

**September 2017**

(SECTION 136 (2) OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001,  
SECTION 51 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014)

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH  
KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2017**



**To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council**

Monthly Management Report to Members of Kilkenny County Council for consideration at the September Monthly Meeting

**EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:**

A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the elected members.

**FINANCE:**

Chief Executive Financial Report–(Appendix 1).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017: Closing Date for receipt of submissions on Urban Design Framework for Hebron Road.**

**12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2017: AILG Autumn Training Seminar at Sligo Park Hotel.**

**12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017: Final Date for Appeals on the Revaluation to the Valuation Tribunal.**

**REPORT AT A GLANCE**

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### **FAI Festival of Football and AGM**

The Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members hosted a civic reception in County Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, to welcome the FAI Festival of Football to Kilkenny from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017. Mr. Tony Fitzgerald, President of FAI, Mr. John Delaney, CEO and Mr. Martin O'Neill, Manager of Republic of Ireland Football Team amongst others attended the event.



increase in the number of Irish and overseas visitors enjoying the many greenways, blueways and walking trails which have been developed around the country in recent years.

The scheme will be run by Local Authorities and State Agencies. 80% of total project costs will be funded with the balance to be provided from Local Authority or other sources.

Maximum Grant is €10,000. Funding has been allocated to the following:

South Leinster Way	€9,368
Trail Kilkenny Directory	€2,410
Freshford Loop Walk	€4,832
Castlecomer Discovery Park	€10,000
Kilkenny City River Walks	€10,000

## **TOURISM & MARKETING**

### **Measure 1 of the 2017 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

Kilkenny County Council was awarded €36,610 for projects under Measure 1 of the 2017 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

- Measure 1: Small maintenance/promotion of existing infrastructure (maximum grant €10,000).

The Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the maintenance, enhancement and promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

Recreational tourism is a growing sector in Ireland's tourism offering. We have seen an

Minister Michael Ring, has said he will make further announcements under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme in the Autumn, and we will await final decisions on Measures 2 for 3 applications.

### **Iverk Show - Piltown**

14 employees attended this year's Iverk Agricultural show in Piltown on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August to promote the range of services delivered by Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny Tourism, Environment, LAWCO, LEO, Heritage, PPN, Community, Library and Yulefest. The stand 'Council Corner' was brisk and busy all day. A significant number of attendees signed up for Kilkenny County Council's 'MAPALERTER' system and Kilkenny Tourism's merchandising and other marketing material was well received.

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initiative. This will fund a Pop-Up Bistro, exhibition space at the National Design and Craft Fair, Yulefest's Artisan Food Fair and a suite of new marketing material which will enhance the #tastekilkenny initiative.

**Kilkenny Leader Project Volunteer Expo**

Staff attended the Kilkenny Leader Project Volunteer Expo on the 24th August from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 pm at MacDonagh Junction to source volunteers for Yulefest's street activities for 2017 .

<http://www.volunteerkilkenny.ie/event/volunteer-expo-macdonagh-junction/>

**Kilkenny is third in the Foodie Destination Final**

Kilkenny took third place in this tightly fought Foodie Destination Award 2017 held in the Headford Arms in Kells Co. Meath on the evening of August 29<sup>th</sup>. The competition is organized by the Restaurant Association of Ireland and sponsored by FBD Insurance. Following applications, judging visits, destination assessments and an online voting campaign, Kilkenny took third place ahead of Kinsale and West Waterford.



**Medieval Mile Brochure**

Staff are in the process of developing a new brochure for the Medieval Mile with 'Designworks', who did the original branding for Kilkenny's Medieval Mile project. This will be multilingual and available circa the end of September.

**Kilkenny LEO CEDRA Funding**

Kilkenny County Council received €40K in CEDRA funding under the Agri-Food Tourism

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Deputy John Paul Phelan, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with special responsibility for Local Government and Electoral Reform launched the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kilkenny's Autumn Training Schedule on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September in the Abbey Business Centre. With 20 training programmes along with 3 free seminars and National's Women Enterprise Day Conference, there is plenty on offer for entrepreneurs and small businesses. LEO Kilkenny has developed a range of courses and workshops aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of small business owner-managers, so their businesses have an increased opportunity for success.





