

2022



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



ANNUAL REPORT



01

INTRODUCTION

Message from the Cathaoirleach	06
Message from the Chief Executive	07
Mission Statement/Vision	08
Corporate Plan	09
County Councillors	10
Municipal Districts	12
Strategic Policy Committees	21

02

PLANNING, HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNICATIONS AND CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Human Resources	26
Castlebar Regional Training Centre	28
Corporate Development	29
Property, Internal Audit & Organisational Change	31
Communications	33
Oifig na Gaeilge	36
Road Safety Awareness	38
Planning Development	40
Planning Enforcement & Building Control	42

03

ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM

Community Engagement	46
Mayo County Childcare Committee	50
Mayo Sports Partnership	52
Local Enterprise Office	54
Economic Development	56
Tourism, Recreation & Amenity	57
Broadband & Digital Development Unit	60
Mayo Art Service	61
Mayo County Library	63

04

HOUSING, ROADS & SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Housing	68
Roads Transportation and Safety	70
Architects	74
Mayo Heritage Office	76
Procurement and Efficiency Review Unit	79

05

WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rural Water	82
Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture	85
Veterinary Department	89
Mayo County Fire Service	91
West Region Fire Control	94
Civil Defence	95
Water Safety	97
Register of Electors	99

06

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, MOTOR TAX & INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Finance	102
Motor Tax	106
Information Systems	108

07

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 6	114
----------------	-----



01

INTRODUCTION

IN THIS SECTION

- Message from the Cathaoirleach
- Message from the Chief Executive
- Mission Statement / Vision
- Corporate Plan
- County Councillors
- Municipal Districts
- Strategic Policy Committees



Cllr Seamus Weir
CATHAOIRLEACH
Mayo County Council

MESSAGE FROM THE CATHAOIRLEACH

As the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, I am delighted to present to you Mayo County Council's Annual Report for the year 2022. This report is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements along with the challenges we faced during the year.

2022 was another challenging year for all as the world emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic and got back to normality. But it brought other challenges on a global scale, such as the war in Ukraine, and once again the people of Mayo stepped up to the plate, as did Mayo County Council, in welcoming those fleeing from the conflict seeking safe refuge.

It was a year when major progress continued improving the infrastructure around Mayo, with a number of major road projects progressing towards completion in 2023, such as the N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project and the N17 & R320 junction at Lisduff. There was much celebration with the official opening of the N26 realignment project at Cloongullane Bridge in October. This project was a major engineering feat and has greatly improved road safety along this busy artery into north Mayo.

Working with our communities is a key component of what a local authority does, and once again Mayo County Council engaged with hundreds of community groups across the county in assisting them and forging brighter futures for communities across Mayo. Those community groups were celebrated with the first-ever Cathaoirleach's Awards for 2021 being presented in early 2022.

Engaging with our diaspora has always been one of the great strengths of Mayo County Council, and with the Home to Mayo initiative around Mayo Day, which returned to a physical event for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic was a huge success. I was delighted to represent Mayo at the Milwaukee Irish Fest, the worlds largest Irish Festival where over 100,000 people came through the door.

On the tourism front, the beauty of Mayo was shown to the whole world with the acclaimed film "The Banshees of Inisherin," which was largely filmed on Achill Island, showcasing the splendour of our county to the world. 2022 also saw Hollywood come to Westport with the filming of the movie "Irish Wish" – which I was delighted to welcome to Mayo.

As Cathaoirleach, I would like to thank the staff of Mayo County Council for their professionalism and dedication in providing services and assistance to the people of Mayo daily. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Chief Executive, Kevin Kelly, and his senior management team. I would also like to thank the elected members for their support and contributions during 2022. Finally, I would like to say thank you to my family for their unwavering support during the year.

Cllr Seamus Weir
Cathaoirleach
Mayo County Council.



Kevin Kelly
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Mayo County Council

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As Chief Executive, I welcome the publication of the Mayo County Council Annual Report 2022 which gives a great insight into the councils work in delivering key services to the people of Mayo and on the progress being made on current and future projects.

Mayo County Council continues to work together with a variety of stakeholders in delivering projects across the county and I would like to thank them for their continued co-operation and support for Mayo County Council. In particular Mayo County Council now delivers services and projects on behalf of a number of Government Departments as the range of activity continues to expand.

In 2022 Mayo fully re-opened for business after the Covid-19 pandemic and Mayo County Council continued to work alongside businesses and industries to support them in their efforts to get back on a pre-pandemic footing.

However, It was also a year that saw major upheaval with the war in Ukraine and Mayo County Council along with other government agencies played a leading role in supporting refugees fleeing from the conflict. The work locally of all involved in the Community Response Forum is very much appreciated.

The delivery of key local services across the county such as housing, roads, environmental protection, rural water, planning, recreational facilities and the fire service continued to be vital components of the work carried out by Mayo County Council and are outlined in this report. The report also highlights the increasingly diverse range of services that Mayo County Council now delivers including the work of the Local Enterprise Office, Mayo Arts Service, Community Engagement and Tourism sections.

A number of significant capital projects were completed or significantly advanced during 2022 and Mayo County Council is working to ensure that we continue to get approval for similar projects in the future to ensure the continued development of our county.

The delivery of housing in the county continues to be a challenge, but Mayo County Council continued our work to support those in need of housing solutions either through direct provision or other housing supports and has also focused on ensuring that private sector developments can play a key role in addressing current housing shortages.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Seamus Weir and his predecessor Cllr Michael Smyth over the year. I would also like to thank all the elected members for their input and support during 2022, along with the senior management team and all the council staff who continue to deliver much needed improvements for the people of Mayo.

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

BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Annie Mae Reape (FF)



Mark Duffy, Cathaoirleach Ballina MD (NP)



Michael Loftus, Leas-Cathaoirleach Ballina MD (FF)



Jarlath Munnelly (FG)



John O'Hara (FG)



Seamus Weir, Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council (NP)

CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Martin McLoughlin (FF)



Al McDonnell (FF)



Cyril Burke (FG)



Ger Deere (FG)



Blackie K Gavin, Leas-Cathaoirleach Castlebar MD (FF)



Michael Kilcoyne, Leas-Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council & Cathaoirleach Castlebar MD (NP)



Donna Sheridan (FG)

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Neil Cruise (FG)



John Cribbin, Cathaoirleach Claremorris Swinford MD (FG)



Michael Burke, Leas-Cathaoirleach Claremorris Swinford MD (FG)



John Caulfield (FF)



Tom Connolly (FG)



Richard Finn (NP)



Gerry Murray (SF)



Patsy O'Brien (NP)



Damien Ryan (FF)



Michael Smyth (FF)

WESTPORT BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Brendan Mulroy (FF)



Paul McNamara (FF)



Sean Carey, Leas-Cathaoirleach Westport Belmullet MD (FF)



Gerry Coyle (FG)



Peter Flynn (FG)



Christy Hyland, Cathaoirleach Westport Belmullet MD (NP)



John O'Malley (NP)



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Ballina Municipal District



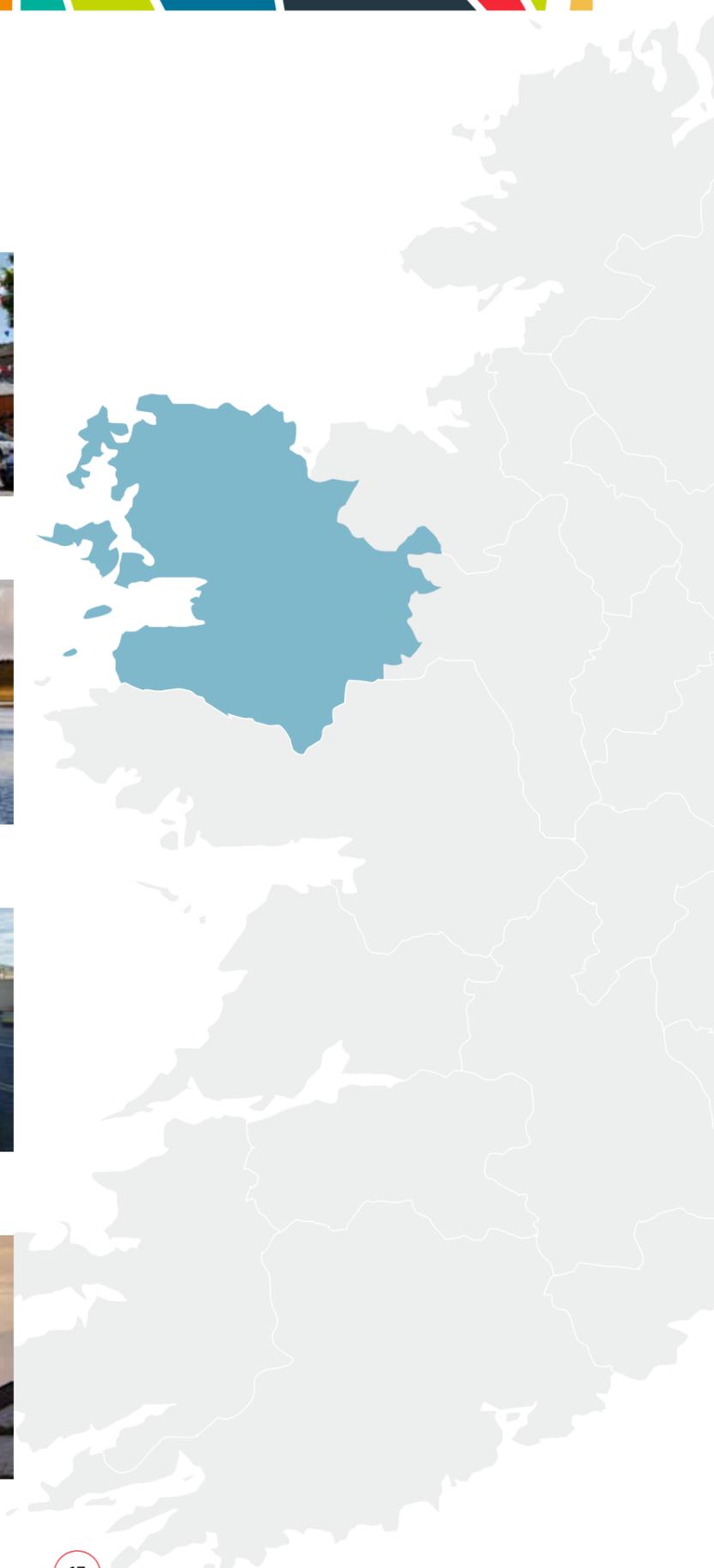
Castlebar Municipal District



Claremorris Swinford Municipal District



Westport Belmullet Municipal District



BALLINA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



2022 BALLINA HIGHLIGHTS

- 494 Units of Housing Stock in the MD
- 47 Permanent tenancies allocated
- 125 Grants approved under Housing Grant Schemes
- 8 Properties purchased under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme
- €1.5 million collected by Ballina Motor Tax Office with 9,800 transactions
- Funding of €1,753,860 approved for Ballina MD projects including BALAMI (Brexid Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure) Scheme, Active Travel initiatives, works at Belleek Gate Lodge, works at Ballina Quay
- Active Travel funding for works at Ridgepool Road and Bonniclonlon
- €245,853 Town and Village Renewal Scheme funding approved for Ballycastle Audio Visual Centre
- Launch of highspeed fibre broadband by SIRO in Ballina
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Ballina was Adopted



CASTLEBAR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



2022 CASTLEBAR HIGHLIGHTS

- 100 grants approved totalling €743,660 in the Castlebar MD under Housing Grant Schemes
- 417 units of housing stock in the MD
- 12-month pilot scheme for Lime shared e-bikes officially launched in September 2022
- €1,277,980 funding approved for Active Travel Projects from the National Transport Authority
- 24 tenancies allocated
- 26 new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies set up
- 10 new RAS placements
- 3.2km of non-public access roads improved under the Local Improvement Scheme
- 8 schemes approved funding under the Community Involvement Scheme
- Councillors agreed a General Municipal Allocation of €52,857 each to fund clubs, community organisations, festivals, events and residents associations

CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



2022 CLAREMORRIS SWINFORD HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan applications approved to a value of €956,230
- 219 applications for grants received under Housing Grant Schemes with €1.059m approved
- €700,000 General Municipal Allocation to fund Residents Associations, Clubs & Community Groups, Festival & Events & Burial Ground Committees
- Construction works completed on the N6 Cloongullaun Bridge at a total cost of circa €20 million
- Circa €1.8m in funding for Active Travel projects
- Works commenced on the Ballinrobe Urban Greenway with a total project cost of circa €225,000
- Housing allocated to those on the Council's waiting list at the newly constructed Housing Developments in Hollymount and Charlestown
- The Climate Adaption and Resilience works scheme for circa €362,000, allowed for remedial works at more than twenty locations in the Municipal District
- 4 Community Involvements Schemes were undertaken at Lisloughrey, Abbeyquarter, Aughamore and Midfield at a value of circa €420,000



WESTPORT BELMULLET MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



2022 WESTPORT BELMULLET HIGHLIGHTS

- 189 grants approved totalling €1.069 million in the Westport Belmullet MD under Housing Grant Schemes
- 13 new Leasing Agreements entered into in 2022
- Playground at Inishturk, refurbishment of Keel Playground and MUGA and Zip Wire at Carrowteigue completed
- Completion of Inishturk Helipad, funded by DRCD and Mayo County Council
- Participation in the Great Yellow Bumblebee Project, a European Innovation Project, to maintain and enhance flora-rich farmland habitats and increase connectivity between these habitats, thereby providing essential forage and nesting habitat for this rare bumblebee as well as other pollinators
- 22 tenancies allocated
- 29 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenancies set up, with 2 new RAS placements
- €490,000 General Municipal Allocation to fund Arts and Culture, Promotion of the Region, Community Groups, Festival & Events & Match Funding
- Expenditure of €1,038,889 on surface dressing €5.072 million on strengthening of Local and Regional Roads in the MD
- Community Involvement Scheme works undertaken at Shramore Newport, Claggarnaugh Newport, Inver Village and Bangor Erris Village
- 5 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan applications approved to a value of €441,900

Strategic Policy Committees

Corporate, Education, Culture, Heritage and Library Services SPC

Cllr Gerry Coyle
(Chair - 2 meetings)
Cllr Michael Burke
(Chair - 2 meetings)

