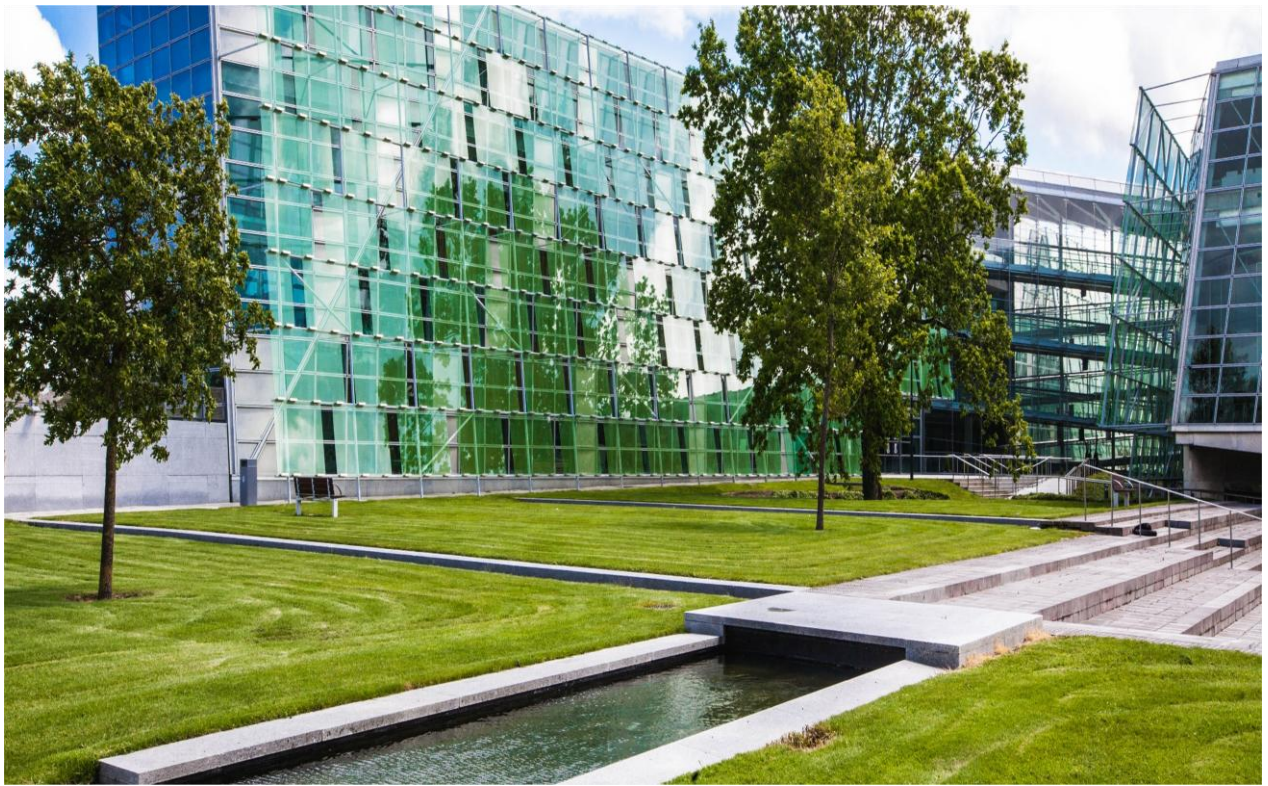




---

## Kildare County Council

### Chief Executive's Management Report – April 2025





---

## News Items

### **Subscribe to Free Kildare County Council Alerts Service with MapAlerter.ie**

Kildare County Council is inviting the public to sign up for a free alerts service that allows subscribers to receive important notifications from Kildare County Council (see page 9).

### **Kildare County Council Leads as a Repower Region**

In 2023, Kildare County Council launched its Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, outlining a roadmap to create a low-carbon, climate-resilient county by delivering and promoting best practices in climate action. Building on this momentum, Kildare County Council is now leading Repower Regions, a prestigious three-year Erasmus+ Alliance for Innovation projects (see page 10).

### **Libraries**

Kildare Seed Library 2025 was launched at the end of March in all our main libraries. Kildare Seed Library is a collection of organic and open-pollinated seeds available for our library members to use (see page 13).

### **Kildare Arts Service Grants**

Kildare Arts Service completed assessments for applications for a suite of seventeen separate arts grants, commissions and bursary award opportunities and are seeking approval from Councillors (see page 14).

### **Innovation**

Twenty-four staff have recently completed a Design Thinking Innovation Programme. Design Thinking is an innovative problem solving methodology that uses a five stage framework of defining and framing the problem, ideating, prototyping and testing solutions (see pages 17/18).



---

### **Affordable Purchase Scheme at Hereford Park, Leixlip**

The Hereford Park Affordable Purchase Scheme has now closed for applications. A total of 247 applications have been received and the Affordable Housing Team are engaging with applicants (see page 19).

### **Strategic Projects and Public Realm**

The Town and Village Scheme 2025 has recently been announced. Advertisements for Expressions of Interest under several categories will be published in the coming weeks and SPPR will be receiving applications for assessment and recommendation to the Department (see page 21).

### **Integration**

Kildare LAIT organise regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services (see page 42).

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

The first phase of new bus shelter installations is being progressed to public consultation stage in April/May 2025 (see page 71).

### **County Development Plan Actions**

A range of projects are being progressed, including Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Employment Locations Study (see page 72).

### **Local Enterprise Office - Focus On Start-Ups**

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Throughout Q1 over 170 individuals availed of a business advice appointment. In addition, 32 individuals completed a Start Your Own Business Programme (see pages 84/85).



---

## Diary/Calendar

### **Kildare County Council Announces Pre-Draft Public Consultation for the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031**

Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the pre-draft public consultation phase for the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 is open between Friday 21 March and Friday 02 May inclusive (see page 10).

### **Public Consultation on Election Posters**

The Electoral Commission has opened public consultation related to the future of election postering in Ireland. The deadline for submissions to the Electoral Postering Consultation is Friday 09 May 2025 at 5:00pm (see page 11).

### **Tenant Support Scheme 2025**

The Tenant Support Scheme is now open for applications. The closing date for completed applications is 16 May 2025 (see pages 18/19).

### **Staff Energy Awareness**

A Staff Energy Awareness Day will take place on 29 April from 10.00am to 2.00pm with experts attending from across the industry focusing on improving Home Energy. (see page 55).

### **Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance**

Maynooth University's Terrain AI team will be presenting the dashboard and findings from 2.00-3.00pm on the 28 April in the Chamber before the scheduled Full Council Meeting (see page 58).



---

### **Entente Florale 2025**

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025.

