

4th April 2016

**To An Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Carlow County
Council**

***Re: Transportation, Environment & Water Services Progress
Report April 2016***

I attach, for your consideration, the Progress Report for the Transportation, Environment & Water Services Section for the period to April 2016.

**Dan McInerney,
Director of Transportation, Environment and Water Services**

Transportation Progress Report April 2016

National Roads

National Roads in Carlow are the N80 Carlow to Bunclody Road and the N81 from Closh Cross to the Carlow-Wicklow County boundary via Tullow and Rathvilly. Transport Infrastructure Ireland, (TII, formerly NRA / RPA), have notified Carlow County Council of funding to the amount of € 248,118 for 2016 in respect of funding of maintenance operations on the National Secondary routes N80 and N81.

Good progress has been made on the roundabout at Ballinacarrig on the N80 despite the difficulties the site presents in respect of traffic management. The west side of the works are now fully completed and the contractor will shift his crew to the east side of the road following the Easter contractor' builders holidays. Public lighting will extend from this roundabout back to the Walls Forge roundabout and the work on the columns for the lighting standards is now practically finished. Work on the roundabout will be completed in the second half of May. Consultants have been engaged to prepare the CPO documents required to proceed with the next phase of the Carlow Southern Relief Road (CSRR), which will link with the Carlow Inner Relief Road (CIRR) constructed past Éire Óg.

TII have indicated that an allocation for surfacing works is likely to be provided for the N81 Bunclody Rd, Tullow, in 2016, and design works are continuing. Further TII funding is anticipated in respect of surfacing sections of the National Secondary routes where skid resistance is deemed to be low under the HD28 Programme.

TII have requested Carlow County Council to enter a Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council in respect of the refurbishment of three bridges on the N80 and N81 routes at Ballintrane, Closh and Boggan. The Council approved of this proposal at its March meeting.

Non-National Roads

The Non-national roads include the Regional roads along with Class I, II and III Local Roads. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, (DTTAS), have notified the Council of Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations in the amount of € 3,656,226 for 2016. Based on this allocation the Area Engineers prepared draft Roadworks

Schemes for 2016 and these were subsequently approved by the Members at the respective Municipal District meetings. The approved schemes will provide for the surfacing of over 70km of the non-national road network in the county. Preparatory works are in progress and procurement has commenced. It is anticipated that macadam overlay works on the approved roads will commence in May and that surface dressing will be undertaken in June and July.

The following tables outline the details of the 2016 Roadworks Schemes:

(a) Carlow Municipal District

- Restoration Maintenance € 193,500
- Restoration Improvement € 668,390
- Discretionary maintenance € 201,000
- Development Levy allocation € 200,000
- Discretionary Improvement € 200,780
- Bridge rehabilitation works € 75,000
- Safety Improvement works € 25,000
- Speed Limits € 74,075
- Local Roads general Maintenance € 677,060

The breakdown of the above figures, under the main headings is as follows:

CMD Area - Restoration Maintenance Programme 2016 (Base Allocation €193,500)			
Road Number	Location Description	Surface Dressing	Project Allocation
		Total Area (Sq.m)	
R418	Slaneyquartey-Tullow	15,840	€78,600
R418	Killerig Cross-Bohernabeakey	9,045	€45,225
L-2001	Tullow-Rathglass	16,820	€69,675
TOTAL		41,705	€193,500

CMD Area - Restoration Improvement Programme 2016 (BASE Allocation €668,390)			
Road Number	Location Description	Surface Dressing	Project Allocation
		Total Area (Sq.m)	
L 30531	Moyle	0	€95,180
L2012	Ballymurphy Road (1 lane only)	0	€48,075
L -2003	Coole Cross-Tobinstown	18,720	€100,000
L- 2003-51	Tobinstown- Knockeen Cross	16,000	€88,000
L-6001	Ricketstown-Bigstone	7,410	€70,475
L- 2003-0	Rathvilly (adj school)	1,240	€6,200
L- 2020-0	Mountniell Br- Moate Cross	17,150	€95,000
L-20202	Ouragh-Rathglass	5,735	€25,000
L 6026	Leamaneh Cross-Castlemore	9,350	€32,725
L- 1024	Tullow-Rathoe	22,320	€107,735
TOTAL		97,925	€668,390

