



Sligo County Council



Annual Report 2010



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Introduction by Cathaoirleach

The 2010 Annual report provides a comprehensive review of the facets of the Council's investment in service provision during the year.

Significant progress has been achieved in the delivery of quality reliable water services.

Progress in infrastructural development designed to facilitate Sligo's investment potential has also been achieved.

Sligo County Council in collaboration with other local agencies continues to strive for improvements which will enhance the economic conditions of the region.

The Council acknowledges the need to engage constructively with the community it serves in order to maximize the impact of limited resources available.

Councillor Joe Leonard
Cathaoirleach

County Manager's Foreword

One of the highlights of 2010 was the visit of Michael Flatley to his native Culfadda, a visit made possible by the close personal friendship between the then Cathaoirleach and the Flatley family. The Culfadda community played an active role in organising the various events, including the official opening of the Garden of Music and Memory, inspired by the unique musical legacy of Culfadda's most famous son. The garden will be a special meeting place for cultural events and will be a social focal point for the community.

In 2010 we continued our major programme of investment in water and waste water infrastructure; Sligo County Council delivers 38 million litres of water a day to homes, schools, businesses, and farms. Over the last ten years or so, Sligo County Council has spent approximately €100 million on the water supply infrastructure, including waste water treatment and infrastructure, in the Sligo & Environs Area. The most recent project to be delivered under this programme is Kilsellagh, which became operational in May 2010, ensuring that all consumers in the Sligo & Environs area are being supplied with water of the highest quality. The delivery of a quality, reliable water supply has been welcomed by local hotels, restaurants and businesses as well as domestic consumers. The Kilsellagh plant cost in the region of €6 million, and the Council is to be commended for planning and delivering this valuable facility at a time when the financial resources were available.

Another priority of this authority is the delivery of a modern road network which will underpin our endeavour to attract enterprise and investment to Sligo; In 2010, €1.2m was allocated to the planning and design of our major national roads schemes, and the completion of phase 1 of the Western Distributor Road. This Distributor Road will facilitate the development of a strategic Non-National urban link road on the Western side of Sligo City and will improve access to the existing IDA industrial/ business park at Finisklin.

One immediate and significant impact of the economic recession is that Sligo County Council, together with all local authorities, will have to prioritise services based on existing and anticipated resources. This will require changes to many existing practices and procedures and we must be flexible in our approach so that we can get the best out of the limited resources that will be available.

Another priority must be to re-double our efforts in working with work with key local agencies on improving economic conditions to create sustainable job opportunities for this region.

Hubert Kearns
County Manager

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Strategic Policy Committee Members

SPC 1 – Economic Development and Planning Policy

1. Councillor Jim McGarry – Chair
2. Councillor Veronica Cawley
3. Councillor Thomas Collery
4. Councillor Deirdre Healy McGowan
5. Councillor Matt Lyons
6. Councillor Rosaleen O’Grady
7. Councillor Sean MacManus
8. Mr Gerard Queenan – Farming Pillar
9. Mr Tom Currid – Business Pillar
10. Ms Tracy Godfrey – Environmental Pillar
11. Mr Francis Flanagan – Community Representative
12. Ms Maura McCormack – Community Representative

SPC 2 – Environmental Policy

1. Councillor Tony McLoughlin - Chair
2. Councillor Mary Barrett
3. Councillor Hubert Keaney
4. Councillor David Cawley
5. Councillor Pat McGrath
6. Councillor Dara Mulvey
7. Councillor Marcella McGarry
8. Mr Billy Sommerville – Farming Pillar
9. Mr John Cawley – Trade Union Pillar
10. Mr Guy Marsden – Environmental Pillar
11. Mr Brendan Queenan – Community Representative
12. Ms Kathleen McGuinness – Community Representative

SPC 3 – Transportation and Infrastructural Policy

1. Councillor Patsy Barry - Chair
2. Councillor Michael Clarke
3. Councillor Jude Devins
4. Councillor Margaret Gormley
5. Councillor Gerry Lundy
6. Councillor Gerry Murray
7. Mr Tom Ford - Business Pillar
8. Mr Chris Davis – Community Representative
9. Mr Michael Rochford – Community Representative

SPC 4 – Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Development

1. Councillor Gerard Mullaney - Chair
2. Councillor Martin Baker
3. Councillor Declan Bree
4. Councillor Michael Fleming
5. Councillor Imelda Henry
6. Councillor Joe Leonard
7. Councillor Joe Queenan
8. Mr Trevor McDaid – Business Pillar
9. Mr Joe McDonagh – Trade Union Pillar
10. Ms Sharon Boles – Community Representative
11. Ms Helen Rochford Brennan

**Housing, Social &
Corporate Affairs,
Emergency Services,
Community & Enterprise &
Arts Directorate**

Housing & Building

The Housing Section of Sligo County Council provides a number of very important services, covering every aspect of social housing:

- Assisting people who are in need of housing and who cannot afford it from their own resources.
- Provision and management of traveller accommodation.
- Liaison with approved Voluntary Housing Organisations and other agencies in the provision of accommodation.
- Encouragement of home ownership through the Shared Ownership Scheme, Tenant Purchase Scheme, Affordable Housing Scheme and various Loan options.
- Provision of alternatives to Social Housing such as Rental Accommodation Scheme

Outlined below are some of the specific Housing Services that Sligo County Council provides.

- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- Provision of social housing under traditional design and build, part v acquisitions and open market acquisitions.
- Extensions to existing local authority houses.
- Improvement works to privately owned houses in lieu of local authority housing.
- Loans for house purchase and improvement.
- Mortgage allowance scheme for tenants surrendering local authority or rental subsidy accommodation and purchasing or building a house for their own occupation.
- Maintenance, and management of local authority housing and traveller accommodation.
- Rental accommodation scheme.
- “Tenant Purchase” - sale of local authority houses to tenants.
- “Shared ownership” a dwelling house bought between the local authority and the tenant, the tenant pays a mortgage on a percentage and rents the remaining part from the local authority.
- Support for the provision of social housing projects by voluntary housing bodies under the Capital Assistance and Rental Subsidy schemes.
- Provision of affordable housing under traditional design and build and Part V.
- Delivery of accommodation services for homeless people.
- Inspection and enforcement of private rented accommodation.

2010 proved to be a very challenging year for the Housing Section of Sligo County Council. This was due to the current economic climate, which affected the housing market, and the financial allocation received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, together with an increase in the number of applications for social housing.

Housing Construction

As a result of the reduced financial allocation from the Department, the Housing Section has made every effort to complete existing schemes and to provide opportunities for those who are most in need on the housing list.

2010 Capital Allocations

The Housing Capital Allocation for 2010 was €1,795,000 which was made up as follows:

Local Authority Housing Programme	€3,100,000.00
Capital Assistance Scheme	€3,000,000.00 (<i>Voluntary Housing</i>)
Capital Loans and Subsidy Scheme	€5,495,000.00 (<i>Voluntary Housing</i>)
Traveller Accommodation	€ 200,000.00
Total	€11,795,000.00

Remedial Works Schemes	€200,000.00
Retrofitting Voids: Energy Upgrades	€375,000.00
Compliance with new rented standards	€80,000.00
IWILS/Extensions/DPG Extensions	€75,000.00
Total	€ 730,000.00

The following scheme was completed in 2010:

Mountain Road, Tubbercurry 18



Summerhill, Tubbercurry



2-Bed Rural House

The Council has always had a policy of purchasing houses on the open market where the houses represent value for money and where a demand exists. Fifteen houses were purchased on the open market in 2010 and in addition, work commenced on two rural houses during the year.

Part V

In recent years where house ownership has become more difficult for households to achieve due to the increasing cost of housing, Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, has proved an invaluable source of affordable housing providing Sligo County Council with assistance in delivering the Housing Capital Programme.

The Housing Strategy states that 20% of eligible sites, which are the subject of new residential development, are to be set aside for the development of social and affordable housing. However, the downturn in construction has resulted in a marked reduction in the number of units coming on stream.

During 2010, a number of properties became available for Social and Affordable Housing in the following developments:

- 2 No Affordable Houses at the Hawthorns, Carrowroe

- 7 No Social Apartments at Pier Road, Enniscrone
- 2 No Social Houses at the Ballisodare

Housing Maintenance and Estate Improvements

Since the beginning of the Planned Maintenance Programme in 2002, much progress has been made in the general upkeep of Council housing stock. Works typically include replacement of worn out doors, windows, fascias and soffits. The emergency repair funds are used to carry out repairs to housing stock other than those repairs listed in planned maintenance and deemed eligible in accordance with the Tenant Hand Book.

The budget allocations for Maintenance Issues are as follows:

Demountable Dwelling Maintenance	€ 70,000.00
Planned Maintenance	€240,000.00
Emergency Maintenance	€150,000.00

The Council allocated a sum of €30,000 in 2010 towards Environmental Improvements works. An additional €10,000 was allocated to Local Authority Residence Associations for estate upkeep.

Rents

Rents are assessed and reviewed on an Annual basis. Rents, including arrears are collected by a number of different methods – Household budget deductions through the Post Office, or direct payments can be made to Sligo County Council or Sligo Borough Council. Rent payments can also be paid by Standing Order through the bank or with the local revenue collector. Rents payable on Local Authority dwellings are assessed under a Differential Rents Scheme. A Differential Rents Scheme means that the rent is based on the income of the household with deductions allowed in respect of any dependent children in the house. During the year, rents were reviewed to bring them into line with trends in the economic climate.

Housing Loans

Sligo County Council process a number of housing loans each year. From April 2010 all housing loans are now assessed and recommendations issued by the Affordable Homes Partnership which is based in Dublin. All applications are now subject to strict credit checks which are carried out by the Irish Credit Bureau

Shared Ownership Scheme

This scheme offers home ownership in a number of steps to those who cannot afford full ownership in one step in the traditional way. The applicant will initially acquire a share of between 40% and 75% of the house and rents the remaining percentage from the Local Authority with the intention of purchasing the remaining equity from the Council within a 25 year period. They too, are now assessed by the AHP (Affordable Homes Partnership)

Home Choice Loans

Home Choice Loans is a mortgage provided through a number of local authorities for First Time buyers who cannot get sufficient finance from a bank or building society. Home Choice Loan provides up to 92% of the market value of the house purchased. The maximum

loan amount is €85,000. The loan is a normal Capital and Interest bearing mortgage which is repaid on a monthly basis

The mortgage term is for a maximum of 30 years and is only be available for newly built homes. Galway County Council is the central processing unit for Local Authorities in this region

Tenant Purchase

Persons who have been tenants of a local authority house for a period of at least one year may apply to purchase their rented house outright or by means of Shared Ownership under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. The purchase price will be the market value of the house in its existing state of repair and condition, less various discounts. The applicant wishing to purchase their home should seek a mortgage from a financial institution.

Improvement Works in Lieu of Re-Housing

This Scheme allows Sligo County Council to improve or extend privately owned houses, occupied or intended to be occupied, by an approved applicant for housing as an alternative to the provision of Local Authority Housing. Sligo County Council pays the full cost of the works and the applicant then makes repayment on the amount. These repayments are calculated in a similar manner to the Differential Rent Scheme and apply for a period of 15 years.

Affordable Housing Scheme

During 2010, 2 no affordable housing units were completed at The Hawthorns, Carraroe, Sligo. The delivery of Affordable units is dictated by the same constraints as those that pertain to Part V in general.

New Grants Schemes

Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability

The Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability is available to assist in the carrying out of works which are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who has an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment. The type of works allowable under the scheme include the provision of

- Access ramps
- Downstairs toilet facilities
- Stair lifts
- Accessible showers
- Adaptations to facilitate wheelchair access
- Extensions
- Any other works which are reasonably necessary for the purpose of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability

The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and can be between 30% - 95% of the approved cost of the works.

Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme

The Mobility Aids Housing Grant is available to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing. The works aided under the scheme include:

- Grab Rails
- Access Ramps
- Level Access Showers
- Stairs-lifts
- Other minor works deemed necessary to facilitate the mobility needs of a member of a household

The effective maximum grant is €6,000 or 100% of the cost of the works, whichever is the lesser. The grant is available to households whose gross annual household income does not exceed €30,000

Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People.

The Scheme of Housing Aid for Older People is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary structural repairs or improvements. The type of works grant aided under the scheme includes:

- Structural repairs or improvements
- Re-wiring
- Repairs to/replacement of windows and doors
- Provision of heating, water and sanitary services
- Dry lining

The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of gross household income and can be between 30% - 100% of the approved cost of the works.

Housing Grants paid in 2010

<i>Grant Name</i>	<i>No of Grants Paid</i>	<i>Total Amount Paid</i>
Housing Aid for Older People	138	€795,165.13
Housing Adaptation - Disability	43	€79,337.68
Mobility Aid Grants	34	€21,866.88
Total paid in 2010	215	€1,296,369.69

Voluntary Housing

Voluntary Housing is provided by non-profit independent organisations that provide rented houses for people who cannot afford to buy their own houses or specific groups such as the elderly, homeless, people with special needs or disabilities. A recipient of a Voluntary house must be registered on Sligo County Council's housing list, however, while the tenant enjoys

all the rights of a County Council tenant they are unable to avail of a tenant purchase on this house. Currently Sligo County Council, in conjunction with Sofia Housing Association, proposes to deliver 57 voluntary housing units in Tubbercurry.

Traveller Accommodation

Sligo County Council has adopted a Traveller Accommodation Programme 2010 – 2013 which lays out the targets for Traveller accommodation for that period. Sligo County Council will continue to consult with individual traveller families and traveller support groups with a view to identifying the most appropriate accommodation for individual families.

Travellers seeking standard housing from both housing authorities will be accommodated, where possible, in existing or new local authority estates and applications for such housing will be processed in accordance with the Local Authority's Scheme of Letting Priorities and having regard to estate management issues, an appropriate social mix within areas, compatibility of families, anti-social behaviour, social and previous accommodation history, and house size requirement.

Tenancy Sustainment Service

In co-operation with voluntary groups Focus Ireland and North West Simon Community, Sligo County Council provides a Tenancy Sustainment Service to tenants. The aim of the service is to focus on practical ways to sustain tenancies, rather than seeking to solve all client problems by supporting the household through the process of moving in and maintaining their home. This is achieved by developing a care plan between the Tenancy Sustainment Officer and the tenant.

A Care Plan may cover any of the following issues:

- Tenancy Agreements
- Form-filling
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Addiction
- Debt and arrears management
- Training and employment
- Social contacts and activities
- Support groups
- Family contacts
- Leisure Self-care and Advocacy

The service provided by Northwest Simon Community is shared between Sligo County Council and Leitrim County Council. In 2010, Sligo County Council contributed an amount of €5,000 to the Northwest Simon Community. Sligo County Council would hope to continue to support the Tenancy Sustainment Service subject to adequate funding being available.

Energy Efficiency Works Scheme

During 2010, a contract under the Energy Efficiency Works Scheme commenced to upgrade 19 number older dwelling houses in the county. The primary objective of this exercise was to enhance the Energy performance of each of the respective dwellings to achieve a minimum rating of C1.

Works carried out to each of the individual units are as follows:-

- Upgrade in insulation levels.
- Installation of oil heating in lieu of solid fuel.
- Upgrade of plumbing/heating controls.
- Installation of High specification Doors and Windows.
- Installation of solar panel heating.

The overall cost of the contract was €127,499.00, made up as follows:

Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government	
Energy efficiency Recoupment:	€1,739.00
Internal Capital Receipts contribution	€5,760.00

The contract was completed in December 2010.

Compliance with New Rented Standards

Provision has been made within the budget for a spend of €80,000 to allow Sligo County Council houses to be in compliance with new rented standards. The main objectives of this program are:

- Completion of ECTI Periodical Inspection Reports on all housing stock within Sligo County Council
- Installation of Fire blankets in all houses incorporating the carrying out of a Fire Safety Survey.

These requirements are set out as per the 2008 Housing Regulations.

Radon Testing

A budget of €10,000 was made available in 2010 to carry out Radon detection and remedial works were necessary to 100 dwelling the local authority stock.

The Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 Inspections

Minimum standards for rental accommodation are prescribed by means of regulations made under section 18 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992. These regulations specify requirements in relation to a range of matters such as structural repair, absence of damp and rot, sanitary facilities, heating, ventilation, light and safety of gas and electrical supply. All landlords have a legal obligation to ensure that their rented properties comply with these regulations and responsibility for the enforcement of the regulations rests with the relevant local authority supported by a dedicated stream of funding provided from part of the proceeds of tenancy registration fees collected by the Private Residential Tenancies Board. These standards are currently set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 1993 (S.I. 147/1993). From the 1st of February 2010 new updated regulations will govern standards for rental accommodation. These regulations are called the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 534/2008).

It is up to each local authority to carry out these inspections on private rented property. 460 inspections were carried by Sligo County Council Housing technical staff throughout County Sligo in 2010.

Long term Leasing

Background

In 2009, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) launched the Social Housing Leasing Initiative. The introduction of leasing as a form of social housing provision represents a widening of the options for increasing the supply of social housing. Leasing introduces greater flexibility in the composition of the housing stock and provides the opportunity for housing authorities to benefit from market conditions to increase output and meet housing need in a cost effective manner.

The statutory basis for the provision of social housing through leasing is provided in the Housing Act 1966 and updated in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

The leasing option must comply fully with sustainable communities' objectives as outlined in 'Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities'. Leasing proposals must ensure that accommodation is in a location and of a type that can appropriately meet the needs of people on local authority housing lists. In addition, housing authorities will need to demonstrate that the leasing proposal does not conflict with the mixed income, mixed tenure dimension to the overall sustainable community's objective.

Funding

The leases are funded as part of the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) and will be a 'first call' on such funding in future years.

Social Housing Leasing Options

Access to housing stock will be achieved through:

1. Local authorities leasing properties from private property owners for periods of 10-20 years.
2. Approved Housing Bodies leasing from property owners, purchasing on the market or constructing properties and making them available for social housing provision through direct agreements with the DoEHLG.
3. Local authorities temporarily utilising unsold affordable housing stock.



1. Long Term Standard Leasing

Local authorities may enter into long term leasing arrangements with private owners to lease properties for the purposes of providing accommodation to people on their social housing

list. The term of these agreements may be from 10-20 years. The local authority will take over responsibilities for the internal maintenance of the properties and will be the landlord to its social housing tenants.

The owner will be paid 80% of the market rent on the basis of guaranteed payments for the term of the agreement, regardless of void periods. The owner will retain responsibility for the management company fee and structural repairs.

At the end of the term, properties will be returned to the landlord in the same general condition having regard to fair wear and tear.

2. Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs)

Approved Housing Bodies can also lease properties from the market and manage and maintain these for periods of 10-20 years. They can also purchase or construct properties. The Approved Housing Body will enter into a Payment and Availability Agreement with the local authority to make these properties available for social housing purposes. This agreement will set out the terms of the arrangement and the responsibilities of both parties and the Approved Housing Body will be paid a fee related to market rent.

3. Temporary Use of Unsold Affordable Housing Stock

In April 2009, the DoEHLG issued guidance to local authorities on the use of unsold affordable properties as a means to meet social housing need. One of the options is for local authorities to temporarily use unsold affordable homes for social housing purposes. The DoEHLG will pay a fee to the housing authority on the condition that the properties are managed and maintained by an Approved Housing Body.

Corporate Services

Register of Electors

A high quality Register of Electors is essential for the successful operation of the electoral system and of the democratic process itself. Sligo County Council prepares the Register of Electors annually and, as always, a major effort was made to achieve the highest possible degree of accuracy and comprehensiveness in compiling the Register. The Draft Register of Electors was printed on 1st November 2010. There were 52,212 electors registered on the 2011/2012 Draft Register.

Number of Electors by Area

Ballymote	8,527
Dromore	8,840
Sligo/Drumcliffe.....	12,942
Sligo/Strandhill.....	13,639
Tubbercurry	8,264

TOTAL **52,212**

Higher Education Grants

Sligo County Council assisted 539 students under the current Higher Education Grants Scheme. There were 193 new applicants and 346 continuing students. The scheme is administered by the Council on behalf of the Department of Education and Science.

In the academic year 2010/2011 Sligo County Council assisted 119 students with the special rate of Maintenance Grant. A total of €2.8 million was allocated by Sligo County Council to students in maintenance and fees.

While the Minister for Education and Science has indicated that the administration of the scheme will be the responsibility of the Vocational Education Committees in future years, formal confirmation to this effect has not been issued and provision for the administration of the scheme in the next academic year has been included in this year's Annual Budget.

Communications Office

The Communications Office provides information services to the Elected Members, staff, media and general public, as well as providing administrative support to the Cathaoirleach. The office also administers Freedom of Information requests and Access to Information on the Environment requests on behalf of the Sligo Local Authorities.

Information Services

Information is compiled and relayed to the general public through a variety of means, including press releases and features, posting information on our websites, and publication of an e-newsletter.

- Two monthly e-newsletter
- Monthly radio programme and podcast
- Weekly roads report
- Websites
- Text alert facility

e-Newsletter



e-Contact is Sligo Local Authorities' two-monthly e-newsletter and features news and information from the various service areas. This publication allows us to keep the public informed on recent developments, planned initiatives, contact details, diary of events etc. A feature of the newsletter is the 'Area Focus' section which will contain news from the Council's electoral areas and news from area meetings.

Radio Programme and Podcast



Sligo Local Authorities' podcast and radio programme 'Council Focus' is broadcast on Ocean FM at 9.00am on the **Second Sunday** of every month, and is repeated the following Wednesday at 6.15pm. It is also available on Sligo Borough Council and Sligo County Council websites as a podcast. The programme enables us

to provide news and information to a listening audience, and has developed a sizable audience. (For visually impaired people, it is often their only means of receiving news and information directly from *their* Council).

Weekly Roads Report

Every week, details of road works throughout County Sligo are prepared and circulated to local media and posted on the Councils' websites. The information is also transmitted to locals groups and individuals who have registered their contact details. Details of major works in the County are also broadcast by AA Roadwatch.

Websites

Many of the main service areas, including Finance and Motor Tax, enable customers to transact their business online. The Communications Office works with the Information

Technology Section to monitor, review and update the Sligo Local Authority websites on a regular basis. On-line customers can subscribe to a menu of information services, and can register for our e-magazine, monthly diary of events or weekly roads report.

sligo.ie

In June 2009, the Sligo County Development Board established a working group to develop a public relations proposal. One of the objectives identified for this proposal was the creation of a new website with the aim of providing targeted on-line information on services and events in Sligo. In the last year work on the site has been progressed through a Public Relations Sub-Group of the CDB.