A public meeting day is scheduled for 24 April. Judging will take place on 12 July (see page 60).

### **Mulch Collection Day**

The council will hold a Mulch Collection Day on the 26 April at the Council Yard in Celbridge. This event is open to the public and will run from 10.00 am to 4.00pm (see page 61).

### **Kildare Failte**

For the third year Into Kildare have secured a Kildare Stand at Bord Bia Bloom running from the 29 May – 02 June. A number of tourism and hospitality providers in Kildare will participate on the stand with significant exposure for them and all of Kildare over the bank holiday weekend (see page 82).

### **Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2025**

Kildare Local Enterprise Office is delighted to bring the First Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2025. This free community event aims to promote inclusivity and celebrate the invaluable contributions that people with disabilities make to our community. The festival will take place on Sunday, 11 May 2025, at the Curragh Racecourse (see pages 85/86)





## May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>28 Apr</p> <p>14:00 Presentation @ 2pm from Terrain Al-Grass to Gass followed by Full Council Meeting in Council Chamber; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>1 May</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:30 LTACC; Committee Room; Members Calendar</p>	<p>7</p> <p>14:30 Environment SPC 2:30AM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Community and Culture SPC 10AM</p> <p>14:30 Housing SPC 2:30PM</p> <p>15:00 Transport SPC 3PM</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>12</p> <p>14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>13</p> <p>15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>14</p> <p>14:30 Climate SPC 2:30PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>15:00 Planning, Enterprise &amp; Economic Development SPC</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p> <p>14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 LCDC 10AM</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>




---

## INDEX

<b>News Items .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Diary/Calendar .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Corporate, People and Cultural Services .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Corporate Services .....	8
Library and Arts Service .....	12
Health and Safety .....	15
<b>Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Finance .....	15
Innovation .....	17
Digital Services .....	18
<b>Housing and Regeneration.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Housing .....	18
Regeneration .....	20
Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR) .....	20
<b>Integration.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Climate, Community, Environment and Water .....</b>	<b>50</b>
Community .....	50
Climate .....	50
Environment .....	58
Water Services.....	63
Local Community Development Committee .....	63
<b>Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces .....</b>	<b>65</b>
Transport.....	65
Open Spaces .....	71
<b>Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services.....</b>	<b>72</b>
Planning.....	72
Fire Service Operations:.....	79
Building and Development Control.....	80
Kildare Fáilte.....	81
Enterprise and Economic Development.....	83



## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services

#### Communications

#### Kildare County Council Announces the First Ever Kildare Inclusivity Festival – 2025



Kildare County Council are continuously working to break down barriers and contribute to positive change for people living with disability in County Kildare. In collaboration with the County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) and partners Nua Healthcare Services, Kildare Sports Partnership, Barretstown and The Curragh Racecourse, the council are proud to announce the official launch of the first Kildare Inclusivity Festival - a landmark event celebrating disability, inclusion, and the boundless potential of people of all abilities.

## Fógraíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara an Chéad Fhéile

### Ionchuisitheachta do Chontae Chill Dara riamh — 2025

I gComhairle Contae Chill Dara, bímid ag obair go leanúnach chun constaicí a shárú agus chun cur le hathruithe dearfacha do dhaoine i gContae Chill Dara atá faoi mhíchumas. I gcomhar le Líonra Rochtana Chontae Chill Dara (CKAN) agus comhpháirtithe, Nua Healthcare Services, Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Chill Dara, Barretstown agus Ráschúrsa an Churraigh, ábhar mórtais dúinn is ea a bheith ag fógairt sheoladh oifigiúil na chéad Fhéile Ionchuisitheachta do Chontae Chill Dara — ócáid shuntasach a cheiliúránn míchumas, ionchuisiú agus an mianach gan srian a bhíonn i ndaoine de gach uile chumas.

### New Publication Launched on Guidelines for Age Friendly Housing Design



Age Friendly Ireland has announced the launch of a new publication 'Ten





Universal Design Features to include in a Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home’.

**Subscribe to Free Kildare County Council Alerts Service with MapAlerter.ie**



Kildare County Council is inviting the public to sign up for a free alerts service that allows subscribers to receive important notifications from Kildare County Council. Kildare County Council has partnered with the MapAlerter.ie service to provide targeted messages to subscribers, which can be received via email and/or text message.

**Kildare County Council Leads as a Repower Region**



In 2023, Kildare County Council launched its Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, outlining a roadmap to create a low-carbon, climate-resilient county by delivering and promoting best practices in climate action. Building on this momentum, Kildare County Council is now leading Repower Regions, a prestigious three-year Erasmus+ Alliance for Innovation project focused on decarbonisation, digital skills, and sustainable solutions in Europe’s heating and cooling sector, an energy-intensive industry that accounts for nearly half of Europe’s total energy consumption.

**Martina O’Brien Announced as Artist in Residence for the Co-Creative Lab, Maynooth**



Kildare County Council Climate Action Team, in collaboration with Kildare Arts Service and Maynooth University, has announced Kildare-based visual artist Martina O’Brien as the Artist in Residence for the Co-Creative Lab.



### **Kildare County Council advises of expiration of Non-Principal Private Residence Liability**



Kildare County Council wishes to advise landlords and second homeowners of the expiration of the Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) liability and charge on property. The NPPR charge, which was applicable from 2009 to 2013, affected any residential property, which the owner did not reside as their normal place of residence.

### **Kildare County Council Announces Pre-Draft Public Consultation for the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031**



Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the pre-draft public

consultation phase for the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 is open between Friday 21 March and Friday 02 May inclusive.

### **Kildare County Council Issues Advice to Tillage Farmers**



Kildare County Council reminds Tillage Farmers of the requirements of the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water Regulations 2022, as amended. Starting 01 January 2025, the use of low emission slurry spreading (LESS) methods, such as trailing shoe and dribble bar has become compulsory for the application of slurry on holdings with grassland stocking rates of 100kg N/ha from grazing livestock manure.



---

## **Eisíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara comhairle d'fheirmeoirí curaíochta**

Is mian le Comhairle Contae Chill Dara na riachtanais seo a leanas a chur i gcuimhne d'fheirmeoirí curaíochta.

Tagann na riachtanais seo faoi

Rialacháin um Dhea-Chleachtas

Talmhaíochta chun Uiscí a Chosaint 2022, arna leasú. Ó 1 Eanáir 2025 i

leith, nuair atá sciodar ó aoileach

bheostoc ar féarach á leathadh ar

ghabháltas ar a bhfuil rátaí de stoc

féarach 100 kg N/ha, tá sé éigeantach

modhanna astaíochtaí ísle (LESS) a

úsáid, mar shampla píobán sriallach

agus barra silteach.

