



**CHAMBERS
IRELAND**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2015



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government


WATERFORD®
CRYSTAL

Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors
for their involvement in the 2015 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Welcome

Welcome to the 12th annual ELG Awards. Recent years have presented multiple challenges for both local government and businesses. Amidst these challenges, I am delighted to see how the strong relationships between Chambers and Local Authorities have been further developed.

There has always been a natural fit between Chambers and Local Authorities. Cooperation and community engagement is required for both parties to succeed. Since the introduction of new structures of local government and the establishment of LEOs, the importance of effective cooperation between local government, community and businesses has been even more pronounced. A pioneering example of the evolution of local government and the importance of cooperation was the successful merger between Limerick City and County Councils in 2014.

Throughout Ireland, Chambers are working together with LEOs to attract more investment and create more local jobs. Without the support of Local Government, businesses cannot grow. Without the growth of businesses, communities cannot thrive. Our mutual success is dependent on each other and our futures are inherently linked.

In partnership with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, these Awards are our way of recognising the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with local authorities as we enter a new phase of growth and embark on the challenge of ensuring that the economic recovery is felt in all areas of our country with lasting benefits for local communities.



Ian Talbot

Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland

Contents

Supporting Active Communities



Leitrim County Council	5
Limerick City and County Council	6
Monaghan County Council	7
South Dublin County Council	8

Promoting Economic Development



Carlow County Council	23
Cork City Council	24
Meath County Council	25
Wexford County Council	26

Best Practice in Citizen Engagement



South Dublin County Council	9
Fingal County Council	10
Limerick City and County Council	11

Local Authority Innovation



Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	27
Fingal County Council	28
Limerick City and County Council	29
Longford County Council	30
Wexford County Council	31

Health & Wellbeing



Cork County Council	12
Dublin City Council	13
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	14
Fingal County Council	15
South Dublin County Council	16

Sustainable Environment



Cork County Council	32
South Dublin County Council	33
Fingal County Council	34

Supporting Tourism



Carlow County Council	17
Cavan County Council	18
Cork City Council	19
Leitrim County Council	20
Sligo County Council	21
South Dublin County Council	22

Smarter Travel



Cork County Council	35
Mayo County Council	36

Best Library Service



Dún Laoghaire County Council	37
Fingal County Council	38
South Dublin County Council	39
Wexford County Council	40

Sustaining the Arts



Cavan County Council	41
Leitrim County Council	42
Louth County Council	43
South Dublin County Council	44

Joint Local Authority Initiative



Donegal County Council	45
Kilkenny County Council	46
Mayo County Council	47

Festival of the Year



Cavan County Council	48
Fingal County Council	49
Limerick City & County Council	50
Meath County Council	51
Sligo County Council	52
Wexford County Council	53

Parks and Recreation



Cork County Council	54
Dún Laoghaire County Council	55
Wicklow County Council	56

Outstanding Customer Service



Cavan County Council	57
Cork County Council	58
Wexford County Council	59

Enhancing the Urban Environment



Fingal County Council	60
Limerick City and County Council	61
South Dublin County Council	62
Wexford County Council	63

Heritage and Built Environment



Cavan County Council	64
Cork County Council	65
Fingal County Council	66
Cavan County Council	67

Highlights of previous winners

2014: Limerick City and County Council	68
2013: Dublin City Council	69
2012: South Dublin County Council	70
2011: Cavan County Council	71
2010: Leitrim County Council	72

Excellence in Local Government Awards Judging Panel

Round One

- Mr. Maurice Coughlan, *Principal Officer, Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Mr. Tony O'Brien, *Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council*
- Dr. Seán Ó'Riordáin, *Principal, Seán Ó'Riordáin & Associates*
- Ms. Yvonne McKenna, *Chief Executive, Gaisce*

Round Two

- Mr. Dónall Curtin, *Outgoing President, Chambers Ireland*
- Mr. Tony O'Brien, *Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council*
- Mr. Pat McLoughlin, *Consultant, PML Consulting*
- Ms. Geraldine Tallon, *Former Secretary General, Dept. Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Mr. Maurice Coughlan, *Principal Officer, Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Mr. Joe Allen, *Former Principal, Dept. Environment, Community and Local Government*

Local Government Policy Council

- Tony O'Brien, *Consultant TOB Associates (Chair of Policy Council)*
- Joe Allen, *Former PO, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Orlaith Borthwick, *Economist, Limerick Chamber*
- Hilary Haydon, *Joint Managing Partner, Hilary Haydon & Company*
- Tony Lambert, *Chief Executive, Fingal Chamber*
- Rita McInerney, *Chief Executive, Ennis Chamber*
- Alma Murnane, *Policy and Research Manager, Cork Chamber*
- Patrick King, *Head of Public Affairs, Dublin Chamber*

Leitrim County Council Mohill Age Friendly



Mohill Age Friendly Town initiative was developed through a variety of local community groups, local agencies, educational, farming and business representatives. This active engagement of diverse local interests worked through Mohill Community Network which is a local development and co-ordination structure within the context of the Leitrim Age Friendly County Strategy. The success of the initiative is due to the levels of community engagement, participation and commitment by local groups. The Mohill Age Friendly steering group has 29 members representing 17 local groups and agencies and they have developed a Mohill Age Friendly Town Plan which contains proposals to transform Mohill into a vibrant Age Friendly Town that accommodates the needs of all of its citizens. The Steering group will link with the Network and Mohill Business Association to carry out a range of further actions including outdoor seating along the street.



Limerick City and County Council Team Limerick Clean Up (TLC)



TLC is a County wide clean up initiative which saw 10,054 volunteers gather across Limerick. The first TLC took place on Good Friday, 3rd April 2015, where groups from communities, businesses and schools removed the equivalent of 4,000, 240 L wheelie bins of TLC bagged litter over 20,108 hours. The initiative was led by Irish Rugby Captain, Paul O'Connell and co-ordinated by a steering group made up of Limerick City and County Council. TLC was the first City/County campaign post the merger. Partners of the project were Mr. Binman, McManus Benevolent Fund, Limerick City Business Association, local media, the Limerick Leader and Live 95FM. TLC put Limerick on the national stage in an exceptionally positive light over the Easter weekend and it was one of the most exciting campaigns ever to be held in Limerick.

Monaghan County Council The Peace Link



The Peace Link is a modern community sporting facility built to create a shared space for the Clones Erne East region, which came to fruition in 2014 through partnerships between local authorities, funding agencies and local community groups. This iconic state of the art sports facility endeavours to promote social inclusion, peace building through sporting and recreational events and above all to encourage people of all ages from all denominations to equally experience the richness that diversity offers. The Peace Link sports facility was officially opened by President of Ireland Michael D Higgins on 26th September 2014. The ethos of the facility is to create a shared space to promote peace building through active participation in sport and recreation within a natural sporting environment.