## **ROADS:**

### **N24 Piltown Fiddown By-Pass - Tower Road Junction & Inkbottle Junction Safety Measures**

Additional interim safety measure recommendations at Tower Road Junction, arising out of the Preliminary Feasibility Study are currently being implemented. The works include the provision of additional signage, roadmarking alternations along with the construction of hardstanding areas to facilitate speed enforcement. It is expected that these works will be completed over the coming weeks.

### **N24 Piltown Fiddown By-Pass - Tower Road Overbridge and Ink-bottle Link Road**

A Road Safety Impact Assessment and Options recommendation was submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) at the end of July. TII approval was recently obtained to engage the services of an engineering consultant to advance the planning and design stage of the Tower Road Overbridge and Ink-bottle Link Road. A design brief is being prepared and it is anticipated that a consultancy firm will be appointed over the coming months utilising the TII Framework for Technical Consultancy Services.

### **N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme**

The contract for the N76 Callan Road Realignment Scheme was awarded to SIAC Construction Limited on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016. This scheme extends for 4.38km's from the N76 Callan Road Roundabout, on the Ring Road, to the Brownstown Junction. The Scheme provides for the introduction of on-line footpaths/cycle-tracks and public lighting from the Ring Road to Tennypark Cross and off-line road realignment between Tennypark Cross and Brownstown Junction.

The works are progressing well with the earthworks and drainage generally completed. The kerbing has been completed for the first kilometre and the road

resurfaced. At Shellumsrath the kerbing has been partially completed on the east side and works are underway to install footpath/cycle track, public lighting and drainage on the west side.

On the offline realignment section, construction of the road pavement has commenced and will continue during September. The Cattle Underpass at Brownstown Junction has been completed and road reconstruction/resurfacing is nearing completion in this area.

The Contractor and site staff continue to liaise with property owners and accommodation works are now substantially completed in most cases. The local road from Tennypark Cross to Bamford Cross will remain closed until mid October. Traffic is being managed satisfactorily with minimal delays and road users are utilising the alternative routes.

The expected works completion date is Quarter 1 of 2018.

### **Western Environs Road - Construction (First Phase Infrastructure)**

Following on from a successful application for funding under the DHPCLG Rebuilding Ireland Programme via the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, the Department notified the Council in March 2017 that a grant of €5.07 million would be made available to part fund this Scheme. A draft Grant Agreement document was issued to the Department in June and it is anticipated that same will be officially signed in September 2017. This agreement sets-out the criteria to allow the successful drawdown of funding.

Design works are well advanced and the target objective remains to advertise the tenders towards the end of this year. A Property Consultant was also engaged in June 2017 to assist with the acquisition of lands subject to the confirmed C.P.O. In September, Michael Murphy was appointed Project

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Manager for the Western Environs Infrastructure project.

In May 2017 Irish Water (IW) advised the Council that it will dedicate €50 million nationally in its 2017-2021 Investment Programme to extend water service networks to strategic development areas / sites that will yield a significant number of housing units in settlements with the greatest need. IW also confirmed that the Western Environs Scheme was one of 15 Initial Candidate Sites in the country deemed eligible to benefit from this investment programme. Over the next number of months the Council will work with IW to ensure the timely delivery of this necessary infrastructure which is critical to the development of the Western Environs Scheme.

### **CLÁR Programme**

In May 2017 an application for funding was submitted to The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the CLÁR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais). As in 2016 the projects put forward were to target small infrastructural works in areas that have experienced significant depopulation in the past. Funding applications could be made under the following three categories:

- Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (Up to 90% CLÁR funding);
- School/Community Play Area (Up to 90% CLÁR funding);
- Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (Up to 85% CLÁR funding).

