

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL OCTOBER MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



To: Each Member of Kilkenny County Council

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Chief Executive Financial Report–(Appendix 1).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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ROADS:

The following serves as an update to Elected Members on some of the Capital projects currently ongoing in County Kilkenny:-

Kilkenny County Council has been allocated the following additional funding since the adoption of the 2016 Roadwork's Scheme:

N24 Mooncoin Pavement		
Rehabilitation and Traffic	C	77.050
Calming Scheme.	₹	77,858
National Primary B.1.2.		
Maintenance.	€	22,000
National Secondary B.1.2.		
Maintenance.	€ :	193,000
National Primary Road Severe		
Weather Damage.	€	56,870
National Secondary Road Severe		
Weather Damage.	€	39,500
N24 Carrick Road Improvement		
Minor Works Scheme.	€	20,000
N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee		
Minor Works Scheme.	€	20,000
Total additional allocation.	€4	29,228

N78 Castlecomer Village Overlay Scheme

Tender assessment for this Scheme has concluded and works will commence towards the end of October 2016 with a construction period of 1 week. The works provide for the resurfacing of The Square from the pedestrian crossing on Kilkenny Street to the bridge over the Dinin River.

Non- National Bridge Rehabilitation Programme €200.000

On foot of a Principal Inspection of the Council's Bridge Stock, the Council received an allocation to undertake remedial works on the structures listed below:-

Bridge Location	Allocation	Remedial Work Status
Tower Bridge, Jenkinstown	€75,000	Contractor appointed and works to
		commence shortly (Subject to approval from IFI).
Inistioge Bridge, Inistioge	€45,000	Works substantially completed.
Newtown Bridge, Newtown, Kells	€25,000	Works substantially completed.
Glenmagoo Bridge, Firoda, Castlecomer	€30,000	Works substantially completed.
Ballygasoon Bridge, Piltown	€25,000	Works to commence shortly.

Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme €225,000

The Non- National Low Cost Safety Programme is targeted at locations along the non-national road network which have been identified as collision prone zones. The works carried out under this programme include improved junction delineation and visibility splays, traffic calming, enhanced roadside delineation and pedestrian crossing facilitates within urban areas.

Table 1.0 hereunder provides the status of the individual projects funded this year. It should also be noted that works of this nature form a key component of the Council's Road Safety Plan 2015-2020.



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Status	Description
С	Provision of signalised pedestrian crossing, the installation of pedestrian guardrails, road markings and the provision of solar 30kph periodic speed limit signage.
С	Localised road widening at Mong junction, extension to existing culvert, setting back of roadside boundaries to improve visibility.
DS	Land-take required to set- back roadside boundary for junction widening to improve visibility and facilitate larger vehicle turning movements. Negotiations ongoing with landowner.
	C

R693 Freshford Road, Kilkenny City.	DS	Allocation provided to advance design and planning for Traffic Calming and Management Scheme. Design brief issued and consultants to be appointed shortly.
R448 Gowran Village	DS	Provide for traffic management improvements at the northern end of the village between the Service Station and the Graiguenamanagh Junction.

STATUS: DS= Design Stage; UC= Under Construction; **C**=Complete.

PLANNING:

Planning Summary	Total to Sept. 2015	Total to Sept. 2016
Planning Applications	Marie Contract	E.
Received	580	642
Planning Applications Granted	460	569
Planning Applications Refused	30	41
Complaints Received	101	78
Warning Letters Issued	89	44
Enforcements Notices Issued	23	27

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Housing:	
Number awaiting social housing support at 31 st August, 2016	2318
Number of assessment interviews carried out in June:	25
LA/RAS/Leasing allocations (offers made):	20
Number of HAP tenancies to 30 th June	668
Number of LA tenancies surrendered:	4
Anti social behaviour cases:	11
New Homeless Presentations:	27
	6.0
Maintenance Calls for June 2016	392
Maintenance Calls year to date	
	3213
No. Housing Loans Approved to date (Annuity/Construction)	28
Amount of Loans Approved to	
31 st August, 2016	€ 3,492,672

Housing Needs Assessment 2016

The statutory three year Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) was carried out on the 21st September 2016 and will be returned to the Department of Environment before the 12th October 2016. A number of public advertisements and reminders were placed in the local newspapers and on our website to inform the public of the assessment process.