Met 4 times during 2022

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

- » Agreed the Culture and creativity Strategy for Mayo
- » Agreed the framework for the review of the County Heritage Plan
- » Agreed the Creative Ireland Strategy 2023 - 2027 for Mayo
- » Agreed the extension of the Strategic Arts Plan
- » Set out Mayo County Councils proposals for Diaspora Engagement including the inaugural Cathaoirleach's Awards

Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Planning and the Marine SPC

Cllr Mark Duffy
(Chair)

Met 5 times during 2022

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

- » Mayo 2040 Economic Development Strategy
- » The Mayo Digital Strategy
- » County Development plan
- » Local area plans
- » Protected structures sites
- » Marine strategy
- » LECP

Housing SPC

Cllr Patsy O'Brien
(Chair)

Met 4 times during 2022

The work programme of the Housing SPC included:

- » "Housing for All" 2022 - 2026
- » Housing Capital Projects underway in the county
- » Repair & Leasing and Buy & Renew Schemes
- » Croi Conaithe Scheme
- » Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- » Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme

Environment, Climate Action, Agriculture and Emergency Services SPC

Cllr B K Gavin
(Chair - 1 meeting)
Cllr Martin Mcloughlin
(Chair - 3 meeting)

Met 4 times during 2022

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

- » To consider submission report on Beach Bye Laws
- » To consider report on Burial Ground Capital Projects and Funding
- » To nominate two members of SPC to Grant Application Assessment Team
- » Anti-Dumping Initiative
- » Bathing Water and Blue Flag

Roads and Transportation SPC

Cllr Damien Ryan
(Chair)

Met 3 times during 2022

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

- » Road Grants allocation
- » Roadworks schemes 2022
- » Winter Services Plan 2022-2023
- » Road safety
- » Presentation on Marine infrastructure overview
- » Presentation on Active Travel

Tourism, Recreation, Food and Community Engagement

Cllr Seamus Weir
(Chair - 2 meeting)

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne
(Chair - 2 meeting)

Met 4 times during 2022

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

- » "That the current 2017-2022 Tourism Strategy Statement be reviewed based on progress to date and extended to May 2024."
- » "The Draft Play Strategy 2021-2031 be amended to reflect the provision of 50% of budget towards new facilities and 50% of the budget towards maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities"
- » External Presentation 'Mayo Blueway Concept Paper'
- » External Presentation: 'Developing the Tourism Potential of the marine economy in the Gaeltacht'
- » Review of the AIRES Discovery Trip taken by SPC Members



Downpatrick Head

02

PLANNING, HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNICATIONS AND CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SECTION

- Human Resources
- Castlebar Regional Training Centre
- Corporate Development
- Property, Internal Audit & Organisational Change
- Communications
- Oifig na Gaeilge
- Road Safety Awareness
- Planning Development, Planning Enforcement & Building Control





Human Resources

The Human Resources Section is committed to supporting Mayo County Council in achieving its vision of making Mayo Sustainable, Inclusive, Prosperous and Proud.

Employment in Mayo County Council as of 31st December 2022:

	Total Staff No	Total FTE
Clerical/Admin	383	383
Fulltime Fire Fighters	1	1
Managerial	6	6
Outdoor	426	412
Professional/Technical	217	214
Total Permanent	1,033	993
Contract Posts	32	27
Temporary/Seasonal	7	6
Total Temp	39	33
Total Overall	1,072	1,026

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. There was significant staff movement within the organisation in 2022. There were 120 appointments made during the year (including 65 promotions) along with 35 resignations and 39 retirements. The overall headcount for Mayo County Council remains similar to 2021, however the council has seen a net increase in full-time equivalents, and new flexible working practices put in place during the year. There were 33 recruitment campaigns launched during 2022 by Mayo County Council.

A number of key factors were responsible to driving the staff movements which included (1) A highly competitive labour market with demand for personal across both the public and private sectors; (2) Technical positions have in particular become increasingly difficult to fill - this may be a possible consequence of the reduction in numbers of construction graduates during the recession; (3) The increase in the number of temporary positions funded by central government projects has led to a high level of inter-county and inter-organisation movement and (4) There is a high number of vacancies due to retirements during the year.
2. Blended Working was introduced in Q3 2022 and is now a part of our flexible working policies with flexible options to combine office and home/hub working. There are currently 320 clerical, administrative, professional and technical staff throughout the organisation availing of Blended Working up to two days per week (or pro rata for job sharers) with significant benefits both in terms of time spent commuting and carbon saving.
3. A new Performance Management and Development System was introduced in Q1 2022 for clerical administrative, technical and professional staff focusing on role clarity and staff development.
4. Learning and Development was a major focus in 2022 and Mayo County Council is committed to providing ongoing learning and development opportunities so that all employees can develop to their full potential. Employees are actively encouraged to pursue education opportunities through our Further Education Scheme and other Training opportunities.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 120 appointments (including 62 promotions), 35 resignations and 39 retirements in Mayo County Council in 2022
- 33 recruitment campaigns launched in 2022
- 1029 employees availed of 115 courses during 2022, 56% of which were officers and 44% non-officers

Castlebar Regional Training Centre

Castlebar Regional Training Centre (CRTC) provides workplace training on a shared services basis for 6 Local authorities and other public & private sector organisations in the West and Midlands. Mayo County Council are the lead authority.

Training provided is to the highest standard. The facility has accreditation from SOLAS, QQI, City & Guilds and ECITB. The Centre has high quality procurement, data protection and quality assurance standards. A total of 7378 training days were delivered in 2022 with a turnover of €1,632,249.53, an increase of 44% on 2021.

The centre was established to facilitate the provision of appropriate training to local authorities in key operational areas such as Roads, Water and Environment, Fire Services and more recently Housing and Planning. The Centre also provides a wide range of Occupational Health and Safety, Continuing Professional Development, Leadership and ICT courses.

Work is continuing on the new outdoor training facility at Saleen, Castlebar with a revised expected opening date in Q4 2023. 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 expected to continue to increase, and Castlebar Regional Training Centre looks forward to a very positive future.



Corporate Development

The Corporate Development Section manages a range of services to the public and Councillors and is also responsible for corporate planning and policy. The section provides administrative support for meetings of the Council. Members expenses and remuneration are also managed here.



Corporate Development oversees the Freedom of Information Unit, requests under GDPR, the Ethics and Electoral Registers, Ombudsman Liaison, Customer Services and the administration of the Audit Committee. The Risk Register for the organisation is also maintained by the section and updated on a quarterly basis and the section oversees insurance management including coordination with IPB on insurance claims, court cases and settlements. The section also coordinates the collation of data throughout the organisation for the local government annual performance indicators which are published by the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as part of the annual Local Authority Performance Indicator Report. The 2022 Performance Indicators may be found in Appendix 6 to this report.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mayo County Council is a public body which is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which allows for the right to request access to records. The Freedom of Information unit deals with requests for records held by Mayo County Council from members of the public, journalists and organisations. The Act also requires the publication of disclosure logs, showing non-personal requests made to the Council, and decisions on those requests. The disclosure log is published quarterly on www.mayo.ie. A total of 142 requests were received by Mayo County Council during 2022 with the breakdown of decisions set out in table on the next page:

Table 1: Freedom of Information Activity 2022

Decision	Number
Requests Granted	54
Requests Part-Granted	43
Requests Refused	22
Requests Withdrawn	1
Requests Transferred	0
Requests handled outside FOI Process	22

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), under Article 15, gives individuals the right to request a copy of any of their personal data which are being processed by 'Controllers' (i.e. those who decide how and why data are processed), as well as other relevant information. These requests are often referred to as 'Data Subject Access Requests', or 'Access Requests'. These requests are dealt with by the Data Protection Officer which totalled 13 for 2022.

OMBUDSMAN REFERRALS

There were 20 cases referred by the Office of the Ombudsman to Mayo County Council in 2022.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Mayo County Council values engagement with customers and the customer service team continue to provide efficient answering or referral of queries for customers via the front desk or by phone services. An average of 198 calls daily were fielded in 2022 by the customer service team. The e-mail addresses customerservice@mayococo.ie and info@mayo.ie also continue to be a central point of access to information for customers.

ETHICS FRAMEWORK COMPLIANCE

The Ethics Registrar is responsible for the issue of annual declaration forms to Councillors and relevant employees from which an Ethics Register is compiled and available for public inspection as provided for by the Local Government Act 2001.

The Elected Members are obliged to complete and return Disclosure of Donation Statement under the Local Elections Act 1999. All statements were returned within the deadline date of 31st January 2022.

Property, Internal Audit & Organisational Change

PROPERTY

Mayo County Council holds and manages property assets as a means of responding to and providing for the diverse and evolving needs of the community. The section has responsibility for the management and maintenance of the council's non-residential property portfolio and its aim is to provide strategic management of this portfolio.



The Property section manages the sale, purchase and leasing of strategic assets as identified through regular strategic reviews of the Property Portfolio. The section also implements the First Registration Process for key properties and landbanks that are owned by the council but not registered on Land Direct, the official Property Registration Authority online land registry service. Property related supports and advisory services are provided to other sections within the council including conveyancing of sales, purchases and leases, Section 183 notices, and land related queries.

Facilities Management falls under the remit of the Property section and focuses on the day-to-day maintenance requirements of the Aras an Chontae campus as well as providing advisory support to other corporate offices located around the county. Facilities Management works closely with other sections to assist with the procurement of maintenance related contracts and assisting with compliance to health and safety procedures.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Progressed the disposal of properties with no identified strategic requirement, and the purchase of additional properties for community/amenity use.
2. The Expression of Interest process to advertise the opportunity to lease vacant council owned properties was completed in 2022.
3. Managed the procurement and distribution of office furniture requirements for staff as part of the Blending Working rollout.

INTERNAL AUDIT & ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

The Internal Audit & Organisational Change sections were established in 2022 in order to identify areas of business process improvements internally which will then improve service delivery externally to members of the public. The section assists in mapping and standardising processes, ensuring the council is producing value for money services that provide better customer experiences.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. In partnership with the Information Systems and Innovation section, the capabilities of the online consultation portal were expanded to incorporate an online application portal and a pilot project initiated with the Community Section to begin trialling the new functionality.
2. Initiated a review of the Street Cleaning service provision across the Municipal Districts.
3. A Senior Executive Engineer was appointed to complete a review of all aspects of Mayo County Council's fleet procurement and operations.

Communications

The Communications Department of Mayo County Council had a productive 2022 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.



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 2022 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.
- Running proactive social media campaigns promoting Mayo's involvement in national calls such as Social Inclusion Awareness Week, Water Safety Awareness Week, Cruinniu na nÓg, TikTok Mic Drop, Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, Leave no Trace, Fire Safety Week, Culture Night, To Be Irish at Christmas, Residential Zoned Land Tax, Emergency Accommodation Expressions of Interest and WEE Recycling Events campaigns amongst others.
- 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.

- Mayo Day returned for its eight year on the Saturday of the May bank holiday weekend and for the first time since 2019, it was staged as an in-person event in Castlebar, with music, art, culture and children’s activities spread throughout the town. The theme of Mayo Day 2022 was ‘Home to where the Heart is’ and was the kick-off event for ‘Home to Mayo’, a joint initiative between Mayo County Council, Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs. ‘Home to Mayo’ was a month-long event, which saw a series of events take place right around the county and over 20,000 visitors were welcomed to Mayo over the month. The legacy of ‘Home to Mayo’ will continue to live on through 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 such as the opening of the new Cloongullane Bridge, The Launch of Mayo Social Inclusion Awareness Week, National Women’s Enterprise Day, Age Friendly recognition and achievement awards and National Fire Safety week.
- The Communications Department 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.
- The sustained growth and development of both the Mayo.ie and Mayo County Council social media accounts over several platforms was continued in 2022. This enabled citizens to have a trusted source of all news and announcements from Mayo County Council. Mayo.ie continues to lead the way as the focal point for all things Mayo and a connection point for our Diaspora, with MayoCoCo.ie continuing to receive high engagement due to consistent information disseminated during events like extreme weather spells, road closure announcements, interruptions to water supply and general council services updates.
- Roll out of updated Mayo County Council logo and continued roll out of the updated Mayo County Council branding.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. 2022 marked the inaugural annual Mayo County Council Cathaoirleach’s Awards evening. These new civic awards recognise the dedication and efforts of the many community volunteer groups at work in County Mayo, who were celebrated in an Awards Night in early 2022.
2. Following a competitive call out process, €100,000 in funding was secured through the Fáilte Ireland Global Irish Festival Series for a month-long calendar of events that take place in May 2022 which encouraged our Diaspora to return home to visit Mayo under the Home to Mayo Initiative. Over 20,000 visitors travelled home to enjoy more than 26 events that took place county wide with visitors coming from as far as New York and Dubai.
3. Six Mayo County Council initiatives were shortlisted as finalists for the 2022 LAMA Awards which took place in May 2023.
 - Best Green Sustainable initiative - Martin Neary Woodland
 - Community Volunteer of the year - Brendan Duffy, Westport Men’s Sheds
 - Best Community Transport Initiative - Local Link Mayo
 - Best Business working with the Community - IWAK
 - Best Trail in Ireland - Clew Bay Bike Trail
 - Best Tourism Initiative - Home to Mayo 2022

Mayo County Council were awarded Council of the Year on the evening to highlight and recognise the stellar work undertaken county wide throughout the year.
4. Mayo County Council were named as Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards winners in the Climate Change Award category for the Mayo Decarbonising Communities Network Project and the Supporting Tourism Award for the Clew Bay Bike Trail. Mayo County Council was also nominated in the Health and Wellbeing category for the Activator Walking with Poles/Fitstick Trail Project.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- The Mayo.ie website had a total of 1,003,023 page visits in 2022.
 - Social Media followers increased by 8% from 2021.
- | #MayoDay metrics | #HomeToMayo Metrics |
|---|---|
| • Overall reach of campaign estimated at 22.1 Million people. | • Overall reach of campaign estimated at 17.6 Million people. |
| • 28,300 Individual interactions. | • 24,800 Individual interactions. |
| • More than 24,000 likes on social media. | • More than 20,000 likes on social media. |
| • Engagements from 36 countries worldwide. | • Engagements from 20 countries worldwide. |
| • Overwhelming positive sentiment. | • Over 13,000 visitors to Home to Mayo website. |

Oifig na Gaeilge

Oifig na Gaeilge seeks to sustain and advance the use of Irish in County Mayo and to ensure Mayo County Council meets its Irish language obligations.