There are numerous local websites offering a wealth of information on Sligo, and the new sligo.ie website, which was launched in June 2010, enables the Council to streamline this information on one host site by providing a ‘one-stop-shop’ to channel on-line enquiries. The home page of the site will provide people with an option to access information in the following areas:

- Business & Enterprise
- Tourism & Lifestyle
- Education & Training
- Public Services & Community

The site also offers an ‘events’ diary and will contain an index of local services.

Text Alert System

Sligo Local Authorities have introduced a ‘Text Alert’ facility to enable people to report traffic management problems around the streets of Sligo. The text messages are relayed via the Communications Office to the Authorities’ Traffic Wardens who respond immediately to the scene of the alert.

Following a successful ‘piloting’ of the initiative in conjunction with the Sligo Branch of the People with Disabilities Ireland (PWDI), the system was extended to the wider community, and any member of the public is now be able to report traffic management problems for immediate attention. This facility is a ‘First’ for Local Authorities in Ireland in terms of traffic management and enables our Traffic Wardens to respond instantly to the public’s concerns on traffic issues.

It is intended to further broaden the system to advise people of water outages and road disruptions in their area.

Open Local Government

Local Authorities are encouraged to devise programmes to inform the general public of their functions, aims and objectives. While the Communications Office hosts a number of visits from local schools under our ‘Open Local Government Programme, which has been extended to include visits from local Disability Groups. County Hall hosted an open day for local disability groups in December 2010, the second year the Council has hosted this event.

Human Resources

Human Resources, Payroll and Superannuation Project

Background

The local authority sector is currently engaged in a project to implement an integrated HR, Payroll and Superannuation management information system, supporting the development of a more strategic approach to HR management and providing a robust, flexible and efficient payroll system. Twenty seven of the thirty four local authorities are involved in the project. The new system, which links directly into the local authority financial management information system, will manage the full range of HR, Payroll and Superannuation process across the employment life cycle and provide an integrated view of employee and organisation-wide information.

Key Deliverables

A number of key deliverables were identified for the project:

- To implement a fully integrated HR, Payroll and Superannuation management system which would replace the existing outdated and ad hoc systems in place and would bring clear benefits to the HR, Payroll and Superannuation functions.
- To enable local authorities to meet their statutory and other reporting obligations with confidence in the accuracy and validity of data, including providing accurate and timely returns for the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Central Statistics Office, HR Service Indicators and data to bodies involved in the determination of public sector pay.
- To provide systems, tools and processes to deliver local authority HR, payroll and superannuation strategic objectives.
- To provide access to accurate, meaningful and real time data to support corporate and departmental planning.
- To exploit technology to the full in the establishment of streamlined processes and provision of management information.
- To meet statutory obligations in regard to the provision of pension benefit statements following the Pensions Act, 1990.
- To provide systems and processes which are flexible and can be changed quickly in response to the continually changing environment consistent with increased levels of devolution.
- To replace the existing payroll system in use in the majority of local authorities to mitigate the risks and address the shortcomings of the existing legacy system and future proof the payroll systems of Local Government.

The Core System

CoreHR is a fully integrated HR management system which manages employee information and HR processes throughout the employment life cycle. The key modules are the HR database (CorePersonnel), payroll (CorePay), superannuation (CorePension) and time and attendance (CoreTime). These four elements are interconnected providing a single point of data entry and a single source of information and a single view of organisation-wide information. Other modules include Recruitment, Training, Health and Safety and PMDS. The self service portal gives access to a range of HR information on-line. Managers are able

to see up-to-date time and attendance, and training data relating to their staff, while employees can access their own HR, payroll and pension details, including viewing on-line time and attendance records, payslips and pension benefit statements.

Core Business Intelligence reporting provides a powerful tool to access the organisation's critical employee information, using integrated data from across the suite of modules.

Systems being replaced by the Core system include the Accupay Payroll System, and a variety of ad hoc databases, spreadsheets and paper records. Introduction of Core will also facilitate the establishment of a shared organisation structure and payroll service between Borough Councils and County Councils.

Integration with the Local Government Financial Management System

Data from the Core system feeds directly into the local authority financial management system (Agresso) and provides detailed, flexible, up to date and accurate information for costings, accounting and audit purposes.

The feeding of payroll chargeability data to the financial management systems and processes on a real-time and project specific basis was and continues to be, a fundamental imperative of the integrated approach. The current project has delivered on this requirement in a manner which is unique within the Public Sector.

Benefits

Key benefits of the system include increased speed, efficiency and transparency of processes, cost savings, accuracy and availability of data and facilitation of a change in the role of HR and improved management information.

Benefits identified include:

- Reduction in data entry and search time costs through employee and manager self service.
- Reduction in service delivery costs by automating some HR and Payroll business processes.
- Reduction in costs associated with printing and distribution of information.
- Improved availability of HR information for line managers and staff and improved speed at which information is available.
- Improved accuracy of data and reduced correction costs.
- Improved quality of information that HR provides to support business planning and availability of data to assist with aligning the workforce with organisational objectives.
- Single source of superannuation data for employees, including service history and potential benefits.
- Improved attendance management through better analysis of attendance records.
- Reduction in the routine administrative burden for HR and HR function enabled to service the organisation more strategically.
- Improved decision making through better analysis of HR information.
- Improved compliance with regulation.
- Improved response to collection of national statistics.

Current Status -Nationally

27 local authorities are participating in the project. As at the end of 2010, the following has been achieved:

Organisation Structure (HR database)	100% - all 27 live
Employee Self Service portal	100% - all 27 live
Payroll (indoor)	100% - all 27 live
Payroll (outdoor)	96% 26 - out of 27 live
Time and Attendance (outdoor)	96% 26 - out of 27 live
Time and Attendance (indoor)	59% 16 - out of 27 live
Superannuation	48% 13 - out of 27 live
CSO module	44% 12 - out of 27 live
Recruitment	34% 9 - out of 27 live
Training	15% 4 - out of 27 live

Current Status –Locally

The Organisation Structure, Employee Self Service portal, Payroll (indoor & Outdoor), Recruitment and CSO modules were implemented by the end of 2009. During 2010, work continued with the going live of the time and attendance module for all indoor and outdoor staff.

The superannuation module also went live in 2010 and staff now have a facility to calculate their estimated pension entitlements based on a variety of retirement scenarios.

Work commenced on the implementation of the training module in the latter part of 2010 and this will go live in 2011. The project team was disbanded in late 2010.

Sligo Library Service

Improved Services & Disability Access

Improved Services and Disability Access continued to be a priority for Sligo County Libraries in 2010.

As well as the provision of disabled toilets, directional signage, software (JAWS and ZOOMTEXT), induction loops and an increased addition of ramps for ease of access we also provided the following;

- Additional Braille Signage fitted in selected Branch Libraries
- Sligo Central Library: Automatic doors have been installed in both in the hallway and at the direct point of entry to the library.
- Sligo Museum: The main entrance door has been automated.
- A barrier system has been installed at the entrance to the grounds of both Sligo Central Library and Sligo Museum. A CCTV link directly to the central library main desk will allow staff to grant access to customers with disabilities.

All of these changes were undertaken in the hope that all sections of our community feel at home and welcomed whilst using this public service.

Ballymote Community Library

Substantial work took place throughout the year in relation to the proposed new **Ballymote Community Library**. A suitable location on Teeling Street, Ballymote town was acquired and main contractors *Rhatigans* appointed to undertake the proposed fit-out. Various departments within Sligo County Council collaborated with the Library Service to ensure that all aspects of the build were closely examined and finished to the highest possible specification and standard. Once completed this fully equipped and accessible Community Library will be among the best in the country providing an extensive up-to-date Book & Audio/DVD collection, Internet and Wifi access, Local History Material and Meeting rooms. This new Community Library will be open to the public in 2011.



New Library, Ballymote

Travelling Library 2010

The Travelling Library can help to increase children and young people's interactive participation within libraries and aims to create a temporary dynamic space with specific focus on books made by children. As an interactive response area, children who engage with the Travelling Library can contribute their own work to the Travelling Library and help us to

build on the genre of books made by children, for children, and see their work travel with the Library to other locations for other children to enjoy.



Travelling Library Launch 2010

To strengthen the Travelling Library programme and as a facility through which to build resources throughout Ireland, Kids' Own delivered professional development to Librarians to provide guidance for engaging children with books and book-making activity. As part of a new tour, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Kids' Own delivered a workshop to the Librarians involved in this programme. This took place in Sligo Library on Monday 14th June, and co-incided with the launch of the project which took place later in the day.



The launch of 'Ding Dong, Right or Wrong?' by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Barry Andrews

Writer-in-Residence 2010

Mr. Brian Leyden, successful author, was nominated once again as Sligo County Library's second Writer-in-Residence. Writers 'workshops were fully subscribed under the guidance of Brian and were deemed successful for all interested parties.

A number of specific events were held during the residency of writer Mr. Brian Leyden in 2010.

- A lunchtime poetry reading was held in Sligo Central Library on Thursday October 7th 2010 to celebrate All Ireland Poetry Day. Readings were given by Mr. MacDara Woods, Mr. Dermot Healy and Ms. Mary Branley.
- Mr. Bernard MacLaverty gave a reading in Sligo Central Library in July 2010.
- Second year Summerhill students completed a writing workshop with Brian which was followed up with an Illustration workshop in July.

- Brian was also involved with CLASP Active Age Writing Group and held a number of editing workshops in relation to a book of reminiscence they were working on. He also held a number of one-on-one meetings with individual writers from around the county.
- He was invited to perform the opening ceremony at the launch of Cormac O’Leary’s exhibition ‘Light Years – New and Selected Artworks’ at the Hamilton Gallery in Sligo and launch Barry Feely’s book entitled ‘Great Characters- Story of Wit and Laughter’ in November 2010.
- St. Angela’s College Sligo commissioned Brian to compose a poem to commemorate the 275th anniversary of the founding of the Ursuline Order at a ceremony in November 2010

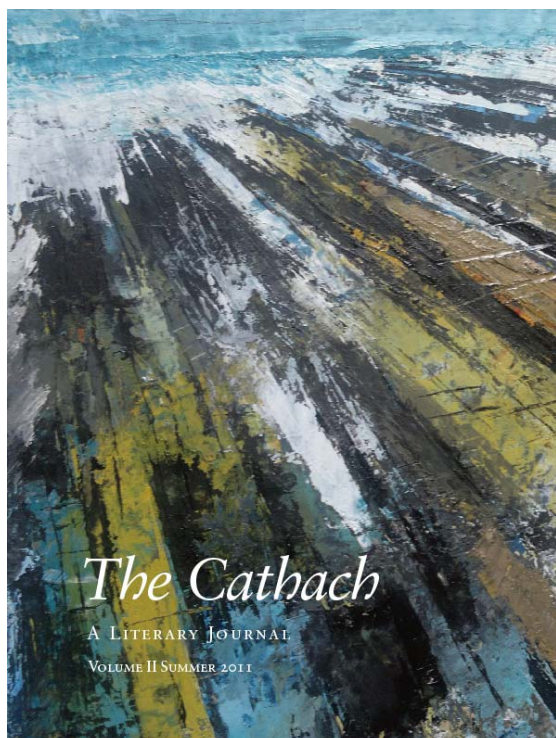
He also undertook two main projects;

- The collection of material for the *Cathach Electronic Journal: Volume II*
- The *Secondary Schools Prose and Poetry Competition*

The Cathach

The Cathach is an online literary magazine, published by Sligo County Libraries, with the aim of showcasing quality new writing in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. While honouring the literary traditions of Sligo and the Northwest, *The Cathach* features work from both new and established writers in Sligo and throughout Ireland. At a time when many smaller literary magazines are facing difficulties, it aims to provide a vital outlet for the best contemporary writing, making exciting new work freely available to a vast online readership around the world. This journal is part of the continuing support for Literature of Sligo County Library, without which it would not exist.

All of the authors that will be included in *The Cathach: Volume II* have given their work freely. It has been our aim to present it here in a way that complements that generosity, and with the hope that it will lead you to further reading of their work. The second volume of *The Cathach* will be launched in late Spring/early summer 2011.



Schools Writing Competition

Following the continued success of the Schools Creative Writing Competition, Sligo County Library, in partnership with The Sligo Champion, ran the competition yet again in 2010. Submissions in the form of poetry and short story were invited from second level students and a large number of entries were received from a number of second level schools in the county. All of the work was submitted anonymously to three judges, and the resulting winners were chosen. Megan Gethin from Mercy College Sligo was chosen as the winner in the junior section while Thérèse Walsh from Sligo Grammar School won the senior category. Both students were presented with a book token and Mercy College Sligo was presented with the overall school prize of a laptop computer.

Frontline

“Frontline Training” is a course taken by library staff which has shaped the practice of reader development; changing the way public libraries in Ireland and beyond engage with their customers. The Frontline course is designed to embed the reader-centered approach in the everyday thinking of staff who work directly with books and readers in public libraries. The course content, approach and technology have been shaped by a wide range of feedback from the people who use it, both as individuals and through consultative groups.

Two staff members of the Library Service completed the 7 module Frontline programme in 2010. To date six staff members have completed the course and another two staff members are working their way through the various modules. All four branch libraries have staff involved in the course.

Sligo Library Service is continuing to roll out this course to other staff members to further aid them in their duties to provide the highest service possible for the public to whom we serve.

Multicultural Policies

Sligo Libraries are committed to multiculturalism and recognise the importance of the various non Irish national communities in our society as a whole. As such a number of implemented strategies have continued.

- A link from our website to the Sligo Immigrant Organisation website <http://sioinfo.com> was established in mid 2008 to further portray our services to this section of the community.
- Our continuing policy of foreign title collection development, both adult and juvenile has been maintained, increasing stock throughout the year.

Writing Groups & Book Clubs

To further encourage and promote reader development among our customers, Sligo Library Service has a number of Book Clubs and Writers groups set up in various branches. These groups promote the pleasure of reading and develop the members appreciation of literature at all levels.

The Local Authority Readers met for the first time on Thursday March 4th 2010 to celebrate World Book Day. The group has 13 members who are all staff of Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council. The group meets monthly at lunch time in Sligo Central Library. Over the past year the group have read books which have been both nominated for and have won the Impac and Costa Awards, a Richard and Judy Best Read of the Year and even a Bisto Book of the Year.

The bookclub featured on the inaugural Moncrief ‘100 Books to Read Before You Die’ Bookclub slot on Newstalk Radio in May 2010 and also in ‘The Irish Independent’ monthly Book Club feature in January 2011 when the group reviewed Jonathan Franzen’s latest publication ‘Freedom’.

Sligo Central Library

Central Library Book Club meets at 6.45pm on the last Thursday of every month. Catacombs Book club, Sara Book Club & the Maugherow book club are also supported by Sligo Central Library.

Tubbercurry Community Library

Leyney writers’ group has been established for a number of years now with **three** successful publications behind them, the latest entitled “Mondays Musings”. This group continues to meet regularly to share and discuss their latest works.



Monday Musings – Tubbercurry Library

Bookworms’ Book club meets on the second last Thursday of every month. Active retirement Bookclub meets on the last Thursday of every month. Please contact the various Branch libraries for more details.

<i>Sligo County Libraries: Combined Statistics of all Branch Libraries for the 4 Quarters of 2010</i>				
	2010 1st QUARTER	2010 2nd QUARTER	2010 3rd QUARTER	2010 4th QUARTER
ISSUES	55,832	48,945	55,458	47,213
VISITORS	38,317	37,011	45,302	40,339
INTERNET USE	4,683	4,729	6,059	4,992
REF/LOCAL HISTORY	1,386	1,075	1,477	1,139

Events

January 2010

The **GIY (Grow it yourself)** organisation met in Sligo Central Library on Tuesday 19th January ‘10. This Group, chaired by Niall McAlister, was formed so that organic farmers and like minded plant and vegetable enthusiasts had a forum where they could voice their opinions. It allows all to share their knowledge base with each other regarding growing your own foodstuffs.

February 2010

Tuesday 2nd February 2010. The GIY (Grow it Yourself) organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

Thursday 18th February 2010. Eoin O’Brion launched his new book “**Sinn Fein and the politics of left republicanism**” in Sligo Central library. Published by Pluto Press of London, the book is a critical analysis of the past, present and future of Sinn Féin and ‘left republican’ politics.

Thursday 25th February 2010 in Sligo Museum. **The Architecture of Feeling** – Sligo Library Services Writer in Residence, Brian Leyden on the short story from Frank O Connor to Tobias Wolff.

Thursday 25th February 2010 in Sligo Central Library. **From book to screen** - Film maker Johnny Gogan on how books nourish cinema & Screenwriter Johnny Ferguson on adapting Sebastian Barry's *The Secret Scripture* for the screen.

March 2010

Tuesday 2nd March 2010. The GIY (Grow it Yourself) organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

Thursday 4th March, 2010 in Sligo Central Library. Ring of Five, author **Eoin McNamee** read from his latest children’s spy novel (suitable for children 10-14yrs).

Thursday 4th March 2010 in Sligo Central Library. The Fulltime Writer - **Eoin McNamee** on being a critically acclaimed literary novelist, poet, thriller writer (as John Creed) and children's writer.

Sunday 7th March to Saturday 13th March 2010: National Tree Week
Sligo County Libraries, in conjunction with Sligo County Council's Environment Section, distributed 150 sapling trees of Irish native stock (inc Ash, Birch, Rowan and Alder) to our customers over the period of National Tree Week on a first come-first served basis.

Thursday 11th March 2010 in Sligo Musuem. **The Place of Literature and the Literature of Place**, Sligo Library Services Writer in Residence, Brian Leyden on writers and their personal landscapes.

Thursday 11th March 2010 in Sligo Central Library. **Founding of Samaritans in Ireland:** 40th Anniversary Lecture by Anthony Jordan, author of” The Good Samaritans”.

Friday 19th March 2010 in Sligo Central library. **Teddy Bears Picnic:** Storytelling etc as part of *SO Sligo Food Festival 2010*.

April 2010

The GIY (Grow it yourself) organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

Beat the Recession seminar: Forget about the ‘banksters’ - start looking out for YOURSELF!

The **FAS eLearning official re-launch** took place on Thursday 15th April 2010 in Sligo Central Library. After a successful series of computer classes in the autumn of 2009, the constant demand by the public led to a continuation of this service which is facilitated by the Library Service and offered by FAS. This launch officially recognised the classes and workshops which are being scheduled for Sligo Library branches (Central Library, Tubbercurry Library and the Local Studies Library) and run by FAS co-coordinators.

Bord Gais Energy **READISCOVER** your local Library week. Story telling in Sligo Central Library facilitated by Danielle Allison.

May 2010

The **GIY (Grow it yourself)** organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

FAS and Sligo Libraries relaunched the popular computer classes and workshops, scheduled for Sligo Library branches as follows;

Mondays 9.45am - 11.15am & 11.15am to 12.45pm: Local Studies & Reference Library, Bridge Street, Sligo.

Wednesdays 10.00am -11.30am & Thursdays 6.00pm – 8.00pm: Central Library, Stephen Street, Sligo.

June 2010

The **GIY (Grow it yourself)** organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

31st May – 4th June 2010 - Anti racism week

Story telling sessions on Tuesday 1st June 2010. Sligo Central Library 10.00am – 1.00pm.

FAS and Sligo Libraries re-launched the popular **computer classes and workshops** and were scheduled for Sligo Library branches

Inkwell Writers, Sligo, had a book launch of their new publication, *The Lebeen Pool*, in the Sligo City Hotel, Quay Street, Sligo.

July 2010

Architectural AAI exhibition ran in Tubbercurry Community Library from Monday 26th July until Friday 20th August.

A Reading by Bernard Mac Laverty took place in Sligo Central Library. Bernard Mac Laverty lives in Glasgow. He has written four collections of stories and four novels, including *Grace Notes* which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the Saltire Scottish Book of the Year Award. He has written versions of his fiction for other media – radio plays, television plays, and screenplays – and wrote and directed the short film *Bye Child* which recently won a BAFTA award.

FAS and Sligo Libraries re-launched the popular **computer classes and workshops** and were scheduled for Sligo Library branches

August 2010

The **GIY (Grow it Yourself)** organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

Young Writer’s Workshop “Poetry Pleasures” for children aged 7 to 12. Susan Rowan Masters facilitated this hands-on workshop which was designed to jump-start students’ creativity through fun and lively writing exercises.

FAS and Sligo Libraries re-launched the popular **computer classes and workshops** and were scheduled for Sligo Library branches

September 2010

Kids Own Publishing hosted an event to celebrate **Culture Night 2010** in Sligo Central Library. There were 3 workshops where participants had a live link to an author's or illustrator's workshop.

The three authors/illustrators were:

1. Niamh Sharkey - Workshop Number 1
2. Marie Louise Fitzpatrick - Workshop Number 2
3. Annie West - Workshop Number 3

October 2010

Children's Book Festival:

Three author visits were organised in conjunction with the school service:

1. Annie West
2. Malachy Doyle
3. Tom McCaughren

Sligo County Library Services celebrated **All Ireland Poetry Day**.

A Lunchtime Poetry session took place involving Mary Branley, MacDara Woods and Dermot Healy with an introduction by Sligo Libraries Writer in Residence, Mr Brian Leyden.

Lecture by Fred Freeman on "**The Songs of Robert Burns**" in Sligo Central Library.

November 2010

The **GIY (Grow it Yourself)** organisation met in Sligo Central Library.

FAS and Sligo Libraries re-launched the popular **computer classes and workshops** and were scheduled for Sligo Library branches

Fire & Emergency Services

Sligo Fire Authority had another busy year in 2010 with an increased emphasis being placed on Fire Safety awareness, particularly in the home where most fire fatalities still occur. International research has indicated that this is best achieved through youth focused awareness of fire safety issues. To achieve this goal, we have visited every National School in the County targeting third class students and delivering what is known as the “National Schools Programme”. This youth friendly pack and information programme has proved a highly popular initiative and principals, teachers and schools were very accommodating and we look forward to continuing to develop community fire safety awareness.



Open Day – Ballymote N. S.

The Health and Safety Authority with Junior Achievement once again piloted the “Keep Safe Event” in which we participated and hosted in our Brigade Head Quarters. The event aimed at highlighting safety for our youth in a variety of situations was contributed to by representatives from 14 key interest groups and provided over one hundred visitors with safety demonstrations and education.



During 2010, the Fire Service accommodated approximately 2,500 visitors in groups to fire stations. Each group was provided with a tour of the facilities, information was given on our equipment and work and most importantly we promoted fire safety.

