

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS 2019-2024



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council





From Mayor of the County of Cork & Chief Executive

Cork County Council has faced many challenges since 2019. From the reorganisation of our administrative boundary to the impacts of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, and storm events, our resilience as a local authority and county has been tested. Despite these challenges, Cork County Council has adapted, innovated, and collaborated to navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world.

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was unprecedented, but it also showcased the remarkable strength and solidarity of our communities. Together, we mobilised resources, implemented safety measures, supported businesses and supported one another. Cork County Council was at the forefront of the response effort, ensuring the well-being of our residents was paramount.

Our county has also endured the destructive effects of storms, testing our infrastructure and resilience. Yet, through diligent planning and swift actions, we have worked tirelessly to mitigate the impacts and ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.

Amidst these challenges, Cork County Council has remained steadfast in its dedication to climate action and sustainability, launching the Council's first Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029 on Wednesday 28th February 2024. From investing in greenways to promoting renewable energy initiatives and retrofitting our housing stock we are taking bold steps towards building a more resilient and environmentally conscious future for generations to come.

There were many positives to celebrate including the opening of the Macroom Bypass, the reopening of Camden Fort Meagher and the launch of the 'Explore Cork' tourism app. This year we mark the 125th anniversary of Cork County Council honouring our rich history of service and leadership.

Cork County Council will continue to serve the citizens of Cork County and will ensure that local services are provided where they are needed most. We hope this publication gives you an insight into what has been achieved over the last five years and a glimpse of an exciting future for Cork County.



Frank O'Flynn,
Mayor of the County of Cork.



Valerie O'Sullivan,
Chief Executive of Cork County Council.



SERVICES & STRUCTURE

€3.2 Billion Invested Across Cork from 2019-2024

Cork County Council is the second largest Local Authority in the Republic of Ireland, and the largest based on geographical area size. The county is home to **360,000 people**.

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL



Cork County Council has a designated membership of 55 Councillors who are elected to the Council every five years. The primary purpose of the Elected Members is to develop and implement policy for the range of services delivered.



What does your Council do?

The Council delivers a broad, diverse range of services including:

- Arts & Heritage
- Community Development
- Environmental Services
- Economic Development
- Fire Services & Building Control
- Greenways
- Housing
- Libraries
- Lifeguards
- Motor Tax
- Municipal Districts
- Parks & Outdoor Amenities
- Planning
- Register of Electors
- Roads & Transportation
- Safety Education
- Tourism
- Water Services, Coastal & Flood Projects



Frontline services are delivered across eight Municipal Districts, and are designed to benefit businesses, residents, and visitors alike. Visit www.corkcoco.ie for more information.



SUPPORTING BUSINESS

Business Grants during the Pandemic

€34m

Covid-19 had an immediate and lasting impact upon businesses of all sizes and sectors across County Cork. Businesses operating from commercially rated premises could avail of the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) fund which assisted with fixed costs following the impact of restrictions. The grant was to assist businesses to remain operational for an eventual reopening. Eligible businesses were those who did not qualify for the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners.

Rates Waiver Scheme

€34m

Approximately 9,000 businesses impacted by the pandemic in County Cork availed of the Rates Waiver Scheme in 2020.

Economic Development Fund

€3.8m

The Economic Development Fund (EDF) was introduced in 2010 to promote economic development and job creation opportunities in Cork County. 30 arts festival countywide were funded annually.

Enterprise Support 2019-2024

Grant assistance: €13,682,000

1,845 jobs created



Local Property Tax

€148m

Local Property Tax collected is re-invested throughout the county to fund a broad range of initiatives including:

- Verge cutting programmes
- Social Housing Disability Works
- Community Arts programmes
- Town Development Fund
- Housing maintenance
- Roadside maintenance
- Village Enhancement fund
- Entrance to & presentation of towns



HOUSING PROJECTS

More than 400 social housing units have been delivered in County Cork each year since 2019 on average. These homes have been developed through direct construction on the council's own land; turnkey schemes in partnership with developers; Part V; and working with Approved Housing Bodies.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan and Local Authority Loan

Scheme – The Local Authority Loan Scheme was introduced in 2022 to replace the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. It is available for first time buyers and fresh start applicants to purchase a new or second-hand property or for self-build. 322 loans were advanced between 2019 and 2023 across both schemes.



Housing Assistant Payment Scheme – Social housing support to tenants in private rented accommodation.

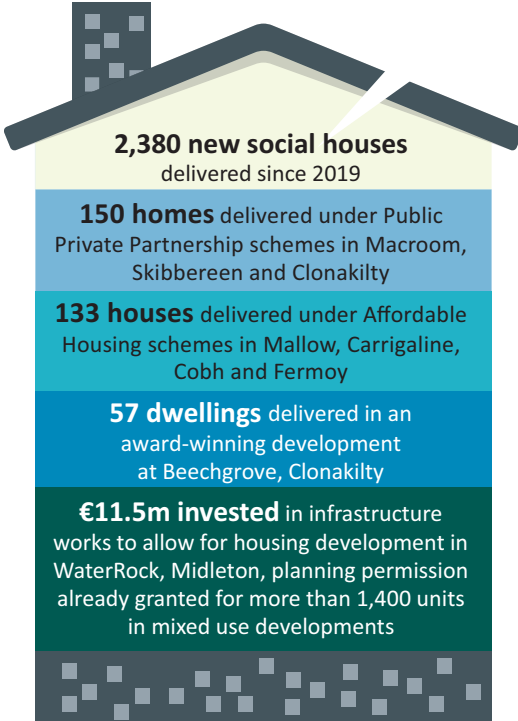
Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant – Provides grants of up to €50,000 to refurbish vacant homes with an additional top up of up to €20,000 for derelict properties. More than 500 applications have been submitted to Cork County Council to date which will result in €2.5 million being spent.

Other Grants – Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability; Mobility Aids Grant; and Housing Aid for Older People Grant Schemes – annual expenditure of more than €7 million.



HOUSING PROJECTS

Housing Delivery



Refurbishment and Maintenance

Cork County Council carried out complete retrofits of up to 200 of its own dwellings each year to bring them up to a minimum B2 energy rating. The Council also has an annual budget of approximately €8 million for the refurbishment of vacant dwellings.



€30m spent retrofitting Council dwellings for energy efficiency



€25m spent on maintaining Cork County Council's housing stock



County Development Plan 2022-2028

The most recent Cork County Development Plan came into effect in June 2022. It is a six-year development plan for the county which sets out Cork County Council's current thinking on planning policy looking towards the horizon year of 2028. It provides a sustainable vision and policy framework for the delivery of 22,611 homes and a population growth of 59,000 people. The County Development Plan 2022-2028 is the first of three Development Plans that will deliver 104,000 population growth and approximately 70,000 jobs on a countywide basis by 2040, in accordance with the National Planning Framework.



ROADS PROJECTS

Cork County Council has the largest road network of any local authority equating to approximately 12% of the state's road network. There are 453km of National Roads, 1,323km of Regional Roads and 10,401km of Local Roads giving a total of 12,177km.

Cork County Council is committed to enhancing regional accessibility. This has driven the delivery of vital projects over the 5-year period including:

- Completion of the N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development.
- Completion of the Dunkettle Interchange Upgrade Scheme.
- €16m contract signed for the construction of the M28 Motorway linking Rochestown with Ringaskiddy.
- Opening of the €20m Carrigaline Western Relief Road.
- Completion of a €4.7m upgrade of Ballymaquirke Junction.
- Completion of the €1.95m Kanturk Link Road.



€2.6m contract signed for the Cork to Kinsale Greenway Phase 1.

Completion of **470km EuroVelo 1 Cycle route** from Youghal to Beara Peninsula.

Opening of Phase 1 Midleton to Youghal Greenway.

Safe Routes to School projects, designed to encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to and from school have been completed in eight locations including Bandon, Belgooly and Cobh.

24km of cycleway has been completed with a **further 25km in design.**

37 bus stops have been **upgraded.**

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



2019-2024 MAIN ACTIVITIES

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

The plan, launched in February 2024 will be used by Cork County Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to take on a broader role in influencing and co-ordinating the climate action of communities, and to advocate for climate action across the county.

Community Climate Action Programme €1.24m invested into the programme.

Circular Economy Fund launched – supporting communities to move from the traditional linear ‘take-make-use-dispose’ towards a ‘circular economy’ where resources are recycled/reused.





Flood Relief Schemes

Skibbereen, Bandon (OPW) and Clonakilty (OPW) Flood Relief Schemes were completed since 2019. Flood Relief Schemes in Middleton and Bantry were also progressed between 2019 and 2024.

Funding for Piers & Harbours

€7.8m in capital funding has been allocated to piers and harbours in County Cork since 2019. This includes the 'Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme' used to construct sea walls, for dredging and works on piers, pontoons, and slipways.

Dursey Cable Car

Dursey Cable Car was reopened in 2023 following a €1.6m project to replace its tower structures, tracks, and haul ropes. It's the only cable car in Europe that crosses open seawater.



Blue Flag Beaches

There was an increase in the number of Blue Flag and Green Coast Award beaches since 2019. A record of 28 flags were awarded to beaches in Cork County in 2023.



Haulbowline Island Recreational Amenity - 2021 saw the opening of the 22-acre People's Park in the middle of Cork Harbour. Cork County Council carried out extensive remediation of the former steelworks site, transforming it into a useful public amenity with pathways, a jogging circuit, playing pitches and seating areas.



Libraries

5 new libraries opened, 4 libraries were upgraded/refurbished, and 3 new mobile libraries were launched by Cork County Council.

The Covid-19 Pandemic saw the introduction of e-issues from the Council Library Services, with 393,435 e-books, audio books, e-magazines, e-learning and e-language courses issued in 2020 alone.

My Open Library service was introduced in Bandon and Fermoy, and will be extended to three new locations in 2024. It sees extended open hours from 8.00am to 10.00pm every day of the week with a mix of staffed and unstaffed self-service hours.



Tourism

The bilingual Explore Cork tourism app was launched.

Ireland's longest seafront boardwalk was completed by Cork County Council in Youghal.

39 Lifeguards

Are employed at Cork's
12 beach guard stations
throughout the summer season



90 playgrounds

Maintained throughout
the county



29

Library branches
and mobile libraries



125



YEARS
1899 - 2024



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

€34m was paid out to businesses in the form of grants during the pandemic.

Project ACT was launched to support businesses and communities affected by the pandemic. 23 Cork towns across the 8 Municipal District's benefited from the project. Improvements such as use of outdoor space, power cleaning, and widening of footpaths for social distancing were introduced.

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER)

LEADER Programme supports local and community projects across a diverse range of themes. By the end of 2020, 249 projects had been approved to the value of €10.7m.

SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme)

This programme provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusions at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. At the end of 2022, €12,309,220 had been provided to the fund with €13.9m allocated to the programme for 2024-2028.

All-Ireland Community & Council Grand Prix Award

Cork County Council won the Grand Prix Award at the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards 2023, for having the most shortlisted and winning projects combined.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

Since 2021, there have been over 400 participants in this programme. After a successful pilot (2021-2023), the programme aims to reach over 600 participants per year in Cork County. The goal is to support older adults to remain living in their own homes/communities.

Healthy Ireland Fund

Supports initiatives promoting the benefits of mental health and wellbeing. In 2021, Cork County Council launched their Healthy Ireland County Strategy following the Healthy Ireland Framework. The 'Older Adult Activity Pack' and their engagement of 'Social Farming' are just two of the initiatives to come out of Cork County Council's Healthy Ireland Fund.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Cork County Council’s 8 Municipal Districts were established in 2014 and provide a wide variety of services at local level, such as School Wardens, town parking, litter control, street cleaning, burial ground and playground maintenance. The Municipal Districts are also responsible for the delivery of projects funded through national funding schemes such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Emergency Services

New fire stations built in Kanturk and Macroom. A new fire station is under construction in Clonakilty. Three new fire engines are now based in Fermoy, Skibbereen and Carrigaline.

Camden Fort Meagher

Restoration works were completed, and Camden Fort Meagher was officially reopened in April 2024. Approximately €480,000 was invested into the restoration works.

Key Investments in 2023

	<p>€3.3m invested into street cleaning and litter collection at beaches.</p>		<p>€220,000 invested into additional public convenience provision in beaches and towns.</p>
	<p>€3.7m invested into the maintenance of beaches, playgrounds, walkways, and parks.</p>		<p>€308,000 provided by Creative Ireland to support the Creative Communities programme.</p>
<p>€320,000 invested into Streetscape Enhancement Scheme where 6 towns were selected: Bandon, Castletownbere, Charleville, Fermoy, Macroom, and Passage West.</p>		<p>€128,000 invested to support the Arts through the annual Arts Grant Scheme.</p>	
<p>€100,000 invested into Town Centre First Regeneration Plan Development, where Skibbereen is the first town in Cork to benefit.</p>			





An Ciste um Athghiniúint agus Forbairt Tuaithe
Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

€31,330,504 has been allocated to Cork County Council since 2019 for towns with a population of less than 10,000 and located outside the Metropolitan Area.

Advanced/completed projects:

€4.8m invested into Kinsale Library

€903k invested into Ballydesmond.

€7.9m invested into Briery Gap (to be completed 2024)

€9m invested into Youghal Library (detailed design stage)

€17.5m invested into Bandon Regeneration & Placemaking



Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Since 2019, a total of €17m has been allocated to Cork County Council for URDF supported projects in Mallow, Carrigaline, Passage West/Monkstown, Carrigtwohill, Middleton and Cobh.



Completed projects:

€6.4m in URDF funding invested into the €20m Carrigaline Western Relief Road



€1.4m invested into Mallow Town Centre & Subprojects

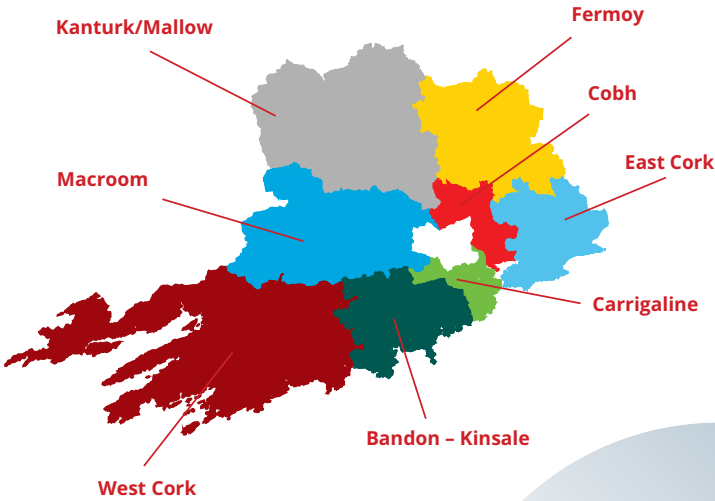
Ukraine Community Response Forum

In 2023 the Ukraine Community Response Forum consisted of 32 agencies and 19 Cork County Council led support hubs. This forum responded to 344 calls and 325 emails.

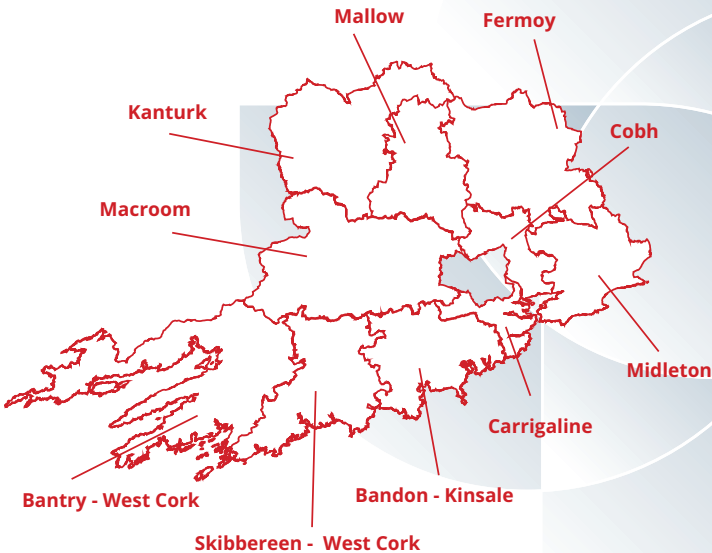


MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS


Municipal Districts



Local Electoral Areas 2024







CORK COUNTY
THE PLACE TO LIVE,
WORK, STUDY
AND INVEST

Find out more at www.corkcoco.ie
visit     or call 021 427 6891