Oifig na Gaeilge works closely with Irish language and cultural partners to promote and facilitate the use of the language in the Mayo Gaeltacht and across the wider county. Through inclusive community-focused events, the office aims to raise awareness of the rich linguistic heritage we have in Mayo and to create connections between Irish-speakers and learners across the county.

Oifig na Gaeilge also facilitates and supports the implementation of the Official Languages Acts and related legislation within Mayo County Council. This includes informing staff of language obligations, managing translation provision, providing linguistic and placename advice, and ensuring certain publications, digital content, forms, advertisements etc. are available in both official languages.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting the Irish language and supporting our Gaeltacht areas

1. Lá Mhaigh Eo celebrated in Castlebar with modern retelling of the story of Gráinne Mhaol.
2. Gaeilge Iorrais and Ciorcal Comhrá Chaisleán an Bharraigh recognised for their contribution to the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and in the wider county at the inaugural Cathaoirleach's awards.

3. Muintir Mhaigh Eo Mayo gathering organised at the Oireachtas na Samhna Irish-language festival, to raise awareness of the Mayo Gaeltacht and foster connections between our three Gaeltacht areas.
4. Regular engagement maintained with Irish Languages Officers, community organisations and state bodies throughout the year to support implementation of Irish Language Plans in the Gaeltacht and in Gaeltacht Services Towns.

Progress under Official Languages Act and Irish Language Legislation

1. Appointment of new Irish Language Officer in August 2022.
2. Compliance mapping completed in October 2022 and actions identified to facilitate implementation of Official Languages Act 2021.
3. Approach adopted to meet Irish language advertising targets laid down in Section 10(A) of the Official Languages Act 2021.
4. Representative nominated by Mayo County Council to Údarás na Gaeltachta under Section 16 of the Gaeltacht Act 2012.
5. Staff survey conducted in December 2022 to identify staff competent in Irish and interest in Irish language training.
6. Range of publications and content produced bilingually in line with the Official Languages Act and our Language Scheme.
7. Educational material and compliance guidance developed and circulated via staff intranet.
8. Compliance support provided by Oifig na Gaeilge to multiple areas across Mayo County Council including the Arts, Office, Planning, Corporate Development and Communications, Mayo PPN, Municipal Districts and others.



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 Roadshow

Mayo Road Safety Working Group organises the annual Mayo Road Safety Roadshow in conjunction with Axa. This has been running since 2007, attracting audiences in excess of 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 first-hand 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.

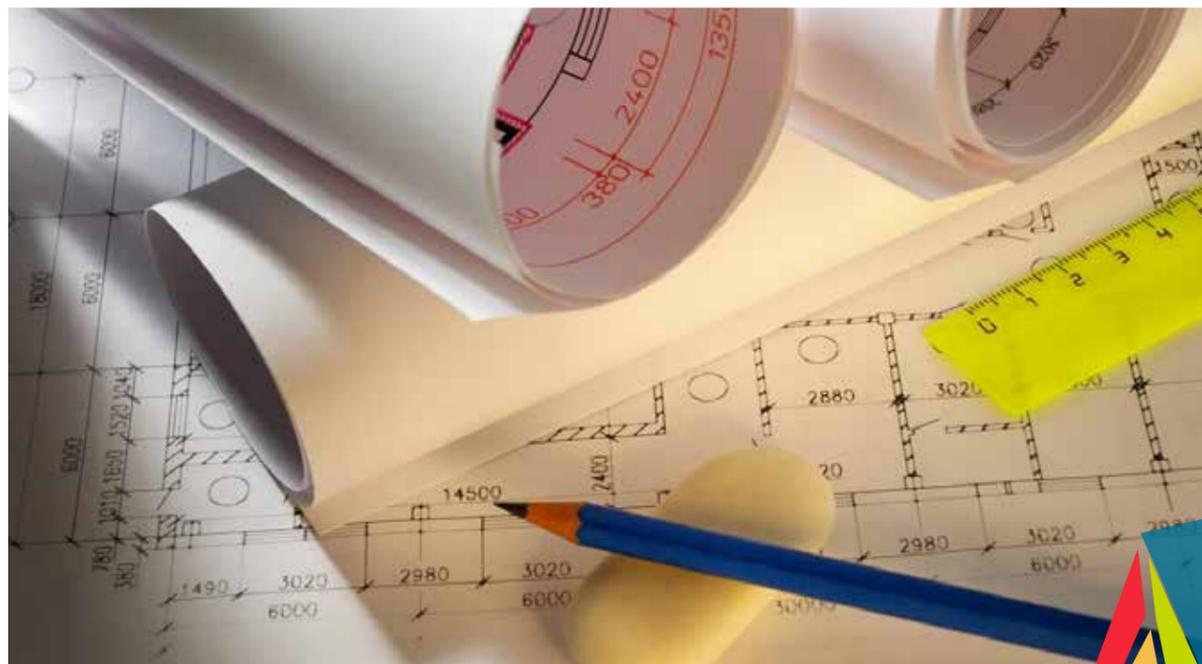
General Promotion of Road Safety Through Local Media

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
2015	13
2016	4
2017	12
2018	9
2019	3
2020	5
2021	3
2022	5

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.



The breakdown of applications is detailed below:

Description of Activity	2021	2022	+/- on previous year	%
Pre-planning Consultation Applications	301	126	(175-)	-58%
Pre-Planning Appointments at Clinics 9/02/22-31/12/22	0	552	(552+)	
Valid Planning Applications	1433	1184	(249-)	-17%
Decisions to Refuse	84	79	(5-)	-6%
Decisions to Grant Permission	1196	1011	(185-)	-15%
Decisions appeals to An Bord Pleanala	55	35	(20-)	-36%
Decision by Mayo County Council confirmed by ABP	29	18	(11-)	-38%
Decisions by Mayo County Council reversed by ABP	7	4	(3-)	-43%

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Introduction of E-Planning in Mayo: The processing of Planning Applications in Ireland is moving towards a paperless & environmentally friendly domain where applicants have 24/7/365 access to their planning applications, following the introduction of the Local Government Online Planning Portal, which was designed to streamline the processing of planning applications across all Local Authorities in Ireland. E-Planning involves the submission & processing of Planning Applications exclusively in an electronic format, and was introduced in Mayo in November 2022, as part of Phase 1 of the roll-out of E-Planning nationally, under the stewardship of the LGMA. This new approach to dealing with Planning matters offers planning authorities, Planning Agents, applicants, and the public numerous advantages collectively over the processing of hardcopy applications.
2. Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020: Extension of duration of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied) in order to provide a further period of time until the adoption and coming into effect of the new Mayo County Development Plan (March 2022).
3. Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028: The Mayo County Development Plan was adopted by the Members of Mayo County Council in June 2022 and came into effect in August 2022. The Mayo County Development Plan provides a sustainable framework for economic, social and sustainable development of the County over the plan period. The Mayo County Development Plan was subject to a Ministerial Direction, which was confirmed in December 2022.
4. Publication of the Draft Maps for the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) for County Mayo (November 2022). The RZLT is a land active measure set out in the Government's national housing plan (Housing for All) aimed at activating appropriately zoned lands for the delivery of future homes.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 35 appeals to An Bord Pleanála resulted from decisions made by Mayo County Council. Of the 35 decisions appealed, 4 were reversed by the Board.
- 1011 Decisions to Grant planning permission issued during 2022. 79 Decisions to Refuse planning permission issued during the year.
- 552 Pre-Planning appointments at Clinics.
- 1184 valid Planning Applications were received during 2022, a decrease of 249 on 2021.

Planning Enforcement & Building Control

Mayo County Council is the planning enforcement authority for the administrative area of County Mayo. The main function of the Planning Enforcement Section 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 2022 Planning Enforcement Section is set out below.

Table 1: Planning Enforcement Activity from 2018 to 2022

Description of Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of new complaints	131	129	151	210	150
Number of complaints resolved	83	52	89	72	70
Number of complaints dismissed	22	23	29	29	31
Number of Warning Letters issued	89	77	99	134	109
Number of Enforcement Notices issued	20	5	18	16	10
Number of files with County Council Solicitor	40	47	51	50	56
Number of prosecutions	0	0	1	0	0

BUILDING CONTROL

Mayo County Council is the Building Control Authority for the administrative area of County Mayo. Duties include the regulatory oversight of the Building Control system, and market surveillance under the European Union Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations and the European Union Construction Products Regulations.

This incorporates the assessment for validation of Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion, the assessment of Disability Access Certificate applications and applications for a Dispensation/Relaxation in the Building Regulations. A summary of activity in relation to applications is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Disability Access Certificate Applications 2018 - 2022

Building Regulations are made for specific purposes, e.g. to provide, in relation to buildings, for

Description of Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
DAC Applications	81	81	56	73	57
Valid DAC Applications	71	78	52	68	57
Invalid DAC Applications	10	3	4	5	0
No of DAC applications where the applicant was invited to submit additional information	23	23	20	-	0
No of DAC applications where the prescribed maximum period of time for considering applications was extended	6	9	12	0	0
No of Disability Access Certificates issued	74	76	50	75	57
Within two months	69	66	34	75	37
Greater than 2 months	5	10	16	0	20
Granted with conditions	51	53	33	42	19
Granted without conditions	23	23	17	33	38

Description of Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of DAC applications refused	0	0	0	0	0
Dispensation/Relaxation Applications	7	4	3	1	0
Dispensations/Relaxations Granted	6	5	2	1	0

the health safety and welfare of persons, the conservation of fuel and energy and access for all. Building Control Inspections are carried out on a limited number of buildings as identified by valid Commencement Notices lodged, the purpose of which is to perform spot checks on compliance with the Building Regulations. Most breaches of the regulations are addressed through protracted negotiations. On occasion it is necessary to instigate legal enforcement proceedings. A summary of activity in relation to Commencement Notices processed and Building Control Inspections is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Building Control Commencement Notices and Inspection Activity 2017 -2021

Commencement Notices	Number of Buildings				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New	511	550	433	498	537
Extensions	107	104	101	121	81
Change of Use	13	18	9	18	14
Material Alteration	22	28	14	22	22
Total	653	700	557	659	654

Inspections / Enforcements	Number of Buildings				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of new buildings inspected	59	77	56	100	42
Number of inspections carried out including multiple inspections of the same building	248	315	395	511	387
Number of buildings covered by valid CN where information/documents were requested	75	78	22	69	18
Number of Enforcement Notices served	0	0	0	0	0

Other appraisals carried out include assessments of BER's, Sound Test Reports, Air Tightness Reports and Certificates of Compliance on Completion. A summary this activity is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Other Appraisals

Description of Activity	Number of Certificates/Reports				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Certificates of Compliance on Completion assessed	98	132	137	122	148
Number of Sound Test Results assessed	Statistics not noted	15	39	59	53
Number of Air Tightness Results assessed		87	180	158	101
Number of BER's assessed		80	178	162	106
Number of Ventilation Certificates assessed		15	39	59	29



Ballyhaunis Town

03

ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM

IN THIS SECTION

- Community Engagement
- Mayo County Childcare Committee
- Mayo Sports Partnership
- Local Enterprise Office
- Economic Development
- Tourism, Recreation & Amenity
- Broadband & Digital Development Unit
- Mayo Art Service
- Mayo County Library



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.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Education, Training and Skills Working Group of the LCDC delivered two webinars: “What students need to know”, and “Without Volunteers, We Are Nothing”.
2. The theme for Mayo Social Inclusion Awareness Week (MSIAW) 2022 was “Arts as a Social Inclusion Tool”. Over 40 events took place throughout the County and the LCDC’s Mayo Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2026 was officially launched during this week.
3. The “Mayo Says No to Racism Group” aims to make County Mayo “A No Racism” zone. During 2022 the group participated in Mayo Day celebrations by producing an online programme; delivered a monthly anti-racism message; and worked with the Irish Traveller Movement to establish the Yellow Flag Schools Programme in two schools in Mayo. The Yellow Flag Schools Programme is a whole school approach to tackling racism.
4. The Healthy Ireland Round 3 Programme concluded, works included 14 actions and saw a total spend of €409,047.3. A new 3-year plan and Programme of Works for Healthy Ireland Round 4 2022 - 2025 was developed.

5. A Healthy Mayo Communications Plan was developed at the start of 2022.
6. Mayo Comhairle na nÓg (CNN) members visited Dáil na nÓg in the Convention Centre in March; a Mayo CNN member was elected on the National Executive; works continued on creating awareness on Hidden Disabilities including the production of a leaflet on young people’s working rights. The AGM of Mayo CNN was held in October with 138 young people from 16 different schools across Mayo in attendance.
7. Kilmovee Community Centre and Achill Tourism took part in the National Pride of Place Awards 2022, with Achill Tourism receiving the runner-up prize in their category.
8. The Age Friendly Strategy 2022 - 2026 was launched, setting out actions for delivery under 8 main themes including Housing, Transportation and Social Participation. These actions will be delivered by the Age Friendly Alliance and Mayo’s Older Person Council.
9. In 2022 Ireland West Airport Knock with Shannon Airport were jointly launched by Minister Hildegard Naughton in Ireland West Airport Knock as the first airports in the world to achieve Age Friendly status. Both airports also won an Age Friendly Recognition Award.
10. Mayo PPN developed a Community Wellbeing Vision Statement for County Mayo in order to identify what the collective vision and priorities are for the county and on how we can make Mayo the best possible place to live, work, and invest. The Statement is at draft stage and will be launched in 2023.
11. Mayo PPN developed a Community Interactive Map - This map will showcase community groups location and list each group’s services and amenities. The Interactive map is displayed on the PPN website, www.mayoppn.ie.

MAYO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):

The LCDC, a Committee of Statutory and Non-Statutory Members, met on 10 occasions in 2022 and comprises 4 working groups: Training, Education & Skills; Health & Wellbeing; Social Inclusion & Community Development; Heritage, Environment, Language & Culture - which operate as part of LCDC structures.

During 2022, Mayo LCDC continued to monitor and implement the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) through these 4 working groups.

The LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding in County Mayo i.e. SICAP and LEADER Programmes.

SICAP 2018-2022 Programme:	Rural Development Programme LEADER:
Mayo LCDC has a management and oversight function in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2022 (SICAP). This is a national programme which aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion, and long-term unemployment.	The LEADER Programme provides support to rural communities across the European Union to actively engage and to direct the local development of their area, through community-led local development.

