



ANNUAL
REPORT
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CLEW BAY FROM CROAGH PATRICK

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Cllr Richard Finn
CATHAOIRLEACH
Mayo County Council

I am honoured, as Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, to introduce and welcome this Annual Report which outlines the extensive programme of work and achievements of the Local Authority in 2020.

The Annual Report for 2020 is an opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of Mayo County Council, in a year like no other, calling on the Council to adapt to deliver our services in a Covid environment. Faced with a major and rapid change to our established way of working, we responded quickly and efficiently and remained focused on our core function of the delivery of public services to the people of County Mayo.

It was heartening to see the spirit of collaboration and community cohesion at work throughout the Covid response from the people of Mayo. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Community Response Forum established so speedily in Mayo ensuring that agencies, community and voluntary groups worked in partnership for the greater good of the County and its people.

This report is a comprehensive record of what Mayo County Council has delivered for its customers and the citizens of the county over the past twelve months. The range of initiatives and services delivered by Mayo County Council across the county is considerable and the council continued throughout 2020 to ensure that our citizens received an efficient, and reliable service in a cost-effective manner, despite the limitations that Covid-19 brought.

As Cathaoirleach, I wish to thank the staff of the organisation working right around the County. Their dedication and professionalism exemplify the important public service provided by Mayo County Council. I thank our Chief Executive, and the Management Team for supporting me and my fellow Councillors in our work in a challenging year and I acknowledge the support of my Councillor colleagues in continuing to work to achieve a better quality of life for all our citizens of Mayo during 2020.

After a year like no other, it was welcome news for the County when following a competitive call out process, €100,000 in funding was secured through the Global Irish Festival Series for a month-long calendar of events to take place to encourage our Diaspora to return home to visit Mayo in 2022 under the Home to Mayo initiative. Further good news was warmly welcomed when Mayo County Council were announced as Chambers Ireland Council of the Year 2020.

Cllr Richard Finn
CATHAOIRLEACH
Mayo County Council



Kevin Kelly
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Mayo County Council

As Chief Executive, I welcome the publication of the Annual Report for 2020 which outlines the Council's further progress on delivering on our strategic priorities and highlights the ongoing valuable work, and some of the many achievements, of this Council during the year.

The work and achievements of Mayo County Council are enhanced by working in partnership with a variety of stakeholders and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them for their ongoing support and cooperation.

Despite a year which no one could have anticipated, delivery of Council services ensuring the safety of our Customers and Staff was the key focus. I would like to thank the Management Team and Staff for the way in which they adapted to a new way of working, showing professionalism and commitment in delivering services in 2020.

- The Council administered significant government supports to assist local business: The schemes provided much needed cashflow to local business at a time when they were forced to close or operate at reduced capacity. Over 2,000 claims were processed resulting in payments of €20.23 million to local businesses.
- Mayo County Council established and led the Covid Community Response Forum in the early days of the pandemic. In addition, a partnership approach with the HSE and An Garda Síochána ensured a consistent County approach to the challenges of Covid-19.
- The contract for the N26 Realignment at Cloongullane Bridge was signed on 28th October 2020. The award of this contract, valued at €10 million, is a significant improvement in the roads infrastructure of north Mayo. It will improve access to the region and will vastly improve the day-to-day commutes for the people of Swinford, Foxford, Ballina and surrounding areas.
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund funding of €11million was secured for the Castlebar Historic Core Reactivation and Regeneration Initiative i.e. Imperial (Daly's) Hotel and the Mall, Castlebar Post Office and master planning for Ellison Street and Rock Square.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Richard Finn and his predecessor Cllr Brendan Mulroy, and I would like to thank the Elected Members for their support in responding to the many challenges in 2020.

Kevin Kelly
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Mayo County Council

MISSION STATEMENT

"To promote the well-being and quality of life of our citizens and communities in Mayo and to enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place in which to live, work, visit, invest in and enjoy"

VISION

A county that is sustainable, inclusive, prosperous and proud

CORPORATE PLAN

Mayo County Council is at the heart of local community, we are a key provider of economic and social development in the county, by delivering vital local services that are central to the quality of life for the people that we represent proudly.

As the leading public sector body, we also support and facilitate those who are responsible for providing key public services. When we deliver our responsibilities, they can deliver their obligations, we are always mindful of this so that we can effectively deliver on our commitments to make County Mayo, Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud.

Our Corporate Plan was devised as a guide in delivering our commitments to the people of County Mayo. It sets out our mission, as the democratic body, of how we work and how we measure our efforts so that the end result transparently demonstrates the successes achieved for our communities.

Mayo County Council is community centred and people focused. Our Councillors represent the people of the county, and our staff is part of the Mayo community. All people and parts of this combined effort to achieve a positive contribution to the continuous and ongoing development of County Mayo.

A successful Mayo requires a successful Council, our Corporate Plan is a cornerstone in devising, tracking and implementing successful aspirations for the County.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Seamus Weir
CATHAOIRLEACH
NP



Annie May Reape **LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH**
FF



Michael Loftus
FF



Mark Duffy
NP



Jarlath Munnely
FG



John O'Hara
FG

CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Blackie K Gavin
CATHAOIRLEACH
FF



Martin McLoughlin **LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH**
FF



Donna Sheridan
FG



Cyril Burke
FG



Ger Deere
FG



Michael Kilcoyne
NP



Al McDonnell
FF

CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Gerry Murray
CATHAOIRLEACH
SF



Neil Cruise
LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH
FG



John Caulfield
FF



John Cribbin
FG



Michael Burke
FG



Richard Finn
CATHAOIRLEACH MAYO
COUNTY COUNCIL
NP



Patsy O'Brien
NP



Damien Ryan
FF



Tom Connolly
FG



Michael Smyth
FF

WESTPORT BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Seán Carey
CATHAOIRLEACH
FF



Brendan Mulroy
LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH
FF



Gerry Coyle
FG



Peter Flynn
FG



Paul McNamara
FF



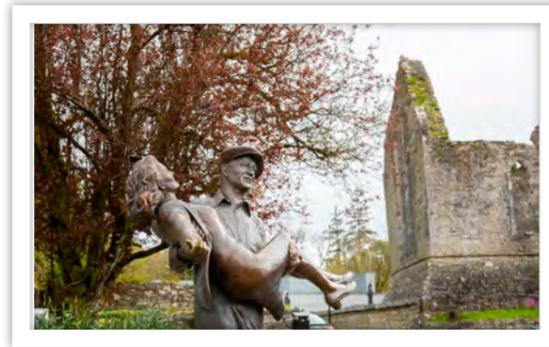
Christy Hyland
LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH
MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL
NP



John O'Malley
NP

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

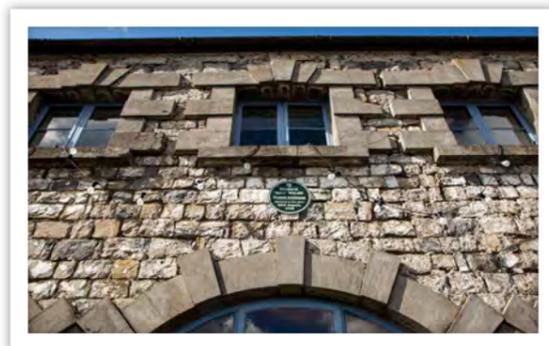
Claremorris Swinford Municipal District



Castlebar Municipal District



Westport Belmullet Municipal District



Ballina Municipal District



For Municipal District Annual Reports, please see **Appendix 1**



BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



BALLINA TOWN CENTRE



€564,570
INVESTED IN
LOCAL ROADS
SURFACE
DRESSING



477
UNITS OF HOUSING
STOCK IN THE MD



100 GRANTS WORTH
€512,779.79 APPROVED
IN BALLINA MD UNDER
HOUSING GRANT
SCHEMES



€1.35 MILLION

COLLECTED BY
BALLINA MOTOR TAX
OFFICE WITH 8,360
TRANSACTIONS



WORKS CARRIED OUT ON
REGENERATION OF **5**
PROPERTIES IN BALLINA TOWN
UNDER THE **HISTORIC CORE
FACADE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
PHASE II**



24 PERMANENT
TENANCIES
ALLOCATED



IMPROVEMENTS & UPGRADES
TO THE VALUE OF



€262,500 AT
BALLINA & KILLALA
HARBOURS

FREE ONSTREET WIFI
PROVDIED BY
WIFI4EU PROJECT
IN **BALLINA** AND
CROSSMOLINA



PHASE 1 OF THE
REALIGNMENT OF THE
R314 SOUTH OF **KILLALA**
COMPLETED AT A COST OF
1.2 MILLION



WORKS CARRIED OUT AT
PRIMROSE HILL
AND
BONNICONLON
UNDER



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
SCHEMES**

OTHER
VOICES

RETURNED TO
BALLINA
IN FEBRUARY 2020
FEATURING OVER **30**
FREE PERFORMANCES

6 REBUILDING
IRELAND HOME LOAN
APPLICATIONS
APPROVED
DURING
2020



VIEW THE COMPLETE BALLINA MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2020 IN APPENDIX 1

CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



BALLA, CO MAYO



2 HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS COMPLETED/ACQUIRED

4 HOUSES AT DAVITT'S TERRACE
10 HOUSES AT KILLAWALLA



€10,000 FOR BOFEENAUN PLAYGROUND FROM GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION



BALLINTUBBER CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AT A COST OF €24,000



104 GRANTS WORTH €530,213 APPROVED UNDER HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES



€11,000,000 URBAN REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SECURED FOR CASTLEBAR TOWN CENTRE SITES



LOUGH LANNAGH LEISURE COMPLEX WINS OVERALL BEST NEWCOMER AWARD AT NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD AWARDS



BELCARRA IS CATEGORY WINNER AT THE NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS



20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWINNING OF CASTLEBAR AND HÖCHSTADT CELEBRATED ON LINE IN JULY 2020



€3,020,000 ALLOCATED FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON LOCAL ROADS



WORK PROGRESSES ON THE TURLOUGH TO WESTPORT ROAD PROJECT

N5

LOUGH LANNAGH SPORTS HUB



BENEFITS FROM DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUNDING

VIEW THE COMPLETE CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2020 IN APPENDIX 1

CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



KILTIMAGH, CO MAYO



4 REBUILDING IRELAND

HOME LOAN APPLICATIONS APPROVED DURING 2020



PLANNING SCHEME FOR THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE

AT IRELAND WEST AIRPORT KNOCK ADOPTED BY MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS COMPLETED IN

-  KILMAINE
-   SWINFORD
-    BALLINROBE
-     BALLYHAUNIS

€711,560.05 FUNDING APPROVED UNDER THE HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES SUPPORTING

168 HOUSEHOLDS



BARNACARROLL CAR PARK COMPLETED



CHARLESTOWN PLAYGROUND

UPGRADE COMPLETED INCLUDING PROVISION OF PARKING



KNOCK

ROUNDAABOUT REDEVELOPMENT COMPLETED



KILLASSER AND TAUGHEEN

BROADBAND CONNECTIONS GO LIVE



BALLINROBE

LIBRARY GROUNDS LANDSCAPED



€10,717,935 SPENT ON NATIONAL, SECONDARY, REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS IN THE DISTRICT



€700,000 IN GRANTS FUNDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS UNDER THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOWANCE

VIEW THE COMPLETE CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2020 IN APPENDIX 1

WESTPORT BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



PORTACLOY BEACH, NORTH MAYO



GAZEBOS FOR FESTIVAL EVENT ORGANISERS NOW AVAILABLE



IN THE MD WITH FUNDING FROM THE **TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME**

30 NEW COIN & CONTACTLESS PARKING METRES INSTALLED IN WESTPORT AT A COST OF **€171,000**



NEW CAR PARK PROVIDED FOR **BELMULLET TIDAL POOL**



NEW CRANES INSTALLED AT **ROONAGH & BLACKSOD**



PIERS AT A TOTAL COST OF **€285,000**

€1,005,199 FUNDING APPROVED UNDER THE HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES SUPPORTING **181** HOUSEHOLDS



FREE PUBLIC WIFI PROVIDED BY WIFI4EU IN **NEWPORT & BELMULLET**



A NEW **COMMUNITY DIVERSITY PLAN** COMPLETED FOR **BELMULLET**



SUBSTANTIAL ROADS PROGRAMME ON **INISHTURK & CLARE ISLAND** COMPLETED



HOUSING

- 2 HOUSING LOANS APPROVED
- 13 NEW LEASING AGREEMENTS
- 29 NEW HAP TENANCIES SET UP
- 1 RAS PLACEMENT

WORK PROGRESSES ON THE WESTPORT TO TURLOUGH ROAD PROJECT **N5**



10 BLUE FLAGS AWARDED TO WEST MAYO BEACHES



STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

Corporate, Education, Culture, Heritage and Library Services SPC

Cllr Gerry Coyle

(Chair)

met 3 times during 2020

The work programme of the Corporate, Education, Culture, Heritage and Library Services SPC included:

- ➔ Agreement of Priority Actions for 2021.
- ➔ Development of a Programme of Events for 2021 in accordance with the Mayo Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023
- ➔ Continuous development of Mayo Library Services
- ➔ Implementation of Mayo County Council Strategic Arts Plan 2018-2022
- ➔ Implementation of Scéim Teanga Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo

Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning and the Marine SPC

Cllr Mark Duffy

(Chair)

met 5 times during 2020

The work programme of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning and the Marine SPC included:

- ➔ Local Enterprise Office progress
- ➔ Mayo County Council Business Support Scheme
- ➔ National Broadband Plan and the rollout of Rural Broadband in Mayo
- ➔ Enterprise and Investment Projects

Housing SPC

Cllr John Cribbin

(Chair)

met 4 times during 2020

The work programme of the Housing SPC included:

- ➔ Housing Delivery 2020
- ➔ Housing Capital Projects underway in the county
- ➔ Revised Housing Allocation Scheme
- ➔ Refugee Resettlement Programme
- ➔ Repair & Leasing and Buy & Renew Schemes
- ➔ Housing Disability Strategy
- ➔ Differential Rent Scheme

Environment, Climate Action, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr B K Gavin

(Chair)

met 4 times during 2020

The work programme of the Environment, Climate Action, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC included:

- ➔ Climate Ready Mayo - Climate Adaptation Plan
- ➔ Sustainable Agricultural Strategy for Mayo
- ➔ To consider submission report on Draft Waste Collection Bye Laws
- ➔ To nominate four members to the Mayo County Council Agricultural Working Group
- ➔ To nominate the Chair of the Mayo County Council Agricultural Working Group

Road Transportation and Safety SPC

Cllr Damien Ryan

(Chair)

met 4 times during 2020

The work programme of the Road Transportation and Safety SPC included:

- ➔ Road Grants Allocation 2019
- ➔ Roadworks Scheme 2019
- ➔ Winter Services Plan 2019/2020
- ➔ Regional Road Improvements
- ➔ Public Lighting Initiatives
- ➔ Presentation on Local Link Mayo
- ➔ Hedge Cutting Forum
- ➔ Road Safety

Tourism, Recreation, Food & Community Engagement SPC

Cllr Seamus Weir

(Chair)

met 5 times during 2020

The work programme of the Tourism, Recreation, Food and Community Engagement SPC included:

- ➔ The implementation of 'Destination Mayo - A Strategy for the Future Development of Tourism in County Mayo 2016 - 2021'
- ➔ Consideration of funding sources for projects
- ➔ Tourism Marketing of County Mayo



COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION SYSTEMS & CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SECTION

Castlebar Regional Training Centre

Corporate Affairs

Property Portfolio & Asset Management Section

Communications Department

Oifig na Gaeilge

Road Safety Awareness

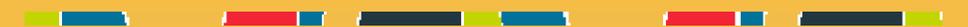
Architects

Mayo County Library

Mayo Heritage Office

Mayo Arts Services

Information Systems & Digital Transformation



CASTLEBAR REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Castlebar Regional Training Centre continues to provide workplace training on a shared services basis for six local authorities and other public and private sector organisations in the West and Midlands, with Mayo County Council as the lead authority.



The facility has accreditation from SOLAS, QQI, City & Guilds and ECITB, and has grown consistently over the past few years. Unfortunately, demand decreased substantially in 2020 as a result of Covid-19 restrictions but is now recovering.