Private Grants Increased Allocation:

On 23rd September the Department approved our application for additional funding of €200,000 under the Housing Grant Schemes for Older

People and People with a Disability. The total budget approved for 2016 is now €1,936,266, of which, €387,253 is being provided from the Council's own revenue resources.

Opening of Housing Aid for Older Persons (HOP) **Scheme:**

The Housing Aid for Older Persons is a grant to assist older people over 66 years living in poor housing conditions mainly covering rewiring and re-roofing and is assessed in-house by technical staff. Due to limited funding and increasing numbers of applications in the last three years the Council has decided again to advertise the scheme giving a 6 week period for receipt of applications starting 17th October 2016 to Friday 25th November 2016. The other two grant schemes based on medical need remain open.

Tenant Handbook

The Tenant Handbook is in place for over 10 years and is currently being reviewed. A copy of the Tenant Handbook was circulated to all members. This handbook outlines the responsibility of both the tenant and landlord (Kilkenny County Council) in relation to housing maintenance. This will assist members when dealing with queries from tenants and making representations.

Traveller Accommodation Plan (TAP) 2014 – 2018 Mid-Term Review

Section 17 (1) (a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, provides that a relevant housing authority shall review its TAP at least once in each three year period, or at such time as directed by the Minister. The Minister has directed by Circular 28/2016 that a review of the current TAPs should be carried out no later than 31 December 2016.



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ENVIRONMENT

Education & Awareness Unit

• A new county wide anti dog fouling campaign was launched in Ferrybank on the 28th of September to highlight the potential health impacts that dog dirt poses to children. The campaign will continue throughout the Autumn.





• October is being promoted as Re-Use Month by all County Councils in Ireland. Kilkenny has distributed over 1,000 waste management packs to promote the month. The second edition of the Kilkenny Repair Directory will be launched (17th Oct) and a Re-Use Display will take place in County Hall between 17th-28th of October.



 A number of anti litter initiatives are planned for November. The Mayor will launch the "Rubbish Monster" puppet shows in Kilkenny City for junior primary school children and the Cathaoirleach will be launching the new "Litter" Squad" Primary School project with Dunnamaggin NS (15th of Nov).

of October is the closing date to register for a bag exemption if a household uses prepaid refuse and recycling bags. Pre paid bags will be no longer allowed by law in 2017 however households may apply for an exemption if there is no storage area for bins on their property, if their house is positioned on a narrow lane which prevents a refuse service to access their property or if a household can demonstrate the lack of an unsuitable bin collection in their area. Exemption forms are available on www.kilkennycoco.ie or hard copies are available at local libraries and council offices.

Dunmore

Visitor numbers to Dunmore Civic Amenity site September 2016 3,640

 Schools that attended the Green Schools Information Seminar (27th Sept.) were offered tours of the Recycling Centre. Burnchurch NS visited on the 29th of September, Castlecomer Presentation Primary is set to visit on the 18th of October.





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ST. MARY'S MEDIEVAL MILE MUSEUM

Internal works nearing completion. St. Mary's Medieval Mile Museum is moving steadily towards completion. External archaeological works reaching conclusion and onsite services restored. Project remains on course for audio visual fit out during November.

Image below shows progress inside.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Civic Receptions:

Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of Kilkenny County Council hosted civic receptions for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team at Nowlan Park on 5th September, 2016, and the victorious Kilkenny Camogie Senior and Intermediate Teams at the Courthouse, Parliament Street, Kilkenny, on 12th September, 2016.