SICAP 2018-2022 Programme:	Rural Development Programme LEADER:
South West Mayo Development Company (SWMDC) is contracted to deliver the SICAP in Lot 29-1 Mayo Islands and Lot 29-3 Castlebar and Claremorris Municipal Districts.	LEADER is a bottom-up approach to delivering support to communities under the national Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Grants are awarded by Local Action Groups (LAGs) to projects that support delivery of a Locally prepared Development Strategy under 3 main themes: Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation, Social Inclusion and Rural Environment.
Mayo North East LEADER Partnership (MNELP) is contracted to deliver the SICAP programme in Lot 29-2 - Ballina and West Mayo Municipal Districts.	
In 2022 €1.4 million was spent on this programme in Mayo. An additional €180,000 from the Department was made available in response to those arriving from Ukraine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayo LCDC led LAG is the final decision-making body for LEADER allocations. • Mayo LAG met 9 times in 2022. • LEADER Project Approvals - 34 Projects to value of €1,686,095.58 • LEADER Project Claims - 89 claims to value of €2,469,424.73

MAYO COMMUNITY FUTURES

Mayo Community Futures is a bottom up, community led process through which communities develop a 5-year Community Action Plan for their community.

To date 35 plans have been developed and 17 communities have renewed their plans. In 2022 new communities Aughagower, Ballintubber and Ballyheane launched their plans, Mulranny completed and launched their second renewal plan, Straide launched their renewal plan and Ballinrobe began their Community Futures plan.

The Mayo Traveller Community Futures Plan process also began in 2022.



MAYO UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The Mayo Ukrainian Community Response group has active representation from Mayo Volunteer Centre, Mayo County Council, An Garda Síochána, Túsla, PPN, Citizens Information Centre, Local Link, Local Development Companies and Age Friendly Mayo.

This group met fortnightly to coordinate local efforts to welcome new arrivals from Ukraine into the County. The focus has been primarily on the key issues of accommodation, welfare supports and health care services. The group have also responded to co-ordinate the community and voluntary sector response to the integration supports and social supports which is required for the Ukrainian population in the medium and longer term. Examples of these responses include supports and information promoted via the forum and mayo.ie / MayoPPN and providing Health and Well-Being supports.

MAYO JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

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. Mayo's Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Strategic plan was approved in 2022. Theme's developed under this plan were:

1. Community Engagement
2. Traffic and Road Safety
3. Crime and Drugs
4. Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour



Sub-committee's for Community Engagement and Crime and Drugs were established in 2022. Sub-committee's for Traffic and Road Safety and Public Order / Anti-Social Behaviour will be established in 2023. These groups are comprised of JPC members and will work towards delivering on actions set out in the Strategic Plan.

The JPC had four meetings in 2022.



Mayo County Childcare Committee

Mayo County Childcare Committee (MCCC) 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.

The key focus of MCCC is to support and assist families and early learning and care and school age childcare providers with childcare matters at local level. MCCC works to coordinate the delivery of national childcare programmes and policy at local level and to support and facilitate the development of quality, accessible early learning and care and school age childcare services for the overall benefit of children and their parents by taking a child centred and partnership approach.

MCCC provides information, support, mentoring and guidance about National Childcare Funding and related programmes to parents, early years/school aged childcare services and local agencies which provide financial and educational support to these groups.

Programmes supported include the National Childcare Scheme; the Free Pre-School Year scheme (ECCE); the Community Childcare Subvention Programme (CCSP); Access Inclusion Measure (AIM), a programme designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access ECCE free preschool scheme; Aistear and Siolta, the National Quality and Curriculum Frameworks for Early Years; Parent & Toddler Grant Schemes; Childminding Development Grant Schemes and Learner Fund Bursaries.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Supporting the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Affairs (DCEDIY) with the introduction of Core Funding for the sector. This Core Funding is a new strand of funding to Early Learning and School Aged Childcare services which will form part of the new national funding model.
2. Supported ELC and SAC services throughout the county to contract into the new national Core Funding scheme.

3. Providing key Ukrainian Crisis Supports in response to the start of the war in March 2022. MCCC provided information on childcare funding, access to childcare and preschool places, training, qualification assessments, guidance with applications and translations etc. Staff also worked collaboratively with Mayo North East Partnership to employ 3 support workers. Stay and Play sessions were organised in accommodation centres around the county for children. Parent and Toddler groups were supported to expand and invite parents and children from these new communities.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 132 Early Years services, 65 School Age Childcare services, 72 childminders and all childcare businesses throughout the county were supported by Mayo County Childcare Committee.
- 2974 Children supported through national funding schemes, training, mentoring and quality initiatives.
- 118 children in 9 preschools benefitted from participation in the Soundworlds early years music programme.
- 28147 support actions delivered in 2022 including calls, emails, information sessions, meetings, onsite visits, training, presentations, mentoring supports and one to one workshops.
- Provision of 664 supports in relation to the Ukrainian crisis in terms of Stay and Play session, info sessions for parents, funding supports for Parent and Toddler groups





Mayo Sports Partnership

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

Core funded by Sport Ireland and hosted locally by Mayo County Council the Partnership has three main functions:

- Information - One stop shop for sport in Mayo.
- Education - Provide quality opportunities for training courses for volunteers held locally.
- Implementation - To develop sports policy within the county through a strategic plan for sport in Mayo and select participation programmes to suit local needs.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. MSP General Participation & Education Programmes - Couch to 5K, Men on the Move, Open Water Swimming, Family Start Box at Home, Fit4Work, Marathon Kids, GAA for All, Safeguarding, Disability Inclusion, Youth Sport Leader were delivered in 2022.
2. Over 1,000 participants took part in the 2022 Mayo Sports Partnership organised "Mayo.ie Western People West of Ireland Women's Mini Marathon" on May 1st with over 600 participating in the Primary Schools Mini Mini 2K Fun Run.
3. Mayo Sports Partnership were awarded the National Xcessible Silver Award for sports inclusion by CARA, the body responsible for disability sport in Ireland.
4. October 2022 Mayo Sports Partnership launched its Club Volunteer Support Initiative with a suite of subsidised training including Coaching Children, Safeguarding, Disability Inclusion and Sport Webinars.

5. Mayo Sports Partnerships Older Adult Activator Poles Walking Programme was officially launched in February 2022, with 350 participants in 19 programmes countywide.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 885 people participated in 21 Operation Transformation events in January 2022
- 63 Mayo projects were allocated close to €5m in government Sports Capital funding, the majority of whom were assisted in their applications by Mayo Sports Partnership
- 88 Sports Clubs & Community Groups were allocated a total of €107,503 under Mayo Sports Partnerships 2022 Return to Sport Small Grant Scheme
- Community Sports Hubs in Ballinrobe /Ballyhaunis and Outdoor Hubs in Castlebar and Ballina delivered 40 events targeting approx. 600 from hard to reach groups
- Campaigns in 2022 included: Bike Week (26 events - 600 participants), European Week of Sport (32 events- 540 participants), Sports Ability Week for People With a Disability (20 events - 200 participants), HER Outdoors Week (26 events - 260 participants), Women in Sport Week, Social Inclusion Awareness Week, Winter 2022 Get Active Campaign





Local Enterprise Office

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

In Mayo, the LEO operates as a First Stop Shop to deliver support and services to start, grow and develop micro and small businesses. In addition, the LEO promotes awareness and works to develop an enterprise culture and contributes to general economic development.

In 2022 LEO Mayo focused on assisting the business community to recover from the aftermath of COVID-19, and to address the challenges of escalating energy and inflation costs. This involved the administration and management of initiatives such as financial supports, training programmes, and ongoing mentoring and consultancy to provide the most up-to-date support in areas such as LEAN, sustainability and the green economy, and digitalisation to support businesses in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Rothlú, Hawthorn Handmade Skincare, Gerry Whelan Design, Herbal Earth Skincare, Lou Brennan, ArdaLume and Babyboss all exhibited at the Local Enterprise Showcase, part of Showcase 2022, that saw over 4,000 buyers from retailers across the globe attend the four-day event which is one of the industry's largest international trade fairs.
2. Local Enterprise Week took place in March with over 220 events taking place across the country. In Mayo, several online workshops and an in-person networking breakfast, which looked at how businesses can lower operating costs by adopting renewable energy technologies and driving efficiencies in business, took place during the week.
3. Cubbie, who were supported by Local Enterprise Office Mayo, were winners at the 2022 National Enterprise Awards taking home the Innovation Award. The installation, which

is in over 200 schools across Ireland, enables students with neurodiversity or sensory challenges to regulate their senses with a bespoke programme to ensure their learning and academic experience is not adversely affected.

4. 954 students from post primary schools throughout Mayo took part in the virtual County Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme in March. In the Senior Category of the competition, the winners were Jamie Ginty, Dylan Guthrie, Sean McNamara & Diarmuid Cooney from Achill Seaweed Soak at Coláiste Pobail Acla. In the Intermediate Category, Christopher O'Donnell, Dylan Ruane & Kasey Ruane from "Smart Sensor Switch" in St Jospeh's Foxford were the winners. In the Junior Category, Evan O Malley, Dylan Sheridan and Dylan Murphy from "Seasonal Timber Products" at St Tiernan's College Crossmolina were the winners. All three category winners represented Mayo in the national finals.
5. Collins Plastics, based in Ballina, exhibited their business to almost 300,000 people at the National Ploughing Championships as part of the Local Enterprise Village.
6. LEO Mayo hosted a regional event to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day in October. The theme of the event was 'Our Future, Our Way' and featured speakers, panellists, and highlighted female entrepreneurs from across the West region.
7. Blas na hÉireann 2022 took place in September and there were 10 Finalists from Mayo with 8 businesses taking home 11 awards in total. O'Hara's Bakery of Foxford won the Best in Mayo award. The Blas na hÉireann awards are the all-island food awards that recognise the very best Irish food and drink products, and the passionate people behind them.
8. As part of the first National Digital Day, LEO Mayo hosted an event 'Digitalisation for small businesses: what is it and how can it increase profitability?'. The event featured experts in the digitalisation space and clients who are on their digital journey.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- €499,557.30 Capital grants approved for client businesses
- 318 Clients received free mentoring services
- 835 Clients participated in subsidised training programmes & networking events
- 55 Trading Online Vouchers approved at a value of over €110,000
- 7 Microfinance Ireland applications facilitated by LEO Mayo
- 7 Companies completed a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert
- 3 Companies completed a Digital Start Assessment by a Digitalisation Expert
- 6 Companies undertook a Green for Micro programme
- 17 Schools from around the county participated in the Student Enterprise Programme



Economic Development

The Enterprise & Economic Development Unit promotes the overall economic development of County Mayo and delivering innovative initiatives that strategically showcase Mayo as a destination of choice for businesses and investors.

2022 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Significant support was given to the application from Ireland West Airport Knock to the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme. Feasibility Funding was granted which will allow work to commence on a larger scale funding application in 2023 to begin the development of a pilot project at the Strategic Development Zone at the airport.
- Mayo County Council partnered with the Mayo Chambers on various initiatives throughout the year including the Mayo Business Awards 2022 which took place in April where 21 businesses received awards. The objective of the Awards, which are a collaboration between the Mayo Chambers and other local business organisations and Mayo County Council through the LEO, is to recognise business excellence across the whole of Mayo.
- The ongoing delivery of the Reboot programme, a regional collaboration designed to assist in the recovery of rural businesses and social enterprises in the aftermath of the pandemic and Brexit-related economic disruption, continued throughout 2022.
- The Mayo Food & Drink Network continued to provide sectoral specific training and networking events throughout 2022. The Network & related programme provided free and easy access to training, mentoring, and information supports for Mayo food and drink businesses. The final event 'The Mayo Food & Drink Showcase; Meet the Buyer' included keynote speaker Artie Clifford, Founder and Chair of Blas na hÉireann, the Irish Food Awards, panel discussions and networking opportunities.
- As part of the 2022 Mayo Ideas Week LEO Mayo hosted events on sustainability, export, and the flagship 'Meet Mayo' event – a business-to-business networking event at Ballinrobe Racecourse with over 60 businesses and 140 people attending on the day.



Tourism, Recreation & Amenity

The Tourism, Recreation and Amenity Unit aims to position County Mayo as a high-quality tourism and recreational destination of choice for visitors and locals through the implementation of the County Mayo Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programmes.

Central to this work, is development of the following key pillars:

- Destination Marketing
- High Quality Infrastructure & Facilities
- Industry and Community Collaboration
- World Class Experiences

Throughout 2022, Mayo County Council, working with Industry, agencies and communities undertook the following development initiatives:

- National and local promotional campaigns (TV, radio, digital) promoting key visitor towns for accommodation and outdoor activities and attractions including Wild Atlantic Way, Croagh Patrick, Great Western Greenway, Islands and Walking Trails.
- Supporting the production of RTE programmes such as “Neven Maguire’s Irish Greenway Trails” (Great Western Greenway) and RTE Nationwide – (Clew Bay Bike Trail).
- Destination marketing campaign including a nine-page feature on Inishturk and the Clew Bay Islands in an international publication titled “Ireland of the Welcomes”.
- Continuing to Build on the island-hopping experience – Clew Bay Bike trail – which through engagement with ferry companies led to a new scheduled service linking Achill Island, Clare Island and Roonagh during 2022.
- Ongoing development of the Clew Bay Destination and Visitor Experience Development Plan.
- Participation at International Tourism Trade Events – Milwaukee Irish Fest.



PROJECT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Work continued during 2022 on the planning and delivery of 32 capital projects including the following key projects:

Bangor Trail - Substantial improvements have been carried with works consisting of path improvements, rest areas and the installation of a 400m linear Boardwalk.

Turlough - A new Greenway access point was developed in Turlough village consisting of a new bridge installation and a 400 metres access link of a dedicated path for walking and cycling.

Clew Bay Greenway - Murrisk to Bertra - This section of the Clew Bay Trail linking Murrisk village with Bertra involved the construction of a new coastal Greenway over a 2.6km distance.

Bowers Way - Completion of the newly developed 6km Bowers Way, which utilises the existing Bowers towpath, a tree lined avenue, traverses alongside the river Robe and incorporates a new woodland section at Creagh. A new trailhead has also been established to facilitate access to the trail.

