Annual Report 2024

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council









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Kildare County Council

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Introduction

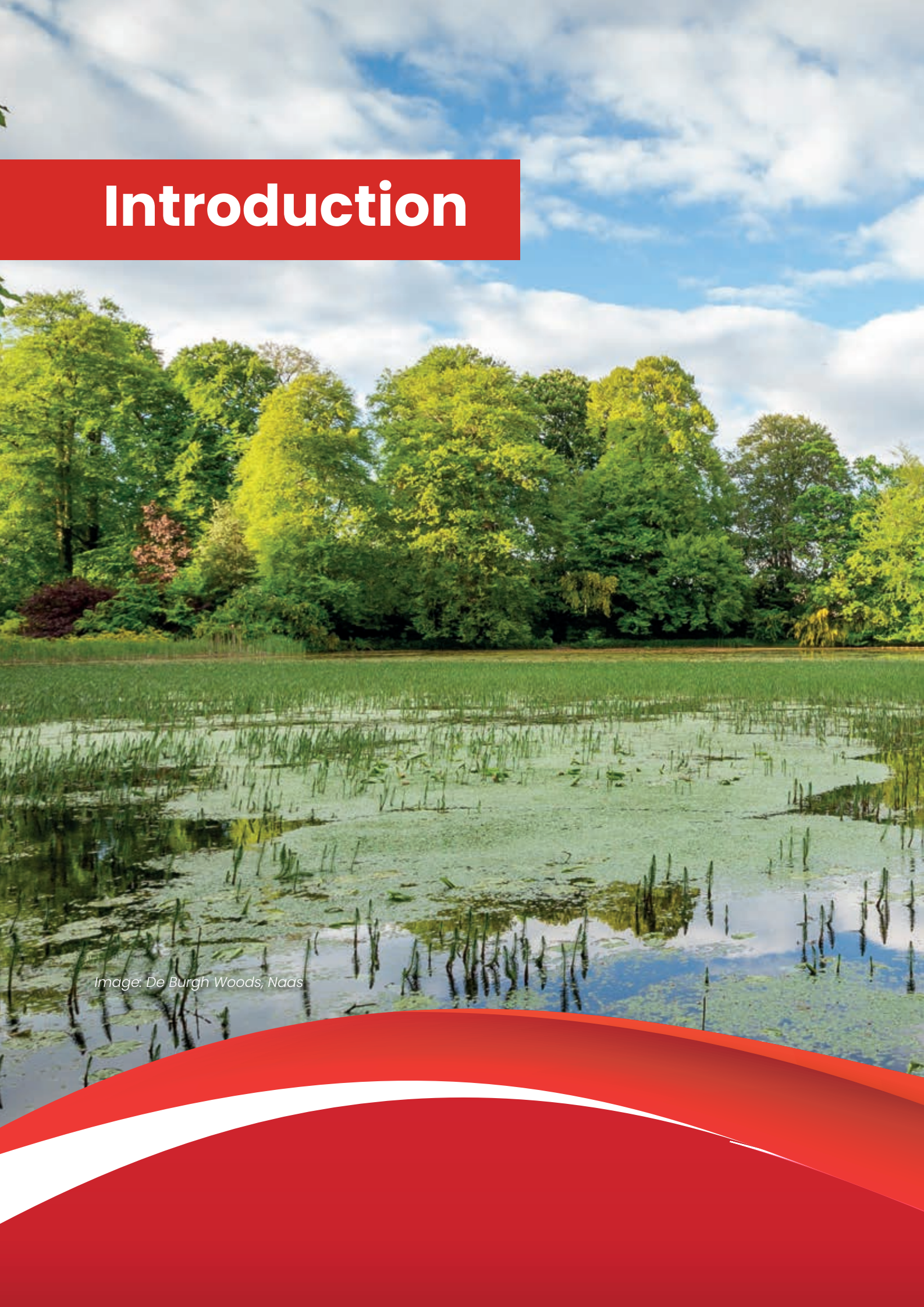
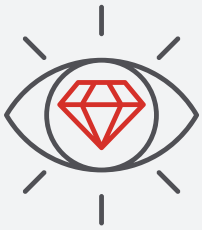


Image: De Burgh Woods, Naas

Our Vision & Mission Statement



Our Vision

Kildare – Living; growing; leading

Working together towards an inclusive and sustainable County.



Mission Statement

Kildare County Council

Shaping a sustainable future while improving the qualityof life of all citizens. Delivering enabling infrastructure and efficient accessible services and pursuing our vision through collaboration, innovation, inclusion and community engagement.

Joint Foreword

Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council & Councillor Kevin Duffy, Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare

Our 2024 Annual Report is a great opportunity for us to look back at the achievements and progress of Kildare County Council throughout the year. This year has been marked by significant achievements across all our directorates, reflecting our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Kildare.

Kildare County Council has made remarkable strides in many areas including climate action and community development.

Kildare County Council is hugely committed to climate action and is leading by example and playing our part in addressing the crises of Climate. The Community Climate Action Programme saw the approval of 24 projects by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, with several already completed. Our installation of high-efficiency solar PV panels at the Cotton Mills building and the piloting of a Hyundai Kona EV for staff use have contributed to substantial reductions in carbon emissions. Additionally, the HackTheClimate 2024 event showcased innovative solutions to pressing climate issues.

Our community centres have continued to serve as vital hubs for local groups. This year, we opened a new centre in Kilcock and continued to deliver community spaces by purchasing and renovating new centres in Rathangan, Carbury, Clane and Allenwood.

The Brigid 1500 festival celebrated St. Brigid's legacy, engaging communities and reaching global audiences. The festival featured a variety of events, including historical reenactments, cultural performances, and educational workshops. Local artists and performers showcased their talents, and there were numerous opportunities for community members to participate in the celebrations.

The soft opening of Kerdiffstown Park took place in October and marked a significant milestone in our community's journey towards creating vibrant and sustainable public spaces. The transformation of Kerdiffstown Park from a former landfill site into a 30 – hectare multi use park, including 2 full-size all-weather sports pitches, a playground, several paths and walking trails, vast open green spaces, visitor car parks and age friendly seating is a testament to our commitment to environmental sustainability and community development.

In 2024, Kildare County Council also processed over 26,000 electors and managed multiple electoral events, including Local Elections with 90 candidates. Additionally, our Library Service has expanded its offerings, including the opening of Naas Library & Cultural Centre and the launch of the Kildare Seed Library. Our Arts Service has supported numerous community projects, including the Brigid Sings collaborative project and Culture Night events.

Significant progress has been made in enhancing the public realm across Kildare. Our Strategic Projects and Public Realm section has been instrumental in publishing town and village plans, completing statutory processes, and securing funding for various projects. These initiatives have focused on improving the quality of life for residents and creating vibrant, accessible, and sustainable public spaces.

Considerable progress has been made on housing delivery across the county. We successfully delivered direct build units in Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh, and Blackridge, Athgarvan, with 101 units in progress at year-end. We also delivered 422 new and second-hand homes, allocated homes to 670 housing applicants, and approved 21 home loans. Our efforts in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 resulted in the delivery of 95 homes, exceeding the target of 89 homes.

Finally, the Local Property Tax funding has supported hundreds of community projects, environmental initiatives, county maintenance, and cultural programmes. This funding has significantly contributed to the quality of life and infrastructure of the citizens of Kildare.

Together, we have made significant progress in enhancing the services and facilities available to the people of Kildare. We look forward to continuing our work in the coming year, building on these successes and striving for even greater achievements.



Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive
Kildare County Council



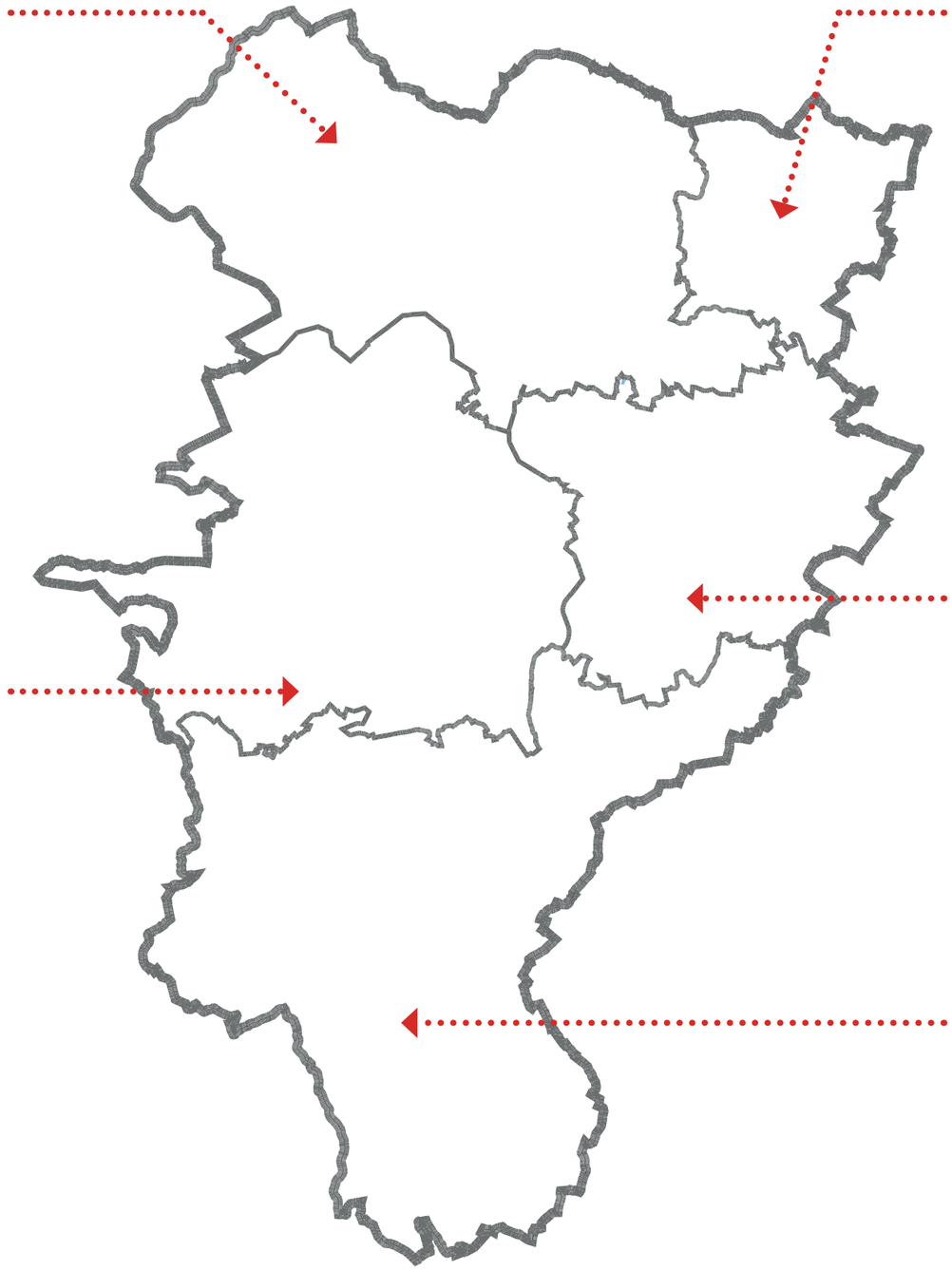
Councillor Kevin Duffy
Cathaoirleach of
the County of Kildare

Kildare County Council Annual Report 2024

Elected Members

Clane Maynooth Municipal District		
Cllr. Tim Durkan	FG	
Cllr. Angela Feeney	LAB	
Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick	FF	
Cllr. Peter Hamilton	Green	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy		Non-Party
Cllr. Paul Ward	FF	
Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil	FF	*Until Nov 2024
Cllr. Brendan Weld	FG	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Brendan Wyse	FG	
Cllr. Peter Melrose	SD	
Cllr. Paula Mulroe	SD	*Co-opted Dec 2024
Cllr Donna Phelan	FF	*Co-opted Dec 2024
Cllr. Aidan Farrelly	SD	*Until Nov 2024
Cllr. William Durkan	FG	*Elected June 2024

Kildare Newbridge Municipal District		
Cllr. Anne Connolly	FF	
Cllr. Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh	SF	*Elected June 2024 *Until Nov 2024
Cllr. Noel Connolly	SF	*Until June 2024 *Co-opted Dec 2024
Cllr. Suzanne Doyle	FF	
Cllr. Kevin Duffy	FG	
Cllr. Noel Heavey	FF	
Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer	FG	
Cllr. Tracey O'Dwyer	FG	
Cllr. Chris Pender	SD	
Cllr. Robert Power	FF	
Cllr. Pat Balfe	SD	
Cllr. Tom Mc Donnell	Non-Party	*Elected June 2024
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy	Non-Party	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Paddy Curran	FG	*Until June 2024



Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District		
Cllr Bernard Caldwell	FF	
Cllr Nuala Killeen	SD	
Cllr Lumi Panaite Fahey	FG	*Elected June 2024
Cllr David Trost	FF	*Elected June 2024
Cllr Claire O'Rourke	SD	*Elected June 2024
Cllr. Rupert Heather	LAB	*Co-opted January 2024
Cllr. Michael Coleman	FF	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Íde Cussen	Non-Party	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Ciara Galvin	LAB	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Vanessa Liston	Non-Party	*Until June 2024
Cllr. Joe Neville	FG	*Until Nov 2024
Cllr. Paul Brooks	FG	*Co-opted June 2024

Naas Municipal District		
Cllr. Anne Breen	LAB	
Cllr. Fintan Brett	FG	
Cllr. Bill Clear	Non-Party	
Cllr. Carmel Kelly	F	
Cllr. Seamie Moore	Non-Party	
Cllr. Evie Sammon	FG	
Cllr. Ger Dunne	II	*Elected June 2024
Cllr. Bob Quinn	GP	*Until June 2024

Athy Municipal District	
Cllr. Veralouise Behan	FF
Cllr. Aoife Breslin	LAB
Cllr. Brian Dooley	FF
Cllr. Ivan Keatley	FG
Cllr. Mark Leigh	LAB



Introduction

Local Property Tax

Overview of 2024:

Over €5.6m in Local Property Tax funding was allocated in 2024 to the five Municipal Districts in Kildare, contributing to the development and delivery of hundreds of community projects, environmental initiatives, county maintenance as well as creative and cultural programmes.

Local Property Tax is an annual tax on residential properties, based on their market value and the allocation of this funding on an annual basis by Kildare County Council contributes to the quality of life and infrastructure of the citizens of Kildare across the five Municipal District Areas of the county.

Top Image: De Burgh Woods, Naas



The Wonderful Barn, Leixlip

Local Property Tax in 2024 significantly supported the following initiatives:

Supporting Communities

- Brigid 1500 Festival
- Community Innovation Fund
- Youth & Community Initiatives
- Christmas Lights
- Health & Wellbeing Kiosk
- Sporting Activities
- Shop Front Grants
- Kildare Sports Partnership
- Heads Up Programme
- Community, Residents Association Grants
- St. Patricks' Day Festivals
- Amenity Lands, Parks.
- Kerdiffstown Park
- Wonderful Barn, Celbridge
- Street Fest
- Halloween Events
- Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Protecting our Environment

- Tidy Towns Funding
- Climate Action innovation Fund
- Glysophate Reduction Measures
- Tree Planting
- Tree Pruning
- Feasability Studies Greenways & Heritage Routes
- Quiet Streets, Active Travel
- Biodiversity Gardens

County Maintenance

- Upgrade and repair of footpaths
- Local Roads Maintenance
- Public Lighting
- Public Realm Initiatives
- Taking in Charge of Estates
- Maintenance of Graveyards.
- Supporting Culture & The Arts
- Brigid 1500 Festival
- Manley Hopkins Festival
- Decade of Commemoration
- Drama Festivals
- Derby Festival
- Music Generation
- Pop Up Schools, Seed Library
- June Fest
- Heritage Projects
- Coiste Gaeilge Irish Language Initiatives





National Playday, Áras Chill Dara

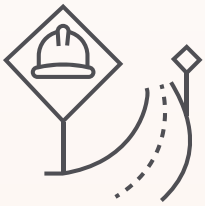


Puppet Show, National Playday at Áras Chill Dara

Local Property Tax

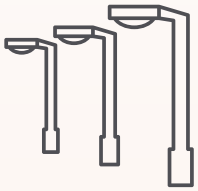
€2.02m

Upgrade and repair of footpaths



€60,000

Public lighting



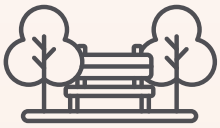
€169,500

Tidy Towns



€643,100

Parks & recreation, tree planting/pruning, glyphosate reduction



€2.08m

Community grants, festivals, Brigid 1500, christmas lights, residents associations



€494,500

Library capital project & arts





Brigid 1500



Naas Tidy Towns at Presentation of 2024 IBAL Award

Window boxes, Naas Library and Cultural Centre, with water supplied by rainwater harvesting system