## **Public Consultation on Election**

### **Posters:**

The Electoral Commission has opened public consultation related to the future of election postering in Ireland with a particular focus on:

- their role as a political communication tool in Ireland and elsewhere compared to other methods of political communication, both traditional and online;
- how and whether posters impact political engagement

and electoral awareness among the electorate, including amongst people who may be marginalised from the political process; and

- their environmental and safety impacts.

The deadline for submissions to the Electoral Postering Consultation is Friday 09 May 2025 at 5:00pm.

For more information and to make a submission follow this link:

<https://www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation/>

## **Executive Suite:**

### **Retained LPT**

Transfer of allocated funds to Departments is ongoing.

## **Carbon Tax**

Payment has issued to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications as payment for carbon tax liability for air travel undertaken by staff and Elected Members during 2024. The charge of €387 equates to 7.036 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.



## Foreign Travel Policy Document.

A foreign travel policy document for Officials, Elected Members and accompanying guests has been drafted and will go to Management Team for review and sign off.

## Oireachtas Presentation

The annual Oireachtas Presentation took place on Monday 07 April in the Committee Room. A presentation by given by each Director with emphasis on the challenges facing Kildare County Council.

## FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2025
Freedom of Information Requests	38
Freedom of information appeals	4
Information Commissioner Appeals	1
Data Access Requests	3
Ombudsman	4

## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights

**“A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.” Shelby Foote**

Kildare Libraries have been approved for ALL funding for a project in association with HSE/ EVE Larine’s House in Maynooth.

The project is designing a health information booklet for people with a learning difficulty or a mental health difficulty which they could bring with them on a GP visit. Funding was approved under Health Literacy.

Kildare Libraries also secured funding for an ADHD Financial Literacy Programme in partner with ADHD Ireland.

This programme aims to deliver a Financial Literacy Programme via an online course that covers the basics of Financial Literacy and managing personal finances, with a focus on and additional supports for adults with ADHD. It aims to address the challenges of managing personal and family finances that affect adults with



ADHD, such as poor impulse control, low motivation, disorganisation, etc.

Kildare Seed Library 2025 was launched at the end of March in all our main libraries. Kildare Seed Library is a collection of organic and open-pollinated seeds available for our library members to use.

With this project, we hope to encourage people to grow, eat and share their own vegetables, herbs and edible flowers.

### **Kildare County Council Biodiversity Action Plan?**

Maynooth Community Library hosted a consultation event facilitated by Kildare County Council's Biodiversity Officer on the Kildare County Council Draft Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025**

Applications for the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 were assessed on 20 and 21 March by an independent panel. All applicants have been contacted with the results of the assessment. 12 out of 40 proposals have been offered funding, to a total funding amount of €70,240.

### **Programme Planning for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025**

The deadline of 07 March has now passed for child and youth groups/organisations to submit an expression of interest to be part of this year's Cruinniú na nÓg Festival by hosting their own events. Shortlisted applicants met with the Creative Communities Engagement Officer in March to review their plans and submit a full project plan and proposal. These proposals are now being assessed by members of the Culture and Creativity Team, with funding awards to be issued in mid-April. These targeted community-based projects will complement the wider Festival Programme of free workshops and creative events in Kildare libraries and arts venues, currently in planning stages.

### **Kildare County Archives and Local Studies**

The earliest surviving volume of the Athy Poor Law Union Admission and Discharge Registers (PLUA/R/1) covers the period 21 September 1875–19 September 1878. It has undergone extensive conservation work by the conservator at Muckross Bindery,





supported as part of a Creative Ireland Kildare project. It is digitised and online at

<https://onlinearchives.kildarecoco.ie/view/26768706> along with 17 other such registers for Athy Workhouse.

The ninth Irish Military Seminar is taking place in Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday and Saturday 16-17 May 2025. The programme features a stellar line-up of speakers exploring a wide range of topics relating to Irish military history.

**Climate Design Lab Artist in Residence and Creative Collaborator Recipients Awarded**  
Kildare Arts Service, in collaboration with Kildare County Council Climate Action and Maynooth University, have awarded the Co-Creative Lab Artist in Residence Award to visual artist Martina O'Brien and the Co-Creative Lab Creative Collaborator Award to contemporary dance artist and eco somatic practitioner, Rachel Sweeney. These artists will work with the Co-Creative Lab, a creative climate action project with the aim of exploring human-centred design thinking as a progressive and dynamic model for

community engagement and behavioural change in Maynooth.

### **Kildare Arts Service Grants**

Kildare Arts Service completed assessments for applications for a suite of seventeen separate arts grants, commissions and bursary award opportunities and are seeking approval from Councillors. Almost 300 grant applications were received in total.

### **New Clerical Officer**

Kildare Arts Service is happy to announce that Emma Dunne has joined the team this month as Clerical Officer. Emma has transferred from Water Services.

### **Kildare Arts Service Attended St. Patrick's Day Event at Áras an Uachtaráin**

Kildare Arts Service had the honour of attending a special reception with President Higgins and Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin on St Patrick's Day, featuring a performance by members of Beartla O Flatharta Céilí Band. The event celebrated the President's initiative, 'Samhlaíocht agus An Náisiún – Imagination and



The Nation' which highlights the powerful and transformative role of art and creativity in the evolution of Ireland as a republic and an idea.

### **Riverbank Arts Centre Updates: Kildare Jazz Festival at Riverbank Arts Centre**

The second Kildare Jazz Festival took place from 04 – 06 April, and included 11 diverse events including a showcase performance by Row E, a Music Generation jazz ensemble

### **School events at Riverbank**

Since January 2025, Riverbank Arts Centre has hosted 42 events for schools, including the world premiere of Other Worlds by Jess Rowell, an integrated dance performance for teenagers with additional needs, developed in schools in County Kildare. (aged 14-18) supported by Riverbank since 2023.

### **Health and Safety**

1. Nine Site Inspections across directorates
2. Six Blended Working Assessments completed
3. How to deal with Serious Incident Training

4. Annual review of Safety Statement
5. Review of arrangements section of Safety Statement across all Aras departments

### **Accessibility:**

1. Kildare Inclusivity Festival preparation and planning
2. Local Disability Access Group Meetings:
  - Monasterevin
  - Newbridge
  - Maynooth
3. Review of eLearning module with ESUS
4. WAM (Willing, Able, Mentoring) interviews for HR Graduate.