The order for the purchase two new “Fire Engines” was placed with the successful tender “Sidhean Teo” (based in Galway), and the appliances shall be delivered to Sligo and Enniscrone Brigades later in 2011 at a cost in excess of half a million euro. These appliances shall see the final upgrading of our “Class B” type Fire Engines. The next appliance for which we shall seek funding shall be the replacement of our “Water Tender”, used to ferry large volumes of portable water to incidents where a fire fighting water supply may not be sufficient.

The new Fire Station in Ballymote, designed by our Sligo Borough Council architects shall be opened early in 2011. This stylish and modern building shall not only enhance the streetscape of this town but the Brigade shall once again have a station from which to proudly serve the needs of this modern community.



Contract Signing – Ballymote Fire Station

Sligo Fire Station Headquarters has also received funding for some upgrading works to provide an improved and safe work environment including extending our vehicle maintenance area, upgrading the fire-fighter facilities and necessary upgrades to make the premises more community accessible.

The operational side of the service has again had a busy year, particularly during the spring when, once again, large forest fires caused hundreds of acres of forestry to be destroyed. The financial loss was upsetting but the damage to the environment and the danger posed to those living adjacent to these fires can not be understated. These incidents have been investigated by the Gardai.

The Brigades throughout the County have experienced a busy year in 2010 with a total of 897 incidents attended. These were distributed as follows; Sligo 481, Ballymote 181, Tubbercurry 142 and Enniscrone 93.

The “Incident Command System” has been implemented to improve safety at incidents and provide an efficient manner of managing incidents. The national Directorate for Fire and Emergency Planning have provided Standard Operating Guidance for training of staff in the dealing with incidents. The provision of emergency first responder training, defibrillator

training, hazardous chemical training and rescue and fire fighting techniques ensure that we can respond to incidents in accordance with the Fire Services Acts of 1981 and 2003.

The Building Control Act continues to provide regulation ensuring a safer built environment through certification, inspection and when necessary enforcement. There has been a reduction in the number of Fire Safety Certificates being applied for but this reduction has been more than absorbed by the increased work associated with licensing, community fire safety and the National Schools Programme.

The Fire Service provides information and training on fire safety management and fire fighting to all sectors and groups in the community. This includes hundreds of adults being formally trained in the use of fire extinguishers and the ongoing community safety programme using the mobile demonstration unit.

People must remain vigilant in the home and on the roads as this is where most life threatening incidents occur each year.

Major Emergency Management

The “Framework for Major Emergency Management” continues to provide the guidance for the implementation of a co-ordinated response by the “lead agencies” to any major incident or event.

The following is a summary of Major Emergency activity in 2010:

- PRA & Interagency Major Emergency appraisal completed for 2009 and submitted to DoEHLG.
- Exercise Eagle 18th May 2010,
- Exercise Ambulance Alert 15th July 2010,
- Exercise Wetlands 24th Nov 2010,
- Interagency On Site Coordination courses held October 20th and November 17th 2010,
- Interagency Information Management courses held 27th and 28th May 2010,
- Regional Risk update.
- Regional Major Emergency Plan update.
- Regional Directory of Contacts update
- Upgrading of Local Coordination Centre
- 5 meetings of major emergency interagency Regional Working Group,
- 7 meetings of major emergency interagency Regional Sub-Working Group,
- Regional Steering Group meetings.
- Updating of Regional Major Emergency Extranet, hosted by Donegal County Council,
- Vector Training demonstration,
- ESB site visit at Cathaleen Falls, Ballyshannon for developing an ‘Off-Site’ plan,
- Brian Kenny, Senior Engineer, Leitrim County Council gave a presentation 22 April 2010 on Leitrim’s flooding experience.
- Text and Pager Mobilisation updates.

Donegal Fire Authority provided the Regional Training in 2010 with a Major Emergency Exercise at Donegal Airport. The exercise provided a valuable experience to the participants in managing such incidents. The cooperation between the Gardai, HSE and Fire Service continues to develop and has proved very worthwhile in improving the service provided to the community. This is further supplemented by voluntary groups such as Civil defence, R.N.L.I., and Mountain Rescue to mention but a few.

Exercise Wetlands

The North West Region for Major Emergency Management hosted Exercise Wetlands on 24th November 2010 in the Clarion Hotel, Sligo. Exercise Wetlands was one of three major emergency exercises held by the North West Region in 2010, Exercise Eagle and Exercise Ambulance Alert being the other two.

Exercise Wetlands was a “Tabletop” exercise, i.e., one that simulated a major emergency in the confines of a prepared room. The simulation involved a severe weather event including major flooding, which resulted in a major emergency declaration. This exercise was designed to focus on the systems and protocols that are in place and are implemented in the event of a major emergency as set out in the *Framework for Major Emergency Management in Ireland (2006)*. The framework document and its systems and protocols were adopted throughout the Republic of Ireland on 30th September, 2008. Under the Framework there is a requirement for a co-ordinated major emergency response from the three Principal Response Agencies (PRAs). These three PRAs are the Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána and the Local Authorities.

For further information on the framework suite of documents log on to: www.mem.ie

The exercise aim was to use a simulated incident to audit the effectiveness of the interagency response to a major emergency caused by a flood event in Sligo.



Planning Exercise Team Photo

130 participants representing 36 different organisations participated at the exercise. Representatives from the National Major Emergency Steering & Working Groups, all PRA’s within the North West Region and Northern Ireland emergency services representatives were among the 130 participants. The planning exercise team were delighted that such a large and varied audience participated in the exercise. Each of the 13 tables had both a mixture of PRA and non-PRA participants.

The evaluation process of the exercise consisted of the following:

- Exercise observations.
- Hot debrief.
- Evaluation sheets and feedback.

- Cold debrief by different organisations.
- Validity and analysis by the Exercise Planning Committee.
- Exercise Report. The exercise report is available on Sligo Local Authority and Sligo Borough Council websites.

The ‘hot debrief’ session held immediately after the exercise was a process in which exercise participants were led through purposive discussion of that experience as well as an opportunity for participants to connect the dots from the old knowledge and skills they have and to provide participants opportunities to apply new knowledge and skills.

Each of the nine agencies on the Exercise Wetlands planning committee held their individual ‘cold’ debrief and this feedback was brought back to the exercise planning committee.

The reviews and exercise reports are issue orientated and has a ‘win-win’ learning outcome because if the training exercise has not gone well, the underlying errors are determined. If the exercise has gone well then the opportunity to learn from the ‘perfect example’ is provided.

The exercise planning committee subsequently held three meetings post exercise and concluded that the exercise had been a positive learning experience for the participants. Participants in particular felt that the scenarios were realistic for the extreme weather conditions simulated in the exercise, that they were now more comfortable with their role in emergency management, that the 13 individual teams coped well with the problems that they were presented with, that the major emergency Framework Information was employed well and that the exercise facilitators were knowledgeable about the material, kept the exercise on target and instructions were relevant and ‘user friendly’.

Further positive feedback was that key staff were reacquainted with the Framework for emergency management and the Principal Response Agency (PRA) roles during Major Emergency response by delivering short presentations before the exercise. Co-ordination of managing an emergency response was promoted within this exercise, with key personnel and groups identified. Crisis recognition/awareness and interagency crisis decision making were also promoted during the exercise in addition to interagency teamwork and understanding.

An inter-agency flood plan is currently being produced for the North-West Region Major Emergency working group - to complement and bring together existing PRA flood plans - and this interagency flood plan is incorporating many of the lessons learned from Exercise Wetlands.

Health and Safety in the Fire Service

The health and safety of employees and the public we serve is to the forefront of the service we provide. There is a very strict training and disciplinary regime in the Fire Brigade as is necessitated by the sometimes difficult and dangerous environment in which Fire-fighters work. The responsibility now placed upon the “Incident Commander” in dealing with even minor events is continually increasing and training highlights the need for continual improvement. Every member of staff is now obliged to participate in training and act in the appropriate manner to avoid endangering others or themselves.

CIVIL DEFENCE

With no increase in its annual grant from the Department of Defence for the past 3 years and the potential of a cut in the 2011 budget, 2010 saw Civil Defence at its busiest yet with 114 events attended, equating to 684 volunteers assisting, and equaled 556 hours of voluntary work. All this is achieved in conjunction with the volunteers' jobs and family life. This is what Civil Defence is about, doing its best to be there for the community no matter what. It is thanks to the dedication of these volunteers that Civil Defence is able to continue to assist in time of need.

During the winter of 2009, Civil Defence responded to a call from the HSE to assist them during the inclement weather and this was repeated in 2010 when the severe weather hit earlier and volunteers worked round the clock and over the Christmas period to ensure HSE staff got to and from work and carers were able to reach clients living in isolated areas.



In addition to those volunteering hours at duties / events volunteers attended training weekly to keep their skills in all Civil Defence activities sharp and 2010 saw 4 local volunteers reach a new height in Civil Defence First aid training namely qualifying as EMT 'S (Emergency Medical Technician). Boating activities increased 100% due to the return of the Triathlon to Sligo which requires an in-depth training schedule for a number of months prior to the event,

with Civil Defence providing safety boat cover for the swimming section.

With the economic downturn in full swing Civil Defence has seen an increase in calls from potential volunteers with time on their hands and an interest in the skills offered by Civil Defence in the hope that the skills attained will benefit them in the future. 50 new volunteers registered at the beginning of the training term in October.

Strategic plan for Civil Defence for 2010-2013 was introduced in June 2010 outlining Civil Defence hopes and aspirations for the next three years.



Community & Enterprise & the Arts

Sligo County Development Board

The Department of Community and Enterprise facilitates the County Development Board which is a key structure in the County charged with devising and overseeing the implementation of a *Ten-year Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Co. Sligo 2002-2012*.

Sligo County Development Board (SCDB) brings together representatives from Local Government and Local Development sectors, State Agencies operating at local level, and Social Partners, including the Community and Voluntary Sector. The purpose of the Board is to improve co-ordination amongst local service providers and to promote economic social and cultural development in County Sligo.

The Board is currently working on its Action Plan for Social, Economic and Cultural development for the period mid 2009-2012. The Plan places an emphasis on inter-agency co-operation & improved co-ordination of local public service delivery. Overarching Strategic actions of the Board include developing and improving the public profile for Sligo including the development of a Creative Sligo Brand along with an integrated tourism strategy.



The Board's website www.sligocdb.ie continues to raise awareness of the many interagency and collaborative initiatives within the county.

Other Priorities include:

1. Social inclusion and equality.
2. Economic Development.
3. Cultural Development.
4. Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee – PEACE III Action Plan 2008-2010.

Social Inclusion Measure Group

The Social Inclusion Measures Group is a statutory sub-committee of the County Development Board, facilitated by the Department of Community and Enterprise. It provides a forum for coordinating the delivery of social inclusion activities in County Sligo and to identify and address any gaps and overlaps between agencies in the delivery of social inclusion work within the county.



L-R: BR – Conor Corduff, Chris Gonley, Geraldine Timlin, Hugh MacConville (Chairperson), Aisling Smyth, Mary Hough, Darragh Severs, Trevor Sweetman.

L-R: FR – Claire Galligan, Rita McNulty, Marcus Hufsky, Ann Donegan, Siobhan Gillen

In 2010, the group coordinated a calendar of activities to celebrate EU Social Inclusion Week. This was celebrated locally from Monday 17th –Friday 22nd October 2010 and saw a whole host of activities county wide to mark the specially designated week which signifies the EU’s commitment to promote social inclusion and eradicate poverty.

Spotlight on Your Community

One of the events held during EU Social inclusion week was a preview of the County Development Boards “Spotlight on Your Community” Project which is being led by the Department of Community & Enterprise in collaboration with Sligo Volunteer Centre in and Sligo County Community Forum.

The aim of the “Spotlight” project is to develop a web based presentation to raise the profile of some of Sligo’s vibrant and hard-working Community Groups and Projects and to capture the essence of Sligo’s true community spirit. A sample of the work carried out to date under the project, (which is sponsored by the Office of Social Inclusion) was unveiled at the “You and your Community Information Evening” in Sligo Northside Centre Thursday 21st October, 2010 to celebrate EU Social Inclusion week.

The project is being progressed through the hard and dedicated work of three volunteers have who given up their time to visit and capture activities of the participating groups. The volunteers are Sheila Lehany, photographer, Liam Guinnane, audio and James Fraher who is the Project Mentor and renowned professional photographer and graphic designer.

Comhairle na nÓg



Comhairle na nÓg Shligigh is a Sligo County Development Board Project set up as part of the National Children’s Strategy (2000). Comhairle na nÓg provides a forum for young people to discuss local and national issues of relevance to them. In 2010, the County Development Board received funding from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs for the development of the initiative.

Comhairle na nÓg involves a working partnership between Sligo County Council’s Department of Community and Enterprise, Sligo County VEC and Foroige.

Along with a Programme of activities, the grant has enabled Foroige to employ a dedicated Youth Worker to work on the ground with young people to increase participation in the Comhairle na nÓg. Aims of the initiative include, creating a model of best practice, with emphasis placed on increasing the participation of young people through its AGM and in particular the participation of harder to reach young people. The initiative also aims to link Comhairle na nÓg into the policy making role of local agencies and in particular Local Government through structures such as Strategic Policy Committees (SPC’s) and Joint Policing Committees (JPC’s).

The 9th Sligo Comhairle na nÓg AGM hosted by the Sligo County Development Board took place in October, 2010. 120 enthusiastic young people from schools and youth clubs/organisations from all over the county were present making it the highest attendance to date. Topics discussed in facilitated workshops included Alcohol & Drug Use along with an open debate on general youth issues which included Mental Health, Bullying, Road Safety & Youth Facilities. The topics raised will form part of the Comhairle na nÓg’s work plan for the coming year.

The information generated at the workshops will be compiled and reported to Sligo County Council along with other relevant agencies. On a national level, feedback from the Sligo

AGM will be given to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) and to Dáil na nÓg with the hope of effecting positive change for young people in County Sligo.

The AGM also featured democratic elections to elect 25 young members to form Sligo Comhairle na nÓg for a period of 2 years. During this term they act as the collective voice of young people in County Sligo by lobbying on a range of issues affecting young people today. The elected membership mirrors that of Sligo County Council including the number of Councillors and its electoral areas. Five members of the Comhairle na nÓg were also elected to represent Sligo at the Annual Dáil na nÓg Event in Dublin. Elected members of Sligo County Council have been very supportive of the initiative.

Sligo Education Working Group

The County Development Board's Sligo Education Working Group, chaired by Sligo Education Centre continued to meet throughout 2010. The Group is a sub-committee of the SIM Group. Its focus is to:

- Identify gaps in education service provision.
- Promote collaboration among agencies dealing with early school leavers
- Identify areas of concern outside the influence of the relevant agencies where the CDB might be able to lend its support.
- Develop community education and support.
- Target support locally within schools.
- Promote broader policy level responses to educational disadvantage.

Interagency Traveller Strategy Group

The Interagency Traveller Strategy Group is responsible for monitoring progress on the implementation of the County Development Board's Interagency Traveller Strategy for Co Sligo 2007-2012. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to enhance interagency co-operation in the delivery of service and supports to the Traveller Community. The Strategy focuses on a series of integrated actions under the following thematic areas: Accommodation, Health, Education Training & Employment, Childcare and Youth.

The Actions outlined in the Strategy are funded mainly through the resources of the participating Agencies and some actions involve the pooling together of resources of a number of agencies. The Group is convened by the Office of Community & Enterprise.

In 2010, all CDBs were asked to review their Traveller Strategy Plan and to highlight a number of key actions which would demonstrate and support increased interagency cooperation. The Interagency Traveller Strategy Group agreed to hold a half day facilitated session guided by an independent facilitator to carry out the following:

- Examine ways in which the group could develop to a higher level of collaboration.
- Review the priorities of the Strategy for the period 2009-2012.
- Review the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the Inter Agency group and its thematic working groups.
- Review the terms of reference of the group.

RAPID Programme

Sligo RAPID AIT is a network of representatives of the statutory and community sectors who have agreed to jointly plan and develop coherent strategies that will respond to the needs of the Sligo RAPID communities by developing integrated approaches in the development,

delivery and co-ordination of existing and new services and facilities, always ensuring maximum and sustainable community participation.

RAPID Guiding Principles

Sligo's RAPID programme is guided by adherence to the following principles.

- Community Participation and local ownership.
- Promote strategic planning.
- Co-ordination of State services.
- Targeting additional services, investment and facilities.
- Building on existing structures.
- Complementing existing structures.
- Flexibility.

There are 5 RAPID Cluster areas in Sligo Town:

- Cranmore Estate,
- Forthill Estate / Cartron Estate,
- Garavogue Villas / Doorly Park,
- St. Joseph's Terrace / St. Brigid's Place / Pilkington Terrace,
- Maugheraboy / Jinks Avenue / Treacy Avenue

The RAPID Programme in Sligo is co-ordinated at a local level by Pamela Andison based in the Community & Enterprise Department and by an Area Implementation Team comprising of the following agencies – FAS, VEC, Dept Social Protection, Sligo LEADER Partnership Company, Health Services Executive, Northside Community Development Programme, Sligo Family Resource Centre, Sligo Education Centre, Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Council, Garda Siochana, Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership and three community representatives from the RAPID Community Representatives Team. The remit of the **Area Implementation Team (AIT)** is to take responsibility for the planning and implementation of the programme locally. The RAPID Programme is monitored by the **Social Inclusion Measure (SIM)** group to ensure that all plans developed are fully integrated within the County Development Board and agency strategies.

RAPID work is organised into a number of Strategic Themes:

- Health & Family Support
- Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Youth Support
- Education
- Employment and Training
- Physical Environment.



Several sub-groups and working groups carry out projects and monitor the progress of service delivery improvements, inter-agency collaboration and development work in the themed areas. For example, the Community Safety Taskforce works to ensure increased safety and reduction in anti-social behaviour by providing a forum for discussion and action between the local authorities, Gardai, community groups and other support services.

RAPID Community Safety Taskforce 2010

Achievements and Highlights of the RAPID Programme in 2010



Winners Oisín and Ryan of the Smart Save Competition Oct-Nov 2010 receive their prizes from CAILM group members

Communities Against Illegal Money-lending (CAILM) – this group comprises those service providers and community representatives who witness the devastating effects of illegal money-lending in Sligo, such as MABS, Credit Union, Gardai, Sligo County Council, Sligo and Social Services. RAPID areas are particularly affected by illegal money-lending due to the higher number of low-income households and higher rates of unemployment in these locations. The “loan shark” activity is entrenched in the culture of neighbourhoods where many people do not have bank accounts and need cash to cope with household expenses and other debts. The CAILM group has compiled the known information about money-lending and works with three main aims: to seek to offer

alternatives to illegal money-lending, to promote awareness-raising of saving and debt-counselling services and to support the efforts made to enforce this crime in communities. The group presented to the Joint Policing Committee of Sligo Borough Council and has had several campaigns in the local press and media to raise awareness of the issue and help victims to seek advice. A poster design competition was held in October 2010 and the school students who won were presented with their prizes by Sligo Credit Union, Sligo Education Centre and RAPID representatives.

RAPID Urban Peace Collective

Nine different community and voluntary organisations came together under the RAPID umbrella to promote anti-sectarian, anti-racist and reconciliatory practice through sports, youth activities, arts and education work. The involvement of Sligo residents in cross-border and single identity work during 2009-2010 has enriched the experiences of several hundred participants of all ages, ethnicities and social backgrounds in fulfilment of the aims of the Sligo Peace III Taskforce Action Plan. The success of this initiative was acknowledged nationally when the Collective was asked to contribute to a Good Practice DVD featuring other Peace III funded projects.

The six projects comprising the RAPID Urban Collective are:

Touch the Sky Performance Group involved the Model, Home of the Niland Collection and Rehab Care and was a cross-border artistic political discussion project involving persons with a disability from Sligo and Northern Ireland and culminating in a film featuring the “journey” of the group.

Win Together was a sports-themed project operated by Sligo Immigrant Organisation, working to engage with members of the immigrant worker community, Irish adults and members of the many ethnic groups based in Sligo Town. This project involved soccer and volleyball tournaments which integrate rather than divide people by nationality and ethnicity and in so doing, raise issues of racism and prejudice through lively discussion and social contact. This sport event, both volleyball and football tournaments aimed to fight racism through team working and fair competition.

Youth Boxing, Dance and Equestrian Project organised by Sligo Traveller Support Group involved Travellers from North and South of Ireland with settled communities using the

cultural traditions of boxing and horsemanship and contemporary dance to celebrate difference.

Schools Cross-Border Initiative, facilitated by Sligo Education Centre, was an educational initiative in which parents, schoolchildren and teachers from Sligo Town met with their counterparts in Northern Ireland to work towards common goals and engage in dialogue and activities about cultural, national and religious difference. There were cross-border residentials, outdoor pursuits and team-building to help the learning about each other's cultures and undergo training in conflict resolution and management.

Soccer – the Beautiful Game was a project managed jointly by MCR Community Centre and Cranmore Community Co-operative and involved a diverse range of young people from these RAPID areas and Globe House coming together to share their common passion for football. While learning soccer skills and team playing, the young people also looked at issues that can bring conflict to the game such as sectarianism, lack of respect for difference and racism.

Inter-Cultural Training Programme – Positive Relations

As part of the Peace III RAPID Urban Collective, Sligo Northside CDP and Resource Centre is providing an Intercultural Training Programme. The aim of the training was to enable participants to challenge racism and sectarianism and other negative attitudes which can result in discriminatory practices against minority groups and individuals. The objectives were to deliver a programme which examines concepts and issues of diversity, equality, cultural difference, sedentarism, racism and sectarianism and which promotes an understanding of life from the perspective of members of minority groups.

The Billboard Project - It was decided to spread the message about the peace work we have been carrying out in Sligo by displaying large billboards in high profile locations in Sligo Town. All six projects were represented on the billboards which were developed and designed by the groups themselves and a graphic designer. The slogans and images creatively broadcast the challenges and successes of the work which this Collective has been involved in during 2010.



Economic Development Sub-Committee of Sligo County Development Board

Role of the County Development Board and Local Authority in Economic Development

The role of the County Development Board in Economic Development is to co-ordinate the work of member organisations' economic development activities and work on agreed 'added value' economic initiatives for the county, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship and to increase job opportunities. The CDB provides a focal point for the economic promotion of the county.

The role of the Local Authority in economic development is to enable the conditions for economic growth in relation to infrastructure, including broadband, land for industry use, energy, environmental protection as well as supporting research and education/training measures.



