**26January 2018**

**Local Authorities delivered improved performance on a range of measures in 2016**

* Emphasis by local authorities on delivering *Rebuilding Ireland* has led to a reduction in the vacancy of local authority social housing stock;
* €186 million invested in strengthening and improving regional and local roads;
* 63,587 pollution complaints made to local authorities in 2016 – 85% areas surveyed are unpolluted/litter free/slightly polluted;
* Local Enterprise Offices supported 3,355 jobs in 2016 – more than 7,500 received mentoring; Broadband Officerassigned in each local authority to support investment in broadband.

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) has published the Local Government Performance Indicators Report for 2016.

The report presents the performance of local authorities for a wide range of services delivered in 2016. The performance indicators are categorised by local government functions; housing, roads, water, waste/environment, planning, fire services, library/recreation, youth/community, corporate, finance and economic development.

Commenting on the report, Peter Carey, Chair of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) and Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, said “The sector continues to implement key reforms in local governance and the 2016 performance indicators show that our 31 local authorities are focused on delivery of services in priority areas for society. We continue to maintain and improve performance in the provision and management of local services including environmental and community-based services.

We have delivered in the key service areas within the context of a reforming local government sector. With increased government funding, through initiatives like *Rebuilding Ireland*, we expect to deliver further progress on social housing in the current year and thereafter.”

**Summary of Performance Indicators for Key Service Areas:**

**Housing**
Implementation of *Rebuilding Ireland* and delivery of social housing solutions is a key priority of local authorities. In 2016, the level of vacant dwellings within the social housing stock was 3.0%. This includes all units awaiting re-tenanting or those awaiting necessary repair work. This represents a reduction in the vacancy level of 3.5% in 2015. The average time to re-let a social house reduced from 22.6 in 2015 weeks to 20.9 weeks in 2016. When a social housing unit was vacated local authorities spent on average €12,551 making the unit ready for re-let.

The indicator found that there were 4,186 homeless adults at 31st December 2016. While this increased to 5,508 by December 2017, over 4,000 adults exited from homelessness during 2017.

**Employment**Local authorities play a significant role in relation to economic development. In addition to adopting and coordinating the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) and the Regional Action Plans for Jobs, the sector provides planning and development services, physical infrastructure, and supports social enterprises. It also delivers a range of festivals, events and place branding, bringing tourism into cities and towns throughout Ireland.

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are central to local economic development. In 2016 the LEOs assisted businesses to create an additional 3,355 whole time equivalent jobs. The total number of participants that received mentoring in 2016 was 7,564.

A Broadband Officerhas been assigned in each local authority to support the rollout of broadband infrastructure.

**Roads**
Local authorities manage and maintain 94,405km of regional and local roads. In 2016, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and the local authorities invested €186 million in strengthening and improving regional and local roads.

**Water**
Water services are transferred from local authorities to Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement with each local authority. In 2016 a total of 58,806 samples were taken at private water schemes, an increase of 6.6% over the number of samples taken in 2015. This found that 97.8% of samples were compliant with statutory requirements.

**Environment**
Local authorities carry out a broad range of environmental services including street, park and beach cleaning, litter services, veterinary services, cleaning graffiti, road cleaning, management of recycling centres and civic amenity sites, and management of landfill sites. Local authorities play a regulatory role in relation to waste collection.

In 2016 63,587 pollution complaints were made to local authorities. 85% of areas surveyed are unpolluted/litter free/slightly polluted - an improvement from 72% in 2012.

**Community Organisations & Youth**

In 2016 a total of 11,915 community organisations were involved in their local Public Participation Network. In 2016, 68.1% of second level schools participated in the Youth Councils/Comhairle na nÓg.

**Fire Services**

Almost 41% of fire scenes are attended within 10 minutes while 86% are attended within 20 minutes.

**Local Authority Staffing**

The number of whole time equivalent staff working in local authorities fell from 35,007 in 2008 to 26,858 in 2016, a reduction of 23.3%. The reduction rate slowed between 2013 and 2015 and in 2016 there was a small increase of 1% in the number of whole time equivalent staff employed in the local government sector to 26,858.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

Please contact olam@lgma.ie for further information. The National Oversight Audit Commission’s (NOAC) report is available at: http://noac.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2016-PI-Report.pdf

The NOAC report presents the 2016 performance indicators for the local government sector in Ireland. The performance indicators deliver a uniform approach to measurement and benchmarking and the availability of the information is intended to support all local authorities to improve the services they provide to local communities.

The indicators are collected and analysed by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on behalf of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as part of the Commission’s role in monitoring the performance of local authorities. This report presents the performance of local authorities in 2016 using 34 indicators identified by NOAC. The number of indicators has increased from 31 in 2015 to 34 in 2016 as part of NOAC’s ongoing review of the indicators. While the indicators address the core functions of local authorities, it is acknowledged by NOAC that they do not reflect the extensive range of services delivered by city and county councils throughout the State.

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is a state agency of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government established in 2012 to provide a range of services to the Local Government Sector.  The LGMA provides these services within the context of its statutory remit, in support of co-ordinated and cost effective delivery of Local Government services and policy. The LGMA works collaboratively with the chief executives and administration of every local authority on sectoral issues in local government business areas. [www.lgma.ie](http://www.lgma.ie)