## **Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance**

### **Finance**

#### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2024 has been prepared and presented to Council in March 2025 and submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 31 March 2024 in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Financial

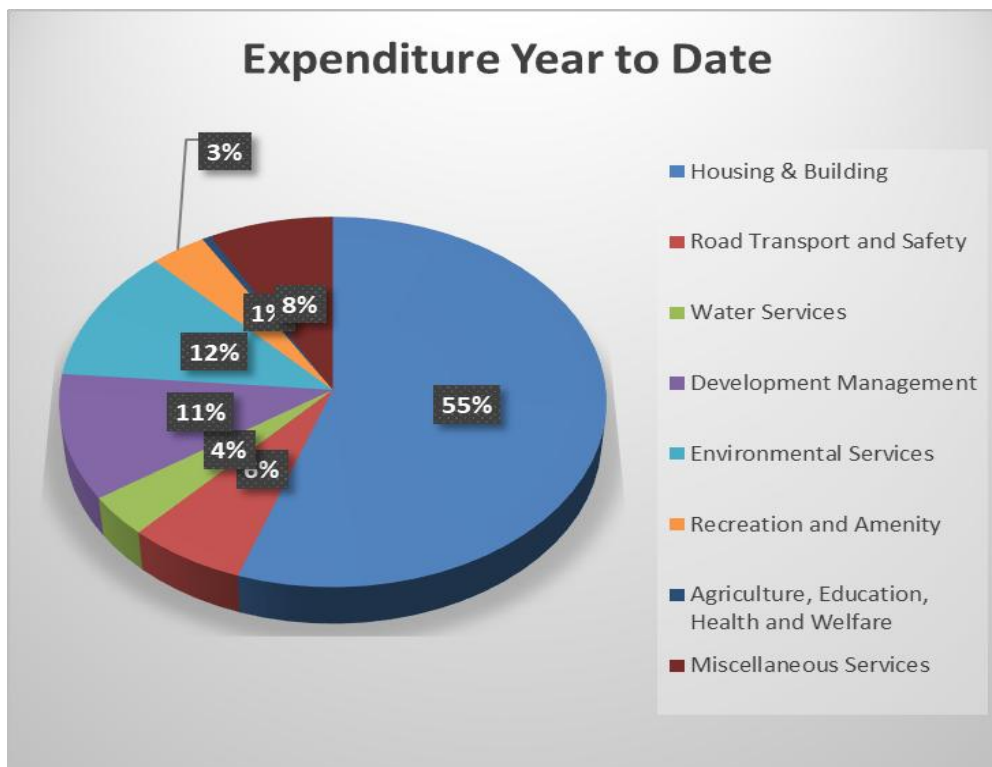


Statement for 2024 is now subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor.

## Revenue Account

### Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2025

Division	Expenditure €,000	Budget €,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining €,000
Housing & Building	30,875	101,730	30%	70,855
Road Transport and Safety	3,654	48,554	8%	44,900
Water Services	2,009	10,199	20%	8,190
Development Management	6,124	31,158	20%	25,034
Environmental Services	6,513	26,403	25%	19,890
Recreation and Amenity	1,972	19,596	10%	17,624
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	303	1,416	21%	1,113
Miscellaneous Services	4,397	21,315	21%	16,918
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	55,847	260,371	21%	204,524





**Kildare County Council**  
**Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2025**

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	33,152	91,453	36%	58,301
Road Transport and Safety	1,807	25,619	7%	23,812
Water Services	1,047	9,640	11%	8,593
Development Management	4,570	11,468	40%	6,898
Environmental Services	1,438	7,830	18%	6,392
Recreation and Amenity	717	2,560	28%	1,843
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	163	305	53%	142
Miscellaneous Services	152	14,980	1%	14,828
Local Property Tax Allocation	3,693	22,155	17%	18,462
Rates	19,189	74,361	26%	55,172
	65,927	260,371	25%	194,444

### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 March 2025.

### Risk Management

A review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in mid March 2025. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with the sections to complete and document the actions from the review.

### Innovation

Twenty-four staff have recently completed a Design Thinking Innovation Programme. Design Thinking is an innovative problem solving methodology that uses a five stage framework of defining and framing the problem, ideating, prototyping and testing solutions. Four Teams tackled four key challenges and developed well-defined and tested solutions that can now move to the implementation phase. Teams were supported by a Senior Sponsor and the programme culminated in a Pitch Day where Teams presented their solutions to the Senior Management Team, colleagues and key



stakeholders. This programme demonstrates our continued commitment to Innovation and the Government's Design Action Plan.



## Digital Services

### Windows 11

Commenced update of council devices from Windows 10 to Windows 11 by October 2025.

## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Second Hand Acquisition

#### Programme 2025

Minister Browne has announced €325 million in funding for a second-hand acquisition programme in 2025 (Housing Circular 11/2025). Kildare County Council has been allocated a total of €15 million.

Priority categories for funding are:

Tenant in Situ

Older Persons and Persons with a Disability

Exits from Homeless Services

Buy and Renew which tackles vacancy.

In terms of the Tenant in Situ, local authorities are required to prioritise acquisitions for families with children, older persons or people with a disability, who are at serious risk of homelessness where a valid notice of termination has been issued due to the landlord's intention to sell. Properties may only be purchased in cases where a tenant has been in receipt of HAP or RAS support on the property for at least two years. The council will not be entitled to claim any refurbishment costs on Tenant in Situ acquisitions. The Members have received correspondence which provides more detail on the operation of the scheme.

#### Tenant Support Scheme 2025

The Tenant Support Scheme is now open for applications. The closing date for completed applications is 16 May 2025. The scheme has been advertised on the Council's website,





social media and local newspapers. The objective of this scheme is to assist Local Authority tenants to carry out improvement work on their homes. The Tenant Support Scheme can be used to replace defective windows and doors, defective kitchen units or for other minor works. Priority will be given to climate-action improvements such as new glazing, insulation, heat pumps, etc. To be eligible to apply, an applicant must be a tenant of the Council with an up-to-date rent account. Tenants can be approved for a grant of 90% of the cost of work up to a maximum of €5,000. Details of the scheme are available on Kildare County Councils website on the following link:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Housing/TenantInformation/TenantSupportScheme/> or by emailing [tenantsupportscheme@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:tenantsupportscheme@kildarecoco.ie).

### **Affordable Purchase Scheme at Hereford Park, Leixlip**

The Hereford Park Affordable Purchase Scheme has now closed for applications. A total of 247 applications have been received and the Affordable Housing Team are engaging with applicants. This is the

first Part V affordable scheme in the county and provides 16 houses at a 30% discount on the market rate. The prices of the units are as follows:  
Two Bed from €310,000 to €320,000  
Three Bed from €343,000 to €355,000.