Cllr. Matt Doran, Cathaoirleach, accompanied by Mayor Patrick O'Neill, welcomed an international delegation to City Hall on 29th September. The delegation was visiting Connolly's RED MILLS on an equine related trade mission, and the Cathaoirleach welcomed the international visitors, and members of the RED MILLS team, saying:

"It is a pleasure to acknowledge a local company, RED MILLS, who are at the very top of their game, developing cutting edge technology, and bringing modern scientific knowledge to bear on an ancient sport."



Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund

The Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness – Rebuilding Ireland addresses a range of key pressing issues in the housing policy and supply areas. The plan also includes for enabling infrastructure to activate large housing development areas (200 – 500 houses) to boost supply of social and private housing.

Areas to be considered are where Local Area Plans are in place along with relevant



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permissions. Kilkenny County Council are submitting a proposal for infrastructure to serve the Western environs area from the Callan to the Kilmanagh Road which will serve the housing need for the City in the coming years. Funding of up to 75% of the cost of works are available for successful applications. The closing date for applications is the 14th October, 2016, and funding to be decided before the end of this year.

Broadband

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a Government Policy Initiative aimed at delivering high speed broadband to all citizens with the Department of Communications responsible for the award of the National contract. The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will be responsible for the infrastructural rollout in consultation with Local Authorities. At the moment the Council has been asked to examine strategic connection points throughout the County and also to identify Community Access Hubs that can be prioritised in advance of the national rollout.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kilkenny LCDC

Kilkenny LCDC met on 2nd September, 2016. David Dalton, Principal Officer and Paul Lemass Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government were in attendance at this meeting. They were both hugely complimentary of the work of the LCDC and agreed to support a workshop for LCDC members to review progress to date and focus priorities etc for the 2016/7.

I outlined the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016 that €450,000 is available for up to 8 projects and agreed to brief the LCDC further

once the process for rolling out the scheme has been agreed by KCC.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Community & Culture section are developing an A5 guide to the community actions that will be an accessible, quick snapshot of the community element of the plan for communities and others across the county.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The final 4th quarter SICAP payment was made to the Programme Implementer in September. An End of year review and planning for 2017 will commence in the last quarter of the year.

Public Participation Network (PPN).

The PPN has just completed its election process to elect representatives onto LA committees. There are now 30 PPN representatives sitting on a total of 11 Committees, SPC's and others across the Local Authority. The bi-annual plenary took place on the 5th of October to ratify the election results. The development officer has made a presentation to all elected members at the latest Municipal District meetings to keep them up to date on the progress of the PPN and the construction of a dedicated Kilkenny PPN website is currently under development to keep member groups up to date.

Other Community & Culture Projects:

Community, Sports, Arts & Youth Facilities Audit:

Nexus Research has been appointed to work with an interagency steering group to undertake the audit which has commenced is expected to be finalised in February 2017. As stated previous the audit will inform future priorities with regards to CCFCS grant monies.

EU funding opportunities:



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Community section staff attended the Department of Justice and Equality's information and callout for proposals for EU Funded Projects for Migrant Integration and Gender Equality. There are two strands:

- 1. Integration and Employment of Migrants Activity Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2014-2020
 - Up to €4.5 million over 3 years
 - Approx. 40% reception/asylum; 60% integration
 - Minimum project budget €200,000 over 3 years (75% AMIF, 25% matching funding)

2. European Social Fund

- A. Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020
- ESF Integration and Employment of Migrants
- EU and Non-EU Migrants
- Up to €3.3 million over 4 years
- Minimum project budget €250,000 over 4 years
- **B.** Gender Equality Activity
- Strand A Women returning to the workforce Up to €4.5 million over 3 years
- C. Strand B Women's Entrepreneurship Up to €1 million over 3 years, Minimum project budget €200,000 over 3 years

A small working group has convened to look at projects for Kilkenny under the ESF Integration and Employment of Migrants.

