NOAC

National Oversight and Audit Commission

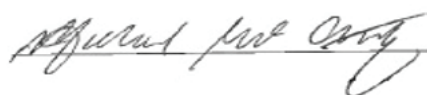# Monaghan County Council Scrutiny Report

NOAC Report No. 41 – May 2021

Chair's Opening remarks

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 introduced significant changes to a wide range of aspects of the local government system, including in relation to matters of accountability and oversight. In that regard, the Act provided for the establishment of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as the statutory body overseeing the local government sector. NOAC was established in July 2014 under the 2014 Act to provide independent oversight of the local government sector. NOAC's functions are wide ranging, involving the scrutiny of performance generally and financial performance specifically, supporting best practice, overseeing implementation of national local government policy and monitoring and evaluating implementation of corporate plans, adherence to service level agreements and public service reform by local government bodies.

Since I became Chair of NOAC in September 2018, I continued the good work that had been started by the previous NOAC Chair in meeting with the Chief Executives of the local authorities and their Management teams. As outlined below this process has evolved over time and continues to evolve.

The preparation of the profile report also identifies the performance of local authorities in relevant NOAC reports and provides for further examination of the results of these reports. The Scrutiny Process requires time and resources from NOAC and the local authorities in preparation of the profile report and for the Stage 1 and Stage 2 meetings. NOAC considers to date that the investment of time and resources has been worthwhile and necessary.

I have been struck by the welcome and sharing of information that has taken place at the meetings. It has provided an opportunity to learn, to listen to how the particular local authority operates, the challenges they face, the plans and ideas that have been developed and gives an opportunity to reflect on what is working well and areas that need to be addressed. It has identified areas of good practice and many of these ideas have been showcased at the NOAC Good Practice Seminars over the years. I look forward to continuing to work closely and collaboratively with all the local authorities and want to use this opportunity to thank all the Chief Executives and their teams for the time and courtesy and welcome extended to NOAC in this process.

Michael McCarthy, Chair
20 May 2021

Background to Profiles and Scrutiny Programme

In February 2017, NOAC, in accordance with its statutory functions, began to review the performance of individual local authorities. The starting point was getting an overall picture derived from the performance indicator report results, the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) audit reports, the financial position and revenue collection performance. Information on private rented sector inspections, housing stock management and maintenance data and Customer Satisfaction was all considered by using the relevant data contained in the NOAC reports published to date.

At the outset the importance of the meetings was emphasised over and above the data which NOAC had regarding local authorities. There was also an objective to broaden the NOAC members' understanding of the work of the local authorities and the individual priorities and pressures they faced and to put the information in context. Therefore, NOAC wanted to get the background perspective from the authorities and any other datasets that the Councils consider should be taken into account. Significant work is required to bring this part together and the work of the NOAC Secretariat and the local authority NOAC Coordinators must be acknowledged.

Following an initial face to face meeting, which is called a Stage 1 meeting, local authorities were invited to a Stage 2 meeting where more detailed questions would be carried out in the areas of interest to NOAC, including customer service and IT investment, collection rates, the quality of information provision to the public etc. These meetings would take place after or latterly before the main NOAC board meeting with all the board members present.

The purpose

The process gives NOAC the opportunity to have oversight of all the local authorities and considers the factors that facilitates them in performing well, along with the barriers that may exist relevant to the individual local authority. The meetings enable the local authorities to outline their strong and weak performing areas. It allows for further examination of the results of the performance indicators and shows the results in context. It must be emphasised that these meetings differ from the Performance Indicator (PI) Validation meetings which are carried out by the Performance Indicator Working Group to interrogate the results reported in relation to selected performance indicators. These meetings, while very informative, are specific to the performance indicator process and do not consider other areas of performance that NOAC have oversight of, including Customer Service, Internal Audit, Corporate Plans etc.

During the meeting NOAC can see areas where consistent under-performance is highlighted and which can be examined further. It also allows for exemplars of best practice to be identified and used to share with other local authorities. The process as outlined, is not a follow up to the PI reports, but does enable consideration of issues that may warrant further clarification or investigation in the PI process. Local authorities have all indicated in the meetings thus far that they compare their performance and results in relation to what they deem as similar local authorities. This grouping could be reviewed further by NOAC and adopted for the results of some of its reports. Groupings are not only on size but, on levels of finances, urban and rural, staff numbers and other factors.

The Scrutiny Process

The process has evolved over time, allowing it to become more structured, formal and documented. Given the importance of the work, it is led by the Chair of NOAC (or a delegated alternate, if required) with support from NOAC members and the Executive. The formal process agreed by the Board is termed as a constructive dialogue and is laid out below.

1 Stage 1 (NOAC Scrutiny Visit)

Meeting held with NOAC Chair (or alternate) and/or one additional NOAC member and member(s) of the NOAC Executive. The Chief Executive and members of the management team, as invited by the Chief Executive shall attend.

- Stage 1 notice issued to Chief Executive of the local authority.
- Profile report prepared by NOAC Executive with input from the local authority. This is circulated along with an agenda to the local authority and NOAC attendees in advance of the visit. The report is based on general and specific information from NOAC reports relating to the local authority in question.
- Local authority to present on issues arising and take questions from attending NOAC members.
- Meeting minutes prepared and issued for comment.

2 Stage 2 (NOAC Scrutiny Meeting)

Appearance at full NOAC meeting. The Chief Executive and members of the management team, as invited by the Chief Executive shall attend.

- Stage 2 notice to attend NOAC meeting issued to Chief Executive of local authority.
- Profile report updated as required and circulated along with an agenda to local authority and NOAC members in advance of the meeting.
- Local authority to present on issues arising and take questions from full NOAC board.
- Meeting minutes prepared for circulation to local authority for its comment.

3 Stage 3 (NOAC Sign off and Publication)

Following completion of Stages 1 and 2 the Executive shall collate the material and present it to the NOAC Board as follows: -

- Final sign off on minutes / documents / reports.
- Comments / Findings / Recommendations to be made as required.
- Approval for completed records to be published.

Progress to date

2017

To commence the process, profiles were prepared in respect of Cork City Council, Louth and Offaly County Councils and these were forwarded to the Chief Executives of the authorities concerned. The NOAC Chair at the time, Pat McLoughlin, began this process with a meeting with the Chief Executive of Louth County Council for a general discussion on the profile in August 2017. This Stage 1 meeting was followed by a similar meeting with the Chief Executive of Cork City Council in September 2017. The final Stage 1 meeting to take place in 2017 was held with the Chief Executive of Offaly County Council in October 2017. In December 2017 Louth County Council attended a meeting with NOAC after the main NOAC Board meeting. This was the first Stage 2 meeting, which formed an important part of the overall process. These meetings served a particularly important function which allowed the Council to give an overview of their work and also gave an opportunity to the full NOAC Board to put questions to the Council and understand their situation in more depth.

2018

In 2018 the schedule consisted of eight meetings with local authorities, four each for Stage 1 and Stage 2. A Stage 2 meeting was held with Offaly County Council in January 2018. This was followed by another Stage 2 meeting with Cork City Council in March 2018.

A new Chair, Michael McCarthy, was appointed on 24 September 2018. The process continued with Westmeath County Council in October 2018 and Kerry County Council in December 2018. These were Stage 2 meetings with the full NOAC board as in these cases, the 2018 Performance Indicator validation meetings for these authorities were deemed sufficient as Stage 1 meetings. Further Stage 1 meetings were held with Roscommon County Council and Tipperary County Council.

2019

The format continued with 8 meetings with local authorities during the year. Five Stage 1 meetings and three Stage 2 meetings. The Stage 1 meetings were with Donegal County Council, Laois County Council, Clare County Council, Waterford City and County Council and Carlow County Council. Stage 2 meetings took place with Roscommon County Council, Tipperary County Council and Donegal County Council.

2020

A meetings list was scheduled for 2020 to cover 6 additional local authorities. The year commenced with a Stage 1 meeting with Monaghan County Council in February, along with two Stage 2 meetings with Laois County Council and Waterford City and County Council. Further meetings were scheduled for April, however due to the COVID crisis these meetings were required to be deferred.

