

Digital Innovation Programme 2018

The Digital Innovation Programme 2018 (DIP) is an initiative of the Department of Rural and Community Development (the 'Department'). It is designed to encourage local authority led projects that support digital development. These projects will provide innovative digital solutions to issues, or identify solutions to digital issues and should be scalable and replicable by other local authorities.

Funding is dependant, amongst other criteria, on a project's alignment with the seven pillars of digital maturity:

1. Digital Skills: Primary, Post primary, 3rd level, Back-2-Education
2. Infrastructure: equipment/physical infrastructure, design, research/awareness raising
3. Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Supports to help specialised or niche enterprise, supports for SME/Start-ups, R&D
4. Digital Economy & Employment: Supports for- digital enterprise/ecommerce, Hubs/Clusters/Incubation, Apprenticeships/internships
5. Digital Services: Internal system integration or improvement, external service provision, digitisation
6. Community & Culture: Supports for Rural Inclusion, Community Cohesion, Arts & heritage or Irish Language
7. Digital Transition: Digital Champions, Mobilising Communities, preparatory work/feasibility studies

Qualification Criteria

- **Completed Applications will be accepted up to and no later than 1pm, Friday 28th September 2018.**
- Projects must be led by the local authority
- 20% (minimum) of total project cost must be provided in the form of match funding
- Projects chosen for funding will be required to draw down 100% of DIP 2018 scheme funds before the end of 2018.
- Projects must demonstrate that they will support, promote or otherwise advance one or more of the seven pillars of digital maturity
- Projects must provide a public benefit and must not provide any private benefit
- The project must be original. DIP funding will not be provided for a project that has already concluded successfully, or is successfully operating. New approaches to existing or previously tried initiatives may be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CORMAC MCCANN, BROADBAND OFFICER, MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL AT: broadband@meathcoco.ie or by phone on 046 909 7402