BUDGET COSTING ANALYSIS 2016 - DEVELOPMENT LEVIES

Short Description	Estimated Cost
Footpaths, Gullies, Manholes-Athy Road (Phase 1)	€60,000
New Footpath – Gaelscoil/New Oak Centre	€ 8,000
Walsh Lane Graiguecullen - Footpaths	€ 10,000
Old Dublin Road – and Footpaths	€50,000
Hanover – Footpath	€11,000
Rathvilly –Phelan Street Footpath Replacement	€25,000
Tullow –The Shroughan Footpath	€15,000
Tullow – Steps/Footpaths	€ 9,000
Bishop Street Footpaths – Tullow	€12,000
Total Costs	€200,000

BUDGET COSTING ANALYSIS 2016 – DISCRETIONARY	
Carlow – Roadmarkings	€20,000
Hand Rail at Steps – St Marys Park	€ 3,000
No. 5 Millennium Court – Footpath Repairs	€ 5,000
Leighlin Road – Repairs to Footpath	€ 5,000
Tullow – Roadmarkings	€ 8,000
Leamaneh – Castlemore Tullow Drainage Issues	€ 5,000
Tullow – Barrack Street Footpath	€ 5,000
Carlow Road – Tullow (Rose O Brien) Drainage Issues	€ 7,000
Rathsillian Tullow – Grating/Wing Walls at end of open drain	€ 8,000
Members Discretionary Allocation	€50,000
Removal of Trees at Different Locations- Carlow	€10,000
Drainage Beechwood Park	€25,000
Community Road Scheme	€50,000
Total Cost	€201,000

(b) Muinebheag Municipal District

- Restoration Maintenance € 344,000
- Restoration Improvement € 1,241,297
- Discretionary grant € 143,300
- Development Levy allocation € 200,000
- Bridge rehabilitation works € 60,000
- Safety Improvement works € 55,000

The breakdown of the above figures, under the main headings is as follows:

MMD Area - Restoration Maintenance (Allocation €344,000)

Road Number	Location Description	Project Allocation
L3009	Glynn - Bahanna	€27,000
L3005	Burren Bridge - 9 Stones	€13,500
R724	Ballinacrea X - Myshall	€82,500
L30474	Augha X - Ratheden X	€31,500
L7130	Tullocreen X - Gallows Hill X	€16,000
L2021	Bangup X - Ardattin	€56,500
L20211	Ardattin - Ballintemple	€47,000
L20241	Kilgraney - Kilcarry Bridge	€22,000
L7008	Clonee	€22,000
L3006	Ballynattin - Spahill	€26,000

MMD Area - Restoration Improvement (Allocation €1,241,297)

Road Number	Location Description	Project Allocation
L7065	Dranagh - Ballynalower	€60,000
R702	Spearpoint - Ballymurphy	€90,000
R705	Kilcumney - Ballyfeanan	€90,000
L3003	Garryhill - Clonacur	€110,000
R724	Swing X - Ballywilliamroe	€135,000
L3049	Lumcloon - Ballynamire	€135,000
L7120	Lacken - Old Leighlin	€75,000
L3037	Old Leighlin - The Ridge	€55,000
L7129	Bilboa X - Rossmore	€100,000
L3050	Ballyloo - Graiguenaspidogue	€120,000
R724	Royal Oak	€75,000
L7139	New Road Leighlinbridge	€56,000
L30016	Knocksquire	€87,500
	MMD 2016 CIS Schemes	€52,797