Open Government Partnership (OGP):

Community Section Staff attended a consultation forum held in Kilkenny Castle by The Department of Public Expenditure relating to the Open Government Partnership. The OPG is an initiative of 70 countries. It aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen

governance. It is run by a steering committee composed of governments and civil society organisations. As part of this international initiative, every two years, Ireland makes commitments to make the State more transparent, more accountable and more inclusive in how it reaches decisions. The Department of Public Expenditure is currently in the process of preparing a second National Action Plan as part of the OGP which will look to include commitments and actions to achieve three central aims -Engagement, Increased Citizen Increased Transparency & Open Data and Strengthened Governance & Accountability. The discussions from the forum in Kilkenny Castle will feed into this action plan.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

€376,683 in grant aid was approved to 20 business projects. These projects combined will create at least 43 new full-time jobs at a cost per job of just under €9,000 in addition to sustaining existing jobs. €50,000 of this grant aid came from Kilkenny County Council funding.

- 334 people have participated in enterprise training and management development programmes in 2016. These range from Start your own Business through to Sales & Marketing and Financial training programmes as well as our flagship Management Development Programme.
- 272 clients availed of Business Advisory Sessions with LEO staff. These are typically people thinking of setting up in business or those in the early stages of self- employment that need advice.
- 8 Outreach Clinics in the library network providing business advice took place throughout the county in 2016 aimed at those thinking of setting up in business or those in the early stages of self- employment that need advice.



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16 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) of up to €2,500 were awarded. The TOVs enable small businesses to develop an ecommerce strategy to sell their products and services online.

10 businesses were approved **Smart Option Business Loans** from St. Canice's Credit Union in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny.

141 businesses were approved **one-to-one mentoring support** to help them address issues they face in their business. LEO Kilkenny has an extensive panel of local mentors with specialist skills to call upon to assist business owners.

25 businesses were approved **Specialist Support Grants** (of 50% of eligible costs up to €1,000) to attend Trade Fairs and Market Visits Abroad.

National Women's Enterprise Day – Mid West meets South East - National Women's Enterprise Day takes place on 19th & 20th October in the Rivercourt Hotel with guest speaker Miriam O' Callaghan. A panel of successful female entrepreneurs will speak of their success on the morning of the 20th – Clare Hughes, CF Pharm; Hannah Wrixon, Last Minute Minders and Rachel Doyle of the Arboretum will be interviewed by Siobhan Donohue of IrishTV.ie. Over 100 female entrepreneurs from the Mid-West and South East region will attend the event.

Bizfest 2016 – 'Inspiring Success' – takes place on 20th October in The Lyrath Estate Hotel. The biggest networking event in the South East. A fantastic opportunity to network and hear from a panel of successful entrepreneurs with national and international experience. MC for the day is Richard Curran, presenter of The Business of RTE Radio. Panelists include Ann O' Brien of Kent Stainless in Wexford; Michael Hoyne of Merlyn Showering in Kilkenny; Philip Martin of Blanco Nino Tortilleria in Tipperary; Mark Cradock of Mayen TM in Carlow and Cian O' Maidin of

NearForm in Waterford. 350 entrepreneurs from around the South East are expected to attend the event.

Craft Bursary Scheme – LEO Kilkenny, the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCOI) and Abbey **Business** Centre are applications for a Craft Bursary Scheme with a view encouraging entrepreneurship innovation in this area. The successful candidate will receive a studio at the Abbey Business Centre for 1 year (covering rent and rates) along with 4 bespoke mentoring sessions and training. Applicants should be:

- Be working / studying full-time in fashion/ceramics/jewellery/accessories/fur niture and have their brand/label as their primary source of income;
- Have an interest in working with other designer-makers to grow their brand/label;
- Be registered with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st October 2016. If you are aware of anyone that may be interested, please ask them to contact us at (056) 7752662 or visit www.localenterprise.ie/kilkenny

Competitive Funding – LEO Kilkenny have been successful in their application for 5 Competitive Funds – being the lead on one and a partner with South East LEO's in 4 other applications. These funding will covers the following actions:

- The EMBARK Programme, which LEO Kilkenny is the lead partner, will proactively prepare small businesses, identified by the LEOs as having potential for growth and export, to exploit new export opportunities:
- A SOUTH EAST ARTISAN FOOD INITIATIVE to establish a cluster of fledgling food exporters across 5 counties and develop the export capability of a selection of artisan food clients;



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- The AG-TECH project which will explore the potential for higher levels of innovation, entrepreneurship and productivity in agricultural technology.
- A pilot programme that will offer carefully selected micro-enterprises with growth ambitions the opportunity to benefit from concentrated support from a dedicated advisory panel of 3 experts per enterprise
- A project to consolidate a creative hub in the South East region through an extensive networking and training programme for established SMEs and Start-ups servicing the creative industries.

CULTURAL SERVICES

Arts

Culture Night



Culture Night took place on Friday 16th September this year and audiences thoroughly enjoyed the diverse offerings of the Caravan Club Extravaganza, the Butler Gallery, the National Craft Gallery, Blackstack Fine Art Print Studio, Open Circle Arts, Loughboy Library, KCAT, Billy Byrnes music venue and Rothe House.

Now in its 8th year in Kilkenny, we are delighted to have had record numbers attending event across the city and county. Over 2,300 people traversed the city and county to engage in and enjoy all the wonderful events.





The Caravan Club Extravaganza on the Parade

SIAMSA

Our 2016 Autumn Siamsa Children's programme is well underway. Participants are working with musician and artist Tom Duffy and visual artist Órla Bates for another unique Siamsa experience.

HERITAGE

Kilkenny Field Names Book Launched

The Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council launched a new publication on 12th October, which celebrates six years of work gathering the old Field Names of County Kilkenny. The project which was jointly funded by Kilkenny County Council and the Heritage Council, has collected over 7,000 field names across 190 townlands in County Kilkenny. Over 80 volunteers have contributed time, energy and thousands of voluntary work hours to the project. If you would like a copy of the book please contact Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer. Dearbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie

"Culture 2025 – a Framework Policy to 2025"

Kilkenny County Council Cultural Services Section made a submission to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the draft national cultural policy "Culture 2025 – a Framework Policy to 2025". The submission focused on the contribution of Local Authorities in the delivery of cultural services at a county level.



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Open Library Project

LIBRARY SERVICE

Funding has been secured under the open libraries programme for a pilot open libraries project at Castlecomer library. This initiative will result in greatly extended opening hours at the library with access facilitated from 8AM to 10 PM with weekend opening also. This initiative has proven very beneficial to those wishing to access library facilities for study and reference purposes. The Castlecomer pilot project will now move to project specification and procurement with delivery date to follow subsequently.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Statistics and Performance - September 2016

- 26,411 visits across the library network
- 26,300 items issued
- 2,429 public Internet sessions
- 1,491 new members/renewals
- 64 visits to Local Studies

26 411 Visits
26 300 Issues
2 429 Internet Sessions
1 491 New Members/Renewals
64 Visits to Local Studies

Library Website Usage – September 2016 www.kilkennylibrary.ie

2016	Users		Return Users	Sessions	Page Views
Sept	2,386	60%	40%	4,855	10,481

Social Media

- ✓ 1.191 Likes on Facebook
- ✓ 1,317 Followers on Twitter

Online Resources – September 2016

Borrow Box eAudiobook loans	220
Borrow Box eBook loans	251

Dates for your Diary

Savour Kilkenny - Edible Book display: City Library 26th-28th October.

National Science week 13th -20th November.-a range of events for children

Programming and Events

Kilkenny Library Summer Reading Challenge: A Reading celebration show in Watergate for children and their parents.

Over 974 children participated in this year's challenge.



Service Developments

Callan Library opening hours have now been extended to include Thursday opening.