Bonniconlon Loop Walk - Substantial improvements have been carried out to the Bonniconlon Loop Walk including the installation of public lighting at the trailhead and of a 100m boardwalk over rough terrain.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. The team at the Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex welcomed An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to the Complex during the year.
2. New Fit Sticks Trails were developed at Doega, Deserted Village and at Rathlackan.
3. Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex experienced its first uninterrupted year operationally since first opening the doors in April 2019. The Complex was awarded the Outstanding Standard Award at the Ireland Active National Quality Standard awards ceremony for a second year in a row. The Complex was also recognised as a Regional Centre for high-performance competitive swimming with 4 main Regional Connaught Swim GALAs being held here this year as well as the Swim Connacht Regional Skills Academy training and coaching sessions taking place on a regular basis during the season.
4. New Croagh Patrick Virtual Reality Experience developed and is now available to use at the Mulranny Activity Services Centre located on the Great Western Greenway.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 5km of New Greenway under construction at Achill Sound
- 2.6km of a new Greenway developed at Murrisk
- Completion of a new 1.4km section of the Monasteries Trail
- New 6km Bowers Way, extending from Ballinrobe - Lough Mask
- 5 Beach Wheelchairs provided between Carrownisky, Old Head, Doogort & Keel
- €30,750 funding under the Regional Festivals Participative Fund distributed to 16 festival promoters
- Funding of €836,877 was allocated under ORIS for a total of 9 Projects



Broadband & Digital Development Unit

The Broadband and Digital Development Unit of Mayo County Council continued to work on enhancing Digital Connectivity in the county and assisting with the rollout of the National Broadband Plan in Mayo.

In 2022, National Broadband Ireland (NBI) completed network builds in Ballina and Castlebar as part of the roll out of the National Broadband Plan (NBP).

Mayo Digital Access:

- 16 Broadband Connection Points
- 9 Public Wi-Fi Towns
- 20 Co-working/Digital Hubs
- Public Libraries

2022 KEY PROJECTS

1. Clare Island e-Health project, in collaboration with NUIG, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), HSE, Cisco, Mayo County Council and the community of Clare Island, will enhance digital health infrastructure to improve patient care in rural locations.
2. Funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and Mayo County Council, the OurKidsCode Program was successfully completed in three Mayo Broadband Connection Points - Clogher, Bofeenau and Islandeady. The project focus is around Creative Computing for Families.
3. The Clare Island Connected Hub project was completed in Q4 2022 in collaboration with the DRCD, Western Development Commission (WDC) and Mayo County Council. This project brings a state-of-the-art digital hub to the island that facilitates remote working and is a key enabler to sustaining the island population and its future economic growth.



Mayo Arts Service

Mayo County Council Arts Service is responsible for the planning and delivery of services to support the development the arts in Mayo. The service works with artists, festivals, venues and community groups and impacted on the lives of at least 200,000 people who access the services' direct supports (grants, training, information) and who attend events organised or funded through the arts service.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. In the Open | Faoin Spéir, an Arts Council funded programme developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis for 2021 & 2022, saw a variety of outdoor arts events taking place around Ireland. The project FOLKLIFE was delivered by a local partnership between Mayo County Council Arts Service and the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Linenhall Arts Centre and Mayo Artsquad. It was curated by Culture Works. The programme consisted of artist residencies alongside a multi-disciplinary programme of high-quality, inclusive and engaging arts events and interventions.
2. As part of Mayo County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022, the Arts Service in partnership with the Jackie Clarke Collection provided a 6-month residency to visual artist Shane Finan. The artwork, Assembly, is a blended 'future museum' of north County Mayo.
3. Two phases of the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme were offered in 2022 and assisted Mayo based producers, promoters, community and arts organisations and venues to provide support for live performance in Mayo.
4. The Invitation to Collaboration: Art in the Landscape partnership project with Offaly County Council and Visual Artists Ireland continued in 2022. The partners worked with Studio Response to curate and produce an on-line seminar exploring themes and concepts relating to Art in the Landscape. Further funding secured further support from the Art Council to support two artist commissions and a hedge School event which will take place in 2023. The project was featured in the Arts Council's Places Matter Seminar Programme.



2022 IN NUMBERS

- 163 events (online & in person) were organised by the Arts Service in 2022 which provided employment for 111 artists.
- Mayo Artsquad supported 15 groups, festivals and organisations in the county with prop-making, costume design and workshop support.
- Almost 1800 older people engaged with our Arts & Older People Programme - including the annual Bealtaine programme.
- 139 individuals engaged (online & in person) with the Professional Development Programme.
- Film Mayo assisted 26 productions with information and advice in 2022.
- As part of the In the Open, 83 artists and 11 arts professionals were supported to make performance outdoors for an audience of 450 people.
- Poetry Day Ireland in partnership with Mid-West Radio had a listenership of over 49,000 people.
- 28 venues took part in Culture Night 2022, with over 6,000 online and live engagements for the evening's culturally diverse programme.
- Venue partnership funding totalling €143,500 was provided to 6 arts venues. These venues collectively had audiences, both online and actual, of almost 87,000 for their programmes and events.
- Provided 35 Mayo Artist Bursaries; 2 Drama League of Ireland Bursaries, 3 Tyrone Guthrie Regional Bursaries, 2 Youth Theatre Bursaries, 1 National Mentoring Programme Award, 1 Platform 31 Award, 6 UPSTART Arts & Disability Awards, 28 Culture Night Event Grants and 12 grants to community-led Arts Festivals & Events through the Arts Act Grants.
- Local Live Performance Programming Scheme supported 55 events providing employment for 365 performers and 203 live events industry professionals in the county with an audience of over 10,000 people.



Mayo County Library

Mayo libraries attract around 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.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Every child in Mayo that started school in September received a library Playschool Book Bag, which included stories about starting school, tips and guidelines for parents, and a wallet for their library card. Each child was encouraged to join the library, in order to develop a lifelong love of reading. More than 1,400 bags were given out and almost 800 children signed up for their first library card.
2. There was huge ongoing demand for the Sensory Cubbie in Castlebar Library for people with special sensory needs, both from families and class groups. In addition, a Sensory Cubbie was officially launched by Minister Dara Calleary, TD in Swinford Library and a Sensory Room was officially launched by Cathaoirleach of Ballina Municipal District Mark Duffy in Ballina Library.
3. Fighting Words teenage writing workshops ran monthly in Castlebar Library.
4. Time to Read partnership took place with St. Patrick's Boy's National School in Castlebar with 11 council staff volunteering to read with second class students weekly.
5. Mayo County Library welcomed our Ukrainian friends throughout the year through the provision of books, internet access, and most importantly a warm, safe space.
6. The Music Generation Roadshow attended Ballina and Belmullet libraries and over 60 children got the opportunity to try out various musical instruments.
7. A programme was initiated to restore Claremorris library graveyard site.

8. The Creative Ireland Community Grant Scheme was rolled out throughout county with over 30 groups and communities being funded.
9. Talks and events took place in libraries as part of the Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme which aims to improve the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of communities and individuals.
10. A partnership between Mayo Library and the HSE in Mayo University Hospital saw a display of library Healthy Ireland titles in the foyer of the hospital, inviting visitors to 'browse here and borrow from your library.'
11. The Decade of Centenaries programme was rolled out culminating in a major Civil War seminar in October.



THE JACKIE CLARKE COLLECTION

10 years of the Walled Garden was marked with an open day of music, circus and heritage events. A War of Independence Booklet was published on the war in Mayo.

Artist in Residence for the Decade of Centenaries, Shane Finan, created a project based on items from the collection which was launched in November.

An exhibition of original items relating to the Civil War was officially opened at the Jackie Clarke Collection by Cllr. Seamus Weir.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- Almost 400,000 books were borrowed in Mayo Libraries in 2022
- 235 Little Library Bags of books were distributed to preschools and after-school childcare facilities from their nearest library branch
- 1,432 children read 5,979 books as part of the Summer Stars programme
- 492 Musical instruments were lent throughout the year through the Musical Instrument Lending Scheme
- Almost 2,000 children attended 64 events which were held throughout Mayo with authors, illustrators and story-tellers during the Children's Book Festival
- Over 500 children attended events throughout the county as part of the Cruinniú na Nóg Festival of Creativity in June
- 27,372 visitors to Jackie Clarke Collection in 2022





Ballina

04

HOUSING, ROADS & SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SECTION

Housing
Roads Transportation and Safety
Architects
Mayo Heritage Office
Procurement and Efficiency Review Unit



2022 IN NUMBERS

- 367 housing solutions delivered in 2022 with included 91 new builds.
- 1,986 households supported by RAS and HAP by the end of 2022.
- 374 households supported under the Leasing programme in Mayo by the end of 2022.
- Total homeless presentations in 2022 was 134.
- 8 Mortgage to Rent applications were received and approved during 2022. Total of 38 Mortgage to Rent cases approved by the end of 2022.
- 4 individuals appointed tenants and in receipt of wrap around services under the Housing First Programme in 2022.
- 181 expression of interest for Repair and Lease with 5 Agreements signed.
- 282 expression of interest under Croi Conaithe with 41 applications in 2022.
- 248 vacant properties registered, reviewed and follow up in 2022.
- 258 sites on Derelict Site Register reviewed and followed up with all property owners.
- 84 Stage 1 applications received in 2022 with 181 approvals. 38 Stage 2 applications received with 36 approved. 3 houses were completed in 2022.

2022 was another busy year for the Housing Section in Mayo County Council. The delivery of housing solutions continues to be a challenging environment, but Mayo County Council has been proactive in delivering high quality accommodation, with significant funding being provided for the delivery of these solutions. The housing constructed by Mayo County Council in 2022 continued to reach the highest of national standards.

The new Housing Programme 'Housing for All' 2022-2026 was announced in 2021 and Mayo County Council have a target of 730 Social Housing new builds. Mayo County Council submitted an Implementation Plan to the Department which outlines how these targets will be delivered.

The principal work areas for the Housing Service in 2022 were:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 'Housing for All' Capital Programme 2022-2026 • Analysis of Housing Market for Affordable Housing Scheme • Introduction of Vacant Homes Officer and all relevant scheme • Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2022 • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and development of Housing Policies • Administration of the Buy & Renew and the Repair & Leasing Schemes • Development and implementation of the Housing First Initiative. • Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans • Management and refurbishment of housing stock • Implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 • Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment • Rebuilding Ireland Loans change to Local Authority Home Loans • Monitoring and maintenance of the Vacanhomes.ie website



TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

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

83% of the Targets had been reached of the 2019-2024 Traveller Accommodation Programme.



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 2022 in supporting the county's economy through the maintenance and improvement of the road network throughout the county.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Designed, procured Contractors and supervised seven Pavement Overlays Contracts for National Roads, with a total value of over €6,600,000.
2. Two Capital Maintenance National Roads Schemes delivered - N59 Circular Road Ballina at a cost of €240,000.00 and N59 Newport Road Westport €200,000.00.
3. TII identifies high cluster accident location sites on our National Roads with Mayo County Council to design and implement the safety measures. Low-Cost Safety Remedial Measures on 10 schemes in 2022 were managed by the Road Design Office. These schemes are on-going and will be continued into 2023.
4. Design works were ongoing on a number of schemes during 2022 including: R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall and the Cong Relief Road under Strategic Regional and Local Roads Schemes to the value of €250,000; R312 Glenisland Phase 2, R313 Glencastle and R315 Lahardane - Crossmolina under Specific Improvement Grant Schemes to the value of €1.38 million.
5. 9 bridges were rehabilitated/enhanced, and a bridge tender was also prepared for refurbishment works on Achill Sound Bridge. The total bridge expenditure in 2022 was €332,883.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 15 staff availed of the Cycle to work scheme in 2022 bringing the total number of participants to 618.
- €130,163,710 expended on maintaining and improving roadway in the charge of Mayo County Council. €90,179,793 on National Primary & Secondary Roads. €39,983,917 on Regional & Local roads.
- There are 6,615 km of public road network in County Mayo, comprising of 133 km of National Primary, 266 km of National Secondary, 622 km of Regional and 5,594 km of Local roads.

NATIONAL PRIMARY ROUTE ROAD PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2022

N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project	Wills BAM Joint Venture progressed the construction of the N5 on several fronts as follows: Site Clearance & Topsoil Strip 100%, Earthworks 98%, Drainage & Utilities 85%, Structures 95%, Accommodation Works 60%, Pavement 90%, Safety Barriers & Traffic Signs 40%, Public Lighting 70%, Landscaping 30%. Negotiations with landowners are substantially concluded and it is anticipated that the project will be substantially complete during Q2 2023.
N17 & R320 Junction at Lisduff	BAM Civil Limited progressed the construction of the N17/R320 on several fronts as follows: Site Clearance & Topsoil Strip 100%, Earthworks 90%, Drainage & Utilities 80%, Structures 90%, Accommodation Works 75%, Pavement 70%, Safety Barriers & Traffic Signs 10%, Public Lighting 50%. Negotiations with landowners are ongoing and it is anticipated that the project will be substantially complete during Q1 2023.
N26 Realignment at Cloongullane Bridge	Throughout 2022 BAM Civil Limited completed the outstanding works and the road and bridge were officially opened on the 13th of October 2022.
N26 Ballina Bypass Phase 1	Mayo County Council carried out the preliminary design and environmental assessment of 6 route options before a public consultation of the shortlisted options was held in September 2022.
N26 Foxford to Mount Falcon	Mayo County Council prepared the project's Strategic Assessment Report and submitted it to TII for consideration. The SAR was approved. Mayo County Council subsequently prepared the project's Project Execution Plan and Feasibility Report and submitted it to TII for consideration.
N58 Foxford Bypass	Mayo County Council prepared the project's Strategic Assessment Report and submitted it to TII for consideration.
N17 Knock to Collooney Road Project	Environmental, economic and engineering assessments were carried out on the Feasible Route Options throughout the year. It is anticipated that the preferred route will be selected in Q2 2023. 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.