The COVID restrictions presented some challenges to the meetings but it was decided to continue the Stage 2 meetings virtually and meetings were held with Clare, Monaghan, Waterford City and County, Carlow and Sligo. These were carried out by the WebEx platform.

A socially distanced Stage 1 meeting was held in person with Limerick City and County Council in August and with Sligo County Council in September 2020.

2021

COVID has had a huge impact on local authorities, and in particular, for NOAC on the Scrutiny process. The Stage 1 meetings have all been held in person thus far and restrictions have allowed for no Stage 1 meetings to be held yet in 2021. The Stage 2 meetings have progressed as these were capable of being held remotely, with one held in January 2021 with Limerick City and County Council. It is hoped to make up for lost time as the restrictions are relaxed and plans are in place to commence Stage 1 meetings as soon as it is possible to do so.

Future meetings and reports

This report outlines the purpose and the procedures and while the process may continue to evolve it would not be expected at this time to produce another master report, similar to this one. This report takes into account the first 13 local authorities which have completed the process. It would be intended that once all stages in the scrutiny process has been fully completed with the relevant other local authorities that the report would be published on that basis and would form part of the suite of reports under the umbrella of the Scrutiny Report Process. Later in quarter 2, 2021, Sligo County Council and Limerick City and County Council reports will be published. It is anticipated that progress will continue to be made with further Stage 1 and Stage 2 meetings so that each local authority will have participated in the process. It must be outlined that significant changes and delays have been experienced due to the restrictions imposed by COVID in 2020 and 2021.

Conclusion

The process thus far allowed for the NOAC chairman and members to get a greater understanding and insight into the challenges that face each of the local authorities. Also, issues such as collection rates, staff numbers, inspection rates, finances that are included in reports in some cases benefit from the explanation and discussion as to the reason behind these figures. The meetings also enabled NOAC to see the various priorities that each local authority considered relevant to their citizens and how they overcame various challenges and how they work collaboratively with other local authorities, state bodies and stakeholders. Areas of Good Practice have been identified along the way and these have contributed to presentations of these projects at the NOAC Good Practice Seminars in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

Monaghan County Council had their Stage 1 meeting in February 2020 and their Stage 2 meeting in July 2020. It is important to note that the material in this report is reflective of the position at that time. Therefore any changes to the profile from later NOAC reports are not included in this report. NOAC noted that there was a good housing build programme and that they had exceed their Rebuilding Ireland target. It was noteworthy that the results of the Performance Indicator reports was being used in the Council's planning and was being used also to produce its own report to see how it is performing relative to its peers. A copy of this report was given to NOAC. The Council had presented at the first Good Practice Seminar in 2017 on its Housing re-letting system. The Council in its presentation outlined how over the previous 2 years had reduced average re-let time from 19.5 weeks to 8.03 weeks. The Council also presented at the 2019 Good Practice Seminar on Removing Barriers which demonstrated how by improving forms and communication that it was able to provide better customer service to all of its customers especially those who had difficulties reading, writing and communicating.

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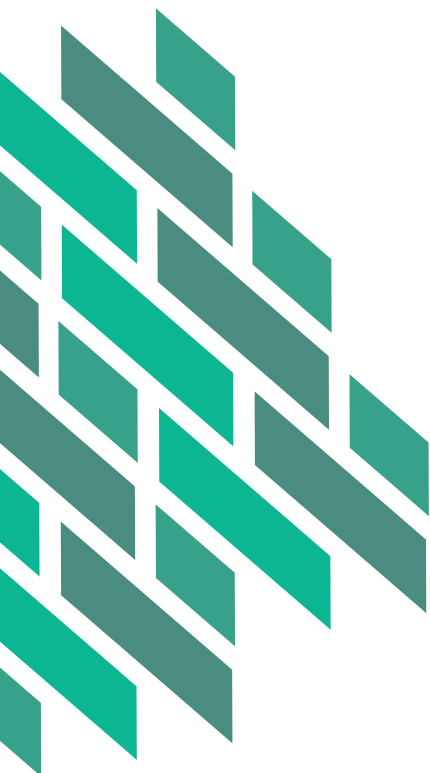
Monaghan County Council Scrutiny Process

NOAC
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Monaghan County Council Profile

February 2020

Contents

Monaghan County Council General Information

Population:	61,386
Area:	500 square miles (1295km^2)
Municipal Districts:	3 Municipal Districts • Ballybay-Clones MD • Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD • Monaghan MD

COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Monaghan County Council will provide High Quality, Sustainable Public Services to enhance the Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing of our People and County.

2018 Budget

2018	Income	Expenditure
Budget	€56,878,969	€56,878,969
Actual	€62,842,299	€62,765,428

Staffing

Number employed @ 31/12/2018	2017 – 383.96 WTE (Headcount – 411 persons)
	2018 – 400.49 WTE (Headcount - 428 persons)
WTE Staff per 1,000 population	(2018) 6.52

Percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified sick leave

2015	3.38%
2016	3.25%
2017	3.07%
2018	3.49%

Housing Information at 31/12/18

Local Authority Stock number	1541
% of LA owner dwellings vacant	0.91%
Number currently on waiting list	1348*
HAP Tenancies	530 - (active tenancies as at 31/12/18) 198 – (tenancies set up in 2018)

(*Of this figure – 874 applicants are in receipt of some form of social housing support such as HAP – RAS – Council Tenancy (Transfer Applicants). Net Need figure is 474 (applicants not in receipt of a form of social housing support).

Homeless presentations

2015	43 adults 20 children
2016	76 adults and 59 children
2017	93 adults and 54 children
2018	103 Adults and 84 children

Any specific housing issues

No specific housing issues.

- Monaghan County Council's Rebuilding Ireland target for 2018-2021 is 226 for Build, Acquisition & Leasing combined.

- At year end of 2018 Monaghan County Council had delivered 108 social houses through Build, Acquisition & Leasing combined.

- At year end of 2019 a further 144 social houses were delivered bringing the total to 252 (2018-2021 Build, Acquisition & Leasing target exceeded by 26).

Economic Forum (CEF)

No Economic Forum – as a small county small businesses are dealt with on an individual basis.

The Local Enterprise Office

LEO Monaghan serves as a "first stop shop" to provide support and services for those looking to start, grow and develop a business in County Monaghan. The office also acts as an information source and referral point for all state enterprise agencies and for other initiatives, providing information on enterprise incentives, business structures, taxation, regulatory obligations, workspace, market research, planning, etc.

Hosts PLATO programme for North East Region (mentoring 60 companies over 6 LA areas)

Close liaison with Planning Dept. on planning matters for job creation and enterprise.

Economic Development in partnership with Enterprising Monaghan & Monaghan LEO supports business investment in Monaghan with the following initiatives

- Business Networking – Etail is Retail; Border Bizcamp

- Workspace Provision – 5 Enterprise Centres & Food Research Centre in Ballybay

- New Digital Hub at MTek(EI REDF 2019)

- The Ridge Castleblayney (RRDF 20196)

- Provision of Industrial Land

https://www.monaghanbusiness.com/

Retail Incentives

Town teams established in 4 towns – monthly meetings on issues – Marketing/incentives/new developments etc

- Town Voucher Scheme (Gift Vouchers)

- Monaghan Business Awards

- Christmas & Festival Promotions

- Marketing Campaigns

- Retail Staff Training

- Age Friendly Retail Programme

Large Regeneration Programmes in Clones, Ballybay & Monaghan town centres using Derelict Sites & CPO legislation to acquire derelict sites.

The Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan 2014 – 2019 is available on the Council's website.

The Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024 is nearing completion and will be submitted to the elected Council for approval at the March 2020 meeting scheduled for 2nd March. (The Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 was received by NOAC on 5th March 2020).