South Dublin County Council Annual Social inclusion Week



Social Inclusion is about creating a society where everyone experiences full and equal participation in all aspects of life. The purpose of South Dublin County Social Inclusion Week is to highlight and promote the positive work that South Dublin County Council is involved in to reduce social exclusion and poverty. It is a programme of events organised by the Social Inclusion Unit, Housing, Social and Community Development Department to highlight the diversity and creativity of people in South Dublin County. There is a strong emphasis on participation in the programme which has a ripple effect out into the community of family, friends and neighbours who attend events. The Unit reaches out into all sections of community, connecting many people and groups who are normally isolated and on the margins. It is an opportunity for people to learn new skills, share ideas and participate in their community.

South Dublin County Council Disability Advisory and Consultative Panel



Established in 2010, the South Dublin County Disability Advisory and Consultative Panel is a joint initiative between South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and local disabled people. Membership is voluntary and all members have a personal or professional interest in ensuring that facilities, services and activities that the County Council delivers are designed to be accessible to the entire community. There is an incredible wealth of knowledge and personal experience within the Panel which provides an invaluable resource for the Council to draw upon. It is an excellent example of best practice in citizen engagement because it is facilitated by the Council but led primarily by individual people who have a lived experience of disability and who live or work in the County.



Fingal County Council Fingal Age Friendly Facilities



This is an initiative that commits Fingal County Council to informing older people that we value their contribution to society and we are committed to serving them. The project establishes our community facilities as Age Friendly and in doing so supports the development of practices that improve the experience within our community centres for older people. Older people have an extremely valuable contribution to make to society and their communities and it is important to facilitate this for the benefit of all. Fingal Age Friendly Facilities are places where older people may enjoy the best possible local facilities as they grow older. It is important that older people should be able to live healthily and independently. They should be active participants within their own communities. This is about empowering, enabling and facilitating older people to be active within and to benefit from our community facilities.

Limerick City and County Council
www.ppn.ie (PPN.ie)



This project addresses a significant challenge around the effective interaction of all stakeholders in the community voluntary sector with local authorities and other state agencies. The project allows effective communication between the newly established Public Participation Network (PPN) and the Local Authority. The project consists of an online network that all PPN groups in the Limerick area can use to effectively communicate with each other and with the local authority. The project facilitates sharing of documentation, creation of public and private events calendars, polling etc. The vision of the project is that Limerick City and County Council will lead in promoting the roll out of the project nationally and promote the platform as a tool for effective engagement with other state agencies and become a transferable model of best practice in participative democracy. The platform will facilitate the democratisation of public information.



Cork County Council Water Safety Awareness for Primary Schools



The Cork County Council Water Safety Awareness Award is a Flag which is awarded to primary schools once they have completed the Council's Water Safety programme. The programme gives children the opportunity to learn valuable safety information and techniques around water. Water safety in the home, farm, pool, rivers, lakes and beaches are all covered in the programme. 29 schools are flying the flag already after only 4 months and many more have registered to participate. We aim to have approx 5,000 children complete the programme by the end of 2015. To maintain the Flag Status each school is requested to put some safety information on their website and on a notice board in the school. The pupils also participate in an interactive session with the Cork County Council Water Safety Development Officer.

Dublin City Council The Ballybough Community, Youth and Fitness Centre



The centre provides a multifunctional open and inviting building, which acts as a focus point for the local community and is a crucial element in the social, educational, cultural and recreational life of the area. It provides a strong, identifiable focal point for the local agencies to provide essential services for the local community. The centre also provides a large array of affordable classes and courses for the communities in the surrounding areas. The centre has been fully operational for the last five years and has enhanced the health and wellbeing of the local community. It provides a safe and friendly environment for all age groups to take part in different programmes.



Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Green Passport to an active Lifestyle



The 'Green Passport to an Active Lifestyle' initiative was designed to encourage young children in the County to get out, get active and to have fun. In association with dlr Leisure Services, the Council distributed a Green Passport to every primary school child in the County (approximately 25,000) that encouraged them to undertake a variety of challenges in order to earn stamps for their Passports. When all stamps have been collected, children returned their completed Passports in order to qualify for the personal prizes and the school with the highest percentage of completed passports would win an "Outdoor Classroom" for their school grounds. The initiative encouraged school children to get out in the fresh air and to use the great sports facilities that the Council provides while having fun at the same time.

Fingal County Council 1K Fitness Loop



This project delivered 8 pieces of outdoor exercise gym equipment to complete an Outdoor Gym with 1km Fitness Loop for adults. The 1km Fitness Loop is located in the Ward River Valley Park, Swords, Co. Dublin. The Park is a linear river park and connects the suburban communities at the west of Swords with the Town Centre at the east. The Outdoor Gym was developed with input from many local residents groups, Active Age groups, schools and sports clubs, and is located on an optional route off the recently re-instated Swords Sli na Slainte. The next components of the Masterplan are to install a Childrens Adventure Trail adjacent to the Outdoor Gym to enable families and multi-generational groups to exercise in an informal and social setting and to establish exercise and healthy living as a part of day to day life.



South Dublin County Council Health & Wellbeing Week



The development of Health and Wellbeing Week for South Dublin County followed a collaborative process among partner agencies to develop a shared vision and awareness of the many services and facilities available to our citizens. Health and Wellbeing is one of the major challenges faced by all public and private organisations. Local authorities play a critical role in protecting and promoting wellbeing at local level and this is particularly so in disadvantaged areas. South Dublin County Council is very conscious of its role in this regard and continues to maintain the well being of its' citizens as a priority objective of service delivery. During the week there is a varied programme of events for everybody. The slogan for the week is "Get your ass off the Couch". The week is supported by Health and Well Being "Ambassadors" these include well known sports people, politicians and TV celebrities



Carlow County Council

Tourism Planning and Execution



Carlow County Council has made very significant commitments to increasing the country's tourism infrastructure base which has assisted Carlow's profile as a developing tourism destination of repute. Public sector investment has also stimulated economic development, revenue and occupancy for the private tourism sector and has given both small and large scale providers the confidence to invest or re-invest, be that in the accommodation or attractions sector. As the body responsible for the creation of Carlow's tourism, the county tourism marketing and development company has overseen a structure which guides sustainable development and marketing of the sector. Between 2006 and 2014 the Council has invested some €25 million in product infrastructure, whilst also facilitating on-going maintenance and presentation of these sites to the highest standards. The Council also invest over €150,000 between Carlow Tourism and a series of festivals and events throughout the county on an annual basis.