Pictured at Training, Education and Enterprise Event in Enniscrone - Deirdre Finnerty, Geraldine Timlin, Bobby Kerr - Dragons Den, Councillor Mary Barrett, Councillor Gerry Murray, Siobhán Gillen, Gabriel Browne

Economic Development Sub-Committee of the County Development Board (CDB)

The agencies on the Economic Development Sub-Committee of the Sligo CDB take on a shared leadership role in the economic promotion of County Sligo and manage the implementation of the economic actions of the *CDB's Priorities for mid 2009 – 2012* and the various actions arising, which are constantly being expanded and developed.

The work of the Sub-Committee is guided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and operates within the context of relevant national, regional and local policies, including:

- National Development Plan, National Spatial Strategy, Towards 2016, Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Regional policies including those of Enterprise Ireland, IDA, FÁS, and the Western Development Commission
- Local policies of the Sligo County Enterprise Board, Sligo County Council, the Sligo County Development Plan and the Sligo & Environs Development Plan.

Quarterly meetings are held of the full Sub-Committee while various Sub-Groups on Education, Training & Up-skilling, Enterprise Promotion, Precision Engineering, Food, eCars and Renewable Energy meet frequently to progress initiatives.

Key Activities of the Economic Development Sub-Committee in 2010

- Training, Education and Enterprise events were held throughout the county as a coordinated interagency response to the downturn in the economy.
- Deficits in broadband infrastructure in the County were addressed with the Department of Communications.
- An integrated response to training and up-skilling was developed between educational organisations.
- A County Wide Tourism Strategy was initiated in collaboration with Failte Ireland
- The sub-committee facilitated a coordinated response from the state development agencies to significant closure of major businesses in the county.

- Potential European funding for redundant workers was explored via the European Globalization Fund.

Broadband Presentation to Sligo County Council

On the 1st March 2010 a Sub-Group of the Economic Development Sub-Committee made a presentation to Sligo County Council Members highlighting the lack of adequate Broadband coverage availability and infrastructure in the County and how it disadvantaged people in rural areas. A detailed technical report was commissioned by the Sligo County Community Forum in association with the County Development Board and with the assistance of funding from Co. Sligo LEADER Partnership Company. Following various meetings with representatives of the Economic Development Sub Committee, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources agreed to take into account the issues raised in the Report in the next roll out of the National Broadband Scheme in 2011/2012.



Presentation of Broadband Availability Survey of County Sligo - Peter Greene, Gabriel Browne, Jack Devaney, Rita Mc Nulty, Councillor Tony Mc Loughlin, Margaret Conlon, Michael Quigley, Michael Barrett, Shaun Purcell

Lissadell Fringe Festival 30th July – 2nd August 2010

Following an initiative by the Economic Development Sub-Committee a very successful Fringe Festival promoting Sligo over the August Bank Holiday Weekend was organised. There had been great collaboration amongst all the agencies and companies/organisations involved and the enthusiasm and commitment of all concerned was one of the main reasons for the success of the event.

Proposed Economic Strategy of the Economic Development Sub-Committee for 2011

The Community & Enterprise Department of the Council and the Economic Sub-Committee of the County Development Board have reacted to the threats posed by the Economic downturn and have decided to focus on a number of key economic sectors.

Four specific economic sectors have been identified for particular attention and action in 2011:

- Precision Engineering/Toolmaking,
- Renewable Energy,
- Food
- eCars.

A more focused jobs oriented approach will be developed utilising more effectively the expertise of the CDB agencies, aligning the neighbouring Local Authorities, CDB Agencies

and Colleges with differing geographical remits/priorities and linking up with players across the region and borders in adjoining counties and engaging with relevant private sector partners.

Members of the Economic Development Sub-Committee of Sligo County Development Board in 2010

Name	Agency/Body
Shaun Purcell (Chairperson)	County Sligo Vocational Education Committee
Dorothy Clarke	Director of Services, Sligo County Council
Brian Scanlon	Sligo County Community Forum
Carole Brenan	Enterprise Ireland
Cllr Tony McLoughlin	Sligo County Council
Hugh McConville	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Ian Brannigan	Western Development Commission
Michelle Yewlett	IDA Ireland (Industrial Development Agency)
John Reilly	Sligo County Enterprise Board
Martin Henry	Teagasc (Agriculture and Food Development Authority)
Michael Quigley	Sligo LEADER Partnership Co Ltd
Miriam Scanlon	FÁS (Irish National Training and Employment Authority)
Niall McEvoy	Institute of Technology Sligo
Noelle Cawley	Fáilte Ireland North West
Peter Greene	Employment and Business Organisations
Ronan McArt	St Angela's College

Inter Agency Tourism

Sligo County Development Board (CDB) is developing a county-wide tourism strategy as agreed in its Priority Action Plan for mid 2009-2012. The lead agency for this CDB priority is Sligo County Council, through the Community and Enterprise Department.

Under the auspices of the Economic Development Sub-Committee of the CDB, a Tourism Sub Group is working with representatives from the relevant organisations and sectors, both public and private. The work of the Sub Group is building on the Failte Ireland North West Regional Strategy and is examining a range of areas including marketing, infrastructure, co-ordination, branding and promotion.

Development of the strategy continued throughout 2010 with an audit completed providing baseline economic data and visitor numbers for the County. This was followed up with a public consultation mid-year which yielded useful information and provided future direction. Priorities identified in 2010 continue to be developed with the aim of being presented to the CDB for consideration in 2011.

The Committee draws on the expertise of existing agencies and committees such as Failte Ireland North West, the Marketing Sligo Forum, Institute of Technology, Sligo, the Sligo Leader Partnership Co., Sligo Tourist Development Association, Irish Hotels Federation etc. The aim is to ensure that all relevant players with interest and expertise are contributing to a 'joined-up' tourism plan for County Sligo.

PEACE III Programme

'To reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation.'

Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee, a sub-committee of Sligo County Development Board is delivering actions under the Peace III Programme in Sligo. This EU funded programme aims to address issues related to sectarianism and racism and to develop positive relations between minority and majority communities and across the border. With a budget of €1,960,605 actions undertaken under the Action Plan 2008-10 include the following:

- Inter-Faith
- Diversity Training
- New Communities
- Women & Peace
- Travellers & Peace
- Sport & Peace
- Rural Peace
- Urban Peace
- Conflict Resolution
- Youth Education
- Culture / Arts & Heritage
- Political / Historical

Activities undertaken by Sligo County Council as part of the Peace III Programme included a series of lunchtime lectures entitled 'The Challenge of Inclusion' which was attended by both staff and members of the public.



The Committee also hosted a visit from the CAN Peace Partnership a partnership committee which delivers Peace III Programme activities in Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey. Following a return visit by members of the Committee and further workshops together it was agreed to further develop this link.

Phase 2 of the Peace III Programme will commence in 2011 and activities under a newly developed Action Plan will run from 2011-2013.

Download a copy of the Peace Together newsletter at www.sligocdb.ie

Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committee

Joint Policing Committees were established under Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. They offer local authority elected members, An Garda Síochána, members of the Public & members of the Oireachtas, the opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of life within communities, by working together as a collective body. A Joint

Policing Committee was established in the Sligo County Council Administrative area in December 2008.

Membership of the Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committees

- **13** local authority elected members with at least 2 from each local electoral area. Each political grouping on the County Council must be represented on the JPC. The Cathaoirleach is an ex-officio member.
- **5** members of the Oireachtas. Each political grouping represented by Oireachtas members should have representation among the five.
- **The County Manager** who is an ex-officio member and a person nominated by him.
- **2** Garda officers nominated by the Commissioner and accompanied by other Garda Officers as need arises.
- **3** persons representing the Community and Voluntary sector in the county.

Functions of the Joint Policing Committee

To serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendation on matters affecting the policing of the Sligo County Council administrative area by:

- **Keeping under review:** levels & patterns of crime, disorder & anti-social behaviour in that area and factors underlying & contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.
- **Advising** the Local Authority and the Gardaí on how best they might perform their functions.
- **Arranging & hosting public meetings** concerning matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area.

In accordance with the JPC guidelines an annual work plan must be developed and agreed by the members. Priority actions of the 2010 Work Programme included the following:

Road Safety

On 20th October 2010, the Road Safety Sub Committee held a Road Safety Road Show in the Regional Sports Centre, Sligo, aimed at 4th year and transition year students. All post primary schools in Sligo were notified and a total of 548 students attended the show.

Rural Isolation / Older People

The Rural Isolation / Older Peoples sub committee has been actively researching the viability of establishing a Friendly Call Service in Co. Sligo over the past number of months. Funding of €5,725 has been secured from Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd., for initial set up costs, capacity building and training for volunteers.

Presentations were also made to the JPC by the Bill W Club, Sligo (an addiction support group) and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.

The Joint Policing Committee is a facilitating body and a forum for discussion. It engages with local communities to the greatest degree possible as they are important resources in tackling many of the issues currently being addressed by the Sligo County Council Joint Policing Committee.

Play & Recreation

Sligo Play Day 2010



The 2010 national Play Day in July saw Doorly Park taken over by children and families, as part of the National Play Day initiative which Sligo has taken part in since 2007. National Play Day is promoted by the National Play and Recreation Resource Centre (NPRRC), the key aim of which is to promote traditional games and activities and give all children an opportunity to take part (www.nprrc.ie).



This collaboration between Sligo County Council, Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Childcare Committee and Sligo Sport & Recreation Partnership saw a collection of events relating to play and sports undertaken in the Doorly Park Playzone. Representatives from the Rugby Club and Sligo Rovers and other coaches were on hand to provide outdoor sporting and play activities. Older children were instructed in the correct use of the newly installed climbing wall. Other activities included arts & crafts, story telling organised by

Sligo Library Service and a variety of races such as the egg & spoon race, wheelbarrow and sack races.

Tidy Towns 2010

Sligo County Council has worked, over the last number of years, in partnership with Tidy Towns Groups throughout the county providing advice and financial support.



This relationship has led to:

- A steady increase in group marks
- Improvements in the physical enhancement works in towns and villages
- The promotion of community development.

Tidy Town Committees – Group Photo

Tidy Towns Committees who entered the National Tidy Towns Competition were also eligible for the Tidy Towns Grants Scheme to assist their on-going activities.

The local Tidy Towns competition organised by Community & Enterprise attracted in excess of 100 entries in 2010 with categories for Best Kept Town / Village, Best Kept School, Best Kept Shop Front and Best Kept Housing Estates. Special Merit Awards were given to a

number of groups to acknowledge the extent of community involvement in their area and to a number of schools for their steady improvement in marks and continued participation in the competition.

Chewing Gum Litter Awareness Campaign

As part of their continuing involvement is the gum litter awareness campaign members of Sligo's Comhairle na nÓg designed new gum wraps (a folded cardboard pack containing 10 sheets of recycled paper to assist in the responsible disposal of chewing gum.)



The new slogan on these gum wraps – ‘Stick It To Me or Pay the Fee’ – was coined as a result of work by the members of the Comhairle on a cinema advertisement to highlight the importance of the correct disposal of such litter. To coincide with the distribution of the gum wraps their advertisement was shown in the cinema in Sligo during 2010. Visitors to the cinema were

reminded that the incorrect disposal of chewing gum is regarded a litter and can be subject to a fine of €150.

Tidy Towns committees have also been involved in this awareness raising and education initiative. In this year's National Tidy Towns competition the commitment of Ballymote Tidy Towns Committee to tackling the issue of chewing gum litter was recognised when they were awarded the National Gum Litter Awareness Award.

Sligo Pride of Place Competition 2010

Three community groups from Sligo were awarded prizes in the Pride of Place competition at an awards ceremony held in Trim, Co. Meath on 14th November, 2010. The competition which is organised by Co-operation Ireland recognises and celebrates the vital contributions that community partnerships make to society. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their local area.

The three entries from Sligo were:

Group	Category	Results
Western Drama Festival & Phoenix Players	Community Arts Initiative	1 st place
Ballinacorney Development Association	Population up to 200	Runner-up
Ballintrillick Environmental Group	Community Response to unemployment	Runner-up

Community groups from every county in Ireland were represented at the awards ceremony which is the final celebration event for the groups who have been chosen to represent their county in this prestigious competition.

In the lead up to the awards night judges from Co-operation Ireland visit each of the groups which gives them the opportunity to showcase the tremendous work and community driven activities which have evoked civic pride in their area. The judges visited the groups in Sligo in July and were impressed by the enthusiasm, community spirit and achievements of all groups.



*2010 Entries in the National
Pride of Place Judging
Competition*

Communities throughout Sligo have ensured that Sligo has featured in the results of the Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition since 2004. Successful entrants to date are:

This competition acknowledges and rewards people for their vital contributions to their local community and gives them the opportunity to showcase their achievements at a local and All Island level.

Community & Voluntary Grants Scheme 2010 & Burial Grounds

The Community & Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme 2010 attracted applications from a wide and varied selection of Community and Voluntary Organisations working in County Sligo.

The Scheme was divided into two categories:

(a) Community and Voluntary Sector General Grant

The aim of this Grant Scheme is to support and encourage the work and activities of Community and Voluntary Organisations throughout the County. A total of 53 applications were received and Groups were awarded grants of between €250 and €1000.

(b) Burial Ground General Grant

The aim of this Grant Scheme is to support and encourage the work and activities of Burial Ground Committees who carry out excellent work in the upkeep and maintenance of their burial grounds. A total of 54 applications were received. Grant aid of €400 was given to county based burial ground committees.

Sligo Volunteer Centre 2010

Sligo Volunteer Centre is an information & referral service for voluntary activity in County Sligo. They offer advice to people who wish to volunteer and also offer support & training to 'Not for Profit' organisations who wish to involve volunteers.

2010 saw many changes in the sector, and needless to say external influences have had a considerable impact on the service of Sligo Volunteer Centre.

In terms of volunteers, we have continued to see a growth in volunteer numbers. The current economic climate has certainly meant that more and more people have more time on their hands. It also means that the expectations of volunteers have shifted slightly, with many people getting involved in volunteering with a view to re-training and in exploring new career opportunities.

With regards to Community & Voluntary organisations, many have seen resources – both human and financial cut. This has a direct impact in the capacity of the organisation to involve volunteers, ironically at a time when they need it most. It also has a knock on effect

on the capacity of the organisation to manage volunteers once they get involved in their organisation. The success of any volunteer programme, does take an ongoing investment of time and resources.

Sligo Volunteer Centre's resources have not increased over this period either, and so the challenge for us remains to support an overstretched, under resourced sector to effectively involve volunteers at a time when there is a wealth of highly skilled people waiting in the wings to get involved. We will continue to support the Community & Voluntary sector to best harness and embrace the opportunities that exist in these challenging times.

Staff

The staff & roles within the centre are as follows:

- Ms. Ciara Herity, Manager (Part time)
- Ms. Riona Rochford, Placement Officer (Part time)
- Ms. Paula Naughton, Outreach & Development Officer (Part time)

2010 Facts & Figures

- 297 volunteers registered with our service and were offered the support of our Placement Officer and other staff members.
- 55% of those volunteers who registered in 2010 had never previously volunteered
- 64 Community & Voluntary Organisations registered with our service. Between these and previously registered organisations 183 new volunteer vacancies were registered.
- From January 2010 to the end of December 2010 Sligo Volunteer Centre made 224 placements within a variety of Community & Voluntary Groups.
- In relation to the total numbers of volunteers who registered in 2010, the placement rate was 27% and a further 33% referred to organisations.
- All placements made in 2010 generated 17,277 voluntary hours to local groups.

Leading the Way

Sligo Volunteer Centre are proactive on taking the lead around issues or in developing programmes to meet a specific area of need or to promote volunteering to a particular sector.

Promotion of Volunteer Coordinator's within Community & Voluntary Groups

Throughout the period 2009 and 2010, Sligo Volunteer Centre saw a huge gap in many larger organisations and in their capacity to involve and manage volunteers. The issue was around not having the resources to have a dedicated person to be a Volunteer Coordinator within the organisation. In other words, there was no person with responsibility for actively recruiting volunteers, responding to their queries, processing their applications and involving them in the organisation. With these tasks left amongst a number of staff and with it being nobody's sole responsibility, it was difficult for the organisations to attract and retain volunteers.

Paula Naughton, Outreach & Development worker, did a lot of intensive work with a number of organisations to develop a voluntary role of Volunteer Coordinator. The role typically involves the volunteer carrying out their duties 1-2 mornings per week. It is now working very successfully in a number of organisations and we continue to work with further organisations to implement it.

Organisations where it is working to date:

- St. Johns Hospital
- Sligo General Hospital
- The Irish Wheelchair Association

The National Day of Volunteering 2010



Sligo Volunteer Centre launched the National Day of Volunteering 2010 in the Sligo County Council Chamber. National Day of volunteering is a national campaign promoted by Sligo Volunteer Centre and other member centres of Volunteer Centre's Ireland around the country and is designed to provide people of all ages with an opportunity to get involved locally and try their hand at something new.

Launch of Sligo General Hospital Volunteer Programme

Sligo General Hospital took the opportunity of National Day of Volunteering to launch their new Volunteer Programme which involves Meet & Greet volunteers based in the hospital foyer to assist people in finding their way around.



Group of Sligo General Hospital 'Meet & Greet' Volunteers at the launch of Sligo General Hospital Volunteer Programme on the National Day of Volunteering 2010

Information Day in conjunction with Positive Ageing Week

Positive Ageing Week is a week of events organized by the Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd., and other agencies to focus on the positive aspects of ageing and to promote services available to older people.

An Information Day, organised by Sligo Volunteer Centre and Positive Ageing Week committee was held in the Sligo Park Hotel on National Day of Volunteering. This was an opportunity for members of Active Age Groups to see what local community services were available to them.

Volunteer Management Training

Sligo Volunteer Centre rolls out a national programme of Volunteer Management Training developed by Volunteer Centres Ireland (VCI). The training is aimed at the person within an organisation who will be managing volunteers. The topics covered in training are:

- Planning for volunteer involvement.
- Recruitment, Selection and Induction of volunteers.
- Day to Day management support and supervision of volunteers.
- Tools to design and implement a volunteer policy.

The training is run over 4 sessions and is a multi modular course. Sligo Volunteer Centre ran Volunteer Management Training in May 2010 and October 2010 with 16 organisations completing the course.



Participants of Volunteer Management Training Courses 2010 receiving their certificates of course completion

Sligo County Community & Voluntary Forum

The Sligo County Community Forum was established in 2000 as a voice for the community and voluntary sector in County Sligo. During 2010, the forum gained 46 new members and now has a registered membership of 702 community and voluntary groups in the County. The Forum acts as a network in County Sligo to enable the Community & Voluntary sector to meet and address common issues and concerns, and put forward those views at a county level.

The Sligo County Community Forum is managed by an Executive board of 25 members. Four members are nominated from each of the five local electoral areas in County Sligo. A further five members are held for 'sectoral' representatives on the Executive.

During 2010, Sligo County Community Forum took significant measures to reduce costs and implement more effective work practices. E- Communication with members was greatly enhanced and the forum executive reduced their meetings to every 2 months. Subgroups were also established to oversee particular projects. During 2010, the Forum was supported in its work by development consultant, Claire Galligan and their administrator, Catherine Brennan.

Key actions of the forum in 2010 were:

- **Diversity Training Project:** Throughout 2010 Sligo Forum in partnership with Claire Galligan Consultancy delivered a series of actions as part of a diversity training project on behalf of the the Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership committee. A full evaluation of the project was carried out and is available on the forum website www.sligocommunityforum.com.
- **Development of Policy Priorities for the Forum:** Desk research was conducted to identify policy areas for the forum to consider. The purpose was for forum representatives to identify a clear agenda for attending meetings and have long term goals in making policy changes at a local level. A policy sub group of the forum identified the following key areas for action and advocacy:
 - Meaningful representation
 - Housing and infrastructure
 - Community Development and Volunteerism
 - Water Charges for Community Groups
- **Policy Submissions** – Submissions were made to the Draft Sligo County Development Plan and the County Development Board Tourism Strategy.
- **'The impact of poverty in a changing Ireland' seminar** –Sligo County Community Forum in association with SIM received funding under the European Year for

combatting social exclusion and poverty. The seminar was held in September 2010, with Fergus Finlay as the keynote speaker. It identified key issues in relation to poverty in Sligo, a seminar report is available, see www.sligocommunityforum.com.

- **e-Bulletin and Website:** 12 Monthly E bulletins were distributed to over 750 contacts. In addition the forum website is regularly updated. Due to funding constraints in 2010 only one newsletter was issued. This was produced and distributed in March 2010.
- **Promotion and networking:** A large number of press releases were published in local papers in relation to the forum work, in addition the project workers provided on-the-phone and face to face support sessions with community organisations on a range of issues.
- **Claiming Our Future** – In November 2010 a public meeting was hosted by Sligo County Community Forum to bring together people in Sligo to talk about ‘what kind of Ireland they want in the future’. The main outcome of the meeting was that people felt that strong political reform was needed.
- **Research to explore the extent of racism and sectarianism in Sligo** – late in 2010 the Forum was successful in an application to deliver a partnership action with Sligo Peace Partnership Committee to carry out research. It is expected that this research will be completed in early 2011 and will inform the Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Plan and the promotion of positive community relations for the coming years.
- **Broadband Survey of County Sligo:** During 2010, Sligo County Community Forum were successful in a funding application to Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Ltd. The purpose of the survey was to identify broadband ‘blackspots’ in County Sligo to influence broadband investment in the region. The survey highlighted that 5-10% of the geographical area of the county will remain without access to broadband when the national broadband scheme is completed at the end of 2010. The Forum received significant support from Sligo County Council in carrying out this work and using the findings from the survey, officials of Sligo County Council met with officials in the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, to highlight the issues in Sligo. From this meeting the Department has agreed to work with the council and the Sligo County Community Forum to address the blackspots identified in the new rural broadband scheme proposed for 2011.
- **Representation on Committees:** During 2010 the Sligo County Community Forum voluntary executive members continued to participate on a wide array of committees and boards at a local and regional level to advocate for the community and voluntary sector.

2010 was a very busy and challenging year for Sligo County Community Forum. Sligo County Council continues to support the forum through the provision of an office, access to office equipment and meeting facilities, without which it would be impossible to run on such a limited budget. Despite ongoing funding challenges the forum is stronger than it ever was, with an active and involved membership. It is crucial to the executive that all efforts are made to ensure the continuation of the forum into the future, given its key role in supporting and advocating for the community and voluntary sector in the County. Further details on the forum and its work is available from www.sligocommunityforum.com

Sligo Arts Service

Sligo County Council provides for the investment and development of the cultural and artistic life of the City and County through implementation of its strategy *Space for Art Sligo Arts Plan 2007-2012*. In 2010, Sligo County Council Arts Service continued to work in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland and key stakeholders locally, regionally and nationally to deliver a high quality arts service enabling the local authority to:

- Support artists of all disciplines to make work of excellence.
- Promote public access, participation and engagement in the arts.
- Demonstrate and facilitate the important contribution the arts make to the social and economic well-being of the region.

Sligo Music

Following a mapping and scoping exercise, Sligo Arts Service entered a developmental and planning phase with the music sector - educators, musicians, promoters, venues, commissioners, festivals and events - to advance the key needs of marketing, networking and education. Sligo Music will work closely with the County Development Board under the Creative Sligo Initiative to elevate Sligo's position as a county with a distinctive musical offer.

Music in Drumcliffe 2010



The 11th Annual May Bank Holiday weekend chamber music festival successfully made the transition from Vogler Spring Festival, its original title from 2000-2009. The festival was anchored in Sligo by re-naming it 'Music in Drumcliffe' and the use of the image *Shoreline Bog* by the artist Seán McSweeney, who lives in the area. As festival ensemble-in-residence, the Vogler Quartet performed alongside highly acclaimed Irish and international musicians. Recognising the festival name change and Drumcliffe's long association with WB Yeats, Saturday and Sunday's late night concerts took on a Yeatsian theme.

Sligo Arts Service's music programme continued to support three local and voluntary run music promotion organisations which present professional events:

- **Con Brio** to run the high calibre Sligo Music Series.
- **Sligo Jazz Project** to run the annual Jazz summer school and festival.
- **Sligo Festival of Baroque Music** in October.

Children and Young People

The provision of high quality arts experiences, in and out of school, is a priority for Sligo Arts Service. **Live Music in the Classroom** and **Primary Colours** are two programmes which aim to enrich the primary school music and visual art curriculums through the involvement of practicing artists and musicians. In 2010, Sligo Arts Service, together with Sligo Education Centre and the wider Sligo Music Education Partnership delivered **Live Music in the Classroom** with 21 musicians and 21 primary schools.

In addition to school visits by participating musicians across the genre of traditional, classical and jazz, the programme also provides professional development opportunities for teachers and participating musicians.

The **Primary Colours** exhibition and workshop programme January-March 2010 was curated by Sligo Art Gallery in partnership with artists from the Graphic Studio, Dublin, who created works in response to poems by WB Yeats. A panel of local artists delivered the second of a two-year programme cycle to 6 schools. Sligo Arts Service and the arts community were saddened in 2010 to learn of the closure of Sligo Art Gallery due to national funding cuts, prompting Sligo Arts Service to redevelop the **Primary Colours** programme with Catherine Fanning Programme Co-ordinator and Sligo Education Centre who came on board as a new partner for Social Inclusion Week 2010.

This partnership has refocused professional development supports for teachers through the introduction of a newly developed teachers pack and website www.primarycolourssligo.ie incorporating paintings, drawings, prints and photographs from the Sligo Art Gallery Collection, a fitting legacy of the developmental partnership with the Gallery 2004-2010. This collection was also exhibited at Sligo Education Centre for Social Inclusion Week where 12 primary schools took part in an artist led exhibition tour and workshop.

In 2010, **County Sligo Youth Theatre** catered for 73 members in the age ranges 10-11; 12-14; 15-18 and a new grouping 18-25. Working under Director Marie de La Guéronnière the activities of County Sligo Youth Theatre in 2010 were as follows:

- Weekly workshops
- Main production 'Under a Naked Light' (an adaptation of A Streetcar Named Desire) to an audience of 300 over 4 nights in The Factory Performance Space in May
- Street Theatre at So Sligo Food Festival in March
- Cairde Festival in July
- Youth In Action programme in the town of Troia in Italy in July/August
- The Model's 'Inside Out Outside In' Workshop Programme under the Peace III Yeatsian Legacy Project
- 'Sligo Gaol' during Heritage Week in September
- Culture Night Sligo 'Mysteries and Fairies, the Gods of Pagan Ireland'
- Sligo Live 'Leggit'.

The ongoing annual programme of **Arts and Health** workshops continued in partnership

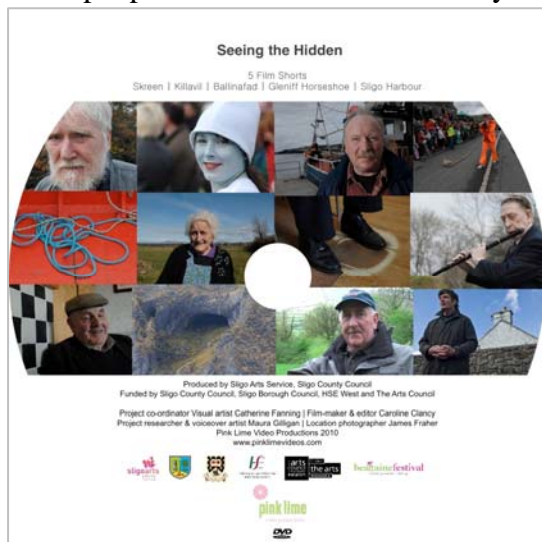


with the HSE West, schools and community groups. The 2010 programme completed a two year cycle with two intergenerational projects, as well as providing arts projects in a number of Day Care and Residential settings and with Active Age Groups. Two further intergenerational projects commenced their two-year cycle, based in Carraroe and Killavil Primary Schools.

Under a Naked Light - County Sligo Youth Theatre 2010

Bealtaine Festival – Celebrating Creativity in Older Age

Sligo Arts Service in partnership with the HSE West locally and Age & Opportunity nationally, presented Bealtaine Festival Sligo to promote all art forms made by, for and with older people and the wider community. The festival commission this year was the making of



five film shorts “Seeing the Hidden” with artists, community groups and individuals from Ballinafad, Killavil, Sligo Harbour, Gleniff Horseshoe and Skreen. Seeing the Hidden explores the cultural wealth of our communities using film to uncover the culture of Sligo by celebrating the creativity of the people and the power of the landscape. Other highlights included a special animation film about Countess Markievicz entitled “The Legacy of Belief”, an intergenerational art exhibition in Nazareth House together with concerts, dancing, singing, exhibitions, theatre, tours, lectures and literary events.

*A DVD of **Seeing the Hidden** is available from Sligo Arts Service.*

At the launch of the second annual **Culture Night**, the Mayor of Sligo Cllr Matt Lyons stated that “Culture Night Sligo offers an opportunity to reflect on the nature of culture, to consider what it means to our community, and to explore ways of making it more relevant to our daily lives.” The theme of this year’s Culture Night was ‘What Will You See?’ and there were over 50 cultural activities on offer, offering visitors and locals alike a taste of the vast and varied cultural offering available in Sligo all throughout the year. Culture Night is a national initiative co-ordinated by Temple Bar Cultural Trust and supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture & Sport in partnership with the Arts Service of Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council and the participating cultural organisations and individuals.

Below: ‘Butterfly Magic’ by Artist Sherrie Scott & Right ‘The Pied Piper’ by Artist Cillian Rogers on Culture Night 2010



Peace III

The Sligo Peace Action Plan, through individual actions such as two projects delivered by Sligo Arts Service and partners - the Legacy of Belief & the Yeatsian Legacy - aims to address the issues that are relevant to people in County Sligo (in the context of peace) and to tackle the impact of the Northern Ireland conflict within the County.

Through each project action, Sligo Arts Service and partners explored the legacy of the past together to build positive relations through actions and interventions in the areas of arts, culture, heritage and history.

The Yeatsian Legacy Project responded to the Arts & Culture Action of the Sligo Peace Plan and explored the work of the Yeats brothers and the legacy of the past through a series of workshops, talks, readings, exhibitions and events with partners Sligo County Council Arts Service, The Model, Institute of Technology Sligo and Omagh District Council.

A series of 7 talks in **IT Sligo** used the arts as a means to promote an understanding of cultural difference and to share experiences and expressions of divergent cultures, beliefs and ways of living. Lecturers were Declan McGonagle, Dr. Caoimhín Mac Giolla Leith, Katerina Gregos, Joseph Wolin, Phil Collins, Dr Christa-Maria Lerm Hayes and Annie Fletcher.

A **Literary Workshop Programme** encouraged participants to actively explore the drama and poetry of WB Yeats in engaging, accessible ways by looking at Yeats' work and his reputation in the context of local history and contemporary Irish writing from the Republic and Northern Ireland. The programme was complimented by a series of free public readings in Sligo and Omagh by Barry McGovern, Sinead Morrissey, Catherine Morris and Paul Muldoon.

A major Jack Yeats **Exhibition & Symposium** curated by The Model (Home of the Niland Collection) explored socio-political themes. Yeats himself was an outsider of sorts, both to the people he chose to paint and, as an Anglo-Irish Republican, to the society in which he was raised. Jack B Yeats: The Living Ginger, co-curated by Emer McGarry and internationally renowned art critic Brian O'Doherty, ran from July to September at The Model Sligo and from October to January 2011 at Millennium Arts Centre Portadown. The Symposium: **Sectarianism and Identity in Ireland Today** gathered a diverse panel of speakers to respond to the challenges posed by sectarianism and identity in post conflict Ireland. Speakers include Brian O'Doherty, Francis McKee, Dr. Mike Cronin, Susan McKay and Duncan Campbell.



Inside Out/Outside In was a creative line up of performances and workshops which took place over 8 weekends at The Model. Inspired by the early works of Jack B Yeats, the workshops coincided with the Exhibition and aimed to promote an understanding and awareness of cultural diversity and difference through the experience of art and creativity.

The **Legacy of Belief** project responded to the Political/Historical Action of the Sligo Peace Plan. It provided opportunities to interrogate historical events and examine the material culture left behind through museum visits and looking at personal and family treasured objects.

It facilitated learning through group discussions, a talks programme, workshops and museum visits in Derry, Belfast and Sligo. The perspectives of local Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, traveler and immigrant people informed the process and culminated in the publication of a 144-page colour, illustrated book that represents the views of 21 local participants on their own and Sligo's history.

This publication *The Legacy of Belief, A Community's Response to History* is available from Sligo Arts Service.



Mary McAuliffe, Arts Officer, Helen O'Hara Project Administrator and Sligo group with representative for the Mayor of Derry

Public Art

A Public Art commission, **The Garden of Sound and Memory**, was completed by artist Jackie McKenna and launched by Michael Flatley in a memorable celebration organised by Sligo County Council with the community of Culfadda in June 2010. The garden was created



to celebrate Culfadda's special place in the renowned South Sligo tradition of music and dance from the time of the Country House Dance to the vibrant traditional culture of today. In particular, the exceptional talent of Michael Flatley and his outstanding achievement of bringing Irish music and dance to the world stage is honoured. This specially commissioned artwork is dedicated to Michael Flatley, and to his father, a native of Culfadda.

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Murray says it was obvious from a very early age that Michael Flatley was an exceptional talent and has followed his career closely to this day. 'I enjoyed very generous hospitality from the Flatley family on various trips to America, and it was a special honour to dedicate the *garden of music and memory* in Culfadda as a tribute to both Michael and his family as well as the local musicians and dancers of the area.'

In his address the Cathaoirleach said the visit of Michael Flatley ‘was a special day of celebration for the people of Culfadda. For an area steeped in the rich traditions of Irish Music and Culture, there is an enormous sense of pride in welcoming home someone who has made an outstanding contribution to this tradition on the world stage. One of the priorities I set myself as Cathaoirleach was to work with the Culfadda community to find some way to honor Michael Flatley, and I think I speak for the whole community when I say the ‘Garden of Music and Memory’ is a beautiful and fitting testament which will be enjoyed and admired for many generations.’

“...for peace comes dropping slow...” Per Cent for Art Film Commission premiered in the Gaiety Cinema, Sligo in October. During two fine summer days, people from all over



Ireland, including participants in the Peace III Yeatsian Legacy Project and a team of young actors and performers, joined Director, Lisa Vandegrift Davala to take part in the film shoot on location at Carrane Hill Bog, Culleenamore Strand and Lough Gill, to inscribe this ‘Land of Heart’s Desire’ with the line and mark of W.B. Yeats’ poetic light.

The Public Art Officer commenced the development of a new **Public Art Programme**, informed by consultations with the old and new Public Art Steering Groups and each of the Departments administering capital schemes and drawing down Per Cent for Art funding.

Under **Arts Grants & Bursaries**, Sligo County Council provided significant support to Sligo’s important network of arts organisations who have national and international reach, namely The Model, Blue Raincoat Theatre Company, The Hawk’s Well Theatre and Sligo Live. These organisations act as core infrastructural pillars that support artists and arts projects. Furthermore, they provide employment and do important outreach and education work with communities across the city and county. Maintaining support to these organisations is crucial to sustaining Sligo’s reputation as a ‘cultural county’.

The Council also provided essential financial support to a broad range of voluntary and community based festivals and events and to individual artists through contributions and advertised grant/bursary schemes. Sligo Arts Service regards this network as the backbone of arts and cultural activity at local level. Organisations & events in receipt of financial support included County Sligo Fleadh, Feis Shligigh, Sligo Feis Ceoil, Ballintogher Traditional Festival, South Sligo Summer School, Coleman Traditional Festival, James Morrison Weekend, Paddy Killoran Festival, Cinema North West Made in Sligo Festival, Coleman Country Bodhrán School, Cos Cos Dance Group, Sligo Traditional Singers Festival, Western Drama Festival and 4 Bars Later Barbershop Chorus.

**Infrastructural Services
and Environment
Directorate**

Road Transportation & Safety

National Primary, Secondary, Regional and Local Road – Maintenance and Improvement & Support to Roads Capital Programme

A total of over €15.71 million was expended on the maintenance and upgrade of the public road network in County Sligo in 2010. Work has also progressed on the planning, design & construction of key strategic national and non national road projects serving County Sligo and Sligo City - the Gateway City of the North West. The National Roads Authority and the Department of Transport Non-National Roads Division, in addition to Sligo County Council, were the key funding agencies for this programme.

A total of €169,000 was also expended on the upgrade of non-public roads under the Local Improvement Scheme of works in 2010.

The Council's road network in County Sligo is summarised as follows (excluding Borough Urban Roads):

ROUTE	LENGTH KM	% OF TOTAL
National Primary	105.84	3.9
National Secondary	47.38	1.8
Regional	238.88	8.8
Local	2,302.90	85.5
Total	2,695km	100%

The tables below show the details of the National and Regional Roads in Sligo.

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH
N4	Sligo City to Roscommon Co. Boundary	34.35km
N15	Sligo City to Bunduff Br.	27.04km
N16	Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary	10.39km
N17	Collooney to Bellahy	34.06km
	Total	105.84km

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH
N59	Ballysadare to Mayo Co. Boundary	47.38km

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH
R277	Killaspugbrone to Sligo Airport	1.7km
R278	Sligo to Carrickoneilleen	7.63km
R279	Cliffoney to Mullaghmore	4.4km
R284	Carrowroe to Rosc. Co. Boundary	26.6km
R286	Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary	11.2km
R287	Sligo City to Leitrim Co. Boundary via	15.89km

	Carrowroe	
R290	Ballysadare to Ballintogher.	14.63km
R291	Sligo City to Rosses Point	7.83 km
R292	Sligo City to Strandhill to Ballydrehid	18.56km
R293	Ballinaboll to Gurteen to Rosc. Co. Boundary	25.8km
R294	Cloonloo to Tubbercurry to Lough Talt	42.5km
R295	Ballymote to Keash to Rosc. Co. Boundary	14.6km
R296	Ballymote to Bunnannaddan to R294	10.2km
R297	Dromore West to Enniscrone to Co. Boundary	29.8km
R298	N59 to Lacknatlieva to R297	4.9km
R361	Roscommon Co. Boundary to Killaraght to Rosc.Co	1.6km
R870	Sligo City - Pearse Road / Markievicz Road	1.37km
	Total	239.21km

Local Roads are Categorised into Local Primary, Secondary or Tertiary and are summarised as follows:

CLASS	LENGTH KM	%OF TOTAL
Primary	581.8	25.3
Secondary	932	40.5
Tertiary	789.1	34.2
Total	2,302.9km	100%

National Roads

A total of €1,123,601 was allocated in 2010 by the National Roads Authority towards the maintenance and improvement of the 153.2 km of national road network in County Sligo. The grants were increased for some schemes during the year and the total grants received from the NRA amounted to €1,729,697.

National Roads Pavement Overlays

The following pavement and improvement works were undertaken by the Road Design Department of Sligo County Council in 2010 with grants allocated by the National Roads Authority.

N15 Pavement Overlay Contract – Cliffoney

This project consisted of the overlay and resurfacing of 1.47 km of the N15 National Primary north of Cliffoney. The project was completed with a final 2010 expenditure cost of €22,564.75. The works included the regulating of the existing road surface with bituminous material, provision of geogrid in required locations, placing of AC 20 dense binder course

and CI942 surfacing course. In addition the project included plaining out at tie-ins, side roads, raising of verges, adjustment of ironwork, accommodation works, road lining and traffic management. The total area of pavement included was approximately 8681 sq. metres.

N59 Pavement Overlay Contract – Glebe

This project consisted of the overlay and resurfacing of 1.5 km of the Road N59 National Secondary Road at Glebe. The project cost €398,134.34. The works included the regulating of the existing road surface with bituminous material, provision of geogrid in required locations, placing of AC 20 dense binder course and HRA surfacing course. The project also included plaining out at tie-ins, side roads, raising of verges, adjustment of ironwork, accommodation works, road lining and traffic management. The total area of pavement included was approximately 11736 sq. metres.

N59 Pavement Overlay Contract – Beltra

This project consisted of the overlay and resurfacing of 2.2 km of the Road N59 National Secondary Road at Beltra. The project cost €17,684.19. The works included the regulating of the existing road surface with bituminous material, provision of geogrid in required locations, placing of AC 20 dense binder course, CI942 surfacing course and HRA surfacing course. In addition, the project included plaining out at tie-ins, side roads, raising of verges, adjustment of ironwork, accommodation works, road lining and traffic management. The total area of pavement included was approximately 16254 sq. metres.

N4 & N17 Pavement Surfacing Repairs Contract

This project consisted of pavement repair works at four separate site locations at N4 Lackagh, N4 Drumderry, N17 Cloonacurra and the N17 Carrowreilly. The overall contract consisted of the following:

- 4582 sq metres of 14 mm single surface dressing
- 856 sq metres of HRA Surfacing (40mm thick)
- 1712 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (55 mm thick)
- 6773 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (75 mm thick)
- 4228 sq metres of geogrid
- 4228 sq metres of plaining
- Road Marking & Studs
- Traffic Management

The project cost was €183,289.36.

N15 & N16 Pavement Surfacing Repairs Contract

This project consisted of pavement repair works at six separate site locations at N15 Sligo Borough, N15 Rathcormack, N15 Drumcliff, N16 Duck Street roundabout, N16 Ballytivnan and the N16 Lugnagall. The overall completed contract consisted of the following:

- 10129 sq metres of HRA Surfacing (40 mm thick)
- 7633 sq metres of CI942 Surfacing (40 mm thick)
- 26934 sq metres of AC 20 dense bindercourse (55 mm thick)
- Tack Coat
- 10405 sq metres of geogrid
- 17749 sq metres of plaining
- Raising of Ironwork

- Road Marking & Studs
- Traffic Management

The project cost was €540,447.13.

N59 Pavement Surfacing Repairs Contract

This project consisted of pavement repair works at seven separate site locations on the N59 National Secondary Road at Carraun, Culleens, Owenbeg, Carrigans, Camcuill, Templeboy East and Caltragh. The overall completed contract consisted of the following:

- 7360 sq metres of 14 mm single surface dressing
- 6522 sq metres of HRA Surfacing (40 mm thick)
- 13044 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (55 mm thick)
- 220 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (60 mm thick)
- 8202 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (75 mm thick)
- 108 sq metres of 20 mm DBM Bindercourse (80 mm thick)
- 215 tonnes of 20 mm DBM regulating material
- 8179 sq metres of geogrid
- Road Marking & Studs
- Traffic Management

The project cost was €472,231.26.

National Road Major Schemes

A total of €2,660,000 was allocated in 2010 to the planning & design of major national road schemes as follows:

Non-National Roads

A total of €9,819,699 was allocated by the Department of Transport Non-National Roads Division towards the maintenance and improvement of the non-national road network in County Sligo in 2010. A further €169,000 was allocated towards the improvement of non-public roads under the Local Improvement Scheme Grant.

Restoration Maintenance Grant

The Restoration Maintenance Grant is used to protect the structural integrity of Non-National Roads by way of surface dressing. Most of the roads improved under this programme had to be shaped and strengthened with bitumen macadam/crushed stone before surface dressing them. There were five schemes on Regional Roads and 4.94km of road was improved. Twenty four schemes on Local Roads were carried out in 2010 and 24.01km of road was surfaced. The Grant was €1,685,000.

Restoration Improvement Grant

This grant was used for surface restoration and road re-construction on Non National Roads. The roads were strengthened/shaped with stone or bitumen macadam and drainage works were carried out as necessary.

There were fourteen schemes carried out on Regional Roads and 13.525 km of road was improved. The Restoration Improvement Grant was €5,640,000.

Local Road Maintenance

The “own resource 2010 allocation” of Sligo County Council towards the general maintenance of the local road network was €600,000. This is used for pothole repairs, verge maintenance and general maintenance of Local Roads.

Non-National Road Specific Improvement Projects

A total grant of €838,000 was allocated by Department of Transport towards the following improvement projects in 2010 under the Specific Improvement Grant Programme.

Road Number	Location	Budget €
R284	Drumiskabole	470,000
R286	Ballinode	130,000

Bridge Improvements funded under Specific Improvement Grants.

Road Number	Bridge	Budget €
L3303-0	Doonowney	78,000
R287	Castleore	40,000
L7123	Rathfrash	52,000
L2605-0	Killanly	20,000
R287	Aghamore	48,000
	Total	838,000

All the above projects were completed in 2010. The works carried out included road realignment/strengthening, repair and replacement as necessary to bridges supporting public roads, taking cognisance of the built heritage of pertinent structures.

Improvements works will continue on other projects in 2011 subject to ongoing Department of Transport funding. These projects help to improve access to the region, promote economic activity and improve road safety.

Discretionary Maintenance Grant

Sligo received a Discretionary Maintenance Allocation of €1,432,000 in 2010. This was allocated to miscellaneous improvements / maintenance of the non-national road network including enhancements to footpaths in towns and villages.

Improvements / Maintenance Works included:-

- Winter Maintenance.
- Improvements to the traffic route lighting network
- Improvement to road signage.
- Repairs to the bridge infrastructure.
- Miscellaneous road & drainage works and junction improvements.

Local Improvement Scheme

A grant of €169,000 was allocated towards the improvement of non-public roads by Department of Transport for this programme in 2010. A total of 8 improvement projects were undertaken.

Road Safety

Engineering Improvement / Safety Measures

€180,000 was allocated in 2010 by the Department of Transport under the low cost safety improvement scheme to undertake improvements at five number locations on the non-national road network.

A grant of €150,000 was also allocated by the National Roads Authority towards road safety remedial measures at four locations on the National Primary roads and €45,000 for two schemes along N59 in County Sligo in 2010. Sites were chosen where the incidences of collisions were high historically. Engineering measures such as enhanced signage and lining, safety barriers etc. as appropriate were provided.

The National Road Grants related to Schemes at:-

- N4 – Ardloy
- N15 – Grange
- N15 – Traffic Calming within Borough
- N17 – Ballynacarrow (Junction)
- N59 – Dromard
- N59 – Dromore West

The Non National Schemes were located at:-

- R297
- R279
- R287 – Pearse Road, Sligo
- Old N4 at Carrowgobbadagh

Road Safety Promotion/Education

Sligo's Road Safety Officer continued to be proactive in promoting safety on the road networks in County Sligo in 2010. The emphasis this year was on targeting the critical mid-to-late teen's audience.

The main items of note were:-

- **Road Safety Roadshow** - Sligo Local Authorities hosted its first Road Safety Roadshows. The two shows were a great success with over 500 Transition Year students attending. The show itself is quite hard-hitting for the audience and pulls no punches in delivering the road safety message to impressionable teenagers.
- **Radio Advertising** - Advertising campaigns were run on Radio in conjunction with other neighbouring Local Authorities. The target audience was late-teens & early 20's.
- **Sligo Rally** - We continued to promote road safety during the Connaught Motor Rally's Sligo Stage. The target audience were male drivers ranging between the age of late-teens to 40 years old.
- **Hi-Vis Vests** - We held a trial on the use of hi-visibility vests during the winter for National School children in rural schools. An assessment may lead to this initiative being introduced in all rural national schools in 2011.

- **Fatal Road Traffic Collisions** - All fatal road traffic collisions continue to be jointly inspected by Gardai and the Road Safety Officer.

Major National Road Schemes

A total of €1,243,667 was allocated in 2010 to the planning & design of major national road schemes as follows:

N17 Tobercurry Bypass

This scheme is approx. 11 km in length and extends from the townland of Rathscanlon, south of Tobercurry, through the townlands of Ballyara, Carrowntober, Tobertelly, Muckelty, Tawnavoultry and Carrowclare and ties back with the existing N17 in the townland of Carrowreilly. Work commenced on the route selection process over ten years ago with the Preferred Route adopted in May 2001. In 2010, Baseline Surveys for the EIS were undertaken and these are currently being finalised. Other design revisions and cost management exercises have been completed. It is intended that the Preliminary Design, Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS) Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and other project deliverables will be finalised and submitted to the NRA in early 2011. Publication of the CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

N17 Tobercurry Bypass – Collooney

This is the northern part of the N17 scheme and the Preferred Route was adopted in 2001. Work has been ongoing on this scheme on an intermittent basis since 2006. EIS baseline surveys carried out in 2006 are currently being updated and work is ongoing at present in relation to Preliminary Design, EIS, CPO and other project deliverables. It is intended that these will be complete in 2011. Publication of the CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

N4 Realignment Collooney – Castlebaldwin

It is proposed to upgrade the section of road from Collooney to Castlebaldwin to a Type 2 Dual Carriageway. The scheme is 14.4 km in total and consists of 12.7 km of new road from Doorly to Castlebaldwin as well as 2.7 km of online section from Collooney to Doorly. The Route for this Scheme was selected in May 2002 and at present work is underway updating baseline environmental surveys. When these are complete, the Preliminary Design, EIS, CPO and other Project Appraisal Deliverables will be prepared. It is intended to have these completed by the end of 2011. Publication of the CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

N4/N15 Sligo to County Boundary

Work commenced on Route Selection for the N15 Sligo to County Boundary in 2004 and has been proceeding at a steady rate since then. Ryan Hanley WSP were appointed as consultants in 2007 and they have delivered the Preliminary Design, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). These were submitted to the NRA for approval in mid 2010, however due to the Economic downturn, funding for the whole scheme will not be forthcoming. In order to progress part of the scheme Sligo County Council sent various options to the NRA for discussion purposes in late 2010. The option favoured by the NRA was to construct a smaller scheme from Hughes Bridge to the Borough Boundary. This will include the widening of Hughes Bridge. Preliminary Design Drawings, EIS, CPO drawings and other Project deliverables are currently being updated. This Scheme has been titled “N4/N15 Sligo Urban Road Improvement”. It is intended that the Preliminary Design Report, EIS, CPO and other project deliverables will be submitted to the NRA for

approval in 2011. Publication of the CPO and EIS will be subject to approval and funding from the NRA.

Bridge Repairs, Reconstruction & Strengthening 2010

Sligo County Council continued with bridge repair works in 2010, generally on old stone bridges in urgent need of attention around the County. All work was designed and supervised by Sligo County Council.

Specific Improvement Works included:

Doonoweny Bridge, Lissadell

These works consisted of rebuilding of upstream voussoirs and reconstruction of partially collapsed and heavily bulging wingwall supporting the road and the construction of new parapets.



Restoration Work



Completed work

Rathfrack Bridge Reconstruction

This unusual sandstone beam bridge was verging on collapse in certain areas and as a result the piers supporting the structure were strengthened and the entire superstructure replaced with reinforced concrete slabs to accommodate modern traffic loads. The external appearance of the structure was restored to its original form using the available sandstone as shown. Stone work was carried out by Sligo County Council staff.



Before Reconstruction



After Reconstruction

Other bridges repaired included:

- Derreen Bridge West
- Carraun Bridge
- Aghamore Bridge
- Castleore Bridge.

The NRA also funded substantial widening works to two bridges on the N17 near Curry, to the value of circa €400,000. This work involved the use of a new arching system not used before on any public road in the Republic.

The following photograph shows the larger of the two bridges, namely Callowhoge Bridge.



Installation of the new concrete arch extension system The completed job, N17 near Curry

Water Services

The Water Services Project Office of Sligo County Council has responsibility for project management and administration of all water services infrastructural development projects. The projects are funded via the:

- A. Water Services Investment Programme.
- B. Rural Water Programme.

Water Services Investment Programme

Major Projects completed in recent years include the following;

Kilsellagh Water Treatment Plant

The construction of the new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh has been completed and is now fully operational. The 20 year operation and maintenance contract commenced during June 2010. It will serve Sligo City and its environs including the Rosses Point peninsula and the North Fringe area. The new plant, which includes a new 2,500m³ treated water reservoir, will have a maximum throughput capacity of 400m³/hr. The estimated Design Build project cost is €7.8M.



New Kilsellagh Water Treatment Plant

Sligo Main Drainage Wastewater Treatment Plant (Design Build Operate(DBO) Contract)

This new Wastewater Treatment Plant (50,000 pe), Pumping Station and Sludge Hub Centre at Finisklin, Sligo was completed during 2009. The total project cost was €37m. The plant is now fully operational and the 2011 operation and maintenance costs will be approximately €1.2m.

Teesan / Lisnalurg Sewerage Scheme (Serviced Land Initiative)

This Service Land Initiative scheme involved the provision of water mains, foul and storm sewers, and a foul sewage pumping station to service the zoned catchment in the Teesan/Lisnalurg area. Construction of the scheme was completed in the third quarter of 2009 and the outturn scheme costs were €4.6m.

Enniscrone Bundled DBO Scheme

The Enniscrone (and six villages) bundled DBO scheme was completed in July 2008 at a total cost of €5.0 m. The project is now in year 3 of the 20 year O&M contract which will cost approximately €0.6 m in 2011.

Other Projects currently at various stages of planning/procurement/construction include:

Water Conservation Works

Stage 2 - Leakage Detection and Control works of the Water Conservation Project are ongoing. A detailed report on Stage 3 Mains rehabilitation for the County and Borough areas was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) during 2008. The estimated cost for the entire Stage 3 works was €54 m incorporating 11 phases. Following a request from the DEHLG, a detailed works proposal for 5 phases was submitted.

Water Conservation Stage 3 – Phase 1 Works (Sligo City)

In December 2009, the DEHLG approved Phase 1 works on the Sligo & Environs Scheme. The Site Investigation Works Contract commenced in October 2010 and was completed in January 2011. The detailed design and procurement of the Mains Rehabilitation Contract are being progressed and will proceed to tender in the second quarter of 2011. The budget for Phase 1 is €4.7m.



Water Conservation – Stage 3 Works Phase 1 (Sligo City) - Site Investigation Contract

Water Conservation Works - South Sligo Mains Rehabilitation Contract

Following submission of a Rehabilitation Works proposal for South Sligo to the DEHLG, approval was acquired to commence Stage 3 works in South Sligo. 700 m of watermain



rehabilitation works have been completed in 2010 on the South Sligo water supply scheme (see photograph below of works completed by Water Services direct labour staff.) Site Investigations works were completed in the fourth quarter of 2010 for the remaining 8.6 km of rising main and distribution mains. The Tender documents have been completed and procurement of this contract will be progressed in the first quarter of 2011. It is anticipated that this contract will be completed during 2011.

South Sligo - Stage 3 - Mains Rehabilitation Works in Monastersaden

Water Conservation Stage 3 – Phase 2 Works (Lough Talt)

This project relates to the second phase of the rehabilitation works proposal submitted to the Department for mains rehabilitation on the Lough Talt RWSS. A detailed budget was

submitted to the Department for approval in December 2009 for €5.4m. The procurement phase will be advanced pending budgetary approval from the Department.

Lough Talt Regional Water Supply Scheme

The Preliminary Report which assessed demands, sources, treatment options, and storage and network improvements has been completed and submitted to the Department for approval. The project, as outlined in the Preliminary Report, is proposed to be advanced in four phases:

- Proposed new water treatment plant (12,500m³)
- Intake works
- Network improvements
- South Sligo interconnector

The Preliminary Report cost estimate for completion of the entire scheme is €31m with the costs for Phase 1 estimated at €8.7m. In June 2010, Part 8 planning was acquired for a new Water Treatment works for Lough Talt in the townland of Gortersluin, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo. Work has commenced on the preparation of a Water Abstraction Order and an Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrade of the Lough Talt Water Supply Scheme and these statutory procedures will be advanced during 2011.

Grange, Strandhill & Tubbercurry Grouped Sewerage Improvement Scheme

These three schemes involving the provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure for the towns of Tubbercurry (5000 PE), Grange (2500 PE) and Strandhill (4500 PE) are to be advanced as a single DBO project. The upgrade of Ballinafad WwTP, funded from the Rural Water Small Schemes Programme, has also been added to this project to deliver further value for money. This DBO scheme has now been included in the new Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 in the major schemes category and it is being progressed with the knowledge and consent of the Department through all stages.

Cliffoney & Ballinacarrow Sewerage Scheme

These schemes involve the provision of new wastewater treatment infrastructure. The preliminary reports have been submitted to the Department. It is also proposed to advance statutory procedures for new Waste Water Treatment Plants in Cliffoney and Ballinacarrow during 2011 with the consent of the Department through all stages.

Ballymote & Collooney Sewerage Schemes

This project involves the review and upgrade of existing sewerage schemes in Ballymote (3000 PE) and Collooney (1400 PE). The two schemes have been bundled into one project in order to deliver the best value for money. The project has been scheduled to advance through the planning stages of the investment programme.

Sligo & Environs Sewerage Scheme (G) (Rosses Point/Cregg/Ballincar Network)

This scheme relates to the provision of pumping stations and associated pipeline infrastructure for the transfer of raw sewage effluent from the Ballincar, Cregg and Rosses point catchments to Sligo Main Drainage WwTP for treatment. Part 8 planning has been acquired for Cregg pumping station and land acquisition procedures are being progressed. Detailed design and tender documentation can be progressed subject to the necessary funding approvals.

Sligo & Environs Sewerage Scheme - Phase 2

The network collection schemes in the Sligo City area including Ballincar/Cregg/Rosses Point, Cummeen and Carraroe have been combined into the Sligo & Environs Sewerage Scheme in the new investment programme and they will be progressed subject to the necessary funding approvals. Works to be progressed subject to the necessary funding approvals include:

- Complete CCTV surveys on other parts of the Sligo city network to establish a prioritized schedule of works which can be advanced on a phased basis.
- Flow Load survey and modeling of the entire network.

A detailed design review report for the Cummeen Sewerage scheme which involves the installation of sewerage infrastructure in the Cummeen, Rathonoragh areas has been submitted to the DoEHLG. Pending formal approval from the DoEHLG and the necessary finances, the scheme can proceed to detailed design and procurement phases.

A revised Preliminary Report for the provision of foul and storm water drainage in the Carraroe area has been submitted to the DoEHLG for approval. Pending approval from the DoEHLG and the necessary funding the scheme can be advanced to the next stage.

Rural Water Programme

Small Water and Sewerage Schemes

Ballymote Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade Works

Process upgrade works were carried out at Ballymote wastewater treatment plant involving the provision of automated fine screening/new pumping station with 2 duty/standby pumps and various instrumentation such as flow measurement, Dissolved Oxygen probes, dial out alarm, etc. All works were completed during 2010.

Lough Easkey Water Treatment Plant Upgrade works

Following a detailed review of the Lough Easkey plant process, minor improvement works were completed in 2010. These included installing instrumentation, signalling, PLC and HMI in Lough Easkey and linking it back to the existing water Services SCADA system for remote monitoring. This system, together with dial out alarms system in the case of a system failure, will increase the controlling capabilities in order to achieve a higher level of process control.

North Sligo Water Treatment Plant Sludge System Upgrade works

Following a detailed review of the plant, Sligo County Council completed the detailed design of upgrading works at the Sludge System. This will involve the installation and commissioning of a Picket Fence thickener, centrifuge, polyelectrolyte dosing units and associated civil works. Procurement of an upgraded sludge system for the North Sligo water treatment plant, as well as a back-up ground water source, are currently being advanced and are expected to be completed early in 2011.

An upgrade of the telemetry monitoring system, which included the installation of remote monitoring of the 7 reservoirs and the water treatment plant on the North Sligo scheme, was completed during 2010. Also completed were upgrading works on the existing SCADA system at the water treatment plant.

Bunninadden Wastewater Treatment Works upgrading Works

This scheme involves the upgrade of the wastewater treatment works with a design capacity of 350 PE for the village of Bunninadden. Part 8 planning and land acquisition have been completed for this scheme in 2010. It is anticipated that the tender documents and procurement for the scheme will be completed in 2011.

Ballintogher Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrading Works

This project involves the upgrade of the wastewater treatment works with a design capacity of 500PE for the village of Ballintogher. A design review of the Ballintogher wastewater treatment plant has been completed. Statutory procedures, including Part 8 planning, for the scheme will be progressed during 2011.

Ballinafad Wastewater Treatment Works

This scheme involves the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant with a design capacity of 350PE in the village of Ballinafad. It is bundled with the Tubbercurry/Grange/Strandhill scheme.

Cliffoney WWTW Interim Works

Cliffoney wastewater treatment plant interim works involves a temporary plant upgrade to the existing wastewater treatment works for the village of Cliffoney. A review of the existing plant has been completed and proposals for upgrade have been reviewed. Part 8 Planning for the proposed works associated with this upgrade will be advanced in 2011 and it is anticipated that procurement of the scheme will be advanced in the third/fourth quarter of this year subject to funding.

Drumcliff WWTW Upgrade Works

This WWTW was identified in the WRBMP and Pollution Reduction Programme for Drumcliff Bay as requiring upgrade. Following a detailed review of the plant process options, Part 8 planning and procurement for the upgrade works will be advanced in 2011 subject to funding.

Aughamore Pipeline Replacement Contract

The replacement of approximately 3km of deficient watermain is currently ongoing in the Aughamore area and is anticipated to be completed the first quarter of 2011.

Group Water Schemes (GWS)

Ballintogher Stage II GWS (Gortlowan)

The Ballintogher Group Water Scheme Stage 2 (Gortlowan) was completed in 2010. The area serviced is located north east of Ballintogher and south west of Dromahair, along the R287. It includes the townlands of Castleore, Dromore, Crossboy and Gortlowan. There were a total of 26 domestic and 13 agricultural connections on this scheme. The scheme consisted of laying approximately 3,340m of 125mm watermain, 802m of 90mm watermain, 26 services connections and 2 bulk meters. The scheme will be connected to the public water supply and this GWS scheme was part funded under the Small schemes programme.

South East & North West Group Water Scheme DBO Contract

Castlebaldwin GWS have completed the land transfer for the proposed new reservoir and it is anticipated that construction of this reservoir will commence in 2011.

Detailed proposals to reduce the risk of Cryptosporidium for both the South East and North West GWS DBO contracts have been received and reviewed and it is anticipated that works will proceed in relation to these GWS in 2011 subject to funding.

Remedial Action List Works

Sligo County Council acquired funding for Remedial Action List works in accordance with circular L5/10 and this involves the installation and commissioning of chlorine monitors, turbidity monitors and chlorine booster stations on Kilsellagh WWS, South Sligo WSS, and Lough Talt WSS. These works will be progressed in 2011.

Takeover and Upgrading of Group Schemes

The takeover of **Finned/Castletown** group water scheme consisted of the installation of 90 non-domestic meters and the provision of bulk meters and new valves throughout the scheme. Works commenced on this contract in January 2010 and were completed in April 2010.

Sligo County Council has been working with the **Ballygawley** group scheme committee in an effort to resolve the numerous outstanding issues which have to be completed in order to facilitate the takeover of this scheme. Works completed to date include installation of numerous bulk flow meters, scour and sluice valves. Sligo County Council has assisted the scheme with regard to leak detection on this scheme. Works will be progressed in 2011.

The takeover of **Cooga** group water scheme will consist mainly of the installation of 950m of distribution main, 32 non-domestic meters and the provision of 3 bulk meters and new valves throughout the scheme. Construction work on this scheme will be completed in 2011.

In 2011, once all outstanding issues & works have been completed on Cooga, Ballygawley & Finned/Castletown Group Scheme, Sligo County Council, in accordance with Section 95 of the Water Services Act, 2007, will take over these GWSs.

Applications have been received by Sligo County Council for the following schemes to be taken over in 2011, Lisaneena, Lugawarry/Lugnadiffa, Kilcat, Drumfad, Emlaghfad, Cannaghanally & Gleann/ Kinagreally, Coolaney Road GWSs; Ballintogher Stage II GWS & Castleconner Group Water Schemes. Works required as part of this process include the installation of valves, bulk meters, non-domestic meters, new pipelines and ancillary works. Works will be progressed on a number of these schemes subject to funding availability.

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Section is responsible for a wide range of services spanning three programme groups and aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide a clean living environment for the citizens of Sligo.
- Promote the conservation of areas of natural environmental value.
- Protect and improve water and air quality in Sligo.
- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

During 2010, the focus was to continue to introduce and implement measures to achieve these corporate objectives.

Environmental Protection

- Waste Management
- Water Quality Management
- Pollution Control
- Beaches
- Water Safety
- Casual Trading
- Environmental Awareness
- Environmental Enforcement
- Litter Management
- Noise Pollution
- Air Pollution
- Climate Change

Agriculture & Education

- Food Safety

Miscellaneous

- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses

Waste Management

The level of interest in waste minimisation and effective waste management has dramatically increased in recent years and diverting waste from landfill is one of the greatest waste management challenges facing our Country. The Connaught Waste Management Plan (2006-2011) re-emphasises the waste management targets to be achieved in order to comply with National and EU targets, namely: Recycle 48%, Thermally Treat 33% and Landfill 19% of our waste. However, in order to reach the ambitious target of 48% recycling of household waste, the 'third bin' for organic kitchen waste needs to be introduced to the collection system.

The brown bin was introduced on a limited basis at the end of 2009 to the commercial sector to increase the percentage of organic waste that is diverted from landfill and this continued throughout 2010. This is required under the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009. All commercial and business premises are required to segregate their

organic waste and present it for collection separately. This will see the Waste Enforcement Officers carry out inspections of premises to ensure that they are compliant with the Regulations, as well as further consultation and cooperation with the private waste collectors operating in the County.

Infrastructure

Recycling Centres

Dry recyclable wastes are catered for the general public at Greenstar Civic Amenity Site, Deepwater Quay, Sligo, and Tubbercurry Recycling Centre, Connolly Park, Tubbercurry. The use of these facilities continues to grow and complement the separate kerbside collection of dry recyclable materials, which is available throughout Sligo. In 2010, a permanent facility for the disposal of Household Hazardous waste was provided at the Tubbercurry Civic Amenity site.

Glass is diverted from landfill via a network of 40 bottle banks located throughout Sligo town and county. A total of 1,182 tonnes of glass were recycled in Sligo in 2010.

Ballisodare Composting Facility

This Composting Facility at Union Road, Ballisodare, Co. Sligo opened in June 2008. This facility accepts green waste and sells peat free compost generated at the site. There has been significant development at the site during the course of 2010 with new equipment being purchased and the site itself being improved. The site continues to be a great success. Home composters can also be purchased at this site which also helps to divert organic waste from landfill.

Landfill

Landfill is the least preferred option in dealing with waste, however, landfill is required to deal with waste that cannot be recycled, composted or thermally treated. Therefore, the development of a North Connaught Landfill to deal with this interim waste, and to ultimately deal with the 19% of residual waste in 2013, is still a target of the Connaught Waste Management Plan.

Waste Enforcement

Funding of Enforcement Office

Proceeds from a number of initiatives at national level including the Plastic Bag Levy and the Landfill Levy are providing 100% funding for waste enforcement teams in Local Authorities across the country.

Role of Enforcement Office

The main role of the enforcement section is in to ensure that waste is properly managed in a way that avoids environmental pollution, increases diversion from landfill rates and does not allow for non compliant operators to have a competitive advantage over compliant operators. The areas that the office worked on in 2010 included:

- Waste facility and waste collection permits
- Waste Presentation (including WM (Food Waste) Regs 2009)

- WEEE recycling
- Waste movements (including exports)
- General complaints
- General advice
- Illegal dumping
- Burning complaints
- Ban on Smokey Fuels
- Farm plastics
- End-of-Life vehicles
- Historic landfill issues and
- General compliance with all waste regulations that are currently in force.