Shared services

Monaghan County Council participates in a shared service agreement with Louth County Council for the delivery of the Road Safety function. (Shared Road Safety Officer)

Regional Issues including new developments and initiatives

Enterprise Ireland - Regional Economic Development Fund 2019

- Bioconnect Innovation & Research Centre - €5m grant award- at design stage; complete Q3 2021
- North East Future Engineering - in place – develop supply chains for regional enterprises

Brexit Enterprise Development Fund 2020

- Artificial Intelligence Conference – Regional Digital Innovation Hub- Monaghan
- CTEK 2 - Creative Media & Technology Centre – Carrickmacross

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund 2019

- The Ridge, Castleblayney - Enterprise Centre – €2.8m at design stage; complete Q3 2021

Supporting Strategies

- Economic Analysis complete - Q1 2020
- Economic Development Strategy - Q4 2020

Any other relevant information

In addition to the Rebuilding Ireland Programme outlined above, the following major capital projects are in progress:

- Construction of a headquarters for Monaghan Civil Defence and a new Fire Station in Castleblayney, at a combined cost of €2.5M are scheduled for completion in April 2020.
- **The Peace Campus** contract will be awarded in March 2020. This €14.5 million project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which awarded €9.5 million to Monaghan County Council to deliver the project.
- **Dublin Street Regeneration in Monaghan Town.** The Urban Regeneration Plan, funded to the sum of €1.2M under the URDF Programme, is currently at Preliminary Design Stage and aims to provide a strategic framework to promote development in a coordinated and sustainable manner in this town centre area.
- Former unoccupied Town Council Offices at No. 1 Dublin Street were recently refurbished and extended to accommodate new Planning Offices.
- Rural Regeneration funding was secured for Hope Castle Gate Lodge 2 at Market Square Castleblayney to provide a €2.6M state of the art public library, gallery and cultural and creative space for the people of Castleblayney.
- Monaghan County Council is the lead authority for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney and N2 Clontibret to the Northern Ireland Border Road Schemes.
- Monaghan County Council has recently completed refurbishment and exhibition development works at the Patrick Kavanagh Visitor Centre in Inniskeen.

Additional Information supplied by Monaghan County Council 'Our County'

County Monaghan has a land area of 500 square miles and a population of 61,386 persons. The countryside is characterised by rolling hills or drumlins. The county is the most northerly inland county in the country, 90% of which is located within 10 miles of the border with Northern Ireland, providing strategic access to the UK market.

Monaghan boasts key transport linkages, providing easy access to the county. Our transportation network plays an important part in providing access to ports, airports and markets. Monaghan benefits from extensive and reliable broadband connectivity. The County Council views the attraction of highly skilled industries into the county as a priority and to this end accepts that the provision of excellent infrastructure is a pre-requisite. The provision of high-quality housing, broadband, water and sewerage facilities are important for sustaining the existing population and making provision for future growth.
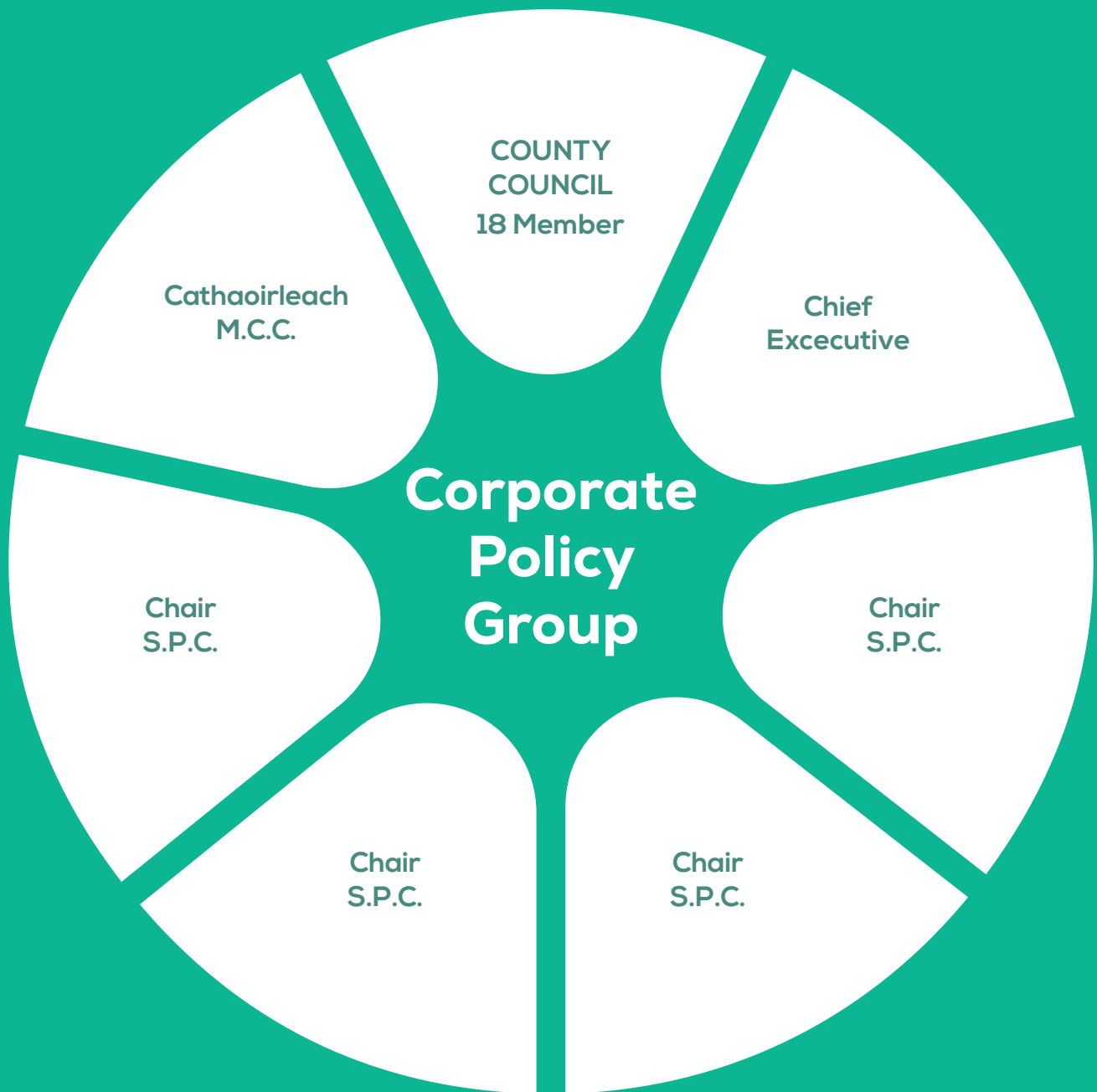
The County is renowned for the entrepreneurial spirit of its people. The strong work ethic and entrepreneurial flair of Monaghan people has led to the establishment of major key indigenous exporting businesses throughout the county. Agriculture and Food is a dominant economic activity in County Monaghan, providing substantial employment and accounting for over 60% of Monaghan's employment and 90% of foods produced in the county are exported. 14 of the top 100 food producing companies in Ireland are based in County Monaghan.

County Monaghan has a traditional pattern of dispersed settlement in rural areas together with a network of towns and villages distributed throughout the county. The County's population is dispersed throughout these rural areas with less than 30% of the population living in the urban areas. From market towns to small communities, County Monaghan offers a range of options when it comes to places to live.

Community spirit and pride of place is evident everywhere throughout the county. Monaghan promotes itself as an age friendly county which aims to make Monaghan a better place in which to grow old. Our age friendly programme delivers a range of inclusive services and initiatives for older people.

The magic of County Monaghan lies in its beautiful rolling hills, little lakes, meandering rivers and ever-changing vistas. Monaghan has a wealth of vibrant heritage, arts and culture hubs presenting wonderful opportunities for participation in the county's ever-growing roster of heritage, arts and music festivals and cultural activities.

COUNTY COUNCIL
18 Member

Chief Excecutive

Cathaoirleach M.C.C.

Corporate Policy Group

Chair S.P.C.

Chair S.P.C.

Chair S.P.C.

Chair S.P.C.

Further Information supplied by Monaghan County Council 'Our Council'

Monaghan County Council, Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, is made up of 18 County Councillors who were elected from three Electoral Areas for a term of 5 years, from June 2019.

The delivery of services within the Council is the collective responsibility of the Elected Members and the Executive. Elected Members exercise their authority through "reserved functions" which include the adoption of all major policy and operational programmes including the County Development Plan, the Annual Budget, the Corporate Plan, the making of byelaws, the setting of commercial rates and varying the rate of Local Property Tax.