In total the Council submitted 14 individual projects under the three categories and were advised recently by the Department that the following projects will be funded:-

<b>DED ID &amp; Name</b>	<b>Measure Works Proposals</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>
7090 & 7092 Baunmore & Galmoy	Provision of public lighting and footpaths.	Crosspatrick & Community Hall	€50,000
7086 Ullard	Provision of public lighting and footpath.	Skeoughvosteen GAA Complex and Community Centre	€36,000
7088 Balleen	Sand based all-weather playing surface to be constructed on existing pitch / play area.	Scoil Naomh Fiacha National School, Clontubrid, Freshford	€29,160
7092 Galmoy	Refurbishment of existing Kitchen, upstairs meeting room and entrance hall.	Galmoy Community Hall.	€46,772
			<b>€161,932</b>

All 2016 projects are currently either completed or under construction with all works due to be finished by October 2017.

### **N24 Granny & New Aglish Pavement Improvement Scheme**

The above Scheme consists of a 2 km overlay / inlay, the provision of a dedicated right-turn lane at both the Tinlough Junction (Thatch Bar) and Portnahully Junction (Croke's Shop), improvements to the Aglish Junction at Roadstone, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works.

Tender documents for the above scheme were advertised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. Construction commenced on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The contract period for this Scheme is estimated at six weeks.



### **N78 Ballycomy to Castlecomer Pavement Improvement Scheme**

The above Scheme consists of a 1.4 km overlay / inlay, roadmarking and signage renewal and accommodation works.

Tender documents for the above scheme were advertised on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Construction commenced on Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>. The contract period for this Scheme is estimated at five weeks.

### **Future National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes**

Kilkenny received a funding allocation of €99,200 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to advance the design and preparation of contract documents for the following two pavement improvement Schemes:

- **N25 Graiguenakill (New Ross By-pass tie-in) to Gaulstown**, length 3.60km plus an additional 0.53km section from Luffany to the Rhu Glen, combined length 4.13km.
- **N78 Castlecomer Bridge to Coolbaun South and Coolbaun North to Crettyard**, length 6.73km.

A topographical survey and pavement testing of both roads was recently completed. A consultancy firm was engaged by the Council to provide technical services to advance the design and tender documentation.

Subject to the necessary TII design and funding approvals, it is anticipated that tenders for each of the above Schemes will be advertised towards the end of this year and the contracts awarded with a view to commencing works in Quarter 2 2018.

## **HOUSING:**

### *Housing Statistics for August 2017*

<b>Number awaiting social housing support at 31st August, 2017</b>	<b>2204</b>
<b>Number of assessment interviews carried out in August:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Number of HAP tenancies to 31st August :</b>	<b>799</b>
<b>Number of LA tenancies surrendered:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Anti social behaviour cases:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>New Homeless Presentations:</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Maintenance Calls for August 2017</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Maintenance Calls year to date</b>	<b>3348</b>
<b>No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Amount of Loans Approved to 31st August, 2017</b>	<b>€2,647,507</b>

## **Housing Capital Programme**

### **11 Units at Togher Way, Urlingford**

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh opened 11 houses at Togher Way, Urlingford on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Families have moved into their homes and are settling in well.

### **33 Units at Donaguile, Castlecomer**

A Public Consultation Evening was held in Castlecomer Library on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 regarding the 33 Units planned for Donaguile.

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### Acquisitions

18 houses purchased to date in 2017 with Offers on a further 4.

