04 January 2011

To Each Councillor

Re: Special Speed Limit Byelaws 2010 – County Leitrim

Notice is hereby given that Leitrim County Council proposes to make new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004, and Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, for the purpose of revising the areas covered by special speed limits in various towns and villages throughout County Leitrim.

A speed limit review was carried out on the existing Speed Limits in County Leitrim during the last quarter of 2010. Please find attached the Schedule of Special Speed Limits in County Leitrim 2010 which details all special speed limits in the county including proposed changes outlined below.

Initially, after consultation with the SPC members and the elected members of the full county council, certain changes were proposed to the existing Special Speed Limits.

The appropriate changes were incorporated into the drawings and schedules and this was advertised for Public Consultation on 12th November 2010 with latest date for receipt of submissions being 13th December 2010. Copies of the proposed Special Speed Limits were forwarded to the Chief Superintendent for Sligo Leitrim Division of the Garda Síochána and to the Superintendents in Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton Garda Stations.

By the end of the public consultation period the following submissions were received.

1. Letter received dated 27th November 2009 from Superintendent Noel Carolan, Carrick on Shannon Garda Station, stating that he agreed with the proposed alterations to the Special speed limits.

2. Letter received dated 30th November 2009 from Chief Superintendent Jim Sheridan, Sligo Leitrim Division of Garda Síochána Carrick on Shannon stating that there were no objections from the Gardai relating to the adjustments being proposed to the Special Speed Limits in County Leitrim.

3. Letter received dated 3rd December 2009 from Superintendent James Keegan, Manorhamilton Garda Station, stating that he agreed with the proposed alterations to the Special Speed limits.

4. Letter received from Ms. Terri McGourty, Drumduff North Drumshanbo, objecting to the location of the speed limit sign which was located directly in front of the entrance to her house on the R207 approach to Drumshanbo. She requested that we consider moving the speed limit sign by approximately 10 metres towards Carrick on Shannon. We agreed to this request, as the present location of the large traffic calming sign could be construed to cause a slight safety hazard for traffic emerging from her house. We are proposing to move the speed limit by 15 metres south.
5. Representations received from Councillor Tony Ferguson requesting that we introduce a 50 km/hr speed limit on the National Primary N15 going by Tullaghan in the traffic calmed area. As this is a National primary route, we have to make an application to the NRA for approval. This application has been submitted and we await a decision. If they agree to this request we then propose to implant a 50 km/hr speed limit through the traffic calmed section of the N15 at Tullaghan. However, if the NRA denies this request, the existing speed limit will stay in place.

6. Representations from Councillor Gordan Hughes to erect Speed Limit Signage at Corrawallen PO, Drumreilly church, Drumcela and Aughnaheelin. Speed limits at these locations are included.

7. Representations from Councillor Enda McGloin to increase the existing 50km/hr speed limit in Kilclare to 60 km/hr. This speed limit was discussed in detail at the SPC meeting and it was decided to leave the existing speed limit in place.

Following the consultation process the following changes are proposed to the special speed limits in County Leitrim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town/Village</th>
<th>Road Location</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballinaglera</td>
<td>R207</td>
<td>Change from 60km/h to 50kph Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballinamore</td>
<td>R202 Swanlinbar Road</td>
<td>Move 60 km/h limit 250m towards town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R199 Newtowngore Road</td>
<td>Move 50 km/h limit 200m out of town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloone</td>
<td>LP 1496</td>
<td>Move 50 km/h limit to junction of R201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>Castlecarra Road</td>
<td>Extend 50km/h beyond school to junction of LS 7414.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>Provide 30km/h speed limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsna</td>
<td>R299 Killough Road</td>
<td>Move 50km/h limit 150m out of town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiltycloher</td>
<td>LP 2124</td>
<td>Move speed limit to incorporate Local Authority Housing estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinlough</td>
<td>R280 Bundoran Road</td>
<td>Move 50km/h out to Moy Road Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manorhamilton</td>
<td>R282 Rossinver</td>
<td>Move 50km/h limit 200m out of town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LS 6176 Ross lane</td>
<td>Move 50km/h limit 100m out of town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossinver</td>
<td>LP2107</td>
<td>Move 50km/h limit to include GAA pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R282 Manorhamilton</td>
<td>Move 50km/h limit to include Local Authority Housing Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tullaghan</td>
<td>LP 2063-1 Kinlough Road</td>
<td>Provide 50km/h limit at stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LS 6060-1</td>
<td>Provide 50km/h Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aughnaheelan</td>
<td>Village</td>
<td>Provide 50 km/h speed limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumshanbo</td>
<td>R207 Carrick Road</td>
<td>Move 60 km/h speed limit 15m south.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I recommend the adoption of this Schedule of Special Speed Limits for County Leitrim 2010.

Seamus O’Connor
A/Director of Service
Infrastructure Dept.
Dear Councillor,

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, of the County Manager’s intention to dispose of a portion of land as outlined hereunder at a price of € 12,500.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF PURCHASER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF LAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coras Iompair Eireann, Group Property Management</td>
<td>Portion of ground containing 0.565 Hectares in the townland of Furnace, Dromod.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriel Street, Dublin 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Council wish to dispose of the above land as outlined.

Coras Iompair Eireann will be responsible for his own set of legal costs and the costs of Leitrim County Council involved in the transaction.

This item will be included on the Agenda of the next Council Meeting to be held on 10th January, 2011, at which it will be considered.

Leitrim County Council also intend to grant Coras Iompair Eireann a right of way over its land at Furnace Td., Dromod as shown on map 203/1314/02 for a distance of 100m and 8m wide.

Yours sincerely,

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE
5th January 2011

Agenda Item No. 4 of the January Council Meeting to be held on 11th January 2011

RE: Corporate Plan-Annual Progress Report 2010

Dear Chairperson and Members,

This report is being presented to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001. The report sets out in summary fashion progress made in relation to commitments set down in the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2010-2014. The report specifically highlights the progress made during 2010 and follows the same format as the Corporate Plan itself.

Economic Development

The Council continued to promote economic development through targeted infrastructure provision, proactive forward planning and active marketing and collaboration with other agencies.

The Council, through the County Development Board’s Economic Development Group, worked closely with the County Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA in relation to monitoring and reviewing actions arising from the changed economic climate during the year.

To further support existing business and promote economic development, a proposal has been developed to establish a business support unit where access and information on all Council services will be readily available. In addition, a Business Advisory Service coupled with a Central Monitoring and Tracking Service for new business enquiries will be developed by the Council under the auspices of the County Development Board to encourage and provide necessary information and support centrally within the County, thereby providing a platform for new start-ups.

In 2010, the new Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 - 2016 was adopted by the Council. Significant progress was also made on the preparation of Community Plans for Kinlough/Tullaghan, Glenfarne/Belcoo/Blacklion, Rossiver/Garrison, Kiltyclogher/Cashel.

A detailed survey in relation to permitted housing development in the County was completed in early 2010 and this coupled with National Statistics will inform planning policy going forward. In this regard it will be necessary to prioritise the role of Planning Enforcement during 2011 to reflect and address in so as far as possible the issue of unfinished housing estates within County Leitrim.

The promotion and marketing of the County as a Tourist destination continued in 2010 through features on the national media. The launch of Lough Allen Catchment promotional material will further promote the area as a tourist destination. Over the
past year Carrick on Shannon and Jamestown Historical Trails were successfully completed, thereby adding to the local tourism product.

**Infrastructural Development**

Despite significantly reduced funding allocations, 2010 was another successful year in the context of infrastructural delivery both in terms of physical and social infrastructure.

The design of the Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road scheme progressed in 2010 with the publication of the preferred route corridor for the scheme and the holding of a public consultation process July 2010. The preferred route corridor has been submitted to the National Roads Authority for approval.

Continued investment was also made in the County’s non-national road network with improvement works carried out in a number of locations throughout the County. The impact was however reduced from previous years due to a reduced allocation and the funding of costs associated with the severe weather in January/February from the roads allocation. A new 3 year programme was adopted by the Council in 2010 for the period 2011 to 2013. The footbridge in Carrick on Shannon was completed and opened in May 2010.

The SMARTER Travel Project was advanced in 2010 with civil works substantially completed on the majority of the routes. It is expected to complete this Phase of the project in 2011.

The Water Services Investment Programme again made significant progress during 2010, which has led to improvements in quality and capacity throughout the County. The upgrade of the trunk mains on the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme was completed. The 11 No Leitrim Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme Treatment Plants progressed well in 2010 and will be fully operational in early 2011. Significant progress has also been made on the Carrick on Shannon Sewerage Improvement Scheme with an anticipated completion date for the Treatment Plant of mid-2011.

The Rural Water Programme was also advanced during 2010 in line with an investment allocation of €4.2m. In all cases the works carried out addressed quality deficiencies in private Group Water Schemes.

There was also continued progress in upgrading the Council’s Housing Stock through the energy efficiency improvement scheme. The Council advanced Phase II of the Energy Efficiency Programme in 28 local authority owned dwellings in various locations throughout the County. This programme is part of a 10 year national retrofitting programme for the improvement in the energy efficiency of residential, commercial and public buildings with a consequential savings in energy and CO2 emissions. The suite of works completed to ensure that the post-BER certification of a C1 was achieved include some or all of the following measures – installation of new heating systems, attic and cavity wall insulation, plumbing upgrades and replacement of new windows and external doors.
A pilot radon monitoring programme was also implemented in Council owned Houses in North Leitrim during the last quarter of 2010.

**Cleaner and Greener Environment**

River Basin Management Plans for the 3 regions which cover County Leitrim - Shannon RBD, Western RBD and Northern RBD (North-South Share) were adopted in July 2010. The implementation phase involves an extensive and stringent regime of inspections, sampling, monitoring analysing of water bodies. Phase 1 of the Plans requires targets to be reached by 2015 and work commenced in 2010 on the implementation of the objectives and targets that are required to be achieved in the first phase of the Plans by 2015.

During 2010 a comprehensive monitoring, investigation and enforcement programme was completed on septic tanks in the Keeldra Lake area under the terms of the Bathing Waters Regulations. This has resulted in a substantial improvement in water quality in the Lake.

The Council’s Green Schools programme continued to advance in 2010 with practically all schools now involved and many of them at the third or further stage of the programme. The ‘Adopt a Road’ and ‘Adopt a Bring Bank’ schemes continue to operate. There has been a substantial increase in environmental enforcement activity, especially since the introduction of CCTV cameras at our bring centres.

**Culture and Recreation**

The Arts programme continued, in 2010, to play a pivotal role in the County through ongoing assistance to a variety of art organisations and other community led initiatives. The PEACE funded Community Arts programme, which is now concluded was very successful. The McGahern Seminar and Summer School was held again in 2010 and proved an outstanding success. The Dervish traditional music residency concluded and work has commenced on the compilation of an album of music which was unearthed and composed during the residency. TRADE also continued in 2010.

A number of artistic projects were progressed/completed during 2010 under the per cent for art scheme. These included an exhibition of photographic portraits of residents in Cluainin and Aras Breffni, Manorhamilton, the “Keystones” artworks project in association with Hyde Terrace residents in Mohill, “The Loss Bird” drama project in association with the Traveller Community in Carrick on Shannon.

Support to a number of key festival and events was provided during 2010 including the FBD Milk Ras, Lough Allen Triathlon, inaugural Anthony Trollope Summer School, the King of Clubs (Dutch Angling Competition), Discover Lough Allen Weekend, Carrick on Shannon Fun Day, IWAI 50th celebrations, Sean Mac Diarmada Summer School, Connaught Fleadh, Carrick Water Music Festival.

The County Leitrim Sports Partnership completed its second year of operation and completed the development of its three year strategic plan in 2010. The FAI partnership has also harnessed significant opportunities for engagement with
young people through the medium of soccer. Working through Leitrim County Development Board, the “Goal for Work” Programme continues to facilitate the training of soccer coaches for the County. A proposal was developed in 2010 for the further development of Gaelic Games in the County with particular focus on hurling and this proposal will be progressed in 2011.

2010 also saw the inaugural Sports Star Awards which were held to recognise the benefits of sports to the local communities and the continuous efforts made by those involved to strengthen and embed sports in communities across the County.

The Library Development Plan which was approved in 2009 identified priorities for the service over the next five years for both infrastructural improvements and customer service developments. The Part VIII Public Consultation was completed in relation to the extension of Mohill Library together with an energy efficiency audit of the existing building.

The promotion of activities through Irish continued throughout 2010. A total of 74 no. written queries through Irish were dealt with during the year. Work is ongoing on the preparation of a new Irish Language Scheme as required under the Official Languages Act 2003 and this will be completed and brought forward for adoption in the current year. Four members of the Council staff completed courses and achieved qualifications to improve their efficiency in Irish during 2010.

**Sustainable Communities and Social Cohesion**

During 2010 the Council worked closely with the Carrick on Shannon Tidy Towns Committee and secured ‘Gold’ in the Entente Florale competition. This was truly a remarkable achievement for the town and the County to achieve gold in the first entry in the competition. This success will contribute significantly to the recognition of Carrick on Shannon and County Leitrim throughout Europe and will assist in the marketing of County in Ireland and abroad over the next twelve months.

The involvement of the citizens of the County in local government is critical for a shared understanding of what the local authority is trying to achieve. The Council’s Environmental Awareness Programme and Tidy Towns Programmes are good examples of community participation which once again worked well during 2010.

With the support of the Council, County Leitrim Community Forum undertook the following projects during 2010:

- Two Peace III projects were completed dealing with the integration of new communities in Leitrim into society and particularly into the active community sector.
- A seminar on mental health was facilitated.
- A seminar on fundraising in the voluntary sector was held.
- Preliminary work on an enterprise related project was carried out.

Phase 1 of the Peace III Action Plan for Leitrim was substantially completed during 2010. The approach of working primarily through tenders continued to be successful and all targets set by the funding body, SEUPB, have been met. Small grants were also awarded both on a cross border and intra county basis. These
are almost complete. The plan is expected to be completed by Spring 2011 with expenditure in excess of €2m.

As Phase 1 nears its end the Peace III Partnership have now prepared a plan for Phase 2 that will continue until 2013. As part of the process, a series of public consultations and focus groups meetings were held, with written submissions received and considered when the plan was being compiled. The plan is currently under consideration by SEUPB and the result is expected to be known in early January 2011 with a commencement date in spring 2011 following completion of Phase 1.

During 2010 work commenced on the development of Community Plans funded under the Peace III programme, within the catchment areas of Kinlough / Tullaghan, Glenfarne / Blacklion / Belcoo, Rossinver / Garrison and Kiltyclogher / Cashel. This work will be completed by March 2011.

The Council again sponsored the County Rehab Awards in 2010, to acknowledge and contribute to the work of this very important organisation in the county. The annual Cathaoirleach’s Award was incorporated into the Rehab Awards in 2010.

In terms of meeting housing needs, the Council further progressed the implementation of the Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2010. A total of 65 households had their long-term housing need met by the local authority through the allocation of standard local authority housing to 10 households and the transfer of 55 households under the RAS Scheme.

The Cluainin voluntary housing scheme involving the provision of 22 units of sheltered accommodation for elderly people at Main Street, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim was completed in the last quarter of 2010.

The operation of the Leitrim Joint Policing Committee (JPC) continued during 2010, with four meetings held, including the first public meeting.

During 2010 Leitrim County Council continued to work closely with national and regional agencies in the ongoing training for preparedness in the event of a major emergency. Leitrim County Council will host a full regional major emergency exercise in May 2011 and considerable preparatory work will be required in advance.

Leitrim Fire Service is the lead partner in an INTERREG funded "Driving Change" project which commenced in 2010. The project involves all fire authorities in the Border counties and the Northern Ireland Fire Authority and its objective is to provide specialist training for fire service personnel in dealing with traffic accidents and to bring forward a safe driving educational awareness programme aimed at young drivers in the Border Region. This project will continue in 2011.

The role of Civil Defence in Co. Leitrim was recognised by the Civil Defence Board in the provision of funding for the acquisition of specialised sonar equipment to be used in specialised underwater search and rescue operations. The technology will be of major benefit in such search and rescue missions.
Organisational Objectives

The Council’s financial situation and the challenges arising from the economic downturn again provided a key focus during 2010. Measures undertaken during the year to reduce the Council’s cost base included the re-tendering of services, machinery and plant hire, the centralisation of purchasing, the restructuring of Council loans, the implementation of mileage allocations for all staff and the reduction in overtime. The Council also complied with the Government Directive on implementation of savings measures on public service numbers including a continued focus on creating efficiencies through process reviews and redeployment of resources as necessary and the non-replacement of staff.

Work progressed on the implementation on the Council’s Disability Implementation Plan and consultation took place with the Council’s Disability Advisory Group and with local disability representatives in relation to proposed disability works arising from access audits completed on streets and footpaths in Manorhamilton and Drumshanbo.

Significant progress was made during the year on the implementation of the new integrated HR system with completion and roll out of the Payroll module in mid 2010. Progress was also made in 2010 on a number of ICT projects aimed at improving efficiency across the organisation e.g. proposal developed for introduction of managed print service.

The provision of high quality services tailored to meet the needs of all our customers remained a key focus for Leitrim County Council in 2010. The amalgamation of the Motor Tax and Finance Departments within Áras an Chontae, became operative in late January 2010, providing a more streamlined service to customers.

Our approach in relation to all of our activities continues to be underpinned by a commitment to the continuous review and rationalisation of our structures, processes and services with the focus firmly on quality service delivery.

Conclusion

The foregoing achievements were made possible through the combined efforts of the elected members and staff of this authority. While 2010 was another very difficult and volatile year for Leitrim County Council, it was nonetheless a successful year.

I wish to sincerely thank and acknowledge the effort of all concerned in making significant progress during 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Maguire
Leitrim County Manager
5th January 2011

Agenda Item No. 5 of the January Monthly Meeting Agenda to be held on 10th January 2011

RE: Capital Programme for the forthcoming 3 years

Dear Chairperson and Members,

In accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 the Council must, at the beginning of each financial year, receive an updated report of the planned Capital Programme for the forthcoming three years. In the case of this Council, this reporting requirement is substantially made by quarterly progress reports submitted to the Council on an ongoing basis.

The programme for the forthcoming 3 years will be in accordance with the programme agreed by the Council in recent times including:-

- The last Statutory Assessment of Housing Need was completed in March 2008 and identified a net need of 295 households. A new Assessment of Need will be carried out in March 2011. The focus of Housing Policy at National level has moved from construction to the rental accommodation scheme and long-term leasing. The ongoing implementation of the Rental Accommodation and Leasing Schemes will enable the Council to meet the longer term needs of households on the housing list.

- A new programme aimed at improving energy efficiency in Local Authority Housing Stock was introduced in 2009 by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Council advanced Phase II of the Energy Efficiency Programme in 28 local authority owned dwellings in various locations throughout the County. This programme is part of a 10 year national retrofitting programme for the improvement in the energy efficiency of residential, commercial and public buildings with a consequential savings in energy and CO2 emissions. It is anticipated that further phases of the programme will be advance in 2011 subject to adequate financial resources being available. Design work will also commence in early 2011 on remedial works projects in Treamore and Dristernan Estates.

- Construction commenced in 2009 on a voluntary housing project to provide 22 units of accommodation for elderly residents under the Capital Assistance Scheme at Main Street, Drurneerin by Cluainin Voluntary Housing Association. This project was completed in the last quarter of 2010. Subject to the availability of funding nationally and having regard to the housing needs assessment, further voluntary housing projects may be considered over the forthcoming three years.

- The Leitrim Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 was adopted in January 2009. The Programme provides for the redevelopment of Tawlaughtmore Halting Site, Mohill with the development of group housing on the site and it is anticipated that the design work on this project will be commenced in 2011 subject to availability of funding for the project.

- The Roads Capital Programme for the three year period 2011-2013 will comprise of improvement works on the National and Non-National Roads which will be funded through the National Roads Authority.
- Non-National Roads projects activity will be based on the 2010-2012 Restoration Improvement Works Programme adopted in 2010. The Council will continue to seek funding to carry out 4-6 Specific Improvement projects at chosen locations on Regional Roads and at other locations which are considered to merit inclusion. A submission for such projects has been made for funding in 2011. It is expected that the 2011 allocations will be announced circa end of January.

- It is intended that the signage programme on regional roads in the County will be completed in 2011.

- Consultants were appointed in 2009 for the Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Scheme. The preferred route corridor for this scheme was published in 2010 and a public consultation was held in July 2010. The preferred route corridor as published has been submitted to the National Roads Authority for approval. Subject to their approval this will come before the Council for inclusion in the County Development Plan in 2011. Preliminary design will continue in 2011 and it is estimated that the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement will be ready for publication later in 2011.

- The Council Water Services Investment Programme will see construction complete in 2011 in relation to the Carrick on Shannon Sewerage Scheme (new Treatment Plant), the Leitrim Towns & Villages Sewerage Schemes (11 No. new Waste Water Treatment Plants), and Advance Works in relation to the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase II (Leckan, Fivemilebourne). It is hoped that design work can commence in 2011 on the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme Phase II - Moneyduff Treatment Plant & the Kiltyclogher & Rossinver Trunk Watermains subject to the approval of the Preliminary Report already lodged with the Department of Environment. The Leitrim Sludge Management Plan will come before the Council in 2011 for adoption. Schemes that are envisaged to start in 2011 include selected works from Bundle No. 2 of the Leitrim Towns & Villages Sewerage Schemes (9 Villages), The Rural Water Programme will continue to show improvements for the County’s Group Water Schemes and it is anticipated that the next 3 year period will see the resolution of issues in relation to quality deficient schemes. It is anticipated that a Water Conservation Programme will commence in 2011. This will be an ongoing programme which will address the issue of Unaccounted-For-Water and will also include a publicity programme that will educate the public in relation to the need to conserve water.

- The Fire Services Plan adopted by the Council in 2004 outlines planned infrastructural improvements subject to funding being forthcoming from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The contract for the purchase of a site for the replacement fire station at Manorhamilton is being finalised, subject to provision of Capital funding and the receipt of sanction to design and seek tenders for construction and to commence construction in 2011. Funding has also been sought for the replacement of Ballinamore Fire Station and sanction is awaited. The Council took possession of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Drumshanbo Fire Station in 2010 and it is seeking funding for the replacement in 2011 of the Class B Appliance that is currently in use in Mohill, as part of the ongoing fleet replacement programme.

- Leitrim Civil Defence has been allocated capital funding to purchase sonar equipment for use by them in specialised underwater search and rescue operations.

- The Library Development Plan which was approved in 2009 has identified priorities for the service over the next five years for both infrastructural improvements and customer service developments. The implementation of the Plan will be on a phased basis depending on the resources available. In the absence of a Library Capital Development Programme nationally, it is unclear what progress can be made at this stage in relation to the redevelopment of Carrick on Shannon and Dromahaire Libraries. The Part VIII Public Consultation has been completed in relation to the extension of Mohill Library. It is
intended to carry out internal refurbishment in Mohill Library in the coming year and to install facilities to help cater for the needs of children with sensory difficulties.

- The Implementation Group for the Lough Alan Catchment Plan will focus on promoting the area in partnership with Faîte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and other relevant organizations while awaiting the outcome of a substantial funding application to Interreg IVA aimed at the implementation of some of the identified actions for the Catchment.

- The Council will continue to work closely with ICBAN to progress project proposals with SEUPB under Interreg IVA. In 2010, SEUPB have approved grants in excess of €1 million towards construction of an innovation centre under the Innovation and Enterprise Programme. The project partners include the County Enterprise Board, County Enterprise Fund and Leitrim County Council. Leitrim County Council and partners will continue to prioritize a number of projects within the evaluation process and anticipate additional grant approvals in 2011.

- Over the past year Carrick on Shannon and Jamestown Historical Trails were successfully completed, thereby adding to the local tourism product. Leitrim Tourism in partnership with Leitrim Development Company also delivered a new and innovative marketing campaign during 2010, successfully promoting Leitrim as a tourism destination. It is hoped to further develop this partnership during 2011.

- A mid-term review of the Tourism Development Strategy “Developing Leitrim’s Tourism” was completed in 2010, with future actions now prioritized. In 2011 and in partnership with Faîte Ireland the future development of Glencar Waterfall will be advanced. This will include proposals for development of a viewing bay, angling stands and an amenity area. Leitrim Tourism will also focus upon the development of Walking Routes within the County during 2011, with particular emphases on Slieve an Iarann and the Leitrim Way. In addition projects aimed at developing further facilities at Lough Rynn Lake are also being considered for funding by Faîte Ireland.

- Leitrim Tourism will continue to develop new and support existing events throughout the County. The ongoing development of events will continue to attract visitors to County Leitrim, while also creating a focal point for local community interaction and development.

- In regard to the Council’s Play and Recreation policy as revised in 2009, it is proposed to introduce Playground and Park byelaws in 2011. This development will complement and enhance our existing policies and infrastructure within County Leitrim. In relation to playground infrastructure, Leitrim County Council will continue to work with the local community and partners in regard to the development of new playgrounds and such other recreational facilities.

- The Council will continue to focus on the further development of Carrick on Shannon as the County Town and will commission a visioning exercise for the town and will endeavor to harness the co-operation of key partners in the process. In addition the Council will also work closely with the Leitrim Development Company in regard to their plans to roll out a town and village enhancement project commencing in 2011.

- The local Peace Partnership led by Leitrim County Council has just recently been advised of funding for the second phase of the Peace III program which will be delivered in the County over the next 2.5 years.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Jackie Maguire
Leitrim County Manager
Dear Member

The following report outlines the Council’s response to the severe weather which occurred during the past 6 weeks and also serves to provide a detailed response to matters raised in notices of motion and questions by Members. For ease of reference the report separately addresses the response/issues in relation to road conditions, water supply, housing, civil defence and the fire service.

Over the duration of the severe weather, the response of the Council to the issues affecting the public was developed and monitored on a continuous basis. All available resources were mobilised which involved all relevant staff responding to the significantly increased level of operational issues arising in particular in water, roads and housing services. In addition, the Council put in place a system to monitor the hotline telephone service outside of normal working hours from the 1 December onwards, over the Christmas period from 24th December to 27th December 2010 and over the January Bank Holiday Weekend. This service was operated remotely on a rota basis by 35 staff and all messages received were responded to. A staffed telephone hotline service was put in place from 28th December 2010 onwards with a number of staff returning to work early. Over this period, in excess of 600 calls were dealt with.

The public were kept fully informed through a number of press releases issued on a frequent basis to the local and national media (print and radio) and updates were also posted on the Council’s website. In addition contact was also made with relevant local community and voluntary organisations, where required.

Road Salting/Gritting Activity

The Winter Maintenance Plan for this Winter season was agreed at the November Council meeting. Priority 1 and 2 routes were designated in the Plan for treatment during the winter. At the start of the winter season Leitrim County Council had 450
tonnes of salt in storage. A total of 1,800 tonnes of salt has been received to date from the NRA. While the option was available for all local authorities to procure salt it was decided that the National Roads Authority be given responsibility to procure salt on behalf of all local authorities. The salt being acquired by the NRA was for use on both national and non-national roads. It was expected at the start of the winter, that similar volumes of salt as used last winter would be adequate for the Country.

At the start of the season each County was allocated enough salt to meet day to day demand and to have each storage depot full by 24th December. However, following the earlier than usual onset of severe weather conditions it became necessary to revise the salt allocation procedures. With effect from 1 December 2010, the NRA distributed salt on the basis of need. On 2nd December, advise was received from the NRA to mix the salt with grit in order to conserve supplies. On the 9th December Leitrim County Council was allocated a daily amount of 10 tonne of salt to use on national routes, again to conserve supplies.

To date, this winter, a total of 1,900 tonnes of salt has been used on roads in County Leitrim. In an average winter 1,300 tonnes of salt would be used. Last winter 1,700 tonnes of salt were used. Therefore to date Leitrim County Council have used a greater volume of salt than ever before. In addition, 6000 tonne of grit has also been used on regional and local roads to keep these roads passable. From the middle of November up to Christmas, the full complement of our roads maintenance staff were engaged in road gritting activity.

As a result of worsening weather conditions on the 16th and 17th December, road conditions deteriorated. A combination of factors such as the snow accumulations on the 16th and 17th, snow clearing capacity, and insufficient salt, resulted in the formation of ice on roads. Furthermore, the effect of salt on removing snow/ice reduces significantly at temperatures below -5°C and has no effect at temperature below -10°C. Once temperatures go below -5°C the guidance is to increase the rate of spread by up to 50%. During this period, however, the Council did not have adequate salt supplies to meet recommended rates of spread and the temperatures rarely went above -5°C so these factors together with the inadequate volumes of salt available hindered the Council’s efforts to remove ice and roads conditions remained poor until the thaw set in on the 26th December.

Increased salt stocks have been received since Christmas and current salt stock levels are adequate to meet the immediate demand. The key concerns in relation to road gritting for future winters include:

- Does Leitrim County Council have adequate salt storage facilities? Planning approval for two indoor salt storage facilities – at Tromud on the N16 and at Faulties on the N4 - will be advertised shortly. Grant aid has been
sought from the NRA for their construction and a decision on same is expected when grant allocations are announced in February.

- Should the Council buy its own salt supplies so as not to rely on outside agencies for supply? All local authorities relied on the NRA to supply salt this winter. This was not adequate but the reason is due to the severity of the winter and not the volume of salt bought by the NRA. Figures above show that to date this winter Leitrim County Council have used more salt than any previous winter. While there is the option to buy our own salt, this will have to come from the Council’s own resources. To buy enough salt to just treat the County’s important non-national roads could cost in the region of €60,000 for a season. This level of expenditure is not provided for, in the roads budget for 2011.

**Water Services**

Since the end of November, Leitrim County Council has experienced very difficult operating conditions for the supply of drinking water to its customers. With the onset of the freezing conditions, demand increased substantially. The bulk of water is supplied by the three main treatment plants in the County, North Leitrim plant at Dromahaire, South Leitrim Plant at Carrick on Shannon and Kinlough/Tullaghan plant at Glenade. Normal production volumes plus capacity at each plant is detailed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Capacity of Plant m3/day</th>
<th>Normal Production Volumes m3/day</th>
<th>Actual Daily Production Volumes since 1st Dec m3/day</th>
<th>% increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Leitrim</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Leitrim</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinlough/Tullaghan</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the above figures show, the Council is currently, and have been since the beginning of December, operating at full capacity in all plants.

At the beginning of the cold spell, problems arose primarily as a result of taps being left running in an effort to prevent pipes freezing. This necessitated the operation of water plants at full capacity in order to try and sustain reserves in the reservoirs. The full water services maintenance crew of 13 people - were fully engaged in locating and fixing leaks within the mains network during this period.
Over one-third of the mains network within the County is contained within the private group schemes which are connected to the public networks. Leitrim County Council has no control over these networks. All group schemes were written to on the 15th December requesting them to conserve supplies and to turn off their networks each night. A positive response to this request was received from some of the group schemes.

Due to the continuing decrease in freezing temperatures, the situation deteriorated gradually – reservoir levels dropped, more and more services became frozen and people were left in some cases without a water supply. It was decided on the 23rd December to set up 9 standpipes at locations around the County to provide water to people who were without a supply due to frozen pipes. These standpipes remained in place over the Christmas period and up to the 4th January in some cases. A water tanker was also deployed to Ballinaglera from 31st December onwards as the Council was unable to supply water to this area.

With the onset of the fast thaw on the 26th December, reservoir levels dropped to dangerously low levels on the 27th December. A decision was taken on this day to restrict water supplies each night from 9pm to 8am in order to conserve supplies. These restrictions remained in place until the 3rd January, 2011. Supplies were not restricted in the towns from New Years Eve onwards in order to allow pubs, hotels and restaurants continue their business during the busy holiday period. Every group scheme with greater than 20 connections was contacted by phone on the 27th December to advise them of the situation and requested that they check their own networks and connections for possible leaks.

The full water services maintenance crew worked throughout the holiday period and in addition 27 general operatives from the roads department were deployed to operate the standpipes and assist in locating and repairing leaks. To date, the Council has repaired 21 water mains and fittings and 243 individual water connections.

On the 4th January 2011, with an improvement in conditions, it became possible to meet demand across the County. However, on the 6th January, following the freezing temperatures of the night before, the demand on the North Leitrim Scheme outstripped capacity to provide and it was necessary to re-introduce night-time restrictions. It is anticipated that these restrictions will continue for the forseeable future.

One of the major problems which arose during this period of severe weather relates to individual house connections. At the onset of the freezing conditions, these connections froze and following the thaw a number of the connections burst. Leitrim County Council currently requires that service connections should be
a minimum of 900mm below ground level to avoid frost damage (which is 300mm greater that the level specified in the Building Regulations). The Council does not inspect or regulate this condition. It is the responsibility of the agent who is certifying building standards to ensure that this requirement is met.

The standard type of meter box used in this County is the Aptlas box. It is provided with a frost prevention internal lid of polystyrene. It is our experience that this lid has been removed in most boxes. The meter box is designed and manufactured in accordance with UK Water Industry Specification WIS 4-37-01 which requires the box to be able to withstand ground temperatures of -13°C. Air temperatures went below this value and ground temperatures were close to this value at times during the recent severe weather spell.

Record low temperatures were experienced during this period so the necessity to review this depth requirement is debateable. The suggestion that all connections be relaid at a deeper level following this experience is not realistic from a financial point of view. There are approximately 7,000 individual connections in this County so the cost of such an exercise would be excessive. In any case this work would only be carried out up to the stopcock and based on experience, most problems were between the stopcock and the property which is the responsibility of the property owner.

**Housing / Civil Defence / Fire Service**

The Council’s housing maintenance staff were also mobilised over the Christmas Holiday period to deal with issues arising in Council Housing stock i.e. frozen pipes, leaks, heating problems. The total number of calls received within this period is in excess of 120 calls* which have been logged through the emergency hotline and have been attended to. (* The actual figure is estimated to be significantly higher as the Outdoor Staff attended to other calls within the estates that were alerted to by tenants when on site attending to problems that were reported through the hotline. ) A significant number of calls required an emergency response particularly in cases with elderly tenants or those with a disability.

The nature of the calls varied considerably and ranged from problems with no water connection, frozen pipes and consequential problems with the heating systems. After the thaw when water supplies returned there was a significant issue with burst pipes and leaks in the properties and in a small number of cases the severity of the problem was such that the ceilings in the properties had come down completely. It has been established from the initial evaluation and further inspections of a number of the properties concerned that the issues that arose were directly attributable to the tenants having vacated the property over the Christmas period and having failed to have the heating systems maintained or the
water supply powered off as a preventative measure given the severe weather conditions that were being experienced at the time. Two properties in Mohill were deemed to be uninhabitable and in both cases alternative local authority accommodation was made available to the tenants concerned. The costs of the repair and remedial works required to these local authority owned dwellings is not as yet available.

The Civil Defence service provided substantial assistance to the HSE during the severe weather period. It was in a position to provide 3 no. 4 x 4 vehicles and drivers at the disposal of the HSE for tasks such as transportation of district nurses and home care personnel to visit patient living in isolated locations and provision of ambulance services to locations that couldn’t be reached by standard type ambulances, and the transportation of essential nursing staff living in isolated locations to their places of work. This service was provided by the Civil Defence Officer and a rota of up to seven volunteers at times ranging from 6 am until after midnight. A total of 285 man hours were worked during the period from 3rd to 10th December inclusive) and 355 man hours from 20th to 28th December (inclusive).

The Fire Service also provided back-up on a small number of occasions when the demands on Civil Defence to provide assistance to the HSE exceeded its capacity. They were required to transport nurses to work from outlying areas in north Leitrim and in the Drumshanbo/Drumkeerin areas. They were also required on one occasion to provide a water tanker to Lough Rynn Hotel. The Council was in constant liaison with the HSE during this period.

Yours sincerely

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Jackie Maguire
County Manager