



**DUNGANNON
& SOUTH TYRONE**

Borough Council

Annual Review 2008



Message from the Mayor

I am putting the community at the heart of my term in office. Without a community there is no Council and therefore no Mayor.

It is important that Council continues to ensure it is meeting the expectation of the community, in its delivery of service and in providing value for money, without incurring any additional increase in the rates. As you will note from the work and activities highlighted Council has secured over £2.5 million of funding from other sources to support additional work across the Borough.

A further issue that I plan to address during my year in office is to challenge the level of Investment from other Government Departments to the West of the province and to ensure that Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough gets its fair share of provision.

I look forward to meeting with many of you when I am out and about across the Borough .

Mayor
Councillor The Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley, MLA



Chief Executive Statement

Council continues to work to deliver the best service possible for its rate payers in a diverse range of areas. This publication seeks to highlight some of the key achievements for 2008. It is important to note that work continues to be delivered at a high quality level across all services, from collecting bins, monitoring of air quality, and ensuring good quality leisure provision, to the promotion of economic development, tourism and arts.

We as a Council are striving to ensure our quality of service continues to get better, and welcome your views on this.

Alan Burke & Iain Frazer, Acting Chief Executives



Regulatory Services

Waste Management & Recycling

Council has been proactively encouraging and providing support to increase the level of recycling across the Borough. A number of environmental campaigns have taken place with the public, community groups and schools, such as 'Need a Bag Campaign', 'Youth Information Day on Recycling and Green issues'. Twenty five schools across the Borough have taken part in the Yellow Pages Recycling Campaign.

Council is continuing to research the development of a new waste disposal facility for the Borough to ensure continued safe and environmentally friendly waste management.

Council would like to thank all of the people of the Borough who support Council in meeting its recycling targets.



Council continues to ensure that the Borough is a clean, green and attractive place to live, cleaning over 1763 km of road per annum, providing flowers and planting in over 18 areas from towns and villages to settlements across the Borough.

**Council is recycling 25%
of domestic waste,
compared to 10%
six years ago.**



Building Control

Council continues to regulate and support on building regulations, particularly with regard to new regulations on energy performance certificates, a requirement for the development of new buildings, for the sale of buildings and for rental. Council carries out an average 7500 inspections of buildings each year, equating to 1000 applications, ensuring good standards.

It also proactively promotes and supports energy efficiency standards, including alternative energy. A feasibility study is currently being completed between Council and South West College to investigate alternative energy for their buildings.

Birth, Death and Marriage Registration

Council continues to provide a registration service. In 2008 a total of 890 births were registered and a total of 423 deaths registered. Council facilitated 287 marriages in 2008.

Environmental Health

Council continues to ensure regulation compliance of our restaurants and food outlets across the Borough. It also deals with Food Safety complaints, 85% of which are addressed within 3 working days and the remainder continue to be followed up to completion. Nutrient support work has commenced to encourage healthier food provision and choice for customers.

Council monitored and supported 85% of industrial premises that fall within Pollution prevention and control, resulting in a positive inspection of pollution levels across the Borough's industries. Air quality monitoring and action to address areas not meeting standards is ongoing.

Council has taken on an active role in good health promotion and has run a number of campaigns on alcohol and smoking.

Council was the only one of the 26 Councils not to register a single smoking in restricted places detection. This can be attributed to the proactive approach to guidance, education and promotion of the new law.



Mocktail parties were run throughout the Borough to encourage and promote an alcohol free campaign and provide information on the damages of alcohol.

New home safety initiatives and support were launched to increase safety in the home targeting older people and children under five. A new plan to undertake 120 home safety checks in the coming year has commenced, 120 checks have been completed to date.

Initiatives to support a healthy lifestyle have taken place throughout the year. Support was provided to groups in securing over £100,000 of investing for health funding for community initiatives. A Men's health day was also run in the Borough as this group is more vulnerable being less likely to visit a doctor and address health issues. Further initiatives to address men's health are planned.

Dog control continues to be a priority for Council, 80% of stray dogs are rehomed or returned to owner, rating Council in the top five across NI. A new campaign to support good dog management is to commence in 2009.

Leisure Services

Leisure Facilities

Council completed a £1.8 million extension to the Leisure Centre, developing a second fitness hall, upgraded changing facilities and a sauna and steam room facility, which opened to the public in January 2009. Council continues to allocate funding support to Fivemiletown College to provide its leisure facilities to the public in the Clogher Valley area of the Borough.