### **Traveller Cultural Awareness Training**

Over 30 staff members from the Housing Department attended cultural awareness training sessions on 25 and 26 March last as part of an initiative by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC). The training was provided by Kildare Traveller Action and funded under the Dormant Accounts Fund (DHLGH).





## Regeneration

### Town Centre First (TCF)

Work has commenced on preparing a Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot in collaboration with the Town Team.

Tender documents were issued for the procurement of an urban designer led design team to work with the Town Regeneration Team in the completion of a TCF Plan.

A preliminary urban design analysis is currently being prepared by the Town Regeneration Team to inform the analysis stage of the TCF Plan.

### Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)

#### Key Projects

Shackleton Museum: Realignment of the steel extension is underway, once complete panels/glass will be inserted.

Emily Square: Paving works have commenced and are progressing well. A recent visit by the EUJTF Programme Manager from Brussels and members of EMRA were very complimentary of the project and the works underway.

### Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2:

Project Team is working with Planning to finalise the dates for the Part 8 publication for the two additional bridges (Bonyngue and Lowtown). The dates will tie in with the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District meeting in September. TII have announced their Greenway allocations for 2025 with €4.2m allocated to Kildare. It is expected that the funding will cover the cost of Tender 1 package, which is the tie in with Phase 1 and Phase 2 in Sallins (Part 8 completed) and a second tender package which will see works from the Offaly Border back to Ticknevin, undertaken by Waterways Ireland and managed by SPPR.



Paving Works, Emily Square Shard Installation, Shakleton Museum



## Funding

RRDF Funding: Two applications have been submitted (Monasterevin Town Square and The Abbey project which emerged from the Clane TCF Plan).

ORIS Funding (Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme): Several applications have been submitted to the Department for consideration:

Measure 1:

- Monasterevin Development Association – improve carparking, trails, signage, resting areas at Moore Abbey Woods
- Rathangan Tidy Towns – Killinthomas Woods train upgrade, new signage and resting areas
- Project Development Measures:
- Parks Department: Feasibility study, pedestrian and cycle links to Kerdiffstown Park

- Community Department: Feasibility study – St. Brigid's Camino

Measure 2:

- Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association: repair/upgrade of the Ballymore Eustace Loop (5km)

Measure 3:

- Monasterevin Development Association: Development of a Water Sports Hub

Town and Village Scheme 2025 has recently been announced.

Advertisements for Expressions of Interest under several categories will be published in the coming weeks and SPPR will be receiving applications for assessment and recommendation to the Department.

## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site; substantially in line with programme.



Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanála on 22 August 2024. Preparation of works tender commenced. Planning condition surveys complete. Includes 10 no. affordable units.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at the November meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Revised Stage 2 approval received 14.10.2024. Part 8 presented and approved at March Athy MD meeting. Works to boundary wall commenced and due to be completed in early May.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Site clearance completed: Part 8 launched January 2025 and due before meeting of Newbridge/Kildare MD in May 2025.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. Part 8 relating to revisions to the works launched December 2024. Due at April meeting of Kildare-Newbridge MD.



<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tendering assessment ongoing for consultant's tender.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 approval received. Part 8 planning open for submissions until 1 <sup>st</sup> May.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	Revision to Single Stage approval to be prepared and submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q2 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 approved at February Newbridge/Kildare MD meeting. Tender to be prepared. NFU

<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design to be finalised and agreed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application submitted to DHLGH. Preparation of response to DHLGH queries in hand.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing. Structural survey received.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Structural condition surveys received.
Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	House and adjacent site purchased with planning for 2 apartments. Single stage application to be prepared.
Blacklion, Maynooth	2 day houses	Feasibility being prepared. Design agreed and proposal to be costed for Stage Approval.





Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and Structural survey commencing. Survey drawings complete.
--------------------	-----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 3 approval received 20.03.2025. Tender to be completed and issued May 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site. Practical completion date expected June 2025.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18.03.2025.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Preferred tenderer working on planning compliance submission. Boundary wall works ongoing
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Target commencing tender stage in May 2025
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at September MD meeting. Target commencing tender stage in May 2025
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation to start 24 <sup>th</sup> March. Public Information event held Newbridge on 27 <sup>th</sup> March last. Ongoing design work. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	108 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation on site at moment. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.



## Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 3 approval received 20.03.2025. Tender package to be completed and issued.
CALF	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents published. AHB liaising with DHLGH regarding CALF application.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved.

## Acquisitions

	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	96	68	6
Housing Turnkeys	42	89	2
Part V Acquisitions	109	106	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>22</b>

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2024	57	79	22	50	55
MTR Delivery in 2024 (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	1
Acquisitions in Q1 2025	3	0	2	14	3
MTR Delivery in Q1 2025 to date (via CALF and leasing)	0	0	2	0	0



## Regeneration

Year	CPO Commenced	CPOs with ABP	CPOs confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved	Vacant Property Grant payments
2024	19	6	13	0	0	142	117	69
Q1 2025	3	6	1	0	0	30	28	28

Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners Engaged with	Pre-CPO Notices Erected	Section 8(2) Derelict Sites Notices Issued	Properties added to the Derelict Sites Register
2024	140	102	106	45	31	15
Q1 2025	49	42	35	2	7	2

## Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
<b>2024</b>	113	24	11,689	9,634
<b>Q1 2025</b>	26	4	3,504	2,159

## Homeless Presentations with Unique Presentations Breakdown:

Year	Total Cases	Unique Households	Of which Unique Adults	Of which Unique Dependents	Repeats Households
2024	1907	546	656	445	1361
Q1 2025	617	129	151	115	488



### Homeless Exits from Emergency Accommodation:

Year	Total No Household Exits from EA	Local Authority Lettings	AHB Letting	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
2024	60	15	24	21
Q1 2025	12	3	6	3

### Homelessness Preventions

Year	Total No Households Homelessness Prevention	Local Authority Lettings	LA – Tenant in Situ (TiS)	AHB Lettings	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
2024	209	65	62	54	28
Q1 2025	33	13	9	5	6

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 March 2025

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	25	39	46
6 - 12 Months	13	18	24
12 - 18 Months	5	7	9
18 - 24 Months	2	5	5
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	45	69	84

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2025

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	6	9
6 - 12 Months	6	14	13
12 - 18 Months	1	1	0
18 - 24 Months	2	7	3



24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
+ 36 Months	1	1	2
Total	14	31	30

### Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2024	320	157	21	17	327	322
Q1 2025	111	21	6	1	117	58

### Social Housing Assessments

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals	No. of Households added to List
2024	158	189	1,377	20	415	750
Q1 2025	28	84	323	3	96	29