NATIONAL SECONDARY ROUTE ROAD PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2022

N59 Westport to Mulranny Road Project	<p>This project is the overarching project covering the 29km on-line upgrade of the N59 between Westport and Mulranny scheduled to be delivered in a series of sections. The 3km section of the N59 at Kilbride is complete, the 2km section at Rossow bends was completed in 2018 and the 3km section at Kilmeena was completed in 2020. The 2km Barleyhill Section is under construction and will be completed in Q2 2023 as part of the N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project.</p> <p>Mayo County Council also advanced the detailed design of the next stage of the N59 upgrade between Newport and Derradda. The project's detailed design and preparation of contract documents progressed throughout 2022. The objective is to have the project ready to commence the procurement of a construction contract in Q2 2023, subject to TII approval.</p> <p>Little progress took place during 2022 on the detailed design of the N59 between Newfield and Derradda.</p>
N60 Heathlawn	<p>95% of the landowner negotiations are concluded. A contract between Mayo County Council and P&D Lydon was signed on the 3rd of November 2022. The contractor has mobilized on site and has commenced fencing, drainage and the establishment of a site compound. The date for substantial completion is the 8th of August 2024.</p>
N60 Manulla Cross	<p>Mayo County Council carried out the preliminary design and environmental assessment of route options and assessed the upgrade of the N60 Balla Mart and Lisnolin junctions. It is intended to publish the Preferred Route during Q1 2023.</p>



ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2022

N60 Breaffy Active Travel and Safety Measures	<p>Following the completion of the relevant design and environmental assessments/screening Mayo County Council published the project's Part 8 on the 28th of September 2022. The closing date for receipt of submissions was the 23rd of November 2022. The Part 8 application will be considered by Mayo County Council in Q1 2023.</p>
N60 Heathlawn to Balla Active Travel	<p>Mayo County Council carried out a Constraints Study in January 2022. Following this, Mayo County Council carried out environment assessments of the area in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and carried out a structural assessment of the N60 causeway. This will inform the active travel options to be published and considered by the public in Q1 2023.</p>
2022 NTA Active Travel	<p>Mayo County Council invested €4,444,975 in Active Travel projects for 2022. In total, 45 Active Travel projects were invested in throughout the county.</p> <p>The projects consist mainly of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Crossings. • New/Extended Footpaths and Footpath Improvements. • Pedestrian Crossings and Filtered Permeability. • Cycleways. • Development of Local Transport Plans for Ballina, Castlebar and Westport.



GREENWAY PROJECTS ADVANCED IN 2022

Great Western Greenway Newport Town	<p>Mayo County Council carried out a Constraints Study in May 2022. Following this, Mayo County Council carried out the necessary technical and environment assessments and consulted with landowners before publishing the greenway route options on the 14th of December 2022.</p>
Ballina Castlebar Westport Interurban Greenway	<p>Mayo County Council commenced the procurement of a consultant who will carry out a strategic appraisal of the project during 2023.</p>
Clew Bay Belclare to Murrisk Greenway	<p>Mayo County Council commenced the procurement of a consultant to provide technical and environmental advice and support. This commission to be secured in Q1 2023.</p>



Architects

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

The Architects Department design & deliver new social housing schemes and other important Civic & Conservation projects throughout the county. 2022 saw the occupation of new housing schemes at Deel Court and The Boreen Crossmolina, Moygownagh, Liskilleen, Hollymount, and Charlestown; the construction of housing schemes on site at Lois na Circa Castlebar, Rehins Fort Ballina, Golf Course Road Westport, Kiltimagh; and other schemes lodged for planning permission county wide.

In 2022 the construction of important Civic Projects was also progressed on site such as at Crossmolina Fire Station, the Outdoor Regional Training Centre and the Mary Robinson Centre, as well as the completion of the retiling of the Claremorris Pool.

In the Municipal Districts, the Architectural teams are progressing the Castlebar Historic Core Reactivation and Regeneration Initiative, the Ballyhaunis Community Vision project, the Newport Regeneration project and the Ballina Innovation Quarter.

The Architects Department also manage and maintain the grounds of Turlough Park House, keeping it in pristine condition and with a green flag status.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Historic Towns Initiative 2022: €160K of funding secured for Architectural Conservation works to Belleek Gate Lodge in Ballina.
2. Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund 2022: Architectural Conservation works were project managed completed at various locations including: Bridge House Westport, Ballina Church of Ireland NS & Ballina Presbyterian Church,

Ballyglass Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage, Creagh House & Robe Villa Ballinrobe, Raheens Obelisk Raheens, and the Church of St. Charles the Martyr in Hollymount.

3. Funding was received from the RIAI Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland for the Architecture at the Edge Festival 2022. This intercounty festival aims to encourage engagement with our built environment and to inspire new ways of thinking about architecture.
4. Funding was secured for works to continue at Ballinrobe Library and Bowers Walk, Ballinrobe under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

PARKS

2022 saw:

- The opening of Martin Neary Woodland Park, Charlestown.
- The delivery of the Great Yellow Bee project in Belmullet.
- The continued county wide mapping and treatment of invasive species.
- The planting of 650 trees during Tree Week.
- The delivery of an innovative Sustainable Urban Garden Scheme at Greenhills, Ballina in partnership with the local community and students of St. Muredach's College.
- The introduction of a Playground facilities inspection app for the 4 Municipal Districts and the development of a Draft Play and Recreation Strategy for the County.
- The delivery of a new playground to Inishturk, with the refurbishment of existing playgrounds at Sandy banks Keel and Lough Lannagh, while Carrowteige has also seen the installation of a new multi-use games area (MUGA) and cable rider.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 39,000 trees planted in the Martin Neary Park Charlestown.
- 12 Architectural Conservation Projects completed county wide.
- 11 cross county active building sites delivering Civic Buildings, Public Realm and Housing.



Heritage Office

The Heritage Office works with communities, individuals, third level institutions and other agencies to promote awareness, interest, knowledge, pride and conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Holy wells are sites of heritage, cultural and religious interest and significance. 146 holy wells are recorded in Mayo in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Phase 1 of the Mayo Holy Wells Project, undertaken in 2022, comprises investigation of documentary sources and consultation with local history and heritage groups, along with field survey of 75 holy wells.
2. There are 12 recorded ogham stones from Mayo. To increase awareness and engagement with these monuments, 2D etchings, 3D recording, and digital documentation of these stones and their inscriptions was undertaken in 2022 as part of the Mayo Ogham Stones Project.
3. The theme chosen for the 2022 Mayo Heritage Calendar was Wetland Plants of Mayo. The calendar features images and information on a selection of plants found in Mayo's wetland habitats.
4. 80 events celebrating Mayo's natural, built and cultural heritage were organised by groups and volunteers for National Heritage Week 2022.

Key projects undertaken in 2022 include:

- Following an invasive species survey of the Castlebar to Turlough Greenway and preparation of a Management Plan, a 3-year programme for Himalayan Balsam Control was initiated in 2022 along the route.

- 13 Community Groups were supported to undertake local heritage projects with funding from Mayo County Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme.
- Ballina Biodiversity Plan published.
- Review of the County Mayo Heritage Plan commenced.
- Mayo Culture and Creativity Strategy supported.
- A Biodiversity Action Plan for MacHale Park GAA Campus was prepared.
- Old Irish Goat Graveyard Grazing Project piloted at Kilcolman graveyard, Claremorris, to inform vegetation management at Recorded Monument sites.
- Biodiversity Action Plans were prepared for Castlebar Town Football Club and National Learning Network Campus, Castlebar.
- Programme of biodiversity awareness and information events in 2022 included – a Woodland Walk at Raheens Wood; Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies workshop, in association with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Belcarra Tidy Towns; Managing Biodiversity in Sports Grounds workshop for Mayo GAA clubs; a talk on Swift conservation in association with Swift Conservation Mayo; Exploring Woodlands and Pollinators workshop.
- Completion of the New Survey of Clare Island, a unique multidisciplinary research project of the Royal Irish Academy and sponsored by Mayo County Council, was marked on Clare Island by a formal presentation of the 11 Survey volumes to the Clare Island community in September.





Mayo Field Names Pilot Recording Project

Field names have been handed down through generations and are a valuable part of local heritage that describes the topography and settlement of local communities. With support from the Heritage Council, a pilot project was undertaken with the communities of Louisburgh, Errew, Kilmovee and Crossmolina to record their field names, and put infrastructure in place to record field names.



Programme of Conservation Works to National and Recorded Monuments

Funding was obtained under the Community Monuments Fund 2022 to undertake a programme of conservation works to significant archaeological and cultural heritage sites. Works, informed by Conservation and Management Plans, were undertaken at Kilgeever Abbey, Louisburgh, Kilteany Church, Bangor, Ballyheane Church and Graveyard and at Kill Abbey, Shrule.



Mayo Wetlands Project

A database of Mayo's wetlands, listing over 1170 sites has been compiled and boundaries of the sites mapped using published reports and existing datasets. Further detailed study and field survey of a selection of these sites will be undertaken on a phased basis over 3 years. In 2022, 30 sites in the Claremorris-Swinford MD were surveyed.



The Cures and Folk Medicine of Mayo project

Supported by Creative Ireland, the Cures and Folk Medicine of Mayo project drew on the rich archives of the National Folklore Collection, complemented with fieldwork on contemporary practices to research and document folk medicine in Mayo.



The Old Irish Goat Gunnera Grazing Research Project

The Old Irish Goat Gunnera Grazing Research Project, carried out by the Heritage Office, in partnership with the Old Irish Goat Society and Atlantic Technological University, with support from the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, investigated the efficacy of the Old Irish Goat to control the invasive plant Giant rhubarb (Gunnera tinctoria).

Support and advice are provided on an ongoing basis to communities on habitat creation and enhancement, planting, invasive species control, vegetation management, species recording and to prepare and implement actions in their Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

Procurement & Efficiency Review

The Procurement Office continues to ensure that Mayo County Council's procurement function drives and facilitates the sustainable development of the County; operates in accordance with best practice and all legislative standards in public procurement; achieves effective service delivery; delivers best value for money; with accountability and transparency across all functions of the organisation.

The role of the Procurement Office is outlined in the Corporate Procurement Plan 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.

In 2022 the Procurement Office transitioned from the old Intranet to a new SharePoint site housing all Procurement related information. This was an opportunity to cleanse, update and re-present procurement information in a more user-friendly format. This is now well utilised resource within the organisation.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Face to face and online Procurement Training was delivered to sections across the organisation in order to engage staff in the Procurement process and enable adherence the Procurement Policy.
2. The creation of a video tutorial which is available on the sharepoint site, with Procurement information specific to Mayo County Council.
3. Preparation began for the Transition to the new eTenders platform, and the increased use of Green Procurement within the competitions being published by Mayo County Council.
4. Published the competition for the Public Lighting Energy and Efficiency Project North West on behalf of the North West Region Local Authorities.
5. RFT for the Provision of Property Services to MCC - Commercial and Residential Lots.
6. RFT for provision of Offices Chairs to support newly introduced Remote Working Policy.
7. Introduced the principle of Kaizen to support Continuous Improvement and Efficiencies.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- €6.5 million expenditure on Plant Hire in 2022.
- 394 competitions published through existing frameworks for goods, services and housing retrofits on SupplyGov.ie
- 52 tender competitions advertised, evaluated and awarded for a variety of works, goods and services on eTenders.



Straide

05

WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

IN THIS SECTION

Rural Water
Environment, Climate Change and Agriculture
Veterinary Department
Mayo County Fire Service
West Region Fire Control
Civil Defence
Water Safety
Register of Electors



Rural Water Services

(Drinking Water) Regulations 2023), is the Supervisory Authority for all Private Water Suppliers in County Mayo.

The Council administers the Rural Water Programme in County 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 173 schemes in operation in Co. Mayo serving more than 18,700 households and businesses.

2022 was the fourth year of the 2019 – 2021 Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP), which was extended due to Covid-19 delays, 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 River Basin Management Plans

In October 2019 Mayo County Council received its 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 sixty projects benefiting over 70 Group Water Schemes in Mayo. In August 2021, DHLGH allocated a further €5.069 million to fund a new Community Water Connection to serve approximately 600 domestic households in the Murrisk/Lecanvey/Kilsallagh area of Mayo. Additional funding of €1.121 million was approved by DHLGH for our MARWP in 2022.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Design, Build & Operate:** The design stage continued for the Mayo DBO Bundle 2 Group Water Schemes treatment plant upgrades to address THM exceedances that have arisen on several schemes. Preliminary design reports for the 10 schemes submitted by the DBO 2 bundle operator were assessed by the DHLGH who subsequently requested “Option Reports” for 6 of the schemes. The DBO Bundle 2 upgrade contract when completed will leave all 23 schemes with a water supply fully compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations.
2. **Network Upgrades and New Schemes: Measure 1 – Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector).** Consultant Engineers have been appointed to the Ballycroy GWS (Group Water Scheme) and the Glenhest GWS for the design and procurement stages of extensions to the scheme’s Raw Water Intake Mains which will lower risk of contamination from any future forestry works. Design and Procurement works on Source Protection works for Tooreen / Aughamore GWS & Killaturley GWS are ongoing.
3. **Measure 2 – Public Health Compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector).** Construction phase commenced for Killaturley GWS, Tooreen/Aughamore GWS and Midfield GWS for the upgrade of their existing treatment systems to install an appropriate cryptosporidium barrier. Consultant Engineers appointed and progressing the design and procurement stages of network upgrades and the amalgamations of Callow Lake GWS with Attymass GWS, PBKS GWS with Derryvohey GWS and Robeen GWS with Lough Carra GWS.
4. **Measure 3 – Enhancement of Existing Schemes including Water Conservation.** Works completed on upgrades to the Killasser GWS, Glencorrib GWS and Midfield GWS watermain networks. Tooreen / Aughamore GWS commenced civil works for the upgrade of their watermain network.
5. **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes.** Work commenced on design and construction phases of upgrade contracts for Irishtown GWS, Barnacarroil GWS, Loughnamon GWS, Rossport GWS, Cornboy GWS, Killgalligan GWS, Johnstown/Levallyroe GWS, Brackloon/Westport GWS, Roy Bingham GWS and Cregduff GWS to enable these schemes to connect to the public water network and be “Taken In Charge” by Uisce Éireann.
6. Civil works were completed on Drumsheen/Newtown GWS, and Cloonmore /Cloonlavish GWS to enable these schemes to connect to the Uisce Éireann public water network. The “Taken In Charge” by Uisce Éireann process has commenced for these two schemes.
7. **Measure 6 – Community Water Connections (CWC).** Consultants have been appointed to the Murrisk CWC, Clearagh CWC, Enaghbeg CWC and Aughinish CWC. The design stage of these projects has commenced to provide new drinking water supplies to these communities. These new water supply schemes will provide drinking water to over 700 households in these communities when completed. Construction work has been completed on the new Downpatrick Head CWC. 35 households in the community now have a safe drinking water supply.



