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ISSUE 69

## 4 NEWS UPDATE

### 13 DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN

One of Frank Curran's first major roles as the new Chief Executive of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has been to oversee the launch of the County Development Plan 2022-2028. He outlines the county's current strategies for housing, climate change, sustainable infrastructure and new ways of working.

### 20 SPECIAL REPORT

A study by NUI Galway in 2020 indicated that almost all of the interviewees – the current and former female members of the Oireachtas, as well as female councillors from major political parties – had received social media or email messages that used threatening language or 'hate mail'. So, what initiatives are there in place to help mitigate the effects of such abuse?

### 25 WOMEN IN POLITICS

One of the key messages from the 'Promoting Gender Equality & Diversity in Local Government' event, hosted recently by Clare County Council in Ennis, in association with the 'See Her Elected' initiative, is that more women need to support each other as allies in a bid to bring about a cultural shift in politics.

### 29 DUBLIN HOUSING PROGRAMMES

Dublin City Council has launched a new housing delivery process that aims to enable private developers to engage with the local authority on sites with existing planning permission to potentially supply and deliver a significant volume of public housing units.

### 31 APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Croí Cónaithe (Cities) Scheme – a new fund to support the building of apartments for sale to owner-occupiers – aims to bridge the current 'viability gap' between the cost of building apartments and the market sale price (where the cost of building is greater).

### 33 THE HOUSING AGENCY

With a mixed tenure of houses, apartments and duplexes forming an expanding part of Ireland's housing stock, David Rouse, Multi-Unit Developments Advisor with The Housing Agency, discusses key considerations for local authorities, from planning through to long-term management.

### 36 CLANN HOUSING

Clann – an age-friendly housing and service provider for people over the age of 55 – aims to deliver on its vision of a society where everyone has a great place to live and by providing quality housing and services to enable people to create homes and thriving communities.

### 39 LAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Working in close partnership with the local authorities on the delivery of affordable homes, the Land Development Agency plans to accelerate a core Government policy of creating a large-scale affordable and social housing sector in line with norms in many other European countries.

### 45 SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

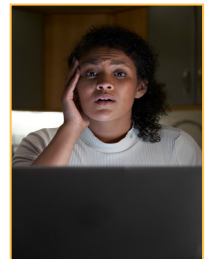
South Dublin County Council has turned the sod on a new €14m state-of-the-art Innovation Centre in Tallaght. Scheduled for completion in 2023, the four-storey 2,980msq building of significant architectural merit will provide three floors of flexible office accommodation to support start-up enterprises.

### 47 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The development of 'Smart' approaches to local and regional development in Ireland is outlined by Pat Kennedy, Chief Executive of eTownz, as he focuses on the roll-out of the 'Smart Village Curriculum' training programme across the country to empower communities to take ownership of their own planning and management policies.



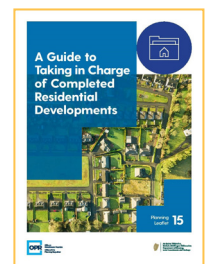
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**53 RURAL TRANSPORT**

Greater connectivity, a wider selection of destinations and more frequent transport services are top priority for existing and potential service users of rural public transport, according to the findings of a major public consultation by the National Transport Authority.

**57 EUROPEAN FOCUS**

Europe's local and regional leaders were united in their support for Ukraine in the war against Russia during the 9th European Summit of Cities and Regions in Marseille. The Marseille Manifesto adopted by the Summit has set out its demands to put citizens at the heart of European democracy.

**59 EU CLIMATE CHANGE CITIES**

Cork and Dublin have been selected as two of 100 smart cities across Europe to lead the transition to becoming climate neutral by 2030 as part of the EU Cities Mission, in collaboration with partners in both the public and private sectors.

**63 CUSTOM HOUSE VISITOR CENTRE**

Having opened its doors to the public in November 2021, the Custom House Visitor Centre is a key element of the Government's Decade of Centenaries programme. The refurbished centre features new and interactive exhibits, which relate the rich history of Dublin's landmark building and showcases its exceptional architecture over the last two centuries.

**69 SENSORI FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

Sensori Facilities Management carried out the role of Main Contractor and PSCS on the construction and M&E refurbishment at the OPW's Custom House Visitor Centre, Custom House Quay, Dublin 1. The completion of the works has reopened this historic building to the public, following the 100-year anniversary on 25 May 2021, of the burning of the Custom House.

**70 COUNCILLOR RESEARCH STUDY**

Maynooth University's International Centre for Local and Regional Development, in collaboration with the Association of Irish Local Government, is undertaking a dedicated piece of research on the role of the councillor in the 21st century. The project is set to generate interesting findings on the emerging priorities for councillors on capacity-building, innovation and decision-making.

**75 COMMUNITY & COUNCIL AWARDS**

Wicklow County Council was crowned 'Council of the Year' in addition to picking up six category awards at the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards for 2021, hosted by LAMA and IPB Insurance, which were presented in Dublin in April.

**83 MAYO EFFICIENCY STRATEGY**

The vision of Mayo's Efficiency Strategy, which is the first initiative of its kind for the local authority sector, is to make the council a leading exemplar organisation in efficiency to help promote best practices whilst focusing on new and innovative ways of service delivery, according to Tom Gilligan, Mayo County Council's Director of Services.

**86 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Ireland's Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Southern Regional Assembly and the School of Geography at University College Dublin shared best practice for improved landscape governance for sustainability with European colleagues at a recent international training workshop, which took place in Florence, Italy.

**90 GALWAY CITY COUNCIL**

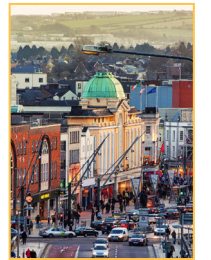
Residents and visitors to Galway City can now look out for a range of new free Wi-Fi hotspots in various public spaces across the city, as part of the WiFi4EU initiative, which is promoting free access to Wi-Fi connectivity in public spaces including parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres and museums in towns and cities throughout Europe.



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