The day to day operational decisions are a matter for the Council Executive but must have regard to the policy direction determined by the Elected Members. Typically, executive decisions include all staff matters, planning decisions, housing allocations, budgetary control, and asset management.

The Council is assisted in its policy making by four Strategic Policy Committees, membership of which is drawn from Council membership and sector representatives in such areas as business, farming, environment, community and trade unions. Collectively An Cathaoirleach and the Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees form the Corporate Policy Group. It acts as the Council's cabinet providing guidance and advice to the SPCs with specific roles in relation to the preparation of the Annual Budget, the preparation and ongoing monitoring of the Corporate Plan, varying the rate of the Local Property Tax and recommending members for appointment to the Audit Committee.

The Council has structured links with the community and voluntary sector through the operation of the Public Participation Network. It also facilitates the operation of the Local Community Development Committee which has governance and oversight responsibilities for community expenditure from national sources. The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) acts as a facilitator of access to enterprise services and to promote and support enterprise at a local level, with a particular focus on micro enterprise. The work of the LEO complements the ongoing support provided to the business community through the broad range of services, events and grants provided by the Council.

Monaghan County Council is responsible for providing a wide range of services and supports to a diverse range of customers. Our customers include over 61,273 residents in 22,281 households, our many businesses and those who visit our county whether for recreation or work.

Monaghan County Council has roles in service and infrastructure provisions, regulatory roles and acts as a facilitator of economic and community development. In these roles we are involved in the provision of a broad range of services, such as, housing, parks and libraries and the delivery of infrastructure projects such as roads, leisure and community facilities. In our regulatory role we regulate in areas like planning enforcement and environmental enforcement. We facilitate the economic and community development of the County by working in collaboration with a variety of agencies and organisations. We work with state agencies such as the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) and business organisations such as the Towns Teams in relation to retaining and attracting businesses. In areas such as social inclusion, policing, sports, arts and culture we work in partnership with a variety of community and voluntary organisations.

A summary of the principal services and activities that the Council is involved in providing and facilitating:

Amenities, Arts, Culture and Heritage, Built Heritage, Cemeteries, Civic Participation and Protection, Community and Economic Development,Environment: Water, Litter, Waste Management, Veterinary Services, Climate Adaption, Festivals & Events, Fire Services & Rescue, Building Control, Housing: Social Housing, Tenant Liaison, Homeless Support, Social Services, Housing repairs and maintenance, Housing Grants, CAS Programme, Housing Loans, RAS, HAPS. Sport & Leisure facilities, Libraries, Motor Tax, Museum, Planning, Development Management, Enforcement, Forward planning, Unfinished Housing Development. Register of Electors, Road and Transportation, Road Improvement Works, Road Maintenance, Winter Maintenance, Road Safety, Traffic Management. Tourism and Water Services

Collection Rates

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Rate collection rates	89.00%	85.00%	82.00%	77.00%
Rent collection rates	96.00%	96.00%	95.00%	95.00%
Housing loan collection rates	78.00%	77.00%	80.00%	80.00%

NOAC Reports Overview

NOAC was established in July 2014 as an independent statutory body to provide oversight of the local government sector in Ireland. NOAC's functions are wide ranging, involving the scrutiny of performance generally and financial performance specifically. NOAC also supports best practice, oversees the implementation of national local government policy, monitors and evaluates implementation of corporate plans, adherence to service level agreements and public service reform by local government bodies.

The annual Performance Indicator Report published by NOAC is one of its key reports every year. NOAC has the function of scrutinising local authority performance against relevant indicators. NOAC believes that monitoring performance over time and against comparable authorities has the potential to encourage continuous improvement in local authority service provision. From the 22 reports published to date matters relevant to Monaghan County Council are outlined in the points below.

NOAC REPORT NO 22

Performance Indicator Report 2018 – September 2019

- **Housing**

  Monaghan owned 1,541 social housing dwellings at end of 2018 with 0.91% vacant. The average time for rehousing in vacant properties was 8.9 weeks, which compares very favourably with the national average of 27.75 weeks.

- **Environment**

  99.04% of drinking water in private schemes were in compliance with statutory requirements. 19% of the County is unpolluted or litter-free. Only 1% is significantly polluted, the same figure in 2014, with fluctuations between those years.

- **Brown bins**

  Monaghan was one of 7 local authorities who had brown bin uptake of under 20%. The national average figure is 43.91%.

- **Green Flag status**

  At the end of 2018, 48.65% of schools in the county held a Green Flag. The national average is 51.41%.

- **Fire service**

  It took an average of 5:16 minutes to mobilise fire brigades for calls to fires, an improvement on the 5:23 minutes for the previous year. It took 6:15 minutes to mobilise in respect of non-fire emergencies, which compares with 5:51 minutes the year previously.

- **Libraries**

  There were an average of 3.78 visits per head of population and 168,186 items issued to library borrowers in 2018. For 2017 the figures were 4.33 visits and 173,064 items borrowed.

- **Staff total**

  Whole-time equivalent staff employed by MCC at the end of 2018 was 400.49.

- **Sick leave**

  Monaghan's medically certified sick leave rate is 3.49%, making it one of 11 local authorities which met the public sector sick leave target of 3.5%. The national average was 3.78%. The average self-certified paid sick leave was 0.20%. The national average is 0.35%.

- **Technology & Social media**

  The total page views of the MCC website in 2018 was 1,086,690, a big increase on the 901,170 views of the page in 2017. Total followers of MCC social media channels at end 2018 were 62,632, up very significantly from 46,357 in 2017. The percentage of motor tax transactions dealt with online was also up, from 59.58% in 2017 to 63.76% in 2018.

Performance Indicator Report 2017 – September 2018

- New House building inspections remained quite steady at 13.96% in 2014 to 16.67% in 2017 (14.46% in 2018).

- Cost per capita of the planning service rose from €26.17 in 2014 to €29.13 in 2017 (€32.26 in 2018).

- The cost of the library service rose from €34.62 in 2014 to €36.22 in 2017 (€42.42 in 2018).

- Motor tax on line transactions has also improved from 39.66% in 2014 to 59.58% in 2017. (63.76% in 2018).

- The % of households availing of the 3 bin service increased from 6.53% in 2014 to 18.36% in 2017. (13.59% in 2018).

- The % area unpolluted or litter free was 1% in 2014 and 2017. (19% in 2018).

- Monaghan achieved the highest proportion of its tertiary road network receiving a PSCI rating (over 90% of the network).

Full figures for all Performance Indicator reports are included in a table below

Customer Satisfaction Survey July 2019 and July 2018

- In 2018, Ipsos MRBI was commissioned by NOAC to conduct a survey among the general public to establish their satisfaction with their Local Authority. A face-to-face in-home CAPI (Computer Aided Personal Interviewing) methodology is utilised and quota controls ensured that participants are representative of the Local Authority population by age, gender and social class.

- The first survey, conducted in 2018, surveyed the 10 largest LA's. The second survey, completed in March 2019, was conducted with the 10 medium sized LA's and Galway City. The remaining 10 Local Authorities will be surveyed in 2020. Monaghan will be included in the 2020 survey and a report on the results of the survey will be published later this year.

Internal Audit in Local Authorities - July 2018

- All 31 local authorities have an internal audit function, with 22 authorities operating this function in-house. Six local authorities, including Monaghan, use a combination of in-house and outsourcing.

- Local authorities were asked whether the audit committee had conducted an assessment of the adequacy of Internal Audit resources, including staff skills, within the last 2 years. Monaghan was one of 17 authorities which had done so.

- The Head of Internal Audit reports to the CE and Director of Corporate in three authorities, one of which is Monaghan.

- In the Overview of the work of the Local Government Audit Service 2016 report it noted that in many cases the internal audit function was under-resourced due to a number of posts being left vacant for extended periods, a reduction in staff numbers during the year or insufficient resources being allocated to this function. In Monaghan County Council the Internal Audit unit is working well.