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KILKENNY RECREATION AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Men on the Move

Over 150 men across Kilkenny are currently participating in the Men on the Move programme. The programme is running in The Watershed, Thomastown, Castlecomer and Clara in partnership with Thomastown United, Erins Own and Clara GAA Club. The clubs are finding that this programme is attracting many members of the community that up until now were only involved in a coaching or administration capacity.





Get Ireland Walking

Get Ireland Walking is a national initiative that aims to maximise the number of people participating in walking - for health, wellbeing and fitness - throughout Ireland.

Groups will meet at the following locations at no cost!

Kilkenny City, Mondays @7.00pm, starting 10th October, Meeting Point, Canal Square

Kilkenny City (Canal Square) on Tuesdays @11am (ongoing), Meeting Point, Canal Square Walk on Wednesday – European Week of Sport

As part of the European Week of Sport, KRSP encouraged schools to take part in some of the initiatives aimed at increasing activity levels in schools including team activities, teacher challenges, walking initiatives and lots more.

Students from The Mother of Fair Love and The School of the Holy Spirit walked to Kilkenny Castle and joined KRSP for some old fashioned games in the park.

Multi-Sport Club for Children with Physical Disabilities

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) ran a Multi-Sport Taster day for Children with Physical Disabilities on the 17th of September in The Watershed. There was plenty of interest in Kilkenny and KRSP and the IWA are planning on establishing a club in Kilkenny.

Irish Wheelchair Association Physical Activity Programme

KRSP have been working with the IWA to increase the activity levels of the IWA members and offer new opportunities in the community. Currently, there is an inclusive gym programme running in The Watershed and a Hand Cycling programme is running on the track on a weekly basis. KRSP has linked with Invacare Ireland to demonstrate hand cycles and support individuals who are interested in trying out the sport.



Arthritis Kilkenny

KRSP presented at the recent Arthritis Ireland Kilkenny Awareness and Information Event in MacDonagh Junction. Following this, KRSP extended the Intro to the Gym programme that is currently run in conjunction with The Ormonde



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Hotel and GROW Kilkenny to the Arthritis Ireland Kilkenny Branch.

This programme allows those with chronic pain to benefit from An Intro to Gym programme with The Ormonde for €3 per usage. Individual programmes are designed or participants can avail of unlimited pool usage.

Active Travel Schools: Park & Stride

KRSP has launched the Park & Stride initiative in the Waterford Road area to encourage parents and students to walk to school, reducing car congestion and increasing physical activity levels.



Active Travel Workplaces

Some Workplaces in Kilkenny have been trialling KRSP office bikes and encouraging people to undertake some of their journeys from the office by bike. This particularly suits workers who have little choice but to drive to work, yet with this scheme, they can still increase activity levels during the working week by cycling shorter journeys and avoiding city traffic!



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APPENDIX I

Kilkenny County Council

Finance Report – October 2016.

The expenditure by service division for the eight months to the end of August is set out in table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €49.275m compared with the annual budget of €67.18m.

Table 1	Actual YTD August 16	Budget Full Year 2016
711	€'000's	-€'000's
Housing & Building	10,909	14,083
Road Transport & Safety	14,006	16,848
Water Services	4,570	7,603
Development Management	4,820	6,562
Environmental Services	5,462	8,628
Recreation & Amenity	3,939	6,024
Agriculture, Education, Heal th, Welfare	408	761
Miscellaneous Services	5,161	6,673
Overall Total	49,275	67,182

Cash collected on commercial rates and housing rents was 4% higher than the same period in 2015

The Valuation Office has commenced the detailed work on the full revaluation of all commercial properties in Kilkenny. It is important that all property owners respond promptly to any communications they receive from the Valuation Office. Ratepayers can obtain information on the process by contacting the Valuation Office at 01 8171199 or by sending an Email to ckReval2017@valoff.ie.

The bank overdraft facility was utilized on 94 days to the end of September and the maximum overdrawn balance was €5.7m.

The 2017 annual budget meeting is scheduled for November 25th at 3pm.