



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT UPDATE



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



JANUARY 2024 MEETING



Directorate Highlights

Roads

Ballina – Castlebar – Westport Interurban Greenway: Scheme at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. Public consultation to be held in Q1 2024.

Tenders returned for safety works on N59 at Georges Street Newport and scheme will proceed to construction in Q1 2024.

Local Transport Plans for Castlebar, Ballina and Westport being progressed and should be finalised by Q1 2024.

Architects

Church Manor, Ballina (3 units) tenders returned.

Evaluation complete for 3 sites in Ballina, Duffys Bakery, Cheshire homes and The Meadows

Turlough Park Grand aid secured from OPW for 2024 Turlough Park maintenance budget.

Procurement & Efficiency

6 competitions published with estimated value of €2.3m
Additional housing maintenance suppliers supported with set up on DPS.

Dates to Note

Public consultation on the Draft LTP to be held in Ballina Civic Offices 31st Jan., from 4.00 pm. To 7.00 p.m.

Housing Delivery Steering Group Meeting – 15th January.

AHB Forum – 26th January

Public Information drop-in session dealing with vacancy and dereliction to be held on 24th Jan in Ballina Civic Offices 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Housing, Roads and Service Development

TOM GILLIGAN



Roads

- Construction works on-going on N60 Heathlawn scheme with completion due in August 2024.
- N26 / N59 Ballina By -Pass. Scheme currently at Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- N59 Newport – Derrada: scheme to proceed to tender in 2024 subject to TII approval.
- N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Scheme: now at land acquisition and detailed design phase.
- N26 Mount Falcon to Foxford: scheme proceeding with appointment of Consultants for Phases 2 – 4 to bring scheme from options selection to the planning phase.
- N58 Foxford By -Pass: Strategic Assessment Report re- drafted and submitted to TII for approval.
- N60 Manulla scheme: Scheme at Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. Submission to An Bord Pleanala expected in Q1 2025.
- Proceeding with land acquisition and detailed design for R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall scheme. Pavement scheme at the Kilmaine end substantially complete.
- R313 Glencastle scheme currently at land acquisition stage.
- Consultants working on the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement for R312 Glenisland scheme. Submission to An Bord Pleanala in Q2 2024.
- Consultant has completed Phase 1 Concept & Feasibility for R345 Cong Relief Road. Awaiting approval from DoT to proceed to Phase 2 Options Selection.
- Contract awarded for installation of traffic lights on N84 in Ballinrobe. Works to commence in January 2024.

Housing

In Dec. 2023 the following were delivered.

HAP & RAS (Dec- 2023)

9 No. delivered under HAP,

1 No. delivered under RAS

Total of 1927 active households supported by RAS/HAP at the end of Dec.

Leasing (Dec- 2023)

27 No. house delivered under the Leasing Programme.

Homelessness - 12 No. homeless presentations in Dec – total for 2023 = 187

Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

359 Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Applications received

332 Stage 1 Approved

140 Stage 2 Grant approval applications received and 132 approved to date

11 Properties completed.

Vacant Homes Croi Conaithe - 213 approved (10 grants issued), 136 in progress.

Repair & Leasing Scheme – 23 active leases & 31 applications for 97 units

Buy& Renew - 60 active applications



Directorate Highlights

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Water Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services

JOHN CONDON



Environmental Awareness:

- Composting in Schools programme in Kiltimagh & Swinford secondary schools.
- Soft Launch of Reusable Party Kit.
- Christmas/New year recycling campaign.
- Upcoming roll out of awareness campaign to householders on brown bin to reflect recent legislative changes.
- Promotion of Deposit Return Scheme ahead of February Launch.
- Promotion of new WEEE Recycling Campaign.

Climate Action:

- The Chief Executive report on the Draft Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan public consultation process has been completed and circulated to all elected members to review ahead of adopting the plan at the February Council meeting.
- The €609,000 Mayo Community Climate Action Fund was launched on December 1st. This fund is open to all Mayo community groups. For more info see [Community Climate Action Programme \(mayo.ie\)](https://www.mayo.ie/community-climate-action-programme) Deadline for applications is February 23rd.

Retained Fire Service

- Following acceptance of the proposals from the Workplace Relations Commission to resolve the dispute in the retained service nationally, a concentrated Recruitment drive, including an open day, was run in November and December both centrally and locally culminating in 68 applicants for the additional 30 posts in the county.

Dates to Note

Environment

Official launch and promotion of reusable party kits – 17th January 2024.



Directorate Highlights

Planning Data for December 2023

Applications Received: 116
 Harcopy: 54 & Electronic: 62
 Decisions on Grant: 55
 Decisions on Refuse: 2
 Forthcoming Decisions: 111
 Formal Preplanning applications: 7
 Appointments at Planning Clinics: 28
 Clinics held 13th December 2023

Corporate Communications:
Press Releases/PR Campaigns

- ‘The Choice if Yours’ Road Safety video.
- Community Climate Action Programme
- Christmas in Mayo
- Heritage Funding.
- Community Monuments Fund.
- Cathaoirleach’s Awards.
- Christmas tree lighting around the County.
- Christmas and New Year messages.