Cavan County Council Cavan Burren Park



In June 2014 Cavan County Council officially opened a significant new visitor attraction valued at €1M in County Cavan. Cavan Burren Park is a flagship attraction and has, to date, contributed significantly to the tourism product giving people a real and legitimate reason to visit the County. Cavan Burren Park is a megalithic landscape with dolmens, wedge tombs, glacial erratics, rock art and breathtakingly beautiful landscapes with views of Cuilcagh Mountain, Lough MacNea and the surrounding counties. The new development consists of 5k of walking trails (including a multi-access trail) and a world-class unmanned interpretative centre. The centre is an open interpretation space designed to the highest specification which includes a kids' corner, 3D megalithic tomb displays and interactive information panels. Cavan County Council, in partnership with C6illte has taken one of the finest integrated prehistoric landscapes in Ireland and turned it into an innovative tourism attraction in a responsible and sensitive manner.

Cork City Council

T.E.A.M (Tourism, Events, Arts & Marketing)



In recognising the obvious necessity for Cork City to take full advantage of its historical, cultural, gastronomic and commercial credentials to significantly improve tourism revenue for the city and its hinterland and to highlight the delights of Ireland's second city to a wider audience, Cork City Council established its Tourism, Events, Arts & Marketing (TEAM) Unit in 2011. The hands on and quick win approach taken by TEAM has already seen delivery of many of its objectives in a dramatically short period of time. From capital infrastructural projects, to improving the city's traditional music offering, to marketing campaigns European cities with transport links to Cork, the ambitious plan is well on its way to delivering on its promises. Proposals for a National Diaspora & Heritage Centre, the refurbishment of Elizabeth Fort in the city centre, the provision of free WiFi in the city, a new profile for the city's cultural tourism offering and destination marketing throughout Europe are just some of the exciting projects which TEAM has delivered on to date.



Leitrim County Council SHANNON BLUEWAY



The “Shannon Blueway” is a collaboration between Waterways Ireland and Leitrim County Council to develop a sustainable activity tourism proposition. It is an extensive network of paddling, cycling and walking routes along the waterways of the North Shannon, connecting villages and communities in a predominantly rural setting. The essential aim of the initiative is to increase the recreational use of the inland waterways and thereby to generate economic, health, social and community benefits. The Shannon Blueway supports a myriad of recreation activities and helps to grow and develop business along its length. Waterways Ireland developed the Shannon Blueway, based largely on existing infrastructure, in partnership with the National Trails Office and Canoeing Ireland to ensure a quality product, meeting national trail standards. The local community has been enthused and engaged in the initiative through Public Information events and through collaborative working with the local authority Tourism Officer.

Sligo County Council

“Queen Maeve Trail” Co. Sligo



The Queen Maeve Trail involves the introduction of an iconic 2.4km walking trail to link to village of Strandhill in Co. Sligo to the summit of Knocknarea Mountain which is capped by the imposing 5000 year old Queen Maeve’s Cairn. This trail development is in essence a partnership between local landowners, Coillte and Sligo Co. Co. Trail management is currently the responsibility of Sligo Council with input from Coillte and the other landowners on the route. This project provides a valuable local amenity for residents of Strandhill and Sligo and will help to sustain jobs in this tourism centered locality through the economic impact associated with increased visitor numbers to the area. The launch event included a sponsored walk to raised funds for Strand Celtic Soccer Club. It is intended to continue with such events as well as to introduce a Mountain Meitheal scheme thereby involving the local community in the ongoing management and development of the trail.



South Dublin County Council South Dublin Heritage Walks



South Dublin Heritage Walks is a project by South Dublin County Council Libraries which developed self-guided audio heritage walks for each of the County's villages – Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Newcastle, Saggart, Clondalkin, Palmerstown and Lucan. The walks are accessible through a mobile site at <http://heritagewalks.sdcc.ie/>. Each walk includes an interactive map, photographs and an audio description of each heritage stop on the route. The walks highlight well-known heritage sites like Clondalkin's Round Tower and Rathfarnham Castle, as well as the lesser-known, such as the Archbishop's Bath House in Tallaght, and Boherboy Standing Stones. South Dublin County has a strong tourist offering in terms of natural resources, archaeological features, and monastic and built heritage, but it is primarily overlooked and underused. The development of these Heritage Walks aims to provide a product to raise awareness of South Dublin County's rich heritage, both for visitors and locals alike.

Carlow County Council

Bizfest – Business Connections Event



Bizfest is a business-to-business connections event led by Carlow County council in partnership with indigenous entrepreneurs. The project is a true testament of what can be achieved when private and public interest work in synergy to create connections with a multi-level approach. 2014 represented the second year of the event which attracted 300 entrepreneurs from across Ireland which is focused on building the relationship between the SME sector, large business and the public service. In 2014 the event was hosted in partnership with Netwatch, Keenan's, Bank of Ireland and Carlow Chamber of Commerce. The event featured 3 elements; a networking forum, exhibition area and panel event.



Cork City Council

I WISH stands for Inspire young Women to Investigate Opportunities in Stem



I WISH is a city and regional schools initiative to Inspire Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The idea, the dream, the wish, is to promote greater female participation in STEM, to ensure that Ireland maximises its talent pool and continues to attract high skilled jobs. This is Corks response to the recognised need to attract more female students into the skills pipeline. On 12th Feb 2014, city hall became the central event centre for I WISH and hosted over 20 interactive exhibitors from all areas of STEM. In addition there were rolling presentations from senior female role models representing household names in the sector e.g. Google, twitter, PepsiCo, Pfizer's, Arup etc. There were also four I WISH hub events in West Cork, North Cork, East Cork and the Western Suburbs. A partner running a business from that regional locality managed each of the regional hubs.

Meath County Council

Kells Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme



Kells as the pilot town for County Meath, has completed the roll out of the Kells Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme under the Meath Age Friendly County Programme. 32 Kells businesses are currently signed up to the scheme and are committed to Age Friendly practices. As part of the scheme to assist accessibility, 11 kerbs were dropped throughout the town. The Kells Age Friendly Business Directory has also been completed, which features the location and age friendly services of each business. Marketing and promotion of the scheme has included local media campaigns, distribution of the Kells Age friendly directory and a presence at national exhibition shows. This has been a collaborative initiative between Meath County Council, Kells & District Chamber of Commerce and Age Friendly Ireland.