Established to facilitate the provision of appropriate training to local authorities in key operational areas such as Roads, Water and Environment and more recently Fire Services, Housing and Planning, the Training Centre Network also provides a wide range of Occupational Health and Safety, Continuing Professional Development, Leadership and ICT courses. Many local authorities now have quality assurance such as OHSAS 18000/ISO 45000 accreditation and the Centre has high quality procurement, data protection and quality assurance standards.

Funding has been allocated to Mayo County Council to develop a new outdoor training facility in Castlebar, a grant of €2 million had been secured from the Dept of Transport and a loan of €650,000 had been secured by the Council to fund the development works which are currently at tender stage. This facility will enable the Training Centre to double the volume of high quality practical training delivered to Local Authorities and private contractors in this region.

With recovery in the construction industry, demand from the private sector and new local authority staff the demand for quality training is increasing. A major driver of this demand is mandatory training in traffic management and 'Managing Openings in Public Roads'.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Mayo County Council is committed to Human Resource Learning and Development to achieve our objectives and goals. We recognise that our success in providing a high quality of service to the community has been built on a loyal, dedicated and committed workforce. We deem it important to foster a team spirit in all our employees by implementing a progressive Learning and Development Plan for our employees throughout all areas of activities.

ETHICS REGISTER

Annual Declarations for 2020 from all relevant employees and elected members were received within the statutory period.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT, 2014

There were no complaints received under the above Act in 2020.

PROPERTY PORTFOLIO & ASSET MANAGEMENT

While Covid-19 impacted the planned work programme, in addition to achieving many of the section's planned objectives, unplanned projects assisting with Covid-19 facility management measures were delivered.

Property related supports and advisory services were provided to other sections within Mayo County Council including conveyancing of sales, purchases and leases, Section 183's, land-related queries, insurance, health and safety - and new to 2020 - facility management, allowing for the efficient and effective management of Mayo County Council's non-housing land assets.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- › Purchase of 140 acres at Cloonagh, Castlebar.
- › Sale of Site No. 24 at Westport Industrial Estate.
- › Implementation of an agreed Property Protocol for Mayo County Council.
- › Completed Work Place Fire Safety Management for Áras an Chontae.
- › Introduction of facility management, guidance and oversight.
- › Digital transformation of work practices and file management within the section.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Department of Mayo County Council had a productive 2020 focused on achieving the key communications priorities and objectives for Mayo County Council, while amplifying the activities that take place within the county to a wider audience. In a year dominated by the global Covid-19 pandemic, this Department played a leading role in the communications around the local authority response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Striving to improve the quality and reach of public information about council services, events, activities and policies, the Communications Department is responsible for the syndication of all external communications of Mayo County Council, enhancing internal communications within the organisation, promoting the county brand, Mayo.ie, and the delivery of the services of the Irish Office/Oifig na Gaeilge and the Road Safety Awareness programme.

Key activities in 2020 included

- PR and media management of Council services and projects including the issuing of press releases, answering queries from local and national media and drafting speeches.
- Playing a central role in Mayo County Council's response to Covid-19 as part of the Team set up to oversee Council activities in light of the pandemic.
- Working with the HSE, Mayo University Hospital, An Garda Síochána and other local authorities across the West to communicate collaboratively about Covid-19 through a variety of campaigns.
- Running proactive social media campaigns promoting Mayo's involvement in national calls such as **Healthy Ireland**, the **Keep Well** campaign, **MyWaste Ireland** anti-litter campaigns and **Irish Water Safety Awareness** campaigns amongst others.
- Launched the new Council website, **www.mayo.ie**, a fresh new platform representing Mayo County Council, providing information on council services and showcasing the county through tourism, enterprise, news, events and campaigns.
- Researched and developed content for Mayo County Council's involvement in the national **#YourCouncilDay** campaign - shining a national spotlight on the great work being done by this council at a grassroots level, with a particular spotlight on the innovative ways our council responded to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Delivery of the inaugural **Virtual Mayo Day**.
- The Communications Department worked with many sections within Mayo County Council to provide advice and support for events, official visits, launches and campaigns, with a lot of focus on virtual events broadcast through **www.mayo.ie**.
- We continued to update the **Mayo County Council Image Library** with images of the work, people, events and openings of the vital services that Mayo County Council provides.
- Continual development and growth for **Mayo.ie** and **Mayo County Council** social media platforms to enhance our position as the trusted channel to provide citizens with regular and reliable Council service announcements. **Mayo.ie** continues to lead the way as the focal point for all things Mayo and a connection point for our Diaspora, with **MayoCo.ie** continuing to receive high engagement due to consistent information disseminated during events like extreme weather spells, Covid-19 updates, road closure announcements, interruptions to water supply and general council services updates.
- Continued roll out of the updated **Mayo County Council** branding.

On Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 Mayo Day took place for its sixth consecutive year.

Considering the restrictions in place as a result of Covid-19, an alternative approach was taken to mark what has now become a widely anticipated calendar date. Key to the decision to run with Mayo Day 2020 was ensuring that Mayo people worldwide would have an opportunity to get involved.

The main elements of Virtual Mayo Day 2020 included 'Mayo Day Live - Global Voices', a live show broadcast from the Communications Department of Mayo County Council. The show was a mix of chat, interviews, music and messages of hope and solidarity for a special Mayo Day from well-known people from Mayo and those who love Mayo.

A short promotional film produced for Mayo Day, 'Oceans Apart' garnered outstanding reviews, highlighting Irish emigration and connection to home in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. A further offering was a custom-built Mayo Day website, showcasing all things Mayo.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Mayo County Council launches new website:** Going live in July 2020, **www.mayo.ie** consolidated the Mayo County Council and Mayo.ie websites into one.
- Virtual Mayo Day 2020:** Pivoting our plans due to the pandemic, a virtual event was put together in a few short weeks. The Oceans Apart film reached a global audience of 223,206 and the Mayo Day live show was viewed by 50,726 people. The #mayoday reach exceeded 14 million.
- Mayo County Council has major success at the **Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020**, winning **Council of the Year**, in addition to three further awards including **Virtual Mayo Day** in the Festival of the Year Category, **Making Positive Choices** in the Health & Wellbeing Category and **Register App - WIRE** in the Local Authority Innovation Category.



- Fáilte Ireland Global Irish Festival Series:** Following a competitive call out process, €100,000 in funding was secured through the **Global Irish Festival Series** for a month-long calendar of events to take place to encourage our Diaspora to return home to visit Mayo under the **Home to Mayo** Initiative.

2020 IN NUMBERS

Mayo County Council websites had a combined total of **1,735,116** page visits in 2020, a **12.3%** increase on 2019.

Social Media followers increased by **18%** from 2019, including a **34%** increase in Twitter followers.

#Mayo Day had a reach of **14 million+** for Mayo Day 2020.

OIFIG NA GAEILGE

Oifig na Gaeilge seeks to sustain and promote the use of Irish in County Mayo and it aids in developing and implementing the Irish Language Policy of Mayo's Local Authority.



Luí na Gréine, Dún Briste" Winner of the online photography competition for Lá Mhaigh Eo 2020

Whilst continuing to improve the level of service available through Irish, Mayo County Council continues to implement the Official Languages Act 2003, and Mayo County Council's Language Scheme.

This includes informing staff of the Council's obligations regarding the language, undertaking translation work, advising on forms of placenames to be used on road signage, and ensuring that websites and certain publications, forms, information leaflets etc. are available in both official languages. Oifig na Gaeilge also works closely with other Irish Language organisations in Mayo in the promotion of the Language.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

› For the past six years we have flown the green and red flag with pride; pride in our county, pride in our people, pride in our place and pride in our heritage. In the extraordinary year of 2020 we still flew the flag with Pride and with Hope once again! Due to the constraints of Covid-19 **Lá Mhaigh Eo 2020** was celebrated online. There were numerous heartwarming Lá Mhaigh Eo messages from Irish Language groups/individuals from all around Mayo and the Canadian Gaeltacht. We had toe-tapping Irish music and newly composed music from around our beautiful county. Oifig na Gaeilge ran a photography competition with a Caption in Gaeilge, which created great interest with numerous entries from around Mayo. The winning Photograph was "Luí na Gréine, Dún Briste" as shown above.



ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS

Mayo County Council, in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority, delivers a programme of education and awareness of Road Safety. This involves promoting the need for caution, and awareness of the dangers on the roads in County Mayo



The Road Safety Officer delivers a suite of Road Safety Programmes to the public through schools/colleges, community groups, sporting organisations and local businesses and industries in County Mayo.

The focus of the **Road Safety Education** programme is vulnerable road users, driver behaviour and attitudes, social responsibility, driving for work, impaired driving and cyclist safety.

The office works with other Departments of Mayo County Council and with the Road Safety Together Committee in the County, comprising of officials of Mayo County Council, HSE West, An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland in the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

During the winter period the Road Safety Officer issues daily road safety winter driving tips and advice on the Winter Maintenance Program.

Mayo Road Safety Working Group organised the annual **Mayo Road Safety Roadshow** in February 2020 in conjunction with **Axa**. This has been running since 2007, attracting audiences numbering approximately **1,500 pupils** from **29 secondary schools**, including schools from surrounding counties.

The show includes presentations by members of **An Garda Síochána, the Ambulance and Fire Services, a Medical Consultant based within the A&E Department of Mayo University Hospital, a family member of a deceased road traffic accident victim, a car crash survivor and an Undertaker, outlining their firsthand experience of dealing with a serious road traffic accident. The hard-hitting Roadshow is aimed at transition year students, encouraging young drivers and those about to commence their driving career, to adopt a responsible attitude in terms of their own driving behaviour.**

The Road Safety Education Programme includes visits to schools by the Road Safety Officer and the promotion of Junior Warden and Cycle Training Schemes with schools. With the co-operation of teachers, the Gardaí and parents, these schemes make a significant contribution to Road Safety. The Road Safety Officer also works with the Road Safety Together Committee in the County, whose membership comprises of County Council, HSE West, An Garda Síochána and local community representatives, to successfully implement of the Mayo Road Safety Strategy.



Promotion of Road Safety in Schools

Mayo County Council provides support to An Garda Síochána when visiting schools by providing leaflets, reflective arm bands and other road safety promotional material. The efforts of the Gardaí and their collaboration in promoting Road Safety generally is greatly appreciated.



Junior Warden Schemes

We support two Junior Warden Schemes in the county; one in Swinford and the other at The Quay National School, Ballina. Uniforms and signs are provided by Mayo County Council. Road markings are updated regularly. Mayo County Council is fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of the school principals in both areas. Without this it would not be possible to maintain the scheme.



General Promotion Of Road Safety Through Local Media

Mayo County Council operates in support of the Road Safety Authority and also provides general promotion in the local media. During winter the Road Safety Office issues daily winter driving tips and updates about the Winter Maintenance Program.

ROAD COLLISION STATISTICS - MAYO

| YEAR | FATALITIES |
|------|------------|
| 2014 | 11 |
| 2015 | 13 |
| 2016 | 4 |
| 2017 | 12 |
| 2018 | 9 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 5 |

ARCHITECTS

The Architects Department encompasses a large range of in-house technical expertise incorporating architects, engineers, architectural & civil technicians, horticulturalists, clerks of works and clerical staff located throughout the County.



The Architects Department also manage and maintain the grounds of Turlough Park House, keeping it in the pristine condition that we have come to be familiar with.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- > The Department was involved in the launch of the **Defective Concrete Block (Pyrite) Scheme** with the Housing Section to remediate pyrite damage to private houses in Mayo.
- > Grant funding secured for Ballina under the **Historic Towns Initiative 2020** allowed for conservation works to be carried out at the former Ballina Mineral Water Company, Regans, the Former Presbyterian Orphanage & Heffernans Butchers. Significant architectural built fabric was conserved under this scheme ensuring the continuation of traditional skills to advance works in the historic core of the Pearse Street Architectural Conservation Area.
- > Capital Works projects in progress are the **Mary Robinson Centre** in Ballina, **Crossmolina Fire Station** and **Ballina Military Barracks**.

- > Funding received from the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland for the **Architecture at the Edge Festival 2020**, with events presented in collaboration with cultural stakeholders including the Ballinglen Museum of Art, Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Irish Architectural Archive to encourage engagement with the built environment and to inspire new ways of thinking about architecture.
- > The Architectural Conservation Office project-managed grant-aided conservation works to structures of architectural significance. The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**, the **Historic Structures Fund** and the **July Jobs Stimulus Package** provided financial assistance for conservation works at Ballysakeery Glebe House, Creagh House, Church of the Immaculate Conception & St. Josephs, Church of St. Charles the Martyr, Greaghans House, Holy Trinity Church, Robe Villa, Raheens Obelisk and Valley House.

2020 IN NUMBERS

2 new playgrounds were installed, with the assistance of Clár Funding, in Kilmaine and Aughagower

61 homes designed and delivered to families to a value of 11 million at the following locations: Swinford (27), Ballinrobe (16) and Ballyhaunis (18)

2,700 infestations of Japanese knotweed mapped and treated in Co Mayo. The Parks Office within the Architects Department will continue to map and trace invasive species with a particular focus on Japanese Knotweed in partnership with local communities.

The Parks Superintendent with Mayo County Council has worked closely with a wide range of organisations to prepare a funding application for a **European Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will allow for the design and implementation of a conservation plan for the Great Yellow Bumblebee, while benefiting other pollinators and biodiversity on thirty farms on the Mullet Peninsula and Erris mainland in North Mayo.



MAYO COUNTY LIBRARY

The largest cultural and heritage organisation in the county, Mayo libraries attract 480,000 visits annually. With an extensive cultural programme, over 350 events are hosted by Mayo libraries each year, including a wide range of events for children, culminating with the month-long Children's Book Festival in October.



In 2020 services were severely limited due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During restricted periods when the library was closed, staff distributed hundreds of book bags based on people's requests and interests. Local Link worked with the library in this initiative.

The **Creative Ireland Programme** continued to be rolled out in 2020. Among the highlights were: documentaries on the ballrooms and music of Mayo, and on Michael Davitt; a publication on traditional Mayo Food; an exhibition on traveller hair culture; and the digitisation of the photographic collection of the Western People from the 1950s and 60s and a traditional iron restoration project.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- › **Book Magic**, a Library initiative encouraging childhood reading, uses picture books that deal with feelings, emotions and tricky situations. These are put directly into the hands of many children throughout the county through a network including family support workers, speech and language therapists and family resource centres.
- › The **Spring into Storytime** initiative which encourages parents to bring their children for story time sessions moved online with regular weekly story time sessions on our social media channels.
- › The **Time to Read** programme which helps children develop a love for reading whilst increasing their confidence and self-esteem is run by volunteers from Mayo County Council staff, who read to children in disadvantaged schools online over a period of 20 weeks.
- › Le haghaidh **Sheachtain na Gaeilge** i mí an Mhárta, eagraíodh imeachtaí éagsúla trí mheán na Gaeilge.
- › **Healthy Ireland at your Library**, a government strategy which places libraries at the heart of the community, provides resources and events which feed into the national strategy of improving health. A programme of events, covering topics such as mental health, resilience etc took place online in 2020.
- › **Through the Ages**, a 48 page magazine in which children interviewed their grandparents about their childhood, distributed throughout the county and abroad, was shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award.
- › A **Cubbie Sensory Hub** opened in Castlebar Library to help people with sensory impairments, special education needs and other learning difficulties.
- › **Zoom Book Club** meetings were held for the first time in Mayo, including shared meetings with a book club in Northampton, Massachusetts.

- Our **Summer Reading Challenge** moved online, with children submitting book reviews electronically for weekly prizes.
- Magic Tables** provided in Ballina and Swinford libraries to facilitate users with learning and sensory impairments. **Digital Literacy** supports provided in all our branches, with 100 sets provided to schools.

2020 IN NUMBERS

60%

increase in use of library online services; ebooks, audio books, newspapers and journals.

200+

bags of books delivered to cocooners with the help of Local Link.

2,500

was the average reach of 130 Mayo history posts on Facebook during lockdown.

104

online story time sessions delivered.

100

Digital Literacy Support Sets provided to Mayo schools.

1,000

Mayo is the only library service in Ireland or the UK that provides the **Musical Instrument Lending Scheme** and over 1,000 instruments were on loan throughout the county in 2020.