### Houses under Construction

- 4 houses at St Catherines, Wetlands [Phase 2]. Completion date is the end of September.
- 11 units at Abbeygate, Ferrybank [turnkey project]

Year	Number on Housing List
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2017	2,205
December 2016	2,059
December 2015	2,744
December 2014	2,456
December 2013	2,144
December 2012	3,688
December 2011	3,118
December 2010	2,876

### Funding approvals received to engage Design Team for:-

- o Phase 3 of St Catherines Group Housing Scheme, Wetlands – 3 units.
- o Rural Cottage at Barna, Freshford
- o 4 units at Robertshill, Kilkenny (revised scheme)

### Breakdown of Housing Demand by bedroom:

Total	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
2,205	887	767	471	80
	40%	35%	21%	4%
			City	61%
			County	39%

### Projects at Part 8 Stage:

- o 5 no 1 bed units at Greensbridge House, Kilkenny City.
- o 4 bed group home at Blackstaff, Callan
- o 1 house at St Mary's, Hebron Road
- o 33 housing units at Donaguile, Castlecomer

### Social Housing Assessments 2017 (HNA)

An **Annual** Assessment of Housing Need was carried out on **28<sup>th</sup> June 2017**. Results were returned to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on the **19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**.

The approved number of housing applicants at 28<sup>th</sup> June is 1,237. This number does not include those households on a transfer list or in accommodation provided under RAS or HAP.

The current Housing List at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 is **2,205**. A comparative analysis with previous years is outlined below:

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	APPLS	ONE BED	TWO BED	THREE BED	FOUR BED
Ballyhale	11	4	3	3	1
Ballyragget	44	15	16	6	6
Bennettsbridge	33	11	9	6	3
Callan	90	29	31	27	1
Castlecomer	56	21	15	17	1
Clara	1	0	0	1	0
Clogh	10	3	3	2	2
Coon	3	0	1	2	0
Ferrybank	68	34	16	12	2
Fiddown	8	3	2	3	0
Freshford	27	11	5	9	1
Glenmore	4	2	2	0	0
Goresbridge	10	6	3	0	1
Gowran	34	12	12	8	2
Graiguenamanagh	49	24	17	4	2
Hugginstown	2	1	1	0	0
Inistiogue	20	11	5	3	0
Johnstown	26	8	7	6	4
Kells	14	5	5	3	1
Kilkenny	1	0	1	0	0
Kilkenny Both	1350	567	501	268	41



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Kilkenny City	2	1	1	0	0
Kilmacow	39	11	15	10	2
Kilmanagh	6	2	2	2	0
Kilmoganny	5	2	1	2	0
Knocktopher	3	1	2	0	0
Moneenroe	24	5	10	8	1
Mooncoin	30	8	12	9	1
Mullinavat	4	0	2	2	0
New Ross Environs	13	9	1	2	0
Paulstown	14	6	7	1	0
Piltown	42	11	9	20	1
Skeoghvosteen	2	1	1	0	0
Slieverue	11	1	4	6	0
Stoneyford	11	6	1	2	1
Thomastown	90	41	26	20	2
Tullaroan	3	2	1	0	0
Urlingford	43	13	15	7	4
Windgap	2	0	2	0	0

### Homeless Update

Details of homeless presentations for each month in 2017 along with the comparative monthly presentations for 2016 are set out below. There were 219 Homeless/Potentially Homeless presentations to 31/08/2017.

Breakdown: 2016		Breakdown: 2017	
Jan	37	Jan	29
Feb	30	Feb	26
Mar	18	Mar	26
April	26	April	25
May	34	May	28
June	31	June	24
July	31	July	34
August	32	August	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>

### PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to August, 2016	Total to August, 2017
Planning Applications Received	575	570
Planning Applications Granted	505	506
Planning Applications Refused	38	35
Complaints Received	35	86
Warning Letters Issued	37	49
Enforcements Notices Issued	19	40

### Forward Planning:

- The Draft Ferrybank/Belview LAP was placed on public display for 8 weeks between Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017. A total of 41 submissions were received. The Chief Executive's report on the submissions received has been circulated to the members for consideration at the September meeting.
- Variation No. 3 to the Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan was adopted by the Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The variation is in support of the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) and seeks to maximise the benefits of the infrastructure being delivered through the fund and secure the delivery of two new schools and new housing.
- The Urban Design Framework for the Hebron Road has been published and the public consultation closes on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Documents on display can be viewed online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/>.