2022 IN NUMBERS

- 3 Group Water Schemes were taken in charge by Irish Water in 2022. 14 other schemes have been submitted for takeover which are hoped to be progressed in 2023.
- Works are being carried out on 12 Group Water Schemes in advance of them being submitted for Taking in Charge by Irish Water:
- €5.36 million in subsidies towards the operational costs of schemes were paid out to schemes who applied.
- 20 Well Grant applications received in 2022 and 6 processed totaling €26,324.23.
- 380 water samples taken by Southern Scientific Services Ltd. on behalf of MCC
- 18,700+ households and businesses in Mayo are served by the 173 schemes in operation in County Mayo



Environment Climate Change & Agriculture

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 Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) - Atlantic Seaboard North, which is hosted by Mayo County Council, has continued to support the local authority sector in leading and transitioning to a low carbon and resilient future. Notable elements of work during 2022 include:

- CARO supported the delivery of climate action at a local, regional and national level. The implementation of the 2022 work programme, and many projects and initiatives are now up and running or complete.
- Representatives from the CCMA, LGMA and the CARO appeared before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Environment & Climate Action in May, to discuss challenges and opportunities for local authorities in climate action.
- CARO played a key role in the development of the Guidance Document for Local Authority Climate Action Plans and are working with local authorities in the region on their emission and climate risk baselines.
- CARO and the CCMA worked with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to secure funding for 3 local authority climate action resources as put forward in the 2020 Business Case.
- The CARO is part of the National Coastal Erosion Strategy Steering Group that is reporting to Government on an integrated, whole of Government strategic approach to coastal change.

- The CARO is a project partner with Leave No Trace, MSLETB and the University of Galway on 1 of 18 successful projects being funded under Strand 2 of the Community Climate Action Fund. The project builds on the work the CARO's Sand Dune Awareness campaigns, and involves the development of a series of classroom and onsite training for coastal communities and local authorities to understand the role of coastal NbS and to build the capacity and skills of local communities to adapt to climate change and on how best utilise beaches and dunes as coastal protection.
- Lead by the CARO and with the support of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the 5 local authorities in the region established a Regional Energy Bureau to sit alongside the CARO to lead an outcome-focused approach to meeting the 2030 local authority targets including retrofitting of public buildings.
- The CARO ran a number of workshops in the region and developed guidance for the integration of climate action into the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs).



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Mayo County Council's Decarbonising Community Network was the winner in the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022 under the Climate Change category.
2. Mayo County Council was a finalist at the Green Awards in the Green Public Sector Organisation category.
3. All Mayo County Council energy use and business travel for 2021 was submitted to SEAI in April 2022. The report from this data found that Mayo County Council had improved its energy efficiency by 36.4%, surpassing the national public body target of 33%.
4. The Climate Adaptation Strategy Progress Report for Oct 2021 - Sept 2022 was submitted to Government.
5. Funding of €20,213 was secured from the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship fund and ACT was appointed to produce the Bertra 2050 Vision and Community Stewardship Plan through an engagement process with the relevant stakeholders. Through workshops this collective vision was developed with the concept of community stewardship at its

core. The Launch of Bertra Connected 'draft Community Stewardship of Bertra Vision' took place on 27th October.

6. 19 electrical and electronic recycling days were held in 2022 with a total of 212,705 kgs of WEEE collected.
7. MCC completed the largest countywide river and lake monitoring programme in the Country, this includes the monitoring of 49 rivers, 21 lakes and 30 bathing areas in the county, with over 1000 samples taken.
8. Mayo County Council commenced a LIFE project for Lough Carra in 2022, with a full project team assigned. Mayo County Council are the Lead Beneficiary in partnership with other beneficiaries including the Lough Carra Catchment Association and other stakeholders.
9. Environmental Awareness campaigns run in 2022 to further increase environmental awareness and build further on strong links with communities within Mayo, include Street Bin Awareness, Winter Fuel/Smoky coal ban and The National Spring Clean Campaign, which took place in April with 137 groups registering their clean up events with An Taisce. A Dog Fouling Awareness campaign, a National Food Waste Recycling Week and a Septic Tank Awareness Campaign were also successfully run in 2022.
10. Staff participation in Smarter Travel Workplace initiatives including Marchathon and Walktober was co-ordinated by the Environment Section, as was the continuation of Climate Action training for all staff. Additionally, Mayo County Council Climate Action Ambassadors had a training workshop in the GAA Centre of Excellence, Began.
11. An additional Ambient Air Monitoring station was installed in Achill Island in December 2022, in conjunction with the EPA. This will bring the total number of sites to 4, with other sites located in Claremorris, Ballina and Castlebar, all with measurements available on-line in real-time.
12. Erris and Tourmakeady Sustainable Energy Communities launched their Energy Master Plans (EMP). The Erris EMP was the first to be bridge financed through Mayo County Council's Memorandum of Understanding with SEAI, which provides bridge financing for Sustainable Energy Communities to undertake Energy Masterplans.
13. The Mayo County Council Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and Teagasc facilitated the visit of Kenyan Ambassador Mr. Michael Mubea who visited a Mayo farm to learn about sustainable cattle and sheep farming.
14. The Climate Adaptation Strategy Progress Report for Oct 2021 - Sept 2022 was submitted to Government.
15. A pilot energy monitoring system has been installed in several Council buildings and training on the system was provided in April. Mayo County Council was also a successful applicant to phase one of the ESB networks Mini-generation scheme. Any excess electricity produced by the 29kW Solar PV installation at Rathroen Civic Amenity Site will now be sold to the grid. Additionally, the Mayo Energy Bureau Officer began working with Mayo County Council in November 2022.
16. In 2022, the Flood Risk Management Section continued flood relief works on behalf of OPW. The Ballina Flood Scheme continued Stage 1 assessment with hydrology and options development complete. The Cois Abhainn Ashwood Flood Scheme, value 1.2million, commenced works on site whilst the construction of the Carrowholly Flood Relief Scheme continued.

17. The Regional Waste Management Office for the Connaught Ulster Region conducted an extensive stakeholder engagement process in 2022 for the development of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. The Draft Plan will be published in Q2 2023 and when finalised will apply for six years. Mayo County Council as Lead Authority for the region will continue to coordinate the implementation of the plan.
18. Thirty bathing areas were monitored during the 2022 bathing season. In 2022, MCC was awarded 9 Blue Flags and 6 Green Coast Awards, symbols of the excellent beach management and water quality.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 58,000+ customers visited Civic Amenity Sites at Derrinnumera and Rathroeen.
- 645 tonnes of street cleaning treated at Rathroeen, reducing the associated waste charges by approximately €95,000.
- 350+ tonnes of waste electrical items and batteries collected from recycling centres at Derrinnumera and Rathroeen, during 2022.
- 810 Routine Waste inspections carried out & 1,436 Non-Routine inspections carried out, following complaints.
- 6 projects successfully undertaken totalling over €130,000 in grant funding from DECC as part of Anti- Dumping Initiative, including, clean-up of numerous dumping sites across all 4 MD's. Motion activated voice notification installed at several Bottle banks site.
- 9 Blue Flag Beaches and 5 Green Coasts Awards achieved in 2022. 30 Bathing areas were monitored during the bathing season.
- 137 groups registered and participated in the National Spring Clean.
- 26 Schools renewed their Green Flag Status.
- 29 Derelict Sites removed from the Register in 2022



Veterinary Department

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

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Dog warden in association with our Communications Dept made a short video on Sheep Worrying for social media to remind all dog owners to be more mindful of their dogs during lambing season. During the year the dog wardens were interviewed on local radio, covering all aspects of their work.
2. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers in association with the Irish Farmers Association to raise awareness amongst dog owners of the consequences of dog attacks on sheep, to ensure dogs are kept under control at all times and to remind dog owners they are liable for costs if their dog is involved in any incident.
3. A social media campaign ran informing new owners of the legal requirements when becoming an owner of a puppy or dog.
4. A 6 week dog licencing campaign was run through radio advertisements and social media, to advise dog owners of areas the Dog Wardens would visit to check for dog licences and advised where dog licences could be purchased.
5. A workshop, organised by the Veterinary Department, to facilitate collaborating with all Animal Welfare Organisations and Councillors in Mayo to work out best practice for animal welfare ex gratia funding was run in July 2022.
6. During 2022 a number of serious dog bite/attacks on people and sheep occurred across the country. The Ministers Charlie McConalogue and Heather Humphreys as a result,

set up an interdepartmental working group to examine issues in relation to dog control, and from these discussions a report was brought to Cabinet. The working group have been tasked with drawing up plans on how to implement the recommendations. Mayo County Council staff, Laura Mulligan (representing Dog Wardens nationally and Paul McDermott (LGMA and LAVS representative), are members of this working group.

7. A multi-agency task force comprising of An Garda Síochána, National Parks and Wildlife Rangers and Mayo County Council Dog Wardens carried out joint operations during which a number of patrols were conducted in respect of illegal Hare Coursing in South Mayo.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- There are 8 approved Small Meat-Manufacturing Premises and 6 registered premises. All small meat processing premises are inspected and monitored on a regular basis.
- Veterinary staff carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on every animal slaughtered in the 13 abattoirs in Co. Mayo, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene. In 2022 there were 8404 cattle, 960 sheep, and 4 goats slaughtered in Mayo abattoirs.
- Mayo County Council provides the Dog Control Service with its key responsibility being to ensure that dogs in Mayo are licenced and kept under effectual control thus ensuring safety of the public and protecting people's property (e.g.livestock). In 2022, 165 dogs were taken into the Dog Pound. 91 dogs were transferred to Dog Welfare Groups. The number of dogs reclaimed by their owners increased from the previous year to 46.
- 6779 dog licences were issued and 26 dog fines issued during the year. There were 20 premises registered under the Dog Breeding Establishment 2010 Act.
- In 2022 an allocation of €35,000 for animal welfare was made available to 7 animal welfare groups.



Mayo County Fire Service

MAYO COUNTY FIRE SERVICE

Mayo County Fire Service is responsible for the protection of life and property of circa 137,231 people living in the county. We ensure our communities are at the centre of what we do and are committed to keeping people safe, improving quality of life and making our area a better place to live, work and visit.

We provide a range of services aimed at enhancing fire safety in the community by preventing fires from happening in the first instance, ensuring appropriate fire protection measures are in place in buildings, and providing an operational response to incidents when they do occur.

Mayo County Council currently employs 123 firefighters in 12 fire brigade units located around the county. Mayo Fire Service continues to deliver a comprehensive training programme to develop firefighter's skills and to ensure that they are competent and are provided with all necessary equipment and PPE to undertake any task assigned to them.

In addition to the provision of training to our own firefighters, accomplished and experienced instructors from Mayo Fire Service were seconded to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management to deliver national training courses.

Mayo Fire Service's commitment to ongoing improvement of health and safety through the Fire Service's Safety Management System was recognised through another successful ISO 45001 surveillance audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland in August 2022.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Work continued on the construction of a new fire station in Crossmolina. At a cost of almost €2 million the build will be 100% grant aided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This new purpose-built fire station will provide significantly improved access and facilities for the Crossmolina fire brigade unit. Completion of the project is expected in May 2023.

2. Mayo Fire Service takes a proactive role in promoting fire safety particularly during Fire Safety Week which took place from 9th - 15th October. Activities carried out during the week included the use of social media and local radio to deliver fire safety messages and fire safety education. We also ran an afternoon of demonstrations outside of Fire Brigade Headquarters in Castlebar where members of the public were invited to learn about fire safety and the risks that exist within the home.
3. 2022 saw the launch of our community fire safety strategy and we have engaged the help and support of our fire fighters in our 12 stations to assist us in delivering our ambitious programme. We successfully initiated our programme of Home Fire Safety Visits to vulnerable people in our county. These visits are carried out by 2 of our fire fighters in each station ground with people who have asked for our help and who have been identified in our vulnerable groups. The visits include advice and help with fire safety concerns, good fire safety practice and the installation of free 10yr battery powered smoke detectors, where necessary.
4. Our Community Fire Safety team also attended many of our county's community and family days to give demonstrations and advice to members of our communities.
5. As part of the continuous Seveso programme aimed at ensuring the protection of people and the environment through agreed and co-ordinated response procedures in the event of a major accident at Upper Tier Seveso Sites, the Emergency Response Plan for Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal, Glenamoy, Ballina was reviewed, revised and issued for public consultation. As part of this programme, a live exercise was carried out with key personnel from An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the establishment.
6. 2022 saw the introduction of a specially designed vehicle fire blanket for use at fires involving cars, vans and SUV's. The blanket is reusable and is effective on all electric and fossil fuel powered vehicles. The use of the blanket reduces the level of toxic fumes emitted to the atmosphere as well as the quantity of water used. It reduces the likelihood of Thermal runaway occurring- a phenomenon associated with the Lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles.



2022 IN NUMBERS

- 722 emergency incidents in 2022, resulting in 846 fire brigade responses.
- Dangerous Substances licenses issued to 24 sites and 43 sites inspected.
- 99 Licensing Application inspections carried out, and 20 other inspections carried out.
- 91 Fire Safety Certificate and 57 Disability Access Certificate applications received and processed.
- 408 Building Control Inspections carried out.
- 511 valid commencement notices validated relating to 654 buildings/works.
- 148 Certificates of Compliance on Completion validated relating to 209 buildings/works.





West Region Communications Centre

Mayo County Council is the contracting authority for the West Regional Communications Centre (WRCC) providing a 24-hour call-taking and mobilisation service to 999/112 emergency fire service calls on behalf of the local authorities of Mayo, Galway City and County, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal.

The refurbishment of the control room and ancillary facilities was successfully completed in 2022 in advance of the rollout of the new National Mobilisation and Communication CAD System as part of the overall Ctri Project.

The new system will facilitate the development of standardised national technological systems and operational processes. WRCC is due to go live with the new system in 2023.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 18,247 Incoming calls were received
- 4,303 Fire brigade emergency incidents across the region resulted
- 12,300 Outgoing calls were made
- ISO 9001 Since January 2018 the WRCC has been awarded accreditation to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System



Mayo Civil Defence

A voluntary organisation comprising of approximately 50 volunteers, Mayo Civil Defence provides support to Primary Response Agencies and local communities with highly trained members whose activities are valued by front line emergency services and local communities.