50,000

The **Liam Lyons Collection** of over 50,000 images is available on the library website to Mayo people at home and abroad.

20

Time to Read virtual sessions delivered to second class pupils in local schools.

20

community groups supported by Creative Ireland grants.



The Jackie Clarke Collection

6 first place awards in the **Museums & Me Awards** in the following categories:

Decade of Commemorations

As part of Mayo County Council's **Decade of Centenaries Commemorations**, the beautiful War of Independence mural above was installed in the Jackie Clarke Collection Garden.

- Best in Ireland
- Best for Under 3's
- Best for Families
- Best for Big Kids
- Best Programme
- Best for Nature

MAYO HERITAGE OFFICE

The Heritage Office promotes awareness, interest, knowledge, pride and conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Publication of 'Wetlands of Mayo', an accessible guide to the importance of wetlands for biodiversity, health, well-being, and the economy,

Preparation of a **Conservation Management Plan** for **Kill Abbey, Shrule**. A National Monument in the ownership of Mayo County Council, it sets out a strategy for the management and maintenance of this important site.

In 2020 Mayo Heritage Office continued its ongoing work with communities, assisting them in researching and collecting information, and protecting and promoting their built, natural and cultural heritage. Some of the key projects undertaken include:

- Research and compilation of a **Food History of Mayo's offshore Islands**, elucidated through interviews with people of the older generation who still live or grew up on the islands.
- Preparation of an Interpretive Plan for **Kilmovee Heritage Trail** to inform the infrastructural requirements, interpretation and future promotion of the trail.
- Two **Historic Ironwork Restoration** projects undertaken at Ballinrobe and Mulranny, with the restoration and repair of traditional farm gates and ironwork in a historical graveyard.
- Swift boxes and call systems provided to four schools under the continuing **Mayo Swift Project**.
- 26** projects focusing on Mayo's natural, cultural and built heritage showcased online for **Heritage Week 2020**.
- Over **2000 Gardening for Biodiversity** booklets distributed to groups and individuals throughout the county as part of the **Communities for Biodiversity Project**. This project provides support and advice to Mayo communities on planting, invasive species control, vegetation and habitat management and the **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan**.

Mayo Wetlands Survey

A database of known and potential wetland sites in County Mayo was compiled. 1190 sites have been included in this database, with the resulting dataset providing a useful tool for biodiversity and natural heritage conservation planning. It will assist in the development of sustainable planning programmes and allow for the design of future targeted wetland surveys and research projects in County Mayo.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The ongoing Biodiversity Plan programme for Mayo's towns and villages continued with the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans for the three towns of **Castlebar, Ballina and Belmullet**.

The Plans highlight areas that are important for plants and other wildlife and identify opportunities and recommend practical measures for enhancing and conserving the natural heritage of the towns.

2020 Heritage Calendar

The theme chosen for the **2020 Mayo Heritage Calendar** was Mayo's Geological Heritage. The calendar features images of a selection of geological heritage sites in Mayo, and highlights some of the geomorphological landscapes and features found in County Mayo.

Lough Carra

A video on the heritage of Lough Carra was developed during 2020. The diversity of habitats and species on this internationally important site was highlighted.

To celebrate **Heritage Week 2020**, 26 projects focusing on Mayo's natural, cultural and built heritage were showcased online.

Gunnera Mapping Project

The invasive giant rhubarb plant *Gunnera tinctoria* is widespread in coastal areas of Mayo. In conjunction with the GIS section, a Gunnera Mapping App was developed to record the location and extent of the plant. Communities in affected areas learned how to map and monitor Gunnera, providing up-to-date information on the status of the plant, enabling the development of targeted control programmes in Mayo.

Ballinrobe Library Grounds

Work commenced on the Ballinrobe Library Grounds Enhancement project. Undertaken in association with the Claremorris-Swinford Municipal District and funded by the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, when completed the project will enhance the library grounds as a flexible, diversity-rich, outdoor space for use by residents and visitors.

Ballina Town Centre Health Check

A summary report outlined the results of the collaborative town centre health check, undertaken by Mayo County Council, Ballina Chamber, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and RED C, with support from the Heritage Council.

Old Killeen Graveyard

Conservation and repair works undertaken at Old Killeen Graveyard, Attymass. A recorded monument, the site is location of the family grave of the late Father Patrick Peyton, CSS, the 'Rosary Priest'

MAYO ARTS SERVICE

Mayo Arts Service is responsible for the development and implementation of services which supports the Arts in Mayo. The service ensures that the Arts and associated areas are open, enjoyable, accessible and provides challenging events for all to experience, regardless of their background or previous experience of the Arts.



Annually, the service works with artists, festivals, venues and community groups and impacts directly on the lives of at least 200,000 people who access the services direct supports (grants, training, information) and who attend events organized or funded through the arts service.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- › Delivered a programme of professional development opportunities for artists, arts professionals, venues, and festivals in the county.
- › Introduced a new pilot initiative, **Kickstart**, aimed at people with disabilities who would like to explore their creativity and the Arts on an individual basis.
- › Provided online training for Mayo Arts Venue managers and selected artists to deliver **Azure Dementia Inclusive Gallery Tours**, supported by **Creative Ireland**.
- › Completed a review of the **Upstart Arts & Disability Programme**.
- › **Kids Own Publishing**, artist **Keira O'Toole** and **St. Angela's NS, Castlebar** worked collaboratively to develop a new school's exhibition and accompanying resource pack '**A Splash of Blue**', support by **Creative Ireland**.
- › Celebrated **Poetry Day Ireland** in partnership with **Mid-West Radio** and poets **Martin Dyar, Alice Kinsella** and upcoming poet **Síoda Monaghan** and produced a series of virtual readings with each poet.
- › Organised a panel discussion with **Na Cailleacha**, a collective of six older artists who were on residency in **Ballinglen Arts Foundation**, supported by **Creative Ireland & Mayo PPN**.
- › Mayo, Donegal and South Dublin County Councils launched the **Working in Intercultural Contexts, GUIDE** for Local Authorities and Cultural Providers supported by the Arts Council.
- › Donegal artist Maria McKinney received the **Onsight 2020** commission, a partnership between the **National Museum of Ireland - Country Life**, Mayo County Council's Arts Service, the **Arts Council** with support from **Mayo Artsquad**.
- › A new public art commission **Navigating the Future**, which focuses on creating artwork in response to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and our future, was awarded to four Mayo artists, **Breda Burns** (Visual Art), **Breda Mayock** (Visual Arts & Music), **Catherine Donnelly** (Dance) and **Aine O'Hara** (Visual Art & Theatre).

2020 IN NUMBERS

125 events (online & in person) were organised by the Arts Service in 2020 which engaged the services of **67** artists.

Creative initiatives in **15** Community Nursing Units (county wide programme) supported by providing materials, 'how to' videos and commissioned artworks, with support from **Creative Ireland**.

130+ young people attended and participated in the EXCEL Youth Arts Talk Series. Almost **3,500** children & young people participated in Music Generation programmes.

2,000 individuals engaged (online & in person) with our Professional Development Programme.

30 venues across Mayo took part in Culture Night 2020, with **39,000** online and live engagements for the evening's culturally diverse programme.

Venue partnership funding totalling **€134,000** was provided to 6 arts venues. These venues collectively had audiences, both online and actual, of almost **100,000** for their programmes and events.

10,000 people viewed a **Mayo Day 2020** online Showcase of the work of **30** artists in from the Ballinglen Arts Foundation Collection.

Provided **16** Visual Art Materials & Exhibition Assistance Awards to community-led Arts Festivals & Events through the Arts Acts; with support from Creative Ireland one Cultural Diversity Curatorial Residency (including a Tyrone Guthrie Bursary) and a Film Mayo Award (including a Tyrone Guthrie Bursary); and supported one artist in the Platform 31 Artist Development Scheme (with support from Creative Ireland and the Arts Council).

Supported **5** Arts and Disability projects in Arts Venues.

Film Mayo supported **100** film related enquiries in 2020.

30,000 listenership for **Poetry Day Ireland** readings by Mayo Poets on Midwest Radio

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Mayo County Council's IS Department provides Cloud Services, IT Operations, Software Development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and IT Security & Infrastructure services for the Council. In delivering these services we provide our staff, councillors citizens, visitors and businesses with a digital platform for enhanced service delivery. The IS Department continues to build its capabilities both from a technology platform and staff competency perspective with on-going technical and professional training and education completed throughout the year.



In March 2020, the scale and impact of the coronavirus pandemic to Ireland became apparent. Mayo County Council, as with many organisations was faced with imminent lockdown and a question of how operations could continue to be supported. It became clear early on that the technology capability of the organisation would be a key factor in helping to maintain service delivery.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been significant for Ireland and no less so for us in Mayo County Council. Since early 2020 we have rallied our technical capability to pivot the organisation such that online services, remote working, and digital communications have become essential components in support of service delivery.

A commensurate increase of cyber threats has created a risk to operations, and additional workloads - unique to IS as a department, whereby external bad actors continuously try to wreak havoc on our systems and expose our data for malicious purposes. Many mitigations have been put in place to protect our systems and strengthen our business continuity stance.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To position Mayo County Council as a sectoral exemplar in technical transformational initiatives and leader in innovation while providing our staff, councillors, citizens, visitors, and businesses with a secure digital platform for enhanced service delivery.



In 2020 the IS Department had a successful 3-year recertification of ISO 27001 Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).

The following provides a snapshot of work completed during 2020 in supporting the Council's ever-increasing dependence on technology within a value management framework.

- Expansion of remote working capability with more than 90% of office-based staff enabled for secure remote working.
- Deployment of secure environments for remote working including VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) to allow staff to securely connect to Council systems from home.
- ITIL (IT Infrastructure Library) based IT Service Desk system - incident and problem management and user device provisioning and lifecycle management. Over 3,000 service desk requests completed for 2020.
- Successful 3-year recertification of ISO 27001 Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).
- Introduced IT Asset Management system. Implemented Change Approval Board (CAB) for systems change management.
- Design and deployment of new services-based IT operating model following the IT4IT industry-standard reference architecture.
- Procured and deployed cloud email security system and backup email solution.
- Deployed resilient Next Generation (NG) Palo Alto firewalls to replace end of life equipment.
- Áras to Annex resilient connectivity upgrades and upgrades to Government Networks.
- Municipal District connectivity upgrades including fibre upgrade to Claremorris Area Office.
- On-going proactive monitoring of and upgrades to wide area network sites and equipment.
- On-going migration, upgrades and decommissioning of legacy systems and servers.
- Lifecycle management of mobile devices, phone, and data contracts with suppliers.
- Development of secure online payments and online recruitment and restart grants systems.
- Systems development, automated workflows, and upgrades for business unit applications (including Register of Electors, Planning and Housing systems).
- Continued technical support and collaboration with the Communications Department on www.Mayo.ie.
- GIS systems support, mapping services provision and management of GIS cloud platforms.
- File and records management support and data governance and compliance management.
- Education and training support for IT Staff within a capability-building framework.
- Engaged with GMIT lecturers on a series of IT Service Desk best practice and Design Thinking workshops.
- Participation in national and regional security groups including the Office 365 Users network, HIS Group, Local Government Cyber Security Sub-committee.
- Collaboration with industry, academia and regional partners including GMIT and Maynooth University.
- Membership of Lero - Irish Software Research Centre at the University of Limerick, Western Development Commission (WDC) Enterprise Hubs Advisory Board, the Innovation Value Institute at Maynooth University, and Chairmanship of the National Architecture and Standards Group for the local government sector.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Formalised in March 2020, The Digital Transformation Department works towards a vision of a more digital workplace, enabling as much technology as possible to transform our internal and external processes to make life easier for customers and staff alike.



This was evident in the current covid crisis when the Digital Transformation Team assisted Councillors and Staff through the full implementation of MS Teams which enabled remote working and proved vital to ensure continued provision of services across the organisation, including Council meetings and workshops, staff meetings, collaboration tools and full telephony functionality.

Mayo County Council is committed to an extensive Digital Transformation programme which will include a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Platform which will further improve the delivery of our services to customers and staff alike.

In 2020, Digital Transformation successfully implemented the following projects:

- Microsoft Teams implementation across Mayo County Council.
- Councillors' migration to Teams and virtual council meetings.
- Provision and support of the Covid- 19 Support Helpline.
- Introduction of Auxillion Housing Inspection App for Housing Inspectors in Central Housing Office.
- Digitisation of application forms for the Community Engagement Department.
- Enghouse Customer Contact Centre enabling enhanced customer service.
- Introduction of Public Consultation Portal available to the public on www.Mayo.ie.
- Recruitment Interviews via MS Teams enabling recruitment to continue seamlessly during Covid- 19.
- Creation and support of Teams Live Events for various departments.
- Creation of departmental digital remote working rosters through MS Teams.
- Phase 1 of the LGMA National Services Catalogue Project. This catalogue will be essential to our customers as it will link them to approximately 1,100 public facing services provided by Mayo County Council. It will also allow for enhanced efficiency by identifying processes that require digitisation.



BOATS ON CLEW BAY

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SECTION

Community Engagement

County Childcare Committee

Mayo Sports Partnership

Local Enterprise Office

Invest

Tourism Development

Broadband & Digital Development Unit

Planning & Development

Planning Enforcement





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement Section was established to strengthen and enhance community wellbeing by Supporting Participation: Enabling civic participation in initiatives and policy-making aimed at improving quality of life for all, Building Strategic Partnerships: Working with other organisations and the voluntary sector to ensure better outcomes for communities throughout the County in the areas of community development, sports and childcare, and Oversight: Ensuring transparency and good governance in the administration of programmes supporting community, sporting and childcare development.

Facilitating & Supporting Integrated Development, Community Development & Social Inclusion

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Community Futures: Carnacon** renewed their Community Futures Plan, while renewals for **Aughagower** and **Ballintubber** progressed. **Straide** are progressing their renewal plan online.
- ▶ **Belcarra** and **Ballina Lions Club** took 1st place in their categories in the **National Pride of Place Awards 2020**.
- ▶ **Women in Politics and Community Representation**, a study of the experiences of women at local and national level within County Mayo, launched in October 2020.
- ▶ The **Mayo Migrant Integration Strategy** was brought to consultation stage by the Mayo Migrant Integration Forum.
- ▶ Launch of the **Healthy Mayo Strategy 2020 - 2023**, to support the significant actions of the **Healthy Mayo Programme** through the county.
- ▶ Mayo **Comhairle na nÓg** reached out to their communities using positive social media messaging, writing letters to older people and running activities for young children during restrictions.

Equality was their key topic for 2020 and their AGM was held in October.

- ▶ To mark **National Play Day 2020** fun play packs were delivered to children in the Traveller and Refugee communities, and in Direct Provision.
- ▶ 50 stands at GMIT representing third-level and Post-Leaving Certificate colleges, apprenticeship providers, employers and career service providers at **Careers Day** at GMIT in January 2020 was organised by the **LCDC Education & Training Working Group**.
- ▶ Mayo Traveller Inter-Agency Group successfully re-structured in June 2020 and in December 2020 work on the **Traveller Community Futures Plan** began.
- ▶ **Mayo Social Inclusion Awareness Week** took place in October 2020 comprising over 30 events throughout Mayo including a Flagship Webinar event for Mayo Men & Diversity featuring Keynote Speaker Rory O Neill (Panti Bliss). The **Mayo Says No to Racism** group was also launched during Social Inclusion week. The group's first action was a **'Say No to Racism'** community video.
- ▶ Our **Make Way Day 2020** Campaign incorporating disability needs and the wider community was organised by Mayo Age Friendly, Disability Federation Ireland and the Road Safety Officer. Mayo Age Friendly and Mayo Arts Office organised an online crafts class with Katie Moore (rainbow making). Packs of material were distributed to allow nursing home residents participate.
- ▶ Mayo County Council's **Equality Action Team** was established in October 2020.

FUNDING OUTCOMES 2020

| SOURCE | TOTAL ALLOCATION | NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) | 1,308,008 | |
| Covid- 19 Emergency Fund | 122,000 | |
| Community Enhancement Programme | 237,760 | 174 |
| LEADER | 2,636,097 | 40 |
| OWENINNY COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND | 261,000 | 58 |
| HEALTHY IRELAND (ROUND THREE) | 374,100 | |

A new **Community Funding Guide** was published by the **Community Engagement Section** in 2020

MAYO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):

The LCDC, a Committee of Statutory and Non-Statutory Members met on 3 occasions in 2020 and comprises 4 working groups:

Education & Training, Health & Wellbeing, Social Inclusion & Community Development and Culture, Heritage, Environment & Language which operate as part of LCDC structures.