A full programme of leisure activities was delivered for all residents, fishing events at Dungannon Park and Blackwater, running events Felix 10k, disability leisure activities under Fit For U and the Special Olympics celebration. Action packed summer schools were delivered in Coalisland, Dungannon, Fivemiletown and Castlecaulfield.



Parks

Two new parks commenced development in 2008 to be completed in 2009; Dunavon and Killyman. A new Eco Park with an investment of £85,000 has been completed in Aughnacloy, providing open space and leisure provision; this is due to open to the public early 2009.

Additional grant funding of £40,000 was secured for an upgrade of Railway Park, and £70,000 was secured for the development of lighting at Gortgonis track Coalisland.

Other developments in progress include: Castlecaulfield Pavilion upgrade, and Coalisland canal to which £91,000 of funding is being sought from Lough Neagh Partnership.

The development of a landmark heritage site Castle Hill is currently being developed which will include an urban park and access to the Borough's history of the Old Gaelic Order and the Plantation.

Over 1/4 million was allocated to new developments across the Borough.



Good Relations and Community Development

Community Development & Community Relations

Support was provided to groups for community development and addressing sectarianism & racism. Activities included:

- A touring exhibition on migration and cultural diversity was held in Ranfurly House,
- A 'Trace your Routes' service was developed at Ranfurly House in partnership with Irish World genealogy, access to this service is available by contacting 028 8772 8600.
- A conference on 'Exploring Diversity' was held in partnership with Dungannon Historical Forum.
- An Irish Medium summer scheme took place and a support fund set up for people attending Irish classes, which is open for access.
- An annual celebration of Burns Night (Rabbi Burns) took place on Castle Hill.
- An Early Plantation of Ulster conference with O'Neill Historical Society was held.



A number of initiatives to support the integration of migrant workers took place during the year, a Lithuanian weekend of fun with the Lithuanian Ambassador, anti racism seminars to address myths and provide accurate information, migrant exhibition highlighting cultural awareness, Racism hurts CD challenging racist attitudes and Migrant employment rights clinics in partnership with STEP/CAB/ICTU

Support and guidance was provided to people experiencing hate crime across the Borough, providing links and access to relevant organisations and follow up.

£310,000 was issued in 2008 in grants to community organisations, 45% funding was secured towards this.

Celebrating Achievements

Receptions were held with 35 groups and organisations, including;

- Support groups for; women, disability and elderly
- Local schools and Scouts Groups;
- Charities and volunteers
- Sports teams;
- Migrant workers and cultural/language groups;
- Environmental groups;
- Family support groups for foster placement/adoption, breast feeding;
- Council also welcomed visitors including President Mary McAleese.



Community Arts

An arts filled programme was delivered in 2008, including;

- Shakespeare on the Hill which took place in July, a treat for all art goers, with over 200 people attending.
- Community art exhibitions were held in Ranfurly House and Linen Green.
- A Disability Arts Programme was completed, with nine local disability groups participating.
- An Arts festival providing a diverse programme of activities, from creative writing for children to art attack in the park, was held, with over 70 children in attendance.
- An action filled summer art programme for children took place with over 60 children involved.
- Community art pieces were created in Fivemiletown Ballygawley, Aughnacloy, Dungannon, Coalisland, supported by Northern Ireland Arts Council.
- Funding of £20,000 was provided, each, to our two community theatres to support local drama and arts activity.



Community Safety & District Policing

A number of community safety projects were delivered in 2008 to help communities address safety and anti social behaviour.

- 'Summer splash' grants were allocated to schemes across the Borough with over 500 young people attending.
- Community safety funding was provided to a range of projects from fencing for sports facilities to bonfire safety.
- A road show was run in local schools to promote road/bike safety.
- A 'Safe Seniors' event was held to advise older people of safety measures and try to overcome fears, over 130 people attended.
- Council is working with Cookstown and Magherafelt Councils to develop a programme for senior citizens, funding is currently being sought.



A number of sessions were held on policing to allow the public to address their safety fears and their views on the performance of policing.

The above activities were delivered in partnership with Community Safety Partnership & District Policing Partnership.