NOAC

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NOAC REPORT NO 16

Review of 2015 Statutory Audit Reports to the Members of Local Authorities – June 2018

Commercial Rates 2015	Housing Rents 2015	Housing Loans 2015
77%	95%	80%

NOAC REPORT NO 12

A Review of the Management and Maintenance of Local Authority Housing - May 2017

Seven local authorities, including Monaghan, stated that they were proactive in identifying new tenants quickly and that this was a key method for avoiding long vacancy times.

NOAC REPORT NO 10

Rented Houses Inspections - A Review of Local Authority Performance of Private Rented Houses Regulations Functions October 2016

	2014	2018
Number of Registered Tenancies	1,583	2,262
% Units inspected	24.7	14.46
Inspected Failed %	10.2	70.34

Data from report relates to 2014, data for 2018 taken from Performance Indicator Report

	Performance Indicators	2018		2017	
		Data	Median/ Average	Data	Median/ Average
H1	Social Housing provided in year per 1,000 population	0.72	0.84	1.63	0.53
H2	% of directly provided dwellings vacant at 31/12	0.91	2.77	1.98	2.73
H3a	Average time from vacation date to PI year re-letting date (weeks)	8.9	27.75	9.52	28.9
H3b	Average cost expended on getting re-tenanted units ready for re-letting	€14,996.73	€18,590.28	€16,207.65	€17,160.60
H4	Average repair and maintenance cost per unit	€792.96	€841.83	€702.28	€1,311.82
H5	Inspections (Dwellings inspected in 2018) carried out in year as % of registrations	14.46	7.39	13.97	4.96
R1a	% Regional Road KM that ever received a PSCI rating	100	99.36	100	96
R1b	% Total Regional Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	40	37.58	25	28
R1c	% Total Primary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	34	23.39	25	20
R1d	% Total Secondary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	15	15.19	13	14
R1e	% Total Tertiary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	15	12.42	27	8
R2a	KM Regional Road strengthened using road improvement grants	7.1	13.4	6.50	10.3
R2b	KM Regional road resealed using road maintenance grants	13.5	15.3	11.90	11.9
R2/3	% Motor tax transactions performed online	63.76	69.15	59.58	65.95
W1	% private schemes with water quality in compliance	99.04	97.1	99.88	98.46
E1	% households availing of a 3-bin service	13.59	43.91	18.36	39.53
E2	Pollution cases on hand at year end as % of the cases that arose that year	4.22	11.00	1.27	9.79
E3	% area unpolluted or litter free	19	19.00	1	10
P1	New buildings inspected as % of new buildings notified	30.93	16.75	16.67	17
P2	% of determinations that confirmed the decision made by LA	64.29	75.92	100.00	79
P3	Ratio of planning cases being investigated at year end as to cases closed	4.3	3.03	3.84	2.41
P4	Cost per capita of the Planning Service	€32.26	29.24	€29.13	28.31
F1	Cost per capita of Fire Service (based on 2016 Census)	44.13	53.85	€44.90	57.74
F2	Average time to mobilise Brigade re Fire (Minutes) (FT)	N/A	1.42	N/A	1.45
F3	% of Fire Cases in which first attendance is within 10 minutes	34.75	52.92	28.64	40.45
L1a	No. of Library visits per head of population	3.78	3.50	4.33	3.56
L1b	No. of Items borrowed per head of population	2.74	3.00	2.82	2.92
L2	Cost of Library Service per capita	€42.42	30.52	36.22	31.00
Y1	% of local schools involved in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme	91.67	80.00	100.00	69.04
C1	WTE staff per 1,000 population	6.52	5.99	6.25	5.75
C2a	% of paid working days lost to medically certified sick leave in year	3.49	3.74	3.07	3.74
C2b	% of paid working days lost to self-certified sick leave in year	0.2	0.35	0.14	0.33
C3	LA website page views per 1,000 population	17,703	16,210.00	14680	14,632
C4	Overall cost of ICT Provision per WTE	€4,030.33	2894.57	€3,229.44	€3,048.41
M2a	% Commercial Rates Collected in year	89	86.00	85.0	83
M2b	% Rent & Annuities Collected in year	96	89.00	96.0	89
M2c	% Housing Loans Collected in year	78	75.00	77.0	74
J1	LEO jobs output per 1,000 population	2.18	0.77	1.86	0.68

Per population based on census figures for 2011 and 2016 (161,137 in 2011 and 159,192 in 2016)

	Performance Indicators	2016		2015		2014	
		Data	Median/ Average	Data	Median/ Average	Data	Median/ Average
H1	Social Housing provided in year per 1,000 population	n/a	3.43	3.34	1.91	0.41	0.80
H2	% of directly provided dwellings vacant at 31/12	1.04	3.02	0.71	3.5	0.50	3.8
H3a	Average time from vacation date to PI year re-letting date (weeks)	8.03	32.99	18.30	28.43	19.45	31.43
H3b	Average cost expended on getting re-tenanted units ready for re-letting	11,664.39	€15,877	9,560.69	€13,378.40	4,395.55	€11,534.91
H4	Average repair and maintenance cost per unit	1,013.24	€1,500.23	728.32	€1,292.57	836.76	€1,272.30
H5	Inspections (Dwellings inspected in 2018) carried out in year as % of registrations	19.74	4.36	17.02	5.64	13.96	6.51
R1a	% Regional Road KM that ever received a PSCI rating	100.00	99	95.00	68	100.00	47.9
R1b	% Total Regional Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	51.00	30	29.00	20	26.00	11.15
R1c	% Total Primary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	57.00	13	28.00	11	27.00	6.4
R1d	% Total Secondary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	29.00	10	27.00	8	22.00	4.61
R1e	% Total Tertiary Road KM with a PSCI rating of 9-10	22.00	7	20.00	5	17.00	3.63
R2a	KM Regional Road strengthened using road improvement grants	10.00	10.8	9.30	10.2		
R2b	KM Regional road resealed using road maintenance grants	4.90	12.2	6.40	8.3		
R2/3	% Motor tax transactions performed online	55.64	64.05	46.45	56.6	39.66	54.7
W1	% private schemes with water quality in compliance	99.06	97.77	99.57	99.07	98.80	97.9
E1	% households availing of a 3-bin service	10.22	37.7	8.83	34.87	6.53	31.66
E2	Pollution cases on hand at year end as % of the cases that arose that year	11.41	9.91	5.66	8.49		
E3	% area unpolluted or litter free	16.00	13	11.00	14	1.00	9.5
P1	New buildings inspected as % of new buildings notified	16.53	19.42	22.86	24	13.96	17.71
P2	% of determinations that confirmed the decision made by LA	81.82	77.78	90.00	71.88	75.00	71.7
P3	Ratio of planning cases being investigated at year end as to cases closed	3.27	2.87	3.64	2.61	3.06	2.88
P4	Cost per capita of the Planning Service	31.23	€26.96	24.36	€26.76	26.17	€25.27
F1	Cost per capita of Fire Service (based on 2016 Census)	42.47	€56.07	43.00	€57.88	41.58	€55.9
F2	Average time to mobilise Brigade re Fire (Minutes) (FT)	n/a	1.5	N/A	1.6	N/A	1.66
F3	% of Fire Cases in which first attendance is within 10 minutes	28.34	57.79	31.55	56.98	33.69	58.6
L1a	No. of Library visits per head of population	4.52	3.61	4.35	3.68	4.83	3.71
L1b	No. of Items borrowed per head of population	5.48	3.82	5.48	3.82		
L2	Cost of Library Service per capita	38.22	€30.05	37.20	€30.02	34.62	€29.41
Y1	% of local schools involved in Comhairle na nÓg Scheme	100.00	68.07	100.00	67.59	76.19	51.86
C1	WTE staff per 1,000 population	6.30	5.64	6.02	5.58	6.00	5.63
C2a	% of paid working days lost to medically certified sick leave in year	3.25	3.76	3.38	3.52	3.53	3.34
C2b	% of paid working days lost to self-certified sick leave in year	0.15	0.38	0.14	0.39	0.15	0.4
C3	LA website page views per 1,000 population	11,470.60	12,422	7,531.21	11,666	6,584.11	9,651
C4	Overall cost of ICT Provision per WTE	2,995.37	€2,675.69	3,513.84	€2,680.15	3,639.71	€2,646.8
M2a	% Commercial Rates Collected in year	82.00	82.3	77.00	83	64.00	77
M2b	% Rent & Annuities Collected in year	95.00	88.0	95.00	85	95.00	84
M2c	% Housing Loans Collected in year	80.00	70	80.00	68	81.00	67
J1	LEO jobs output per 1,000 population	2.15	0.7	0.72	0.66	1.11	0.73