The committee's main task is develop and implement a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the county and it has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding in County Mayo i.e. SICAP and LEADER Programmes.

The committee brings a more joined-up approach and better co-ordination to the implementation, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes.

MAYO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)

Mayo PPN operates on the principle of community engagement, encouraging people and groups to work together to achieve a common goal in making a meaningful difference and enhancing their communities.

PPNs have a significant role in the development and education of their member groups, sharing information, promoting best practice and facilitating networking. In 2020 a suite of free training was rolled out to community groups registered with Mayo PPN.

Mayo PPN played a pivotal role in the collection and collation of data of its 900 plus registered Community Groups for the establishment of the the Covid- 19 Interactive Map and setting up of the Covid Helpline.

18 PPN representatives sit on County Council Secretariat Committee. Mayo PPN registered its 1,000th member Group during 2020.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

A forum to support consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, local authority officials, elected members and the community and voluntary sectors. The committee held 3 meetings during 2020 (once physically and twice online) and the principal work areas were:

- > Drone Regulations
- > CCTV Schemes
- > Domestic Abuse Victim Support during Covid- 19
- > Covid Community Response
- > Ongoing monitoring and review of crime, drug supply and public order.

MAYO COMMUNITY FUTURES

A partnership of community and agencies established as a sub-committee by the County Community Forum in 2005, Mayo Communities Futures assists communities prepare Community Action Plans, encouraging more people to become active in their communities, strengthening and developing local community organisations, enabling communities to identify and progress priority projects and actions and to effectively represent their interests at local, county, and national levels.

During 2020 progress of plans were interrupted, however, **Carnacon** completed their Community Futures renewal plan. **Aughagower** and **Ballintubber** renewal plans are very near completion, and **Straide** are progressing their renewal plan online.



MAYO COMMUNITY COVID RESPONSE FORUM

Brought together by Mayo County Council in February 2020, the Mayo Community Response forum (CRF) works to provide a collaborative interagency response to the Covid- 19 Emergency.

The group meets regularly and coordinates the provision of targeted responses to the challenges presented by Covid- 19 including:

- A 7 day a week Covid- 19 Helpline, sectoral supports (Volunteering, Transport, Community Security and Social Inclusion),
- Advice on Restart grants to businesses,
- Supports and information to vulnerable groups,
- An interactive map that signposts to specific community groups and services available to provide support to vulnerable groups.

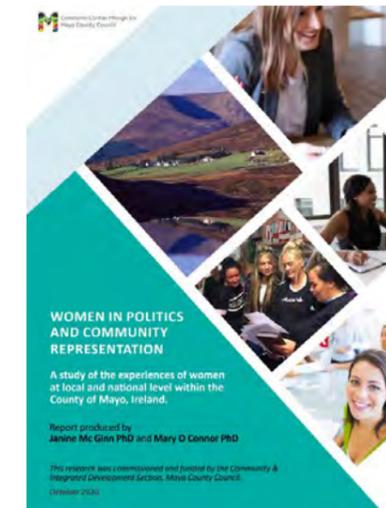
An essential Inclusive Information leaflet was distributed throughout the county.

58 groups received Covid Emergency Funding and a second fund, the Community Resilience Fund was announced in 2020.

As part of this plan for “Living with COVID-19” the government launched a national campaign focused on five major themes:



- Keeping active
- Staying connected
- Switching off and being creative
- Eating well
- Managing your mood



MAYO COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

Mayo County Childcare Committee supports the delivery of early childhood care and education programmes in Mayo and works collaboratively and collectively with the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, Pobal and all stakeholders within the childcare sector.



A key priority for Mayo County Childcare Committee was to work intensively to support services to survive and reopen after Covid- 19.

Mayo County Childcare Committee provides information, support and guidance about National Childcare Funding and related programmes to parents and early years services and co-ordinates local agencies that provide financial and educational support to these groups.

Programmes include the **National Childcare Scheme**, the first ever statutory entitlement to financial support for Childcare in Ireland and the **Free Pre-School Year Scheme** (ECCE). Other programmes supported include the **Community Childcare Subvention Programme** (CCSP), **Training and Employment Childcare** (TEC), **Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement** (CSSR), the **Access Inclusion Measure** (AIM), a programme that ensures that children with disabilities can access the ECCE free pre-school Scheme and **Aistear** and **Síolta** – the national quality and curriculum frameworks for Early Years, Parent & Toddler Grant Schemes,

Childminding Development Grant Schemes, Learner Fund Bursaries and Small-Scale Capital Grant schemes together with Covid funding and sustainability supports are also offered by Mayo County Childcare Committee.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Commencement of a Healthy Ireland Wellbeing 0 to 6 years collaborative project with Music Generation Mayo's **Soundworlds**. Pre-Covid, 10 pre-schools participated in this unique programme, a creative music-making programme developed specifically for pre-school children, that builds self confidence and self-esteem through the medium of music.
- ▶ Delivery of funding supports under the targeted **Temporary Wage Subsidy Childcare Scheme** (TWSCS) for the early years sector. Covid Sustainability funding and Reopening Grants provided. **93 services supported.**

- ▶ **Infection Control** and **Public Health Guidance** delivered to services remaining open to care for the children of front line workers.
- ▶ Provided guidance through information sessions and meetings to parents, children and services about the **Access Inclusion Measure (AIM)**, a programme that ensures that children with disabilities can access the ECCE free pre-school Scheme.
- ▶ **Continuing Professional Development** provided during lockdown to support Early Years educators on topics including Health & Wellbeing, Quality Practice and Outdoor Play.
- ▶ **Governance Guidance** provided to **132** Early Years Services.

2020 IN NUMBERS

87 Early Years services supported with preparation for Túsla inspections, changes in circumstances applications, registration preparation, etc.

137 Early Years Services, **11** School Aged Childcare Services and **71** childminders throughout the county were supported through the Covid- 19 pandemic

3,000 children supported through national funding schemes, training, mentoring and quality initiatives.

28,067 support actions including information sessions, onsite visits, training and mentoring supports and one-to-one workshops provided in 2020.

3,000 children supported through national funding schemes, training, mentoring and quality initiatives.

€14,400 focussed on delivery for First Aid Response training for Early Years Service providers.

125 children in **8** preschools participated in the **Soundworlds** early years music programme.

MAYO SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Mayo Sports Partnership aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity among all sectors of the community through information sharing, education and policy development and implementation.



Programmes are facilitated and co-ordinated at local level targeting disadvantaged groups including youths at risk, people with a disability, teenage girls, women, ethnic minorities including members of the travelling community, older people and the unemployed.

Core funded through Sport Ireland, Mayo Sports Partnership is a central body in the delivery of actions contained in the National Sports Policy, National Physical Activity Plan and our own Mayo Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

While Covid-19 has impacted on us all we will continue to prioritise the delivery of safe outdoor programmes which contribute massively towards the positive mental health of all sectors of our community. With the assistance of Dormant Account funding, and working in partnership with others we continue to develop and support our Community Sports Hubs in Ballyhaunis and Ballinrobe along with our outdoor hub locations at Lough Lannagh, Castlebar and Ballina.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

› **Covid-19 #BeActive** virtual physical activity challenges, online resources and the **National #BeActive Day** on Sunday 29th June 2021 engaged thousands of Mayo people, with sports equipment vouchers distributed as prizes.

› Our hugely successful outdoor physical activity programme ran from April to September, with programmes including **Walking with Poles for Older Adults** (Ballyhaunis, Knock, Westport and Ballinrobe), **Open Water Swimming** (Achill, Belmullet, Kilalla, Pontoon) **Women on Water Canoeing** (Lough Lannagh) and our **Junior Triathlon Camp** (Bertra/Westport) among others.

› **Surfing** for children with autism, **Inclusive Orienteering** and **Learn to Cycle** events were co-ordinated by our Sports Inclusion Officer for the **2nd Mayo Autism Camp**.

› Mayo Sports Partnership received an inaugural **National Sports Inclusion Award** from **CARA**, the national body for Sports Inclusion.

› Assisted in the **Covid-19 County Community Call** Project liaising with sports clubs providing volunteers to deliver shopping/medicine to vulnerable people in our community.

› **Community Sports Hubs** in **Ballinrobe** and **Ballyhaunis** engaged in unique events including a **Recycle Your Bike** initiative for the benefit of children living in Direct Provision.

2020 IN NUMBERS

19,500+

people participated in **90** locally delivered programmes in 2020, a **50%** increase on 2019 levels due to successful virtual delivery of programmes including **Men on the Move**, **Couch 2 5K** and walking, running and cycling challenges including **Run Up to Christmas**.

500

participants took part in 20 physical and virtual events to mark **Bike Week 2020**.

40

physical and virtual **events** comprising walking, kayaking, orienteering, swim for a mile and the flagship Mayo Landmark Challenge took place during **European Week of Sport** in September 2020.

€147,000

Dormant Account Funding was shared between Ballinrobe Sports Hub, Castlebar Urban Adventure Initiative at Lough Lannagh, Ballina Urban Adventure Initiative, Volunteer Supports, Disability Sports Equipment provision and Youth Leadership Initiatives.

1500

Mayo **Operation Transformation** participants turned out, in excellent weather conditions, on Saturday January 18th, for events in 25 locations around Mayo, from Belmullet to Shrulue and from Achill to Ballyhaunis.

46%

Irish Sports Monitor Research published in Sept 2020 showed that participation in sport/physical activity in Mayo jumped from 43% in 2019 to 46% in 2020.

1200+

participated in the massively successful **10K Your Way virtual Mini Marathon** on May Bank Holiday Weekend. The event temporarily replaced the 2020 West of Ireland Womens Mini Marathon.

€75,000

allocated to **80** sports clubs/groups through the **COVID19 Sports Club Small Grant Scheme**, jointly funded by Central Government and Sport Ireland.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Since its establishment in 2014, Local Enterprise Office Mayo has sought to ensure that micro enterprises and small business service delivery continues with significant local input within a national micro enterprise policy framework. Local Enterprise Offices have established themselves as the focal point for enterprise development and are central to nurturing an enterprise culture locally.



This is best illustrated by operating as a First Stop Shop to deliver support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses. In addition, LEO Mayo promotes awareness and works to develop an enterprise culture to contribute to the general economic development of County Mayo.

2020 brought a unique set of challenges to LEO Mayo due to the unprecedented occurrence of Covid- 19, coupled with the uncertainty generated by Brexit negotiations only concluding pre-Christmas 2019. These twin macro environment factors resulted in a sharp increase in the number of businesses seeking advice and support from LEO Mayo. Our team proactively responded to this challenge, efficiently responding to the significant increased volume of engagement with clients and delivering new and enhanced business supports. A range of initiatives were offered to assist businesses meet and overcome those challenges including:

- Training programmes, with an emphasis on cashflow/trading online/trading through Covid- 19 were offered online.
- Funding increased from 50% to 90% for Trading Online Vouchers.
- The refundable element of financial grants was waived.
- A moratorium on grant repayments was issued.
- Business Continuity Voucher Scheme rolled out.
- Additional grant aid was successfully sought for businesses.
- LEO Client Stimulus Refundable Aid scheme rolled out.
- Covid- 19 Micro-Enterprise Assistance Scheme delivered.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- › 4 LEO Mayo clients attended **Showcase 2020** which took place from 19th to 22nd January in the RDS looking to secure new sales and partners for the year ahead. **Showcase** provides access to over 2,700 buyers from retailers across the globe in attendance.
- › The sixth annual **Local Enterprise Week** took place from 2nd to 6th March, with 11 events taking place during the week including: Brexit Advisory and Business Advice Clinics and workshops on topics including website development, improving productivity and an information/networking session on Building Innovation Capability for Business.

› Just over 1,000 students from post primary schools throughout Mayo took part in the County Finals of the **Student Enterprise Programme 2019/2020** which was held on the 12th of March in Breaffy House Hotel. Alice Gilvarry, Rebecca Maguire, and Aoife McGrath of **Beeing Natural, St. Patrick's College, Lacken Cross** took first place in the senior category.

› The **Mayo Food and Drink Strategy 2020-2025** launched in September as part of **Mayo Ideas Week 2020**. The Strategy is the result of a collaboration between South West Mayo Development Company and Local Enterprise Office Mayo with the support of a Steering Committee comprised of key agencies and representatives of the Food and Drink sector in Mayo.

› Specialist **Brexit Advisory Clinics** including **Customs Workshops** took place throughout 2020. These provided support to companies in taking immediate action to address their exposure to Brexit by strengthening capabilities in three key areas: financial and currency management, sourcing, and transport and logistics.

2020 IN NUMBERS

288

businesses approved for **Business Continuity Vouchers** at a total value of **€424,045**.

579

clients received **free mentoring** services.

1,859

clients participated in subsidised training programmes and networking events.

20

Microfinance Ireland applications facilitated by **LEO Mayo**.

10

Mayo companies participated in the **Lean for Micro Assessment** by a **Lean Expert**.

€769,438

Capital grants (including **Agile Innovation** approved for client businesses).

52

businesses received funding totalling **€252,692** under the **Client Stimulus Scheme**.

438

Trading Online Vouchers approved at a value of **€1,016,854.32**.

11

events for new and existing entrepreneurs during **Local Enterprise Week 2020**.

21

schools from around County Mayo participated in the **Student Enterprise Programme**.

INVEST

Invest promotes the overall economic development of County Mayo and delivers innovative initiatives that strategically showcase Mayo as a destination of choice for businesses and investors.



Mayo 2040, an Economic Development Strategy for the county

Mayo County Council began the preparation of **Mayo 2040**, an Economic Development Strategy for the county in 2020. The strategy will define an ambitious economic vision to inform the economic, social and physical development of Mayo over the next twenty years by harnessing the county's competitive advantages and economic development infrastructure.

Mayo 2040 will also include an Economic Profile of Mayo which will help inform the development of the strategy and underpin future applications to various national and regional competitive funding calls.

Mayo Economic Recovery Forum

The **Mayo Economic Recovery Forum** was established as part of the county's response to the economic fallout of Covid-19.

The Forum, a collaboration between a range of enterprise-support agencies and Mayo County Council developed a 12-month recovery plan for County Mayo. Planned initiatives include targeted marketing campaigns, additional funding for training and network development, promoting Mayo produce internationally via diaspora networks, digital transformation for businesses and further developing Mayo's remote working strengths.

Claremorris & Western District Energy Co-operative

Mayo County Council, in partnership with the Claremorris and Western District Energy Cooperative, received Part 8 Planning Permission to develop a 5 MW Solar PV Farm in Claremorris. Part of the proposed site is made up of an historic landfill site owned by Mayo County Council. Proposed works include the capping of the former landfill and construction of a community PV farm. During 2020, Mayo County Council applied for a Certificate of Authorisation to the EPA for permission to have the landfill capped in readiness for the Solar Farm while the Claremorris and Western District Energy Co-operative successfully accessed the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS).

IDEAS - Novel Building Integration Designs for increased Efficiencies in Advanced Climatically Tunable Renewable Energy Systems

Work continued on the Horizon 2020 Project, IDEAS, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 initiative. Mayo County Council are among 14 participants to receive €4 million to help develop new and more efficient energy solutions for our built environment over the next three years. The project involves developing new technologies including the creation of novel solar electricity generation systems (PV), using materials for heat storage and dissipation for buildings, the use of heat pump technology and the development of a user friendly App to control the whole system.

MegaAWE

Works continued with plans to develop an innovative airborne wind energy test facility in north Mayo, funded by a new **Interreg North West Europe** project called "**MegaAWE**".

The project proposes to fly a tethered power plane that converts wind energy into electricity in an environmentally friendly manner. As part of the project RWE, a German energy company, applied for planning permission during the year to develop the facility on Bord na Mona lands near Bangor Erris.