End-of-Life Vehicles

One of Sligo County Council's waste management priorities in 2010 was the Waste Management (End-Of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2006. Enforcement of these Regulations was carried out via inspections, road checkpoints and follow up inspections to the aerial surveys which were carried out in 2009, which identified sites where scrap vehicles were being stored in a manner that could result in environmental pollution. Subsequently, enforcement measures were carried out at these sites. In 2010 there were three registered authorised treatment facilities in Sligo where members of the public could deposit their old cars free of charge.

Waste Presentation

The work carried out with Waste Presentation has resulted in an improved waste collection service for the County, and a greater volume of waste being collected and disposed of in an appropriate manner. This area will continue to require a significant investment of effort to ensure that services continue to improve and expand.

The rollout of a third bin for organic waste started in 2010, with it becoming an obligation for all commercial and business premises to segregate their organic waste and to present it separately for collection. Most premises are compliant with the new Food Waste Regulations and the roll out of the third bin will continue in 2011, with domestic customers in Sligo now being offered the option of using a brown bin. This area has been identified as a priority by the DoEHLG.

Multi Agency Approach

As well as carrying out inspections at various sites, a number of co-ordinated multi agency approaches to waste enforcement were employed. These included the carrying out, in conjunction with the Gardai and other local authorities, of regular road check points relating to waste movements. This exercise also helped to increase public awareness of the waste enforcement section.

Historic Landfill Issues

These are landfills which operated without a licence (no national legislation in place at time of operation) but are now required to be regularised via legislation and the Code of Practice titled "Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites". This work primarily involves determining and breaking the links between the source of pollution, pathway of pollution and the receptor. Significant work was undertaken in this area in 2010 in identifying these facilities and in determining the environmental risk associated with some of them. This body of work will continue into 2011 and beyond.

Environmental Awareness

The role of the Council's Environmental Awareness Office is to promote positive environmental action throughout County Sligo. The Environmental Awareness Office works in tandem with schools, community groups and members of the public to encourage them to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. However, due to the absence of the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer, work in this office for 2010 was kept to a minimum.

One of the most successful environmental education campaigns is the Green Schools Programme. During 2010, Sligo County Council continued to work with An Taisce's Green-Schools Development Officer and Travel Education Officer to support the Green-Schools Programme. Local participation in the campaign is very high, with 96% of all schools registered. During 2010, the prestigious Green Flag was awarded to 29 schools, with no less than 24 of these renewing their Flag.

Information seminars have proven to be particularly effective in providing advice and encouragement to teachers and others directly involved in the Green-Schools Programme. Once again, Sligo County Council collaborated with An Taisce's local Green-Schools Officers to deliver a series of seminars during the autumn months. Four events were held: three in Sligo and one in Tubbercurry. These were well-attended, with some 45 schools sending representatives.

During the year, dozens of Sligo's Green-Schools benefitted directly or indirectly from national grant-schemes administered by the County Council, including the *Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme* and the *Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund*. Local schemes were also used to support theme work, particularly the *Heritage in Schools Scheme* and special School Biodiversity visits organised by the Heritage Office for International Year of Biodiversity.

The Themes on which Green-Schools focus in turn are: *Litter & Waste*, *Energy*, *Water*, *Travel* and *Biodiversity*. By the end of 2010, a third of all participating Sligo schools were at the advanced stage of promoting the fourth and fifth themes. These included the five schools that were invited to pilot the Biodiversity Theme for An Taisce in 2009. This indicates an impressive level of sustained hard work and achievement within the school communities. Sligo had further reason to be proud when St. Aidan's National School, Monasteraden, won the Primary School Leading Lights in Road Safety National Award for their road safety awareness film. The award was presented by Gay Byrne at a special ceremony in Dublin Castle on 13th October 2010.



Gay Byrne with Imelda Ryan-Jones, teachers & pupils of St. Aidan's N.S. with their RSA Leading Light Award

National Spring Clean ran in April and May 2010. 79 Community and voluntary groups registered with An Taisce and clean-ups were carried out with the help of the Environmental Services Section.

The Anti-Litter Anti Graffiti Awareness Grant and Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund offers financial support to groups that wish to organise environmental projects or raise awareness of environmental issues. The Local Agenda 21 – Environment Partnership Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. In 2010, 17 groups received funding under this grant scheme. €6,840 was granted from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which must be matched by the local authority, bringing a total of funding to €13,680.

Funding of €21,884 was awarded to 13 groups for public education and awareness initiatives on litter and graffiti under the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Awareness Scheme 2010.

Litter

In 2010, Sligo County Council continued its vigorous campaign in its effort to combat illegal dumping activity under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended with the appointment of a Litter Warden in March 2010.

The following is a breakdown of enforcement measures carried out during 2010 by our Litter Warden and Bottle Bank General Operative.

No. of Complaints/Investigations/Queries/Inspections	3,138
No. of On-the-spot fines issued	50
No. of Section 9 issued	1

Operation Clean Sweep inspections continued in 2010 and has, so far, been introduced to 7 towns and villages in the County. Under Section 6 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, occupiers of premises fronting onto the footway within the town limits are obliged to keep the area in front of their premises free of litter.

Litter Monitoring surveys were again carried out by Sligo County Council from March to December by the Litter Warden in towns and villages in the County. This survey is an environmental management tool that enables local authorities to tackle litter more effectively, by providing a framework for consistent and accurate self-assessment by local authorities – “if you can measure the litter issue, you can manage it”.

Bring Banks

In County Sligo, 40 sets of bring bank sites are provided for free recycling. These are for the collection of glass bottles and jars, aluminium cans and clothes at a number of our sites.



A number of these sites have CCTV systems installed to combat the effects of illegal dumping. Enforcement of such illegal dumping continued to be priority in 2010. Through this enforcement action and the employment of a dedicated Bring Bank maintenance person, the Bring Banks in Sligo are now in excellent condition, so much so that other Councils are looking at the techniques

employed by Sligo, which have achieved substantial savings.

Ballymote Bottle Banks

To view locations and details, please log on to:

<http://www.sligococo.ie/Services/Environment/Recycling/BringBanks/>

Casual Trading

In 2009 the Council had Designated Trading Areas at 7 locations in the County -

- Rosses Point
- Enniscrone
- Coolaney
- Tubbercurry
- Ballymote
- Riverstown
- Dromore West

There were 14 no. traders licensed in the County. Regular inspections were carried out by the Casual Trading Officer to ensure that the trading areas were being operated in accordance with the Casual Trading Bye Laws.

Water Quality Management

Pollution Control

The introduction of the EU Water Framework Directive has placed a major focus on water quality. All our surface waters must achieve good status by 2015. River Basin Management Plans were published for all River Basin Catchments in 2010, which will determine policies for land-use in each catchment area. Sligo is part of three River Basin Districts, the Western, the North Western International and the Shannon International, with the majority of County Sligo in the Western River Basin District. Sligo County Council are committed to the monitoring of rivers and lakes listed in the National Monitoring Programme. A Groundwater Protection Plan completed by the GSI on our behalf in 2009 will be an important tool in implementing our obligations under the River Basin Management Plans.



Ballisodare Bay

Bathing Water

The bathing water quality at five beaches in County Sligo was monitored during the 2010 bathing season (mid May – end August). Results of this monitoring were displayed locally at each of the beaches and on the Council’s Website throughout the 2010 bathing season. Overall, results showed full compliance with the mandatory bathing water standards and stricter guide standards. In 2010, Rosses Point beach was awarded Blue Flag Status, while Mullaghmore, Rosses Point, Streedagh and Dunmorán Beach were awarded the Green Coast Award. Lifeguard cover was provided at Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Streedagh and Dunmorán for the 2010 bathing season, along with Beach Warden cover for Strandhill and Enniscrone. Due to the ongoing Health and Safety issues, Mullaghmore beach was not covered by a Lifeguard service.

Drinking Water

The quality of drinking water in Ireland is governed by the EC (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations, 2007. These regulations assign the EPA the role of supervisory authority over public drinking water supplies, while local authorities are assigned a similar role over private drinking water supplies. These regulations provide powers of enforcement to ensure actions are taken where the quality of water is deficient. During 2010, all regulated public and private water supplies in Co Sligo were monitored in accordance with these regulations. In general, Sligo continues to enjoy a high standard of drinking water quality throughout the County. In addition to monitoring carried out at the consumers tap, monitoring and inspections are also carried out at drinking water abstraction points and in their catchments.

Licensed Discharges under the Water Pollution Acts

Sligo County Council licenses both effluent discharges to waters and sewers in accordance with the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 & Local Government (Water Pollution)(Amendment) Act 1990 and associated Regulations. The licensing of trade effluent discharges to sewers and the enforcement of existing licences continued in 2010 and will continue in 2011 subject to the prioritisation in the annual work programme.

Licensing of trade effluents to waters and the review and enforcement of existing licences conditions will continue to be a priority in 2011.

Catchment Management

Water quality monitoring and management is governed by the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Under the provisions of the Directive, River Basin District Management Plans were adopted in 2010. The plans detail specific measures that must be implemented to maintain existing “good status” and “high status” waters and improve water bodies currently not meeting the requirements of the Directive. There are a significant number of water bodies that require improvement. Specific measures include enforcement of existing national legislation and other measures detailed in the River Basin Management plans. Inspections will be targeted in areas throughout the County to address point and diffuse pollution relating to domestic wastewater, agricultural and commercial activities and forestry.

Work was undertaken in accordance with the Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes for our two designated shellfish waters (Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay). In 2009, Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay were designated as shellfish waters in accordance with the Shellfish Waters Directive and the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006). These Regulations require the preparation of Pollution Reduction Programmes for each designated shellfish area with the objective of protecting or improving water quality in the designated shellfish areas. The DoEHLG has prepared Pollution Reduction Programmes for

Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay which must be implemented by Sligo County Council. Reports on the implementation of the Pollution Reduction Programmes must be submitted to the DOEHLG on an annual basis. The Pollution Reduction Programmes aim to achieve protection and improvement in water quality through the use of the following actions or measures:

- Improvements in local authority wastewater treatment infrastructure;
- Licensing of local authority wastewater treatment infrastructure;
- Agricultural wastewater surveys;
- Domestic wastewater surveys;
- Licensing of commercial premises under Section 4 and 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended.

Implementation plans for the year 2010 were prepared and submitted to the DoEHLG. Increased catchment management surveys will be required in these particular catchment areas into the future in order to bring about improvements in water quality as required by the Pollution Reduction Programmes. The Pollution Reduction Programmes may be reviewed at intervals to determine if additional actions or measures are required.

Water Pollution

Enforcement of water pollution legislation is an important element in ensuring good water quality. In 2010, the Environment Section investigated water pollution complaints on a priority basis and took enforcement action where necessary under relevant water pollution legislation.

Planning Applications

The Environmental Section continues to assess and make recommendations on all commercial, agricultural applications and domestic planning applications located in sensitive areas, in addition to forestry applications. Work continued to be carried out in 2010 to improve the quality of design information being submitted for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OSWTS). During 2010, considerable work was carried out in relation to carrying out a review of the existing site assessors panel. Interviews for a new panel were carried out and it is intended to have the new panel fully operational by March/April 2011.

Noise Control

The Section provided advice and information on residential and commercial noise under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.

Air Pollution

The section continued to enforce the two Air Pollution Licences and provided advice and information on odours and air pollution complaints.

The Enforcement section continued to enforce the ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous fuels within the restricted area of Sligo and actively pursued anyone found to be in breach of the Regulations.

Water Safety

In 2010, Sligo County Council employed the following staff on our beaches for the Bathing Season.

Rosses Point	2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August
Streedagh	2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August
Enniscrone	2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in June 3 full-time Life Guards for July & August
Dunmorán	2 Part-time Life Guards for weekends in July & August
Strandhill	2 Part-time Beach Wardens for weekends in June 2 full-time Beach Wardens for July & August
Enniscrone	1 Part-time Beach Warden for weekends in June 1 full-time Beach Warden for July & August

Sligo County Council Beach Bye-Laws govern the beaches at Enniscrone, Mullaghmore, Streedagh, Rosses Point, Dunmorán, Aghris and Strandhill, Co. Sligo. Enforcement of the Bye-laws by Life Guards, Beach Wardens and Authorised Staff was a priority for 2010.

Food Safety

In 2010, Sligo County Council continued to implement all relevant food safety legislation under the Service Contract between Sligo County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. This included the supervision of two abattoirs slaughtering cattle, sheep, pigs and deer. Two meat plants were also under supervision. The Food Safety Authority funded the contract but this was reduced by 5% in 2010. The Service Contract is due to be updated early in of 2011.

Control of Dogs & Horses

The Control of Dogs Act and The Control of Horses Act are the main pieces of welfare legislation that the Veterinary Office has responsibility for. The economic downturn has resulted in a significant increase in the number of complaints about horse welfare. A number of seizures have taken place in 2010 in both Tubbercurry and Sligo town.

The promised increase in the Dog licence fee from €12.70 to €20.00 was included in the Dog Breeding Establishments Act passed in 2010 and this is due to come into effect in 2011.

The Dog shelter continues to re-home the bulk of dogs which are surrendered/collected from the General Public. In 2010 considerable work has also been done in re-homing dogs where possible. The “Adopt a dog” section on the web-site is proving very successful in rehoming dogs. Pictures and a brief description are put on the web and the contact details for the shelter are also given.

Climate Change

Energy Usage & Actions - Overview of energy usage in 2010

Electricity accounted for 85% of the Council’s total energy usage in 2010 and fossil fuels for the remaining 15%. Of the electricity consumed, 64% was used by Water Services for water and wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations. Public Lighting accounted for a

further 23% and the balance powered lighting, appliances and IT/office equipment within public buildings, offices and premises.

Of the electricity used to provide Water Services, 49% (4,185MWh) was consumed by privately-managed DBO (Design-Build-Operate) facilities. Table 1 includes DBO consumption.

Table 1: Breakdown of electricity consumption in 2010

Electricity Consumer	Consumption in MWh
Water Services	8,639
Public Lighting	3,126
Buildings	1,816
Total	13,581

Of the total fossil fuel consumption, 63% was attributable to space and water heating in buildings, including heating of DBO Water Services facilities. The remainder was used by the fleet and machinery yard.

Table 2: Total energy consumption in 2010

Type of energy	Consumption in MWh
Electricity	13,581
Fossil Fuels	2,981
Total	16,562

Energy Efficiency Actions Undertaken in 2010

Sligo County Council is committed to continual improvement in energy efficiency in its drive to minimise energy consumption, avoid wastage, reduce carbon emissions and cut costs. This effort is championed by a cross-departmental Climate Change Working Group that was established in 2009. During 2010, a variety of measures was taken to lay the foundation for better energy management practice across the organisation and to achieve energy savings in some key areas. These actions included:

- **Staffing** - Appointment of an Energy Officer and a Climate Change Co-Ordinator to drive the Council's energy efficiency programme.
- **Training** - In-house energy management training attended by 23 staff.
- **Electricity procurement** - Electricity supply put to tender with an expected cost-saving of ca. €40,000 in 2011.
- **Water services** -
 - Installation of aeration process controls at Ballymote Wastewater Treatment Plant and process optimisation at six other Treatment Plants
 - Installation of variable speed pump and new control system at North Sligo Water Supply Scheme
 - Installation of new efficient chopper pumps and new control systems at Strandhill & Rosses Point waste water pumping stations.
 - Efficiency upgrade of pumps at South Sligo Water Supply Scheme.
- **Buildings** - Grant-aided lighting, heating and insulation improvements undertaken in County Hall in 2009 resulted in estimated savings of €7,000 in energy bills in 2010.
- **IT & office equipment/consumables** - Energy efficiencies and economies promoted by, inter alia, adjusting equipment default settings, holding staff briefing sessions and encouraging scanning in preference to printing.

- **Staff travel** - Cycle to Work Scheme promoted and 27 staff members facilitated. Bicycle-parking provided at all Council Offices in Sligo City.
- **Energy Awareness** - Climate Change/Energy efficiency awareness-raising sessions held for staff.

Other Actions included an electrical audit of 140 no. Council sites and a wood pellet feasibility study for wood energy heating of three public buildings.

Energy Efficiency Actions Planned for 2011

By the end of 2011, Sligo County Council expects to have achieved quantifiable energy savings under a range of headings. To this end, it is intended to make significant strides on the procedural side to develop an effective energy monitoring, measuring and reporting system. This will include protocols for energy bills analysis and maintenance of equipment and improving the capture and retrieval of reliable data. Additional energy audits will be conducted and Energy Performance Indicators will be established for a range of premises and facilities. Through further staff awareness, involvement and training, and the inclusion of energy efficiency on all staff/team meeting agendas, a stronger energy efficient culture will be nurtured across the organisation.

Alongside these measures, a range of specific low-cost initiatives will be implemented or progressed, including the following:

Water Services

- Funding received under the Rural Water Programme's "Energy Efficiency Initiative" will enable projects to be completed in 2011, including the installation of variable speed pumps and a new control system at Lough Talt and Riverstown Water Supply Schemes. It is also intended to further improve power consumption and efficiency monitoring for each scheme, thereby generating real-time data of savings.

Public Lighting

- Explore and identify opportunities for energy savings

Main Office Buildings

- Continue to identify and rectify problems occurring with heating and Building Management Systems
- Install oil meters and graph oil consumption versus degree day data

Bio-energy

- Participate in the Western Development Commission's Local Authority Renewable Heat Initiative funded under the EU RASLRES Programme (Regional Approaches to Stimulating Local Renewable Energy Solutions). The objective is to promote and develop strategies and initiatives for the bio-energy sector in the West Region.

IT / Office Equipment

- Implement automatic shutdown of PCs outside of office hours in all Co.Council offices resulting in an estimated saving of 26.67MWh annually
- Implement virtualisation to reduce the number of servers required by 20%, thereby generating an estimated annual saving of 17MWh

Staff Travel

- Purchase 10 Local Authority bicycles and promote their use for local meetings and inspections and travel between Offices
- Conduct a survey of staff travel and publicise the results
- Promote car-pooling, cycling and walking to work

- Encourage further participation in the Cycle to Work Scheme

Fleet

- Roll out a Fuel Management System to reduce fossil fuel consumption by the fleet
- Introduce bio-fuels for three Council vehicles

Energy Awareness

- Continue to raise staff awareness of energy issues

Planning Directorate

Development Management

The Development Management team is responsible for ensuring that all planning applications are processed in accordance with current legislation and that all decisions are made in accordance with local, regional and national policies. A summary of the actions undertaken in carrying out these development management responsibilities include:

- Providing a high standard of customer service to all the various stakeholders in the planning process.
- Facilitate the pre-application consultation in a timely and informative manner.
- Validation of all new planning applications.
- Processing and management of planning files in an efficient manner.
- Referral of planning applications to internal departments and external agencies / bodies.
- Undertaking site inspections in respect of all planning applications.
- Preparation of planning reports outlining a proposed development's consistency with current planning policy and the proper planning and sustainable development of an area.
- Provision of up-to-date information to the public on the planning process.

The Development Management Team is committed to continuously improving the standards of customer service it provides to all the various stakeholders in the planning process. 2010 has been another productive year for the Development Management team. During 2010 a total of 534 planning applications were received by Sligo County Council which is a reduction on the 2009 equivalent but is reflective of current economic climate nationally. Of the applications determined over this period, 92% of the applications were the subject of decisions to grant planning permission and over 79% of all planning applications were determined within 8 weeks of their receipt. The over the counter validation service continues to provide an excellent service to customers as reflected in the low number of invalid applications (8%) processed by the Development Management Team.

Looking forward to 2011 Sligo County Council will be required to implement the provisions of the new Planning and Development Act 2009 which is likely to involve some new procedural changes to development management activities and clears the way for submission of on-line planning applications which is a service that the Planning Authority hopes to make available to its customers subject to the necessary resources being available. Development work continued on the online pre-planning software application and this was made available on the Council's website to planning professionals and the general public early in 2010.

Enforcement/Building Control

The principal Activities of the Enforcement Section include: -

- Enforcement of planning control.
- Collection of development contributions and securing bonds.
- Monitoring/liaising with developers to ensure housing estates are completed to a satisfactory standard for taking in charge.
- Building Control.
- Dangerous Structures.
- Derelict Sites.

Enforcement of Planning Control

The sections role in this area involves investigating complaints from the public with regard to unauthorised development, random inspections of developments in progress, and dealing with prior to commencement conditions or conditions which have not been complied with.

Unauthorised development include developments works, (which are not exempted) which are carried out on a site without the benefit of planning permission, and development which is not in compliance with the terms (drawing, site layout, etc) or the conditions of the grant of planning permission.

The Enforcement Section investigates all cases of unauthorised development, which comes to its attention. It will conduct a site visit and examine the planning history of the site and may issue a warning letter to and/or serve an Enforcement notice on the Developer, as specified under the Planning and Development Act 2000. There is strong legal powers available to enable the Council deal with offenders, and legal action is taken where necessary. There are heavy penalties where a person is convicted in the Courts for carrying out unauthorised development.

Service Indicators

A total of **172** complaints in relation to unauthorised development were lodged with the Council during 2010. The Council carried out **869** inspections, investigated **149** new complaints, issued **114** Warning Letters served **91** Enforcement Notices, and initiated **39** prosecutions. During the same period **208** complaints were resolved or dismissed.

Complaints Regarding Unauthorised Developments

Complaints to the Council can be made in writing, by e-mail or by telephone. A complaints form is also available online to facilitate the making of a complaint. Full details should be included over to the nature and extent of the development, the person (if known) who is carrying out the development and accurate location details (preferably indicated on a site location map) to facilitate inspection by the Council.

All complaints are treated confidentially. It is the policy of the Council that the name of the person who provides information to it on enforcement issues is not released to a third party.

Collection of Development Contributions & Security Bonds

A revised Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by the Council under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 in November 2006. This scheme sets out the level of contribution required for each type of development as well as the basis for levying the contribution. Contributions from the scheme will help to fund the provision of infrastructure throughout the County. In addition, special contributions have been levied in respect of waste – water schemes in Coolaney, Dromore West, Bunninadden, Carney, Gurteen, Castlebaldwin, Ballintogher and Rockfield.

Procedures are in place to ensure that development contributions are paid to the Council. Where the contributions are not paid, appropriate action is taken, up to and including legal action.