2

Stage 1 meeting

NOAC profile meeting with Monaghan County Council

Date:	26 February 2020	
Venue:	Monaghan	
Attendees:	**Monaghan County Council:** ■ Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive ■ Cathal Flynn, Director of Services Corporate ■ Carmel Thornton, NOAC Co-ordinator	**NOAC** ■ Michael McCarthy, Chair ■ Claire Gavin, NOAC Executive

NOAC's profile for Monaghan County Council, completed with the assistance of Monaghan County Council and issued in advance of the meeting, formed the basis for the discussion on the day. NOAC Chair outlined the format of the meetings and invited the CE to give an outline of the Council and the issues facing it. Matters discussed in detail were:

Staff and Buildings

The CE outlined how there was an excellent work force in the Council and that there was a lot of good work being done. There are over 400 staff in different locations in the county. A 10-acre site acquired in Monaghan town from the HSE and is planned for a new, much needed civic offices to be located there. This will allow staff, Councillors and Citizens to deliver and receive better services. There is a working group driving this plan forward.

Environment and Brexit

Monaghan is a border county and is currently surrounded by four local authorities that are no longer in the EU. Some of the towns in the county like Clones would be a typical border town. It is possible to chart its decline with the closure of the railway in the 50's. It still has the physical scars but it has great resilience and a good work ethic and attitude, which is evident throughout the county. Monaghan did not experience the celtic tiger and urban and rural regeneration had started before it became a national programme. The local enterprise office is working well for the county, which may be small but is well linked. Community spirt is very strong and this is evident in areas, for example tidy towns. The county often out-performs other counties, there is a culture of commitment by staff to the county, the Councillors see this, and they want to get involved also.

There is a huge amount of activity despite the low-income base that exists in the county. Prioritisation is critical, especially on programmes where match funding is needed, as it is imperative that the Council gets a good return for its investments. There is a strong business focus and the Council works very closely with businesses. They work with them and for them and assist them in their plans to expand by having a close working relationship with the local authority and the planners. Despite Brexit, a number of businesses have had major expansions. The county continues to manage to attract more jobs and spin off industries.

Housing

The county has a good housing build programme. They already have exceeded their Rebuilding Ireland target. Late in 2019, 43 units were delivered in an unfinished development. This was much needed housing in the town and the housing is finished to a very high standard. The Council negotiated with the developer and worked through the 4-stage process for Departmental funding. The development was backed by the Department and backed by the Councillors. They have a good working relationship with the Approved Housing Bodies in the area, who have delivered many schemes in the county. Their target under RI was 226 units but 260 have been achieved with 300 further units in the pipeline if finances are available. There is no private housing activity and little availability of private rented accommodation. There is a lot of work going on refurbishing and regenerating their existing stock.

Roads/ Capital Projects

There are two major capital road schemes, which are in the Ireland 2040 plan - N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme and the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme, which are moving well through the design process, but due to the change in the Public Spending Code, there is some uncertainty as to the milestones at which certain gateway approvals will be required. The two schemes will be the largest ever undertaken in the county and will deliver vital infrastructure for the region.

Brexit and Border County

There is a joined up approach with the border local authorities. Some work was done with delegations to the British Government but this was of little value, but gave their concerns a voice, as there is a fear that the return of borders could give rise to the return of violence. There is a lot of cooperation with the Northern Counties and a number of joint projects, including the Ulster Greenway and the Sliabh Beagh. The Council is currently the chair of ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network). It has a number of projects funded under the Peace Programme. One major project is the Peace Campus, which will be a shared space with a museum, library, community space, a civic plaza, a youth café etc. They are currently in the standstill period prior to awarding the contract, which is worth in the region of €9.5m. The winning of this funding is due to the high standard of applications made by the staff, who put in a tremendous effort.

Council

The Council is made up of the following parties; six Sinn Fein, five Fine Gael, four Fianna Fail and three Independents. Monaghan has a good Council and they supported the need to raise capital and voted in favour of a 15% increase in LPT.

Age Friendly Award Winning Programme

The CSO statistics note that there is a high proportion of older people in the county and there was need for a community/social inclusion/age friendly officer who was appointed and has a can do attitude. The Council has a strategy document in place and their approach has resulted in winning a number of awards. The approach is practical and now they have age friendly towns in the county.

Technology and Innovation

Monaghan and Cork City have been selected to pilot the DPER Innovation Strategy framework and there is a second pilot where they were selected with Kildare County Council on how to foster/promote innovation and how to get innovation to shine. The Council meetings are paperless and the staff of the Council are moving this way. They are using technology to deliver faster results, especially in the area of housing vacancies, using technology has allowed them to move quicker in reletting the units. A new head of ICT has been appointed. The IT system in place was very poor but the Council has invested in improvements and upgrades. It is considered that it is important that this work is done and it is seen that improvements in ICT will help deliver better services.

Libraries

Monaghan has five branch libraries. The My Open Library in Carrickmacross delivers a great service. Plans are in place for a new €2.2m library in Castleblayney and in Monaghan town, a new library is in planning under the Peace Programme project.

PI Performance

The Council take the NOAC reports into its planning and produce its own report to see how it is performing relative to its peers. A copy of the report was given to the Chair of NOAC.

Corporate Plan 2020-2024

A copy of the draft plan was also given to NOAC and the draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020. Both reports are due to be adopted in the near future and will be submitted to NOAC at that stage.

NOAC Chair thanked the CE for the comprehensive discussion and invited Monaghan to attend the full NOAC meeting, possibly in May or June 2020 in the Custom House. NOAC was then invited to see the recently opened 43 housing units at Plás Lorcáin, Latlorcan, Monaghan Town.

The minutes of this meeting and the future NOAC meeting will be circulated by the NOAC executive to Monaghan County Council. Once approved, all material, including any presentations made will be published on the NOAC website.

3

Stage 2 meeting

National Oversight and Audit Commission Meeting with Monaghan County Council

Date:	21st July 2020	
Venue:	Webex meeting	
Attendees:	**Chairman:** ■ Michael McCarthy **Members:** ■ David Holohan ■ Martina Moloney ■ Constance Hanniffy ■ Sharon O'Connor ■ Michael McGreal **Secretariat:** ■ John F McCarthy ■ Colin Flood ■ Neill Dalton ■ Darren Browne ■ John Goldrick	**By Invite:** ■ Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive ■ Paul Clifford, Director of Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism ■ Patricia Monahan, Director of Transportation, Community and Rural Development ■ Nuala Woods, A/Director of Housing ■ Olga McConnon, Financial Management Accountant ■ Carmel O'Hare, Head of Information Systems ■ Carmel Thornton, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services

NOAC
National Oversight
and Audit Commission

Meeting with Monaghan County Council

The Chair welcomed the Chief Executive and team to the meeting. In advance of the meeting, the CE sent in a presentation on Monaghan County Council, which was circulated to members. Monaghan's CE used that presentation to give an overview of the Council.

On the Corporate Governance side it was explained that the Corporate Plan had been adopted in March 2020 and the 2019 Annual Report was adopted in June 2020. Regarding housing, Monaghan has achieved its Rebuilding Ireland target. The Clones Housing Renewal Scheme is underway. It is a €6 million development project which will provide 24 social houses in the centre of Clones Town.

With respect to National Roads, there are 2 major road schemes on the N2 in public consultation. There are currently upgrading works taking place, particularly in several sections on the N2 road i.e. Emyvale Phase 3 and N2 Blackwater bridge with road works planned for the N54 road.

On the Covid-19 front, the Council has taken a lead role in the response to this issue. Measures include support given to community groups, such as the provision of tablets to care homes, the establishment of a community response helpline and emergency fund. The Council is operating a business re-start grant on behalf of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment to assist businesses with the challenges of re-opening.

In the community sector, there are CLAR projects in place, along with those for town and village renewal. There has also been a civil defence headquarters and training centre which was completed in February 2020 and a fire station in Castleblayney completed in July 2020.

Following on from this presentation, the NOAC board members put questions to the Council, the main areas of which are outlined below.

Finance

The Council explained its financial structures. Financial controls are used at every stage of Council projects, an important process to ensure that there are not cost overruns.

At present the Council is in a low geared financial situation. Currently it has €6 million euros in loans. In 2019 the members approved a 15% increase in property tax. This brought in €600,000, for use as match funding on capital projects.

Housing

The Council has a target of 226 units for 2018-21, which they have exceeded already. The Council is continuing to accelerate supply and delivery for the years ahead. One development in Scotstown has 32 housing units under construction. Overall, approximately 40% of housing is delivered by Housing Bodies. Within Monagahan there are 24 village and town settlements. Monaghan town itself has less than 10,000 people. As a result of extensive pre-planning consultations, Monaghan therefore doesn't have a major rural planning issue.

Enterprise Hub

An Enterprise Hub is about to commence in Castleblayney, which is 13,500 square feet in size. This will facilitate people in remote working situations and those employed in start-up enterprise.

Peace Campus

The Peace Campus is an €18.5 million project which is being funded by SEUPB under Peace 4 Shared Spaces Programme. Construction commenced in July 2020 and it is estimated to take 22 months to deliver this. It will be an integrated facility with library, cultural, community space, café and outdoor amenities.

ICT

The ICT costs appear high in Monaghan County Council at present, due to the fact that the Council had to invest heavily in upgrading ICT infrastructure.

Council deficit

Monaghan County Council is one of only eight local authorities with a deficit of over €2 million. The deficit stands at €2.2 million and mainly as a result of the Council taking on the debt of former Town Councils. The Council is focussed on gradually reducing the deficit.

Conclusion

The NOAC Chair thanked the Chief Executive and Management Team for coming in to meet with NOAC and for providing valuable insight into its work.

The minutes of the meeting and presentation will be published on the NOAC website at a future date.

The meeting was brought to a close

4

Stage 2 presentation

Welcome and Introduction:

Eamonn O'Sullivan, Chief Executive

Monaghan in Context
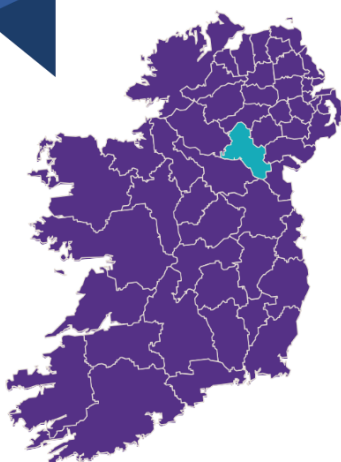
- Border County
- Centrally located - 100/130km from Dublin/Belfast
- 61,386 Population - 2016 Census: 1.5% increase over 2011
- 4th Smallest in terms of Population & Geography
- 70% Rural – 30% Urban
- 24 Unique Villages and Towns
- Agri-food provides 13% of total employment
- Top 10 Origin Green companies located in Monaghan
- 90% of food production exported

Monaghan County Council

Chief Executive

Mr. Eamonn O'Sullivan

Directors of Services/Head of Finance

Mr. Paul Clifford, Director of Services:
Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism

Mr. Adge King, Director of Services:
Climate Action, Environmental & Water Services

Ms. Patricia Monahan, Director of Services:
Transportation, Community & Rural Development.

Mr. John Murray, Head of Finance:
Finance, Housing & Culture

Mr. Cathal Flynn, A/Director of Services:
Corporate Services and Capital Management Delivery

Cathaoirleach

Cllr Colm Carthy

Leas-Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Seamus Treanor

SPC Chairs

Cllr. Raymond Aughey – Transport and Community

Cllr. Pat Treanor – Housing, Social and Cultural

Cllr. Noel Keelan – Climate Change and Environment

Cllr. Sean Gilliland – Economic Development & Enterprise Support

18 Members

3 Municipal Districts

- **Monaghan Municipal District**
- **Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District**
- **Ballybay / Clones Municipal District**

Corporate Governance:

- Corporate Plan – adopted by Council 2 March 2020

- Annual Service Delivery Plan – adopted by Council 2 March 2020

- AFS 2019 – submitted in March and noted by Council 15 June 2020

- Audited AFS 2018/LG Auditor Report/Audit Committee Report – considered by Council 6 January 2020

- Annual Report 2019 – adopted 15 June 2020

- Review of Performance Indicators 2019 – presented to CPG/Council/Audit Committee – Jan/Feb 2020
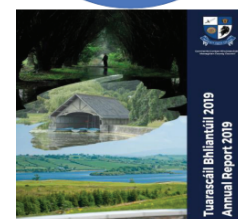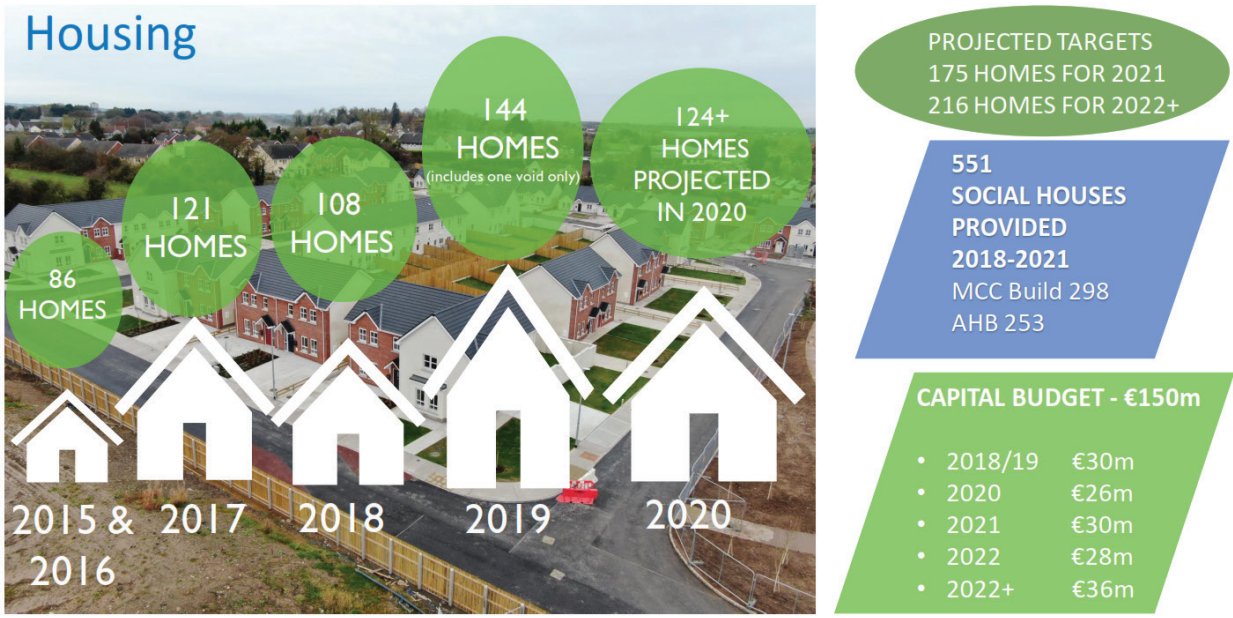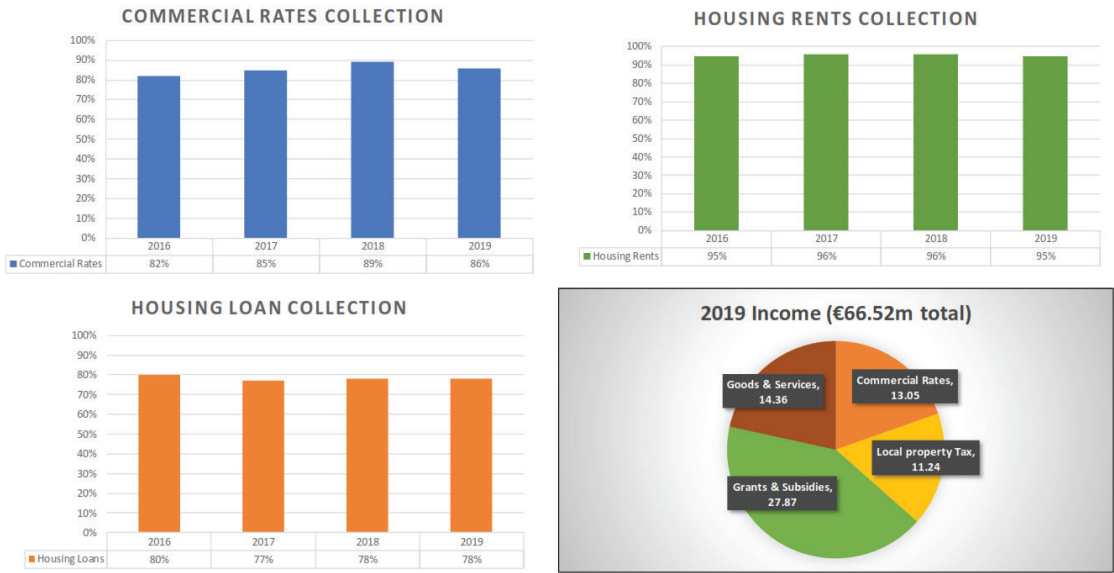
Old Boyle Sports Site

After Demolition

Current Progress of Construction

Clones Housing Renewal Scheme

- Clones Urban Regeneration Renewal Scheme - €6 Million Investment.
- Provision of 24 social housing homes in the centre of Clones Town.
- Construction is underway - 6 homes are currently programmed for delivery in 2020 with the remaining 18 to be delivered in 2021.
- The scheme received the Excellence in Planning Award at the Property Industry Excellence Awards 2019.

National Roads

N2 Clontibret to Border
- Upgrade of 28km section of N2

N2 Ardee to Castleblayney
- Joint project with Louth Co. Council to upgrade 32km section of N2

Emerging preferred routes expected by Q4 2020

N2 Phase 3 Emyvale
- Upgrade of 3.3km section of N2 completed in Q2 2020 – Budget €13.6m

N54 Tullybryan
- Upgrade of 3.5km section of N54 – Budget €15m.
- Part VIII approval secured and project awaiting TII approval to progress to CPO

N2 Blackwater Bridge
- Replacement of bridge on N2 at Lakeland Dairies Co-op – Budget €5.5m for completion Q4 2020

Non-National Roads

Road Classification	Length (km)	Length (%)
a) Regional	297	12
b) Local Primary	540	21
c) Local Secondary	582	23
d) Local Tertiary	1034	40

2019 PSCI Rating Data

Road type	1-4 rating	5-6 rating	7-8 rating	9-10 rating
a) Regional	7%	18%	28%	47%
b) Local Primary	13%	13%	51%	23%
c) Local Secondary	23%	11%	52%	14%
d) Local Tertiary	21%	12%	50%	15%

2019 Roadworks Data

- 11.6km Regional Road Strengthened - €2.1m
- 39.2km Local Road Strengthened in 2019 - €4.4m
- 14.5km Regional Road Resealed - €0.4m
- 69.4km Regional Road Resealed - €1.2m

2020 DTTAS Funding - €14.5m

An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

Climate Action

- Climate Adaption Strategy adopted 2019
- Steering Group Established
- 62 Actions
- Climate Action Charter adopted January 2020
- Climate Action Delivery Plan – 40 Actions by December 2021

Public Lighting & Energy

- 73 % LED's retrofitted
- SEAI Report – 37.11% energy reduction

Covid-19 Community Response

Re-Start Assistant: Ask me a question re. your Business Re-Start Application process!

April 2020

- Community Forum established – 35 Members
- Community Response Helpline - Up to 15th July - 687 calls received
- Covid19 Emergency Fund - €62,247
- County wide foodbank - €28,000
- 46 groups supported
- IT tablets to care homes / 3D printing of PPE visors / Cocooning supports

Business Re-Start Grant

- Assisting businesses with challenge of reopening
- Developed Online Application Form & Automated Report Generation with email notification
- Re-Start "Virtual Assistant" developed to answer queries on the grant
- 691 grants paid to date to value €2.3m

Community

Clár, Town & Village, Outdoor Recreation.

CLÁR 2019
- 6 projects funded under CLÁR 2019 worth €270,245
- 2020 applications open June 2020

Town & Village Renewal 2019
- 8 projects received €569,536 funding in 2019
- Applications for new projects close August 2020

Outdoor Recreation Activities 2019
- 5 X Measure 1 Projects totaling €100,000
- Measure 2 New Cycle Way Carrickmacross €90,800
- Measure 3 Rossmore Park Upgrade - €289,355
- Applications for new projects close Sept/Nov 2020

Peace Campus

Peace Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund

- Shared Spaces Regional Capital Programme

  - €18.5 Million Project
  - Town Centre Derelict Site
  - Integrated facility: Youth Facility / Cultural Heritage / Library / Community Space / Café / Outdoor space
  - Contract Signed - 10th July 2020
  - Construction commencement - 20th July 2020
  - Project duration 22 months
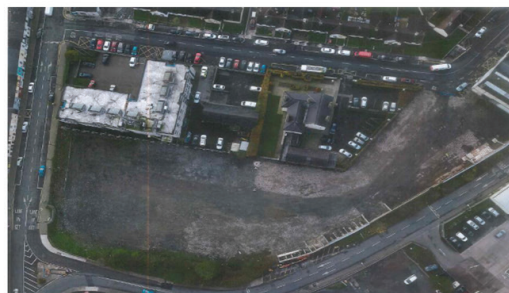
Ulster Canal Greenway

- Allocation of €4.95m from the INTERREG VA Programme
- Cross-border partnership with Waterways Ireland, ABC Borough Council Armagh, and EBR.
- Preferred Route selected for 22km – phased implementation likely
- Construction to commence in 2021
- Scheme to open in 2023

Patrick Kavanagh Centre

- Cultural and Tourism Centre
- Developed Visitor Experience & Multi-Purpose Performance Space
- Cost €1.24 million
    - €188,000 Arts Capital Fund
    - €199,000 Fáilte Ireland
    - €850,000 Monaghan Co. Council
- Centre opening on 20th July 2020

Tourism Projects

- Rossmore Park Upgrade
    - Partnership with Coillte
    - €1.7m investment – ORIS, Peace, Own Resources

- Destination Town - Monaghan
    - Failte Ireland - €0.75m Public Realm Tourist Enhancements

- Sliabh Beagh
    - Walking & Cycling Trails
    - €0.5m ORIS
    - Cross Border Collaboration

- Carrickmacross Market House & Workhouse
    - Development of Craft Hub and Visitor Experience Centre
    - €1m investment – REDZ, T&V, Own Resources

Fire & Civil Defence

Civil Defence Headquarters & Training Centre

- Completed February 2020
- Hosted Covid Response Team & Training
- Cost €1.1m

Castleblayney Fire Station

- Completed July 2020
- Cost €1.4M
- Ballybay Fire Station at Preliminary Stages

Bioconnect Innovation Centre

Biotechnology Centre of Excellence for Agrifood & Bioeconomy

Regional Enterprise Development Funding - €4.2m

Monaghan Mushrooms & Monaghan County Council - €0.9m

Planning – July 2020
Completion Spring 2022

Awards & Initiatives

- Local Authority of the Year 2017
- Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017, 2018 and 2019
- LAMA Awards 2019
- KPMG Award - Dublin Street Regeneration
- Social Campaigns
- Community Engagement – Monaghan Alerts and Community Text Alert App

Summary

- Commitment & Support of Elected Members
- Innovative & Enterprising County
- Collaboration with Businesses and State Agencies
- Strong Community Network
- Addressing Market & Social / Infrastructural Failures
- Leading Digital Transformation and Supporting Industry 4.0
- Financial Commitment

- Questions

National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC)
An Coimisiúin Náisiúnra Maoirseachta & Iniúchoóireachta

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