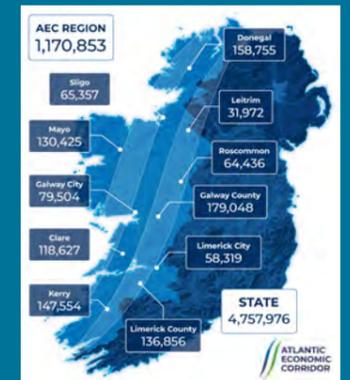
Airborne Wind Energy Systems harness the strong and steady winds at altitudes of several hundred metres. The system proposed consists of a ground-based generator, a launch and land platform and an aircraft-shaped device. The project helps focus the attention of similar energy companies on the natural wind resources of the west of Ireland and places County Mayo to the fore in this area of Research and Development.

ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

A key initiative of Ireland 2040, the Atlantic Economic Corridor seeks to grow the region from Donegal to Kerry in the coming 20 years, by building and increasing collaboration within the AEC to maximise its assets, attract investment and create jobs and prosperity in the region.

Key stakeholders are the 10 local authorities, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD), business interests, state agencies and community leaders.

The initiative is supported by the AEC Officers and the Western Development Commission (WDC) is the coordinating body.



Key Developments in 2020

- Both the AEC Strategy and the Enterprise Hubs Strategy were finalised in 2020, and are awaiting launch by the Department of Rural & Community Development.
- The AEC Enterprise Hubs Project is ongoing. A three-year project to support hubs and set up an interconnected community network of hubs along the Atlantic area, it will provide a central booking system, marketing and the promotion of remote working. There are 16 Mayo Hubs registered with the WDC.
- The DRCD, in collaboration with the WDC and the Local Authorities, is mapping a National Hub Register.
- The AEC Hub Outreach Scheme: 65 Hubs were funded along the AEC, the average funding per hub was €4,324.82. The AEC Officer administered the Mayo fund of €27,800 which was awarded to 6 Hubs to assist them to become Covid-19 compliant.
- Funding was granted by the DRCD to the AEC Officers for a Feasibility Study on the Location of Hubs in 2020 and the provision of a toolkit to begin in 2021.
- Funding was secured for an eHealth pilot in the Broadband Connection Points (BCP), beginning with Clare Island in 2021.

TOURISM, RECREATION & AMENITY

The implementation of the County Mayo Tourism Strategy titled “Destination Mayo A Strategy for the Future Development of Tourism in County Mayo 2016 – 2021” is ongoing.



The vision for Mayo’s tourism industry in 2021 is to be a high quality, inclusive and authentic destination. Intrinsic to this vision is that Mayo’s tourism product appeals to the next generation of tourists, targeting both the mainstream mass market and niche specialist market segments with an array of high quality attractions and activity options coupled with a solid selection of accommodation, hospitality services and ancillary service products.

Key to the successful delivery of this vision is the building of collaborations between agencies, industry operators and local communities.

Positioning County Mayo as a destination of first choice for domestic and international visitors by working collaboratively with our tourism industry partners is a key objective of the **Tourism Development, Marketing and Networks Section**. In response to Covid- 19, we promoted Mayo as a key destination for staycations., focussing mainly in outdoor activities and attractions such as the Wild Atlantic Way, the Great Western Greenway, our Coastline, our Islands and our walking product by:

- Participating in a daycation/staycation joint marketing campaign with **Midwest Radio**.
- Collaborating with ongoing **Fáilte Ireland** staycation promotional campaigns.
- Hosting a media familiarisation (Fam) trip for production companies, travel journalists and bloggers and social influencers.
- Supporting the development and production of two RTE programmes “**No Place Like Home**” and “**Neven Maguire’s Irish Sea Food Trails**”.

The Tourism, Recreation & Amenity Department is also responsible for the planning and development of tourism and recreational capital works projects, including:

- **Moore Hall** Nature Reserve and Restoration Project.
- **Lough Lannagh** Adventure/Sports Tourism Hub.
- **Clew Bay Greenway** (Westport/Louisburgh and Achill Island).
- **Bower’s Path**, Ballinrobe.
- **Belmullet** Tourism Destination Town.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

› Mayo County Council along with other international partners collaborated on a European Project under the **Intereg Atlantic Area Programme**.

The project, **Atlantic on Bike**, is part of **Euro Vélo**, with the objective being the first transnational touristic Atlantic cycle route. One of the key deliverables of this project was to develop two promotional videos to highlight activity tourism and the **Greenway /Euro Vélo 1 Route**.

› Development of a new carpark and viewing area at a popular Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at “**Dun Na Mbó**”.

› New boardwalk installation along the popular **Erris Head Coastal Walk** (pictured top right).

› Significant advancement of the **Moore Hall Garden Restoration Project** and visitor facilities (pictured bottom right).

› Development of a new Coastal Walking route at **Pullathomas** in North Mayo.

› In response to Covid- 19, Mayo County Council collaborated with **Fáilte Ireland** in the establishment of a County **Tourism Destination Recovery Task Force**.



2020 IN NUMBERS

10

The Great Western Greenway was 10 years in operation in 2020

3

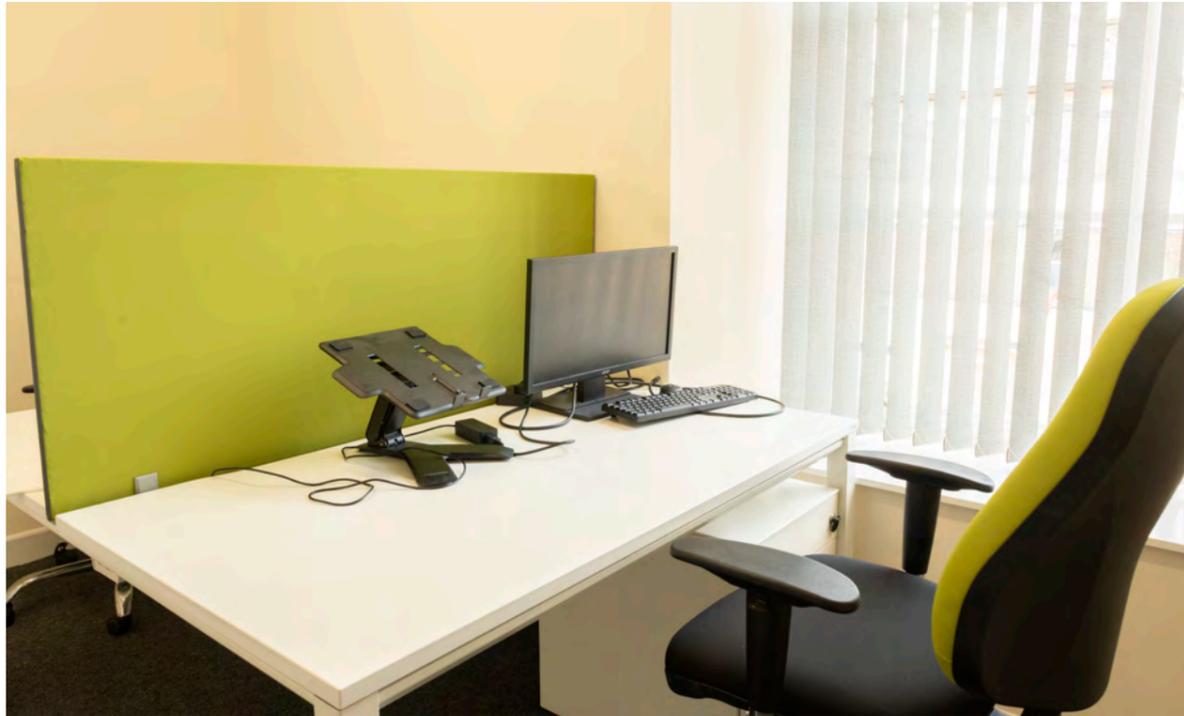
kilometres of new track developed along the Great Western Greenway at Bunnahowna near Mulranny

€32,000

funding under the Regional Festivals Participative Fund distributed to five promoters during 2020

BROADBAND & DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Broadband Unit of Mayo County Council continues to work towards enhancing digital connectivity in the county and assisting with the rollout of the National Broadband Plan in Mayo.



Approximately 43% of premises in Mayo are without access to highspeed broadband. €144m is being invested in Mayo by Government to address this.

In 2020 surveys were carried out in the Castlebar and Ballina Deployment Areas (DA) during Q2 and Q3 and it is planned is to commence connections in Q4 of 2021 (Castlebar DA) and Q1 of 2022 (Ballina DA).

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

➤ **Broadband Connection Points - Connected Communities:** A year one initiative of the National Broadband Plan, Connected Communities provides communities with free Wi-Fi access in advance of homes and businesses receiving high speed broadband, enabling people living in the area to go to the selected location and access this service for remote working, e-learning and general access. Five Mayo connection points launched in 2020 in **Bofeenaun, Islandeady, Killasser, Taugheen** and on **Clare Island**. Another group of connections points will go live in 2021.

➤ Developing digital working hubs in Mayo, Donegal, Sligo and Roscommon, the **Digiwest** Project is funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. In 2020 the former courthouse in **Swinford** was transformed into a digital working hub, which will officially open in 2021.

➤ An initiative of the European Commission, **Wifi4EU** funds local authorities to provide free Wi-Fi access in public places, such as main streets, public parks, museums, libraries and other public areas. Mayo County Council received €120,000 in joint funding from Europe and the Department of Rural & Community Development to roll out this service in nine towns in County Mayo. In 2020 Wifi4EU launched in **Ballina, Belmullet, Crossmolina, Newport** and **Swinford**. Services will go live in Balla, Ballinrobe, Castlebar and Claremorris in 2021.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Development Management Section process all planning applications for County Mayo, including those from the former Town Council areas of Ballina, Castlebar, and Westport. The emphasis within the Development Management Section has changed from a planning control function (processing of planning applications) to economic development and assisting development throughout every town and area in the County.



Despite the unanticipated arrival of coronavirus to Ireland in early 2020, and the unprecedented 'lockdown' situation enforced throughout the country as a result of same, the Planning Service continued to operate at maximum capacity, as the increase in the number of Planning Applications lodged testifies.

Through a combination of measures, including the prioritisation of tasks, implementation of remote working/office attendance rosters, and emergency legislation introduced by Government to cater for the logistics of processing applications during the pandemic, it was essentially 'business as usual' in 2020.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

► **Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines:** The Forward Planning Section of Mayo County Council co-ordinated and prepared the Council's submission to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019) in February 2020.

► **Draft Marine Planning Framework:** The Forward Planning Section of Mayo County Council co-ordinated and prepared the Council's submission to the Draft National Marine Planning Framework (November 2019) in April 2020.

► **Mayo County Development Plan:** Preparation work for the new Mayo County Development Plan continued in the Forward Planning Section with the Chief Executive's Report on Pre-Draft Submissions prepared in June 2020 and considered by the Members of Mayo County Council in July 2020.

The Forward Planning Section also co-ordinated and prepared the Draft Mayo County Development Plan in October 2020, which was considered by the Members and placed on public display in December 2020.

2020 IN NUMBERS

84%

of appeals to An Bord Pleanála resulted in the decision of Mayo County Council being upheld. Of the 31 decisions appealed, 5 were reversed by the Board.

784

Decisions to Grant planning permission issued during 2020. 55 Decisions to Refuse planning permission issued in the same period.

189

A greater emphasis has been placed on the formal **pre-planning process**. In 2019 there were 137 pre-planning applications, but this increased in 2020 to 189.

1,055

valid **Planning Applications** were received during 2020, an increase of 48 on 2019.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The main function of the Planning Enforcement Section is to investigate written complaints received in relation to alleged unauthorized developments in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

As Mayo County Council is the planning enforcement authority for the administrative area of County Mayo, our main function is to investigate written complaints, received in relation to alleged unauthorised developments, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

A summary of activity for the Planning Enforcement Section is shown below, which also confirms an increase in unauthorised development activities during the pandemic, compared with previous years, and Mayo County Council's response to same.

Table 1: Planning Enforcement Activity from 2016 to 2020

| DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------------|
| Number of new complaints | 155 | 129 | 131 | 129 | 151 |
| Number of complaints resolved | 73 | 115 | 83 | 52 | 89 |
| Number of complaints dismissed | 42 | 41 | 22 | 23 | 29 |
| Number of Warning Letters issued | 97 | 89 | 89 | 77 | 99 |
| Number of Enforcement Notices issued | 9 | 16 | 20 | 5 | 18 |
| Number of files with County Council Solicitor | 37 | 42 | 40 | 47 | 51 |
| Number of prosecutions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |



BEN CREGGAN, NEAR DOOLOUGH, CO MAYO

HOUSING, ROADS & SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SECTION

Housing

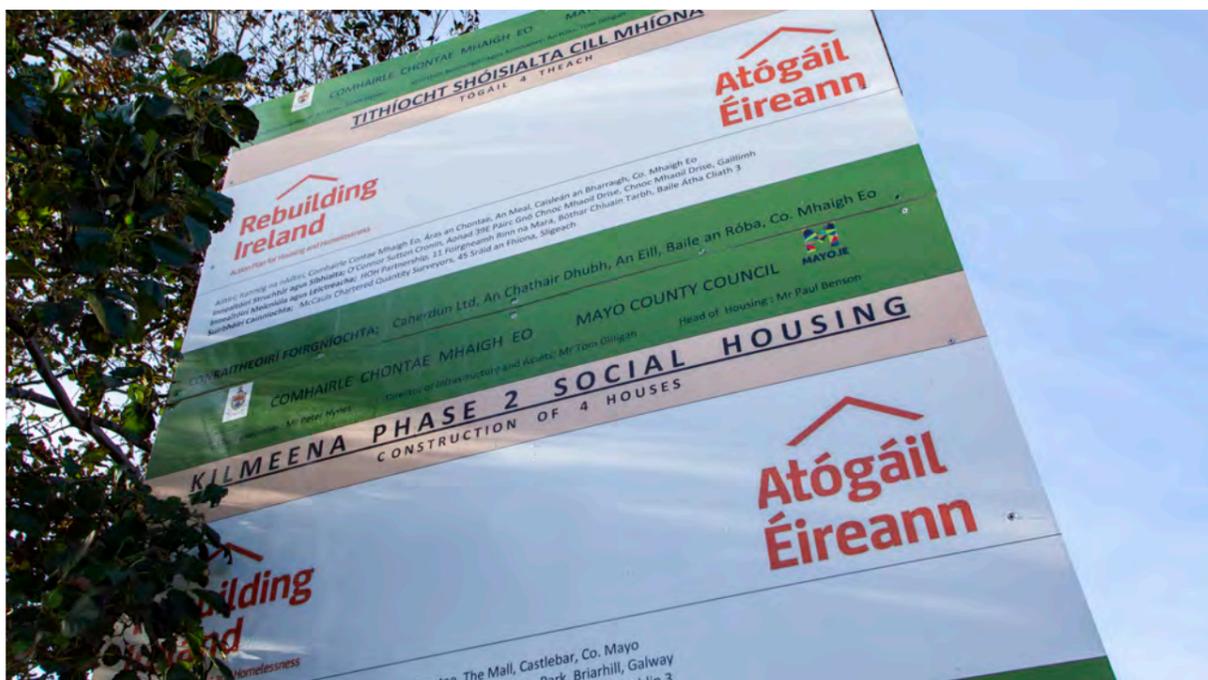
Roads Transportation & Safety

Procurement & Efficiency Review



HOUSING

2020 was another busy year for Mayo County Council's Housing Service. The provision of good quality, affordable accommodation presents challenges, but also opportunities for Mayo and significant funding has been provided for the delivery of housing solutions for those in need. The standard of housing being delivered by Mayo County Council is of the highest standard and in line with national standards.



The Government's mission is to ensure that everyone can access a home, either on their own or with State support. They are determined to deal with the dramatic under supply of housing and the problems it generates for families and communities.

Mayo County Council continues to work towards the actions contained in the **Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness** which shapes the future housing within Mayo.

The Principal work areas for the Housing Service in 2020 were:

- ➔ Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme 2016-2021
- ➔ Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2019
- ➔ Management of the Housing Assistance Programme (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS), and Social Leasing Scheme (SLS)
- ➔ Operation and Management of the three Housing Grant Schemes
- ➔ Mortgage to Rent
- ➔ Administration of the Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme
- ➔ Review and development of Housing Policies
- ➔ Administration of the Buy & Renew and the Repair & Leasing Schemes
- ➔ Development and implementation of the Housing First Initiative.
- ➔ Implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
- ➔ Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans
- ➔ Management and refurbishment of the housing stock
- ➔ Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment

The target for Mayo County Council for 2016-2021 is 708 units.