Dates to Note

- Confirmation of the only AXA road show for 2024 confirmed for Mayo on 11th April 2024.

**Planning, Human Resources,
Communications, Information
Systems, Corporate Affairs &
Architectural Services**



CATHERINE McCONNELL

Human Resources

New Appointments in December 2023 - 1 Clerical Officer, 1 Assistant Planner, 1 Assistant Engineer.

Promotions - 3 x IS Analyst Developers

Competitions Advertised - Retained Fire Fighters (8 stations), Executive Technician - GIS

Interviews held - Integration Support Co Ordinator, Integration Support Worker, Fire Services – Drive Mechanic.

Retirements in December 2023 - 1 Clerical Officer, 2 General Operative

Training Data for December 2023

424 indoor staff participated in online Dignity at Work Training. 125 outdoor staff participated in the following Training Courses:

Manual Handling; Safe Use of Pesticides and Herbicides; Project Supervisor Design Process; Confined Spaces Medium Risk; Winter Service Operator Refresher; Abrasive Wheels – Consaw; HIAB; Firefighting Skills; Driver CPC Module 1,2,3,4,5; Working at Heights; IOSH – Safety Health & Environment for Construction Site Manager.

Training Centre Update: A total of 5,039 attendees have participated in Castlebar Regional Training Centre courses for the months from January to December 2023 with 7,397 training days. Work is progressing on our new €2.9m million outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar.

Corporate Communications / Diaspora / Oifig na Gaeilge / Road Safety

- Public information updates on severe weather, traffic disruption, Water repairs, recruitment
- Media Responses to local and national Media queries. Co-ordination of all Advertising.
- Home to Mayo 2024 competition winner announced during live broadcast at Ireland West Airport Knock.
- Co-ordination of Delegation for MCC at the launch of International Mayo Day 2024 and Home to Mayo 2024 in Chicago and San Francisco.

Oifig na Gaeilge

Compliance and translation support provided to Planning, Finance, Architects, Library Services, Mayo Sport Partnership, Road Safety, Westport-Belmullet Municipal District and Claremorris Municipal District.

Forward Planning for 2024 including Seachtain na Gaeilge and Lá Mhaigh Eo

Road Safety

MCC’s Road Safety Awareness video, ‘The Choice is Yours’ has been met with extensive media coverage success and has achieved a reach of over 30,000 people across our social media accounts.

FOI Requests: 5 new requests

Insurance PL Claims: 8 PL Claims

Ombudsman Cases: 1 new – 3 closed

Total Calls Answered: 2581



Directorate Highlights

- LEO Business Advisory Clinics took place in Ballina, Claremorris and Westport between 28 Nov -1 Dec.
- 2022 MSP Annual Report – Over 14,000 people benefitted from targeted Physical Activity Initiatives in 2022. See reports at <https://www.mayo.ie/en-ie/mayo-sports/news/over-14,000-people-benefitted-from-mayo-sports-par>
- For the MSP latest December newsletter click on this link <https://shrturl.at/vzCTV>
- Run Up to Christmas MSP Challenge – 1200 Children from 17 Schools and 150 adults took part in the 2023 Christmas physical activity.
- A Tourism Networking event was hosted by Fáilte Ireland at Breaffy House Resort on 7 Dec 2023.
- The new 5km Achill Island Greenway shortlisted for award under the Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Project of the Year category at the Irish Building&Design Awards
- 69,247 people came through the doors of Castlebar Library and 485 musical instruments were loaned or renewed in 2023.
- Christmas carol recitals were held in Westport and Castlebar Libraries
- A free baby weaning workshop

Dates to Note

- **MSP Calendar of Events** – <https://www.mayo.ie/en-ie/mayo-sports/news/msp-winter-calendar-of-events-24>
- **MSP Bookings** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/mayo-sports-partnership-28485513507>
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2023: -Category 4 Rest of County – expected to open January/February 2024.
- Oweninny Community Benefit Fund 2024: -Category 1/Category 2/Category 3 Target Area – expected to open March/April 2024.

Enterprise, Community, Economic Development & Tourism

JOANNE GREHAN



Enterprise & Economic Development Unit

- A meeting of the LEO Evaluation & Approvals Committee took place on 11 Dec. with 3 projects supported.
- The Expressions of Interest process for IQ Ballina opened mid-December. Businesses that are creating new employment and need space to grow are invited to contact the LEO for further information.
- Work is continuing on a project that will raise awareness of the various remote working hubs in Mayo. There will be a Hub Open Day in Feb, and the Newstalk business show ‘Down to Business’ will be broadcast from a Mayo hub Sat. 3 Feb.