- The draft of the Castlecomer Local Area Plan is almost complete and will be published in September along with the statutory environmental assessments.
- A proposed variation to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan (Variation 4) and a proposed variation (Variation 2) to the County Development Plan commences public display on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. This is to facilitate the implementation of the vacant sites levy.
- It is expected that the proposed National Planning Framework will be published by the Government in early October 2017 for public consultation.

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum**

Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum visited Carlow to meet representatives from Clonegal and Ballon tidy towns in August. The “Nature’s Way Trail” and their award winning community shop, Siopa Glas in Ballon was also visited. The tour was facilitated by the Environment Departments of Carlow and Kilkenny County Councils. All tidy towns volunteers look forward to the national tidy town results which are due to be announced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.



### **Councils Environment Education Programme**

All primary schools have been invited to participate in the environment education programme which offers over 40 interactive workshops covering a host of different environmental themes. Workshops are sponsored through LA 21 Environment Partnership Fund and the Waste Prevention Programme and will take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> school terms. The annual green school information evening takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September for all participating green schools.

### **Crayfish Plague update**

Following reports of dead crayfish in the River Barrow, Waterways Ireland and NPWS engaged in an awareness campaign and proceeded to identify measures required to contain the outbreak.

Signage has been erected in various locations including Thomastown, Inistioge, Bennettsbridge and Kilkenny City.

All available networks are being used to notify river users of Crayfish plague and to advise on bio-security measures and disinfection protocol. KCC has issued press releases to local newspapers and radio and will continue to notify river users of requirements over the coming months.

The situation is ongoing and the next meeting with NPWS, KKCC and LAWCO is scheduled for 19/9/2017.

### **Environmental Complaints Received**

Total number of litter <20 bags	- 152
Total number of abandoned vehicles	- 27
Total number of other complaints	- 76
Total number of complaints for July and August 2017	- 255

All complaints received are investigated resulting in 255 site inspections during July and August.

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### Water Framework Directive

Following a national bid process Tipperary and Kilkenny County Councils were successful in their application for the establishment and management of the Water Framework Directive Tier 3b Project. Both local authorities working together with a Project Team will be responsible for the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan throughout the country. This is an ambitious national project and will result in the development of significant expertise in the area of river water quality and community engagement throughout the Country. We look forward to the challenges the project will bring and the beneficial outcomes to the waterways and river users of Kilkenny and further afield.

### Environment Statistics for Waste Inspections:

State Environment	July
<b>Waste Inspection Type</b>	
Waste Facility permit holders routine inspection	1
Waste facility permit application inspections Non Routine	1
ELV Regulations – Unauthorised sites	4
Bring Banks Surveillance	4
Garages – Waste Management, Oil Burners	3
Tyre Regulations	4
Routine Litter Patrols – City & County	63
Litter Quantification Surveys	8
Litter Pollution Surveys	8
Plastic Bag Regs	1
WEEE & Battery Regulations	1
Historic Landfill – monitoring	2

State Environment	August
<b>Waste Inspection Type</b>	
Waste Facility permit holders routine inspection	2
Cert. of Registration Holders	1
Burning Regs.	1

Bring Banks Surveillance	4
Garages – Waste Management, Oil burners.	4
Tyre Regulations	6
Routine Litter Patrols – City and County	51
Litter Pollution Surveys	47
WEEE & Battery Regulations	1
Historic Landfill – monitoring	2

### Environment Statistics for Water and Air Inspections:

Statistics- Environment	
Water and Air Inspection type	July/Aug
Discharge Licensed Premises (Section 4)	1
Nutrient Management Plan Assessment	2
Farm Inspections	10
Bathing Waters (Non-designated)	10
Ambient Monitoring (us / ds wwtps)	47
Monitoring Priority Sites	27
National Sampling Programme (WFD)	83
Groundwater Monitoring	6
Small Stream Risk Assessments	0
Dust Monitoring	2
Additional BOD sampling for Water Services Section	50

### FIRE SERVICES

In accordance with the adopted Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020, 100 fire safety inspections have taken place.