The promotion of the **Repair & Leasing, Buy & Renew, Derelict Sites** and the **Vacant Homes initiatives** is a priority for the period 2019-2021. This will not only provide accommodation, but will also help contribute to the revitalization of the County's towns and villages.

VacantHomes.ie, the web portal initiated by Mayo County Council on behalf of the local government sector, to allow people to anonymously log possible vacant properties and alert housing authorities, who can follow up with the owner to see whether the property could be brought back into use for social housing was launched in August 2017. Each local authority has a designated Vacant Homes Officer who follows up on entries for their administrative area. At the end of 2019 there were in excess of 3,478 properties logged on to the site from across the country.

200 people resettled in County Mayo under the **Refugee Resettlement Programme** up to the end of 2020.

The **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)** has been designed to bring all long-term social housing services, provided by the State, together under the Local Authority system, thereby providing for integrated social housing under one sector. HAP plays a vital role in the delivery of affordable housing to the residents of County Mayo.

2,156
households supported by
RAS and HAP
in Mayo at
31st December 2020

2020 IN NUMBERS

Under the **Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme**, **70** Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility-Grant applications were received in 2020. **40** Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Grant Approvals issued during the year.

253 households were supported under the **Leasing Programme** in Mayo at the end of 2020.

10 Mortgage to Rent applications were received during 2020. **8 Mortgage to Rent** cases were closed in 2020. A total of **13 Mortgage to Rent** cases were approved by the end of 2020.

Agreements to lease for 7 units were signed under the **Repair & Lease Scheme** during 2020.

59 vacant/void units were brought back into use during 2020.

The total number of **homeless presentations** in 2020 was **100**.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-2021

| PROJECT PHASE | UNITS |
|--|------------|
| Completed (Construction, Acquisition, Buy & Renew, Leasing, Voids, Voluntary Sector) | 564 |
| Various Stages (from Appraisal to On Site) | 210 |
| TOTAL | 774 |

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PLAN 2019-2024

The projected accommodation requirement in the **Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024** is **100** units:

- ➔ 29 units in the Ballina Municipal District
- ➔ 30 units in the Castlebar Municipal District
- ➔ 36 units in the Claremorris Swinford Municipal District
- ➔ 4 units in the Westport Belmullet Municipal District

Up to December 2020, **28%** of the targets of the **2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme** have been achieved. This figure has been reached by using all accommodation options available to Mayo County Council including casual vacancies, new acquisitions, private rented accommodation using the HAP and RAS schemes, voluntary housing bodies, STL etc.



ROADS - TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY

An efficient road transportation system provides the necessary infrastructure to support the economic and social development of a region. Mayo County Council continued to play its part in 2020 in supporting the county's economy through the maintenance and improvement of the road network throughout the county.



The Roads Design Office had an extremely busy year in 2020. They were commissioned to design and supervise Pavement Overlays and Safety Schemes for National Roads and many re-alignment and bridge rehabilitations for Regional and Local Roads.

2020 IN NUMBERS

Contract to the value of **€9,980,168** (excluding VAT) signed for the N26 Realignment at Cloongullane Bridge Scheme

44 staff availed of the Cycle-to-Work Scheme in 2020 bringing the number of staff participating between 2010 and 2020 to **551**

€83,942,559 spent maintaining and improving the **6,615 km** of roadway in the charge of Mayo County Council including:

- ➔ €56,685,737 on National Primary and Secondary Roads
- ➔ €27,256,822 on Regional and Local Roads

In an extensive Bridge Rehabilitation Programme during 2020 **10** bridges were rehabilitated/enhanced with a further bridge replacement at Cumber, Glenisland.

€272,525 expended on management of skid resistance measures, including mechanical abrasion and surface dressing, for areas assessed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland as being deficient.

The 2020 Pavement Overlay/Inlay Programme for County Mayo was a large programme with a value in excess of **€6.6 million**

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

➤ The design for the **R312** Castlebar to Bellacorrick Road at Glenisland was completed in 2019 and land acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order. The scheme went to construction in November 2019 and was carried out by Direct Labour by the Castlebar Municipal District. It is envisaged that the Scheme will be fully completed and open to the public in July 2021.

Funding from the DTTAS of €500,000 was allocated for this scheme in 2020 with a further €850,000 allocated for 2021 to complete the scheme.

➤ €333,174 was allocated for Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2020 to address high cluster accident location sites on our National Roads identified by TII.



Earthwork Activities for the N5 Project

NATIONAL PRIMARY ROUTE ROAD PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2020

| | |
|--|--|
| N5 Westport To Turlough (27kms) | <p>Following the signing of a contract between Mayo County Council and Wills BAM Joint Venture in October 2019 work commenced on site in earnest during 2020. Activities that progressed throughout the year included the establishment of a site office, site clearance, topsoil strip, earthworks, drainage and utilities and some structures. The date for substantial completion is October 2022.</p> <p>Negotiations with landowners continued with around 5% of the cases yet to settle.</p> |
| N17 & R320 Junction at Lisduff | <p>Part 8 Planning approval for this compact grade separated junction was obtained in February 2020 while the CPO was confirmed by Mayo County Council in October 2020 when the two submissions to An Bord Pleanála were withdrawn.</p> <p>Detailed Ground Investigations and a Topographical Survey were completed. The detailed design and preparation of contract documents also progressed with an objective to procure a construction contract during Q1/Q2 2021.</p> |
| N17 Knock to Collooney | <p>Feasible Route Options were presented to the public in October 2020 for this 55km road project. It is anticipated that the preferred route will be selected in Q4 2021.</p> <p>Mayo County Council and Sligo County Council have signed a Section 85 Agreement giving Sligo County Council the lead authority role with Mayo County Council providing a supporting role.</p> |
| N26 Realignment at Cloongullane Bridge | <p>The procurement of the construction contact concluded with the signing of a contract between Mayo County Council and BAM Civil Limited in October 2020. The contract sum is €9,980,168, excluding VAT. The date for substantial completion is July 2022.</p> <p>Negotiations with landowners continued with 22 of the 24 landowner cases settled.</p> |
| N26 Ballina Bypass Phase I | <p>Carried out the appraisal required for Phase 0: Scope and Pre-Appraisal. Mayo County Council submitted a Strategic Assessment Report to TII and the Department of Transport for approval and if approved will progress through the various stages of project progression.</p> |

NATIONAL SECONDARY ROUTE ROAD PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2020

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| N59 Westport – Mulranny (40 kms) | <p>This overarching project covers the upgrade of the N59 between Westport and Mulranny which is scheduled to be delivered in a series of sections.</p> <p>The 3km section of the N59 at Kilbride is complete and the 2km section of N59 at Rossow Bends was completed in 2018 by Ward & Burke Construction Limited.</p> <p>PJ Carey (Contractors) Limited substantially completed the construction of the 3km section of N59 at Kilmeena in August 2020. Mayo County Council also advanced the detailed design of the next stage of the N59 upgrade between Newport and Derradda. Tree felling, ground investigation and archaeology took place during 2020. The project's detailed design and preparation of contract documents are progressing with an objective of awarding a construction contract in 2022, subject to TII approval.</p> <p>Progress took place during 2020 on the detailed design of the N59 between Roskeen and Derradda.</p> |
| N60 Lagnamuck (2km) | <p>All land acquisition cases closed out.</p> <p>P&D Lydon Limited completed the construction of this 1.5km section of the N60 in December 2019. Snagging and landscaping was fully completed in 2020.</p> |
| N60 Heathlawn | <p>Most of the landowner negotiations are concluded.</p> <p>Roughan & O'Donovan - Aecom Alliance were engaged by Mayo County Council to complete the detailed design and preparation of contract documents in preparation for the award of a construction contract in 2022, subject to TII approval.</p> |
| N60 Manulla Cross | <p>The preliminary design and the environmental assessment for this 4km offline route progressed throughout the year in preparation for the commencement of the statutory processes in 2021.</p> |

PROCUREMENT & EFFICIENCY REVIEW

The Procurement & Efficiency Review Team delivers significant reform of public procurement within Mayo County Council. Our focus is on achieving better outcomes for the wider public procurement community and delivering sustainable, high-quality services into the future.

The Programme for Government sets out an ambitious range of actions for public procurement for the coming years, particularly in the areas of green and social procurement and digitalisation.



In 2020, the Covid-19 health crisis saw a significant procurement effort in meeting the needs of not just our own staff, but also members of the public. A major focus of our work in 2020 has been support for the professionalisation of the practice of public procurement in all areas of Mayo County Council.

The role of the Procurement Office is outlined in the **Corporate Procurement Plan 2019-2021** and the team have developed this role achieving increased value for money and greater efficiencies through common procurement frameworks, increased professionalism and innovative use of technology.

Procurement within the organisation is decentralised, with buyers in all areas of the council, with most of the procurement being conducted using the two electronic procurement portals; **www.ETenders.gov.ie** and **www.SupplyGov.ie**

A significant initiative in 2020 is the development of a pilot training programme from a new Commercial Skills Academy through the Office of Government Procurement which will provide practical support to staff in delivering construction projects.

Another area of focus is to continue to promote the wider use of environmental and social considerations in procurement with specific regard to the Climate Action Plan 2019.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Promotion of an ongoing programme of training and support by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) to assist **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** to participate in public procurement competitions.
- Tenders advertised through the **Energy Retrofit Programme** for Mayo County Council housing stock.
- New contracts awarded include the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) contract to **Portwest**, the Janitorial Products contract to **Bunzl** and a new stationery contract to **Office Depot**.

➤ **Green credentials** are now recognised in public tenders for the hire of vehicles, accounting for 30% marks awarded.

➤ Ongoing provision of advice and guidance in areas including **Brexit**, social considerations and **Green Public Procurement**.

➤ Roll out of initiatives to support the delivery of the **National Development Plan** including a review of the **Capital Works Management Framework** and the establishment by the OGP of a **Commercial Skills Academy**.

➤ New vehicles purchased for various sections within Mayo County Council.

2020 IN NUMBERS

€5.5 million

spend on Plant & Machinery hire checked and monitored for compliance

343

competitions published through existing frameworks for goods, services and housing retrofits on **SupplyGov.ie**

50

tender competitions advertised, evaluated and awarded for a variety of works, goods and services



WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

IN THIS SECTION

Rural Water

Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture

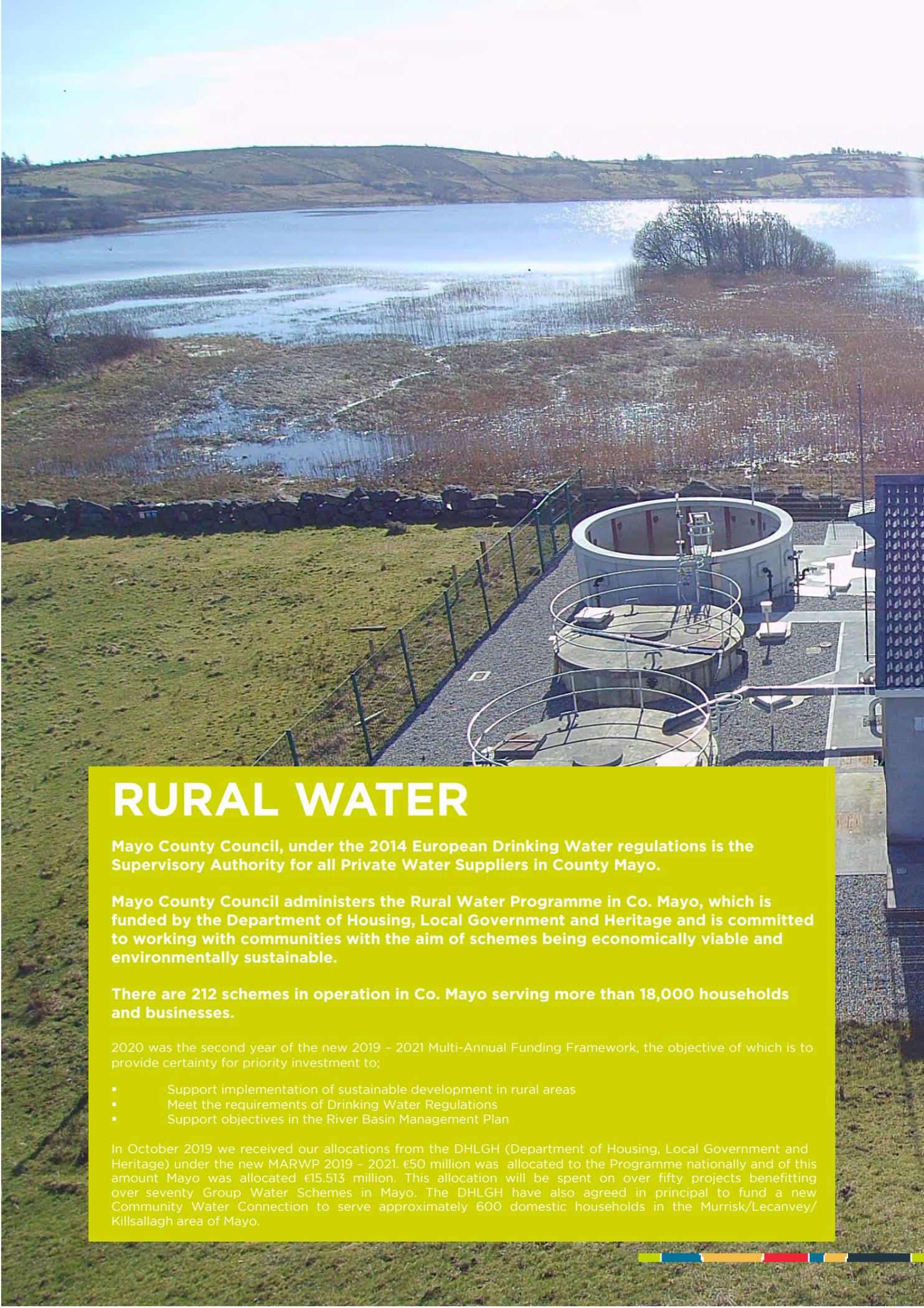
Mayo County Fire Service

West Region Fire Service

Mayo Civil Defence

Water Safety





2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ DBO Bundle 1A Contract, treatment plant upgrades were completed in 2019. In 2020 Mayo County Council submitted a request to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the 13 DBO 1A group water schemes to be removed from the DHLGH Remedial Action List.
- ➔ Consultant Engineers appointed to the Ballycroy GWS and the Glenhest GWS for the Design and Procurement of extensions to the schemes Raw Water Intake Mains which will lower risk of contamination from any future forestry works.
- ➔ Consultant Engineers appointed and the design phase commenced for Killaturley GWS, Tooreen/Aughamore GWS and Midfield GWS for the upgrade of existing treatment systems to install an appropriate cryptosporidium barrier. Negotiations ongoing with Attymass GWS, Derryvohey GWS and Robeen GWS regarding proposed options for alternative water supplies.
- ➔ Works have been completed on 7 schemes and are to be progressed for takeover in 2021. Works being carried out on 10 schemes in advance of their being submitted for taken in charge by Irish Water.

- ➔ Work commenced on the design and construction phases of upgrade contracts for Irishtown GWS, Drumsheen/Newtown GWS, Barnacarroll GWS, Loughnamon GWS and Cloonmoore /Cloonlavish GWS to enable these schemes to connect to the public water network and be Taken In Charge by Irish Water.
- ➔ The strong focus on identifying and reducing water leakage and wastage continues, with the Rural Water Conservation Engineer advising schemes on how to reduce leakage and assisting with minor works which help the Rural Water Office prioritise future capital projects. More than 11 Schemes engaged with this process in 2020. Where a publicly sourced GWS has accumulated a large water bill due to leakage, a report is drawn up by the Rural Water Section and submitted to IW requesting a leak credit. The report describes works carried out by the Scheme to reduce their unaccounted-for water (UFW) levels. It highlights the reduction in UFW demonstrating that the Scheme is well managed and maintained. The Rural Water Section have been very successful in obtaining leaks credits using this process.
- ➔ Consultants appointed to the Clearagh CWC, Enaghbeg CWC, Downpatrick Head CWC, and Murrisk CWC. The design stage has commenced to provide new drinking water supplies to these communities.
- ➔ Works commenced on upgrades to the Drum/Binghamstown GWS and on the Killaturley GWS.