DESCRETIONARY GRANT			
Road Class	Road Number	Location & Description	Proposed Allocation
LS	6042	Knocknatubrid - Drainage	€15,000
LS	7001	Seskinryan Drainage	€15,000
L	3003	Clonegoose Drainage	€15,000
LP	2023	Kilbride-Miltown Drainage	€8,300
LS	7005	Tubberdride Drainage	€10,000
LS	30376	Johnduffswood Drainage	€10,000
R	448	Road Markings - R448	€10,000
		Road Marking - Bagenalstown & MD Villages	€10,000
		Roads Discretionary Projects - Pending Nomination	€40,000
		Footpath Loan Repayment - Munebheag Municipal District	€10,000
Total			€143,300

DEVELOPMENT LEVIE PROJECTS			
Road Class	Road Number	Location & Description	Proposed Allocation
R	705	FACTORY X - footpath	€15,000
LP	2028	KILDAVIN - footpath	€15,000
LP	2035	BALLAN - footpath	€24,500
R	705	MAIN STREET BAGENALSTOWN - footpath	€25,000
L	3023	STATION ROAD BAGENALSTOWN Pedestrian Crossing	€16,500
LS	7113	RATHOE - footpath & lighting	€35,000
LS	7022	BALLINKILLIIN - footpath	€35,000
R	724	ROYAL OAK ROAD lighting upgrade	€20,000
R	705	MAIN STREET LEIGHLINBRIDGE - footpath	€14,000
Total			€200,000

BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORKS – Local & Regional Roads			
Road Class	Road Number	Location & Description	Proposed Allocation
LP	3001	Spearpoint Bridge	€60,000
	Total		€60,000

LOW COST ACCIDENT GRANTS			
Road Class	Road Number	Location & Description	Proposed Allocation
LP	3021	Aghade Junction – Sight improvements	€25,000
LP	3044	Rathwade Junction – Sight Improvements	€25,000
		Housing Estates Speed Limit Signage	€5,000
	Total		€55,000

Following the significant damage suffered to the counties roads infrastructure during the severe winter weather an initial funding claim to the value of € 314,250 in accordance with Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport Circular RW 8/2016, was made and the required funds were subsequently allocated by the Department. A second claim submission to the value € 1,206,875, also in accordance with Circular RW 8/2016, has been submitted and it is expected that an allocation, on foot of this submission, will be made by the Department in mid-April.

The cost of the response to the extreme rainfall in the period from December 26th to the middle of January, and the subsequent clean-up was greater than first estimated and a further claim has been to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in the amount € 212,359.73.

As stated above the severe winter weather has caused significant damage to some of the counties road infrastructure including drainage systems and bridges. In particular a number of Class II and Class III roads have suffered very badly. It is acknowledged that, as a result, a number of Members have experienced much pressure from their constituents. General maintenance has continued on drainage cuttings and road repairs throughout the Municipal Districts. Council staff have been extremely stretched in trying to deal with the increased level of complaints. It is important that the response continues in accordance with the previously agreed policy for road maintenance.

The roundabout being currently constructed on the Regional R448 Kilkenny Road at Mortarstown to serve the proposed new school and playing fields for the Carlow Kilkenny ETB and Carlow Institute of Technology, though not a Council project, has implications for general public utility because of traffic management implications on the R448. This regional road is the busiest of the regional roads in the county. The contractor has managed the traffic management in what is a very difficult situation. When completed the footpath/cycle lane which forms part of the external infrastructure of the site will be a legacy for the benefit of the entire community, not just for the patrons of the school and playing field.

The winter maintenance season is coming to a close. Following representations from Members at and following the January Council meeting the frequency of treatment of Priority 2 routes was increased. This will inevitably result in over-expenditure of the non-national road winter maintenance budget.

Environment and Water Services Progress Report April 2016

The Environment and Water Services Section continues to operate and maintain Water and Waste Water Infrastructure under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement the section continues to supervise ongoing investment in Water Services infrastructure and through best practice and regular testing/monitoring continues to ensure the delivery of a good quality water supply and the treatment of waste water to the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The section also regulates waste/water quality issues throughout the County and operates the rural water program.

Under the Drinking Water Regulations 2014, Carlow County Council are still the Water Authority for all private supplies within its functional area. These include Group Water Schemes and Small Private Supplies such as schools and Bed & Breakfasts on their own supplies.

The regulatory function for local authorities has continued to increase in environmental inspection and monitoring requirements. The requirement to permit and licence activities which have the potential to create an environmental risk is fulfilled. An increased emphasis on enforcement is reflected in the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections Plan (RMCEI).

The new Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authority (WERLA) is now working with Carlow County Council in the field of waste enforcement.

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 also requires Local Authorities to complete septic tank inspections and report inspection to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Carlow County Council are also engaging with the new Water Framework arrangements now in place through the new Local Authorities Water & Communities Office (LAWCO).

Powerstown Landfill site continues to offer excellent waste disposal and recycling services to the people of Carlow but will reach its capacity in Q3 of this year. Three large commercial customers continue to dispose of refuse at the facility.

The following report provides a summary of activities in the Environment and Water Services Section in the period up to April 2016.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2016

A funding allocation for 2016 has not yet been received from the DECLG. The Rural Water Capital Funding will now be executed on a rolling 3 year programme. Carlow Co Co submission is based on a 3 year programme, 2016-2018.

A programme of works will be finalised on receipt of allocation details.

INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS

Activity January – 31st March 2016	Number
No of applications received	15
Grants Paid	€3,688

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

The EU Water Framework Directive 2000 is an over arching framework for 11 directives in the water area which seeks to protect and improve our natural waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal waters. It seeks to do this through integrated management plans and programmes of measures developed by all stakeholders and encouraging public participation in the process.

Previous governance of River Basin Management Districts was centred on producing the River Basin Management Plan and we are now in the implementation phase of that plan. Integration & collaboration between the Environmental Protection Agency, local authorities and other public bodies is the route currently being progressed to meet these targets.

The new Governance structure between the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government and Local Authorities as is now in place and work is progressing.

The governance proposal is for a 3 tier structure.

- **Tier 1** = National Management and oversight led by the DECLG.
- **Tier 2** = National Technical Coordination & Implementation, led by the EPA.

- **Tier 3**, Led by Local Authorities = Regional & Local Implementation via Networks consisting of local authorities, public authorities and environmental stakeholders.

Carlow County Council are now undertaking all sampling work on rivers that had been previously done by the Environmental Protection Agency.

There is now be one River Basin District covering the entire country. The next River Basin Management Plan will be prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency. Three Regional Co-Ordinators are in place and twelve Community Officers are being recruited. It is anticipated that these Community Officers will liaise with local groups with a vested interest in environment and water quality.

A meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency to identify the more problematic areas, (higher risk), within the County and follow up programme of measures to be set in place to tackle these areas took place 29th February. All sub catchments and river bodies in the county were reviewed and a programme of works will now be drawn up by the Environmental Protection Agency.

A new Local Authority Water & Community Officer has been appointed for the Southern region and he will be assisting in the coordination of local authority and other public authority activities in the protection of our natural waters with a focus, not on regulation but on protecting the local environmental assets of each county especially those of an aquatic nature.

There will be a focus on the involvement of community groups and other stakeholders such as farmers in the Water Framework Project. This may involve the setting up of River Trusts and other schemes such as those successfully introduced in the Duhallow Region in North Cork.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

To date in 2016, 12 Applications for Nutrient Management Plans have been received and processed. These applications require extensive consultation with the Department of Agriculture and landowners. A charge of €350 per application has been introduced to offset the costs associated with the timely processing of applications.

BRING CENTRES

Carlow County Council have completed improvement works to the Bring Centre at Tullow. Cabins have been located at the site to accommodate Gateway Personnel who, as well as their other duties, will maintain the site. A Paper Bank has been put in place and a new electronic gate and CCTV camera are now in place.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

Good news for Carlow in the most recently published survey carried out by Irish Business Against Litter League (IBAL). Carlow are now rated 9th out of 40 Cities/Towns surveyed, this is an improvement on 16th in 2014 and 32nd in 2013.

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Three septic tank inspections have been completed to date in 2016 with inspections prioritised in high risk areas. 45% of sites inspected to date failed required standards on initial inspection. Specified upgrade or maintenance works were required and these sites passed on reinspection. Grants for improvement works are available where systems were registered prior to February 2013. Maximum grant €4,000 or 80% of overall cost, reducing to 50% based on household income. Carlow County Council is required under the National Inspection Plan to complete 12 inspections before the end of 2016.

SECTION 4 LICENCES

Work is continuing on the review and enforcement of the 8 commercial Section 4 discharges to water.

BATHING WATERS

Monitoring of bathing waters will be ongoing, during the summer months, at Carlow Town, Milford, Leighlinbridge, Bagenalstown, Clashganny, Tinnahinch and Aghade.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INSPECTIONS & WATER QUALITY REGULATORY ACTIVITY

The European Parliament and the Council of Europe provide for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in member states (2001/331/EC).

A Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan has been prepared for 2016 and has been submitted to the Environment Protection Agency. The criteria relate to environmental inspections of all facilities and enterprises where emissions to water or waste management activities are subject to regulation under European Union Law.

Routine scheduled environmental inspections are carried out by Carlow County Council in accordance with the RMCEI Plan to fulfil obligations under Waste, Water and Air Legislation. Un-scheduled inspections are also carried out in response to complaints received. Inspection activities are examined to determine the facilities which carry the greatest degree of environmental risk. In addition to risk assessment there are also national priorities to be taken into account as follows:

Water	Waste	Air
WFD Monitoring	Food Waste Regulations	Deco Paints Regulations
Water Complaints	Pay By Weight Regulations	Solvents Regulations
Farm Inspections, Sludge Regulations	Unauthorised End of Life vehicle sites	
	Tyres	Investigate Air Complaints

REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Southern Waste Management Plan was signed by the 10 Chief Executive Officers in the Southern Region in May 2015. The key objective of the Plan is “managing waste in a sustainable and self-sufficient manner”. The Plan strives to encourage the minimisation of waste generated and to view waste as a valuable material resource which in turn will lead to a healthier environment and sustainable opportunities for the economy.

The Southern Waste Management Office is co-ordinating the 10 Local Authorities implementation of the Waste Management Plan. A Hazardous Waste Day was held in Powerstown in January 2016.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL LEAD AUTHORITIES

Following an open and highly competitive bidding process the following were selected as the new Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA):

- Cork County Council for the Southern Region.
- Dublin City Council for the Eastern Midlands Region.
- Leitrim and Donegal County Councils (in a joint bid) for the Connacht Ulster Region.

Each Waste Management & Water Quality Regulatory Activity will have responsibility for coordinating waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement, ensuring consistent enforcement of waste legislation across the three existing waste management planning regions while still leaving local authority personnel as first responders on the ground to specific breaches of waste legislation.

The establishment of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs) will also facilitate more streamlining of the tasks currently undertaken in the waste enforcement area. No enforcement powers are being taken away or transferred from local authorities to the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities and the current waste enforcement network will be maintained.

Carlow County Council waste enforcement staff have met with the Regional Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority team. Actions have been agreed to be carried out in March with regard to Pay by Weight Regulations and Household Food Waste Regulations.

FOOD WASTE REGULATIONS

- ***Commercial***

All premises involved in the preparation of food are required to have suitable procedures in place to deal with food waste. Separate disposal facilities are required.

Inspections of commercial premises is ongoing.

- **Domestic Food Waste**

Charges on a Pay by Weight basis will be introduced in July 2016.

Enforcement Officers are presently inspecting Collectors to ensure compliance with Pay by Weight equipment fitted on all trucks.

Enforcement Officers are also carrying out inspections to monitor compliance with Food Waste Regulations. These Regulations require the segregation of Biodegradable waste in Carlow Town and Bagenalstown and Tullow.

Householders have the choice to:

- Present food waste in their brown bin for collection by an authorised Collector.
- Subject the food waste to a home composting process on their premises.
- Bring the food waste to an authorised facility.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS

Listed below are details of the non-scheduled inspections (complaints) completed in Quarter 1 2015:

Category	Number of Inspections
Litter	138
Waste	8
Water Pollution	9
Air Pollution	3
Noise	2

All 160 complaints received have been investigated and in most cases more than one site inspection is required to address the matters raised. In some cases ongoing investigation is required followed by enforcement action.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- **Green Schools**

The Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) continues to promote the Green Schools Programme and provide assistance to schools in County Carlow.

- ***National Tree Week***

Carlow County Council gave out over 400 saplings during national tree Week In March 2016. There was a tree planting ceremony at “An Gairdín Beo” at St Leos Convent, Carlow.

- ***Spring Clean***

Carlow County Council will be providing assistance in the form of skips, bags, gloves and other equipment will be provided to community and voluntary groups and residents associations in March and April. Bags will be collected by Carlow County Council Environmental Patrol Officers.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

- ***Powerstown Landfill Facility***

Filling of the final cell (Number 18) is continuing at pace. Quantities of waste being imported into the landfill are being maintained at a level of 4,000 tonnes per month. It is anticipated that the final cell will be filled by the end of Quarter 3, 2016 at the current rate of infill.

The exceptionally heavy rainfall in December 2015 has created difficulties with the emission of odours from the Landfill Site. Landfill staff have been working very hard to manage Landfill Gas by increasing flows to the Flare, increasing the gas collection network and increasing the amount of cover being placed over waste. There has also been a substantial increase in the tankage of leachate off site. Leachate levels are still high which is making it difficult to get the odour emissions under control.

Options for the operation of the Powerstown facility, following the cessation of landfill, are being considered. This may include a possible transfer station to facilitate the ongoing provision of waste disposal by members of the general public.

The future operations of the Recycling Centre at Powerstown are also being reviewed particularly in view of the new Pay-by-Weight Regulations.

The ongoing study to establish the feasibility of producing energy from the landfill gas is also progressing. The Electricity Supply Board have now completed an investigation into the cost and feasibility of a connection to the National Grid. Carlow County Council are awaiting the results of this investigation.

Contract Documents for the Capping Works have been prepared and temporary capping works will commence in late April / early May. The local community will be informed in advance of commencement of works.

The cessation of the intake of waste and the temporary capping of the final 4 cells will greatly reduce the risk of odours escaping from the site.

- ***Powerstown Community Fund***

Grants have been awarded to both individuals and community groups in 2015 and works are now proceeding.

- ***Powerstown Civic Amenity Site***

The Powerstown Civic Amenity Site is operating in tandem with the Landfill and offering an invaluable service to the public.

- ***Bottle and Paper Re-cycling Bank Network***

There are currently 27 bring sites and one civic amenity site in the county. Paper collection is provided currently at 5 sites (Kernanstown, Borris, Myshall, Powerstown and Tullow).

In 2015 Improvement Works were completed for Tullow and Hackettstown. A paper bank was reintroduced to Tullow and Electric gates installed. The South East Region service contract with Greenstar Ltd. and Glassco Ireland Ltd in respect of the collection/recovery of recyclables has proven successful and will continue.

CARLOW KILKENNY ENERGY AGENCY

Carlow County Council actively pursued its Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP) in Quarter 1 2016. The main energy consumption across our range of services is electricity (73% public lighting), transport fuel, and heating provision to our buildings and facilities. Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency proactively engage with Carlow County Council as part of the Energy Management Action Programme team process. A number of projects have been identified and evaluated for implementation in 2016.

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency assisted in the annual Monitoring and Reporting to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for 2015. The result showed that Carlow County Council were 15.5% on track to meeting their 33% reduction.

In 2016, Carlow County Council intends to further improve its energy performance by undertaking the following initiatives:

- Submit annual energy data to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, in accordance with SI 426 of 2014 Monitoring & Reporting, in order to better track energy performance within Carlow County Council.
- Improve monitoring and recording of energy consumption data for future reporting.
- Continue with social housing retrofit scheme across Carlow County.
- Review performance of vehicle fleet and improve monitoring and recording of consumption data.
- Continue with Energy Awareness Campaign.
- Complete an Organisational Energy Audit in line with SI 426 of 2014 to identify Significant Energy Users.
- Install 34.6kWp of PV panels on County Hall Roof.
- Internal Lighting upgrade at County Hall.
- Implement a pilot project to reduce energy consumption in the County Hall server room and using heat recovery system to heat other areas of the building.
- Heating boiler Upgrade in Carlow Town Hall.
- Heating controls upgrade in McGrath Hall.