Wexford County Council The Greensave Project



The Greensave project is loosely based upon the small business mentoring scheme which The Local Enterprise Office in Wexford uses to support small businesses in specialist areas such as marketing, IT, trade-marking etc. The client business pays a flat fee of €250, and receives €1,000 worth of mentoring support from a specialist in the given field. This project uses a similar approach, and provides the businesses with a three to six month environmental support programme with the aim of reducing costs in the business by focusing on savings in energy, waste and water overheads. Annual average savings of €5,347 were achieved in 10 small businesses that availed of the Greensave Programme in 2014. The project is now in its third year having started in 2013. The Greensave Project partners are Wexford County Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, The Local Enterprise Office Wexford, Wexford Chamber of Commerce and Econcertive.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council dlr Smart Bins



In 2014 existing litter bins throughout Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown were upgraded to new solar powered compacting smart bins. These smart bins have improved the efficiencies of the service by using solar compacting technology that increases the capacity of the bin, thereby extending the period between emptying, and a web based application that shows real-time levels of waste in the new units and informs staff when individual bins need to be emptied. This upgrade of the litter bins throughout the County has resulted in a reduction of 75% in the fleet costs and 60% in the staff numbers associated with this service. With the improvement in efficiencies and the reduction in the fleet size, this project has reduced the organisation's energy consumption by the equivalent of 85,000kWh annually as a result of reduced fuel consumption.



Fingal County Council Using Innovative Technology to reduce dog foul in Fingal



Fingal County Council wanted to create an awareness of the problem of dog fouling in the local community. Following on from a study carried out by NUI Maynooth in partnership with the Council, an audio message device was developed. RiteView Solutions Ltd. implemented the devices on behalf of the Council. Two devices were installed along the Baldoyle Promenade during the summer of 2013 and following from their success, the Council deployed them again in the summer of 2014. The audio devices delivered a pre-recorded message with regard to dog fouling: "Keep Fingal clean and enjoy your walk. Dog foul is dangerous for children. Please clean up after your dog". Fingal County Council was the first Local Authority to pioneer these audio devices and following on from our verifiable success, (82% reduction in dog foul), 15 other Local Authorities have subsequently followed our lead and adopted the technology in their communities.

Limerick City and County Council Innovate Limerick



In 2014 Limerick City & County Council became the first local authority to establish a special purpose innovation company to act as innovation broker between existing semi-state, private and national services providers. The objective of Innovate Limerick is to double innovation activity each year and act as the delivery mechanism for a range of projects outlined in the Limerick 2030 Plan and others. It is a separate limited company with its own Board of Directors and is also part of the Economic Development and Planning Directorate.



Longford County Council

Safety Made Simple: Leading organisational culture change through Plain English



Achieving effective communication is a complex process and this becomes evident when communicating information associated with health and safety. Safety Made Simple was initiated as part of a strategic initiative to improve communication, lead cultural change and assist employees with understanding and engaging with health and safety. Plain English is a way of presenting information that helps people to understand information the first time they read or hear it. The project involved converting the existing safety statement to a more user friendly document through the use of Plain English. This involved consultation and input from all sections within the organisation. In September 2014, the National Adult Literacy Agency awarded the document the Plain English mark.

Longford County Council is the first workplace in the country to have the National Adult Literacy Agency award the Plain English mark to a safety statement

Wexford County Council

Environmental Incidents: Mobilised Investigation and Management



Wexford County Council responded to a range of environmental incidents such as fly tipping, abandoned cars, stray animals and pollution across a wide geographic area. All of these incidents can not only have a detrimental effect on our environment but also a direct negative effect on tourism, business and the wider community. Dealing quickly with anti social incidents such as littering and fly tipping can have knock on positive effects on crime and the social well being of that community. The project leverages low cost high function Android devices and web services to rapidly respond to and manage these environmental incidents and thereby provide a more efficient and effective service to the community. Since implementing the system there has been, on average, a decrease of 36% in the turnaround times of environmental incident i.e. the time between the initial report and the resolution of the incident.



Cork County Council Cork County Hall Campus Beyond 2020



The County Hall campus consists of a 17-storey office block, six-storey extension, multi-storey car park, 2 ancillary buildings and County library. The building was built in 1968 but a redevelopment project began in 2002 where the original distinctive concrete façade was replaced with a louvered glass cladding and a six-storey extension at ground level was completed in June 2006. The library building is the headquarters of a twenty two branch county wide network of local libraries and provides administrative offices and a large book processing facility for Cork. County Hall accounts for 19% of the total energy usage and thus was the subject of a targeted campaign of energy reduction culminating in a 34% energy reduction being achieved in December 2014 (based on a 2009 baseline year), 5 years ahead of the 2020 target of 33% (NEEAP 2012).

South Dublin County Council

Tallaght Smart Micro Energy Test Bed



In 2013 and attracted by Tallaght's Sustainable Energy Community status, the Micro Electricity Generation Association (MEGA) worked with South Dublin County Council to establish the Tallaght Smart Grid Test Bed.

The Test Bed is:-

- A local community energy auto-producer serving its own needs.
- Committed to power matching and balancing—not exporting to the Grid.
- Driven by energy 'prosumers' through the use of smart-meters linked in a micro-grid.
- Regulated by Contract and developing a local utility company (LUCO).
- Powered by a growing range of local renewable energy technologies.
- Grid-friendly through the use of DS3 balancing technology

The Test Bed is currently composed of approximately 200 homes, community groups, sports clubs, community centres and a large swimming pool in Tallaght. Generation sources include CHP, small wind turbine, hydro-power and solar power.



Fingal County Council Adopt a Patch Scheme



As part of its Litter Management Plan 2012-2015, Fingal County Council introduced the “Adopt a Patch” Scheme in 2012 to promote cleaner, more sustainable environment with the active participation of Fingal residents. Local groups signed up for the Scheme. The Council supplies a range of materials (hi-viz vests, bags, gloves, litter pickers, masonry paint and graffiti wipes) to assist with the proposed clean-ups and arranges for the collection of litter gathered. Many of the groups involved have gone on to participate in Fingal County Council’s Cleaner Communities Awards. The Scheme has many benefits: - there is a marked improvement in the physical environment of the adopted areas; the participating groups have developed a good relationship with the County Council’s Operations Department staff and Litter Wardens; and local residents have developed an appreciation of their new cleaner environment and will hopefully make an effort to sustain it.

Cork County Council

Mix Your Mode Journey Planner



The *Mix Your Mode Journey Planner* located at www.mixyourmode.ie is a mobile optimised website, ideal for use on smartphones and tablets, that allows for the planning of a trip by public transport, cycling or with the use of an electric vehicle, either in real-time or at a defined departure time. The Journey Planner allows people who are planning a journey to be given the best information possible on what their travel options are so that they can compare the efficiencies of various modes of transport and be guided towards the most efficient way to make their journey. This is the first Journey Planner specific to Cork that allows you to choose between the modes of transport you want to use, informing that decision with a carbon emissions calculator. The Journey Planner is publicly available and free to use.



Mayo County Council Westport Smarter Travel (WST)



WST is all about reducing the preference for the car as a default choice of transport and opting instead for more sustainable travel modes such as walking, cycling, skateboarding, public transport or car sharing. It's a lifestyle change with health and wellbeing benefits. Westport has actively developed a Smarter Travel philosophy over the past decade. Its philosophy is the embodiment of Smarter Travel through the rejuvenation of the Public Realm. In 2009 Westport Town Council was successful in an application for funding from the Department of Transport to upgrade and extend the existing Railway Walk into a high standard Greenway facility. The Greenway facility caters for cyclists and pedestrians and has significantly improved access throughout the town. In 2012 Westport was selected as one of three Smarter Travel Demonstration Areas in Ireland and WST is continuously working on improvements in infrastructure as well as implementing behavioural change measures.

Dún Laoghaire County Council dlr Lexlcon



dlr Lexlcon is the centrepiece of a new public space in Moran Park that is transforming the heart of Dún Laoghaire making new routes and connections between the town and the harbour. The Lexlcon is a key component in the delivery of the cultural programme in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. It embraces the modern concept of a public library – a vital community space where all are welcome. It is a vibrant centre of learning and creativity. The building offers a mix of intimate and expansive public rooms, places to congregate or to sit quietly with a book or laptop and enjoy the view. It houses the municipal gallery, exhibition and performance spaces (including a 100 seat theatre), a café, meeting rooms, 60+ computers, 100 study and homework spaces, 80,000 items in the adult and junior libraries and space for 40,000 items in the bookstore.



Fingal County Council Battle of the Book



The Battle of the book is a growing, collaborative reader development project between Fingal County Council library service, the daa and local primary schools in the Fingal area. The project is run from January to May each year with 5th class students from different primary schools within Fingal. Throughout the project, the children read and discuss a common book; engage in activities that are organized around the themes of the book for each of the classes involved and have an opportunity to meet and interact with the author. The project ends in a battle – a quiz between the schools. The aim of the project is to get children reading for pleasure, by using a multi-disciplinary creative programme with art, history and an active competitive element between other schools in their community.

South Dublin County Council

Creative Campus: Supporting our second level students in South Dublin



South Dublin has one of the highest numbers of young people under 18 years of age in the country. Of the eight second level schools in the county, four have DEIS status. The school retention rate is 88.4% compared to 90.1% in Fingal. Retention rates in DEIS schools are generally much lower, at 82.1% nationally. The number of young people accessing third level in South Dublin is 29.5%, comparing unfavourably to that in Dublin city at 37.6%; Fingal at 37.9% and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown at 51.2% (Census 2011). South Dublin Libraries is supporting young people achieve both their personal and educational needs in developing partnerships with a range of organisations to provide an appropriate range of services. Creative Campus is an ongoing and developing programme which will further expand in the coming years to meet the changing needs of our young citizens.



Wexford County Council Library Group Learning with MOOCs – a Wexford model



National Stories - investigated locally, interrogated globally. Students from all over Wexford joined together and with a global community of 14,000 other enthusiasts to study Irish, early 20th century Irish history & its continuing resonances. Public library led, they harnessed Trinity College Dublin & Ireland's first history MOOC [massive open online course], *Irish lives in war and revolution, 1912 – 1923*. Expertise in research, online study, critical assessment, assignments, confidence, fun and companionship were gains as well as the information & historical insights. Rural isolation and exclusion from educational opportunities was undermined. Successful candidates [90% course completion] received certificates from TCD. The candidates are continuing their research, are more skilled and empowered and more involved in their communities. The library management model applied is cost-effective and transferable to other libraries and adult education institutions countrywide. World class, accredited learning, supported by public library IT and information research skills, available locally. Powerful, Simple, Smart, Successful – Love it!



Cavan County Council

Building Peace through the Arts – Bailieborough, Ballyconnell, Cootehill and Redhills



The project Building Peace through the Arts—Bailieborough, Ballyconnell, Cootehill and Redhills is currently taking place in the four communities in County Cavan. The aim of the project is to use the arts as a tool for sustaining healthy, resilient communities and to investigate opinions and perceptions of the value of peace in our County. Local steering committees were set up and together with the arts and social inclusion offices of Cavan County Council we received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. In stage 1 we employed artist facilitators to work in each community through arts processes engaging the community in a critique about their past, present and future focusing on the challenges that have shaped us. The resulting art work will serve as a reminder of this for us and will be a source of dialogue and pride.



Leitrim County Council Locis



Locis was a partnership programme led by Leitrim County Council with The Centre of Contemporary Art in Torun, Poland and Botkyrka Konsthall, Sweden where each partner sent and received a leading artist from their country to work with, and mentor, groups of artists from all three regions and to engage with the communities where they were based. Being a partnership of a rural local authority, a large provincial city in Poland and a suburb of Sweden's capital city, Locis set out to demonstrate that a vibrant arts practice should, and can, be maintained from anywhere and that networking across borders can occur from anywhere and with anyone.



Louth County Council Ardee Baroque



Every November, a festival celebrating the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries takes place in Ardee. Ardee Baroque is initiated by the Arts Office of Louth County Council and has developed into a strong partnership between the Council and the community. Ardee Baroque has established itself as a festival which features high-quality music, an effective and engaging education programme, in a welcoming and informal setting. Through investment by Louth County Council, support from the Arts Council, and a strong sense of ownership by the community, the town itself has been effectively re-branded as being synonymous with music. With a national orchestra in residence for a week, hundreds of audience members coming to the town, and music critics from local and national media attending and reporting on the performances, Ardee has benefitted economically, culturally, socially and has seen its national profile raised in a positive and transformative way.



South Dublin County Council

TENDERFOOT: A volume of plays by and for young people



TENDERFOOT: A Volume of Plays By & For Young People is a selection of 13 plays and 3 monologues chosen from over 100 written by 15 and 16 year old students over a period of 7 years as part of the Tenderfoot project. These plays give expression to a seldom heard voice of young people and will be of interest to youth theatres, schools and anyone interested in theatre. TENDERFOOT, which was initiated in 2007, is a successful apprentice theatre programme lead by one of Ireland's most esteemed theatre makers, Veronica Coburn and the Civic Theatre, Tallaght. Each year it offers 40 transition year students interested in theatre an opportunity to learn about all aspects of the art of theatre in a very hands-on way. South Dublin County Council initiated the programme and funded the publication of the collection of the plays promoting the initiative to the local community.

Donegal County Council

SPACEial is an acronym for “Spatial Planning and Collaborative Exchange of Information and Learning”



The SPACEial NW project is an acronym for ‘*Spatial Planning and Collaborative Exchange of Information and Learning*’. Donegal County Council was the lead implementing council for this project and worked closely with Derry City Council, Strabane District Council, Limavady Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council in responding to the need for cross border spatial data to inform and shape policies and decision-making within the region. The project produced a dedicated website, www.spaceialnw.eu, which is essentially a one stop shop for *Maps, Stats and Apps* in the North West Region Cross Border Area. This project has provided a much needed platform in the North West Region in using geographical information to develop plans and policies and has the potential to impact on the lives of 317,518 persons who live in the 7236sqkm in the North West Cross border Region.



Kilkenny County Council “Litter Waste Land Radio Campaign”



The South East Local Authorities combined their expertise and their financial resources and worked with BEAT FM to develop an anti litter radio campaign targeting teenagers and young adults. The campaign ran in April/May 2014 and was set in a future world where everything was a litter wasteland. The radio advert theme was a father talking to his son and telling the story about what things were like before the litter wasteland ruined everything and the social media campaign highlighted a litter wasteland apocalypse featuring a known landmark in each of the six counties. Facebook followers had to identify the landmark to be in with a chance to win a €100. The campaign was highly successful and reached a total of 376,044 people.

Mayo County Council MeetWest



MeetWest is the largest business networking event in the West of Ireland. It was launched in 2011 with the aim of bringing together companies and business people based in, or with an interest in, the West of Ireland to network and do business together. Over 2 days, MeetWest facilitates the development of greater business links between these companies, leading to business opportunities locally, regionally and internationally. Organised by the local authorities and enterprise support agencies in Galway, Mayo & Roscommon, the event grows in popularity each year and is now an established part of the West of Ireland's regional approach to business development.



Cavan County Council Taste of Cavan



The 'Taste of Cavan' takes place in Cavan town over two days in August and is a showcase event for the diverse range of local food producers in the County. Produce includes cheese, boxty, chocolate, poultry, sausages, breads, muffins, baked goods and lots more. The event also showcases chefs and restaurants in the County and gives visitors and buyers an opportunity to sample and purchase the finest of Cavan fare contributing significantly to the local economy over the two days. The event attracts over 35,000 visitors each year and has become a key event on the Irish food calendar.

Fingal County Council Flavours of Fingal County Show



The Flavours of Fingal County Show is now in its third year and has been held annually at Newbridge House & Farm in Donabate. It began as an initiative of the County Development Board bringing together the local authority, the Fingal farming sector and Fingal Tourism. The Show is organised by a committee comprised of representatives of the Council's Economic Development Services Department, the Parks & Heritage Properties Unit and the Events Office together with Fingal Farmers and Fingal Tourism which commits a large amount of the time of its manager and staff each year to the Show. It is Dublin's only agricultural show with an unforgettable food and family fun experience. Two of the core values at the heart of the Flavours of Fingal event is the desire to make the event as family friendly as possible and to also make it as affordable as possible for all attendees.



Limerick City & County Council

A Giant's Journey, Limerick, September 2014



Limerick City of Culture invited the world-renowned Street-theatre company Royal De Luxe to present their spectacular Giant show in Ireland in 2014. Limerick is the first ever Irish city to welcome the rambling Giants, and privileged to be the first Irish City to have a giant saga perform here. The event was the flagship event for Limerick National City of Culture 2014 demonstrating a commitment to creating an event of scale to attract record number of visitors to the city and thereby enhancing the image of the City worldwide. The three day spectacle was an original tale, developed, specially scripted for the city and narrated and acted out by the Giant and her loyal Lilliputians. It told a specific tale about Limerick and Ireland. The tale was based on Royal de Luxe's newest member of the Giant Family, Grandmother, whose identity is partially rooted in Ireland.

Meath County Council

Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival



Samhain, the ancient Celtic Festival that we now call Halloween, originated in County Meath more than 2,000 years ago. Samhain marks the end of the old Celtic Year and the beginning of the New Year. The Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival is based on the story of the origins of Halloween at Tlachtga, the Hill of Ward in County Meath. This highly successful festival now in its 7th year is a collaboration of over 40 events run by local businesses and is coordinated and promoted nationally and internationally by Meath County Council and Meath Tourism.



Sligo County Council Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Sligo 2014



Sligo County Council partnered with the Fred Finn Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Sligo Chamber of Commerce to win the hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2014. This was the result of three years of planning led by Sligo County Council and generously and wholeheartedly supported by the Sligo business community. The outcome was transformational for Sligo: 350,000 visitors to the region over a nine day period (22% from international markets) surpassing numbers achieved at recent Fleadhanna, extensive press coverage and promotion of Sligo and a cementing of the high level of collaboration between the Council and the Sligo business community led by Sligo Chamber of Commerce. The Festival inspired a community to deliver a festival that each group in the community felt ownership of and created a sense of belief that other major events can and will be hosted in Sligo. With a 95% potential return rate for visitors, Sligo is now well-placed to leverage from its success in 2014 and deliver an even more compelling reason to belong in its 2015 Festival.

Wexford County Council

Wexford Winterland Festival 2014



A 40 day extravaganza came to Wexford, as the atmospheric Viking town hosted a wonderful Christmas 2014 Retail Experience. The heart of Wexford's first full Christmas Festival featured Wexford On Ice and the enchanting Christmas Tree Forest, along Wexford's quayside, as well as festive music playing along the length of the Main Street. Retailers followed the Star, with promotional offers to attract footfall and the local Tesco Extra brought the Coca Cola Christmas truck to Wexford town. Selskar Square was transformed into a unique outdoor venue – showing Christmas movies during the day and music gigs and orchestral performances at night. The Wexford Retailers Group funded a riot of colour, sound and spectacle with a Santa lead Christmas Parade and turning on of Christmas lights. Wexford Winterland Festival is an economic initiative of Wexford County Council working collaboratively with Lantern Events, Wexford Chamber of Commerce and the Wexford Retailers Group.



Cork County Council Ballincollig Regional Park Development



Ballincollig Regional Park Development Plan was prepared to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development of the scenic Regional Park in Ballincollig, Co. Cork. The Park extends for over 130 acres along the South bank of the River Lee approximately 8km West of Cork City and was formerly the site of one of the largest Gunpowder Manufacturing facilities in Europe. Since 1974 Cork County Council has managed the mix of open spaces, woodland trails, canal tow-paths & over 52 stone-built mill buildings. In 2007 a Skate Park was added and this was followed in 2011 with the instalment of Outdoor Exercise Equipment. The 2012 Development Plan sought to broaden the appeal of the Park further by providing for a Children's Playground, Multi-Use Games Area, Way-marked Gunpowder themed walking trails, Tarred-surface pathways suitable for mobility impaired users, cyclists, buggies etc., an allotments scheme, casual trading bays, picnic areas, and a range of other improvements for visitors.