2020 IN NUMBERS

€15,513,000

was invested in the **Rural Water Programme** in Mayo in 2020 from a national budget of €50 million.

78

Works completed on a new Group Water Scheme in **Kilmurray** which will serve 78 domestic households.

3

Group Water Schemes were taken in charge by Irish Water in 2020. 8 other Schemes submitted for takeover in 2019 were progressed in 2020.

23

Design stage continued for the Mayo DBO Bundle 2 Group Water Schemes treatment plant upgrades to address THM exceedances that have arisen. Preliminary design report for the 10 schemes was submitted by the DBO operator. Both DBO upgrade contracts will leave all 23 Group Water Schemes with a water supply fully compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations.

8,000

Killasser GWS appointed a Consultant Engineer to prepare and manage upgrade contract for the replacement of approx. 8,000m of water mains.

600

The DHPLG have agreed in principal to fund a new Community Water Connection to serve approximately 600 domestic households in Murrisk/Lecanvey/Killsallagh.

520

Approximately 520 water samples taken during 2020.

€4.9 million

4.9 million in subsidies towards the operation costs of schemes were paid out to 89 schemes who applied.

7

7 **Well Grant** subsidies totaling €10,422 were paid.

RURAL WATER

Mayo County Council, under the 2014 European Drinking Water regulations is the Supervisory Authority for all Private Water Suppliers in County Mayo.

Mayo County Council administers the Rural Water Programme in Co. Mayo, which is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is committed to working with communities with the aim of schemes being economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

There are 212 schemes in operation in Co. Mayo serving more than 18,000 households and businesses.

2020 was the second year of the new 2019 – 2021 Multi-Annual Funding Framework, the objective of which is to provide certainty for priority investment to;

- Support implementation of sustainable development in rural areas
- Meet the requirements of Drinking Water Regulations
- Support objectives in the River Basin Management Plan

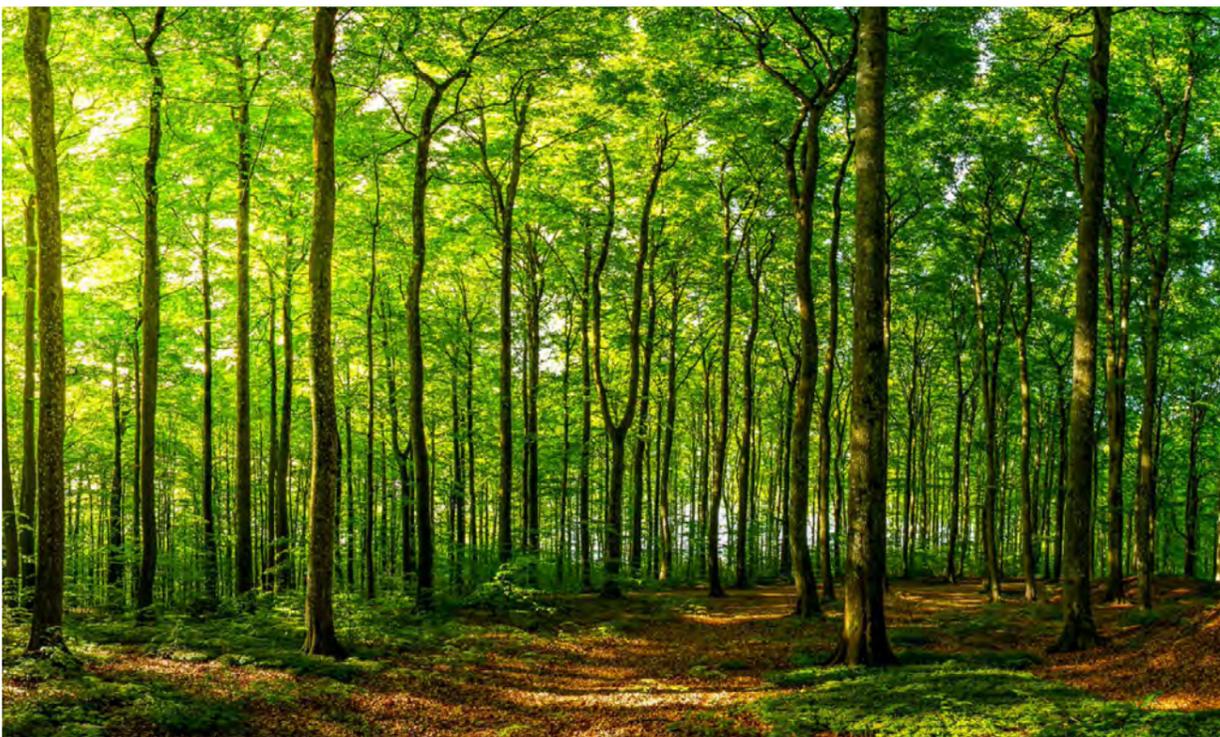
In October 2019 we received our allocations from the DHLGH (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) under the new MARWP 2019 – 2021. €50 million was allocated to the Programme nationally and of this amount Mayo was allocated €15.513 million. This allocation will be spent on over fifty projects benefitting over seventy Group Water Schemes in Mayo. The DHLGH have also agreed in principal to fund a new Community Water Connection to serve approximately 600 domestic households in the Murrisk/Lecanvey/Killsallagh area of Mayo.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & AGRICULTURE

Reflecting a shift in national priorities towards advancing climate action and acknowledging the contribution of agriculture were two key motivations for the department in 2019.

Assisted and supported by the Planning, Environment and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee and the Agriculture Working Group, the department continued to promote the integration of knowledge and perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders.

Priorities centred on creating new strategies on agriculture and climate change, flooding and flood emergency planning.



A high-quality environment is essential for a good quality of life and is a key component of sustainable development. Mayo County Council places a high emphasis on increasing environmental awareness and promoting behavioural changes to foster that quality.

In tandem with the climate action work of the Department, the Environment, Climate Change & Agriculture team is tasked with the enforcement of environmental legislation, the implementation of EU directives and regulations, national and regional policies and the raising of awareness of environmental issues with the general public.

THE TWO ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED IN NATIONAL PLANS FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE ARE:

MITIGATION: Reducing Greenhouse gases emissions and enhancing carbon sinks

ADAPTATION: Adapting to the actual and expected impacts of Climate Change both positive and negative

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

➤ **Better Energy Community Grant** funded works undertaken in various council buildings including lighting and insulation upgrades and PV and EV installation, resulting in an annual reduction of 45,000kg CO₂ and an annual saving of €20,000.

➤ An **Ambient Air Monitoring** station installed in Ballina increased the total number of monitoring stations in the county to three (Claremorris and Castlebar) and enhanced the National Air Monitoring Programme.

➤ Successful **Waste Prevention and Management** workshops held in Killawalla, Clogher and Cong. Further workshops held online later in 2020.

➤ In January 2020 our Chief Executive signed the **Climate Action Charter** embedding decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into every aspect of Mayo County Council's work.

➤ The **SEAI Annual Public Sector Energy Statement** for 2019, published in late 2020 showed that the council has reduced energy emissions by 29.3% from its baseline year of 2009 and is on track to a 33% energy reduction target by 2020.

➤ Our **LIFE project concept note for Lough Carra** was accepted by the LIFE Programme. This will advance to a full LIFE Application in Q1 2021 by Mayo County Council in partnership with the Lough Carra Catchment Association and other stakeholders. The project aims to conserve the rare and designated habitats and species of Lough Carra and to ensure their future conservation.

➤ Implementation Plans completed for all actions of **Climate Ready Mayo**, our Climate Adaptation Plan.

2020 IN NUMBERS

67,000+

customers visited Civic Amenity Sites at Derrinnumera and Rathroeen which remained fully functional during public health restrictions. 672 tonnes of street cleaning treated at Rathroeen, reducing the associated waste charges by approximately €100,000.

108

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) inspected.

11

Blue Flag Beaches in the county and 6 Green Coast Awards. 29 bathing areas monitored during the bathing season.

39

schools renewed their Green Flags.

54

sites removed from the Derelict Sites Register in 2020.

➤ Many environmental awareness campaigns ran during 2020 to further increase environmental awareness and build on strong links with communities throughout Mayo, including our **Schools Programme**, **Oil Tank** and **Dog Fouling** campaigns, and **Safe use of Pesticides**, **Reuse Month** and **Greener Living/Greener Gardening initiatives**.

➤ **Smoky Coal** ban rolled out in **Ballina** and **Castlebar** from September 1st 2020, with awareness campaigns over the winter months.

➤ **Water Refill Points** rollout continued at Ballina, Castlebar and Westport Leisure Centres and in secondary schools.

➤ Mayo County Council hosts the **Climate Action Regional Office (CARO - Atlantic Seaboard North)**, which supports and coordinates climate action activities for the 5 local authorities in the region. The **CARO Wire App**, developed in conjunction with Mayo County Council to assist local authorities capture the impacts of climate events in conjunction with a GIS map-viewer and reporting tool, won the **Innovation Award** at Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards 2020. The office led on the development of the **www.caro.ie** website, a hub of information about climate action policy, updates, resources and case studies and played a key role in drafting the local authority strategy, '**Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030**'.

➤ Submission made to the **Significant Water Management Issues in Ireland** public consultation document, which provides opportunities to local authorities to highlight issues encountered whilst implementing the River Basin Management Plan, and put forward proposals to assist in reaching the targets of the Water Framework Directive. Preparation for the next **River Basin Management Plan** commenced in 2020.

➤ Completed the largest **River and Lake monitoring Programme** in Ireland, monitoring 49 rivers, 21 lakes and 29 bathing areas countywide.

78

tonnes of waste electrical items and batteries collected at recycling events in Achill, Belmullet, Ballyhaunis and Claremorris.

400+

routine waste inspections carried out. More than **1,000** non-routine inspections carried out following complaints. **11** new Waste Permits issued in 2020.

179

groups registered and participated in the National Spring Clean.

1300+

water quality samples taken from our rivers, lakes and bathing areas.

9

projects successfully undertaken with over €130,000 in **Anti-Dumping Initiative** grant funding including 9 x 40ft truck-loads of bulky waste collected at an amnesty day in Knock, the removal of old cars from Inisbiggle Island, the clean up of numerous dumping sites and the purchase of a drone for enforcement purposes.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

The Veterinary Department has two main areas of focus, Food Safety and the Dog Warden Service.



Carried out under a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), the Veterinary Department carries out Food Safety Work with a particular emphasis on hygiene and traceability. By working closely with local Food Business Operators to achieve and maintain the highest standards of food safety, the Department is actively involved in combating zoonotic diseases, i.e. diseases transmittable between animals and humans, and has direct input into the elimination of Notifiable Diseases.

There are eight approved Small Meat-Manufacturing premises and a further six registered premises throughout the county that are inspected and monitored on a regular basis

In addition, veterinary staff carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on every animal slaughtered at the 13 abattoirs in the county, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene. In 2020 there were **1,169** cattle, **10,327** sheep and **7** goats slaughtered in Mayo abattoirs.

Mayo's **Dog Control Service** is provided directly by the Department, ensuring that dogs in Mayo are licenced and kept under effectual control. In 2020 **114** dogs were taken into the Dog Pound. **32** dogs were reclaimed, and **102** dogs were rehomed during the year. **6,306** dog licences were issued during the year. An allocation of **€39,000** was made to **seven** animal welfare groups in County Mayo during 2020.

Dog owners are required to have a dog licence, and to have their dog microchipped, and the Department strives to increase awareness of responsible dog ownership. Awareness events and initiatives during 2020 included a **'Be a responsible dog owner during lambing season'** campaign, an extensive interview on Claremorris Community Radio's Good Morning Show, educational workshops in local schools and with community groups organised in conjunction with **Dogs Trust**, **Sheep Worrying** awareness advertisements and the **'Be Dog Smart'** campaign designed to keep children safe while in the company of dogs both at home and in the community.

Social media campaigns responded to increased dog ownership during 2020 with a **'Puppy Check List'** issued to assist those getting a puppy and a **'Be a responsible Dog Owner during Lockdown'** campaign. The **'Do you own a Dog?'** campaign in July highlighted the responsibilities that come with owning a dog, a message that was reinforced in December with the **'A Dog is for life - not just for Christmas'** initiative which urged those considering buying a dog for Christmas to be mindful of the lifelong commitment responsible dog ownership requires.

MAYO COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Mayo is a large rural County, with an area of 5,527 square kilometres and a population of approximately 130,507 people, making it one of the largest fire authority areas in the country. As a Fire Authority, under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003, Mayo County Council has a statutory obligation to (a) make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fire, for the protection of and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, (b) establish and maintain a fire brigade and premises and, (c) Make adequate provisions for the reception of and response to call for the assistance of the fire brigade.



Fire Prevention Officers assess buildings, from a fire safety perspective, to ensure that they are planned, designed, constructed and maintained in a safe manner, conducted via inspections on foot of licensing and planning applications.

122 firefighters employed in 12 fire stations located around the county deal with a vast array of incidents annually, ranging from chimney fires, house fires, bog/forest fires, road traffic accidents, rescues and incidents involving hazardous materials.

Mayo County Fire Service's role in regard to Building Regulations is to guarantee people's health, safety and welfare within a premises, to ensure building access for people and the conservation of energy. Inspections are carried out via spot checks on compliance with the regulations.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

➔ Further investment was made in the fleet to enhance response capability, with a second-hand **Bronto Skylift fire and rescue aerial appliance** (below) and a second-hand **Class B fire appliance** purchased to support fire-fighting operations.



➔ As part of the continuous Seveso programme that ensures the protection of people and the environment through agreed and coordinated response procedures in the event of a major accident at Upper Tier Seveso Sites, the Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal External Emergency Response Plan was reviewed, revised and issued for public consultation.

➔ Senior Fire Officers continued to develop Mayo County Councils planning and preparedness to ensure an effective and coordinated response in the event of a local or regional major emergency. As part of this effort, Mayo Fire Service conducted a live exercise with **Irish Rail** to test response procedures, develop co-ordination and increase fire service familiarisation of Irish Rail fleet.

➔ Mayo Fire Service carry out a range of fire service training which is outlined in the Fire Service Training Plan to ensure that all personnel are suitably trained and competent to perform their duties and/or tasks in a safe, efficient and effective manner. Training in 2020 included NDFEM Recruit Firefighter training, Ladder Drill Training, Foam Drill and Road Traffic Collision Training.

➔ Fire Service personnel were actively involved in the following **Community Fire Safety** activities and events in 2020: Online Mayo Fire Service Twitter Account, Mayo Road Safety Roadshow, National Fire Safety Week, promoting safe fire prevention practices through media advertisements, radio talk shows and quizzes, fire station open days and simulated chip pan fire demonstrations.

➔ As part of Mayo County Councils response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Senior Fire Officers formed part of the Regional Covid-19 Mortality Subgroup to prepare and plan for excess mortality in the West Region. An Excess Mortality Plan was prepared setting out response arrangements. Existing local Authority mass fatality arrangements and resources already in place as part of a major emergency response were identified as key supports in the plan and we also participated in a Public Health Exercise that explored response processes and possible challenges of a regional Coronavirus surge scenario.

➔ In June 2020 Mayo Fire Service successfully received accreditation to ISO45001 standards.

➔ Mayo Fire Service were successful bidders for the role as Lead Authority to operate the **West Regional Dangerous Substances Licensing Office** (covering the Counties of Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Donegal).