Public Events

Council organised, hosted and funded a number of public events to bring people together across the Borough. Some of the main events included:

- Council hosted Ireland's single largest annual country music festival in August 2008, over 7000 people came to enjoy a weekend of Country music.
- A number of family fun days were held at Grants Homestead, including family barbeques, and music events.
- The annual Mayor's Pageant took place in May 2008, with a day of fun packed activities, from dramatics to local music.
- The 1st 'Gannonball Run Soap Box Race' in partnership between Council and Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) attracted over 3000 people.
- Halloween Spooktacular fun event took place in partnership with DRP attracting a huge number of families (3,500 people).
- The Christmas light switch on in Coalisland was a great success with over 3000 people attending.
- The annual Christmas craft fair at Linen Green was again a great attraction to both local people and visitors to the Borough.
- As part of the opening of Castle Hill to the public, Council hosted Santa's grotto on the Hill, with over 2000 people attending.
- Council also distributed £26,000 (50% funded) to local groups to hold local village festivals, supported by NI Arts Council funding.



Eight large public events were held to bring the community together for family fun

Enterprise, Urban Regeneration and Tourism

Enterprise

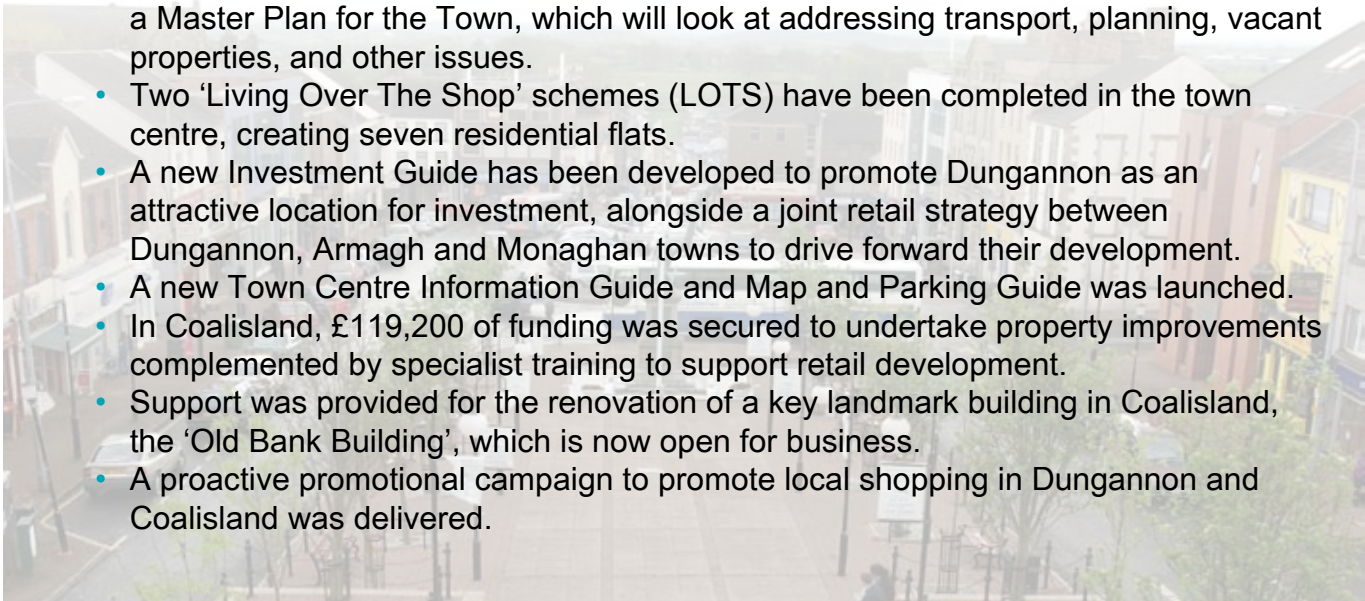
A number of successful enterprise development programmes have been initiated for development or have been completed.

- A total of four workspace projects (28,000 sq ft) were supported to a value of £445,000 providing leverage of £3m (Dungannon West through Dungannon West Ltd, Eglish through Oonagh Development, Fivemiletown through Fivemiletown Development and Donaghmore through Torrent Valley Initiatives).
- Council is a key partner in the Business Innovation Centre run by South West College, supporting businesses in research and development, testing and prototyping. The Centre is currently establishing innovation in energy renewables, with a £1/2 million investment.
- Council has secured £1/2 million for training and development for the next three years. A training programme has commenced with 13 unemployed women to develop employment skills. A cross border training programme delivered over the last three years completed in 2008 with over 50 women from Dungannon & Monaghan receiving accreditation in retail development.
- Council continues to support The Business Education Partnership which offers enterprise training and business skills to post primary schools.