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To date this year, Kilkenny County Council has served 4 no. fire safety notices and 1 no. fire safety closure notice. This was the second highest county in the country (Dublin being the highest) in the serving of Fire Safety Notices. RTE's Morning Ireland carried out a survey on all Local Authorities and reviewed results on National Radio.



**New Graiguenamanagh Fire Station**  
**Works to be completed 2018**

### **Fire Appliance Joint Procurement Programme 2018 – 2020.**

Kilkenny County Council has been approved under the above programme for one Class B Fire Appliance which will be procured for the Urlingford Fire Service.

### **Fire Safety – Multi Storey Buildings**

1. Circular Letter Fire 04-17 requested that all Local Authorities review their Multi storey social housing buildings to ensure that they are meeting their statutory obligations in regards to Fire Safety.

The review concentrates specifically on common areas with a primary focus on ensuring that all early warning systems including fire alarm and detection system, emergency lighting are in place and fully functional.

A) Kilkenny County Council owns only one such premises at Gaol Crescent, Gaol Road, Kilkenny. This building is a two storey

building with 2no apartments on each floor. The building complies with Fire Safety requirements.

B) Kilkenny County Council was also requested to review multi storey housing buildings, fully tenanted by social housing tenants on foot of agreements with Approved Housing Bodies. There are two buildings in this category (both at Carroll's Yard, Logan Square, Thomastown). These buildings are in the process of a Regularisation Fire Safety Certificate process.

C) Kilkenny County Council was also requested to write to the relevant owners and management companies where social housing is provided within a privately owned multi storey development reminding them of their fire safety obligations. In this regard the Fire Authority has issued over 70 letters covering over 200 social housing units across approximately 50 buildings.

2. Circular Letter Fire 05-17 requested that all Local Authorities should identify buildings of more than six storeys or more than 18m in height fitted with external cladding or rain screen cladding systems with or without insulation. The Fire Authority has identified 9 buildings that may meet the above criteria. 9 letters have been issued requesting owners to carry out a fire safety assessment and to revert to the Fire Authority in matters pertaining to compliance.



## Appendix 1. Kilkenny County Council Finance Report

The expenditure by service division for the seven months to the end of July 2017 is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €43.6m compared with the annual budget of €70.16m.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Actual YTD July 2017</b>	<b>Budget Full Year 2017</b>
	<b>€'000's</b>	<b>€'000's</b>
Housing & Building	10,706	15,962
Road Transport & Safety	10,840	17,093
Water Services	3,554	6,778
Development Management	4,714	7,894
Environmental Services	5,097	9,061
Recreation & Amenity	3,437	5,918
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	370	798
Miscellaneous Services	4,858	6,661
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>43,576</b>	<b>70,165</b>

The bank overdraft facility has not been utilized during the seven months to the end of July.

The total Commercial Rates collected is up by 2 per cent compared with the seven months to July 2016. This would indicate that more account holders are availing of the early payment grant scheme agreed in the last two Budgets.

As part of the national revaluation programme of commercial properties the Valuation Office issued final valuation certificates to property owners on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The new Valuation List will be published by the Valuation Office on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Rate payers who are dissatisfied with the valuation fixed on the property have a right to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal, an independent body established to determine such appeals. Appeals to the Valuation Tribunal must be made within 28 days of the publication of the list but no later than **12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

In advance of preparing the 2018 Statutory Budget for Kilkenny County Council the Elected Members are required to make a decision before the end of September 2017 on the issue of varying the basic rate of Local Property Tax (LPT) up or down by a maximum of +/-15%. This is the first stage in the annual budgeting process. The impact of the maximum variation is +/-€1.1m. The value of every % variation is +/-€74k. The LPT allocation has already been confirmed by the DHPCLG at €10.67m which means there is no increase in funding available for 2018. An additional funding requirement of €1.8m for 2018 has been identified. In the absence of any increase in available funding a reduction in expenditure will have to be considered. A full report on the matter will be circulated to the Members in advance of the Council Meeting.