2020 IN NUMBERS

Dangerous Substances Licences issued to **16** sites in Mayo

99 Licensing Application inspections carried out, and **28** other inspections carried out

98 Fire Safety Certificate Applications received

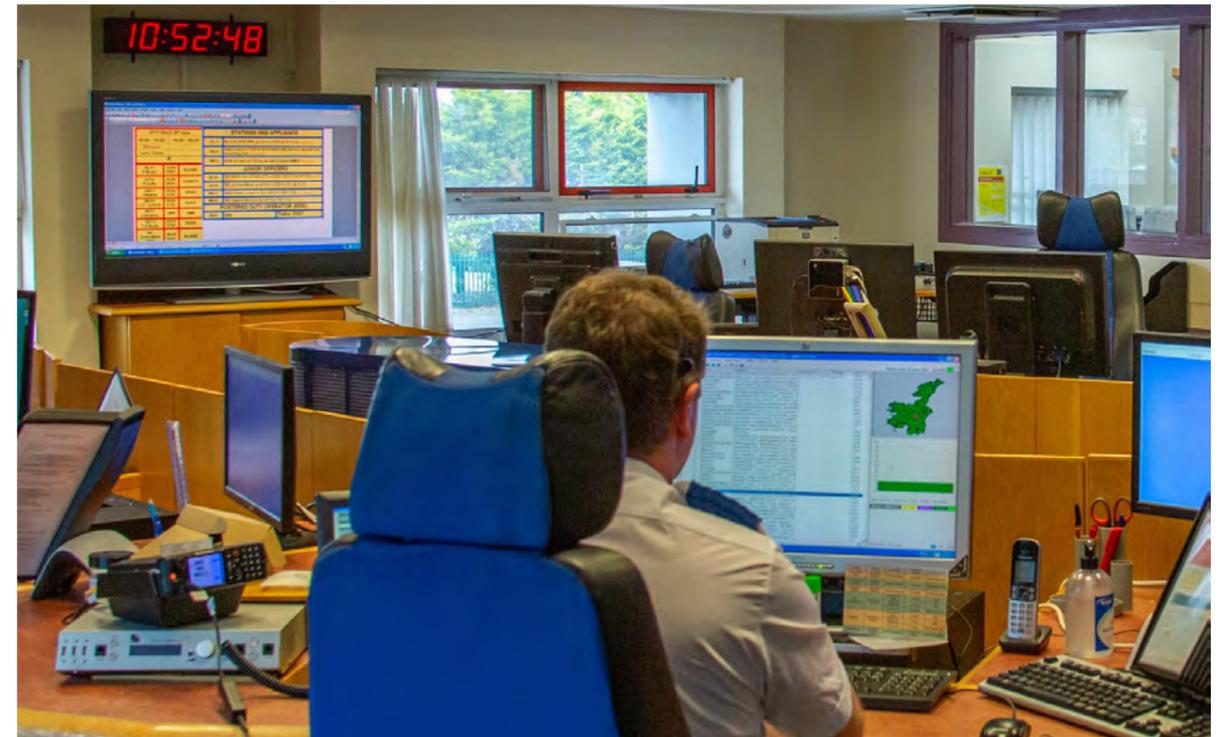
Attended **709** incidents resulting in **858** fire brigade responses, an increase of **9.02%** on 2019

52 valid Disability Access Certificate Applications received

443 valid commencement notices received resulting in **395** building inspections

WEST REGION FIRE CONTROL

Managed by Mayo County Council on behalf of local authorities of Connaught and Co Donegal, the West Region Communications Control (Fire) or WRCC provides the 112/999 emergency call answering and mobilising services for the fire authorities in the region.



2020 IN NUMBERS



13,575
Incoming calls were received



10,067
Outgoing calls were made



4,052
Fire brigade emergency incidents across the region resulted



ISO 9001
Since January 1st 2018, the West Region Fire Control Centre has ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard accreditation.

MAYO CIVIL DEFENCE

A voluntary organisation, with approximately 60 highly trained volunteers, Mayo Civil Defence provides support to Primary Response Agencies and local communities. The activities of our highly trained members are valued by front line emergency services and the communities which we serve.



The strength of Mayo Civil Defence lies in our voluntary ethos and the commitment to purpose of our members who willingly and freely give of their time, expertise, and training on a weekly basis.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ Civil Defence Officer Francis Power appointed in April 2020.
- ➔ Our members carried out 25 taskings to support Mayo County Council and Irish Water in response to the Do Not Consume Notice on Achill Island.
- ➔ A new Ford Ranger Vehicle was handed over to Mayo Civil Defence in 2020. One of 32 across Ireland, the vehicle was supplied by the Department of Defence with funding secured from the Dormant Accounts Fund.
- ➔ Essential training was maintained during 2020, Taking all Covid- 19 restrictions into account, Mayo Civil Defence Volunteers participated in very successful training events during the year undertaking Search & Rescue, Casualty/Covid- 19 response, Boat and Drone handling and Communications.
- ➔ Mayo Civil Defence had one response to Climactic Emergencies during 2020.
- ➔ 5 community event duties completed.



2020 IN NUMBERS



60
60 Volunteers willingly and freely give of their time, expertise, and training on a weekly basis.



3
Assistance provided for 3 missing persons searches.



1
Ford Ranger acquired, funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund administered by the Department of Community & Rural Affairs.



78
taskings supporting the response to the Covid- 19 Pandemic at the request of the Local Authority and the Health Service Executive.

WATER SAFETY

Mayo County Council is responsible for the employment of Beach Lifeguards during the summer months. In 2020 twenty-one full time Beach Lifeguards were in place from June to September at Bertra, Carramore, Carrowniskey, Keel, Keem, Mulranny, Old Head, Ross and Silver Strand beaches.

A further two full-time Pool Lifeguards were employed at Belmullet Tidal Pool for the months of July and August and eight Reserve Beach Lifeguards supported these staff.

Lifeguard - Rescue Statistics- Full 2020 Bathing Season

| BEACH /POOL | RESCUE WITHOUT CRAFT | RESCUE USING CRAFT | 1ST AID | LOST CHILD | ADVICE GIVEN | ACCIDENT PREVENTED | OTHER |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Belmullet Tidal Pool | | | 9 | | 383 | | |
| Bertra | | | 3 | | 375 | | 1 |
| Carrowmore | | 1 | 23 | | 416 | | |
| Carrowniskey | 2 | 7 | 21 | 3 | 1338 | 3 | |
| Keel | 2 | 2 | 43 | 4 | 1903 | 6 | 6 |
| Keem | | 1 | 16 | | 660 | 1 | 1 |
| Mulranny | | | 7 | | 368 | 3 | 2 |
| Old Head | 1 | | 9 | | 663 | 3 | 3 |
| Ross | | | 2 | | 398 | 6 | |
| Silver Strand | | | 5 | | 227 | | |
| Total | 4 | 11 | 138 | 7 | 6731 | 22 | 13 |

There were 537 ringbuoys located in public areas in County Mayo in 2020 and these were inspected and maintained on a regular basis.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & MOTOR TAX

IN THIS SECTION

Finance
Motor Tax

FINANCE

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial operations in Mayo County Council with particular emphasis on ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to finance revenue and capital activity.



Revenue, or day-to-day expenditure, is defrayed from sources such as:



**Government
Grants**



**Commercial
Rates**



**Housing
Rents**



**Planning
Application Fees**



Other goods and services such as

**Landfill/Civic Amenity Charges, Pay & Display
Charges**

A wide range of services are provided by the Finance Section, including:

- Financial & Budgetary Control, Cash Flow & Treasury Management
- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Administration of the Financial Management Systems
- Payroll Administration
- Commercial Rates Billing and Collection
- Housing Rents and Loans Billing and Collection
- Payment of supplier accounts
- Cash Receipting
- Administration and Collection of the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge

The Finance Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money, paid by, or to, the Council are complied with.

2020 was a year like no other. Notwithstanding the significant challenges Mayo County Council faced over the past few years and especially with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council was overall in a stable financial position at the end of 2020. In 2020 we received significant Government support in the form of a Commercial Rates Waiver and financial subsidies. The medium to long term financial impacts of the pandemic will continue to be severe, however we remain optimistic that Government and political support will continue.

2020 IN NUMBERS

Revenue Expenditure of **€198,783,857** and Capital Expenditure of **€80,407,909** indicate the extent of day to day service delivery and infrastructural development and demonstrates the significance of Council operations on the local economy.

Expenditure levels increased in key areas including Road Transport & Safety, Public Lighting. Increased expenditure on Economic Development in respect of Covid-19 Restart Grants for Small Businesses totalled **€20.23 million**.

€8,355,118 of the total **Local Property Tax** received was collected within the county with a further **€11,457,224** being received from the Equalisation Fund

2020 Collection levels in the three major collection areas are:

- **Rates*** **81.32%**
- **Rent and Annuities** **87.32%**
- **Housing Loans** **78.80%**

* €12.9 million Commercial Rates Waiver Grant received from Local Government Finance, equal to the amount waived due to the impact of Covid-19. If this was included, the collection rate would be 88%

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

| | Gross Expenditure | Income | Net Expenditure | Net Expenditure |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | 2020 | 2020 | 2020 | 2019 |
| | | € | € | € |
| Housing & Building | 19,475,960 | 18,643,417 | 832,543 | 1,247,347 |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | 50,910,554 | 39,686,667 | 11,223,887 | 10,215,187 |
| Water Services | 18,681,518 | 18,634,587 | 46,930 | 145,164 |
| Development Management | 33,209,919 | 25,550,099 | 7,659,821 | 7,958,823 |
| Environmental Services | 17,399,604 | 5,800,332 | 11,599,272 | 11,337,310 |
| Recreation & Amenity | 10,747,929 | 2,677,828 | 8,070,102 | 7,234,753 |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 1,391,079 | 623,997 | 767,082 | 969,720 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 30,340,188 | 28,069,890 | 2,270,299 | 7,557,489 |
| Total Expenditure/Income | 182,156,752 | 139,686,816 | | |
| Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax | | | 42,469,936 | 46,665,793 |
| Rates | | | 34,542,787 | 32,194,404 |
| Local Property Tax | | | 19,812,342 | 19,812,344 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers | | | 11,885,193 | 5,340,955 |
| Transfers from/(to) Reserves | | | (11,691,311) | (4,872,764) |
| Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year | | | 193,882 | 468,191 |
| General Reserve @ 1st January 2020 | | | (4,065,676) | (4,533,867) |
| General Reserve @ 31st December 2020 | | | (3,871,794) | (4,065,676) |

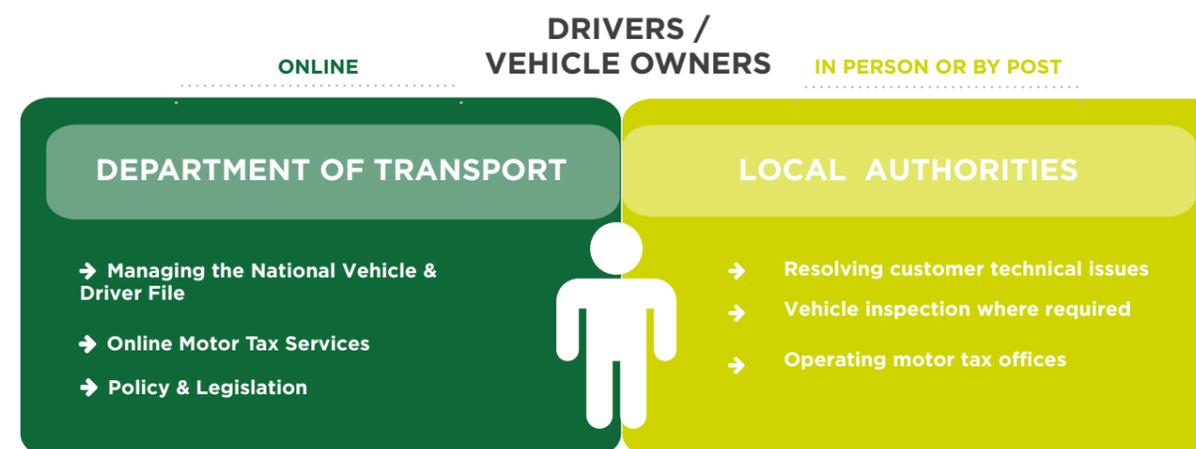
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2020

| | NOTES | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | € | € |
| FIXED ASSETS | 1 | | |
| Operational | | 473,241,217 | 452,805,789 |
| Infrastructural | | 2,988,377,438 | 2,988,263,442 |
| Community | | 10,580,724 | 10,814,972 |
| Non-Operational | | 58,243,748 | 58,860,757 |
| | | 3,530,443,127 | 3,510,744,960 |
| Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses | 2 | 112,396,825 | 84,598,529 |
| Long Term Debtors | 3 | 58,251,674 | 60,183,756 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Stocks | 4 | 350,943 | 390,867 |
| Trade Debtors & Prepayments | 5 | 25,869,337 | 25,739,763 |
| Bank Investments | | 27,227,485 | 21,302,079 |
| Cash at Bank | | 14,215,815 | 3,976,151 |
| Cash in Transit | | 127,522 | 151,203 |
| | | 67,791,101 | 51,560,064 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR) | | | |
| Creditors & Accruals | 6 | 63,555,267 | 52,740,372 |
| Finance Leases | | 486,439 | 267,976 |
| | | 64,041,705 | 53,008,348 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES) | | 3,749,396 | (1,448,284) |
| CREDITORS (AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR) | | | |
| Loans Payable | 7 | 120,704,558 | 125,328,199 |
| Finance Leases | | 1,100,309 | 556,262 |
| Refundable deposits | 8 | 6,606,615 | 6,383,663 |
| Other | | 1,373,639 | 845,225 |
| | | 129,785,121 | 133,113,350 |
| NET ASSETS | | 3,575,055,902 | 3,520,965,610 |
| REPRESENTED BY | | | |
| Capitalisation Account | 9 | 3,530,443,127 | 3,510,744,960 |
| Income WIP | 2 | 108,280,855 | 82,004,979 |
| General Revenue Reserve | | (3,871,794) | (4,065,676) |
| Other Balances | 10 | (59,796,286) | (67,718,653) |
| TOTAL RESERVES | | 3,575,055,902 | 3,520,965,610 |

MOTOR TAX

Mayo Motor Tax continues to deliver quality and timely services, providing customer focused and friendly services to its users.

Below is a breakdown of the roles and responsibilities for the collection of Motor Tax, identifying the key role Mayo Motor Tax has in the collection and delivery of this service.



These services are delivered through our three strategically located offices within Mayo:

01 Glenpark, The Mall, **Castlebar** **02** Civic Office, **Ballina** **03** Belmullet Civic Centre, **Belmullet**

Mayo Motor Tax also provides telephone services to the public and an email contact address at motortax@mayococo.ie.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Total Income for Mayo Motor Tax in 2020 was €28,065,380. This total is comprised of €22,167,166 (online) and €5,898,214 (Mayo Motor Tax Offices).
- ▶ The total number of transactions at offices was 36,041.

2020 IN NUMBERS

The Department of Transport has estimated that **98%** of renewal facilities are available for completion online



2020 IN PHOTOS



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council

Coronavirus COVID-19

Community Response Contact Information

Phone: (094) 9064660 (8am-8pm)

E-Mail: covidsupport@mayococo.ie

Stay Safe - Stay Strong - Stay Separate



VIRTUAL MAYO DAY 2020

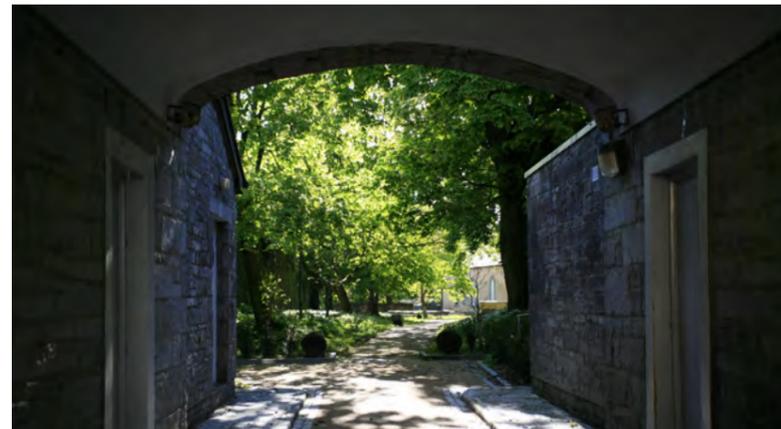
MAYO DAY 2020 ON MAYO.IE

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS - FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS
CRAFTS - MAYO DAY QUIZ - VIRTUAL TOUR OF MAYO - RECIPES FOR MAYO - See Similar Pages about their Mayo Day activities with people everywhere!

COMPETITIONS

In the run up to the day:
Photography Competition - to go with you to win the rights home right here in the world!
Colouring Competition - with fun drawings of the Mayo landscape
'A'S Factor' Competition

www.mayo.ie





CHAMBERS IRELAND EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

COUNCIL OF THE YEAR 2020



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AT MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL