considerable number of submissions by the public, prescribed bodies and interested parties. The elected Members then considered the Draft to determine if any amendments were required. The 2 year statutory process continued on through 2006 towards final adoption.

Work also continued on the Local Area Plan programme and plans for Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Castlefin, Rossnowlagh and Donegal Town were adopted. Preparatory work for a second variation to the Letterkenny and Environs Development Plan 2003-2009 also commenced.

The Conservation Officer appointed the previous year added specialist skills to the Unit in terms of the Record of Protected Structures, Declarations and the operation and administration of the Conservation Grant Scheme, which allocated a total of €118,947.70 to 18 projects in 2005.

The table below details the grants which were allocated in 2005.

DEVELOPMENT	DETAILS OF WORKS CARRIED OUT	AMOUNT ALLOCATED
St. John's Church, Killybegs.	Windows	€10,702.00
No. 5, Coastguard Station, Moville.	Refurbishment of Wash House.	€2,766.00
Old Courthouse Visitors Centre, Lifford.	Cost of Conservation Report.	€4,000.00
Tran na Rossan Youth Hostel, Tirlaughan, Carrigart.	Windows, Plastering, Doors.	€1,500.00
13, Coastguard Station, Moville.	Roof, rafters.	€5,391.50
House, Kill, Dunfanaghy	Roof, dry lining, windows, doors.	€8,662.85
House, Cashel, Creeslough, Letterkenny.	Slate Roof.	€4,306.45
John Colgan Memorial Hall, Carndonagh.	Windows.	€13,945.00
First Ray Presbyterian Church, Manorcunningham	Cost of conservation report.	€750.00
Presbyterian Church, Alt, Castlefin.	Re-slating and Associated Works.	€12,810.00
Bank House, Pettigo.	Re-slating and Associated Works.	€19,426.65
Murray Lodge, Killybegs.	Reinforced Bellcote, Windows.	€6,000.00
Inis Samier House, Portnason, Carrickboy, Ballyshannon.	Re-slating and Associated Works.	€6,076.72
Dunmore House, Carrigans.	Repairs to Roof and Gable.	€8,449.01
No. 11, Coastguard Station, Moville.	Roof, Windows, Plaster, Paint.	€6,000.00
Raymoghly Church, Manorcunningham.	Stained Glass Windows.	€8,163.52

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The unprecedented growth in the numbers of planning applications experienced during the 1990's has not diminished in recent years. In 2005 the total number of planning applications received was 7544. Although

this showed a reduction on the 2004 figure (8564) a comparison with the 1995 figure of 2070 shows how significant the increase in development pressure has been over the decade.

The table below details the Council's performance in processing planning applications in the period of the report.

	DONEGAL	GLENTIES	INISHOWEN	LETTERKENNY	MILFORD	STRANORLAR
RECEIVED	1519	1743	1731	751	1124	694
% GRANTED	80%	78%	82%	92%	75%	91%
% REFUSED	20%	22%	18%	8%	25%	9%
% DEFERRED FOR F.I	30%	28%	32%	25%	30%	26%
% DECIDED WITHIN 8 WEEKS	64%	59%	59%	65%	63%	69%
% INVALID	17%	24%	25%	29%	8%	17%

During 2005 the Council sought to address the detrimental effect which poor quality planning submissions have on performance particularly in a climate of increasing workloads. The Council provided feedback to applicants and agents on the causes of invalid applications in an effort to reduce the errors at source. Despite this almost 20% (one in five) of all applications received in 2005 were invalid. Although this is less than the 23% in 2004, it remains a significant figure and a drag on performance. In addition, of the 5679 applications determined in 2005, 1821 (32%) required the submission of further information (FI) to allow a decision to be made. Failure to get the submission correct and fully documented in an acceptable manner in the first instance causes delay and expense for the applicant and has an adverse impact on the performance and service which the Council is able to provide. In the coming year the Council will continue to engage with agents to seek to raise the standard of submission. In addition, the Council proposes to enhance further IT facilities that will improve the information made available to those considering a planning application (see below).

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES/ DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Under the Planning Acts, the Council can impose conditions on Planning Permissions granted to contribute to the cost of infrastructure, which has benefited or will benefit the development.

At present, the Council is operating two development charge schemes:

1. Pre March 2004 –Development Charge Scheme. A schedule of charges were adopted in the County Development Plan 2000 and are applicable on all Planning Permissions granted before 8th March 2004. In 2005, approx. €2.5 million was collected under the Pre March 2004 Scheme.
2. Development Contribution Scheme - March 2004. On the 8th March 2004, the Council adopted a new Development Contribution Scheme, in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000. The charges collected under this scheme, as with the previous scheme, will be used to fund and progress the Council's various Capital Programmes. At the end of 2005, the amount collected under this scheme just exceeded €1.5 million.

It is envisaged that a new Development Contribution Scheme (2006-2007) will be adopted by the Members of the Council in early 2006.

Service enhancements: IT and Pre Planning

The integrated on-line planning search facility E Planning was introduced in 2004. The Council has further enhanced the facility and, in conjunction with Mayo County Council has developed a range of information that can be compiled from site searches including the highlighting of local policies, zonings and constraints. Individuals can thus gather background information from this G Plan facility and print a report to guide their preparation for any planning proposal prior to submitting for planning. The Council proposes to add the policies contained in the new County Development Plan when it comes into effect in July 2006.

Use of G Plan makes information accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week through the Council's website. In many cases this will do away with the need to speak to a planner face to face. However, there are circumstances where such a meeting remains necessary and the Council has set up a formal Pre Planning appointment system that, following prior submission of information, provides for a focussed discussion by appointment. It is anticipated that the structured approach now put in place will result in a better service by identifying the key issues for the prospective applicant allowing him/her to address these and submit all the necessary information with the application. A quality application is likely to result in a speedier, better informed decision.

Quarries

The Planning and Development Act 2000 provided for the registration of all existing quarries except those receiving permission since 28 April 1999. Quarry owners/operators were required to supply full details of their operations to the Planning Authority by 27 April 2005. The Council received 112 applications and has to decide which can be registered. Once registered, consultation with the local community must be carried out within 6 months of registration advising of the Council's view on whether the quarry should be permitted to continue operating with the original conditions or should new or modified conditions be applied.

To date the Council has published its views in respect of 64 registered quarries and has sought further information on another 30. After the conclusion of public consultation, the Planning Authority must engage with the quarry operators advising them of any proposed new or modified conditions and the reasons for these. The operators will then have the opportunity to make submissions to the Planning Authority and these should be taken into account by the authority in deciding the final outcome of the registration process. Accordingly, whilst a significant amount of work has been carried out on this process during 2005, there is a substantial workload to be undertaken during 2006.

Unauthorised Development

During 2005 the Council enhanced its commitment to dealing with unauthorised development in the County and in the latter half of the year appointed 3 Enforcement Officers. They are actively engaged in seeking

resolution to problems and regularising breaches of planning control. In some cases it is possible to achieve resolution through negotiation when the co-operation of various parties can be obtained. However, this course of action is not always effective and during 2005 the Council served 3 injunctions, 17 enforcement notices and 90 warning letters. In addition, the Council is pursuing prosecution in a number of cases currently proceeding through the court system.

Urban and Village Renewal Programme 2000-2006

The aim of the scheme is to carry out environmental improvement schemes and enhancement works in the towns and villages throughout the County, through the provision of the following works:

- Undergrounding of overhead cables.
- Provision of street furniture and decorative lighting.
- Provision of new footpaths including drop kerbs.
- Landscaping works.

Due to the long lead in time for these projects, taking into consideration the public consultation process, approval of the Council Members and tendering process, it is envisaged that the scheme will extend to 2007.

A major source of funding for the programme of work is an annual allocation received under the Urban and Village Renewal measure of the regional operational programme, 2000-2006. The allocation from this programme in 2005 was €723,473.30. The Council will also invest its own resources collected from development charges and

approach other funding bodies such as An Roinn Gnothai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta and Udaras na Gaeltachta for support.

Approximately €6 million has been invested in the Urban and Village Renewal Programme to date with the average cost of each scheme being approximately €400,000.00.

Projects currently being progressed are: Ballyshannon (Fairgreen), Killybegs, Ardara, Milford, Rathmullan, Castlefin, Raphoe, Convoy, Moville, Bunbeg/Derrybeg.

Village Renewal Works

Each year, the County Council and An Roinn Gnothai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta agree a programme of works to carry out enhancement works in Gaeltacht Villages. In 2005, funding of €350,000.00 was provided by An Roinn Gnothai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta for these works which was co-funded by the Council and brought the total investment in village improvement works to €700,000.00. An Roinn allocated the Council an additional tranche of funding of €222,350.00 towards the end of the year. In 2005 the Council agreed to fund projects at Malin, Culdaff and Termon under the Clar Village and Countryside Enhancement Scheme. Under the Scheme local Groups seek approval for projects that are then carried out by the Council. The Council also contributes to the cost of the scheme. These schemes provide a further mechanisation for progressing small-scale village enhancement works that can complement previous works carried out or act as a catalyst for future works.

TOWN RENEWAL TAX INCENTIVE SCHEME

The Town Renewal Scheme designated 210 sites within 5 towns for tax relief incentives. The five towns are – Ardara, Ballybofey/Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Moville and Ramelton.

The table below illustrates the uptake of the scheme to the end of 2005:

TOWN	NO. OF PRELIMINARY CERTS ISSUED.	NO. OF FINAL CERTS ISSUED
Ardara	1	2
Ballybofey/Stranorlar	3	3
Ballyshannon	8	3
Moville	8	4
Ramelton	5	3
TOTALS	25	15

Applicants who have complied with the scheme’s criteria have until the 31st July 2006 to carry out Works under the scheme

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

An Economic Development Fund of €6.3 million was established arising from the recommendation of the Donegal Employment Initiative Task Force Report 1998.

The fund has been a valuable lever to attract investment to the County and create a climate to promote economic and social development. A variety of projects have been supported by the fund to date, including the following:

- Provision of premises for companies to establish a base in Donegal thus creating much needed employment and economic growth.
- A number of land banks have been purchased in strategic locations that have facilitated indigenous businesses to set up and expand operations.
- Financially assisted the Broadband Fibre Optic Network in Letterkenny that was completed in 2004.

The Council is progressing the following flagship projects:

- Lands at Lifford Common – proposed development of lands to incorporate residential, commercial and social/ amenity area.
- Dungloe Foreshore – proposed re-development of foreshore area to include new streetscape, car parking, promenade and a range of environmental enhancements.
- Barrack Hill, Carndonagh - proposed development of lands for residential and commercial development in addition to providing sites to cater for a number of expressions of interest received from local community groups to develop the lands.
- Development of lands within the Stranorlar Masterplan area.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE SCHEME AT MOVILLE (PHASE II)



PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE SCHEME AT ARDARA (PHASE I)



PHOTOGRAPH OF PROGRESS OF SCHEME AT RATHMULLAN



PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPC- ACTIVITIES

The Planning and Economic Development SPC continued its activities including review, where applicable, of policies and procedures in relation to the following topics:

- Draft County Development Plan 2005
- Priority Lists for Local Area Plans
- Planning Enforcement
- Section 140 Motions
- Signage for Bed and Breakfasts
- Review of Development Contribution Scheme
- Spatial Strategy
- Casual Trading
- Infrastructure Power/Broadband/Gas

MEMBERSHIP

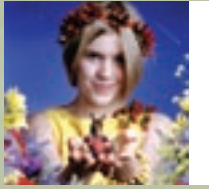
- Cllr Brian O'Domhnaill (Chair)
- Cllr Dessie Larkin
- Cllr Marian McDonald
- Cllr Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr Jonathan Kennedy
- Cllr Rena Donaghey
- Cllr Denis McGonagle
- Cllr Sean McEniff
- Cllr J.J. Reid
- Cllr Bernard McGuinness
- Cllr Barry O'Neill
- Cllr Pearse Doherty
- Cllr Pdraig MacLochlainn

Town Council

- Cllr Tiernan Brady

Sectoral

- Mr. Adrian Gallagher
- Mr. Keith Roulston
- Ms. Ann Wilkinson
- Mr. Eddie McGettigan
- Mr. Seamus MacRuairi
- Maire Mac Suibhne



COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE

-
- The Community Cultural and Enterprise
- Directorate is made up of two divisions –
- the Community & Enterprise Division
- and the Cultural Services Division.
-

COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE

The Community Cultural and Enterprise Directorate is made up of two divisions – the Community & Enterprise Division and the Cultural Services Division.

Community & Enterprise Division

This Division has responsibility for a range of County Development Board and County Council led initiatives aimed at implementing the objectives of An Straitéis, the Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development for the County for the period 2002-2012. It also has responsibility for the management and implementation of a range of specific actions initiated through the County Council itself, again with the objective of supporting the social, cultural and economic development of the county.

Donegal County Development Board

The Division continued its role of administering, coordinating and leading a range of priority objectives being carried out by various sub groups of the County Development Board. Highlights of the sub groups activities during 2005 included;

- The Economic Sectoral Forum being collectively requested to review and facilitate the optimum method of implementing broadband telecommunications infrastructure throughout the county.
- The Economic Sectoral Forum updating and publishing the Donegal Employment Initiative Task Force report.

- The Forestry Sectoral Forum coordinating and carrying out a range of targeted actions under the Forest Link project.
- The appointment of a full time Development Officer to the Donegal County Community forum.

An Straitéis – Donegal County Strategy from 2002 – 2012

As indicated above An Straitéis is the blueprint for strategic development across a range of sectors for the county. During 2005 a range of priority, thematic areas were identified by the County Development Board for progression. These included targeted actions in the areas of

- Lifelong Learning
- Economic Development
- Integration of Local Government and Local Development
- Cultural Linkages
- Development of Natural Resources/Environment

FUND MANAGEMENT

The Division manages a range of developmental funds which are allocated both, by the Council itself, and also through the Operational Programme for Peace and Reconciliation through the Donegal County Council led Peace II Task Force.

The Members Development Fund allocated some €185,000 to micro, local community development type projects during 2005.

The Community Development Fund allocated some €442,000 to a range of priority developmental projects in the county during 2005 in areas of economic infrastructure, tourism development and community development.

The Tourism Development Fund was, for the first time, utilised specifically at the

discretion of the local members for micro tourism product projects, identified as being required within their respective areas.

The County Council Led Peace II Task Force funds continued to be administered and drawn down during 2005, some €7.1 million having been allocated to the end of 2004. During 2005 a further allocation of €2.4 million was allocated to the Donegal County Council Led Peace II Task Force and 131 applications were received by year end for consideration and for further allocation.

ECONOMIC AND TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

The Division managed a range of projects during 2005 with the objective of increasing both economic and tourism infrastructure both in and adjacent to the county with the overall objective of assisting in the development of the county.

Ferry Services

Donegal County Council in conjunction with Limavady Borough Council continue to manage a year round ferry service between Greencastle, County Donegal and Magilligan, Co. Derry. The one-millionth passenger on this service, since its inception in June 2002, was celebrated in July 2005. The service provides an important link serving tourism interests in North Donegal in particular.

ONE-MILLIONTH PASSANGER - JULY 2005



The seasonal ferry service on Lough Swilly linking Buncrana and Rathmullan continued during the summer period of 2005 i.e. from mid May to mid September. This again saw important linkages being made in Inishowen and the Milford/Fanad areas supporting economic and tourism development in those areas.

Air Access

The increasing importance of low cost air access into the North West to support both economic and tourism development, in addition to reducing the perceived peripherality of the region, is evidenced in the Councils ongoing support to Donegal International Airport. A further contribution of €40,000 was made in 2005 to facilitate ongoing capital investment works at the facility.

The Council continues to sit on the North West Air Access consortium and has representation on the City of Derry Airport Committee. This airport is recognised as an important international air access hub for the North West generally.

Marine Leisure Programme

The pilot Marine Leisure programme continued in 2005, again with the objective of carrying out a number of pilot actions to develop best practice and sustainable working models in project areas including

- Coastal Zone Management, Rossnowlagh
- Marina Development Strategy
- Feasibility study into the Erne Canal extension
- Progression of proposals regarding Coastal Zone Management Centre, Buncrana

Donegal Film Office

The Donegal Film Office, initially established in 2003, is managed through the Division and works proactively with the National Film Board to promote Donegal as a location for film and advertisement production. A number of successful initiatives including the film "Dead Long Enough" was filmed in County Donegal during 2005 as a result of the support provided through the Film Office.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

A range of developmental projects were initiated and developed during 2005 both directly by the Council and as a result of its links through the County Development Board. The work was carried out with the objective of initiating actions that would assist in the economic, social and cultural development of the county. It also assists in the creation of an environment which would support increased employment in areas of comparative disadvantage within the county.

Agriculture

While traditional agriculture had experienced ongoing job losses over the last 15 years, a pilot project, which recognised the potential for job creation and economic activity in non food crop areas, was initiated in 2004. The project continued in 2005 examining a range of options for economic activity in the areas of biomass, bio diesel and electricity.

Forest Link

The Forest Link project, which examines the maximisation of the forestry resource in County Donegal, continued during 2005 and focused on the identification of best practice internationally that could be transferred to County Donegal. Focus was placed on the areas of production, joint processing, marketing and cost achieving efficiencies which may ultimately maximise the value of the end resource.

Community Consultation

The pilot E-Forum/E-Consultation project to facilitate linkages between rural community groups and service providers using information technology was further developed in 2005 with the objective in later years of expanding on a county wide basis.

Pobail le Gaeilge

The Pobail le Gaeilge project was instrumental in keynote high profile Irish festivals including Oireachtas na Gaeilge, Pan Celtic Festival and Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann being hosted by the County. Additionally, its work in relation to the place names committee for the county went from strength to strength with substantial numbers of new multi-house developments now utilising the place names committee.

Donegal Youth Council

The Youth Council continued to operate in all six electoral areas during 2005 working on various issues of relevance. Of particular note in 2005 was the completion of a detailed youth survey in the county identifying a range of specific areas of importance and concern to the youth of the county. The Cross Border Youth Project with Fermanagh District Council

saw additional linkages being developed as a result of this. Links with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council were also developed through the Youth Council, during 2005.

Donegal County Council/Rehab People of the Year Awards 2005

The Council continued to act as the main sponsor to the Rehab People of the Year Awards in 2005. This project continues to recognise the achievements of individuals who have contributed substantially through community and voluntary work in County Donegal over the years.

Cultural Diversity Project

In conjunction with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council a range of programmes were initiated to develop better understanding of cross-political and cultural areas between the inhabitants of the respective council areas. This project, in particular, explored the potential for further linkages between the respective Council areas as part of the targeted commemoration of the Flight of the Earls in 2007.

Cross Border Linkages

Due to its location, Donegal has its natural economic, social and cultural hinterland in the adjoining counties of Northern Ireland. In recognition of this, the Division continued to work through a range of cross border linkages and projects to facilitate the development of stronger working relationships and across areas of mutual advantage and interest during 2005.

These projects included:

- Membership of the North West Region Cross Border Group
- Membership of the Strabane/Lifford Development Commission

- Joint project with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council (Cultural Diversity)
- Joint project with Limavady Borough Council (Atlantic Drift Project)
- Joint project with Fermanagh District Council (Youth Council)
- Joint Projects with Derry City Council (economic development related initiatives)

The Division also continued to explore opportunities available from various cross border funding sources including the Operational Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and the Interreg IIIA programme in particular.

Tourism

In recognition of the importance of this economic sector the Council continued to provide substantial resources and support to the Tourism sector in 2005. These areas of support included contributions to both North West Regional Tourism Authority and Donegal Tourism Ltd to assist both tourism marketing and dissemination of information throughout the county. Assistance was also provided for micro product development within each electoral area. The cross border projects including the Atlantic Drift Project and the Peace II Task Force funds provided specifically for tourism marketing. Contributions through the development funds for various tourism related initiatives

including access, infrastructure and key festivals was also made available.

Research and Policy Unit

The Research and Policy Unit continued to develop its role within the Council during 2005 and initiated and completed a range of strategic research projects in the county during 2005. These included the Glenveagh Tourism Research project and the Waste Management Study projects.

The unit also continues to monitor and evaluate the progress of lead agencies in the implementation of the objectives of the County Development Board's, County Strategy.

Integration of Local Government and Local Development

The Division continues to coordinate a number of pilot projects in various parts of the county which aims to strengthen the coordination of response amongst development organisations in terms of integrated area planning to meet local need and opportunity. This is carried out in conjunction with local development companies, where appropriate, on a cross directorate basis with all relevant sections of the council. Pilot areas include Glean Cholmcille, Newtowncunningham, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon and Castlefinn.



Local Development Coordination

In 2005, the Community and Enterprise Division continued in its local development contribution role on behalf of Donegal County Development Board. In this context the Division continued proofing and endorsing the work plans of local and county development structures against An Straitéis. Bodies included in this process include Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta (MFG) Teo., Inishowen Rural Development Ltd. (IRDL), Inishowen Partnership Company (IPC), Donegal Child line Committee (DCCC) of nine County Development Support Projects spread throughout the country.

Local Development Cohesion Programme

During 2005 the County and Enterprise Division was responsible, on behalf of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs (RAGA) and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for managing the Local Development Cohesion Process. This is designed to bring about greater efficiencies, best use of revenue and correlation of effort in the Local Development sector.

Community Development

During 2005 the Division continued with its County Development support roles in County Council and County Development Board contexts. It deals with a wide range of groups throughout the county in terms of advice and support in economic, social and cultural areas. It also provides coordination and other supports for the CDB community Fora operating at county and at area levels.

Social Inclusion

The areas of social inclusion and anti poverty work continued to be a key factor during 2005 with internal central aspects and broader CDB related external aspects being worked on. The Division continued with its management and coordination role of the CDB, Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Coordination Group which is a cross- agency body dealing with all aspects of Social Inclusion in the county. During 2005 work at the Donegal County Council Local anti poverty Structures (LAPS) was completed and implementation of its aims and objectives indicated.

CULTURAL SERVICES

The Cultural Services Division promotes and supports a range of cultural activities throughout the county, in the areas of Libraries, Arts, Museum, Archives and Heritage.

Donegal County Library

Donegal County Library organised events in libraries and outreach centres across the county during the following festivals; Seachtain na Gaeilge, Library Ireland Week, Bealtaine, Heritage Week and Wainsfest.

The interim report of the Taobh Tíre library research project was launched in May by Minister for Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan. To coincide with the launch, a delegation from the Information Society Fund Committee visited the County to see the progress and the impact the project has made in local communities.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP IN BUNDORAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY





MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD,
MARY COUGHLAN

Donegal County Library was successful in its application to the third round of the National Digitisation Strategy. The strategy encourages local authorities to take ownership of digitising locally held material and to make it available to the public on the Internet. The new phase concentrated on digitising material relating to Heritage Towns. Information can be viewed at www.askaboutireland.ie

The Central Library, Letterkenny, was nominated as Europe Direct Information (EDI) Centre, one of six in the country. Central Library is the centre for the northwest, catering for Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim. The centre will act as an information point for the general public and business community in assisting them with EU policies.

ARTS

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

Highlights of the 5th, Festival included tours by Little John Nee and the Balor Theatre and a Festival Opening Concert with The Irish Chamber Orchestra.

Wired And Free.

'Wired And Free', an aerial spectacle by Fidget Feet, was commissioned by Donegal County Council and performed to an audience of 2000 people in Ballyshannon on October 8th, 2005.



OLD SCHOOL DAYS EXHIBITION IN
BUNDORAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Earagail Arts Festival

Highlights of the 17th, Festival included Faber Foundry's 'AMAJUBA - Like Doves We Rise', Saothar Ealaíne's 'Loinnir' installation at Mageroarty and the Oidhreacht Concert Series and Civic Reception for Leo and Baba Brennan.

An Grianán Theatre

An Grianán hosted 195 performances in 2005 which attracted audiences of 44,000 people.

Programme highlights included Little John Nee's 'Rural Electric', the An Grianán - Lyric Theatre's co-production of Martin McDonagh's 'The Lonesome West' and An Grianán's own show for children, 'The Witchin' Well' as well as performances by Coiscéim, Opera Theatre Company and Altan.

Letterkenny Arts Centre

LAC organised a busy and successful programme in the Centre and throughout the County in 2005. Community and education highlights included Teenage Kicks alcohol awareness project, Bealtaine Festival for older people and Autumn Events for Children and Young People. Exhibitions included the 'Time' series, organised in five venues to coincide with the Earagail Arts Festival, that went on to be the inaugural exhibition at the new Office of Public Works Farmleigh House Gallery Dublin opened by An Taoiseach.

Regional Cultural Centre

This exciting new centre, located adjacent to An Grianán Theatre Letterkenny, commenced construction in August 2005 and is due to be completed in November 2006. It will house a studio cinema/theatre, art galleries and digital media studios. The project is part funded by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, IFI, Interreg, Arts Council and Donegal County Council/ Letterkenny Town Council.

Public Art

Utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme, the Public Art Programme of Donegal County Council continued to commission Public Art Projects across the county that are locally relevant, nationally treasured and based on international standards of good arts practice.

Donegal County Museum

Donegal County Museum was involved in an active programme of events and exhibitions both within the museum and throughout the County. These included the exhibition Our

War, Donegal the Emergency and World War II, a series of events for Heritage Week, a Teachers Summer Course and "Meet the Veterans" Day, a schools event linked to the Our War exhibition

The Museum was also involved in a number of initiatives with groups throughout the County and nationally. These included the North West Film Archive, the Peace Building in the Border Counties project and Tógra Fiontar agus Cultúr Uladh that focused on the collection of folklore and the delivery of an accredited Certificate in Folklore to participants from NW Donegal and Antrim.

The County Archives

The County Archives received a grant from the Heritage Council of €5,000 towards a Primary Schools Facsimile Pack. Exhibitions included the Groves of Castle Grove, Lifford-A History, and Elections. The Archivist took part in Bealtaine and Heritage Week. A microfilm reader/ printer was purchased and the archives of Inishowen Board of Guardians were microfilmed. The majority of acquired school records have now been catalogued.

"MEET THE VETERANS" DAY





LOCAL HERITAGE AWARDS

County Donegal Heritage Office

The Donegal Heritage Forum commenced preparation of the first County Heritage Plan. The Heritage Office was awarded two 'Local Heritage' grants under the Heritage Council Grants Programme (€6,100). The Heritage Officer was guest speaker on vernacular architecture on the Irish American Cultural Institute's 'Irish Perceptions' lecture series in the United States. Heritage Week witnessed over 40 events taking place in the county and the Heritage Officer was on the organising committee for the highly successful Archaeological Conference held in Raphoe. The Heritage Office took a lead role in arranging a Heritage Appraisal of the County Development Plan.



DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM



CORPORATE SERVICES

- The decentralisation of service delivery
- was strengthened in Donegal during 2005,
- with the original target of five Electoral
- Area offices, serving the Inishowen, Milford,
- Donegal, Letterkenny and Glenties Electoral
- Areas fully operational throughout the year.

CORPORATE SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

The decentralisation of service delivery was strengthened in Donegal during 2005, with the original target of five Electoral Area offices, serving the Inishowen, Milford, Donegal, Letterkenny and Glenties Electoral Areas fully operational throughout the year. The level of customer contact, on a face-to-face basis, bears testament to the decision taken by the Elected Members to embark on this ambitious programme of decentralisation a number of years ago. Options are being explored in conjunction with the Health Services Executive – North West, with regard to the provision of services for the Stranorlar Electoral Area

Throughout this change programme, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to the provision of better quality services by investing heavily in the organisation's most important resource – our staff. The process is being supported through an ongoing programme of training and development. During the course of the year, employees in particular grades and services, which did not form part of the original Better Local Government rationalisation in 2002, had an opportunity through the negotiated restructuring of their grades, to gain promotion and to take on increased levels of work and responsibilities.

Implementation of Sustaining Progress Pay Agreement and Benchmarking.

During 2005, the Council in line with all Local Authorities has implemented significant pay increases to employees

in accordance with the national wage agreement 'Sustaining Progress' and the Benchmarking process. The pay increases under the 'Sustaining Progress' agreement are contingent on an agreed Local Action Plan being developed through local Partnership structures and approved nationally by the Performance Verification Group (PVG). The Action Plan for Donegal contains a wide range of commitments within the nationally agreed framework.

The principal commitments of the local agreement are as follows:

- Introduction of effective Financial Management /Expenditure Control systems.
- Explore the need for and scope of extension of opening hours in the context of flexible working arrangements.
- Role out of E-Direct Contact Management System.
- Development of Performance Indicators.
- Introduction of formal complaints and appeals system for customers.
- Effective systematic communications between line managers and staff.
- Implementation of Dignity at Work policies.
- An organisation wide review of disability issues.
- Effective team-working and cross functional co-ordination.
- Staff mobility policy to be developed and agreed.

A separate Parallel Benchmarking process has been agreed nationally in relation to Craftworkers, General Operatives and related grades. Local negotiations have been underway with Unions since late 2003 in relation to the implementation of pay increases due under this process to Craftworkers and General Operatives in the context of the major rationalisation for these employees already implemented in Donegal. These negotiations were the subject of a

Labour Court hearing and recommendations in June 2005. The implementation of the recommendations from the Labour Court were subject to the sanction of the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and to the outcome of trade union ballots. The Unions conducted a successful ballot in relation to these recommendations in August, 2005 and the Council obtained the sanction of the Department to their implementation on 30th November, 2005. Arrangements will be made in early 2006 to implement the full terms of these recommendations, which will involve significant productivity gains in return for the pay increases sanctioned.

Training And Development

During 2005, the Council was successful in retaining the "Excellence Through People Award" for another year. This is an independent, external validation of the organisation's commitment, by the National Training Agency, FAS, to the training and development of all staff.

The major extension and development of facilities at the Regional Training Centre in Stranorlar was completed in 2005 at an overall cost of €1.9m. An official opening of this impressive new facility took place in April, 2005. The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, through the Water Services National Training Group, provided the funding. This Regional Centre caters for the training needs of employees from Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan and Sligo and allows for the delivery of courses provided under the Water Services National Training Group Programme, the Non-National Roads Roadworkers Training Programme and Donegal County Councils own Training Programme. These improved facilities will allow a greater range of Training Courses to be provided as well as providing training for the private sector.

The implementation of a Management Development Training Programme commenced in 2005. The programme began in July, 2005 and will continue throughout 2006. The aim of the programme is to meet the management development needs of staff throughout the organisation. The programme will focus on providing managers and supervisors throughout the organisation, with the required training, skills and expertise to carry out their work in a more effective and efficient manner. This ambitious programme will run alongside the organisation's commitment to continue to meet the needs of staff in all areas and services.

In tandem with the above, the Council commenced the implementation of a Performance Management Development System (PMDS), which is a requirement under national pay agreements. The Council appointed two full time PMDS trainers in July 2005. The programme commenced in the Roads and Planning & Economic Development directorates and will be rolled out to all areas of the Council during 2006. The system will further enhance the Management Development Training programme in Donegal and will provide managers with the skills required to deal with the development and training needs of their staff in addition to providing mechanisms to identify and deal with performance issues.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

The above Act came into law on 1st September, 2005 and places significant responsibilities on all employers in relation to safety, health and welfare of their employees. During the latter half of 2005, the Council was subject to a number of Health & Safety visits carried out by the Health & Safety Authority. There is little doubt that this is an area of critical

importance and one which the Council must give full and proper consideration to in relation to all its operations, including those carried out on the Council's behalf by contractors etc.

Workplace Partnership

Partnership in the Workplace is defined in the National Agreement Partnership 2000 as "an active relationship based on recognition of a common interest to secure the competitiveness, viability and prosperity of the enterprise. It involves a continuous commitment by employees to improvement in quality and efficiency; and the acceptance by employers, of employees as stakeholders with rights and interests to be considered in the context of major decisions affecting their employment. Partnership involves common ownership of the resolution of challenges, involving the direct participation of employees/representatives and an investment in their training, development and working environment".

Partnership 2000 represented for the Public Service the first steps in achieving similar success through Partnership as was achieved through social partnership through the 1990's. Its principles and aspirations are further developed upon in the latest National Agreement, the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (P.P.F.).

The key principles that inform and drive the need for change in the Public Service are:

- Quality in the delivery of services
- The effective management of performance at all levels
- Flexibility in the development of resources
- Training and development
- The effective use of information technology and
- An open, participative approach by all concerned.

The management of Donegal County Council, its employees and their employee representatives have pledged their collective commitment to the Partnership approach to change. The Mission Statement and Core Objectives adopted by the Donegal County Council Partnership Committee reflect this commitment:

Mission Statement

'To achieve joint ownership of and responsibility for the process of change within Donegal County Council by management, unions and staff based on an open, co-operative process with effective consultation and participation by all concerned'.

Core Objectives

'To play a key role in the process of implementing change through partnership, of issues such as:

- Improved service delivery to our customers
- Putting in place the structures which are required to efficiently deliver the Services on a decentralised basis
- The achievement of best business practice
- The elimination of the "Them and Us" perception
- Better communication
- Investment in the training, development and working environment of the staff'.

Handling Significant Change Through Partnership

Donegal has been selected as one of the pilot Partnerships for the rollout of the LANPAG project Handling Significant Change Through Partnership.

The County Partnership Committee's Work Programme has been determined by its

collective commitments in its Sustaining Progress Action Plan. These commitments will also be reflected in the continuing work of the Area Partnerships and the Fire Service Partnership. At a Review Day of the County Committee in July of 2005, the County Committee reviewed the present status of workplace partnership in Donegal Local Authorities, agreed the significant issues for the Committee in the context of the Sustaining Progress Action Plan, and agreed methodology to work through these issues in the County Committee in 2006. The issues are as follows:

- Staff Mobility Policy
- Review of 'Better Local Government' Programme
- Cross Service Collaboration
- Lunchtime Opening
- Performance Management Development System (PMDS)
- Communications
- Workplace Review
- Health and Safety
- Welfare and Equality

In order to involve all staff in this process, three Area Partnership Committees (APCs) (Glenties – Milford, Letterkenny – Inishowen and Donegal – Stranorlar) in addition to the Fire Service Partnership Forum will continue their work in 2006.

STAFF WELFARE

Health Screening

As part of the continuing Health Promotion Programme, Occupational Health Nurses from BUPA Ireland again carried out health screening for 144 members of staff at Council Headquarters and each of the Public Service Centres over a period of six days in March 2005. Screening consisted of a general health questionnaire, body mass

index, blood pressure and pulse, full urine analysis, cholesterol test and provision of health advice. It is hoped to organize these checks again early in 2006 for those members of staff who have requested but not yet received their health screening.

Men's Health Evening

On Monday 18th April Mr. Kevin Moran, Consultant Surgeon and Regional Director of Cancer Services delivered a presentation on Men's Cancers Attitudes and Outcomes in Letterkenny Public Services Centre. The presentation was organized by the Health Service Executive and was open to Health Service employees, the Garda Siochana and to all male employees of Donegal Local Authorities.

The presentation gave our male employees a unique and invaluable opportunity to gain an insight into men's cancers from an expert in the field. Unfortunately places were limited and many of those who expressed an interest were unable to avail of the opportunity to attend. However, it is hoped that Mr. Moran will deliver a similar presentation in the Council offices in the autumn.

Retirement Planning Seminar

A Retirement Planning Seminar was organised for employees of Donegal County Council, Buncrana Town Council, Bundoran Town Council, Ballyshannon Town Council and Letterkenny Town Council who are approaching retirement, on 12th and 13th May in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny.

The seminar covered issues such as managing the changes a person can expect to encounter in retirement, pension scheme,

legal issues, investment opportunities, personal taxation, social welfare entitlements, health, diet and exercise.

40 of our employees attended the seminar which was both informative and enjoyable, and showed us all that retirement is a time of opportunity not threat.

Marie Keating Foundation Mobile Cancer Information Unit

The Marie Keating Foundation Mobile Cancer Information Unit visited Council Headquarters on Thursday 15th December 2005. This gave Donegal Local Authorities' staff the opportunity to get cancer information or to talk privately to a nurse. The Marie Keating Foundation has been established primarily to provide Breast Cancer Information and Awareness free of charge to the general public throughout the Republic of Ireland through three Mobile Cancer Information Units based in the Eastern, Western and Southern regions of Ireland. The Units are in operation since May 2001 and since then, the foundation has further extended its service to carry information on other cancers such as bowel, lung, testicular, prostate and cervical.

The Units are staffed with registered nurses who are fully trained and versed in dealing with cancer awareness and promotion. The nurses refer individuals as necessary for further help and assistance through the correct channels. To date the Units have visited over 951 towns, villages and corporate sites in Ireland increasing breast cancer awareness by providing information to over 25,484 people. A staggering 1,464 women have been referred to their GP for further evaluation.

EQUALITY

Dignity at Work Policy

Donegal Local Authorities recently adopted a Dignity at Work Policy to give practical guidance to staff on:

- What is meant by harassment, sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace;
- How this unacceptable behaviour may be deterred;
- How to raise the awareness of management and staff to the identification of the potential for this form of unacceptable behaviour;
- What steps to take if it does occur to ensure that adequate procedures are readily available to deal with the problem, to ensure that all parties, complainant and respondent, are treated fairly in resolving the problem and to prevent any recurrence.

The County Manager launched the Policy in October 2004 and to ensure that all employees are fully aware of what is contained in the policy, a series of presentations were organised in each of the Public Services Centres during 2005 to explain in detail the contents of the policy and to raise awareness of bullying and harassment in the workplace.

Cultural Diversity Days

The Equality Action Team organized a "Cultural Diversity Day" in Letterkenny Public Services Centre on Friday 10th June and in Lifford on Friday 17th June to promote cultural awareness among staff in Donegal Local Authorities. Throughout the day staff were invited to drop in to listen to some of the speakers and performers who offered their views and experiences

of different cultures. Speakers included Debbie Caulfield who performed a short drama/play on the issue of conflict; Emer O'Shea who offered an insight into international adoptions and discussed her personal experiences of adopting children from Guatemala and Taiwan; members of the Donegal Travellers Project who gave us an insight into traveller culture and the experiences of members of the Travelling Community in Donegal; Marius Slosarski, originally from Poland but now working in Buncrana, discussed Polish culture and his experiences of moving from another country to live and work in Ireland; and Javed Iqbal, who is originally from Pakistan and works in the Housing Design office, discussed his experiences of living in Ireland.

"Finding the Balance" Project

Donegal County Council in conjunction with Donegal VEC, Health Services Executive North West and Donegal Gender Focus Group of Donegal County Development Board have set up a new project on Work-Life Balance funded under the EQUAL Community Initiative Programme. The aim of the project is to improve the working lives of women and men, enhance service delivery and influence policy change in the area of Work-Life Balance.

Donegal County Council is unique within the partnership in that the employee breakdown within the organisation is approximately 70:30 male: female. The other organisations in the partnership have a predominantly female workforce. In addition, the nature of the work of Donegal County Council (housing, roads, marine facilities, environmental protection services) is quite different from the other partners. Thus, as revealed in the research carried out as part of the project "Tipping the Scales – making work-life balance happen" the uptake of

work/life balance policies has been lower in Donegal County Council than in the other organisations. Thus the project initiative within Donegal County Council reflects this baseline.

A number of work-life balance initiatives have already been put in place by the Family Friendly working group and the organisational equal opportunities policy and dignity at work policy are currently being expanded.

As part of the "Finding the Balance" project, Donegal County Council has undertaken to develop and implement family friendly policies to balance the work lives of employees with the requirements and realities of the organisation, thus enhancing the delivery of improved customer service, and to identify and establish a pilot site to introduce flexible working hours.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The Council administers the Higher Education Grant Scheme on an agency basis for the Department of Education and Science, and all monies expended on the Scheme are fully recouped from the Department, except for staff salaries

and a fixed sum of €7,388.

Grants awarded under the scheme are tenable for approved courses at Universities, Colleges of Technology and certain other institutions in Ireland. Grants continue to be awarded for undergraduate courses, of not less than two years duration, in a third level institution which is maintained or assisted by recurrent grants from Public Funds in Britain or in other EU Member States, with the exception of certain specified courses.

Maintenance Grants only may be paid in respect of approved courses in Britain or other EU Member States.

A person who was in receipt of a grant to pursue an undergraduate course may have the grant continued in order to pursue an approved postgraduate course in Ireland including Northern Ireland.

There has been an increase in the maintenance grant levels over the past few years together with a significant increase in the income thresholds, which determine grant eligibility.

Reckonable Income Limits increased by 4.7% for the "Ordinary Rate of Maintenance Grant", and by 6.35% for the "Special Rate of Maintenance Grant" in 2005.

Reckonable Income Limits 2005 H.E.G Scheme

NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN	FULL MAINTENANCE AND FULL FEES	PART MAINTENANCE (75%) AND FULL FEES	PART MAINTENANCE (50%) AND FULL FEES	PART MAINTENANCE (25%) AND FULL FEES	PART TUITION FEES (50%) ONLY*
Less than 4	€35,485	€37,695	€39,915	€42,130	€44,350
4 – 7	€38,990	€41,430	€43,865	€46,305	€48,740
8 or more	€42,335	€44,980	€47,625	€50,265	€52,910

*Full Student Service Charge is paid where income is at or below this level.

The maximum Lecture Fee grant payable was €5380, in respect of grant holders assessed under the 2005 schemes of third level student support courses.

The grant in respect of the Charge for Student Services, Registration and Examinations increased from €750 to €775

Maintenance Grants Rates 2005/2006

	NON-ADJACENT RATE	ADJACENT RATE
Full Maintenance	€3,020	€1,210
Part Maintenance (75%)	€2,265	€905
Part Maintenance (50%)	€1,515	€605
Part Maintenance (25%)	€755	€305

Special Rates of Maintenance Grant (Top-up) 2005/2006

GRANT	STANDARD GRANT	TOP - UP AMOUNT	TOTAL GRANT
Adjacent Rate	€1,210	€935	€2,145
Non - Adjacent Rate	€3,020	€2,335	€5,355

This Special Rate of Maintenance Grant was introduced in 2001 to provide assistance to students from disadvantaged and low-income backgrounds.

The net reckonable income limit for the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant was €15,626 (net of standard exclusions). In order to qualify for this Top-Up grant, the reckonable income had to include one of the designated social welfare payments specified in the Higher Education Grants Scheme.

Total Expenditure 2005

A total of €5,410,725 was expended on Higher Education Grants in 2005.

Ordinary Rate of Maintenance Grant	€ 3,578,946
Special Rate of Maintenance Grant	€ 747,353
Tuition Fees	€ 1,091,814
	€ 5,418,113

During the 2005/2006 academic year a total of 1310 students received grant aid.

Of these 390 students were deemed eligible to receive the Special Rate of Maintenance Grant.

MOTOR TAXATION SERVICE

Motor Taxation and related Services are now available in the Public Services Centres at Carndonagh, Milford, Letterkenny, Dungloe and Donegal Town as well as in Lifford resulting in improved accessibility and convenience of the service. All the offices issue motor vehicle licences (generally known as motor tax discs), driving licences, trade plates for motor traders, etc., A full service is now available from any of the centres, irrespective of the customers place of residence.

During 2005 Donegal Motor Taxation Offices processed 152,848 receipted transactions amounting to over €23.2 million in revenue. The breakdown of transactions is as follows:

Driving Licences	19,519
Tax Discs	113,367
Motor Trade Licence	188
Miscellaneous Receipts & Items	19,774



PARKING FINES SYSTEM IN USE

YEAR	TRANSACTIONS	MOTOR TAX RECEIPTS
2000	123401	15,163,043
2001	126185	16,757,956
2002	134271	17,640,249
2003	139249	21,046,829
2004	142,766	22,324,869
2005	152,848	23,276,317

Taxing on the Internet www.motortax.ie

The online motor tax service was extended in November 2005 to include the first taxation of new or second hand imported vehicles in the following tax classes - private, motorcycles, agricultural tractors/ excavators and vehicles adapted for use by disabled drivers. Entering the vehicle registration number and PIN which is provided with tax renewal notices allows access to the Motor Tax Online service or, in the case of first taxation of the above mentioned vehicles, the owner will have to enter a portion of the chassis number as the PIN. Vehicle insurance details (name of insurer, policy number and expiry date) and Laser/Credit card details are required to avail of the service

Statistics show that 8.3% of vehicle owners availed of the on line renewal option in

County Donegal in 2005, an increase of 3% over 2004. The Council encourages the use of this service due to its convenience and time saving benefits for customers.

INSPECTION OF RECOVERY VEHICLES AND WORKSHOPS

Since June 2005 new arrangements have been introduced for the inspection of Recovery Vehicles and Workshops through the Vehicle Standards Division based in the Machinery Yard, Lifford. Inspections are conducted weekly on Tuesdays by prior appointment. This area is being reviewed jointly by The Department of Transport & Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under roadworthiness legislation.

OUTREACH SERVICES IN BALLYSHANNON

In October 2005 the council added an additional service outlet from new premises in Ballyshannon that is shared with Ballyshannon Town Council. The initiative was taken in the context of further decentralization within the Donegal Electoral Area from the Donegal Public Service Centre. The library service is available from the building with a range of new services and extended opening

hours including evenings and Saturdays. While applications for Council services will continue to be processed and decided in Donegal Town, customers will be able to get information and applications forms for Council schemes and services and check the status of their applications in the Centre. In addition, a facility to enquire about planning applications and to view maps and drawings is also available.

Citizen Information Services are also available from the Centre.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Introduction

Implementation of the Council's Information Systems Strategic Plan 2002-2005 continued during 2005. Work ranged from network maintenance and expansion to systems development and implementation as well as the progression of broadband and information society strategies. Opportunities across a wide range of technologies are now routinely explored and exploited for the benefit of Council staff, members and the general public.

COUNCIL MEMBER WITH LAPTOP



Technology Infrastructure & Networks

Donegal County Council's infrastructure currently comprises 57 various Servers, 1,130 PC's and 550 printers. 30 servers sit on the Local Area Network in Lifford with the other servers located on various office networks throughout the county. 13 PABX telephone systems and 850 telephone handsets are integrated into the County network and are supported on an on-going basis. This infrastructure represents many years of investment and is amongst the largest Local Authority Network in Ireland.

Expansion of the network continued in 2005 with the addition of a number of sites including Ballyshannon Town Council, Ballyshannon Library, Mountain Top Site Office, Earagail Arts Festival Administrative Centre, Killybegs Roads Office and the Dungloe Branch Library. The Library Administrative Centre in Rosemount was added to the wireless network in Letterkenny. A wireless solution was also installed between Lough Eske Water Treatment Plant and Donegal Town Public Services Centre to facilitate the continued rollout of the Telemetry System by the Water Services Division.

Additional computer hardware was procured and installed in Pettigo, Falcarragh and at two locations in Letterkenny as part of the Taobh Tire project. This brings to thirteen the total number of rural communities, which have been provided with a library service under the project using ICT.

2005 also saw the implementation of network based Mobile Text Messaging solution. The Roads Service is the first live user on the system notifying Engineers, Lorry Drivers and Overseers daily using SMS of weather forecasts and any action required from lorry crews for the following 24 hours.

Members' Computer Project

2005 saw the completion of Phase 1 of the Council Members Computer Project where each member was supplied with a laptop computer and an all-in-one printer/scanner/copier. As well as providing the usual office automation software packages, e-mail and internet access facilities were also provided from the Member's home or office.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

The Information Systems Department continues to work with the different agencies located in the public service centres countywide. Secure inter-agency connections were established between the Council's networks and Department of Social & Family Affairs systems. The Council provides Internet facilities to FAS, Department of Social & Family Affairs, Citizens Information Units and the National Road Design Office in various Public Service Centres throughout the county.

I.S. Support for Telephone Systems and handsets is also being provided to a number of agencies including Department of Social and Family Affairs, Health Services Executive, National Roads Design Office, MABS, Teagasc and FAS.

Systems Development & Implementation

Within the library website (www.donegallibrary.ie), a new public service "ask a librarian" has been provided. This allows a member of the public to select an area of interest from a list e.g. genealogy. They can then enter a question and submit it. This question will be directed to a librarian who specialises in the chosen area, and a response is sent to the questioner's email within 24 hours.

During 2005 major work has been carried out on developing a new county council website which will go live early in 2006. The site is structured around the needs of the public in terms of dealing with the Council, rather than department based as in the past, with the emphasis of life events such as building a house, going to college etc. The issue of accessibility has also been addressed making it more accessible to people with disabilities.

The Council's E-Planning system continues to attract considerable interest from agents and members of the public. The system received major national recognition when it won the best Government to Citizen application in the Inside Government Innovation through Technology awards 2005.

The E-Direct contact management system was implemented in the Milford Public Services Centre in June 2005. This system allows customer or member's queries (complaint or request for service) to be recorded with a unique identifier (ticket id.). The customer is advised of the ticket number, which can be quoted in any further correspondence on the matter. This system is also used extensively in the Information Systems Department for user support.

An environmental system Labinfo has been installed in the Council's Laboratory. This system is primarily required for the management of laboratory samples, and analysing results. A new application was also developed to help Tenant Liaison Officers to manage the council housing estates that they cover.

Geographic Information Systems

2005 saw the introduction of new speed limits in all areas of the county. The existing and proposed new limits were all captured



E-PLANNING AWARDS

using GPS technology and plotted and presented for consultation using MapInfo GIS. The resulting maps were published on the website.

The County Development Plan draft review was published during the year. This involved the design and production of new thematic mapping for the plan. Maps ranged from overall strategy maps, population maps with latest census data, to local village control point maps. These were all plotted and published in hardcopy and on the website.

The GIS was extensively used for the design of Broadband routing in the county to coincide with phase II of the Regional Broadband Programme. Local Area Plans were also incorporated into the Broadband GIS to future proof the route designs by including industrial and business zones.

ERNACT

Through participation in the ERNACT (www.ernact.net) network since its foundation in 1990, Donegal County Council has been involved in a range of European, as well as cross border public sector Information Society technology projects. This involvement enables the Council to access

EU funding for technology projects within the County. ERNACT has now evolved into a EU network of excellence for developing and implementing ICT-based models of regional development. The network comprises a total of 8 regions - Galway, Donegal and Derry in Ireland, Wirral in England, Zeeland in The Netherlands, San Sebastian and Cantabria in Spain, and Olomouc Czech Republic.

Atlantic Area eCommunity Centres of Excellence Network

The ERNACT network received funding under the Interreg III 'Atlantic Area' Programme - Access to the Information Society for the "Atlantic Area eCommunity Centres of Excellence Network" (AA-ECONET) project which aims to develop a network of eCommunities in the Atlantic Area to enhance citizen participation in the decision making process within their regional/local administrations.

Boosting Regional Information Society Expertise

The BRISE (Boosting Regional Information Society Experience) project is funded under Interreg IIIC and involves 10 public authorities from across Europe.

Donegal County Council is engaged in this project under three strands: Citizens and eGovernance in the Information Society, Broadband and ICT-based inward investment. Interaction with more developed central European authorities under these themes will result in knowledge transfer and improved capability to engage in the knowledge economy with its inherent benefits for the region.

Border Corridor Digital Economy Network

Arising out of a previous 1994-1999 ERNACT initiative and the subsequent development of the Digital Economy Strategy, Donegal County Council has been engaged since 2004 in the Border Corridor Digital Economy Network project. This project seeks to implement the Digital Economy Strategy in the NWCBR, and replicate the process that led to its development within the ICBAN and East Border Regions.

The BCDEN project has the following key objectives:

- Improvement of ICT skills development, awareness of new technologies and accessibility to ICT.
- Increase the number of citizens making use of ICT in their everyday life.
- Increase the level of research and innovation in new technology by promoting linkages between businesses, third level education and public sectors.
- Foster the development of links with other regions in Europe to identify new opportunities and models for exploiting ICT.
- Attract high-tech inward investment into the region.

Work is currently underway on specific actions under BCDEN with Donegal County Council engaged in projects looking at

mobile working linked to location based services and inter-agency cooperation in service delivery.

Broadband – Critical Infrastructure for Donegal

The Metropolitan Area Networks Programme seeks to construct high-speed fibre-optic rings in all towns in the County with a population over 1500 in partnership with Local Authorities. Following construction, these networks are managed by a Service Agency on behalf of the state and the Local Authorities, providing open access to all telecommunications providers at agreed rates.

Donegal County Council has long advocated the benefits of broadband as a means of assisting the Counties competitive disadvantage and providing a key tool to assist the economic and social development of the County. In 2003 the County's first Metropolitan Area Network was constructed in Letterkenny and this network is now operational. During 2005, planning work on 6 other networks (including Donegal Town which was approved in December 2005) was carried out in co-operation with the Department of Marine & Natural Resources. Construction work on these networks will commence in the summer of 2006.

The towns in question are:

BALLYSHANNON
BUNDORAN
DONEGAL TOWN
BALLYBOFEY/STRANORLAR
CARNDONAGH
BUNCRANA

Another fibre network of strategic importance to the County is the development of a cross-border link in order to provide

DONEGAL TOWN METROPOLITAN AREA NETWORKS LAUNCH



resilience on the various networks throughout the County. An application has been approved in principle by DCMNR to construct an open access network between Letterkenny and Derry. Negotiations are currently taking place with the Department to agree how best to implement this important piece of infrastructure. Fibre based wireless broadband will transform broadband availability in the larger towns in the County. Donegal, however, is predominantly a rural county and it is crucial that citizens in smaller towns and in the Donegal countryside can avail of broadband

services. The MAN's programme will assist greatly in terms of providing backbone architecture in the county that will allow the provision of fixed wireless and similar broadband services to the rural areas.

The Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources www.dcmnr.gov.ie has recognised this issue nationally and has designed the group broadband scheme that promotes the rollout of broadband services in rural areas on the basis of Local Authority co-ordination and community driven initiatives. At the end of 2005 a total of 8 schemes have been approved for County Donegal from the two calls for proposals to date. The Information Systems Department in co-operation with the Council's Community & Enterprise Department have been working with the DCMNR and local communities to assist the formulation of proposals and the establishment of approved projects in the County. A third call for proposals will be issued in the near future and the Council's assistance to local communities will continue in 2006, as required.



COMMUNITY, CORPORATE & CULTURAL SERVICES SPC - ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Community, Corporate and Cultural Services SPC in 2005 included review, where applicable, of policies and procedures in relation to the following topics:

- Service Indicators National Report 2004
 - Library Administrative Centre
 - Heritage Appraisal Report
-

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Cllr. Francis Conaghan
Cllr. Ian McGarvey
Cllr. Tony McDaid
Cllr. Bernard McGuinness
Cllr. Phonsie Travers
Cllr. Barry O'Neill
Cllr. Brendan Byrne
Cllr. Enda Bonner
Cllr. Alice Bonner

Sectoral

Mr. John Lafferty
Mr. Michael Carey
Mr. John Henry McLaughlin
Mr. Patrick Hannon
Michael MacGiolla Easbuic

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



- In 2005 Donegal County Council continued
- its progress in the completion of its Annual
- Accounts in accordance with Departmental
- Guidelines & Accounting Standards modelled
- on generally accepted accounting practices
- in the wider business world.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

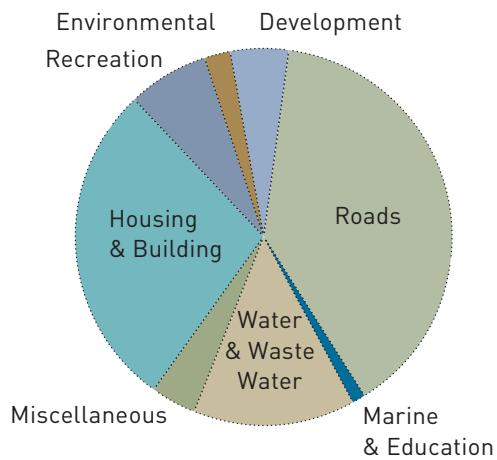
In 2005 Donegal County Council continued its progress in the completion of its Annual Accounts in accordance with Departmental Guidelines & Accounting Standards modelled on generally accepted accounting practices in the wider business world.

Donegal County Council has also developed and is developing its management accounting practices in terms of planning and controlling the activities of the organisation so that service objectives are delivered within resources made available to it either from National Government, other Agencies and locally through the decision making of the Elected Members.

The financial condition of Donegal County Council in terms of the Accumulated Revenue Deficit improved in 2005 with the achievement of a targeted Budget surplus of over €800,000 on the operational income and expenditure account despite the impact of an exceptional cost in respect of a pay award for Waged Staff. There were improvements also of €168,537 with respect to Unfunded Capital Balances and €520,000 on the Historical Funding Gap in the Council's Mortgage Loan Book. These latter items are classified in the Council's Balance Sheet.

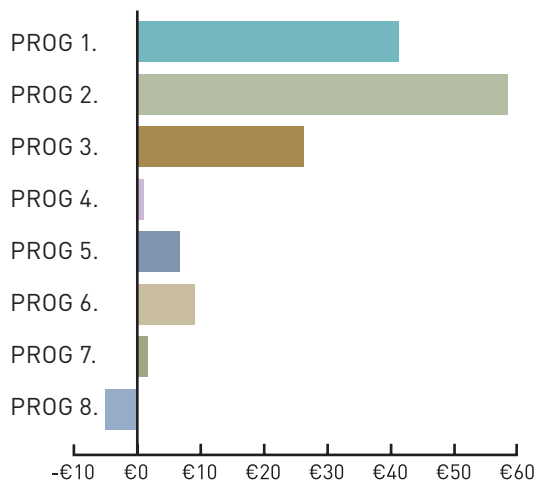
Further details with regard to all of the above matters and the Council's finances generally are included in the Annual Financial Statement for 2005 which is published separately.

Capital income by source 2005



	m	%
1. HOUSING & BUILDING	40.20	30
2. ROADS	55.83	42
3. WATER & WASTE WATER	19.96	15
4. DEVELOPMENT	7.77	6
5. ENVIRONMENTAL	2.22	2
6. RECREATION	9.61	7
7. MARINE & EDUCATION	1.70	1
8. MISCELLANEOUS	-5.00	-3
TOTAL INCOME	132.29	100

Capital expenditure by programme group 2005

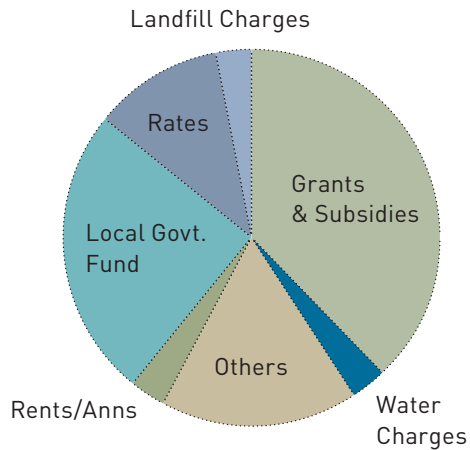


PROGRAMME	m	%
1. HOUSING & BUILDING	41.10	30
2. ROADS	58.29	42
3. WATER & SEW.	26.27	19
4. DEVELOPMENT	0.24	0
5. ENVIRONMENTAL	6.74	5
6. RECREATION	9.03	7
7. ED., HEALTH & WELFARE	1.58	1
8. MISCELLANEOUS	-4.94	-4
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	138.31	100

PROGRAMME	€m	%
PROG 8	(€4.94)	-4
PROG 7	€1.58	1
PROG 6	€9.03	7
PROG 5	€6.74	5
PROG 4	€0.24	0
PROG 3	€26.27	19
PROG 2	€58.29	42
PROG 1	€41.10	30
TOTAL EXPEND.	€138.31	100

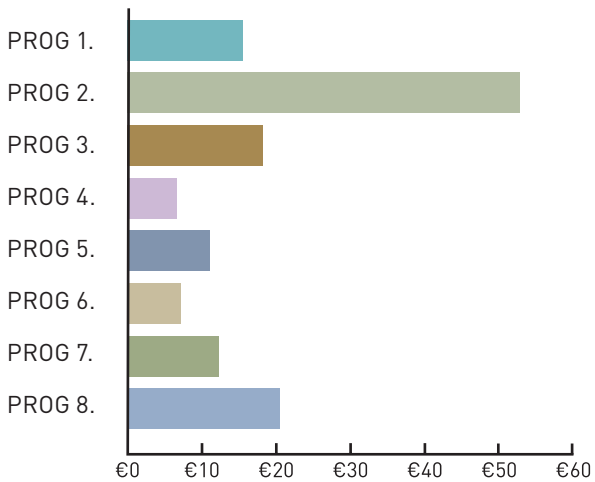
	€m	%
HOUSING & BUILDING	€40.20	30
ROADS	€55.83	42
WATER & WASTE WATER	€19.96	15
DEVELOPMENT	€7.77	6
ENVIRONMENTAL	€2.22	2
RECREATION	€9.61	7
MARINE & EDUCATION	€1.70	1
MISCELLANEOUS	(€5.00)	-4
TOTAL INCOME	€132.29	99

Revenue income by source 2005



	m	%
OTHER GRANTS	54.36	37
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND GRANT	35.76	25
OTHERS INC. GOODS & SERVICES	25.19	17
RATES	16.48	11
RENTS	4.88	3
LANDFILL CHARGES	4.66	3
WATER CHARGES	3.94	4
TOTAL INCOME	145.27	100

Revenue expenditure by programme group 2005



PROGRAMME	m	%
1. HOUSING & BUILDING	15.56	11
2. ROADS	52.86	37
3. WATER & WASTE WATER	18.27	13
4. DEVELOPMENT	6.64	5
5. ENVIRONMENTAL	11.09	8
6. RECREATION	7.25	5
7. MARINE & EDUCATION	12.27	8
8. MISCELLANEOUS	20.51	13
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	144.45	100

PROGRAMME	m	%
PROG 8	€ 20.51	13
PROG 7	€ 12.27	8
PROG 6	€ 7.25	5
PROG 5	€ 11.09	8
PROG 4	€ 6.64	5
PROG 3	€ 18.27	13
PROG 2	€ 52.86	37
PROG 1	€ 15.56	11
TOTAL EXPEND.	€ 144.45	100

	€m	%
WATER CHARGES	€3.94	3
LOCAL GOVT. FUND	€35.76	25
RATES	€16.48	11
RENTS/ANNS	€4.88	3
LANDFILL CHARGES	€4.66	3
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	€54.36	37
OTHERS	€25.19	18
TOTAL RECEIPTS	€145.27	100



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- On Thursday 14th July 2005, Donegal County
- Council conferred its highest civic honour on
- Leo and Baba Brennan of Meenaleck, Crolly,
- Gaoth Dobhair - by holding a Civic Reception
- in their honour in recognition of their unique
- contribution to the music and culture of Donegal.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 76, Part 9 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the sum of €4295.18 was expended on member's entertainment and associated expenses in 2005.

This included the provision of a Civic Reception to Leo and Baba Brennan, and the purchase of a number of presentational items.

Civic Reception for Leo and Baba Brennan

On Thursday 14th July 2005, Donegal County Council conferred its highest civic honour on Leo and Baba Brennan of Meenaleck, Crolly, Gaoth Dobhair - by holding a Civic Reception in their honour in recognition of their unique contribution to the music and culture of Donegal.

Baba was born and raised in Gaoth Dobhair to parents who were both teachers and who passed on a strong background of music, song and drama to her. Baba went on to teach music in Ard Scoil Meevagh, Gaoth Dobhair and Cloch Cheann Fhaola and the Rosses.

Leo Brennan was also born into a musical family and travelled the country with his family as part of the Connacht Concert Company. Having settled in Donegal with his family in the mid 1940's he formed the Slieve Foy Showband and played throughout Donegal throughout the 1950s and 60s.

Following their marriage in 1952, the next generation of the Brennan Family, Máire, Ciarán, Pól, Deirdre, Enya, Olive, Bartley, Leon and Bridín began to assimilate the

music that came to them from their parents – Irish traditional, classical, operetta, music hall and jazz.

In the late 1960's Leo and Baba took over what is now the world-famous Leo's Tavern in Meenaleck.

Máire, Ciarán and Padraig, joined by their uncles Noel and Pádraig Ó Dúgaín entered and won the Letterkenny International Folk Festival Song Contest as Clannad in 1970. The prize was a recording deal with Philips Records and the bands debut LP, Clannad, was released in 1973.

There followed a host of increasingly successful recordings throughout the 1970's and 80's – much of this early success under the experienced guidance and management of Leo - including Clannad 2 and Dulaman for the language Gael Linn label, Clannad in Concert, Crann Úll, Fuaim, the phenomenally successful Theme to Harry's Game in 1982, Enya's multi-million selling Watermark, Magical Ring, Legend, Sirius, Anam, Banba, Lore and in recent years Moya Brennan's own highly successful solo career.

Leo, meanwhile, is still performing to visiting audiences at the Tavern in Meenaleck where he regularly includes the old musichall songs he learned from his father and mother in the days of the Connacht Concert Company. Baba retired

some years ago from her post as Music Teacher at Pobalscoil Gaoth Dobhair but she still leads and directs the local Gaoth Dobhair Church Choir – Cór Mhuire.

In addition to the Scroll awarding the Freedom of the County to Leo and Baba Brennan. Donegal County Council presented them with a specially commissioned painting by Glenties artist Johnny Boyle. The title of the painting was 'Fioruisce' (meaning 'Springwater'). It depicts a scene on the Crolly River close to their home in Meenaleck. It symbolises the fact that, over their entire lifetimes, Leo and Baba and the Brennan Family have been a constant and inspiring source of all that is good in the arts, the music and the linguistic culture of Donegal.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Dessie Larkin, in his welcome address praised the contribution of Leo and Baba Brennan to the music and culture of Donegal in their own right and by extension that of their children whose music – as Clannad, Enya and the Moya Brennan Band – had become synonymous with Donegal all over the world.

Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager, stated that the reception provided all the citizens of the County, through their elected representatives, with an opportunity to thank Leo, Baba and the entire Brennan family for their immeasurable unique and distinctive contribution to the Cultural, Social and Economic development of this County.







**2005
COMMITTEES**



2005 - COMMITTEES

Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Dessie Larkin (25/06/05)

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Blaney (25/06/05)

General Purposes Committee

All Members of the Council

Donegal Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. John Boyle
- Cllr. Jonathan Kennedy (25/07/2005)
- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr. Barry O' Neill
- Cllr. Sean McEniff
- Cllr. Thomas Pringle

Glenties Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. Terence Slowey
- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Enda Bonnar
- Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill

Inishowen Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
- Cllr. Bernard McGuinness

Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Tony Mc Daid
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

Milford Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey

Stranorlar Electoral Area Committee

- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. Patrick McGowan
- Cllr. J.J. Reid

Corporate Policy Group

- Cllr. John Boyle
- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan (as Chair of W.E.E S.P.C 25/07/2005)
- Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill

Vocational Education Committee

- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Terence Slowey

- Dep. Niall Blaney
- Ms. Anne Flood
- Ms. Mary Mc Gowan
- Mr. Hugh Mc Daid

Cultural Committee

- Mr. Des Donovan,
Marine Avenue, Bundoran
- Mr. John Flanagan, Tircallan, Ballybofey
- Ms. Christine Mc Eleney, Binion, Clonmany
- Ms. Rosemary Dunne, Clonbeg, Bunrana
- Mr. Vincent Breslin, Bunbeg, Letterkenny
- Mr. Willie Mc Dermott, Carrowreagh
Road, Carndonagh
- Mr. Naul Mc Cole, Burtonport
- Ms. Mary Conlon,
Magherenan, Letterkenny
- Ms. Anne Mc Gowan,
Dromore, Letterkenny
- Mr. Andy Brogan, Mullans, Donegal Town
- Mr. James Mc Brearty, Bogagh, Carrick
- Mr. Joe Doherty, Rockfield Tce, Bunrana

- Mr. Sean Griffin, Old Laghy Road, Donegal
- Mr. Fergal O' Colla, Doire Beaga
- Ms. Eithne Mc Fadden,
Church Road, Carrigart
- Mr. Shaun Mc Guire, Gortin, Glencolmcille
- Mr. Manus Boyle, Corkermore, Dunkineely
- Ms. Nora Breslin, Mullanmore, Glenties
- Mr. John Coyle, 16 Figary Heights, Fahan
- Dr. Ailish O' Boyle,
Curraghmore, Ballybofey
- Mr. Don Harte, The Diamond, Raphoe
- Mr. Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig,
13 Hillview Lismonaghan
- Ms. Grainne Mc Cready,
Dunlewey, Letterkenny
- Mr. Noel Jordon, 5 Hillview, Letterkenny
- Mr. John Dorrian, Cashel,
Kindrum, Letterkenny
- Mr. Clement Mc Suibhne,
Tirconaill House, Ballyliffen
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Barry O' Neill
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey

Agricultural Committee

- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr. I. Mc Garvey replaced
JJ Reid 10/10/05
- Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. John Boyle
- Mr. Thomas Mc Dyer, The Derries, Glenties
- Mr. Mr. Phillip Faulkner,
Church road, Bundoran
- Mr. Pádraig O' Domhnaill,
Baltoney, Gortahork
- Mr. James Mc Brearty, Bogagh, Carrick
- Mr. James O' Donnell,
Mondooy, Manorcunningham
- Mr. Aidan Crawford, Tyroddy, Ramelton
- Mr. Ian Campbell, Cloonmore, Creeslough

Fisheries & Coastal Protection Committee

- Cllr. Enda Bonner
 - Cllr. Liam Blaney
 - Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
 - Cllr. Padraig Doherty
 - Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
 - Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill
 - Cllr. John Boyle
 - Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
-
- Mr. Harry Jordon, Westend, Bundoran
 - Mr. George Gallagher, Fanaghan, Inver
 - Mr. Frankie Byrne, Keadue, Burtonport
 - Mr. John Byrne, Beagh, Malin
 - Mr. Pat Conaghan, Five Points, Killybegs
 - Mr. Joe Doherty, Buncrana Harbour Commissioners
 - Mr. John O' Brien, Magheroarty, Gortahork
 - Mr. Martin Farren, Greencastle Road, Merville
 - Mr. Paddy Gildea, Listillion, Letterkenny
 - Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Woodlands, Letterkenny

Airport Committee

- Representative of North West Regional Tourism Organisation Ltd.
 - Representative of Letterkenny Airport Committee
 - Representative of Letterkenny Urban District Council
 - Representative of Buncrana Urban District Council
-
- Cllr. Alice Bonner
 - Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
 - Cllr. Gerry Crawford
 - Cllr. Rena Donaghey
 - Cllr. Jimmy Harte
 - Cllr. Dessie Larkin
 - Cllr. Tony Mc Daid
 - Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey

Donegal Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (2002- 2005)

- Cllr. Patrick McGowan
 - Cllr. Francis Conaghan
 - Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
 - Cllr. Jimmy Harte
 - Cllr. Barry O' Neill
 - Cllr. Dessie Larkin
-
- Geraldine Mc Donald, Donegal Travellers Project
 - Hughie Friel, Donegal Travellers Project
 - Mary Mc Donagh, Donegal Travellers Project
 - Mr Liam Kelly, Director of Housing
 - Mr. Patrick Mc Laughlin, Administrative Officer, Housing
 - Mr. Paddy Doherty, Senior Engineer, Housing

County Committee for Rural Water Monitoring (2002-2005)

- Cllr. Thomas Pringle
 - Cllr. Brendan Byrne
 - Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
 - Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
 - Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan as [Cathaoirleach W.E.E] 25/07/2005
-
- Mr. John A. McLaughlin, Carrowmena, Lecamey
 - Mr. Liam McDermott, Bredaghglen, Merville
 - Ms. Maureen McLaughlin, Glentown, St. Johnston
 - Mr. George O' Hagan, Old Mountain, Linsfort, Buncrana

Port & Sea Transportation Committee

- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey
- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey

- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Bernard McGuinness
- Cllr. Padraig Mac Lochlainn
- Cllr. Phillip Diggins Buncrana Town Council

Islands Committee (Sub-Committee of G.P. Committee)

Members of Glenties Electoral Area

- Cllr. Terence Slowey
- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Pádraig Doherty
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill

Members of Milford Electoral Area

- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey

Plus

- Mr. Diarmuid O' Moráin
- Ms Mairin Ni Fhearraigh

Islands Representatives

- Mr. Cathal Mac Suibhne, Arranmore
- Ms. Tony Gallagher, Arranmore
- Mr. John O'Brien, Inishboffin
- Mr. Owenie McBride, Gola
- Ms. Maire Ui Dhochartaigh, Island Roy
- Mr. Naul McCole, Inishfree
- Ms. Bridget Mc Garvey, Tory Island
- Mr. William Boyle, Owey Island
- Mr. Michael Boyle, Rutland Island
- Mr. Hughie Gallagher, Inis Caorach

Standing Orders Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee of the G.P. Committee)

- Cllr. Sean Mc Eniff
- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Terence Slowey
- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Thomas Pringle

Coiste na Gaeilge

- Cllr. Brian O' Domhnaill
- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr. Padraig O'Dochartaigh
- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Patrick McGowan
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. John Boyle

Placenames Committee

- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr John Boyle
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Padraig Doherty
- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Tony Mc Daid
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. A. Bonner replaced
Cllr. J.J Reid. 10/10/05

Donegal Peace 11 Taskforce.

- Cllr. Sean Mc Eniff
- Cllr John Boyle
- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness
- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. J.J Reid
- Cllr. Patrick. Mc Gowan/Cllr. Dessie Larkin (Cathaoirleach of day)

Donegal Heritage Forum

- Cllr. Pearse Doherty
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Ian Mc Garvey
- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr Barry O' Neill

Assembly of European Regions (AER) Representative

- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness

Substitute

- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

Representative and Substitute to Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (C.P.M.R.)

Representative

- Cllr. Enda Bonner

Substitute

- Cllr. Liam Blaney

Inishowen Partnership Company

- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald

Inishowen Rural Development Ltd.

- Cllr. Denis Mc Gonagle
- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness

Comhdhail Oileain na nEireann

- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Pádraig Doherty

Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta Teo

- Cllr. Enda Bonner

Donegal Local Development Company

- Cllr. Sean McEniff
- Cllr. Alice Bonner

Colmcille Heritage Trust

- Mr. Fred Gallagher
- Ms. Kathleen Callaghan
- Mr. Charles Mc Clafferty
- Ms. Julie Jordan
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

Election of Representative to Erne Enterprise Development Company

- Cllr. Barry O' Neill

Election of Representatives to Lifford Development Limited

- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte

Election of Representatives to Clonleigh-Lifford Resource Centre

- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte

Election of Representatives to BMW Regional Assembly

- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald

Election of Representatives to the County Development Board

- Cllr. Francis. Conaghan
- Cllr. John Boyle
- Cllr. Brian O'Domhnaill
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
(replaced Cllr. P. Kennedy)
- Cllr Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Patrick. Mc Gowan/ Cllr. Dessie
Larkin (Cathaoirleach of day)

Election of Representatives to County Enterprise Fund

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. J.J. Reid

Donegal County Enterprise Board

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan/Cllr Dessie Larkin
(Cathaoirleach of the day)

General Council of County Councils

- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. David Alcorn
- Cllr. Liam Blaney

Border Regional Authority

- Cllr. Jonathan Kennedy (25/07/2005)
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Gerry Crawford

- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Brian O’ Domhnaill
- Cllr. Terence Slowey
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

Election of Representatives to Operational Committee of the Border Regional Authority

- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan/ Cllr Dessie Larkin (Cathaoirleach of the day)

Donegal County Tourism

- Mr. Noel McGinley

City of Derry Airport Committee

- Cllr. Rena. Donaghey
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness

Strabane/Lifford Development Commission

- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

L.A.T.C.H. Ltd

- Cllr. Gerry Crawford
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin

Board of Fort Dunree Military Museum

- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Francis Conaghan
- Cllr. John Boyle

ERNACT

- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

Earagail Arts Festival Management Company Ltd.

- Cllr. Brian O’ Domhnaill
replaced Cllr. Ciaran Brogan 26/09/05
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte

Letterkenny Theatre Management Company Ltd.

- Mr. Bernard McGlinchey
- Mr. Terry Mc Eniff

Representatives on Management Committee of Ballyshannon Leisure Centre

- Cllr. Sean Mc Eniff
- Cllr. Barry O’ Neill

Donegal Ancestry Centre

- Cllr. Noel Mc Bride
- Cllr. Liam Blaney

Gartan Outdoor Pursuit Centre

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Liam Blaney

Buncrana Urban Renewal Monitoring Committee

- Cllr. Rena Donaghey
- Cllr. Bernard Mc Guinness

North West Region Cross Border Group Ltd

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Liam Blaney
- Cllr. Marian Mc Donald
- Cllr. Bernard McGinness
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan

NWRCB Interreg 111A Partnership

- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte
- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan

North West Region Cross Border Group Waste Management Committee.

- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Jimmy Harte

ICBAN

- Cllr. Jonathan Kennedy (25/07/2005)
- Cllr. Brendan Byrne
- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Padráig Doherty

ICBAN Ltd

- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Padráig Doherty

ICBAN Interreg 111A Partnership

- Cllr. Enda Bonner
- Cllr. Padráig Doherty

Donegal Local Sports Partnership

- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. Ciaran Brogan
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Barry O' Neill

Anti Poverty Learning Network

- Cllr. Patrick Mc Gowan
- Cllr. Dessie Larkin
- Cllr. Barry O' Neill

LAMA Delegate

- Cllr. Francis Conaghan

Cultural Diversity Project in conjunction with Dungannon Borough Council

- Cllr Francis Conaghan
- Cllr John Boyle

Peace 11 Cross Border Co-Operation Project between Donegal County Council and Derry City Council

- Cllr. Alice Bonner
- Cllr. Terence Slowey
- Cllr. Liam Blaney

North West River Basin Advisory Committee

- Cllr. T. Slowey
- Cllr. P. Mc Gowan (26/09/05 established)

Drugs Awareness Committee

- Cllr. P Mc Gowan as Cathaoirleach

SERVICE INDICATORS

A & C: Arts and Cultural Services

A & C1: Arts Grants

Number of arts grants aid	84
Total Value of Arts grants paid per 1,000 population	219.09

CP: Community Participation and Cooperation - Your Local Authority

CP.1 Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	100	Not all schools have youth councillors but all schools are represented by them.
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C: Corporate Issues

C.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through

Certified Leave	5.19	The significant increase over the 2004 figure is accounted for by the fact that an electronic recording and approval system was implemented during 2004 and this is giving a more accurate and robust analysis of absences.
Uncertified Leave	0.48	

C.2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs = 3.04

E: Environmental Services

WATER

E.1 Percentage of river channel which is:

- (a) Unpolluted Not required. Same as 2004 figures.
- (b) Slightly polluted Not required. Same as 2004 figures.
- (c) Moderately polluted Not required. Same as 2004 figures.
- (d) Seriously polluted Not required. Same as 2004 figures.

E.2 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:

- public schemes 96.29 Entered by LGCSB (EPA data).
- private schemes (where appropriate) 87.54 Entered by LGCSB (EPA data).

FIRE SERVICE

E.3 Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in

- full time stations Not Applicable
- part time stations (retained fire service) 5.68

E.4 Percentage of attendances at scenes where

- first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes 40
- first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 45 minutes
- first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes 15

E.5 Fire prevention - Total number of fire safety certificate applications

- received 242
- processed 234

WASTE MANAGEMENT

E.6 Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection

Not applicable. Service privatized.

E.7 Household waste collected which is sent for recycling

percentage of household waste collected	12	2004 figure contained error as it included waste collected through recycling banks and civic amenity sites. Info compiled from waste collectors' Annual Environmental Reports. In some cases info submitted was incomplete with regard to proportion of waste from households and commercial sources - some figures estimated using ratio as in 2004.
- tonnage	2825	
E.8 Household waste collected which is sent to landfill		
- percentage of household waste collected	88	2004 figure contained error as % of waste collected sent for recycling included waste collected through recycling banks and civic amenity sites. Info compiled from waste collectors' Annual Environmental Reports. In some cases info submitted was incomplete with regard to proportion of waste from households and commercial sources - some figures estimated using ratio as in 2004.
- tonnage	20684	
E.9 Recycling facilities		
GLASS		
Number of Bring Sites	56	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	Stranorlar CAS opened December 2005
Total Number of Facilities	58	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	2.1	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	71.9	1979 tonnes collected
CANS		
Number of Bring Sites	56	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	
Total Number of Facilities	58	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	2.1	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	13.8	380.84 tonnes collected
TEXTILES		
Number of Bring Sites	36	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	
Total Number of Facilities	38	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	1.4	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	9.8	270.503 tonnes collected
BATTERIES		
Number of Bring Sites	6	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	
Total Number of Facilities	8	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.3	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	0.5	13.372 tonnes (11.672 t of Lead Acid batteries/1.7 t primary batteries)
OILS		
Number of Bring Sites	0	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	
Total Number of Facilities	2	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.07	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	0.13	1,000 l = 1.2 tonnes, 3,000 litres of engine oil collected i.e. 3.6 tonnes

OTHERS		
Number of Bring Sites	5	
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	2	
Total Number of Facilities	7	
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.25	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	64.3	1,768.91t (Plastic: 312t; Paper: 1199.68 t; Cardboard: 67.055 t; Tetrapak: 20.38 t; WEEE: 169.79t)
LITTER PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT		
E.10 Litter - Number of Litter Wardens		
Total number of full-time litter wardens	7	DCC 6; Letterkenny Town Council 1
Total number of part-time litter wardens	3	
Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5000 population	0.36	
Number of on-the spot fines	533	
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on the-spot fines	0	
Number of prosecutions secured	0	
Percentage of areas within the local authority that are		
- unpolluted (i.e. litter- free)	4	Calculated by TES Consultants from NLPMS survey results - incls Town Councils
- slightly polluted with litter	31	Calculated by TES Consultants from NLPMS survey results - incls Town Councils
- moderately polluted with litter	53	Calculated by TES Consultants from NLPMS survey results - incls Town Councils
- significantly polluted with litter	12	Calculated by TES Consultants from NLPMS survey results - incls Town Councils
- grossly polluted with litter	0	Calculated by TES Consultants from NLPMS survey results - incls Town Councils
E.11 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement		
- total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1491	Litter - 1093; Waste - 251; Air - 46; Water -76; Noise - 21; Other - 4.
- number of complaints investigated	1442	Litter - 1,444; Waste - 177; TFS - 6; Air - 41; Water - 59; Noise - 15; Other - 3.
- number of enforcement procedures taken	56	Litter (Section 9 Notice) - 1; Waste - 50 (37 no. S.55; 3 prosecutions; 10 Article 22 Notices) ; Water - 5.
E.12 Percentage of Schools participating in environmental campaigns		
- primary schools	38.8	76 out of 196 schools. (Error in 2004 calculation)
- secondary schools	74.1	20 out of 27 schools.
H: Housing		
H.1 Housing Vacancies		
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	3665	
Overall % of dwellings that are let	98.14	3597 dwellings
Overall % of dwellings that are empty	1.86	68 dwellings
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	0	No houses subject to major refurbishment
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	26.47	18 empty dwellings unavailable for letting
% of empty dwellings available for letting	73.53	50 dwellings available for letting

H.2 Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks) = 9		
H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	95.87	Based on data for 2 Electoral Area + 3 Town Councils
H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:		
- the shared ownership housing scheme (in days)	37	Average no. of days based on 54 applications
- housing loans schemes (in days)	34	Average no. of days based on 34 applications
- local authority housing (in days)	57	Based on data for County Council + Letterkenny Town Council. It is not the practice in any of the Donegal Local Authorities to formally notify applicants of decision on their housing application unless it is being refused/they are not accepted onto the waiting list. This practice is under review in the context of the implementation of the new HOME v 1 system
H.5 Traveller Accommodation		
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	115.38	15 families accommodated. 2005 target -accommodation of 13 families
L: Library Services		
L.1 Public opening hours		
- average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	37	
- average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	16	1 library temporarily closed
L.2 Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population = 14 Figure relates to active membership. Cross- Border Mobile Library figures unavailable		
L.3 Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for		
(a) Books	2.1 Cross-Border Mobile Library figures unavailable	
(b) Other items	0.16	
L.4 Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public = 76		
L.5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population = 811		
M: Motor Taxation		
M.1 Number of motor tax transactions which		
- are dealt with over the counter	138,453	
- are dealt with by post	14,395	
- are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	10,255	Supplied VRU, entered by LGCSB
Percentage of motor tax transactions which		
- are dealt with over the counter	85	
- are dealt with by post	9	
- are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	6	
M.2 Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application		
(a) On the same day	13963	
(b) On the third day or less	432	
(c) On the fifth day or less	0	
(d) Over 5 days	0	

% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application

(a) On the same day	97
(b) On the third day or less	3
(c) On the fifth day or less	0
(d) Over 5 days	0

M.3 Public opening hours

-average number of opening hours per week	24	Service provided from 6 locations throughout the County
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P: Planning and Building Control**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making****INDIVIDUAL HOUSES**

No. of applications decided	4080	The total no. of applications determined within 8 weeks plus the F.I.'s and extensions of time do not add up to 4080 as some apps. Sought an extension and also an F.I. was requested.
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	2614	To calculate the % here only valid applications where no further information was requested is included leaving the % determined at 96.6%
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information	1373	
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	97	
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	62	
% of grants	78.63	
% of refusals	21.37	
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	45.45	
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	54.55	

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

No. of applications decided	499	The total no of applications determined within 8 weeks plus the F.I.'s and extensions of time do not add up to 499 as some apps sought an extension and also an F.I. was requested
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	246	To calculate the % here only valid applications where no further information was requested is included leaving the % determined at 91.79%
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information	231	
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	23	
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	64	
% of grants	81.96	
% of refusals	18.04	
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	66.67	
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	33.33	

Other: NOT REQUIRING EIA		
No. of applications decided	1066	The total no of applications determined within 8 weeks plus the F.I. 's and extensions of time do not add up to 1066 as some apps sought an extension and also an F.I was requested.
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	206	To calculate the % here only valid applications where no further information was requested is included leaving the % determined at 97.79%
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information	841	
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	16	
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	65	
% of grants	91.37	
% of refusals	8.63	
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	45.16	
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	54.84	
Other: REQUIRING EIA		
No. of applications decided	10 23	To calculate the % here only valid applications applications where no further information was requested is included leaving the % determined at 95.83%
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	34	The total of applications determined within 8 weeks plus the F.I.'s and extensions of time do not add up to 34 as some apps sought an extension and also F.I. was requested
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information	2	
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000		
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	66	
% of grants	94.12	
% of refusals	5.88	
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	85.72	
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	14.28	
P.2 Planning Enforcement		
- number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	90	
- total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	29	
- number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	17	
- number of prosecutions	4	
P.3 Public opening hours		
-average number of opening hours per week	35	The complete planning service is available to customers at 6 locations throughout the County

P.4 Consultations

Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	438	This figure is based on informal meetings held by the planners with members of the public and public representations prior to planning applications being submitted. The formal pre planning system will come into operation in April 2006
Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	25.19	

P.5 Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority = 1,744,669 inspections - 3835 Commencement Notices issued**Rec: Recreational Services****Rec.1 Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population**

-directly provided by the local authority	0.117	Council policy now adopted will see further roll-out of additional playgrounds in areas of identified need in 2006 and subsequent years
-facilitated by the local authority	0.146	

Rec.2 Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population = 1674**Rev: Revenue Collection****Rev.1 House Rent**

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	83.93	Based on data from the County Council + 3 Town Councils
(b) Percentage of arrears		
(i) 4-6 weeks old	3.11	
(ii) 6-12 weeks old	6.33	
(iii) more than 12 weeks old	88.37	

Rev.2 Housing Loans

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	76
(b) Percentage of arrears	
(i) 1 month old	5
(ii) 2-3 months old	1
(iii) more than 3 months old	94

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due	88	Collection was down due in part to the fact that Killybegs area suffered serious economic decline this year
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	Not Applicable. Service is privatised.
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Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	50.5
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R: Roads**R.1**

Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum	5.6
Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square meters)	1456052