Community Arts, Sports, Childcare

- Mayo County Council allocated funding of €193,020.65 from the DRCD towards the Local Enhancement Programme 2024. The LCDC to commence the application process in Jan 2024. Full details on Mayo.ie
- MSP successful in its application to be one of 6 counties nationwide selected to roll out a pilot Outdoor Recreation project in 2024. Initiatives will include forming an Outdoor Recreation Committee and developing a plan for the county.
- €12,102.80 has been allocated by the DRCD to support the LGBTI+ projects in Mayo and will be used to support a dedicated LGBT+ support worker through MNE SICAP programme for part of the year in 2024.
- The ongoing tender process for the new SICAP programme 2024-2028 for 2 of the 3 Mayo Lots was completed with Mayo North East and South West Mayo Development Companies awarded the successful tenders. Contracts were signed in December. The new SICAP programme started on 1 Jan 2024.

Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

- A meeting of the Tourism, Recreation, Food & Community Engagement Strategic Policy Committee took place on Friday the 8 Dec. 2023.
- Preparations are ongoing for participation at the upcoming tourism trade events: Holiday World Show, Belfast from 19 - 21 Jan and Dublin from 26 - 28 Jan 2024.
- Works are at an advanced stage on a number of capital projects to include Belmullet Destination Town and the Greenway at Achill Sound.

Library Services

- Jackie Clarke 10th anniversary, Ballina Arts Centre with 10 short films premiered.
- Service users, Alzheimer’s Centre visited the Library to use the Magic Table.
- Mayo Women’s Support Services Info Sessions held in Dec to raise awareness on prevention of violence against women as part of the One Million Stars project.
- Large crowd attended a book launch ‘The Troubled Times in Ballyglass during Ireland’s War of Independence’ by Sean Nestor, Thurs 7 Dec, Castlebar Library.
- Book containing a collection of patient experiences of cancer entitled ‘Positively Palliative, Stories of Care, Loss and Love’ launched by Voices4care.
- Over 40 children attended a special Christmas story telling of *The Polar Express*.
- **Sensory Santa** with Aras Inis Gluaire, Mayo North East & NUI Galway, children from the Erris region with varying sensory needs were treated to a unique sensory Santa experience at Belmullet Library Sensory Cubbie & Magic Table.
- **Ceol & Spraio** – Rhythm & Rhyme classes for parents and toddlers as Gaeilge in conjunction with Gaeilge Iorrais, Belmullet Library every Wed morning.



Financial Management & Motor Taxation

PETER DUGGAN

Directorate Highlights

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Dates to Note

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Mayo County Council

1. Major Expenditure and Income by Division with 2023 Adopted Budget
Ten months ended 31st October 2023

APPENDIX A
FINANCIAL REVIEW DEC 2023

Service	Description	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Est. to Date	Budget	Remaining	Est. to Date	Budget	Net Back
A	Housing and Building	22,146,842	24,026,722	1,880,880	21,719,595	23,804,700	2,085,105
B	Roads Transport and Safety	39,917,327	49,856,625	9,939,298	41,526,728	8,520,433	7,9% -1,606,295
C	Water Services	14,627,733	17,173,600	3,085,847	17,670,952	3,698,324	83% -827,372
D	Development Management	14,422,727	14,174,044	-248,683	6,462,670	4,516,955	1,945,715
E	Environmental Services	14,782,214	17,869,861	3,126,647	4,565,547	6,132,349	1,566,802
F	Recreation and Amenity	11,659,522	13,407,215	1,747,693	4,871,428	4,820,230	51,198
G	Public Health and Welfare	11,682,522	13,407,215	1,724,693	4,871,428	4,820,230	51,198
H	Maintenance Services	10,633,393	12,810,708	2,177,315	12,894,346	14,170,424	2,076,078
J	Central Management Charges	21,280,221	24,972,867	3,692,646	1,400,078	1,600,000	199,922
	Rates	-	-	-	31,574,278	37,741,670	6,467,392
	Local Government Fund	-	-	-	17,229,455	20,675,346	3,445,891
	GRAND TOTAL	151,044,573	176,531,683	25,507,409	151,303,206	176,531,681	25,168,395
							86%

2. Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

	Total for collection	Collected Oct:23	Arrives Oct:23	Collected %	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
Rents	8,079,527	6,951,146	1,128,381	86%	28	33,690
Rates	38,503,521	29,527,979	8,975,542	77%		
Housing Loans	3,231,101	2,641,248	649,853	83%		

4. Significant Variance against Budget

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Housing Grants	-245
Leisure Facilities (Lough Lannagh)	870
TEL	180
Public Health	-410
Regional Grants	-46
Other	-56

3. Recourse to Overdraft Facility

	Number of days in overdraft	Estimated interest incurred
	28	33,690