Urban Regeneration

In conjunction with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and Coalisland Regeneration Partnership a number of regeneration schemes have been instigated or developed for Dungannon town as the principal Borough town and Coalisland as the second town:

- A successful business case was submitted to DSD for a Master Plan for the Town, which will look at addressing transport, planning, vacant properties, and other issues.
- Two 'Living Over The Shop' schemes (LOTS) have been completed in the town centre, creating seven residential flats.
- A new Investment Guide has been developed to promote Dungannon as an attractive location for investment, alongside a joint retail strategy between Dungannon, Armagh and Monaghan towns to drive forward their development.
- A new Town Centre Information Guide and Map and Parking Guide was launched.
- In Coalisland, £119,200 of funding was secured to undertake property improvements complemented by specialist training to support retail development.
- Support was provided for the renovation of a key landmark building in Coalisland, the 'Old Bank Building', which is now open for business.
- A proactive promotional campaign to promote local shopping in Dungannon and Coalisland was delivered.



Tourism

In conjunction with Flavour of Tyrone a number of tourism development initiatives have been completed:

A new Flavour of Tyrone Visitor guide was developed and distributed to encourage visitors to the Borough. A new Little Black Recipe Book also proved successful for food providers. Other promotional activities included advertising, public relations, website development (www.flavourof Tyrone.com), familiarisation visits (6), and promotion at holiday shows, food shows, garden shows, ideal home shows, agricultural shows, Tyrone County Fleadh, and UTV Country Fest.

Council has been actively supporting the development of tourism activities including off road driving, cookery and painting lessons under Learn to Tyrone (www.learntotyrone.com).

A new tourism trail; The Torrent Valley Heritage Trail has been developing adding to Dungannon Town Heritage Trail and the Carlton Trail.

The Killymaddy Tourist Information and Craft Centre continue to be a well established and popular facility, serving over 90,000 visitors a year.

Council acknowledges the support of the European Regional Development fund under the NI Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme



Council with partners such as ICBAN and PLATO has been successful in obtaining £3.5mn over the next 2-3 years which will benefit enterprise development and regeneration in the Borough.

Sustainability

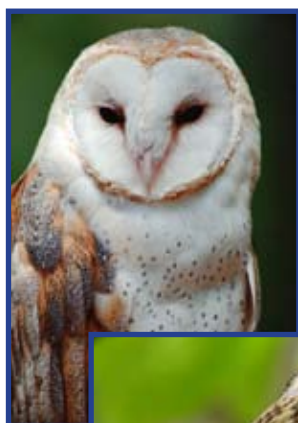
The ongoing development of Blackwater as a natural asset took place through a number of programmes;

- Pollution control initiatives including new upgraded septic tanks and nutrient management schemes. Thirty nine farmers have upgraded their farms and eighteen domestic houses received septic tanks across Tyrone, Armagh and Monaghan. The project has been classified as an UNESCO exemplar project recognising science and community dialogue.
- A new canoe trail, cycle and water tours were opened along the Blackwater trail (Ulster Canal Cycle Trail and Sliabh Beagh Access).
- Events and training programmes, including angling classics, 10k paddle & cycle, walking events with 2000 people, bowls. A total of 735 people participated in a range of courses.



A number of environmental sustainability projects were completed through partnership;

- A pilot Grow your own allotment scheme in Castlecaulfield was launched (allotment beds with wheelchair accessibility are planned).
- New Eco trails to promote the natural habitat were developed in Parkanaur and Benburb.
- The development of a new innovative reedbed water quality scheme, shoreline walk and board walk were developed at Washingbay in partnership with Munitir Na Mointeach.
- The promotion of Fair Trade ethical purchasing.
- The promotion of 'Buy Local' campaigns.
- The delivery of carbon footprint initiatives, supporting people in changing practices in energy efficiency, travel, recycling etc.
- Council also maintained its quality award for good environmental practice in key service areas for energy efficiency.
- As part of 'Arbour Day' celebration', a day dedicated to tree planting was held with a total of twelve schools involved planting 400 trees at five locations across the Borough.