Bond

The Council imposes a condition on all housing schemes requiring that development works shall not commence until adequate security for the satisfactory completion of the development has been submitted to and accepted by the Planning Authority. Particular attention is given by this section to ensuring that adequate security is in place in respect of all housing developments. The security is only released when the development has been completed to the satisfaction of the Council and, or has been taken in charge. The phasing of the security is permitted in certain circumstances.

Taking Estates in Charge

A Legal obligation has been placed on Local Authorities, under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, to take in charge housing estates where certain conditions have been met.

Many new housing estates have been built in the County over the last number of years. The activities of the Enforcement Section are geared towards ensuring that these estates are completed to a high standard and to allow the Council (where the developer or residents desire) to take them in charge. **7** estates were taken in charge during the year, with a further **28** applications on hands at the end of 2010. **184** inspections were carried out.

Taking in Charge Process

Any request to have a housing estate taken in charge by the Council must be accompanied by a completed application form, fee, appropriate certification and written confirmation in relation to the maintenance of open spaces. It is the policy of the Council as part of the Taking in Charge process, to have carried out by an agent, on its behalf, a Closed Circuit TV survey on all main runs of foul and storm sewers, to ensure satisfactory standards of construction.

Building Control

The Council is the building control authority for both Sligo County Council and Sligo Borough Council. The objective of the Building Control Section is to encourage good building practice and to ensure that buildings are constructed correctly and that access for the disabled and elderly is provided for in building plans. The Council is required, under inspection targets set nationally, to inspect between 12% and 15% of new works which were

notified by way of the submission of a Commencement notice. In 2010 **221** new buildings were notified to the Council of which **39** (18%) were inspected.

The Council continues to pay particular attention to compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations (which deals with access for people with disabilities). A high level of compliance has been achieved in this area.

In addition it is the policy of the Council when in receipt of a Commencement Notice for 2 or more houses or for commercial or industrial premises to require the developer, to submit drawings showing compliance with Part M – Section 11 (c) BC Act 1990. This has the effect of making both the developer and the architect/agent aware that the Part M should be complied with both at the design and at the construction stages. Every effort is made to deal with breaches without seeking a resolution in the courts.

Commencement Notice

This is a notice submitted by a developer to inform the Council of intent to carry out building works. It must be submitted to the Building Control Section of the Council at least 14 days and not more than 28 days before the commencement of any works which require compliance with The Building Regulations.

A commencement Notice is required for:

- The erection of a Building
- The Material Alteration or Extension of a Building
- A Material Change of use of a Building
- Works in connection with the material alteration of a shop, office or industrial building.

A commencement Notice Form is available online or it can be obtained directly from the Building Control Section of Sligo County Council.

Disability Access Certificates (D.A.C.)

A D.A.C. is required for all new non-domestic buildings (including apartments and flats), material alterations and extensions to buildings and certain changes of uses. This requirement was introduced with effect from the 1st of January 2010. A fee of €800 per certificate is payable, with certain exemptions for small schools. **30** no. applications have been submitted to the Council during 2010.

Building Energy Rating (B.E.R.)

Under new Building Control Regulations, buildings including dwelling houses for which planning permission is applied for require both a provisional B.E.R. certificate and a full B.E.R. certificate on completion.

In addition, any building offered for sale or rent requires a B.E.R. certificate. The Council is responsible for securing compliance although no income accrues to it in respect of same. In 2010, **313** certificates were sought by the Council.

Dangerous Structures or Places

This department deals with structures or places which are a danger or likely to be a danger to the public. A notice may be served on the owner requiring works to be carried out to prevent

the structure or place from being dangerous. The Council may also carry out such works itself and recover the costs from the owner.

Derelict Sites

The Council is required by law to establish and maintain a Register of Derelict Sites. All reports of dereliction are investigated and Notices of Intention to enter the site on the register are served on the owner/occupier of the site in question (where appropriate). Any written representations are considered before deciding whether to enter the site on the Register. The Council can also serve notices on an owner or occupier of a derelict site specifying the measures to be taken to prevent land from becoming or continuing to be a derelict site.

During the year, **58** inspections were carried out throughout the County. In addition, the Council served Notice of its intention to enter **6** sites on the Derelict Sites Register. **5** sites were registered during the year, and in addition notices requiring certain measures to be taken to prevent dereliction were served on **2** owners.

Conferences & Seminars Attended by Councillors - 2010

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR NAME	VENUE	DATE
Delivering Long Life Learning in Disadvantaged Communities	Dublin	21 January 2010
Planning for Economic Recovery: Planning Ireland North & South Enniskillen	Enniskillen	21 - 22 January 2010
Waste Management & the Law	Galway	22 - 24 January 2010
Dealing with the issue of Repossessions	Dublin	25 January 2010
Planning Seminar	Limerick	29 - 30 January 2010
Flood Management & Local Government	Ennistymon	5 - 6 February 2010
Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland	Sligo	12 - 13 February 2010
Building Social Europe - from Crisis to Opportunity - European Anti Poverty Network	Dublin	19 February 2010
Change Management in Local Government	Westport	19 - 21 February 2010
The Cost of Insurance and Claims to your Local Authority	Galway	21 - 23 February 2010
Irish Rural Link, Planning Proposals and Pitfalls	Leitrim	24 February 2010
The Role of Small Enterprises in Overcoming the Recession	Letterkenny	26 - 28 February 2010
Rebuilding Confidence in Urban & Rural Communities	Tipperary	4 - 5 March 2010
ACCC Conference	Tipperary	4 - 6 March 2010
Better Communications means Better Results	Killarney	19 - 21 March 2010
Facilities Management Ireland	Dublin	23 - 24 March 2010
National Tidy Towns Conference 2010	Dundalk	26 - 27 March 2010
Climate Change Impacts & Strategies	Letterkenny	26 - 28 March 2010
20th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference	Tralee	07 - 10 April 2010
LAMA Conference	Sligo	9 - 10 April 2010
One Family Report Launch	Dublin	12 April 2010
Banking, Insurance, NAMA, Effect on Local Government	Tralee	16 - 18 April 2010
New EPA Guidelines for Single Houses	Galway	23 - 25 April 2010
Trevor/Bowen Summer School	Mitchelstown	30 - 2 May 2010
Head Shops - Legal Highs	Louth	7 - 8 May 2010
Business Investment Seminar	Naas	14 - 16 May 2010
IBIS: A decade of Centenaries: Commemorating Shared History	Dublin	20 May 2010
Joint Policing Committees Conference	Cork	21 - 23 May 2010
Working Together towards Tobacco Free	Dublin	26 - 27 May 2010
Tobacco Free Conference	Dublin	27 - 28 May 2010
Defamation Seminar	Limerick	28 - 30 May 2010
Transformation of the Public Sector	Tralee	4 - 6 June 2010
Redundancy - The Real Issues	Limerick	12 June 2010
Tipperary International Peace Conference	Tipperary	17 - 20 June 2010
Byrne/Perry Summer School	Gorey	25 - 27 June 2010
Synge Summer School	Wicklow	1 - 4 July 2010

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR NAME	VENUE	DATE
Leadership for Change	Sligo	02 July 2010
Local Government Roads & Transport Services	Skibereen	09 - 11 July 2010
Lough Ree Environmental Summer School	Longford	8 - 11 July 2010
A Practical Guide to Media Skills	West Cork	15 - 18 July 2010
Housing (Misc Provisions) Act, 2009	Maynooth	16 - 18 July 2010
Patrick McGill Summer school	Donegal	21 - 24 July 2010
Health and Safety, Risk Assessment & Insurance in LG	Galway	26 - 28 July 2010
Merriman Summer School	Ennis	19 - 21 August 2010
Waste Management Regs	Galway	20 - 22 August 2010
Water Conservation	Westport	27 - 29 August 2010
Environmental Conference	Dublin	14 September 2010
Computer & IT Skills	Newbridge	3 - 5 September 2010
AMAI Conference, Buncrana	Buncrana	9 - 11 September 2010
Anti-Social Behaviour:Symptoms, Solutions & Strategies	Portlaoise	15th September 2010
Insurance Salesman's Presentation Skills	Galway	17 - 19 September 2010
Irish Penal Reform Trust Conference	Dublin	23 September 2010
Planning Applications-Professional Indemnity	Galway	24 - 26 September 2010
Local Government Efficiency Group	Wexford	1 - 3 October 2010
2010 La Touche Legacy Democracy in Changing Times	Wicklow	01 - 03 October 2010
Zero Carbon Project,	Wicklow	06 October 2010
Getting a Grip 2010	Killarney	7 - 8 October 2010
LAMA Autumn Seminar	Listowel	8 - 9 October
IPI Conference on Planning Legislation	Dublin	14 October 2010
A Guide to Child Protection	Letterkenny	15 - 17 October 2010
Tax Autumn Conference	Dublin	22 - 23 October 2010
Alternative Energy Conference	Maynooth	22 - 24 October 2010
IPRT Conference from Criminal Justice to Social Justice	Dublin	23 October 2010
Shifting Focus: From Criminal Justice to Social Justice	Dublin	23 October 2010
Ciminal Law Bill,	Galway	29 - 31 October 2010
Roscrea Conference, Mount St. Joseph's Abbey	Roscrea	29 - 31 October 2010
Diverse Views on Diversity	Dublin	3rd November 2010
Bogs-Management & Development	Westport	5 - 7 November 2010
Planning for Equality	Dublin	09 November 2010
Mastering the Art of Secure Communications	Letterkenny	05 - 07 November 2010
Future of Rural Areas to 2033		11 - 12 November 2010
Radon " A Hidden Killer"	Tralee	12 - 14 November 2010
Wind Turbines Seminar	Dublin	12 November 2010
Septic Tanks - Sewage Treatment Plants	Letterkenny	16 - 17 November 2010
Human Rights Perspective on Education & Religion	Dublin	17 November 2010
Getting Ahead of the Curve	Dublin	19 November 2010
Local Government Budgets 2011	Letterkenny	19 - 20 November 2010
National Radon Conference	Cork	24 November 2010
Pattern of Conflict Resolution	Belfast	02 December 2010
Waste Management Regulations 2009	Letterkenny	3 - 5 December 2010

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR NAME	VENUE	DATE
Annual Law Reform Commission	Dublin	16 December 2010
Local Government Budget 2011	Wexford	10 - 12 December 2010
Save Water & the Environment, Rain Water Harvesting	Galway	14 - 15 December 2010
Building Regulations, Renewable Energy Regulation	Tralee	17 - 19 December 2010
Cert in Irish Government & Politics, Distance Learning	N/A	N/A

Finance Department

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2010

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division

		Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
	Notes	2010 €	2010 €	2010 €
Housing & Building		6,332,563	6,027,089	305,474
Roads Transportation & Safety		19,935,900	16,497,578	3,438,322
Water Services		11,336,067	3,737,958	7,598,108
Development Management		4,742,800	1,184,156	3,558,644
Environmental Services		6,198,859	1,052,220	5,146,639
Recreation & Amenity		3,058,858	307,666	2,751,191
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		7,535,830	6,887,335	648,495
Miscellaneous Services		5,981,938	3,626,565	2,355,374
		-	-	-
Total Expenditure/Income	16	65,122,815	39,320,567	
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund				25,802,248
Rates				4,876,672
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant				15,022,724
Pension Related Deduction				993,463
County Charge				4,361,495

Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	17	(547,895)
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	15	(1,915,611)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year		(2,463,505)
General Reserve @ 1st January 2010		(7,518,111)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2010		(9,981,616)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2010

	Notes	2010 €	2009 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		229,098,495	222,863,566
Infrastructural		1,426,021,733	1,396,421,530
Community		8,900,308	8,900,308
Non-Operational		-	-
		1,664,020,536	1,628,185,403
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	102,902,389	134,392,787
Long Term Debtors	3	17,671,093	18,210,696
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	216,539	214,823
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	9,465,093	11,346,541
Bank Investments		3,019,631	2,988,498
Cash at Bank		-	-
Cash in Transit		1,498	21,962
Urban Account	7	859,674	925,803
		13,562,434	15,497,626
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Bank Overdraft		929,736	8,824,004
Creditors & Accruals	6	17,412,420	14,357,606
Urban Account	7	-	-
Finance Leases		136,570	165,000
		18,478,726	23,346,610
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		(4,916,292)	(7,848,984)
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	8	73,744,717	62,789,825
Finance Leases		62,680	170,820
Refundable deposits	9	1,654,074	1,850,291
Other		331,335	0
		75,792,807	64,810,937
Net Assets		1,703,884,920	1,708,128,965
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	10	1,664,020,531	1,628,185,398
Income WIP	2	104,164,449	129,862,184
Specific Revenue Reserve		1,103,774	1,103,774
General Revenue Reserve		(9,981,616)	(7,518,111)
Other Balances	11	(55,422,218)	(43,504,280)

Service Indicators: Sligo Local Authorities 2010

		01/01/09 - 31/12/09 (Annual)	01/01/10 - 31/12/10 (Annual)
F1: Fire Service Mobilisation	The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:		
	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	4.49	4.49
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents		
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	4.31	4.5
F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes	The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:		
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	55.33	46.69
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	33.67	37.35
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	11.00	15.96
	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	42.20	45.69
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47.71	37.93
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	10.09	16.38
F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes	In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:		
	Total number of incidents in respect of fire	591	664
	Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	327	310
	Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	199	248
	Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	65	106
	Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	218	116
	Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	92	53
	Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	104	44

	Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	22	19
F.3 Fire Prevention The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	92	55
	B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	92	55
	C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	7	0
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	51.35	40.62
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total number of local schools and youth groups	37	32
	Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	19	13
CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	664	702
C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	6.34	5.67
	B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.50	0.77
C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	7632.50	6569.5
	Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	603.20	886.5
C.2 Staff Training and Development The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	2.6	2.93
E.1 Unaccounted For Water The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	43.00	45.00
E.1 Unaccounted For Water In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total volume of water supplied (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	32584	35874
	Volume of unaccounted for water (m3/per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	14011	16143
E.2 Drinking Water Analysis The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes		98.45
	B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)		98.37
E.3 Waste Segregation The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables		100

	B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics		4.22
E.3 Waste Segregation In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total number of households provided with a waste collection service	0	13979
	Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for recyclables	0	13979
	Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for organics	0	590
E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	13.17	23.45
	B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	2668	3617.88
	C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	6361.65	2345.08
E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside	20258.88	15429.27
	Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	2668	3617.88
	Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	6361.65	2345.08
E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	62.90	76.55
	B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	12742	11811.4
E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total tonnage of household waste collected	20258.88	15429.27
	Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill	12742	11811.4
In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	40	40
	The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	3
Glass The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	40	40
	B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
	C. The total number of facilities for recycling	42	42
	D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.45	3.45
Glass In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	40	40
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
Cans The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	40	40
	F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
	G. The total number of facilities for recycling	42	42
	H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.45	3.45
Cans In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	40	40
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2

Textiles The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	18
	J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
	K. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	20
	L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.16	1.64
Textiles In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	18
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
Batteries The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	2
	N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
	O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	4
	P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.16	0.16
Batteries In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	2
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
Oils The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	2
	R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	1
	S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	3
	T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.16	0.08
Oils In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	2
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	1
Other materials The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0
	V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3
	W. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	3
	X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.16	0.25
Other materials In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0
	The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	3
E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of full-time litter wardens	2	2
	B. Number of part-time litter wardens	5	4
	C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.57	0.49
	D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	86	66
	E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	30	20
	F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	1	1
	G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	0	0
	H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	7	4
	I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	0	0
	J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	2	0

	K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	26.32	3
	L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	36.84	80
	M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	36.84	16
	N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	0.00	0
	O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	0.00	0
E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of full-time litter wardens	2	2
	Number of part-time litter wardens	5	4
	Number of on-the-spot fines issued	86	66
	Number of on-the-spot fines paid	30	20
	Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	1	1
	Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	0	0
	Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	7	4
	Number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	0	0
	Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	2	0
E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	741	3521
	B. Number of complaints investigated	3506	3792
	C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	4290	3379
	D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	176	334
E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns		94.20
	B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns		100
E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total number of primary schools	0	69
	Number of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	0	65
	Total number of secondary schools	0	15
	Number of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	0	15
H1: Housing Vacancies The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2082	2040
	B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	1955	2021
	C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	3.99	5.03
	D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for	84.62	92.14

	letting		
	E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	15.38	7.86
	The average number of dwellings in local authority stock	2082	2040
	The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	1955	2021
	The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	78	101.75
	The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	66	93.75
	The average number of empty dwellings available for letting	12	8
	The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	18.62	20
H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	8.25	4
H3: Housing Repairs The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	71.88	76.84
H3: Housing Repairs In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	The number of repairs completed	437	1997
	The number of valid repair requests received	608	2599
H4: Traveller Accommodation The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	40.0	16.67
H4: Traveller Accommodation In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of Traveller families accommodated	2	1
	Target number of Traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the local Traveller accommodation programme	5	6
H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Total number of registered tenancies	4343	4510
	B. Number of dwelling units inspected	147	1036
	C. Number of inspections carried out	147	1036
	D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	3.38	22.97
H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total number of registered tenancies	4343	4510
	Number of dwelling units inspected	147	1036
	Number of inspections carried out	147	1036
H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	16	6
	B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	22	21
H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses The	A. Total number of new local authority tenants	88	99

following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:			
H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:			
L.1 Library Public Opening Hours The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100	100
	Total number of new local authority tenants	88	99
	Number of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	88	99
	A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36.05	35.46
	B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	18.29	19.46
	C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66.6	66.6
	D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	66.6	66.6
	E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	66.6	66.6
	Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36.05350	35.458
	Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	18.285713	19.455
	Number of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	2	2
	Number of full time libraries that have evening openings	2	2
	Number of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	2	2
	Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	2256.38	2388.03
	Total number of visits to full-time libraries	137400	145417
L.2 Library Visits The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:			
L.2 Library Visits In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:			
L.3 Library Stock The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	0.49	4.08
	B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3.47	3.51
	C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.23	0.32
	Annual expenditure on stock	29954	248530
	Total number of books issued	211218	213589
	Total number of other items issued	14093	19313
	Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	372.71	353.98
	Total number of Internet sessions provided	22695.98	21555.5
L.3 Library Stock In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:			
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:			
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:			
M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	53124	52161
	B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	8257	7895
	C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	17791	19635

	D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	67.10	65.45
	E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	10.43	9.91
	F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	22.47	24.64
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	8104	7789
	B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	121	93
	C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0	0
	D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	32	13
	E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	98.15	98.66
	F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	1.47	1.18
	G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	0.00	0.00
	H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.39	0.16
M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3296	4125
	B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	2696	3285
	C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	603	888
	D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	418	1134
	E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	47.00	43.73
	F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	38.44	34.83
	G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	8.60	9.41
	H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	5.96	12.02

M.4 Public opening hours The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Average number of opening hours per week	32.5	32.5
Individual Houses The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of applications decided	300	247
	B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	245	194
	C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	46	48
	D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	9	4
	E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	75.94	73.11
	F. Percentage of applications granted	91.67	92.71
	G. Percentage of applications refused	8.33	7.29
	H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	64.29	50.0
	I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	35.71	50.0
Individual Houses In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of applications decided	300	247
	Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	245	194
	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	46	48
	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	9	4
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	75.94	73.11
	Number of applications granted	275	229
	Number of applications refused	25	18
	Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Peanala	9	5
	Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	5	5
New Housing Development The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of applications decided	21	9
	B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	10	4
	C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	11	5
	D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0
	E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	81.19	77.38
	F. Percentage of applications granted	85.71	77.78

	G. Percentage of applications refused	14.29	22.22
	H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	70.0	100
	I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	30.0	0
New Housing Development In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of applications decided	21	9
	Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	10	4
	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	11	5
	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	81.19	77.38
	Number of applications granted	18	7
	Number of applications refused	3	2
	Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	7	2
	Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	3	0
	Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of applications decided	325
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks		277	182
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information		46	35
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000		4	1
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought		76.09	72.2
F. Percentage of applications granted		96.00	92.66
G. Percentage of applications refused		4.00	9.63
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		90.48	55.56
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala		9.52	44.44
Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:		Number of applications decided	325
	Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	277	182
	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	46	35
	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	4	1
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76.09	72.2

	Number of applications granted	312	202
	Number of applications refused	13	21
	Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Peanala	19	10
	Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Peanala	2	8
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment	A. Number of applications decided	5	3
The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	3	2
	C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	1	1
	D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1	0
	E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	101	19.5
	F. Percentage of applications granted	60.0	100
	G. Percentage of applications refused	40.0	0
	H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Peanala	100	
	I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Peanala	0	
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment	Number of applications decided	5	3
In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	3	2
	Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	1	1
	Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	1	0
	Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	101	19.5
	Number of applications granted	3	3
	Number of applications refused	2	0
	Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Peanala	1	0
	Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Peanala	0	0
P.2 Planning Enforcement	A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	250	167
The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	81	74
	C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	183	136
	D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	247	131

	E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	110	100
	F. Number of prosecutions	24	40
P.3 Planning Public opening hours The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Average number of opening hours per week	36.10	35
P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	858	781
	B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	7.93	8.1
P.5 New Buildings inspected The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.12	17.65
P.5 New Buildings inspected In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	258	221
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	39	39
P.6 Taking Estates in Charge The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	26	27
	B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	9	7
	C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	207	173
	D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	57.69	48.15
	E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	6	5
	F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	3	5
P.6 Taking Estates in Charge In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	26	27
	Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	9	7
	Total number of dwellings in these estates	207	173
	Number of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	15	13
	Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	6	5

	Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	3	5
Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.10	0.10
	B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.13	0.13
Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	A. Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority	6	6
	B. Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority	8	8
Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	3437.07	3165.94
Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities	209297	192787
Rev.1 House Rent The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	87.43	86.10
Rev.1 House Rent In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Amount due at year end from House Rent	4838894	5220804
	Amount collected at year end from House Rent	4230807	4494949
	Amount of arrears at year end from House Rent	608087	725855
	Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	69806.22	40230
	Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	65444.39	64762
	Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	472836.40	583119
Rev.2 Housing Loans The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:	A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	73.89	65.37
Rev.2 Housing Loans In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Amount due at year end from Housing Loans	1734646	1682672
	Amount collected at year end from Housing Loans	1281704	1099908
	Amount of arrears at year end from Housing Loans	452941.98	582764
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	15562.22	13224
	Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	428619	557481
Rev.3 Commercial Rates The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	76	72
Rev.4 Refuse Charges The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	0	0
Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	47	49

R1: Road Restoration Programme The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum
Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum

81.25

79.14

0.80

1.5