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

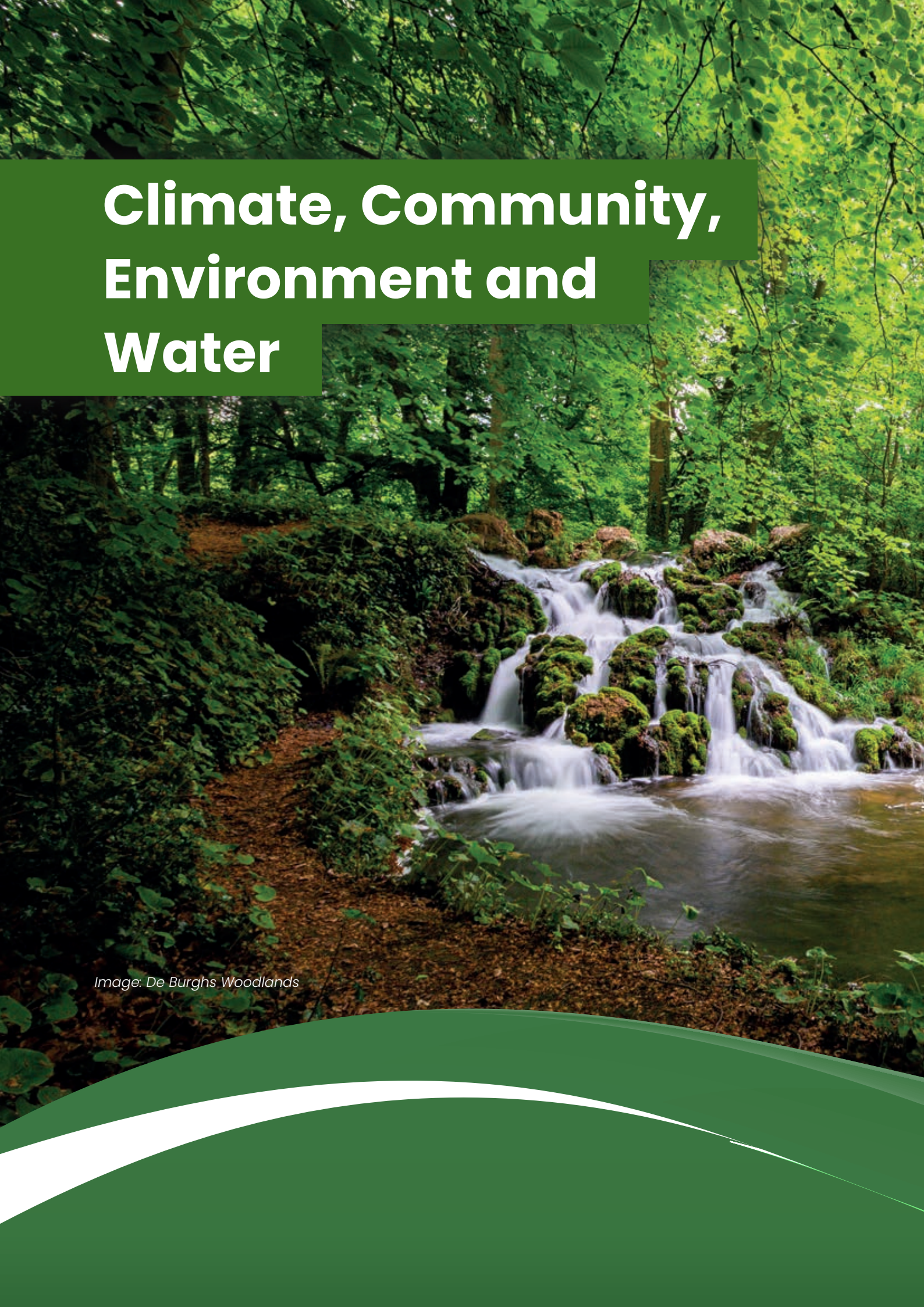


Image: De Burghs Woodlands





Image: Kerdiffstown Park

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Climate

Climate:

In 2024, Kildare County Council's Climate Action Office continued to address climate change and worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, focusing on implementing the actions outlined in Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (2024-2029). This newly adopted plan sets out a comprehensive strategy to help Kildare achieve the national target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.

Overview of 2024:

Community Climate Action Programme

In 2024, the Community Climate Action Programme saw significant progress. Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete their projects, and since the grants were finalised in September 2024, four projects have already been completed.

The first recoupment from DECC was completed in early December 2024, covering approximately €200,000 of the total allocation of €897,000.

Picnic in the park

On June 16, 2024, Harbour Field in Maynooth hosted another successful family day out with a climate and sustainability theme to the day.







Community climate action programme

This Programme was introduced in 2024, with funding from Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, which supports small and large, rural and urban communities in taking climate action at the local level.

PV Array Installation

In December 2024, 208 high-efficiency solar PV panels were commissioned at the Kildare County Council Cotton Mills building.



Kildare County Council Go Car



In 2024, a Hyundai Kona EV was piloted for Kildare County Council staff use. Eighty-seven staff members registered as users, and the car recorder 12,303 km travelled, with a monthly average of 1,025 km. The Kona EV's 12,303 km distance travelled resulted in 1.2 tons of carbon emissions, compared to 2.9 tons for a petrol Kona and 4.3 tons for a diesel Kona. The vehicle was funded internally, but based on the hours it was booked, it would have cost €12,900.73, including VAT for the year or €1,075.06 per month.

HACKTHECLIMATE 2024

This event was held February 2024, it aimed to find innovations, new ideas and simple solutions to our most pressing climate issues.



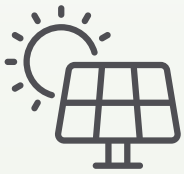
Picnic in the Park Event



Attendance

+3000

Cotton Mills building Solar PV array



Estimated energy savings per annum

90,000

Kilo Watt hours



Estimated CO_2 emissions savings

33 tonnes

Carbon Dioxide equivalent per annum



Project **50%**

grant funded through SEAI pathfinder programme



Capital cost circa

€100,000

with projected savings approx €22,000 per annum on energy bills for Áras Chill Dara

Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029



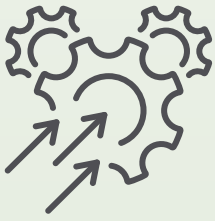
155

Actions



4

Completed



75

In progress



Image: Kilcock Community Centre

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

Community:

The Community department develops and leads initiatives aimed at providing civic leadership, provides opportunities for community engagement and supports community leadership. Our community team includes support from and coordination of Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which strives to provide strategic, joined-up systems for local and community development. The adoption of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 officially sets out priorities for future community and economic development, and ensures a continued focus on social inclusion, health, and wellbeing in County Kildare.



Meeting House, Ballitore

Overview of 2024:

Community Centres

Kildare County Council continued to maintain and oversee over 20 community centres in the county, ensuring their use as public spaces for community groups. We also continued the delivery of community spaces with the purchase and renovation of new community centres in Rathangan, Carbury, Clane and Allenwood.

In May 2024, we celebrated the official opening of the new Community Centre in Kilcock, marking a significant milestone in fostering a strong sense of community. The centre includes a multi-purpose recreation hall with changing facilities, two multipurpose rooms and a projector room. The vision behind the centre is to provide a central hub to serve the local area, residents, sporting organisations, clubs, schools, and community groups.

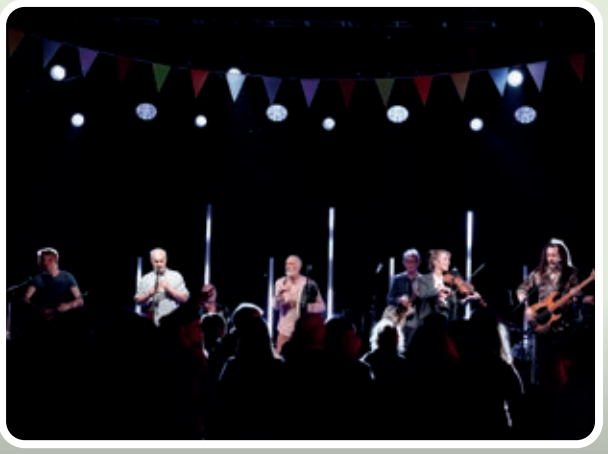
Top Image: Kilcock Community Centre - aerial view

Brigid 1500

Kildare County Council successfully delivered a diverse programme of events for Brigid 1500, celebrating St. Brigid, A Woman, A Life, A Legacy.

The 10 day programme included festivals, concerts, talks, art commissions, illuminations, and workshops, engaging communities in the many facets of St. Brigid's legacy. The events showcased Kildare's historic sites, reaching global audiences through media coverage and online platforms. In addition, a schools education programme 'The Life and Times of St. Brigid' was delivered.













Community Recognition Fund

Kildare County Council was allocated funding of €830,007 under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. This fund provided for major enhancements to communities across the county that have shared their facilities and infrastructure with those displaced from Ukraine and other countries.

Grant Schemes

Community organisations around the county have been supported through various grant schemes, which have continued to grow each year. In 2024, Kildare County Council supported 1,042 grants and provided funding of €2,412,938. Kildare County Council are committed to supporting communities to identify, develop, and implement projects to improve quality of life for the people of Kildare.

LCDC

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

The Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 was adopted by Kildare County Council in April 2024, and the accompanying Implementation Plan 2024-2026 was agreed in July. The LECP sets out priorities for community and economic development, with four high level goals and a series of objectives and priority actions.



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The national social inclusion programme SICAP, implemented by County Kildare LEADER Partnership and overseen by Kildare LCDC, worked with 75 community groups and 913 individuals in 2024, exceeding targets. The total SICAP budget for 2024 was €1,693,183. SICAP works with the most disadvantaged communities and groups in County Kildare through a series of agreed targeted actions.



SICAP - Know Your Community Event



Rural Development LEADER Programme

2024 saw the commencement of the second LEADER programme in Kildare, overseen by Kildare LCDC and implemented by County Kildare LEADER Partnership. Three projects were approved coming to a total value of €256,048. Two projects were under the economic development and job creation theme and one project was under the rural infrastructure and social inclusion theme. In 2024, the claims for LEADER 2014-2022 continued with 23 claims paid to a total value of €909,292.

LEADER Project - Graze Dairy

Sláintecare (Athy)

The Department of Health-funded Sláintecare Local Development Officer continued to progress the agreed plan in 2024, working with key stakeholders. New developments included planning for a Health and Wellbeing Kiosk in Athy and securing €75,000 for initiatives focusing on Trauma Informed Practice, Food Insecurity and Positive Placemaking. Sláintecare secured €142,000 through Dormant Accounts funding to progress traveller education and men's development. This was one of five projects funded nationally. Pilot initiatives commenced through Sláintecare also helped secure €100,000 through national Child Poverty funding to support neurodiverse children and their families. This was one of four successful projects nationally.



Sláintecare Athy - Neurodiversity and Inclusion Training

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland Round 4 was launched in Kildare in 2023 and continued in 2024 , rolling out programmes under the priority themes of physical activity and mental health.

Local Enhancement Funding 2024

In 2024, €163,842.45 was awarded to 54 community groups to support capital costs, in addition to €37,030.02 to 14 Women's Sheds through the LCDC from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy continued as a target area for the 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000, implemented by County Kildare LEADER Partnership.

Kildare Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity through quality programmes, and education and training opportunities. In 2024, Kildare Sports Partnership engaged with over 27,000 people in Kildare through various programmes.



Sláintecare Athy - Interagency Family Event Woodstock

Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN)

Kildare County Council continues to support the Kildare PPN, allowing communities to have greater involvement with the Local Authority and a greater voice on issues and policies of interest.



Age Friendly - Athy Roadshow



PPN Constitution Training

Community Development

The community development team continued to provide support with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged communities. Funding was secured from the Department of Health to reduce period poverty, allowing free period products in community centres and rest centres.

Three community groups were nominated and supported to enter the National Pride of Place Awards. We are proud to have had a winner with Straffan taking first place in the 'area with a population between 1000-2000' category and to have had Castlefen Housing Estate placed as runner up in the 'Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates' category.

The Pride in your Place competition continued in 2024 and acknowledged the efforts of Local Authority Residents and residents associations to develop their communities, maintain individual gardens and public open spaces.



Kildare Age Friendly Programme

The Kildare Age Friendly Programme was a National winner at the Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards with the Ballymore Eustace Age Friendly Climate Friendly Village.

Two Age Friendly Roadshows took place in 2024, one in North Kildare and one in South Kildare, with over 300 attendees.

Castlefen Housing Estate was launched as Ireland's first age friendly housing estate.

Naas Racecourse was launched as Ireland's first age friendly racecourse during the year.





LGMA Award



Age Friendly Winners



PPN Plenary Meeting



Naas Racecourse Launch

Twinning

The Kildare-Lexington Student Exchange Programme continued in 2024, with 10 Kildare secondary level students travelling to Lexington, Kentucky, and their US counterparts making a return visit to Kildare. We also supported various twinning committees and welcomed a new twinning agreement between Rathangan and Freehold, New Jersey.



Students in Lexington



Twinning - Beyond the Trees



Twinning Students meet - Lexington



Community

Kildare County Council Grants

Supported **1,042**
Grants provided funding of
€2,412,938
in 2024

Leader

3 Projects approved totalling
€256,048

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland – continued to roll out several programmes under the scheme

Sláintecare

Funding Of
€75,000
Provided To Projects That Promoted Health And Wellbeing

Local Enhancement Programme

54 Community groups awarded funding totalling
€163,842.45

In addition to
€37,030.02
Towards 14 Women's Sheds

SICAP

Interventions with **75** community groups

913 Individuals

Budget of
€1,693,183

Brigid 1500 Festival

Over **6,000** online views of schools programme

Over **3,000** copies of the schools programme circulated to schools and libraries in Kildare

The festival was attended by approximately
80,000 people

Tourism ireland's video feature on the Brigid 1500 festival **promoted kildare** on an international level

Consistent national TV and media exposure throughout the festival reinforced Kildare's appeal to a **large tourism audience**

Kildare Sports Partnership

Engaged with over
27,000
People In 2024



Club Development Grants
84 Clubs received
€94,740

Total number of programmes
87 Programmes with
344 Courses/events delivered

Disability programmes –
1,582
Participants

Local participation programmes –
64 Programmes catering for
11,301 Participants

Sports hub programmes –
1,092
Participants

Age friendly programmes –
954 Participants

Women in sport programmes –
1,575
Participants

Ukrainian & asylum seekers support programme –
1,008 Participants

Ksp supported programmes –
13,666
Participants

Child safeguarding
28 Courses with
395 Participants

Education and training programme
11 Programmes covered by
44 Courses with
1,852 Participants

Kildare Public Participation Network

783 Members have registered with the PPN



Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Environment

Environment and Water:

In 2024, Kildare County Council continued to make significant progress in relation to environmental management and water conservation. The Council's efforts included the completion and opening of Kerdiffstown Park, the construction of columbarium walls at various cemeteries, and the successful piloting of a weed-cutting boat on the River Barrow. Additionally, initiatives such as the Mattress and Paint Amnesty resulted in unprecedented levels of waste collection and Naas was awarded first place out of 40 towns and cities in the IBAL Litter League.

Overview of 2024:

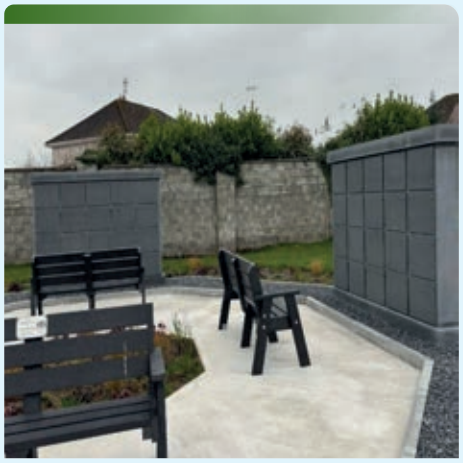
- Construction work completed at Kerdiffstown and the park was opened to the public in October 2024. Ongoing environmental management and monitoring on going by environmental staff, in accordance with the EPA licence.



Naas IBAL Award Winners

- Kildare County Council achieved a "Strong or Excellent" score across all 20 National Enforcement Priority categories for the second consecutive year in the EPA's Local Performance Framework.
- Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities in the IBAL Litter League
- Construction of columbarium walls at St. Conleth's cemetery, Newbridge, St. Michael's cemetery, Athy and Confey cemeteries.

- A mattress amnesty held on 31st August and a paint amnesty on 28th September resulted in unprecedented levels of paint and mattresses collected. There were 37.3 tonnes of waste paint collected, and 22.92 tonnes of mattresses collected.
- Successful piloting of a weed cutting boat on the River Barrow. A sizeable section of the river was de-weeded outside of Monasterevin, despite the environmental constraints that its designation as a special area of conservation affords.



Columbarium Walls, St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge



Columbarium Walls, St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy



Mattress Amnesty Day



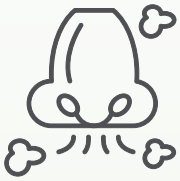
Paint Amnesty, Áras Chill Dara



River Barrow, Post Weed Cutting
Inset - Pre Weed Cutting

Environment

1,338 Pollution complaints managed



1330 Illegal waste related inspections were carried out



1498 Routine and **137** Non-routine water / wastewater inspections



269 Litter fines issued

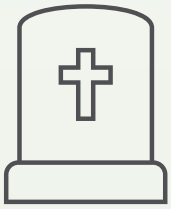


Various Grants Paid

20 Septic tanks



74 Cemetery committee grants



38 Grants to Tidy Towns Groups



127 Clean-ups undertaken by Tidy Towns groups, residents' associations, and Green Kilometre Participants



Kildare County Council provided **1,050** Native saplings for Green Kilometre participants



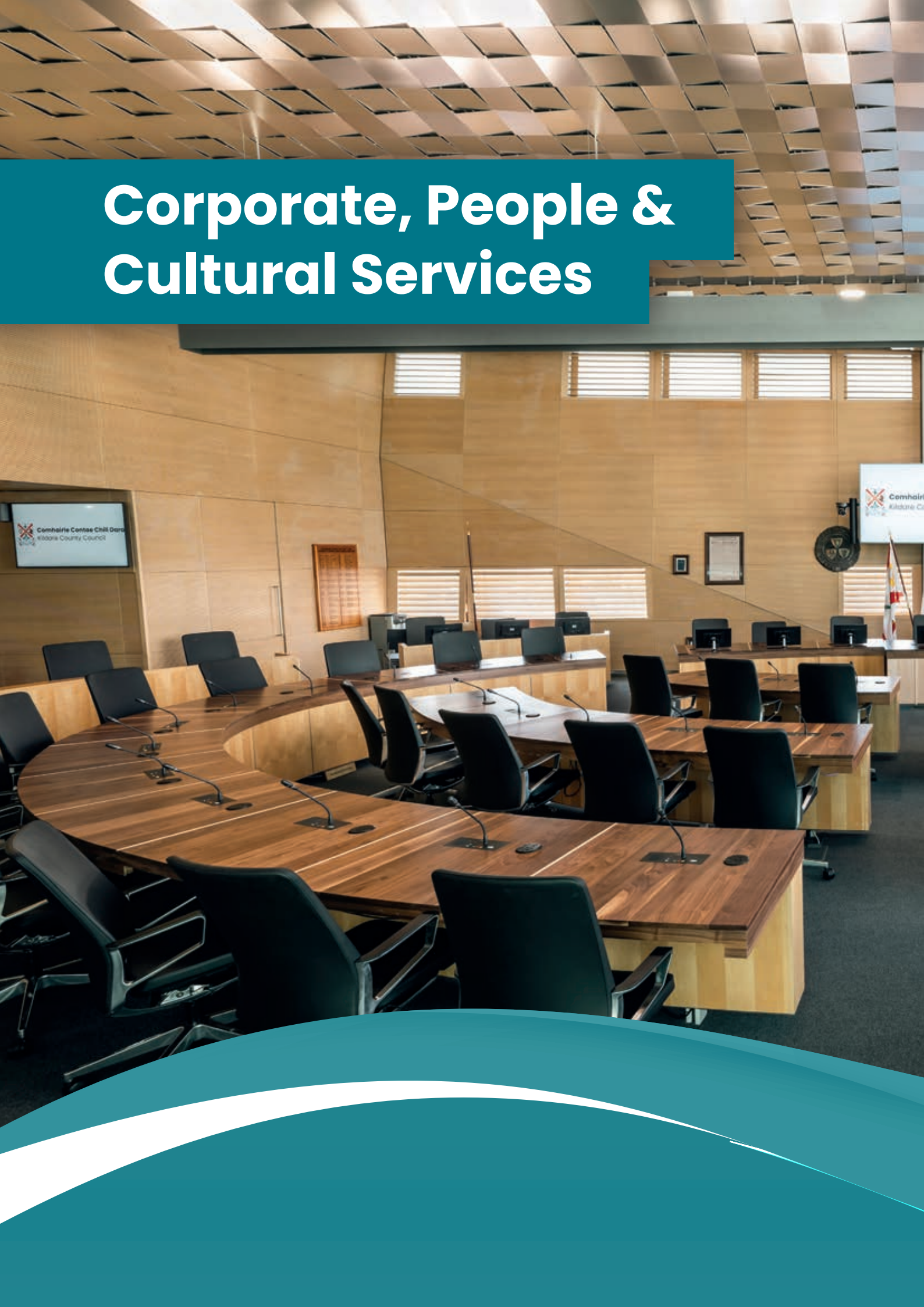
25 Schools were awarded green flags under the Green Schools Programme



4,997 Tonnes of glass and **36** Tonnes of cans recovered from bring bank sites



Corporate, People & Cultural Services







Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for several core activities, including:

- Providing first point of contact customer service management via e-mail, post, phone and in person
- Providing support services for elected members and servicing statutory meetings
- Maintaining the register of electors
- Administrative support services to the Chief Executive and Management Team
- Operating the media and communications function for the organisation
- Overseeing performance and supporting compliance regarding official languages obligations
- Managing Freedom of Information and Data Protection obligations
- Facilities Management along with the coordination of several corporate wide functions across directorates

Overview of 2024:

- Comprehensive and accessible service was provided to the 40 elected members of Kildare County Council across 5 Municipal Districts.
- 98 statutory meetings were supported throughout the year and webcast the 14 Full Council Meetings.
- All elected members statutory requirements in relation to the Public Register were administered within the necessary timeframes and published online where required.
- The procurement unit established in 2023, continues to assist staff to ensure, procurement compliance, the use of OGP Framework Agreements, staff awareness, training, standardising procurement procedures, green procurement, and promoting the goal of attaining Value for Money for public money spent.



- The Procurement Unit held a 'Meet the Supplier Event' in November 2024 in conjunction with the Kildare Local Enterprise Office to support networking with SMEs which received significant attendance and positive feedback.
- A new lighting control system was installed in Áras Chill Dara to reduce energy consumption.
- Works substantially completed on the new Document Storage Facility located adjacent to Áras Chill Dara.
- The Public Sector Duty Implementation Framework Document under Human Rights & Equality Commission Guidance, was approved in October 2024. A steering committee will set out our approach to delivering on our requirements under the framework.
- In Q4 2024, the newly elected Council adopted a new Strategic Policy Committee Scheme for 2024-2029 and Kildare County Council's Corporate Plan for the five year term of this Council.
- A dedicated communications campaign, including the production of a video and podcast, highlighted the significant strides in developing Kerdiffstown Park into a valuable local amenity from a former landfill. The video and podcast outlined the importance of public consultation and engagement throughout the project, ensuring that the park meets the needs of the community and visitors. The podcast and video was used as an information resource and was used across social media to create awareness and publicity.

Electoral events

- 2024 was a huge year for electoral events, with a Referendum in March, Local and European Elections in June and a General Election in November. Kildare County Council continued to process more than the national average of online applications on the online Check the Register system, adding over 26,000 electors to the register in the last year.
- Local Elections 2024 was a key highlight of the year, with 90 candidates running across 8 Local Electoral Areas, the Counts (and Recounts) lasting from Saturday June 7 to Wednesday June 11, culminating in the election of 40 Councillors, 10 of whom were elected for the first time.
- Kildare County Council continued to operate Casual Trading Bye Laws and address growing demand for outdoor trading, granting 28 licences in 2024, the highest number on record.
- The Customer Service performance of the Council continued positively with 88% of the almost 33,000 Customer and Elected Representative cases submitted responded to within Service Level Agreement targets.

Irish Language:

- Kildare County Council is committed to providing quality public services in all official languages of the state and respectfully recognises its statutory obligations and commitments under the Official Languages Acts (OLAs) 2003 and 2021. In this regard, our Official Languages Officer oversees performance and, as appropriate, reports to the Chief Executive in relation to the Council's obligations.
- To support the organization's compliance with said obligations, Kildare County Council appointed its first full-time Irish Language Officer in Q2 2024. Our Irish Language Officer provides legal guidance, resources and Irish language supports to all sections and departments.
- Our official languages cases tracker system has recently been evaluated and enhanced thereby ensuring An Coimisinéir Teanga cases are assigned and resolved in the most efficient manner.
- Under Section 9(2) of the OLAs 2003 and 2021, citizens have a right to receive replies to written correspondence in the same official language.



Comhaltas Bhaile Átha Í - Athy Comhaltas, An Tolg Liteartha 2024



Regarding this language right, and with a view to avoiding unintended breaches in future, Corporate Services in conjunction with the IT department, have risk assessed and enhanced the Council's bilingual CRM system.

- Under Section 10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021, the Council is obliged to place at least 20% of our advertising through the medium of the Irish Language and to spend at least 5% of the Council's advertising expenditure on Irish language adverts, placed through Irish language media. In line with said duties, in 2024, Kildare County Council placed 30% of local and national newspaper adverts, 24% of social media adverts and 16% of radio adverts through the medium of Irish. Bespoke Irish language adverts were developed for the 'Brigid – Spiorad Chill Dara 2025' advertising campaign: 84 television adverts were broadcast on TG4, 18 adverts were broadcast on Raidió na Gaeltachta and 70 adverts were broadcast on Raidió na Life.
- Kildare County Council's weekly 'Ciorcal Comhrá', Club Cúpla Focal, was established in June 2024. Through the Club Cúpla Focal initiative Kildare County Council employees and Elected Members are provided with an opportunity to learn and use Irish on a weekly basis. Through Club Cúpla Focal 360+ speaking opportunities were created in 2024. Opportunities for employees to read the Irish language were provided monthly in 'Cúinne na Gaeilge', the Irish language section of an internal staff newsletter 'The Pulse'.
- 26 staff members became members of Gréasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí, the government's newly-established network which aims to bring together people who work in the public sector and are interested in using, practicing or developing their Irish.
- Customer Service team members attended Gaelchultúr's 'Telephone and Customer Service Training Course', and Elected members attended Gaelchultúr's 'Irish Language Course for Elected Councillors'.
- Coiste Gaeilge na Comhairle administered Scéim na Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta, awarding Gaeltacht Scholarships to five pupils from various municipal districts.

- Kildare Library Service and Creative Ireland, in partnership with Maynooth University, appointed their first joint Irish Language Writer-in-Residence, Ré Ó Laighléis.
- Kildare Library Service's Coiste Gaeilge, in partnership with Maynooth University, hosted 'An Tolg Liteartha' in the Riverbank Arts Centre. 'An Tolg Liteartha' was recorded and broadcast by Raidió na Gaeltachta.
- Kildare Arts and Library Service hosted many Irish language events, including a Christmas drama 'An Nollaig sa Naigín' and 'Oíche Airneáil sa Leabharlann', which can still be enjoyed on the Kildare Reads podcast: Kildare Reads | Podcast
- Kildare County Council continued to support 'Scéim Forbartha Líonraí Gaeilge - Irish Language Network Development Scheme'.

Corporate Services

98 Statutory meetings serviced



101 Staff completed GDPR training



119 FOI requests processed



Webcasting of **14** Full Council Meetings



26,848 People added to the Electoral Register

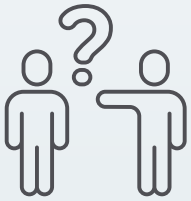


Over **20,000** customer cases resolved on CRM System

88% Within Service Level Agreements



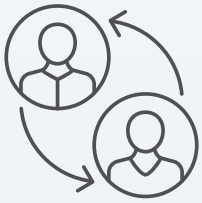
Almost **8,000** walk in customers served at Customer Service Counter



Almost **2,500** public consultation submissions on consult.kildarecoco.ie



Over **10,000** Customers served by appointment at Áras Chill Dara



Over **860** Staff app users



21,315 (88%) Of Customer Cases resolved via Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) & % within target times



Over **760** Newspaper adverts published - **30%** in Irish



Kerdiffstown Park Promotional Video – Former Landfill **4,573** views to date



175,531 Number of people on Electoral Register



2,459 Number of submissions made via Consultation Portal annually



On Average **600** monthly readers of Staff Newsletter – The Pulse



178 Press Releases issued



Statutory threshold for Irish language advertising **EXCEEDED**



6,010 (88%) Elected Representative Cases resolved via CRM & % within target timeline





Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Human Resources

Human Resources:

The Human Resources Department's core activities include recruitment, staff training and development, staff welfare, industrial relations and superannuation. Kildare County Council is dedicated to fostering a supportive and productive work environment, ensuring that all employees have access to necessary and desirable resources and opportunities. Additionally, the Human Resources Department led the preparation of a Workforce Plan for the organisation, to assist with future planning and ensure adequate staffing resources for the delivery of high-quality services.

Overview of 2024:

- Continued positive engagement with local union Fórsa and in 2024 and arising from the transfer of Water Services to Uisce Éireann, a Joint Forum was established in July 2023 to collaborate on the various issues in relation to the transition, in particular, the staff reassignment processes.
- In line with our Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2025, terms of reference for our first Wellbeing Working Group were formulated in 2024 for Senior Management approval. This group will assist and advise in developing a long-term action plan, identifying priority areas and an appropriate implementation plan that supports the health and wellbeing of our staff.
- The Employee Assistance Program and Wellbeing Portal continues to provide 'on the spot' counselling services, for personal and work-related issues, including access to hours of wellbeing content that support the four pillars of wellbeing set out in our Wellbeing Strategy – Social, Physical, Mental and Financial wellbeing.
- Commenced work on a strategic workforce plan for 2025 – 2029. This iterative process aims to develop insights, to baseline, forecast and plan in a strategic and informed way so that we are poised to deliver our services and Corporate Plan objectives.
- Designed a new online performance management development system, e-PMDS, to replace traditional paper-based performance tracking. This system will provide real-time



Menopause Café

access to performance metrics, development plans and feedback for employees and line managers, ensuring a more engaging and effective performance management process.

- Commenced the development of a Mobility Policy, which serves as a guiding framework to manage workforce movements across the organisation. The policy, set to launch in 2025, will provide a structured approach to transfers, assess operational efficiencies, support talent retention and career growth, and align with organisational goals & objectives.

Human Resources

176

Applications received for the Shorter Working Year Scheme supporting improved work/life balance for staff

86

Parental Leave applications received supporting parents at work

593

Registered users of our Wellbeing Portal with 83 new signups

149

Direct interactions made with our Employee Assistance Program for personal or work-related supports

11

Menopause Champions appointed and trained

150

Courses delivered and 63 conferences/ seminars attended in 2024, involving 970 employees

2,977

Training instances completed successfully

320

Appointments, including actings and promotions including 164 new starters

60

Competitions ran with 56 panels established



Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Accessibility

Overview of 2024:

Awareness Initiatives:

- Raised diability awareness through the Athy Billboard Project, displaying artworks on Leinster Street, Athy from November 2023 to February 2024.
- Commissioned the creation of Accessible Adventures story book and board game.
- To help foster long-term positive attitudes towards disabled people in our community, disability awareness programmes and exhibitions were delivered by CKAN to pupils/students in North Kildare Educate Together School, Maynooth Post Primary School and Coláiste Chiaráin, Leixlip.



Silje Skuterud, Executive Librarian, Maynooth Library with Angela Tracey from Maynooth Access Group reviewing the new sensory toys sponsored by CKAN



One of the billboards displayed in Leinster Street Athy to raise awareness of disability

Training:

- Procured inclusive toys for libraries to support teaching about disability, inclusion and diversity for children aged 0-6.
- Commenced the development of an eLearning Disability Awareness Module.

A sample of two of the inclusive toys donated by CKAN to the ELF collection in the libraries



Soft cuddly dog toy wearing a scoliosis brace

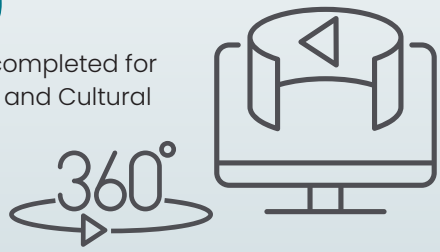


Build-a-Bear rabbit wearing an insulin pump and a diabetes monitoring kit

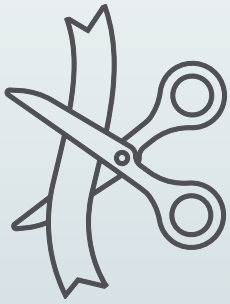
Accessibility

360

Virtual tour completed for Naas Library and Cultural Centre



Opened one changing places facility in Naas library and cultural centre and one step down changing place facility in Dara Community Living – funded through LPT.



Changing Place Facilities:

- Opened one new changing place facility and one changing place step-down facility.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

- On International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the day was marked by the launch of the Accessible Adventures Story Book & Board Game by Ciara Chapman. A total of 3,500 copies were printed, with one copy given to each library across the country. Additionally, free copies were distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis from libraries in Kildare.
- Copies Printed: 3,500 copies printed.
- Library Distribution: 1 copy given to each library across the country.
- Free Copies: Free copies distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis from libraries in Kildare

Other Initiatives:

- Participated in the Project Advisory Group with the Disability Federation of Ireland, examining Local Authority implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- Commenced preparations for Kildare Inclusivity Festival.
- Audited and restocked CKAN boxes of sensory toys to support neurodiverse people accessing our public libraries in Kildare.
- Launched the County Kildare Access Network website.
- Held monthly meetings with local access groups and CKAN.



Joining the Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon, at the Inclusion & Diversity Day at Coláiste Chiaráin Leixlip were members of CKAN from the Maynooth and Leixlip Access Groups



Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Health & Safety

Overview of 2024:

- Reduction in Incidents: Overall reduction in accidents (-16%), Incidents (-18%) and IR1s (-60%) reported (2023 vs. 2024).
- Awareness Sessions: Hosted Breast Cancer awareness and Men's Health / Cancer awareness sessions across the county.
- Annual Conference: Held the Annual Health and Safety conference 2024 at the Osprey hotel with the theme "Unleash your best sleep". Attended by 381 employees, featuring guest speakers Dermot Whelan, Fiona Brennan and Erica Hargaden.
- Roadshows: Conducted Health and Safety Roadshows across the Transportation Directorate.
- Health promotions: Provided free staff Health screening and Flu vaccinations.

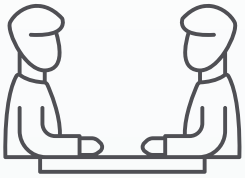
Top image:
Fiona Brennan at Health and Safety Conference



Health & Safety Conference Poster

Health & Safety

144 Inductions conducted



82 Site inspections conducted





90 VDU/DSE assessments conducted



20 Pregnancy assessments conducted

381 (276 in person -105 online) Attended Annual Health and Safety Conference



275 (230 in Naas, 24 in Maynooth, 21 in Athy) Health Screenings conducted





15 Safety courses provided



Provided **197** flu vaccinations



Erica Hargaden at Health and Safety Conference



Dermot Whelan at Health and Safety Conference



Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Kildare Library Service

Kildare Library and Arts Service:

The Library and Arts Service is dedicated to providing a wide range of cultural, educational, and recreational services to the community. The service aims to foster a love for reading, creativity, and continued learning across all age cohorts.

In 2024, the Kildare Library Service achieved several milestones, including the opening of the Naas Library & Cultural Centre and the refurbishment of the Kildare Town library. The service also celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Kildare Readers Festival and expanded the Kildare Seed Library. Additionally, public access laptops were upgraded and are now more user friendly.

The Kildare Arts Service led various community dance projects and collaborative music projects, supported public engagement through the Arts, Health and Wellbeing Programme, and hosted 67 free events for Culture Night. The service also launched the 'Art House' gallery and workshop space, providing a dedicated venue for artistic expression and community engagement.



Tetyana Shumska, Councillor Pat Curran, Heather Law and Mario Corrigan at the reopening of Kildare Town Library 6th June 2024



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Daragh Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive Sonya Kavanagh, County Librarian Gillian Allen and guests at the official opening of Naas Library & Cultural Centre, 15th April 2024

Overview of 2024:

- On Friday January 19th Naas Library & Cultural Centre opened its doors for the first time after a 3-year restoration and adjoining new build project. It was officially launched on April 15th. During 2024, 136,088 people visited the new library, 135,591 items were issued and 11,978 registered as members.
- Kildare Library Service applied for and successfully received a total capital grant of €5.1 million from Department of Rural & Community Development towards construction of a new Newbridge Library, County Archives & Cultural Centre, a new Clane Library and a new Mobile Library.
- Kildare Town library reopened June 6th after a major refurbishment of the windows, staff facilities, and new flooring.
- The 15th Anniversary of Kildare Readers Festival took place from 9th October to 13th October 2024. We held 13 events with over 700 audience attendees. All English language events included ISL interpretation. We had fantastic events including modern Irish history events with Catherine Corless, Diarmuid Ferriter and Irish LGBTQ+ history with Páraic Kerrigan and Anna Nolan.
- Kildare Seed Library expanded to 7 libraries. Each library has a collection of open pollinated seeds to grow your own vegetables and edible flowers. Each library hosted a talk on seed saving and will host seasonal educational workshops on growing and seed saving.
- With a grant from the Department of Rural & Community Development of €98k, Kildare Libraries upgraded and expanded its fleet of public access laptops. 52 modern, 2-in-1 convertible touchscreen laptops are now available to borrow across 10 library branches for use in the library.



Abie Philbin Bowman and Catherine Corless at Kildare Readers Festival, 12th October 2024 at Riverbank Arts Centre

Kildare Library Services

Users of the Library App increased by

129%



Number of children who completed Summer Stars reading challenge:

4,705 (+28% on 2023)



Over

140,000

eMagazines and eNewspapers were borrowed in 2024





687,593

People visited Kildare libraries in 2024

Public Access PCs total usage **29,861**



WIFI Total number of sessions

44,361



527,576 Print books loaned





98,577

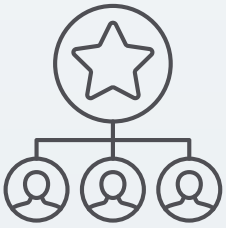
eAudiobooks loaned

50,485 eBooks loaned



Total of New Membership Registration

29,795





Corporate, People & Cultural Services

Kildare Arts Service

Overview of 2024:

Brigid Sings

Countywide collaborative project between Kildare Arts Service, Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland. Commissioned five female singer-songwriters from County Kildare to compose five new songs to celebrate the life of Brigid. Engaging over 3,800 children from 32 primary schools, the project culminated in a gala performance on 8th June in Kildare Cathedral featuring a choir of over 120 children.

Main image: Brigid Sings, gala performance, Kildare Cathedral 8th June 2024. Image features Sive with the children's choir. Credit: Ruth Connolly

Stepping the Land

Community dance project led by Philippa Donnellan, including workshops co-created with members of the community and culminating in a mud-and-wellies dance theatre performance on Belan Lodge farm, in south Kildare. The Kildare Dance Artist in Residence 2023-24 was a partnership between Kildare County Council Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre and funded by the Arts Council of Ireland.





Stepping the Land – Griese Youth Theatre perform

Arts, Health and Wellbeing Programme

Supports and encourages public engagement and the development of ambitious and high-quality work within the county and nationally. Interventions included the long-term support of Past Times (Naas) and Voices of Spring (Celbridge), two large Community Choirs (90+ members) who meet weekly, welcoming older people, including those living with dementia and other age-related illnesses.

'Art House' Athy

Launched alongside the inaugural exhibition 'Here Comes Everybody' (December 2024), featuring a performance from Athy band IF. Art House gallery and workshop space conceived by Anthony Haughey, recipient of the Creative Places Athy Connect & Gather Award 2024-2025.

Culture Night (20th September 2024)

67 free events across the county for an audience of 5,000+, including music, visual art, dance, local history, biodiversity, theatre, cuisine, craft, heritage & more. Six larger scale events were supported by Kildare Culture Night Commission Awards.

€133,749

Awarded across 16 Arts Grants / Bursaries schemes to 77 individuals/communities in support of artists and arts activities countywide



7,657 Children & young people engaged with Music Generation Kildare in 2023/24 (3,431 participating on a weekly basis)



Kildare Arts Service continues to drive the development of grass roots youth arts in the county: Griese Youth Theatre celebrated

25 years



and Kildare Young Filmmakers celebrated

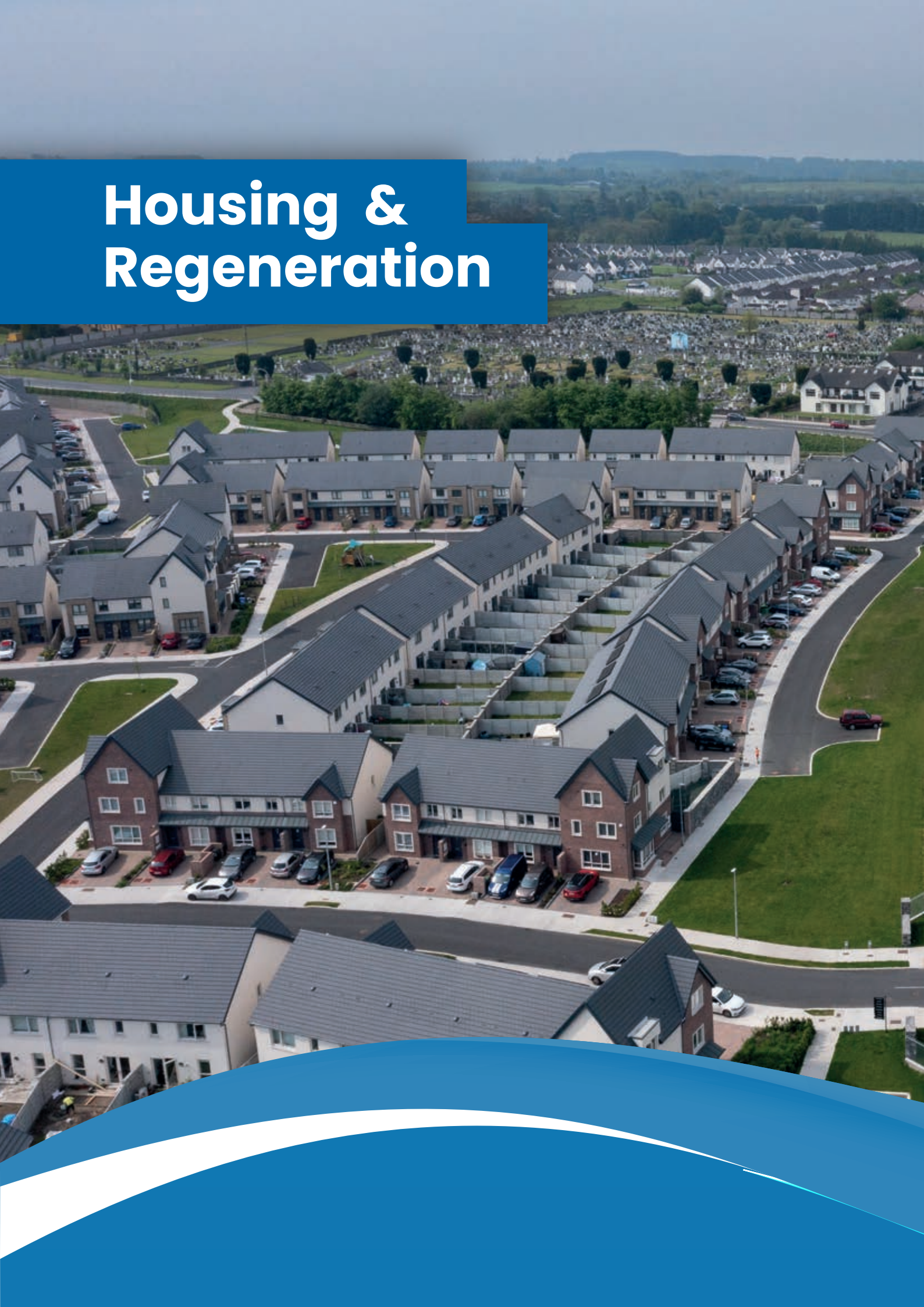
10 years in 2024





Culture Night 2024

Housing & Regeneration







Housing & Regeneration

Housing

Housing & Regeneration

Kildare County Council's Housing & Regeneration Department aims to provide social and affordable housing for the people of Kildare. Significant progress was made in 2024 with the delivery of direct build units in various locations and the adoption of key policies and strategies.

Efforts to address vacancy included the Compulsory Purchase programme and the Vacant Homes Grant. The launch of the 'Do I Qualify for Social Housing' website improved information for housing applicants. The Housing Adaptation and Disabled Person Grants Scheme supported households so that a person with a disability could remain in their home. Maintenance efforts included completing response maintenance jobs and upgrading council-owned properties under the Energy Retrofit Programme. The council also approved home loans and units for the Affordable Purchase Scheme. In addition, the council serviced sites for sale. The Traveller Accommodation Programme exceeded its target in delivering homes.

Image: Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh



Athgarvan

Overview of 2024:

- Kildare County Council delivered direct build units in Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh and Blackridge, Athgarvan, 101 direct build units were in progress at year-end.
- The following policies and strategies were adopted in 2024: Anti-social Behaviour Policy, Estate Management Strategy, Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2024-2026, The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029.
- To address vacancy, the Housing Department continued the Compulsory Purchase programme, added sites to the Derelict Sites Register, administered the Vacant Homes Grant and published Clane Town Centre First Plan.
- The Housing Department launched a website to assist housing applicants called 'Do I Qualify for Social Housing' which resulted in improved information for housing applicants.
- The Housing Adaptation and Disabled Person Grants Scheme assisted households with a person with a disability to remain in their home.



Anne Street

Housing

422 New and second-hand homes were delivered by the council and Approved Housing Bodies

670 Housing applicants were allocated a home



10

Local authority estates won Pride of Place Awards



209

Households were prevented from entering homelessness and

60

Households exited emergency accommodation



9, 634

Response maintenance jobs were completed on council owned stock

113

Vacant properties were returned to stock

61 Council owned properties were upgraded under the Energy Retrofit Programme



750

Households were added to the council's social housing list



21 Home loans were approved

40 Units were approved for the Affordable Purchase Scheme

7 Serviced sites were offered for sale in Clogherinkoe



95 Homes were delivered during the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024, exceeding the target of **89** homes



157 Housing Adaptation Grants

339 Housing Aid and

67 Disabled Person Grants were approved



69 Vacant Home Grants were paid

19 Compulsory Purchase Orders commenced

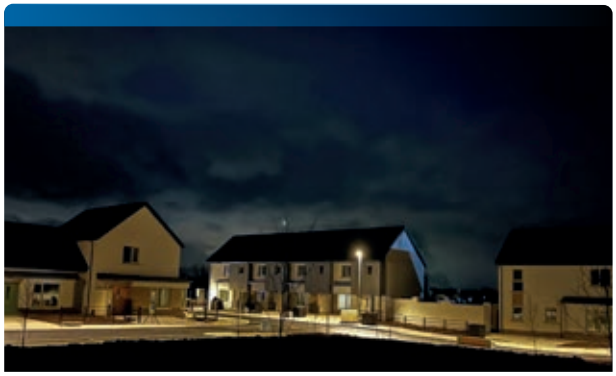
15 Properties were added to the Derelict Sites Register

56 Properties were identified for URDF Call 3





Launch of Homeless Plan



Ard Sceach, Coill Dubh



Corbans



Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029



Opening of Bawnogues Community Centre, Kilcock

Housing & Regeneration

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

The Public Realm and Strategic Projects team continued work on enhancing the quality and functionality of public spaces within the community. In 2024, significant progress was made with the publication of 13 Town & Village Plans and the commencement of two new plans. The council completed three Part 8 statutory processes and saw the completion of one capital project. Additionally, three more Part 8 statutory processes were commenced. In this regard, public consultation events were held both online and in-person, ensuring community involvement in the planning and development process.



Commencement of Shackleton Museum refurbishment project and installation of Shackleton's Cabin into the building (July 2024)

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

13 Town & Village Plans published in 2024



2 Town & Village Plans commenced in 2024



3 Part 8 statutory processes completed in 2024



1 Capital Project completion in 2024



3 Capital Project commencements in 2024



Public Consultation events:

Online – **6** events with **1541** submissions

In-person – **7** events with **199** attendees



Funding approved in 2024 -

€6,898,116



Integration







Integration

Integration

Introduction

The Local Authority Integration Team, a dedicated resource within Kildare County Council, was established in January 2024. The team's primary goal is to support the integration, self-reliance, independence and participation in Irish life of people who are seeking international protection and living in Kildare. The team provides various supports, including organising information clinics, solving access issues to services, and guiding individuals through processes such as applying for medical assistance or job training. The team collaborates closely with departments across the council, with agencies and with community groups to address specific needs and support the integration process.

Overview of 2024:

From March-December 2024, Kildare LAIT conducted 41 outreach visits and arranged 175 information clinics, supporting 1,035 people and solving 1,617 queries.

Furthermore, Kildare LAIT supported 137 people through four activities including an anti-racism training, two workshop on understanding how the far right operates and how to counteract disruption within our communities (November & December 2024); 6 week psychosocial programme with body-based trauma informed activities targeted at GBV survivors accommodated by IPAS (November); and an information session on the international protection system in Ireland (September).

From September 2024 the Accommodation Team held Day-75 Clinics at the Newhall and Punchestown Designated Accommodation Centres at approximately 2 to 3 week intervals to assist residents in sourcing accommodation prior to the end of their 90 day state provided accommodation period. The Offer a Home and Pledged Accommodation schemes operated by the Accommodation Team was the main source of accommodation.

The Accommodation team assessed accommodation proposals for both International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection including the establishment of the Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre with a capacity for 985 people.

Through the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP), the Integration Team resettled and provided integration supports to 14 programme refugees.

During 2024, the Integration Team chaired six Community Integration Forum meetings, and one thematic meeting on adult education and training, with the participation of 15 agencies and organisations.

Integration

41 Kildare LAIT Outreach Visits.



175 Kildare LAIT Information Clinics

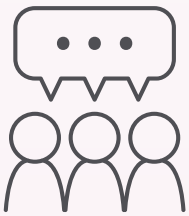
90 Clinics held in UCTAT accommodation centres and

8 Clinics held in IPAS accommodation Centres



1,623 Queries received by the Kildare LAIT and

1,617 Resolved

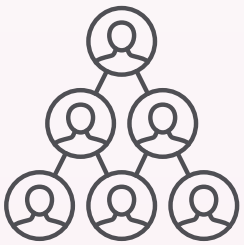


1,035 People supported by the Kildare LAIT

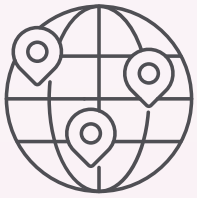
590 Were beneficiaries of temporary protection

420 Were international protection applicants and

25 Persons with status in IPAS accommodation



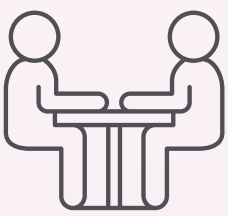
14 Programme refugees resettled and receiving intensive integration supports for the duration of the programme (July 2024 – January 2026)



8 Community Integration Forum meetings held in 2024



12 Day-75 clinics held between the Newhall and Punchestown 90 Days Designated Accommodation Centres between September and December 2024



Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services




MERITS



Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services

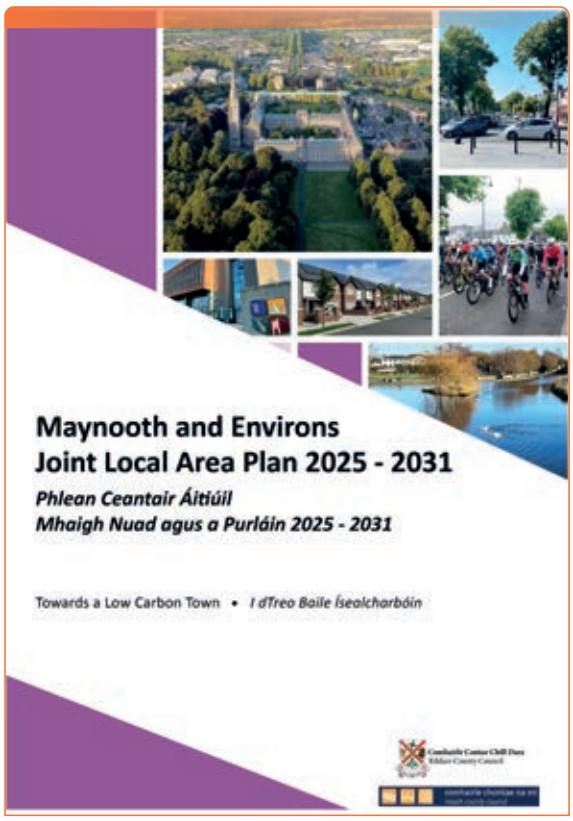
Planning

Planning

Kildare County Council's Planning Department continue to plan for sustainable communities through ensuring that the right development takes place in the right locations and at the right time and provide for social, economic and physical infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of our people in a way that protects the qualities of our natural and built environment.

In 2024, the council focused on climate action by publishing guidelines on Permeability, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, and Allotment & Community Gardens. The Draft Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031 was published, marking Kildare County Council's first Low Carbon Local Area Plan. Additionally, the Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Building was published.

Top Image: Allotment & Community Gardens Strategy



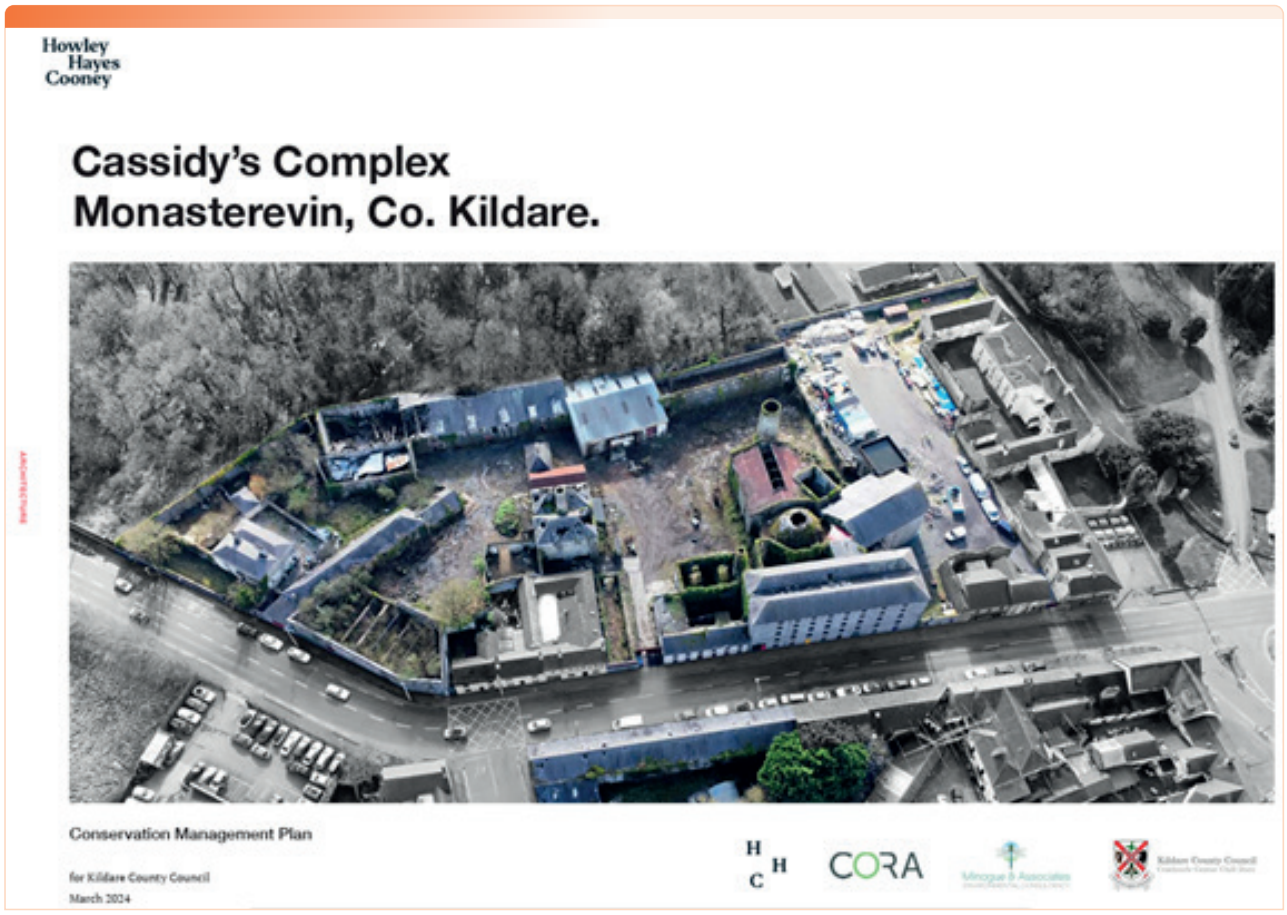
Draft Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan

Overview of 2024:

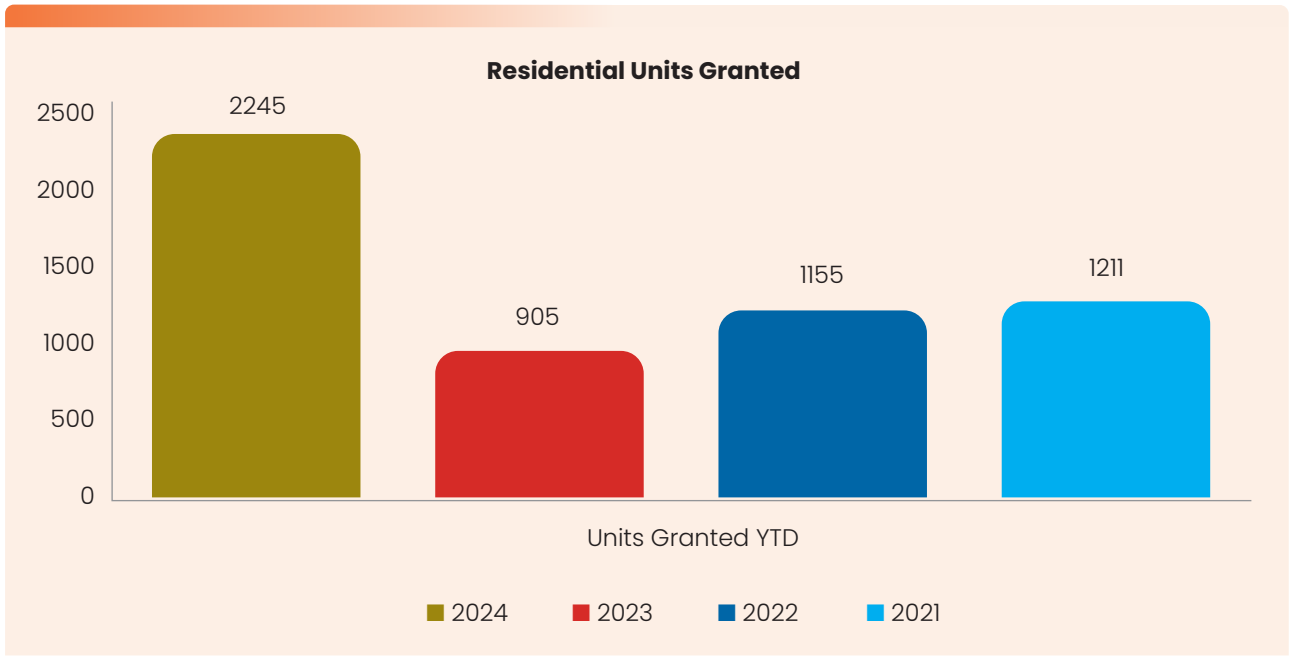
- In 2024, we focused on streamlining climate action throughout the planning process by preparing and publishing guidelines and strategies related to Permeability, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, and Allotment & Community Gardens.
- In 2024, we published the Draft Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031 in collaboration with Meath County Council, marking Kildare County Council's first Low Carbon Local Area Plan with a series of associated consultation events.
- Additionally, Kildare County Council published a Conservation Management Plan for the Cassidy Distillery Building, Monasterevin.
- Administered funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage via the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). During 2024, the total amount administered by Kildare County Council under these funds was €282,500.



Permeability Guidelines Published



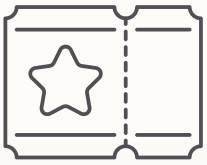
Conservation Management Plan – Cassidy Distillery Building



Residential Units Granted

Planning

134 Supported Heritage Week events through the Community Heritage Grant Scheme



29 Supported Biodiversity Week events through the National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund



1797 Planning Applications Received



951 Decisions issued to Grant Permission



183 Decisions Issued to Refuse Permission



433 Additional Information Requests issued



84 Section 5 Exempt Development Declarations Received



280 Pre-Planning Requests Received

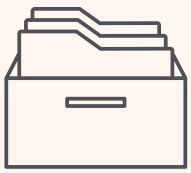


15 New Consultations



Enforcement:

224 Cases Closed



437 Warning Letters Served



140 Enforcement Notices Served



256 New Cases



76 Historic Cases Closed



8 Cases referred to Solicitors





Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services

Enterprise & Economic Development & Tourism

Enterprise & Economic Development

Kildare County Council's Enterprise and Economic Department works to promote and support economic growth in County Kildare. The Enterprise and economic department play an important role in promoting and supporting economic development in the region. Its work helps to create jobs, attract investment, and support the growth of local businesses.

Overview of 2024:

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Economic Development supports enterprise in Kildare by delivering national strategies and assisting local businesses. LEO Kildare engages with businesses daily, providing valuable support and innovating to meet clients' needs. Additionally, LEO ensures Kildare County Council actively pursues funding opportunities for the county.

Top Image: Dare to Lead event

Hosted National Meet the Buyer Event - Food and Nutrition

The Local Enterprise Office a national 'Meet the Buyers' Event for the Food, Beverage and Nutrition industries at MERITS in collaboration with Enterprise Europe Network, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Government Authorities.

This event for Irish micro, SME, and large businesses aimed to help them develop new sales and export opportunities with buyers from Ireland, Europe and the UK attending in person and via virtual buyer meetings.



National 'Meet the Buyer' event

BRIGID 1500 Luncheon



'She Succeeds' – Brigid 1500 Luncheon

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office in association with County Kildare Chamber and Network Ireland Kildare Branch launched She Succeeds at the Brigid 1500 Luncheon. She Succeeds is a unique programme designed to increase the number of women-led companies in Kildare scaling internationally.

The event, attended by over 150 inspiring businesswomen, was a remarkable celebration of achievement, empowerment, and the spirit of St. Brigid. This event marked a significant milestone in fostering a culture of empowerment and success for women in Kildare.

Blas na hÉireann Sponsorship – Best in Kildare



Blas na hÉireann Sponsorship – Best in Kildare

Blas na hÉireann 2024, the Irish Food Awards, , took place in Dingle from Thursday 3rd October to Saturday 5th October. This event celebrated finalists & winners, with 9 producers winning from County Kildare supported by the Kildare Local Enterprise Office. The winners included Killadoon Milk, O'Brien Fine Foods, Coghlans Bakery Products Ltd, The Brown Bread Guy, Daisy Desserts, Couverture Desserts Ltd, Wild Women Bitters Ltd, trading as Beara Bitters, Rye River and Dew Drop Inn.

Sustainability National Spotlight Event with Liz Bonnin

World renowned Natural History and Environmental broadcaster, Liz Bonnin, addressed hundreds of businesses in the Riverbank Theatre in Newbridge and via national live stream on Thursday 7th March.

The overall theme for the event was The Sustainability Imperative for Business Success and focused on how sustainability is becoming a bigger and bigger factor in business survival. The event was led by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office with the goal of demonstrating to local businesses that small changes in your business can make a big impact and most importantly how you can start.

Liz's lively stage talk focused on her learnings and experience of over 40 years of environmental and wildlife programming. It leaned into how important a healthy planet is, what she has seen happen to the natural world - and what we need to change about the way we live in order to support the planet and secure our future. It also covered topics such as the roles of healthy ecosystems, climate change, biodiversity loss, the way we consume, the changes we can make as consumers and investors and the systemic change needed to truly solve all of our environmental crises "if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem".



Kildare Celebrates National Women's Enterprise Day: Advocating for Enhanced Access to Business Supports for Female Entrepreneurs



Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office celebrated National Women's Enterprise Day by advocating for enhanced access to business supports for female entrepreneurs. Over 100 female entrepreneurs attended the Moat Theatre for "Girls Just Wanna Have Funds!" The event focused on equipping women with the knowledge and resources they need to successfully secure funding or investment to start or scale their businesses.

GATHER re-Opens at Southwells, Kildare Town



Kildare County Council's Enterprise and Economic Development Department supported a retail premises for Kildare-created brands that are members of the LEO Kildare Creative Cluster. Gather, a collection of gifts created in Kildare, quickly became one of the highest-performing retail opportunities for locally created brands nationally. It achieved national press recognition and exceeded €200,000 in revenue for the 24 creative brands it housed. Designed to showcase the skills and creative brilliance of master crafts people in Kildare, this festive pop-up brought together 24 makers across homeware, fashion, textiles, jewellery, digital print, ceramics, and wellness. The success of this opportunity now sees the Gather brand and collective evolve.

Kildare Company crowned overall winner at National Enterprise Awards



DreamDev Technologies Limited, supported by Local Enterprise Office Kildare, was the overall winner at the 2024 National Enterprise Awards, in the Mansion House in Dublin, were in their 24th year and run annually by the Local Enterprise Offices. DreamDev Technologies Limited, a technology-first business partner, specialise in the application of software engineering practices to drive business transformation.

Taste of Kildare - a highlight of our county's food scene and growing food cluster

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office launched at Taste of Kildare to Showcase 20 Local Food Producers from 20th – 22nd September in Naas Racecourse. The festival offered a vibrant experience for food lovers, families, and the community, with a variety of food stalls, live demonstrations, and interactive workshops. The Local Enterprise Office showcased 20 Local Food and Beverage Producers in the Tote Hall over the weekend. This dedicated space is designed to spotlight the importance of supporting local producers and celebrating the rich diversity of food culture in our county.

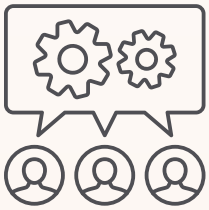
From farm-fresh produce to artisanal cheeses and craft beverages, the festival is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience the very best that local talent has to offer. This festival highlighted the importance of supporting small-scale, local businesses that contribute to the sustainability of our local food economy.

Kildare County Council Hosts Dare to Lead: Inspiring Entrepreneurs with Visionary Leadership Insights

On December 10th, 2024, Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office celebrated its 10th anniversary with a milestone event titled Dare to Lead. The event brought together entrepreneurs from across Kildare, alongside key stakeholders, to reflect on the past decade of entrepreneurship in the region, share visionary leadership insights, and foster new connections.

Enterprise & Economic Development & Tourism

323 Jobs were created by Local Enterprise Kildare client companies



297 Individuals participated on Start Your Own Business Programmes



77 Businesses availed of the Shop Front Grant



20 Businesses engaged in Digital Transformation Supports

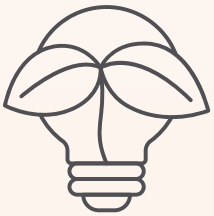


2,262 Participants engaged in General & Management Development Training

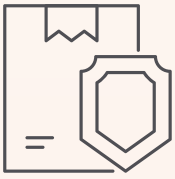


42 Client companies were approved for funding through Priming, Business Expansion, Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters and Feasibility Study Grants

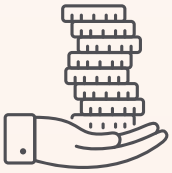
69 Businesses engage in sustainability supports



43 Businesses undertook a Lean Project



104 Businesses were funded through the Trading Online Voucher Scheme





Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development & Emergency Services

Building Control

Overview of 2024:

- A publicly accessible map interface has been substantially developed to view the taking in charge status of housing estates, expected to go live in 2025.
- The Consultation Portal was utilised to streamline two processes: online receipt of Taking in Charge requests and applications to view Building Control records.
- Continued success of the Legacy Estate Remediation Project, with 11 out of the 19 estates taken in charge in 2024, being part of the Legacy Project. This project sees older estates which are unfinished or where the developer is no longer active and there are outstanding defects, brought to a taking in charge standard.
- Dealt with a 40% increase in Commencement Notices, attributable to the Uisce Eireann and Development Contribution Waivers schemes, which ran to the end of 2024.

2,884
Building Control Inspections completed

1,285
Development Control Inspections completed

211 Disability Access Certificates Issued

19
Housing Estates Taken in Charge



Emergency Services

Emergency Services

Fire Services are provided from six strategically located retained Fire Stations across the county. The Engineer, Educate, Enforce paradigm is used in the Fire Safety section to enhance the fire safety in the built environment including the Emergency Management and Special Projects section which co-ordinates emergency management preparation across the council.

Overview of 2024:

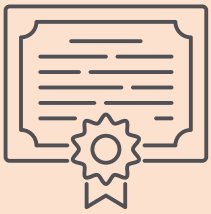
- Maynooth Fire Station: Construction of the new fire station at Maynooth commenced in June 2024. The expected completion date is June 2025.
- Apartments Defects Remediation Scheme: Kildare Fire Service participated in the "Pathfinder" project to establish working procedures and protocols for dealing with applications accepted onto the scheme. A new staffing allocation for this scheme has been sanctioned.
- Firefighters Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) Agreement: Kildare Fire Service worked throughout 2024 to achieve compliance with the terms of the 2023 Firefighters WRC Agreement. At time of writing, there are 2 vacancies across the service, with 70 of 72 retained fire service positions filled. New crew structures are in place and all promotional positions have been filled.





Emergency Services

354 Applications for a Fire Safety Certificate received, representing a **76%** increase over the past five years (2020 – 2024)



129 Inspections carried out on **104** Buildings or premises



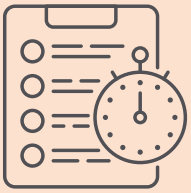
2349 Fire crew mobilisations, making 2024 the busiest year ever for Kildare Fire Service



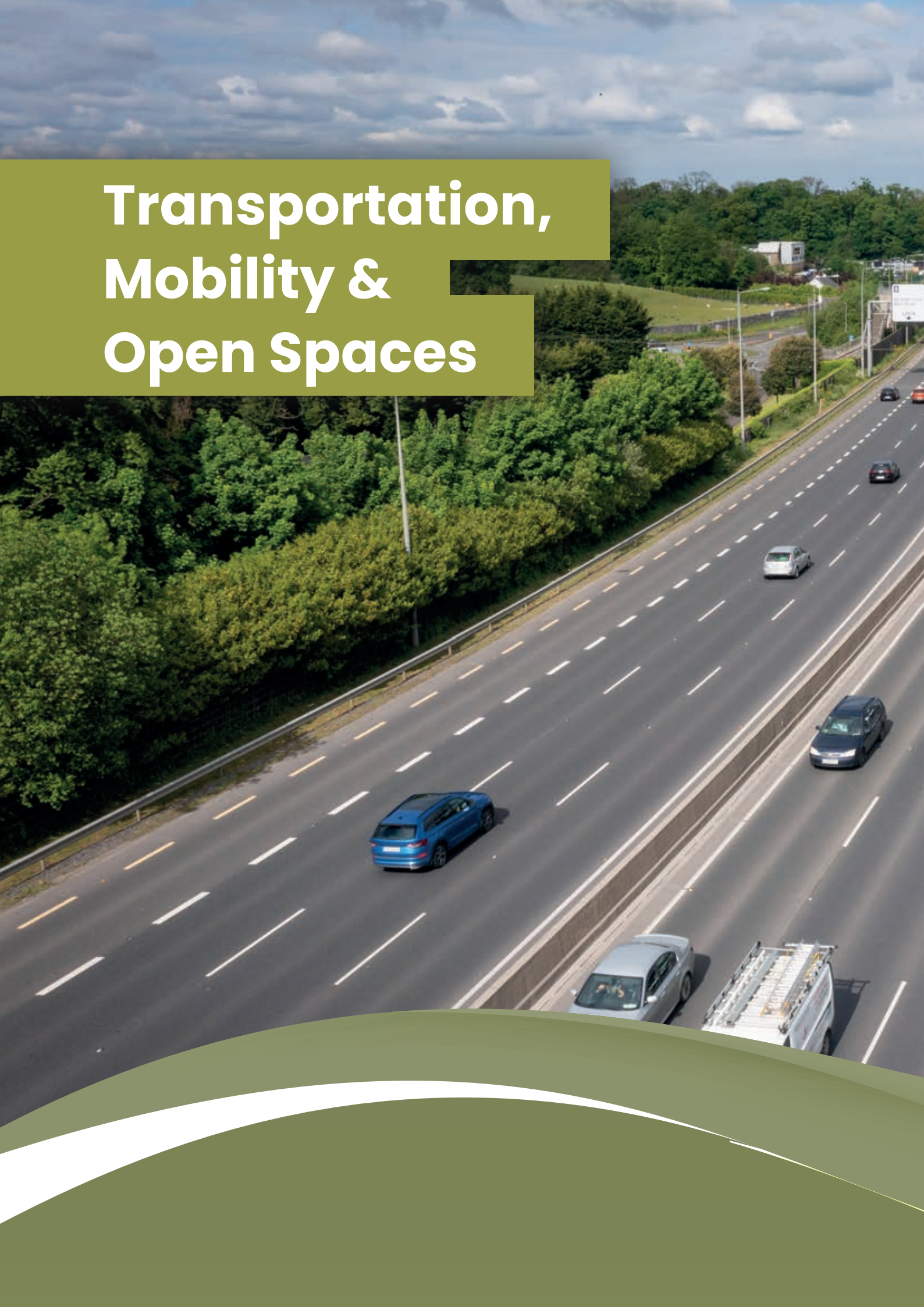
1804 Incidents responded to by fire stations



6500 Hours of training undertaken by firefighters across various skills and disciplines



Transportation, Mobility & Open Spaces




JOHNSTOWN



Transportation, Mobility & Open Spaces

Transport

Transportation & Mobility

With responsibility for over 2,500 kilometres of roadway in County Kildare, the directorate develops, maintains, and manages the county's road network for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, as well as for public service and commercial vehicles. Major capital infrastructure projects are managed and delivered with annual funding provided by Government Departments and related agencies, and direct funding from Kildare County Council.

The combined technical and administrative workforce ensures the safety of vehicles and vulnerable road users through the provision of an extensive traffic management system and a network of pedestrian crossings.

The Sustainable Transport Section continued to deliver active travel and road safety measures and activities in 2024, and to support initiatives which promote walking, cycling and public transport usage.

Overview of 2024:

Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

The new Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn, Newhall, Naas, became operational in 2024, with operations transferred from Newbridge in May. Winter salting commenced from the new salt barn in late 2024.

Top Image: Official Opening of Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme



Regional Salt Barn



Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

Operations

The Municipal District Offices completed surface dressing and road restoration on 158 kilometres of local and regional road in 2024. Safety improvement works were carried out at 12 locations on regional and local roads and climate resilience measures were implemended at three locations.

Bridge Repairs

Eight bridges were identified as requiring priority works for renewal and maintenance. These were completed during the year, in addition to emergency works carried out in a number of locations.

Leinster Aquaduct, Sallins, Co Kildare



Sustainable Transport Section

2024 saw the highest drawdown of National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel funding to date at €10.5M. Over 35 schemes were progressed with the continued design and delivery of cycle routes and greenway active travel projects throughout the county. Kildare County Council facilitated the installation of new bus stop infrastructure, including shelters, across the county to support the expanded Local Link services and other Public Service Operated routes.

Construction of Active Travel Schemes

Section 1 of the Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Leixlip was completed in 2023 and work continued throughout 2024 with the project scheduled for completion in mid 2025. The Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme in Naas opened during the year.

Active Travel, Kilcullen Road



Transport

4,132
Customer Care queries dealt with by Transport

386
Abnormal Load applications processed

101 Local Improvement Schemes approved

50
Public Consultations held

85
Temporary Road Closures processed



Transportation, Mobility & Open Spaces

Parks & Open Spaces

Parks & Open Spaces

The Parks Department is responsible for providing Kildare County Council's landscaping service within County Kildare. The department's remit encompasses a diverse range of activities, including the design, provision and maintenance of recreation and amenity facilities across the county.

Overview of 2024:

Allenwood Playground

Opened in June 2024, it includes a playground, multi-use games area and pump track.

DeBurghs Woodland Garden

Opened to the public in June 2024.

Kerdiffstown Park

Opened to the public in October, featuring all-weather- pitches, walking routes and a playground.

Top Image: De Burgh Woods



Official Opening of Allenwood Playground

Sallins Amenity Land

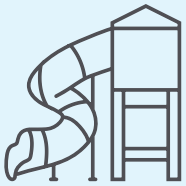
Detailed design for an initial phase of works was undertaken, and a Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Grant of €3m was awarded to assist with delivering the park.

Newbridge Natural Play Area

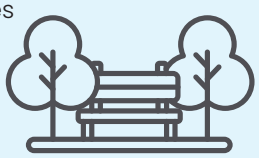
Completed and opened in November, featuring natural play elements and equipment for children and providing an additional play space in Newbridge.

Parks & Open Spaces

30 Projects undertaken across the county to progress the delivery of new amenities in Kildare. These included new parks, playgrounds and other landscaping projects



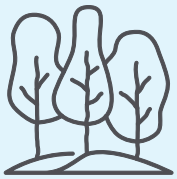
30 Operational works including grass maintenance, tree works were carried out around the county to maintain and manage existing parks and open spaces



1101 CRMs were responded to in 2024



€80k Spent on new tree and hedgerow planting throughout the county



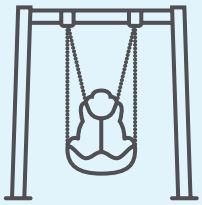
Approximately **4000** tree works were carried out. This includes pruning and removals

156 Hectares of grass areas being maintained around the county



60 Hectares under reduced mowing or wildflower meadow maintenance

€322,000 Spent maintaining **32** playgrounds, **14** Outdoor Gyms and **3** skateparks around the county



€650,500 Spent maintaining Parks and Open Spaces in the county





Natural Play Area, Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge

Finance, Digital Services, Innovation & Governance







Finance, Digital Services, Innovation & Governance

Information Technology

Digital Services

Digital services are vital for our organisation's efficiency and connectivity. We continuously upgrade our technology infrastructure, implement new portals and applications and enhance our mobile and Wi-Fi connectivity. In 2024, we implemented a new Members Portal and developed an 'Onboarding' application for new employees. We also delivered Phase 2 of the Geo Collect app with new automation and reporting capabilities.

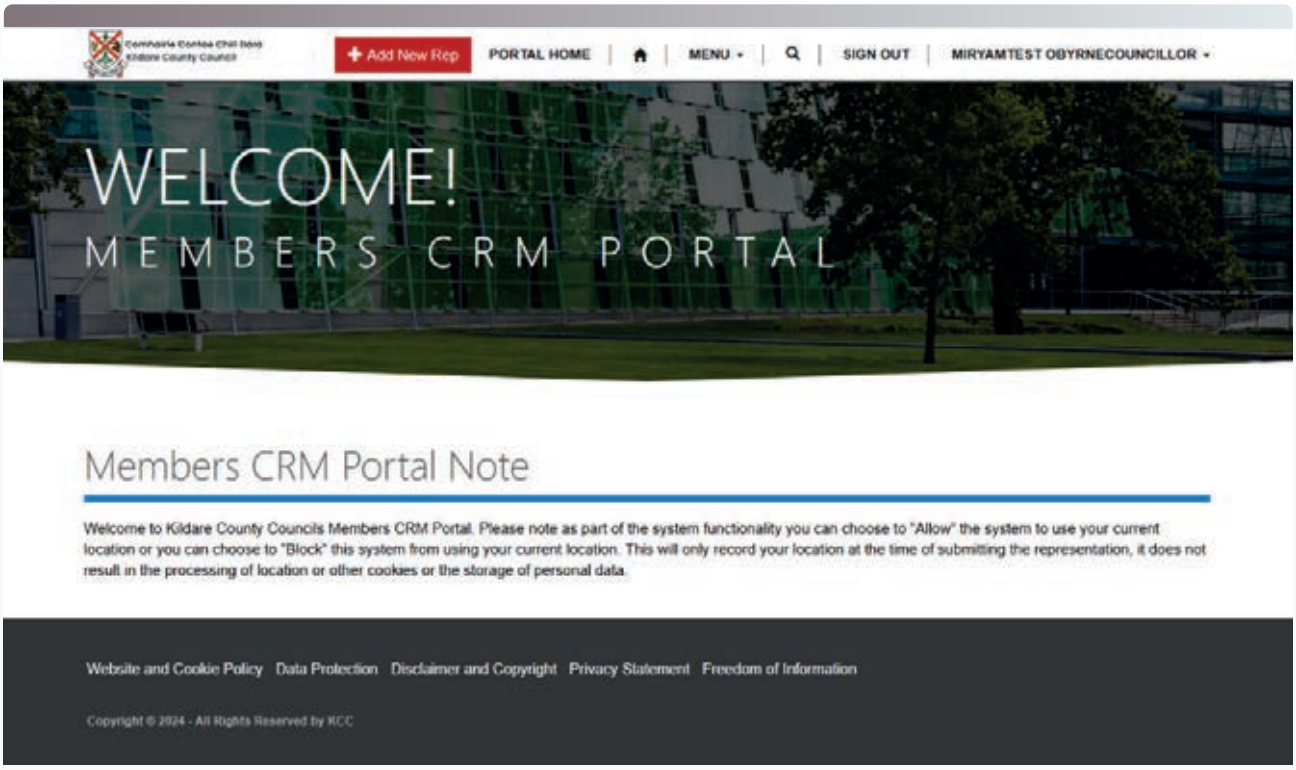
We achieved a 94% score on the LGMA Cyber security scoreboard. Additionally, we developed thirteen new environmental inspections applications and scored 95% on the National Disability Authority web accessibility index for the Council website.

Overview of 2024:

- All multifunctional printers (MFP) have been upgraded and standardised across the organization, with 70 MFDs now fully deployed.
- The new Members portal was successfully implemented.
- A new 'Onboarding' application was developed to manage new employees from the offer stage to their start date.
- Phase 2 of the Geo Collect app was delivered, featuring new automation and reporting capabilities.
- Resilience on mobile, Wi-Fi, wireless connectivity across the organisation network was enhanced.



New standard HP Colour LaserJet E87750/70



Members Portal

Information Technology

Approximately **13,670** calls were opened/created in 2024 on the IT helpdesk

Achievement of an average score **95%** on the National Disability Authority web accessibility index for the Council website

Achieved score of **94%** of LGMA Cyber security scoreboard

13 New environmental inspections applications developed by GIS

Development of **8** new Applications by the Business Applications team e.g. XL Bully App, Development Control Bonds App, Procurement portal



Finance, Digital Services, Innovation & Governance

Innovation

Innovation

Innovation is central to our organisation's growth. We continue to expand our programs, complete various training sessions and deliver innovative projects. In 2024, we hosted our first Hackathon in partnership with the Climate Action Office, Merits Tech Hub, university partners, local enterprises, and entrepreneurs. We developed new applications like MyCoCo to enhance the experience for staff and citizens. Our innovation efforts were recognised through various awards, including shortlisting for Data Innovation Product of the Year.

Top image: Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive and staff who successfully completed the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Training including delivery of a Lean improvement projects. May 2024

Overview of 2024:

- Continued growth of our Lean Six Sigma programme for staff, focusing on streamlining and improving our processes and services across all departments.
- Demonstrating our continued commitment to Better Public Services and the Action Plan for Designing Better Public Services through completion of Design training, delivery of a Design Sprint and launch of a Design Thinking Programme for staff.
- Delivery of first Hackathon in collaboration with the Climate Action Office and Merits Tech Hub, university partners, local enterprises and entrepreneurs and the Open Data Unit.
- Supporting colleagues in the delivery of new applications including MyCoCo, with a focus on providing an improved experience for staff and citizens.
- Further recognition of the Council's Innovation achievements, including shortlisting for Data Innovation Product of the Year and selected for the NOAC/CCMA Good Practice Event.



Corporate Plan Consultation Meeting with Insync – September 2024



Staff members who completed the Level 8 Certificate in Strategy, Innovation & Decision Making with Southeast Technology University, Carlow. Pictured here with Eoin O'Brien, Life-Long Learning Manager, SETU. June 2024

Innovation

8 New Lean Six Sigma improvement projects in progress across our services

38 Staff participated in innovation training

6 New solutions supported

16 Workshops incl. Corporate Plan Consultations & Process Improvement Workshops held with **138** participants

Continued advancement of our internal "Call for Ideas" with **85%** of the 59 submissions now either complete or in progress



Design Sprint held in October as part of Public Service Transformation Week 2024



Our Innovation programmes and initiatives demonstrate our continued commitment to the Public Sector Transformation Strategy framework including Better Public Services, Making Innovation Real and Action Plan for Designing our Public Services.



Finance, Digital Services, Innovation & Governance

Finance

Finance

Kildare County Council's finance department has primary responsibility for a range of functions including:

- Budgets
- Financial Management & Reporting
- Accounting
- Payments
- Revenue Collection (including rates, rents & housing loans)
- Treasury Management
- Development Contribution Collection
- Motor Tax

Overview of 2024:

- To address the rising costs faced by businesses in early 2024, the Government introduced a grant scheme called Increased Cost of Business (ICOB). Later in the year, an additional grant scheme called the Power Up grant to support businesses in the hospitality, retail and beauty sectors. A total of €17million was distributed through these grants.

Finance

Grant Scheme	Number of Businesses	Total €
ICOB	3,183	€ 9,958,548
Power Up	1,772	€ 7,088,000
Overall Total		€ 17,046,548

Collection Rates 2024:

Commercial Rate **92%** Rents **95%** Loans **78%**

Financial Statement

Year ended 31 December 2024

(with comparative revenue account figures for previous years)

Revenue Account					
Expenditure	2024 €	2023 €	2022 €	2021 €	2020 €
Housing and Building	101,511,201	82,989,054	67,818,258	56,588,252	53,767,101
Road Transportation and Safety	46,676,195	45,286,196	41,031,150	39,288,711	38,027,548
Water Supply and Sewerage	9,621,070	10,122,894	9,824,234	10,071,764	9,979,748
Development Incentives & Controls	41,617,459	24,442,777	21,762,895	23,269,486	45,028,845
Environmental Protection	26,671,851	22,044,934	21,744,357	18,813,977	18,587,183
Recreation and Amenity	16,937,482	15,535,030	13,266,243	11,317,887	11,065,823
Agriculture and Education	1,088,349	1,236,599	856,239	1,164,333	1,129,509
Miscellaneous Services	20,338,142	17,695,804	18,385,393	30,245,408	39,882,802
Total	**264,461,749**	**219,353,288**	**194,688,769**	**190,759,818**	**217,468,559**

Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)					
Housing and Building	95,687,182	76,138,178	61,676,807	50,829,889	49,057,850
Road Transportation and Safety	25,215,758	24,027,965	20,203,670	18,386,655	17,713,271
Water Supply and Sewerage	9,153,662	10,122,452	9,707,499	10,191,340	9,707,935
Development Incentives and Controls	27,763,664	10,531,276	9,361,543	11,355,269	33,757,955
Environmental Protection	9,262,227	7,502,293	8,129,387	5,525,680	6,163,298
Recreation and Amenity	2,519,695	3,089,830	2,186,390	2,153,655	1,340,180
Agriculture and Education	430,770	416,146	338,882	455,702	499,215
Miscellaneous Services	12,392,227	12,205,140	10,636,425	22,625,868	31,102,895
Sub-Total	**182,425,185**	**144,033,280**	**122,240,603**	**121,524,058**	**149,342,599**
Urban Authority Accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Pension Related Deductions	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government Fund/LPT	21,460,408	19,283,323	18,289,092	17,726,658	17,731,578
County Rates	72,381,022	62,956,667	61,398,436	61,913,937	60,785,745
Total	**276,266,615**	**226,273,270**	**201,928,131**	**201,164,653**	**227,859,922**
Transfers to/from Reserves	-11,797,662	-6,910,434	-7,187,190	-10,281,403	-10,227,999
Surplus/Deficit for year	7,204	9,548	52,172	123,432	163,364
Opening Balance	13,712	4,164	-48,008	-171,440	-334,804
Closing Balance	**20,916**	**13,712**	**4,164**	**-48,008**	**-171,440**

Receipts (Grants, Goods and Services)					
Housing and Building	130,580,440	129,675,164	85,141,846	65,523,373	87,252,732
Road Transportation and Safety	32,449,755	53,479,301	42,477,920	27,410,934	39,123,894
Water Supply and Sewerage	115,940	265,408	1,143,834	852,484	1,010,062
Development Incentives and Controls	44,389,676	7,098,589	4,489,211	85,402	790,072
Environmental Protection	5,004,797	4,467,559	14,425,839	15,465,987	7,400,637
Recreation and Amenity	3,624,910	5,058,590	3,362,445	2,476,420	2,036,884
Agriculture and Education	1,443,536	1,257,733	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Services	664,786	1,675,691	1,131,924	384,922	131,568
Total	**218,273,840**	**202,978,035**	**152,173,019**	**112,199,522**	**137,745,849**

Appendices




NO ENTRY

Appendix 1: Strategic Policy Committee Scheme (SPC) 2019 – 2024

The council's six Strategic Policy Committees under the 2019-2024 scheme closed out their work programmes in 2024.

A new Strategic Policy Committee Scheme for 2024-2029 was developed in 2024 and adopted in October 2024 and resulted in new configurations and memberships.

The following outlines the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 membership.

Environmental and Water Services SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Suzanne Doyle [Chairperson]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brian Dooley	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Íde Cussen	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brendan Wyse	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Vanessa Liston	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Anne Breen	Member of Kildare County Council
Emer Conway	PPN Environmental/ Conservation
Evan Arkwright	Business/Commercial
Vacant	PPN Community/Voluntary
Thomas O'Connor	Agriculture/Farming

The Environmental and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met once in 2024 to continue their work in considering the following issues:

- The EPA Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance
- The national waste management plan for a circular economy
- The National Deposit Return Scheme
- Household Waste Collection
- Progress on the landfill remediation and community park at Kerdiffstown by way of a site visit and an information session.
- Operations at Glassco glass recycling plant by way of a site visit and information session
- Citizen Science as a concept by way of a presentation and discussion
- Co-ordination of projects with other SPCs, the Climate Action team and the Public Realm Team
- Motions referred by Council.

Local Community and Cultural SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Carmel Kelly [Chairperson]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Aidan Farrelly	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Bernard Caldwell	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Noel Heavey	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Aoife Breslin	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Evie Sammon	Member of Kildare County Council
Vacant	PPN Environmental Conservation
Maureen Bergin	Business/Commercial Pillar
Vivienne Kelly-Keane	PPN Community / Voluntary
PJ Fagan	PPN Social Inclusion

The Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee met 2 times in 2024 to continue their work in considering the following:

- Brigid1500
- Age Friendly initiatives
- Libraries
- Twinning / Integration / Roma Traveller Strategy / Community Development
- Community Administration
  - Grants
  - Education bursaries
- Local Community Development Committee
- Sports Partnership
- Healthy Ireland rollout
- Co-ordination of projects with other SPCs, the Climate Action team and the Public Realm team
- To consider motions referred by council

Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Paul Ward [Chairperson]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Bob Quinn	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Angela Feeney	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Nuala Killeen	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Paddy Curran	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Joe Neville	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Anne Connolly	Member of Kildare County Council
Cormac Browne	Agriculture/Farming Pillar
Brian Purcell	Business/Commercial
Vacant	PPN Environment/Conservation
Darren Devane	Development/Construction Pillar

The Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee met 1 time during 2024 to continue their work in considering the following:

- Electric Vehicles Chargers at Residential properties and Apartments
- Rural Public Lighting- Rural Public Lighting Scheme
- Access & Disability –Development of Accessible Public Realm Streetscapes
- Policy on the County Parking Policy Framework reviewed and adopted.
- Review policies around public parking in the context of urban renewal, cycling and pedestrian amenity with associated benefits.
- A Digital Strategy for Co. Kildare adopted by Full Council
- Review of Taking in Charge Policy of housing estates and specifications
- Discussions on a Sustainable Transport Forum
- Noise from Transportation Sources
- Co-ordination of projects with other SPCs, the Climate Action and Public Realm team. To consider motions referred by council.

Housing SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Brendan Weld [Chairperson]	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Leigh	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Chris Pender	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Noel Connolly	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tim Durkan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Veralouise Behan	Member of Kildare County Council
Vacant	PPN Social Inclusion
Tom O'Malley	PPN Community/Voluntary Sector
Ger Dunne	Trade Union Pillar
Anthony Neville	Development Construction

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee met 2 times in 2024 to continue their work in considering the following issues:

- Housing for All
- Homelessness
- Affordable Housing
- Anti-Social Behavior Policy
- Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability
- Climate Action Initiatives
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Tenant Support Scheme
- Ukraine
- To consider motions referred by council.

Economic Development, Enterprise, and Planning SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Rob Power (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Michael Coleman	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Pádraig McEvoy	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Seamie Moore	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Ivan Keatley	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Kevin Duffy	Member of Kildare County Council
Gerry Prendergast	Business/Commercial
Majella O'Keeffe	PPN Social Inclusion
Vacant	PPN Environment/ Conservation
Vacant	Development/Construction

- The Economic Development, Enterprise, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee met 2 times in 2024 to continue their work in considering the following issues:
- Monitoring of National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and objectives for the Dublin Metropolitan Area Spatial Plan (MASP)
- Serviced Sites Initiative – Policy formulation, scheme development principles and criteria for allocation of sites in accordance with NPO18b.
- County Social Infrastructure Audit/Matrix (work in progress; these are a fundamental part of the preparation of local area plan process).
- Historic Monuments Advisory Committee – to be re-established for reporting to and recommendations from SPC.
- Monitor/overview of the wide range of heritage led projects undertaken by the Architectural Conservation Officer and the Heritage Officer.
- Develop a County-wide Blue Plaque Scheme
- Prepare an Enterprise Sites Brochure that outlines the inventory of all lands:- zoned for enterprise, employment, industry and mixed-use developments across the County, with details on area (hectares), infrastructure, services and landownership (subject to consent)
- Consideration and Adoption of Economic Element of the Local Economic and Community Plan

- Monitoring/Progress Report on the Implementation of:
  - Kildare Economic Strategy 2025
- Monitoring/Progress Report on the Implementation of:
  - Kildare Food, Beverage & Hospitality Strategy
  - Kildare Hub Strategy
- Create and launch the Innovate Kildare Brand
- Prepare an Enterprise Hubs Brochure that outlines the inventory of all buildings suitable for enterprise, employment.
- Expand the shop front program to increase accessibility grants and provide for pop up Shops.
- Complete a full audit of industrial estates in KCC ownership and prepare an Industrial Area Enhancement Pilot Scheme.
- Execute the actions of the Diaspora strategy.
- Expand the Green for Micro Scheme to assist 40 businesses with 1-50 employees become more sustainable.

Climate Action SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Bill Clear (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Peter Hamilton	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Fintan Brett	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Rupert Heather	Member of Kildare County Council
Nathan Flaherty	PPN Environment/ Conservation
Louise Rawlins Traynor	PPN Community/ Voluntary
Sinead Ronan	Business/ Commercial
Thomas Malone	Agriculture/Farming

The Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee met twice in 2024 to continue their work in considering the following issues regarding Climate Action:

- Inform and input into the formation of Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 including mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Informed discussions on working practices including National 4 Day working week trial.
- Advance knowledge focus on the Mid East Energy Unit opportunity including 2030 National Energy Targets and Path to Task Achievement.
- Informed discussion on behavioural change in 'Business and Energy Efficiency into the Future' and the availability of SEAI supports for 'Business Low Carbon Transition'.
- Increase awareness of climate action potential in Irish farming practices focusing on the mechanism of the 'Signpost' Programme.
- Increase awareness on the effects of climate change on Kildare's native biodiversity including policy and measures associated with decline, conservation and restoration of biodiversity.
- To influence policies at regional and national level
- To increase community awareness and participation in climate action issues

The Climate Action SPC's workplan was ambitious, consisting of 38 actions. 97% of actions had a status of 'completed' or 'ongoing' the end of 2023 with 1 action to commence which was achieved in February 2024.

Strategic Policy Committee Scheme (SPC) 2024 – 2029

Following the local elections, formation of a new council and adoption of the new SPC scheme in October 2024, the membership of newly configured SPC's is as follows with new work programmes to be initiated during 2025.

Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Ivan Keatley (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Mark Leigh	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tom McDonnell	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Claire O'Rourke	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Pádraig McEvoy	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Evie Sammon	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor David Trost	Member of Kildare County Council
Evan Arkwright	Business/Commercial Pillar
Patrick Fagan	PPN Social Inclusion
Colm Kenny	PPN Environmental/Conservation
Anthony Neville	Development Construction Pillar

Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Kevin Duffy (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Ger Dunne	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Peter Melrose	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Noel Connolly	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Paul Brooks	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Paul Ward	Member of Kildare County Council
Cormac Browne	Agriculture/Farming Pillar
Gerry Prendergast	Business/Commercial Pillar
Eamonn Mahoney	PPN Community/Voluntary
Vacant	Development/Construction Pillar

Environment and Water Services SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Bill Clear (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Paula Mulroe	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Carmel Kelly	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor William Durkan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Anne Breen	Member of Kildare County Council
Vacant	PPN Environmental/Conservation
Sinead Ronan	Business Commercial Pillar
Denis Logan	PPN Community/Voluntary
Thomas O'Connor Jnr	Agriculture/Farming Pillar

Climate Action SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brian Dooley	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Tim Durkan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Angela Feeney	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Rob Power	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brendan Wyse	Member of Kildare County Council
Nathan Flaherty	PPN Environmental Conservation
Louise Rawlins Traynor	PPN Community/Voluntary
Sinéad Ronan	Business Commercial Pillar
Thomas Malone	Agriculture/Farming Pillar

Housing and Regeneration SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Aoife Breslin (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Donna Phelan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Fintan Brett	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Nuala Killeen	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Noel Heavey	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Seamie Moore	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Chris Pender	Member of Kildare County Council
Chris Harrison	Trade Union Pillar
Mary Gill	PPN Community/Voluntary Sector
Vacant	PPN Social Inclusion
Colin McKenna	Development/Construction Pillar

Local Community, Culture and Integration SPC

Name	Sectoral Interest
Councillor Suzanne Doyle (Chairperson)	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Pat Balfe	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Bernard Caldwell	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Veralouise Behan	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Rupert Heather	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Lumi Panaite Fahey	Member of Kildare County Council
Councillor Brian O'Loughlin	Member of Kildare County Council
Maureen Bergin	Business/Commercial Pillar
Caroline McDonald	PPN Environmental/Conservation
Majella O'Keeffe	PPN Community/Voluntary
Dr Deepak Kumar	PPN Social Inclusion

Appendix 2 - Committees of the Council 2024

Name of Committee	Members
Witness to Affixing of Seal	Only members elected prior to 2024
Audit Committee	Councillors Seamie Moore, Suzanne Doyle, Aidan Farrelly
Finance Committee	Councillors Kevin Duffy, Ivan Keatley, Angela Feeney, Carmel Kelly, Nuala Killeen
Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Councillors Mark Leigh, Rupert Heather, William Durkan, Chris Pender, Fintan Brett
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Councillors Aoife Breslin, Claire O'Rourke, Daragh Fitzpatrick, Peggy O'Dwyer, Chris Pender, Anne Breen
Protocol and Procedures Committee	Councillors Suzanne Doyle (Chair), Joe Neville, Aoife Breslin, Brian Dooley, Bernard Caldwell, David Trost, Brendan Wyse, Chris Pender, Pádraig McEvoy, Anne Breen, Evie Sammon
Corporate Policy Group	Councillors Joe Neville (Chair), Aoife Breslin, Suzanne Doyle, Bill Clear, Ivan Keatley, Kevin Duffy, Naoise Ó Cearúil.
County Kildare Twinning Committee	Councillors Veralouise Behan, Angela Feeney, Rupert Heather, Brian O'Loughlin, Fintan Brett
Coiste Gaeilge	Councillors Brian Dooley, Joe Neville, Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh, Naoise Ó Cearúil, Anne Breen
Twinning Liaison Committee	Councillors Aoife Breslin, Lumi Panaite Fahey, Angela Feeney, Brian O'Loughlin, Carmel Kelly
Historical Monuments Advisory Committee	Councillors Brendan Wyse, Mark Leigh
Brigid Festival Working Committee	Councillors VeraLouise Behan, Claire O'Rourke, Angela Feeney, Brian O'Loughlin, Evie Sammon

Appendix 3 – Membership of External Bodies 2024

External Body	Members
Association of Irish Local Government	Councillors Bill Clear, Fintan Brett, Carmel Kelly
Athy Heritage Company Ltd	Councillor Brian Dooley
Athy Community Enterprise Company CLG	Councillor Brian Dooley
County Kildare Fáilte	Councillor Suzanne Doyle
Drehid Community Liaison Committee	Councillors Daragh Fitzpatrick, Brendan Wyse
Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum	Councillors VeraLouise Behan, Lumi Panaite Fahey, Peter Melrose, Peggy O'Dwyer, Anne Breen
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance	Councillor Joe Neville
Kildare Community Network Company	Councillors Rob Power, Brendan Wyse, Mark Leigh
Kildare Heritage Forum	Councillors Noel Heavey, Claire O'Rourke, Rupert Heather, Brian O'Loughlin
Kildare Town Heritage Company CLG	Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Pat Balfe, Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh
Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities Ltd	Councillors Bill Clear, Brian Dooley
Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board	Councillors Daragh Fitzpatrick, Evie Sammon, Claire O'Rourke, Rupert Heather, David Trost, Brendan Wyse
Leixlip Amenities Centre	Councillors Bernard Caldwell, Nuala Killeen
Local Authorities Members Association	Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil
Local Community Development Committee	Councillors Aidan Farrelly, Carmel Kelly, Tracey O'Dwyer
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Councillors Rob Power, Pádraig McEvoy, Fintan Brett
County Kildare LEADER Partnership	Councillors Pat Balfe, William Durkan
Monread Community Centre	Councillors Ger Dunne, Fintan Brett
South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce	Councillor Lumi Panaite Fahey
Midlands Regional Transition Team	Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare Councillor Joe Neville
Kildare-Meath Grid Update Community Forum	Councillors Peter Melrose, Naoise Ó Cearúil

Appendix 4 - Conferences Attended in 2024

Date	Training Details	No. of Members Attended
22 March 2024	Policy Forum for Ireland – Next Steps Transport Sector	1
19 October 2024	Kildare Biodiversity Conference 2024- Kildare Wildlife Rescue	1

Appendix 5 - Training Attended in 2024

Date	Training Details	No. of Members Attended
19-20 January 2024	LAMA Spring Seminar	3
26 January 2024	AILG- Webinar Introduction to Advertisement and Facebook	1
27 January 2024	AILG-Elected Members Briefing: Annual Declarations	1
14-15 February 2024	AILG- Annual Training Conference	3
15 March 2024	AILG-Webinar-How to use Canva to Create Marketing Images	1
23 March 2024	AILG- Local Election 2024 Preparation	1
5 April 2024	AILG-Webinar-Security Training	1
12 April 2024	AILG-Webinar- Defensive Social Media Training	1
28 June 2024	AILG-Webinar- Role and Functions of Local Authorities	5
5 July 2024	AILG-Webinar-Role of Elected Members	3
12 July 2024	AILG-Webinar-Role of the Chief Executive	2
13 July 2024	AILG- Elected Member, General Induction Training Programme	1
19 July 2024	AILG-Webinar- Local Authority Financing, Funding and Expenditure	2
26 July 2024	AILG-Webinar- Elected Members Governance and Oversight Role	2
2 August 2024	AILG-Webinar- Local Authority Plans	3
2 October 2024	6-week Irish Course with Gaelchultúr	2
11-12 September 2024	AILG Autumn Training Seminar	6
28 September 2024	AILG-Overview Planning System	1
2 November 2024	AILG- Local Authority Finance and Budget Process	1
16 November 2024	AILG- A Councillor's Guide to the Home Upgrade Grants	1

Appendix 6 - Councillors Meeting Attendance 2024

Councillor Name	Total Number of Meetings	No. of Meetings Attended	Total % Rate of Attendance
Aidan Farrelly	28	23	82%
Angela Feeney	34	31	91%
Anne Breen	33	31	94%
Anne Connolly	14	12	86%
Aoife Breslin	37	36	97%
Bernard Caldwell	39	36	92%
Bill Clear	37	30	81%
Bob Quinn	13	11	85%
Brendan Weld	20	19	95%
Brendan Wyse	36	33	92%
Brian Dooley	32	26	81%
Brian O'Loughlin	17	15	88%
Carmel Kelly	39	36	92%
Chris Pender	36	32	89%
Claire O'Rourke	15	15	100%
Daragh Fitzpatrick	38	33	87%
David Trost	18	18	100%
Evie Sammon	34	33	97%
Fintan Brett	31	31	100%
Fiona MacLoughlin Healy	13	10	77%
Ger Dunne	17	17	100%
Íde Cussen	13	12	92%
Ivan Keatley	33	26	79%
Joe Neville	28	26	93%
Kevin Duffy	33	31	94%
Lumi Panaite Fahey	16	15	94%
Mark Leigh	28	28	100%

Councillor Name	Total Number of Meetings	No. of Meetings Attended	Total % Rate of Attendance
Michael Coleman	13	13	100%
Naoise Ó Cearúil	29	26	90%
Noel Connolly	15	15	100%
Noel Heavey	29	24	83%
Nuala Killeen	34	30	88%
Paddy Curran	14	12	86%
Pádraig McEvoy	35	35	100%
Pat Balfe	15	15	100%
Paul Ward	35	30	86%
Peggy O'Dwyer	27	27	100%
Peter Hamilton	13	13	100%
Peter Melrose	16	16	100%
Robert Power	32	31	97%
Rupert Heather	22	22	100%
Seamie Moore	31	29	93%
Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh	12	11	92%
Suzanne Doyle	40	35	87%
Tim Durkan	33	32	97%
Tom Mc Donnell	15	12	80%
Tracey O'Dwyer	29	26	90%
Vanessa Liston	14	13	93%
Veralouise Behan	35	29	83%
William Durkan	16	14	87%

Appendix 8 – Corporate Progress Report (Corporate Plan 2019-24 & Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024)

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Housing Supply	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	Rebuilding Ireland - Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. Note: all new social housing where a part 8 has been published after 31 October 2019 and where the dwelling is not substantially complete before 31 October 2020 will comply with Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) requirements National Vacant Housing Reuse Strategy 2018 – 2021 Kildare County Council Vacant	No of affordable and social units delivered	451
Community Development		Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	Homes Action Plan 2018-2021		579 2.5%
Housing Supply	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024.	No. of housing units delivered under Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019 – 2024	14

** 2024 data unless otherwise stated*

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
			Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2018 – 2020 Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2121-2023 Housing First Implementation Plan 2018 – 2021 Housing First National Implementation Plan 2022-2026	Homeless exits from emergency accommodation	Housing Supply
Housing Supply		Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."		No. Age Friendly units/universal design units delivered	8
Housing Supply	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	Kildare County Council Implementation Plan for the Inspection of Rental Properties	No. of private rented tenancies inspected	2025

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Housing Supply	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	National Guidelines for the Assessment and Allocation Process for Social Housing Provision for People with a Disability. Kildare County Council Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities Kildare County Council Housing and Disability Steering Group Capital Assistance Scheme	Number of properties delivered to people with a disability (sensory, mental health, physical, intellectual) Total No of grants paid under the following programmes: Disabled Persons Grants, Housing Aid Grants, Housing Mobility Grants, Croi Connaith Vacant Homes Grants % of council properties vacant	86 579
Housing Supply	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development "To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities."	Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 Allocation Scheme for Social Housing Anti-social Behaviour Strategy Kildare County Council Tenant Handbook	No. of allocations to social houses Value of mortgages approved	670 €3,875,000
Housing Supply	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations	Climate Action Plan	Number of houses completed under Energy Retrofit Scheme	61

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Arts Service	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion "To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	Arts Council Strategy (2016–2025) Making Great Art Work - leading the development of the Arts in Ireland Short Grass Stories An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 2018-2022	No. and Value of arts grants and bursary awards (incl. residencies and commissions)	87 - €194,749
Arts Service	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion "To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	Arts Council Strategy (2016–2025) Making Great Art Work - leading the development of the Arts in Ireland Short Grass Stories An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 2018-2022	No. of artists, community groups and arts organisations supported	552
Arts Service	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion "To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	Arts Council Strategy (2016–2025) Making Great Art Work - leading the development of the Arts in Ireland Short Grass Stories An Arts Strategy for Kildare County Council 2018-2022	No. of members of the public attending events	8224
Corporate Services	6	Supporting the Democratic Mandate, Performance and Communications "To assist local democracy while improving service delivery, engagement and communications by maximising the effectiveness of our people, budgets, operations and ICT resources."	Putting People First and Council Communications Strategy	No. of followers on social media channels	Corporate Channels (end 2024): Facebook: 22,355 X/Twitter: 10,505 Instagram: 4,312 LinkedIn: 4354 YouTube: 236

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Corporate Services	6	Supporting the Democratic Mandate, Performance and Communications "To assist local democracy while improving service delivery, engagement and communications by maximising the effectiveness of our people, budgets, operations and ICT resources."	Freedom of Information Act 2014	Average no. of days for FOI decisions made (statutory requirement is 20 working days)	20
Corporate Services	6	Supporting the Democratic Mandate, Performance and Communications "To assist local democracy while improving service delivery, engagement and communications by maximising the effectiveness of our people, budgets, operations and ICT resources."	Maximising use of CRM for managing customer cases	No. of customer cases processed annually within the Customer Relation Management System	21,315
Corporate Services	6		Putting People First and Local Government Reform Act, Electoral Reform Act 2022	No. on Draft register of Electors	175,531
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	Number of jobs created by client companies in receipt of Priming / Business Expansion Grants	323

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	No. of businesses in receipt of Feasibility, Priming, Expansion and TAME Grants	42
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	No. of participants engaged in business training and events	2262
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	No. of mentoring/ advisory sessions completed	700
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	The number of Grow Digital Vouchers applications approved Trading Online Vouchers	0 104
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Local Economic & Community Plan Local Enterprise Office SLA with Enterprise Ireland Enterprise 2025. Kildare Annual Enterprise Plan	No. of businesses supported through IP/RD&I funding	6

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Kildare County Council Economic Strategy and supporting strategies in tourism, equine and retail	No. of Businesses engaged in digital transformation supports	20
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Kildare County Council Economic Strategy and supporting strategies in tourism, equine and retail	No. of Shops opting to use Shop Front Grant Scheme	77 shops
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Kildare County Council Economic Strategy and supporting strategies in tourism, equine and retail	No. of individuals participating in SYOB	297
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Kildare Leader Programme National Tourism Strategy	No. of Businesses engaged in sustainability supports	69

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Mid-East Enterprise Plan 2020	No. of client companies engaged in export-specific supports (non-grant)	46
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	Kildare County Council Economic Strategy	No. of businesses undertaking LEAN projects	43
Economic Development	2	Enabling Business and sustaining growth "To optimise the potential of Kildare and its businesses to innovate, invest, promote and sustain growth and employment, across our County and throughout our community.	ERDF and Regional Economic Strategy and Kildare County Council Adaption Strategy	% occupancy of all KCC-led Hubs (Athy Ent. Ctr, MERITS, Equine Innovation Ctr.)	99% Occupancy
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	1992 EPA Act	No. of complaints logged on the Council pollution complaints portal, that were investigated	1284

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	1992 EPA Act	No. of litter fines issued	269
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	EPA's National Agricultural Inspection Programme	Initial farm inspections in accordance with Programme.	94
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Public Health Acts and local bye-laws	Cemetery Committees grant aided.	74
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan	%/No. of climate action initiatives delivered under Climate Action Plan (plan commenced 2024)	3%

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan	No. of staff completing Climate Action Training Programme Annually	91
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan	No of citizens attending Climate Programme events	3000
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan	% Local authority Energy savings (since 2009 baseline yr to end 2023 (data not available 2024)	34.80%
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme	National Tidy Towns participating groups grant aided.	38

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme	No. of green flag schools participating	42
Environment Services/Water & Climate Change	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	National Litter Pollution Monitoring Scheme	The percentage area within the local authority that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free	75%
Water Services	1.8	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare "Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations.	Dept of Housing Planning Local Government – Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021	Percentage of private water schemes monitored	96.2%
Fire & Emergency Services	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion: To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	To identify and manage risk and to prepare to respond to emergencies in accordance with the framework for Major Emergency management	Cost of fire service per capita	€35.43

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Fire & Emergency Services	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion: To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	To identify and manage risk and to prepare to respond to emergencies in accordance with the framework for Major Emergency management	Average Time to mobilise fire brigades in Part-time stations for fire related emergencies	7.15mins
Planning	5	Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth.	To ensure effective, proper planning and sustainable, balanced development of urban and rural areas. National Planning Framework under Project Ireland 2040. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031	Number of Planning Applications Received/Valid % Planning applications Processed granted Planning applications Processed Additional Information requested Residential Units Granted % of applications appealed to An Bord Pleanála/ Coimisiun Pleanala where the decision was confirmed No. of Pre-planning meeting requests received/ Meetings completed	1797/1201 84% 441 2463 87% 281/256

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Planning	5	Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth.	To ensure effective, proper planning and sustainable, balanced development of urban and rural areas. National Planning Framework under Project Ireland 2040. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031	No Planning enforcement cases received/ closed No. of Warning Letters Issued/ Enforcement Notices Served	234/246 431/106
Planning	5	Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth.	Monitor compliance with building control regulations, energy performance of buildings directive, construction products regulation National building control management system	No. of Non-Legacy Housing Developments Taken in Charge No. of Legacy Developments Taken in Charge No. of Building Control Inspections (NOAC – Units commenced in current year)	8 11 2,884
Human Resources	6	Supporting the Democratic Mandate, Performance and Communications To assist local democracy while improving service delivery, engagement and communications by maximising the effectiveness of our people, budgets, operations and ICT resources	Implementation of People Strategy	Recruitment competitions during the year Training courses offered Conferences/ Seminars attended Instances of training	60 127 100 3,476

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Community Services	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	LECP LCDC PPN Kildare Local Development Strategy 2014 – 2020 SICAP, LEADER Age Friendly County Strategy	Number of groups represented on PPN. Number of groups and Individuals supported through Social Inclusion Programme Number of Community Development Worker led Initiatives Participants in Community Development Worker led Initiatives	783 75 Community Groups and 913 individuals 102 5,836
				Number of Council-Led sports and health and well-being initiatives Participants on council-led sports and health and well-being initiatives Total of second level schools in County Kildare at 31/12/2024 Number of second level schools from which representatives attended local Comhairle na nÓg AGM. Number and value of community grants paid	87 27214 27 22 276 Community Grants totalling €282,971

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Parks Department				Number and value of festival grants paid Number and participants- Age Friendly Events No. of trees pruned per annum. No. of trees planted / replaced per annum. No. of new parks, playgrounds, landscaping projects delivered and progressed in year.	121 Festival Grants totalling €199,737 16 Events with 950 Participants 5,105 541 trees / 4,620 hedges 25
Library Service	4	Building communities through empowerment and inclusion To empower all citizens to participate in safe and inclusive communities and access services and supports that make a positive difference in their lives.	Implement National Public Library Policy Support the implementation of Arts, Heritage and Library Strategies	No. of Active Library Members per head of population No. Visits to Libraries in the year No. of items issued to library borrowers in the year € spend on new library stock No. of library events/ programmes No. of laptops/ computers/wifi sesssions booked	3.5 704,003 889,550 €603,000 8,462 93,022

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	5	Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County "Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth."	Annual Roadworks Programme Annual funding from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport DTTaS policy and circulars on safety improvement schemes Transport Infrastructure Ireland Transport 21 National Development Plan Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Roads Programme	Kilometres of Restoration Improvement completed annually. Kilometres of Restoration maintenance completed annually. No. of bridge inspections completed. No of bridges repaired.	70km 88km 83 11
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	5	Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County "Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth."	National Transport Authority (NTA) Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area Kildare Climate Action Strategy National Sustainable Development Plan NTA BusConnects Strategic Plan Road Safety Authority National Road Safety Plan Roads Act 1993	No. of new or upgraded bus stop infrastructure. No. of new or upgraded signalised pedestrian crossings. No. of road safety improvement schemes completed on regional and local roads.	4 25 12
Roads, Transportation and Public Safety	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations	Climate Action Plan - National Public Lighting Upgrade Project	Percentage of public lighting that are LED. No. of EV vehicles purchased.	65% 5

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Housing Regeneration & Strategic Projects & Public Realm	3	Supporting delivery of housing and associated community development To work with all partners to strive to meet Kildare's housing needs, working to reduce homelessness and providing support for developing communities Delivering enabling infrastructure for a connected County Continue to plan, deliver and maintain key infrastructure in our County that sustains mobility and access and positions Kildare to achieve sustainable growth	Town and Village Renewal Scheme Town Centre First Rural Regeneration and Development Fund Urban Regeneration and Development Fund	Number of CPOs commenced Number of sites added to Derelict Sites Register Number of property owners engaged with Number of towns engaged with through the Town Centre First initiatives Number of Vacant property grant applications Strategic Projects Value of funding approvals Strategic Projects - Public Consultation Attendees & Surveys	19 15 106 5 142 €6,898,116.00 1160
Water Services	1	Leading a Climate resilient Kildare Building climate change resilience, action and sustainability into service and infrastructure, while protecting and promoting our natural and built environment for the well-being of present and future generations	Dept of Housing Planning Local Government – Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021	Percentage of private water schemes monitored	96.20%

Functional Area	Corporate Plan	Performance Goals	Supporting Programme	Measurement Methodology	2024 Progress Update*
Local Authority Integration Team				No. of support clinics facilitated by the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) No. of persons supported through clinics facilitated by the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) No. programme refugees resettled in County Kildare under the resettlement programme No. of queries resolved by the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)	175 1,035 14 1,617
ICT Services	6	Supporting the Democratic Mandate, Performance and Communications To assist local democracy while improving service delivery, engagement and communications by maximising the effectiveness of our people, budgets, operations and ICT resources	Kildare County Council IT Strategy	Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE Number of IT business improvement projects supported by IT and Innovation Unit Number of non-IT business improvement projects supported by Innovation Unit	€4,644.05 23 8

Appendix 9 - Carbon Tax Liability 2024

Date	Departing (Airport)	Destination (Airport)	CO2 Emmissions kg	CO2 in tonnes	Rate per tonne	Charge
16.10.2023	Dublin	Lanzarote	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
16.10.2023	Dublin	Lanzarote	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
16.10.2023	Dublin	Lanzarote	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
16.10.2023	Dublin	Lanzarote	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
22.10.2023	Lanzarote	Dublin	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
22.10.2023	Lanzarote	Dublin	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
22.10.2023	Lanzarote	Dublin	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
22.10.2023	Lanzarote	Dublin	212	0.20865	48.50	€10.12
19.11.2023	Cork	Birmingham	46	0.04527	48.50	€2.20
24.11.2023	Birmingham	Cork	46	0.04527	48.50	€2.20
30.11.2023	Dublin	Birmingham	46	0.04527	48.50	€2.20
30.11.2023	Birmingham	Dublin	46	0.04527	48.50	€2.20
20.11.2023	Dublin	Brussels	88	0.08661	48.50	€4.20
20.11.2023	Brussels	Dublin	88	0.08661	48.50	€4.20
				2.02353		**€98.14**
31.01.2024	Dublin	London Heathrow	52.1	0.05128	€56.00	€2.87
31.01.2024	Dublin	London Heathrow	52.1	0.05128	€56.00	€2.87
02.02.2024	London Heathrow	Dublin	52.1	0.05128	€56.00	€2.87
02.02.2024	London Heathrow	Dublin	52.1	0.05128	€56.00	€2.87
12.03.2024	Dublin	Boston	272.7	0.26839	€56.00	€15.03
15.03.2024	Boston	Dublin	272.7	0.26839	€56.00	€15.03
15.03.2024	Dublin	New York JFK	283.8	0.27932	€56.00	€15.64
15.03.2024	Dublin	New York JFK	283.8	0.27932	€56.00	€15.64
20.03.2024	New York	Dublin	283.8	0.27932	€56.00	€15.64
20.03.2024	New York	Dublin	283.8	0.27932	€56.00	€15.64
22.04.2024	Dublin	Naples	341.1	0.335712846	€56.00	€18.80
22.04.2024	Naples	Dublin	341.1	0.335712846	€56.00	€18.80

Date	Departing (Airport)	Destination (Airport)	CO2 Emmissions kg	CO2 in tonnes	Rate per tonne	Charge
27.05.2024	Dublin	Reykjavik	123	0.121057403	€56.00	€6.78
30.05.2024	Reykjavik	Dublin	123	0.121057403	€56.00	€6.78
31.05.2024	Dublin	Birmingham	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
31.05.2024	Birmingham	Dublin	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
05.06.2024	Dublin	Birmingham	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
06.06.2024	Birmingham	Dublin	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
05.06.2025	Dublin	Birmingham	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
06.06.2025	Birmingham	Dublin	45.2	0.044486135	€56.00	€2.49
24.06.2024	Dublin	Copenhagen	109	0.107278511	€56.00	€6.01
28.06.2024	Copenhagen	Dublin	109	0.107278511	€56.00	€6.01
25.06.2024	Dublin	Glasgow	38	0.037399848	€56.00	€2.09
28.06.2024	Glasgow	Dublin	38	0.037399848	€56.00	€2.09
16.09.2024	Dublin	Gothenburg	115.7	0.113872695	€56.00	€6.38
16.09.2024	Dublin	Gothenburg	115.7	0.113872695	€56.00	€6.38
20.09.2024	Gothenburg	Dublin	115.7	0.113872695	€56.00	€6.38
20.09.2024	Gothenburg	Dublin	115.7	0.113872695	€56.00	€6.38
04.11.2024	Dublin	Lisbon	160	0.157473044	€56.00	€8.82
04.11.2024	Lisbon	Lajes Terceira Island	126	0.124010022	€56.00	€6.94
04.11.2024	Dublin	Lisbon	160	0.157473044	€56.00	€8.82
04.11.2024	Lisbon	Lajes Terceira Island	126	0.124010022	€56.00	€6.94
10.11.2024	Lajes Tercera Island	Lisbon	126	0.124010022	€56.00	€6.94
10.11.2024	Lisbon	Dublin	160	0.157473044	€56.00	€8.82
10.11.2024	Lajes Tercera Island	Lisbon	126	0.124010022	€56.00	€6.94
10.11.2024	Lisbon	Dublin	160	0.157473044	€56.00	€8.82
14.11.2024	Dublin	Heathrow London	52.1	0.05127716	€56.00	€2.87
15.11.2024	London Heathrow	Dublin	52.1	0.05127716	€56.00	€2.87
				5.01296		**280.73**
	Total Liability 2024			**7.03649**		**€378.87**

Appendix 10 - Statement Of Internal Financial Control (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Sonya Kavanagh, Chief Executive (CE) of Kildare County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the unaudited financial statements of Kildare County Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The Annual Financial Statement for 2023 has been audited. The figures reported herein for 2024 form part of the unaudited Annual Financial Statement for 2024. The Local Government Auditor will commence the audit of Kildare County Council's Annual Financial Statement in July 2025. When the audit is concluded, the audit report will be presented to Kildare County Council's Audit Committee and the Elected Members of Kildare County Council. The audit is expected to conclude by October 2025.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Kildare County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Kildare County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Kildare County Council.

The key sources of income for Kildare County Council are as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Goods & Services	47,724,446	47,309,478
Grants & Subsidies	134,365,959	96,473,345
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	0	0
Rates	72,381,022	62,956,667
Local Property Tax	21,460,408	19,283,322

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Income	276,266,615	226,273,269
Expenditure	264,461,749	219,353,288
Transfers to Capital	11,797,662	6,910,434
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus (Deficit) for	7,204	9,547
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	13,712	4,164
Closing Revenue Reserve	20,916	13,712

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet} represents the closing financial position of the council at year end together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors - housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Kildare County Council, at the end of 2024 total €3,711m and are as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed Assets	3,383,764,514	3,222,888,302
Works in Progress	58,294,976	95,508,769
Long Term Debtors	207,019,800	189,582,019
Current Assets	335,651,465	305,227,260
Current Liabilities	47,677,474	39,627,295
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	287,973,990	265,599,964
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	225,619,003	210,950,602
Net Assets/ (Liabilities)	3,711,434,278	3,562,628,452

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Kildare County Council.

This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Kildare County Council.

Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner.

Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

Kildare County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Kildare County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Kildare County Council is exposed, and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Kildare County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

i. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;

ii. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;

iii. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;

iv. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and

v. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Kildare County Council.

Risk and control framework

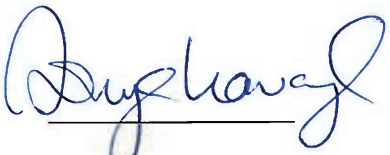
Kildare County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk registers which detail the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified, and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June.

Signed by: 

Chief Executive

Dated: 10th June 2025

Appendix 11 - Governance Statement

[for transitional use only in advance of full implementation of the Code]

Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach/Mayor and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted by the sector.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is included in the Annual Report for 2024 to be published by 30 June 2025. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.

Signed by:
Kevin Duffy
E26DB810B7D64A1...
Cathaoirleach/ Mayor

Date: 12/6/2025 | 5:29 PM BST

Chief Executive

Date: 10/6/2025

Appendix 12 - NOAC Performance Indicators 2024

NOAC Performance Indicators for 2024 will be

available to view at -https://www.noac.ie/publications/



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council