The strength of the organisation lies in its voluntary ethos and commitment to purpose with its members willingly and freely giving of their time and expertise and training on a weekly basis.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Covid 19 Medal for members - Minister for Defence & Foreign Affairs, Mr Simon Coveney, TD, paid special tribute to Civil Defence volunteers and officers for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic at an event in Croke Park.
2. In December a presentation night took place where training certificates, long service medals and Covid 19 medals were presented to members. In attendance was Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr. Seamus Weir.
3. Funding was provided by the Civil Defence Branch at the Department of Defence under the Dormant Account scheme for the purchase of a new 2022 Ford Ranger 4x4 Vehicle.
4. Volunteers participated in successful training events during 2022 at local and national level in the areas of Medical Response, Search and Rescue, Emergency Response and Community Assistance.

2022 IN NUMBERS

- 50 Volunteers willingly and freely give of their time, expertise, and training on a weekly basis.
- Mayo Civil Defence assisted with 12 missing persons searches throughout 2022, in support of the Primary Response Agencies.
- 94 Taskings - 15 Taskings supporting the response to the Covid 19 Pandemic & the Ukrainian Crisis at the request of the Local Authority and Health Service Executive. 12 Inter-Agency Search & Rescue Operations at the request of An Garda Siochana, at both a Local and Regional level. 63 Community/Sporting events. 6 responses to Climatic Emergencies. 7 deployments to support the Ukrainian Crisis.



Water Safety

Mayo County Council provides water safety awareness throughout the year, primarily by organising water safety courses in the public pools (Castlebar, Ballina, Claremorris and Westport) during the winter months and at numerous outdoor locations during the summer. There are 10 Designated Bathing Areas in County Mayo comprising of 9 beaches and Belmullet Tidal Pool.

In 2022 Mayo County Council employed 29 qualified Beach Lifeguards (21 Full-Time and 8 Reserve) plus 2 Full-Time Pool Lifeguards and 1 Reserve at Belmullet Tidal Pool. Our Lifeguards are trained to the highest standards in personal safety, rescue and basic life support techniques and use of personal protective equipment. Defibrillators are provided at all Lifeguard Stations and all employed Lifeguards are fully trained and qualified as Cardiac First Responders.

The following statistics were recorded during the 2022 Bathing Season:

Location	Rescue Without Craft	Rescue Using Craft	First Aid	Lost Child	Advice Given	Accident Prevented	Non-Fatal Drowning
Belmullet	1	1	5	0	1619	186	0
Bertra Beach	0	0	3	0	623	0	0
Carrowmore	0	0	14	0	1151	1	0
Carrowniskey	0	1	19	0	1278	1	0
Keel	0	0	66	12	1873	11	0
Keem	0	2	31	1	924	2	0
Mulranny	0	0	25	0	621	0	0
Old Head	0	3	27	1	1170	3	0
Ross	0	0	3	0	696	0	0
Silver Strand	0	4	8	0	646	4	0
TOTALS	1	11	201	14	10601	208	0



Ringbuoys are provided at 547 locations in Co. Mayo and these were inspected and monitored on a regular basis by Council staff in 2022.

An essential upgrade of Lifeguard accommodation and equipment occurred during 2022. Three new Lifeguard Huts were purchased and placed at Belmullet Tidal Pool, Keem and Mulranny Beaches together with a second-hand Steel Container for Keel Beach to house rescue equipment and a Beach Wheelchair. Three new Rescue Boards were also purchased.

The second World Drowning Prevention Day on 25th July, 2022 was marked by our Lifeguards by wearing blue face paint to remember the victims of drowning around the world.



Register of Electors

Since the publication of the Live Register of Electors, 2022/2023, the Electoral Reform Act, 2022 was signed into law by President Higgins on 25th July 2022. The legislation introduced a new, modern, on-line approach to electoral registration which became live on Thursday, 13th October 2022.

In terms of voter registration and voting arrangements, the following changes have been made:

- Online registration of electors via www.checktheregister.ie for new applicants and existing electors to update their details
- Establishment of An Coimisiún Toghcháin – Electoral Commission
- The Draft and Live Register have been replaced by a Rolling Register
- The Supplement to the Register has been replaced by a Balancing List
- Identity verification by use of PPSN and DOB. Mayo County Council has entered a Data Sharing Agreement with the Department of Social Protection
- Introduction of a new category of postal vote for Anonymous Voters
- Specific registration process for persons with no fixed address
- A new Pending Electors List for early registration of persons aged 16 and 17 who will automatically be moved over to the Rolling Register on reaching 18 years of age
- Same day voting for Island communities
- Reporting by local authorities to the Electoral Commission annually



06

**FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT,
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS & MOTOR
TAXATION**

IN THIS SECTION

Finance

Motor Tax

Information Systems



Finance

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

Included among the wide range of services provided by the Finance Section are:

- 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 & Collection
- Housing Rents and Loans Billing & Collection
- Payment of supplier accounts
- Cash Receipting
- Administration & 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.

The Council's 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 Civic Amenity Charges, Pay and Display charges

The amount of money available for capital or infrastructural developments is dependent on State Grants, borrowing and/or development levies.



2022 IN NUMBERS

- Revenue Expenditure of €185,765,312 and Capital Expenditure of €115,960,577 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 Housing Grants, Roads Grants, Sports /Leisure Facilities, and Payroll.
 - €9,414,819 of the total Local Property Tax received was collected within the county with a further €11,443,617 being received from the Equalisation Fund
 - 2022 Collection levels in the three major collection areas are:
Rates* 90.4%
Rent and Annuities 88.0%
Housing Loans 83.1%
- * €1.29 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 90.6%

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

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.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2022 €	2022 €	2022 €	2021 €
Housing & Building	24,776,911	22,256,591	2,520,320	2,107,749
Roads Transportation & Safety	53,441,975	42,064,559	11,377,416	12,549,853
Water Services	20,891,493	20,775,559	115,934	65,824
Development Management	15,018,331	6,617,002	8,401,329	8,599,459
Environmental Services	19,105,624	6,558,290	12,547,334	11,712,737
Recreation & Amenity	13,304,716	5,621,474	7,683,242	7,614,594
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,694,834	779,943	914,891	834,260
Miscellaneous Services	20,023,724	17,890,379	2,133,345	412,338
Total Expenditure/Income	168,257,608	122,563,797		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			45,693,811	43,896,813
Rates			36,449,602	34,518,132
Local Property Tax			20,858,436	20,856,905
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			11,614,227	11,478,224
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(11,014,166)	(11,293,870)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			600,060	184,353
General Reserve @ 1st January 2022			(3,687,441)	(3,871,794)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2022			(3,087,380)	(3,687,441)

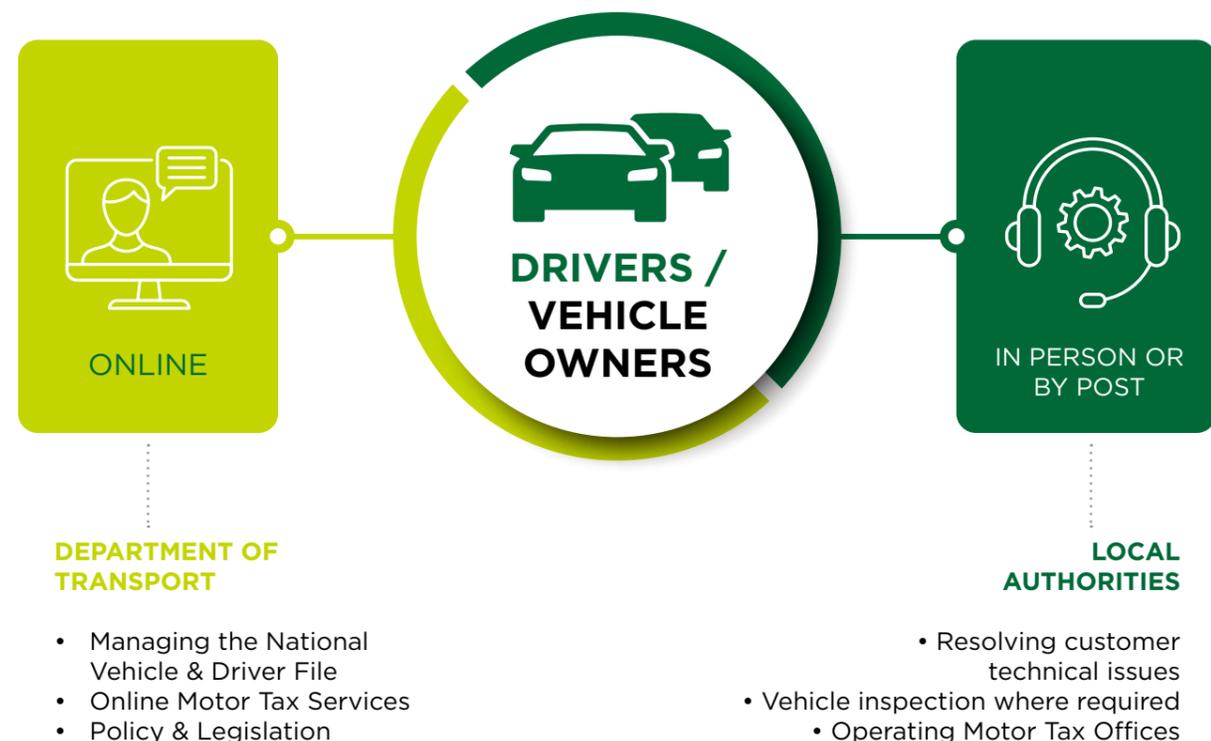
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2022

Expenditure by Division	Notes	2022	2021
		€	€
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		498,411,421	484,884,040
Infrastructural		2,990,832,665	2,990,650,459
Community		10,675,089	10,370,064
Non-Operational		56,943,895	57,567,004
		3,556,863,070	3,543,471,567
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	272,518,498	186,874,133
Long Term Debtors	3	53,451,649	55,522,872
Current Assets			
Stocks	4	355,963	344,184
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	25,078,842	23,368,284
Bank Investments		43,519,322	49,141,160
Cash at Bank		6,611,154	4,520,425
Cash in Transit		145,139	105,055
		75,710,420	77,479,107
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Creditors & Accruals	6	69,057,415	68,393,241
Finance Leases		305,618	398,685
		69,363,033	68,791,927
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		6,347,386	8,687,181
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	106,130,969	114,009,096
Finance Leases		396,005	701,623
Refundable deposits	8	7,893,336	7,372,975
Other		3,290,912	1,722,435
		117,711,222	123,806,130
Net Assets		3,771,469,382	3,670,749,623
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	3,556,863,070	3,543,471,567
Income WIP	2	266,352,916	183,141,925
General Revenue Reserve		(3,087,380)	(3,687,441)
Other Balances	10	(48,659,224)	(52,176,429)
Total Reserves		3,771,469,382	3,670,749,623

Motor Tax

Mayo Motor Tax deals with the administration of the Vehicle Licensing Legislation in County Mayo delivering quality and timely services, providing customer focused and friendly services to its users. "Providing a national service locally to the community"

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:

1 » Glenpark, The Mall, Castlebar

2 » Civic Office, Ballina

3 » Belmullet Civic Centre, Belmullet

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

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

1. The simplicity of the online facility has seen a steady growth in the number of renewals done through this channel. The Department of Transport has estimated that 98% of renewal facilities are available for completion online.
2. The Total Income for Mayo Motor Tax in 2022 was €27,155,324. This total is comprised of €20,752,278 (online) and €6,403,046 (Mayo Motor Tax Offices).
3. The Total number of transactions in the Mayo Motor Tax Office in 2022 was 36,781



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. "Connecting Government 2030: A Digital and ICT Strategy for Ireland's Public Service" underpins the focus and direction for the provision of a digital platform to enhance service delivery to our staff, councillors, citizens, visitors and businesses.

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.

Cyber Security threats are an ever-increasing risk which has put IT security as the primary consideration in the provision of all IT services. The introduction of a secure blended working environment has allowed the Council to provide a more flexible work space.

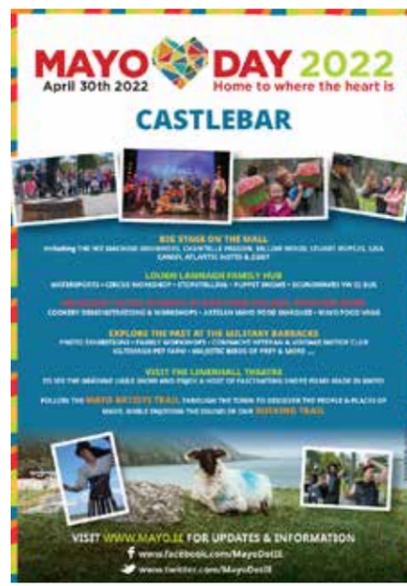
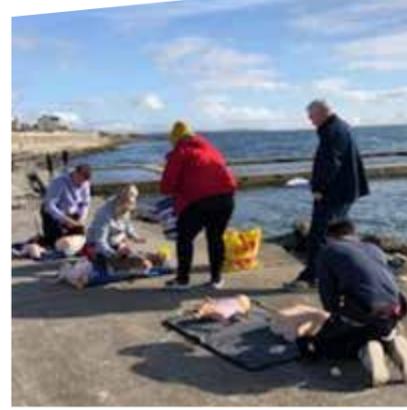
WORK COMPLETED DURING 2022:

- e-Planning - National e-Planning system deployed to allow for online planning applications.
- Development of Blended working application to facilitate the introduction of Blended working roll out to the organisation.
- 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.
- Maintenance and support of existing online application forms – defective concrete blocks, recruitment, housing inspections, litter.

- Systems development, automated workflows, and upgrades for business unit applications.
- 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.
- 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 ATU and Maynooth University.
- ITIL (IT Infrastructure Library) based IT Service Desk system - incident and problem management and user device provisioning and lifecycle management. Over 5,900 service desk requests completed for 2022.
- File Management system upgraded from Docuware to iDocs.
- Security patching of all servers, desktops, laptops.
- UPS replacements in critical locations.
- Deployment of secure environments for remote working including VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) to allow staff to securely connect to Council systems from home.
- Continued technical support and collaboration with the Communications Department on www.Mayo.ie.
- Access switch replacement project
- Upgrade of Financial Management system
- Tendering and procurement of hardware and software
- Continued retention of ISO 27001:2013 security standard – Information Security Management Systems (ISMS)
- Cyber Security awareness campaigns rolled out to organisation
- Councillor & Council meeting support



2022 IN PHOTOS





Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



ANNUAL REPORT