Dún Laoghaire County Council The People's Park Re-Development



The People's Park has undergone some insensitive interventions over the years which lead to a compromise to its original Victorian layout. The re-development comprised of the restoration of the heritage features and the re-introduction of its historic layout while adding sensitive contemporary interventions for modern day requirements. As a result of the simplified layout, there is a substantial reduction in hard surfacing and a substantial increase in soft landscape features including the perennial borders, bedding displays and large areas of manicured lawns. In addition, an area of new public space has been reclaimed where the DART line once cut the park off from the seafront. The space itself contains generous bespoke seating, picnic table and coastal trees & planting providing a place for rest, relaxation, viewing and events.



Wicklow County Council Arklow Duck pond, Nature Walk & Leisure Area



Up to six years ago Arklow Duck Pond was a no go area for families and children. The area was scourged by vandalism and teenage drinking. Wicklow County Council together with community groups has worked to improve it for locals and tourists and is now used by young and old alike, night and day. Arklow Duck Pond and Recreational Area is now a wonderful place to visit. It provides a diverse mix of amenities including several interesting walks, outdoor gyms, crazy golf, a playground, skateboard park, a sensory garden and a running track. Children can feed the ducks and explore the various habitats. A number of events take place here which are organised by Wicklow County Council and various Community Groups. These events are very popular and encourage people to connect to their environment by looking at all the flora and fauna around them and enjoying the moment.

Cavan County Council

Cavan County Council Customer Service Unit



A dedicated customer service unit, a single point of contact, for members of the public looking to access services and information was created in Cavan County Council. Prior to the creation of the customer service unit, Cavan County Council had 5 public offices located in Cavan Town (including the offices of the former Cavan Town Council). Each office dealt with different service enquiries. This initiative made access to local authority's services more accessible and streamlined.

Outstanding Customer Service



Cork County Council Your Good Self: Cork's Positive Self Help Programme



The *Your Good Self* project is a joint initiative between Cork County Library, Cork City Libraries and the HSE. It is a bibliotherapy programme that enables people to become active participants in their own wellbeing. "Bibliotherapy" is the term given to obtaining information and techniques from books to enhance our mental, emotional and relationship health. Books, DVDs, CDs and lists of online resources which can help in the development of practical skills to cope positively with life's challenges are available at local, participating libraries. These resources have been handpicked and reviewed by HSE psychologists and other health professionals and cover a variety of topics from bereavement to stress, from parenting to low self-esteem and many more. The collection includes adult resources, including those relevant to older adults, and a selection of child and family resources.

Wexford County Council

Network of 4 Household Recycling Centres across County Wexford



The provision of 4 Household Recycling Centres, servicing the local community of Co. Wexford. All 4 centres provide a service whereby customers can recycle free of charge a range of waste materials. The service is continually expanding to meet the demands of our customers and they in turn can dispose of waste in an environmentally sustainable way. We provide many unique services that would not be otherwise available to the public such as disposal of waste oils, paint, garden waste and timber. We provide an alternative service to a kerbside collection and whereby customers can make an economic choice as to how they wish to dispose of their waste.



Fingal County Council Swords Castle Cultural Quarter – Architectural Masterplan – “A Plan for a New Cultural Heart”



Swords Castle Cultural Quarter- Architectural Masterplan - “A Plan for a New Cultural Heart” was commissioned in response to issues and potential projects identified as a result of an appraisal of this part of Swords by Fingal County Council. The plan aims to act as a stimulus for the people of Swords and Fingal County Council to take advantage of the lands around Swords Castle, to create outstanding and sustainable civic and cultural spaces. It is a vision statement for the people of Swords. The potential projects identified in the plan will have a positive effect on the fabric of Swords- its streets, buildings and places. The area will add a cultural dimension currently lacking in the town which will in turn stimulate business opportunities. It is hoped the plan will also have a positive effect on citizens’ wellbeing and quality of life for them and their communities.

Limerick City and County Council Pilot Urban Garden Project



The Pilot Urban Garden Project seeks to rebrand urban spaces as attractive destination spaces through a series of short-term achievable actions. 2030 is a strategic document that identifies a number of transformational sites that will have a transformative effect on Limerick City. These sites will take a number of years to deliver, however, at a public level there is a desire to see change happening sooner. The premise for the pilot project is focused on demonstrating that changes in the urban landscape can happen out of a series of small scale, low cost, locally owned interventions and does not necessarily need to be dependent on large scale development. It seeks to empower local communities to be the agent for their own change. This approach signals a shift away from the traditional master planning process and towards a new, place-based agenda to transform our cities. It focuses on using Place Making and a lighter, quicker approach to create the City of the Future.



South Dublin County Council Villages Initiatives



The Villages Initiative intends to encourage and grow community involvement and partnership, promote economic development, complement existing environmental and maintenance programmes, develop new showcase projects and generally enhance the attractiveness and quality of life of our traditional villages. Surveys and a SWOT analysis of 9 Villages were carried out by a multidisciplinary team of Council staff. This process identified a number of key areas requiring attention in order to build on the villages existing strengths. These include the need for improved landscaping, prioritisation of open spaces, greater legibility and ease of access, uniformity of standards in street furniture, removal of clutter, improved public realm and streetscapes. The council response is currently being advanced through a €7m programme of village enhancement works to be completed over 3 years which has been approved by council and universally welcomed by communities.

Wexford County Council

New Ross Quayfront Re-Development



The Quayfront Re-development works in New Ross have brought a real vibrancy to the area. The strong linear connection between the bridge and the Dunbrody Centre, not only elevates the quayside aesthetically but has transformed the adjoining public areas to become enjoyable and interesting spaces. New Ross has certainly benefited from this innovation project. The immediate vicinity has been transformed from a tired looking traffic dominated thoroughfare into a vibrant and enjoyable urban space. The boardwalk is enticing and gives new perspective back towards the town and along The Barrow. Now an internationally recognised landmark, this development transformed derelict riverside sites, fronted by a concrete flood barrier, into a most magnificent public boardwalk and civic space. The incorporation of the Emigrant Flame design created a unique commemorative piece of sculpture that is attracting thousands of visitors from home and abroad.