### Housing Allocations

Period	Total	CBL	Over 65	Disability	Homeless/Homeless Prevention	Refusals
Q1 2025	164	63	13	27	19	36

### Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2024	21	€4,422,200	10	€1,961,100	22	€4,078,720
Q1 2025	7	€1,703,000	0	0	0	0





## Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers	Properties Sold
2024	52	6	31	4
Q1 2025	10	1	2	1

## Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2024	349	60	346
Q1 2025	80	4	76

## Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	New HAP	HAP Review
2024	2,047	441	370
Q1 2025	746	85	51

## Public Realm

### Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	Works are underway to deliver the pedestrian bridge in Rathangan.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 2	€25,621,000	DoT/TII and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 document preparation is



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Sallins to Clonkeen				<p>underway for the two additional bridges required for this scheme. It is expected the Part 8 will be published in April 2025; dates to be confirmed with Planning Department. Detailed design for Phase 2 is ongoing. The project will be split into phases and tendered accordingly: Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2; made up of 4 tender packages totaling €25,621,000, based on recent cost estimates taking account of inflation</p> <p>Tender 1 Package Sallins</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Phase 1 & 2 Tie-in; end 2024 early 2025 Tender Package 2 Towpath Works; undertaken by Waterways Ireland (sensitive area) 2025 and 2026 Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 – 2027 Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027.
<b>Kildare- Newbridge</b>	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	Final design and tender documents are being prepared for publication



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	The Project Team is finalizing content and layout with specific projects and visuals to be prepared. A draft document will be finalised in preparation for a second round of public consultation.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	The Project Team and Design Team are finalising the content for the draft TRMP preparing for public consultation.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded)	Pre-Part 8	RRDF Call 4 application submitted.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Market Square Monasterevin		under T&V (TCF Measure 3)		
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Paving has commenced and is progressing well. SPPR are now working to prepare an opening event in conjunction with Failte Ireland/EU JTF.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Realignment of the shard frame continues and once completed the panels/glass will be inserted. Works continue on the remainder of the building.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€23.8m (most recent cost for entire project)		Pre Part 8	Conservation works are substantially completed with some small works to be carried out in the coming





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					weeks. The Council has been notified that the HSF funding application for 2025 has been unsuccessful for this project.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT  €1,908,750 URDF approved  Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.  <b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b> Consultant appointed, BDP are the Consultant Team. A commencement meeting with Internal Departments of KCC has taken place. The team will be



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.		<p>collating base line data over the next few weeks.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. Codema has commenced</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>work on the District Heating feasibility study which will be completed later this year.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p><b>of Key Town Renewal projects.</b>            Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth	€181,794		Detailed Design & Works	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Design consultant is finalising the detailed design and tender package for this project, expected to be completed in the next few weeks.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC  Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case	TBC	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. <b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – Consultant appointed, BDP are the Consultant Team. A commencement meeting with Internal Departments of KCC has taken place. The team will be collating base line data over





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>the next few weeks.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b> Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David's Castle is now complete. Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St. David's Castle and grounds.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b> KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p><b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b></p> <p>Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.</p>
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Revised draft is under review with final edits and project proposals being considered.



---

## Integration

### General

#### Numbers of New Arrivals

The number of people arriving in the State seeing temporary protection or international protection appears to be decreasing. More information will be provided when statistical information is available.

#### Accommodation Recognition

##### Payment (ARP)

On Tuesday 25 March the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms Norma Foley, announced her intention to seek Oireachtas approval to extend the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) Scheme for a further year to March 2026. This extension has now been approved. The ARP will reduce from €800/month to €600/month commencing in June 2025 with the first payment of the new rate on 08 July. There are approximately 39,000 people accommodated with the assistance of the ARP.

#### Recent Developments

##### Newhall Designated

##### Accommodation Centre

The Newhall DAC closed on 28 March 2025. All remaining residents were relocated to the Punchestown DAC.

##### Eyre Powell Hotel, Newbridge

Fire Safety remedial works at the Eyre Powell are expected to complete by the end of April.

##### Ryevale House, Leixlip

A recent decision by An Bord Pleanála on the use of Ryevale House has been referred to the Courts for Judicial Review. The case is expected to come before the Court again in May.

#### Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

[Local Authority Integration Teams | Local Government Ireland](#)

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities to facilitate coordination of the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important



services that can help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### **Clinics**

Kildare LAIT organise regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. From the 06 January – 09 April 2025, Kildare LAIT carried out 31 information clinics in accommodation centres. In the first week of April 2025 Kildare LAIT organised four information clinics in IPAS and BOTP accommodation centres in Kildare that allow people to

access support and information on a one to one basis. Through information clinics, the LAIT has supported 20 persons (13 beneficiaries of temporary protection and seven international protection applicants and refugees in IPAS accommodation). Regular clinics and outreach visits to the centres have fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services.

### **Newhall 90-Day Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC)**

The Newhall DAC closed on the 28 March 2025. The LAIT has been supporting Newhall residents since the centre opened. The LAIT facilitated coordination meetings between Pastures New and relevant local services and facilitated and coordinated the initial access to the centre. During 2024 and 2025, the LAIT organised 30 information clinics and four outreach visits in Newhall, and solved 283 queries raised by residents, mostly related to accommodation, employment, transport, immigration, disability, education, supplementary welfare, and health. The LAIT has been directly assisted 202 residents to access local



services and facilitated group sessions on topics such as primary and secondary education in Ireland. The LAIT have worked very closely and collaboratively with Newhall staff and management, who have participated in various trainings organised by Kildare LAIT, including on the international protection system in Ireland and on how to counteract the far-right movement in our communities.

### Queries

From the 06 January – 09 April 2025, Kildare LAIT received 411 queries and resolved 402. During the first week of April 2025, the LAIT received 59 queries and resolved 57. Out of those, 39 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, eleven by international protection applicants and nine by persons with status. Most queries were related to access to accommodation, language support, education, legal and civic rights, and DSP financial support.

### Activities

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21 March 2025, the Local Authority Integration Team (Kildare LAIT) invited

Kildare County Council staff to wearing red. Staff met at the main entrance to show their support to the anti-racism campaign Wear Red Day in opposition to racism, xenophobia, and far-right ideologies. [Thousands across Ireland wear red in support of anti-racism initiative on Wear Red Day | Immigrant Council of Ireland](#) This follows similar events last year, including a training on intercultural competency and anti-racism in collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and two workshops on understanding how the far right operates and how to counteract disruption within our communities facilitated by the Hope and Courage Collective.



### Networking

Kildare LAIT continues participating in the National Asylum Support Network and the National Ukraine Civil Society Forum connecting civil society and





community responses into the State’s response structures supporting reception and integration.