Bio Diversity

A new Bio diversity audit has been completed, recording 58 threatened species in the Borough, 21% of NI's endangered species. To date plans are in place to safe guard the Barn Owl, Bat, Tree Sparrow, and Swift. Other initiatives to raise the profile of these species included: a Bat night in Dungannon Park, an event on Castle Hill on Swifts. The Biodiversity project is supported by the NI Environment Agency.

A new leaflet on biodiversity providing information on some of the endangered species in the Borough is now available.

Targeting Social Need

Neighbourhood Renewal

Council has sought to where possible address issues of poverty and disadvantage. It works with partners in both Coalisland and Dungannon West areas of deprivation identified under the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. To date over £900,000 of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding has been made available over the last few years from the Department of Social Development, contributed to by Council, just over £500,000 for Dungannon and £400,000 for Coalisland for a range of projects including health schemes, new parks, street lighting, training, public art, summer schemes, and events.



Council has also been actively building awareness of poverty issues across the Borough in partnership with charities, organisations and NI Anti Poverty Network.

Lobbying Central Government Services

Council continues to lobby central Government for additional services and investment to the Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough, including:

- Need for more public sector employment in the area to allow for job opportunities - the new DARD direct office is to be located in Dungannon and the Social Security Agency is to be retained.
- Need for better Water quality—regular meetings are now held with Council on water quality developments.
- Need for Broadband provision across all rural areas - a new programme of support is now in place to support rural provision.
- Need Social Housing - NI Housing Executive has established quarterly progress meetings with Council on the provision of social housing.
- Need for greater flexibility in future rural planning (PPS21) - a number of changes are proposed such as greater flexibility for farmers, replacement dwellings and social housing. Further follow up is ongoing regarding provision for the non farming rural dweller.
- Need for greater safety measures on the A4 road - most of the recommendations have been implemented, follow up is ongoing on greater traffic enforcement presence.
- Need for a distributor road around Dungannon – this is currently being assessed.
- Other issues that continue to be promoted are the development of the Ulster Canal, greater funding for arts & culture, addressing fly tipping.
- Council continues to be a key Planning Consultee for Central Government Planning Service.



Your Elected Representatives

Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council has 22 elected members representing the Borough. Councillors are elected on an area basis. There are 4 areas and 22 wards in Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough. Please see below the elected representatives.

Dungannon & South Tyrone Councillors

Dungannon Town



Cllr W Cuddy
UUP



Cllr V Currie
SDLP



Cllr H Greenaway
DUP



Cllr L McLarnon
Sinn-Féin



Cllr B Monteith
Independent



Cllr M Morrow
DUP

Torrent



Cllr N Badger
UUP



Cllr J Cavanagh
SDLP



Cllr D Donnelly
Sinn-Féin



Cllr M Gillespie
Sinn-Féin



Cllr F Molloy
Sinn-Féin



Cllr M O'Neill
Sinn-Féin

Clogher Valley



Cllr F Burton
DUP



Cllr A McGonnell
SDLP



Cllr S McGuigan
Sinn-Féin



Cllr C McMahon
Sinn-Féin



Cllr R Mulligan
UUP

Blackwater



Cllr S Brush
DUP



Cllr R Burton
DUP



Cllr P Daly
SDLP



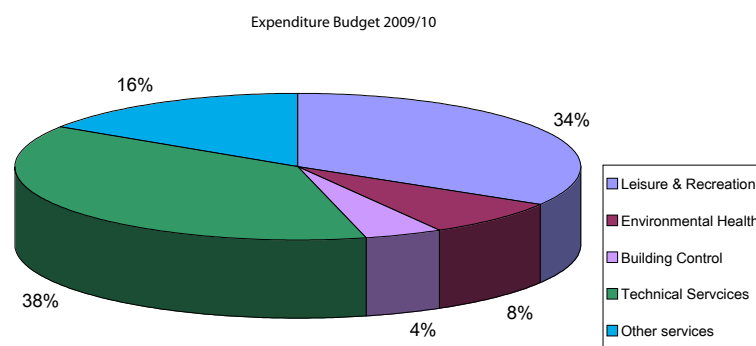
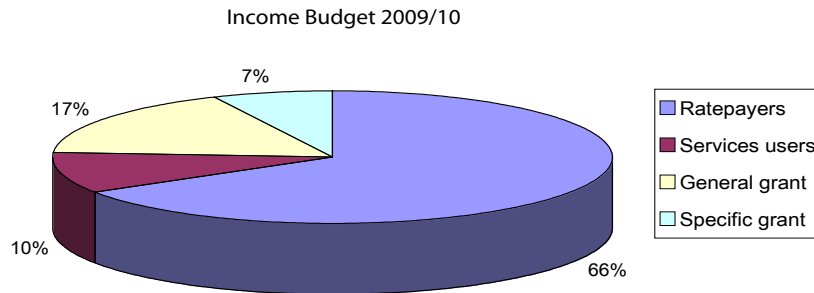
Cllr P Gildernew
Sinn-Féin



Cllr J Hamilton
UUP

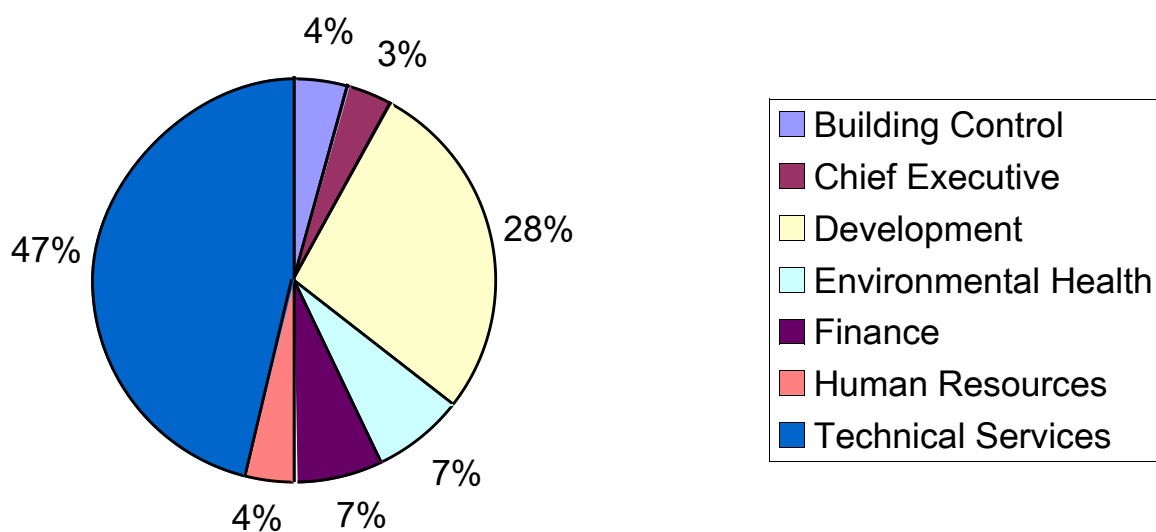
Financial Update

Council continues to seek to maximize expenditure providing value for money to the ratepayer. Please see below a breakdown of expenditure.



Staff Breakdown to Service Area

In 2008 Council employed a total of 297 staff across the following Service Divisions:



Detailed annual accounts are available for public viewing which can be obtained by contacting Council Finance Division on 028 8772 0300.

Equality

The Council is committed to ensuring that it works to provide equality of opportunity for all throughout the Borough. As part of this commitment it is keen to ensure that its services are as accessible as possible. If anyone has any comments on accessing a Council service please contact 028 8772 0319.

**This leaflet is available in alternative formats, on request,
please contact 028 8772 0319, or email info@dungannon.gov.uk**

Further Information & Contact Details

Further information on any of the above activities can be provided by contacting Council on Tel: 028 8772 0300 Text phone 028 8772 0332, email info@dungannon.gov.uk, website www.dungannon.gov.uk.

There is a new interactive blog on the website to allow people to keep up to date of new activities and events and also to allow an opportunity to express your views.

Department Contact Numbers

Chief Executive's Office, Finance,	Tel: 8772 0300
Registrar (Births, Deaths, Marriages)	Tel: 8772 0329
Building Control	Tel: 8772 0357
Community Arts	Tel: 8775 3626
Environmental Health	Tel: 8772 0366
Technical services	Tel: 8772 0390
(Refuse Collection, Street Cleansing)	
Development	Tel: 8772 8600
Community Relations	Tel: 8772 8613
Urban Regeneration	Tel: 8772 8602
Dungannon Leisure Centre	Tel: 8772 0370
Killymaddy Tourist Information Centre	Tel: 8776 7259
Ranfurly House Information Centre	Tel: 8772 8600
Human Resources	Tel: 8772 8127
Dungannon Park	Tel: 8772 8690