Enhancing the Urban Environment



Cavan County Council World War 1 Experience at Cavan County Museum



In 2014 Cavan County Council undertook a major development at Cavan County Museum, developing a new visitor experience which is now home to the *largest* outdoor replica trench open to the public in Ireland and the UK. The Trench is a must-see attraction for visitors since it opened in August 2014 and includes sound and visual effects to enhance the experience and educate visitors on life in the trenches in World War 1.

The trench is over 350m long and includes frontline, communication and support trenches. Those who fought in WWI were a different breed and no matter what their politics or religion everyone experienced the same horrors, hardships and loss. We can never fully understand the complexities of their war but through the Trench Experience and Exhibition we can begin to shed some light on a period of Irish History that has been forgotten.

Cork County Council

“Heritage of County Cork” Publication Series



This project represents a Local Authority’s commitment to taking stock of the heritage within its area and presenting it in a manner that is both inviting and enjoyable. The Heritage of County Cork Publication Series (Bridges 2013 and Houses 2014) has been supported by the Heritage Council, and has been a tremendous success thus far with glowing reviews and a high level of sales. Each publication examines a particular aspect of heritage and provides the reader with a great insight and understanding of the archaeological, architectural and cultural issues, and furthermore provides details of sites that can be visited by the public. As part of the project the public is requested to submit details of features in their locality, very much part of the publications’ charm. With further publications in the pipeline this series will continue to showcase and highlight the rich and wonderful heritage of County Cork.



Fingal County Council

Exploring Fingal: A pocket guide to Fingal's heritage for the “culturally curious” tourist



Exploring Fingal is a map-based pocket guide to 36 lesser-known but accessible heritage sites in Fingal. The sites are arranged as a circuit of the county - along the coast and through the heart of rural Fingal. It provides a short description of each site with a photograph together with information on access and facilities. The guide provides up-to-date and accurate information on each site and allows the user to explore the rich heritage of Fingal including its ringforts, stone tombs, churches, towers, holy wells, castles and big houses. *Exploring Fingal* is also provided as a user friendly and printable pdf download on Fingal County Council's website at <http://bit.ly/1G12JgU>. *Exploring Fingal* was developed by Fingal County Council's heritage office and compiled by archaeologist Christine Baker. To date 5,000 copies of the guide have been distributed by Fingal Tourism, through the Council's heritage properties, libraries and offices.

Cavan County Council

Walking History: A Tour of Cavan Town



The Walking History project was collaboration between Cavan Chamber, Cavan Town Council, Cavan County Council and members of the public. The Cavan Walking History Tour is a free attraction that brings you on a tour through the streets of Cavan town exploring its history and heritage. It is unique in that it allows the person taking the tour to access detailed information about each site on the tour via their smart phone or tablet device. The self-guided tour is marked out by a series of blue plaques across the town. There are currently twenty six such plaques at historical buildings and places of interest on every street in Cavan. The signs have QR Codes which can be scanned using a smart phone or tablet using a Free QR Code Scanner app. The visitor is brought directly into the relevant page on the website which tells the history of the location and has old photographs and sometimes local anecdotes.



Limerick City and County Council

Creating new agile public governance model

through the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council



Limerick City and County Council is creating a new agile public governance model to provide opportunity for public sector innovation, through the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council.

Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council are not just merging but creating a new organisation for local government using an innovative change portfolio that will change the design and delivery of local government services for the future. This new model will support the vision of Limerick City and County Council that the people of limerick are supported by a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure which is at the heart of a wider public service. The strategy is to: Empower the people of Limerick to participate in the development of their community, both rural and urban; Create a pro-business environment for sustainable economic development and job creation; and Create a new model of local governance and service delivery based on excellence in council leadership.

2013

Dublin City Council

Pathway Accommodation & Support System

Innovative technology to support interagency client case management in Homeless Services



PASS is an exciting and innovative project which provides Local Government, State agencies and the non-governmental sector with a shared client database which facilitates client assessment, support planning and interagency case management of people experiencing homelessness. The project is delivered by the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE). Additional to facilitating multi-agency case management and support planning approach, the 24/7 management aspect of emergency homeless accommodation has allowed the DRHE to increase efficiency of bed occupancy to a rate of 99% of capacity, through the sharing of information between all statutory and voluntary homeless services. Over 97,000 placements into emergency accommodation took place in Dublin during 2011 and 2012, between over 30 organisations. The introduction of PASS allows Local Government to effectively manage, co-ordinate and monitor the provision of homeless services in the four Dublin Local Authorities.



South Dublin County Council Ready2Read – Promoting Early Literacy Programme



Ready2Read was launched by South Dublin County Council to provide hands-on training for parents to help their children develop six pre-literacy skills which prepare them for formal learning in school and help them in their journey to becoming independent readers. Learning through the programme is accomplished through fun workshops which involve reading, nursery rhymes, songs and group activities and a series of practical tips to demonstrate each of the six pre-literacy skills. At the end of the programme each child and parent is presented with a certificate. South Dublin County Council sees this as an opportunity to develop and support early literacy through upskilling, empowering and enthusing South Dublin parents to undertake early literacy work with their children.

2011

Cavan County Council

Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark



The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is an area of significant geological heritage, endorsed by UNESCO, in parts of West Cavan and West Fermanagh. It is made up of a number of publicly accessible sites throughout both counties aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of the landscape amongst visitors and local inhabitants. Initially only in Co. Fermanagh, the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark was expanded into Co. Cavan in 2008. It is comprised of a large number of walking trails, ranging from short-, medium- and long-distance trails, as well as fully accessible trails, in addition to a number of amenity areas.



Leitrim County Council Flooding Crisis Response



Leitrim County Council adopted a co-ordinated and co-operative approach, managed by their Crisis Management Team, in dealing with the flooding crisis that hit the county in November/December 2009. The objective was to maximise information and assistance available to the public, while trying to minimise the impact of the crisis on the public. Activities undertaken throughout the crisis included regular updates to both local and national media which charted the changes in the flooding situation including road closures, diversionary routes etc. These updates included associated mapped information, which was immediately posted on the Council's website and circulated to AA Roadwatch, the NRA, the Ambulance Service, Councillors, Local Oireachtas Members, Staff and major local employers such as Bank of America. This multi-faceted approach ensured that all aspects of customer service delivery were equally targeted with benefits accruing to the widest possible audience.

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. In the top left, a road curves through green fields with trees. A signpost on the road reads 'broadband' with a yellow lightning bolt symbol above it. In the bottom left, a person in a red shirt is riding a blue bicycle on a path. In the bottom right, a white lighthouse stands on a grassy hill. In the center, a blue body of water contains a small boat and a circular pattern. The entire scene is framed by a large, semi-circular arc on the right side.

www.chambers.ie

 @ChambersIreland