These projects will save 72,890kWh of energy, equivalent to 1.4% of current demand.

The ***Covenant of Mayors*** is a European movement to mobilise local and regional authorities to meet and **exceed** the EU 20-20-20 targets:

- 20% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels.
- 20% reduction in primary energy use by improving energy efficiency.
- 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources.

It is a voluntary commitment signed up to by the Mayor of a County or Municipality. The main aim of the Covenant of Mayors is to improve quality of life for citizens in the local area, in this case County Carlow by building a Local Community where the public sector, private sector, citizens & grass root organisations work together to target CO₂ emissions and implement energy efficiency and renewable strategies. This will provide the following benefits:

- Reducing energy consumption and energy bills.
- Better funding opportunities (European Union and National Grant Aid).

- Offering a stable environment for business & creating new jobs.
- Contributing to the global fight against human accelerated climate change.
- Demonstrating commitment to environmental protection.
- Improving local energy security.

Carlow County Council by joining the Covenant of Mayors has opened themselves up to a wide and various source of both technical, advisory and financial assistance in achieving and the objectives of the European Union Energy Directive and the requirement to achieve the national objective of a 20% reduction in CO₂ by 2020.

Joining the Covenant of Mayors has pushed Carlow's drive to achieve greater Energy Efficiency, and will place Carlow County Council as a leader in the National drive to forward the needs to take measures to counter the adverse effects of Greenhouse gases and climate change. Being a member of the Covenant of Mayors will also facilitate Carlow County Council access to a wide range of funding for Energy Projects.

Carlow County Council have now commenced the process of preparing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan. This Plan will not just be a Local Authority document but will encompass a holistic approach and include Businesses, Agriculture and Community Groups.

All Stakeholders will need to be mobilized in the objective of reducing the CO₂ footprint of County Carlow. Local initiatives will be seen as a key component of the process.

A Steering Committee consisting of a wide spectrum of stakeholders has been established, its first meeting took place on the 9th February 2016. A second meeting has taken place on 2nd March 2016. A further meeting of the Steering Committee is due to take place on the 5th April and it is anticipated that a Public Consultation Day will be held at a later date.

FLOOD PROTECTION

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) Maps have gone through the final consultation process. Amendments and changes have been made to the flood maps following feedback received from the Consultation Process.

The revised maps are available to view on the Office of Public Works website. www.southeastcfamstudy.ie.

Public Consultation Days were held in Carlow Town and Leighlinbridge in February 2016 and in Tullow in March 2016.

Tinnahinch was included in the Graiguenamanagh Public Consultation Day in March 2016. The purpose of these days was to present optioneering options for these two locations that will alleviate potential flood risks.

IRISH WATER

Since January 2013 Irish Water is the national water utility responsible for the delivery of water and wastewater services to homes and businesses in Ireland. Carlow County Council, under an Annual Service Plan with Irish Water, continues to provide water and wastewater services on behalf of Irish Water in County Carlow.

Irish Water continues to issue bills for domestic water services. An information booklet is included with bills issued to provide information about the water service charges and to help explain the bill. Any questions relating to bills received should be submitted via email to www.water.ie or Lo call 1890 448 448. The migration of the billing process for non-domestic water services to Irish Water has also commenced.

For information or to report an issue relating to water supply, water quality or wastewater the contact details for Irish Water are www.water.ie or Lo call 1890 278 278.

A Dedicated Direct Line 1890 178 178 (Operational from 9am to 5.30pm), is provided for County Council Members.

A Dedicated Direct email address localrepsupport@water.ie is provided for County Council Members.

Dan McInerney,
Director of Transportation, Environment & Water Services