Kildare LAIT is working closely with Kildare Sports Partnership and the Immigrant Council of Ireland to engage local sports and GAA clubs in the Show Racism the Red Card Programme that has been operating in Ireland since 2007. In 2021, the programme was relaunched under the leadership of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. This is an educational initiative that uses different sports as a vehicle

to combat racism and raise awareness in primary and secondary schools, youth groups and sporting. The programme is supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund overseen by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

**Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (Ukraine):**

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 610 (474 adults/ 136 children)  
Data source DECDIY – 31 March 2025

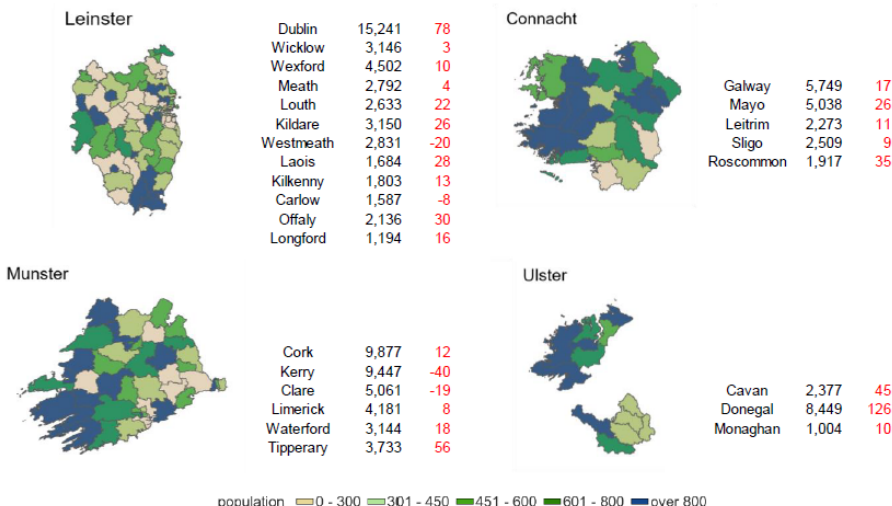
The current distribution of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection nationally is as follows:

Data source Central Statistics Office 17 January 2025

**National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection**

**Summary - Location of Ukrainian Arrivals by County**

The following data gives the number of arrivals from Ukraine at a county level based off the data provided on 10 March 2025, where 95% of individuals could be mapped to an ARP home address or Post Office. Also included is a comparison with data previously provided on the 10 February 2025. The associated map is at an LEA level.





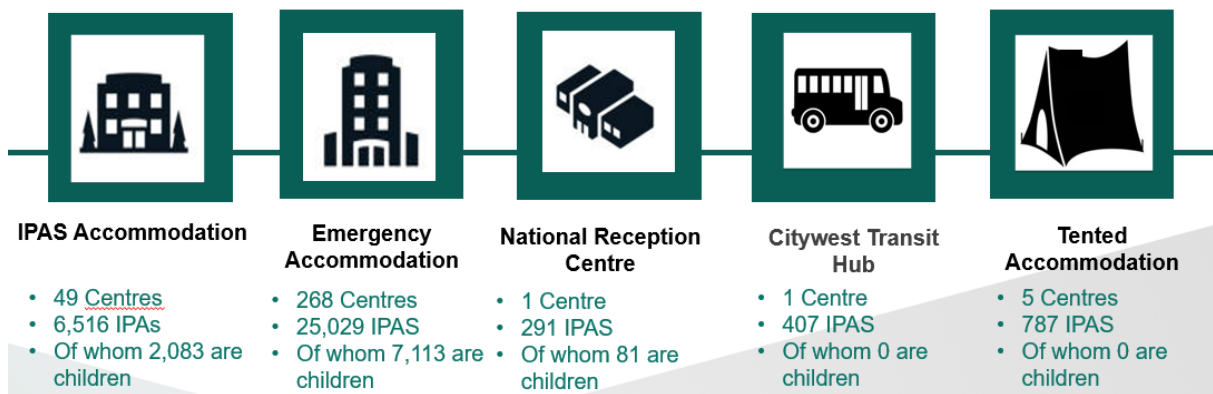
### International Protection Applicants:

There are a total of 33,030 International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation of whom 9,277 are children. Source DECDIY 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

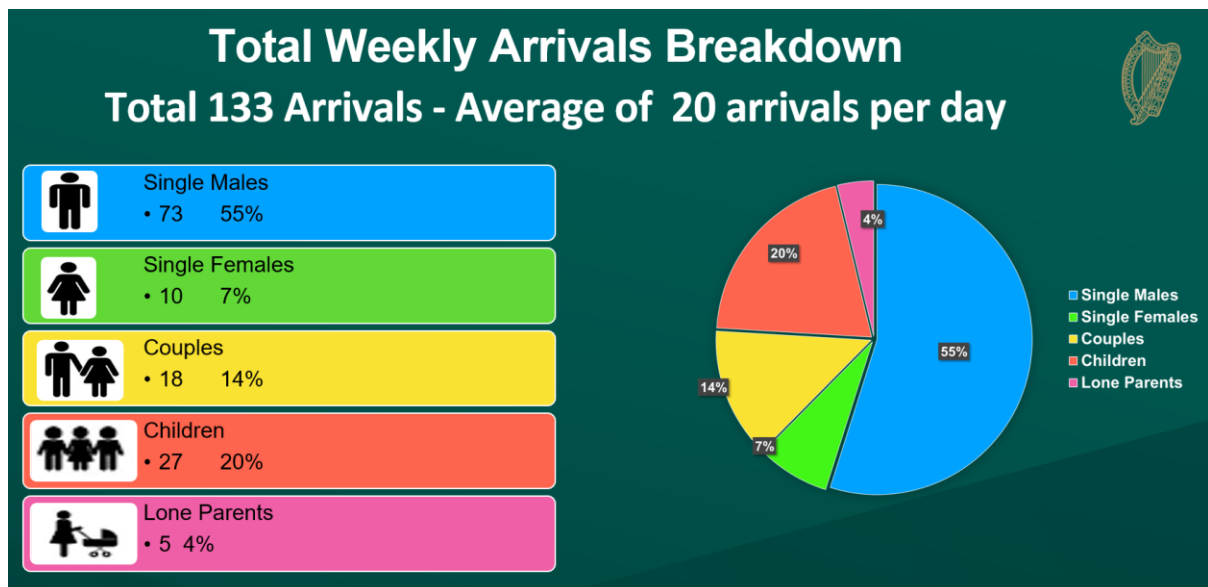
## Current IPAS Accommodation Overview



Total Centres 324 Total IPAS 33,030 Of whom Children 9,277



The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week up to week ending 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 is as follows:





The number of International Protection Applicants accommodated in State provided accommodation in Kildare is 609 of whom 102 are children Source DECDIY 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority Source DECDIY 04 April 2025

## Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority



County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	429	Kerry County	973	Offaly County	492
Cavan County	153	Kildare County	609	Roscommon County	229
Clare County	1011	Kilkenny County	175	Sligo County	742
Cork City	606	Laois County	484	South Dublin County	3975
Cork County	1503	Leitrim County	236	Tipperary County	842
Donegal County	2088	Limerick City & County	623	Waterford City and County	636
Dublin City	3477	Longford County	140	Westmeath County	1168
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1314	Louth County	1131	Wexford County	585
Fingal County	2397	Mayo County	1719	Wicklow County	1474
Galway City Council	1756	Meath County	981	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>33007</b>
Galway County Council	384	Monaghan County	675		

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Micumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

### International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

On 10 September 2015, as part of Ireland’s response to the migration crisis in central and southern Europe, the Government established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). Under this programme, the IRPP has seen the arrival of over 4,000 refugees under various resettlement strands, the largest of which is the UNHCR led programme.

In December 2019, the second phase of the IRPP (IRPP II) was put in place to welcome up to 2,900 refugees through the UNHCR programme between 2020 and 2023 through a combination of resettlement and new community sponsorship initiatives. The new phase planned for 650 UNHCR resettlements in 2020, 700 in 2021, 750 in 2022 and 800 in 2023. This commitment was to be made up of a majority of Syrian refugees’ resident in Jordan and Lebanon. The numbers



assisted over this period was impacted by Covid 19.

Ireland's pledge for resettlement and humanitarian admission under Article 19 AMIF for 2023, along with forecasted resettlement numbers for 2024-2025 was submitted to the European Commission on 07 October. Ireland pledged to support the arrival of 800 refugees under the UNHCR resettlement process from Lebanon and Jordan, with a further 100 humanitarian admissions from Afghanistan.

The programme has two strands, The Local Authority Resettlement Programme and the Community Sponsorship Programme.

The IRPP has worked with Local Authorities engaged in resettling refugees. Local authorities have housed approximately 3,000 programme refugees across Ireland.

On 20 May, 2021, the County and City Management Association's (CCMA), submitted the new proposed model for distribution for IRPP II, CCMA HBLU IRPP II Model for Distribution". It is

anticipated that the ongoing requirement for local authority accommodation to resettle refugees will require some 150 to 200 homes each year.

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of Approved Housing Bodies and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches planned for completion during the second and third quarter of 2025. The programme has resettled to date a total of 24 adults and children (five families) in two locations. These were completed in October 2024 and February 2025.

A delegation from the IRPP travel to refugee camps and select, interview and vet the families identified for the programme. Families are brought to Ireland and accommodated initially in Reception and Orientation Centres until such time as they are linked with Local Authority's who have sourced suitable accommodation. Families are accommodated in social housing units



either by Kildare County Council or our partner Approved Housing Bodies operating in the county.

Families participating in the programme receive direct integration supports funded by AMIF (EU funds) through the DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council through a tender process as the implementing partner for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for a set period of 18 months. Integration supports are provided by an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker, recruited at the end of July 2024. When the programme ends, Kildare LAIT will continue supporting these families. The overall programme is managed by the LAIT Coordinator.

The Refugee Resettlement Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by Kildare LAIT. The IAWG have met on 01 July and 27 September in 2024 and on 31 January and 07 April in 2025. The LAIT

Integration Support Coordinator regularly provides updates to all the relevant agencies engaged in the programme.

The LGMA initiated at the beginning of 2025 a Working Group with all LAITs and local authorities participating in the IRPP to share good practice and lessons learned. Kildare LAIT has participated in two meetings arranged by the LGMA for this purpose and shared lessons learned and standardised practice and protocols.

Further information is available at: [gov.ie](https://gov.ie) - [Irish Refugee Protection Programme](#)

### **Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme**

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Note that the supply of offers for OAH and Pledged accommodation has reduced due initially to the uncertainty regarding continuation of the ARP scheme. We will monitor activity as the





ARP payment reduces from €800/month to €600/month.

Properties occupied	64
Properties in progress	6
Properties withdrawn/shared	36
Total properties offered to date	106

### Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Established to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024.

The Newhall DAC closed on 28 March 2025. The Punchestown DAC remains open and received the remaining residents from Newhall.

The Kildare County Council integration team will continue to source and match accommodation with resident in the Punchestown DAC

### Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the

International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's. A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

**The Community Integration Forum** Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each alternative month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The last CIF meeting took place on the Wednesday 02 April 2025 in Áras Chill Dara.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. Membership includes Kildare County Council (LAIT, Accommodation Team, Community Services/Sport Kildare Partnership, Library Services/Creative Communities); Citizens Information





Centre; An Garda Síochána; CKLP; Irish Red Cross; KCCC; Kildare CYPSC/Tusla; In Sync; KWETB Board; Regional Education and Learning Team Coordinator; INTREO/DoSP; Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Kildare West Wicklow (KWW) HSE Social Inclusion Team; Local Link.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies.

The council completed a survey prepared by the LGMA gathering information on how the Community Integration Forum (CIF) is operating locally in Kildare (21 March). This is to support the funding requirements for 2025 and for the DCEDIY to determine the reporting requirements going forward.

## **Climate, Community, Environment and Water**

### **Community**

#### **Community Grants**

Applications have been assessed and funding allocations are being presented to the Members for consideration at the Municipal District meetings in April. Once approved, notifications will be issued to successful and unsuccessful applicants.

### **Climate**

#### **Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)**



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local authorities to drive climate action in their jurisdictions and coordinate activities to promote effective climate action across the local government sector. For more information on the work of the CARO, see our website at [www.caro.ie](http://www.caro.ie)

Kildare County Council is the host local authority for the Eastern and



Midlands (EM) CARO, one of four CAROs working as a shared service within local government on climate. There are 17 local authorities within the EM CARO region.



The CAROs are funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and work through the four lead local authorities by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to mid 2029.

### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



Training Service Level Agreement between Kildare County Council and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase climate training for the sector.

Executive Training Group for oversight of training delivery for 2025 convened its first meeting on 15 January 2025. Group is Chaired by Teresa Walsh Director of Service with South Dublin County Council on behalf of CCMA and group comprises representation from Climate Ireland, AILG, SEAI, Met Eireann, Heritage Council, LASNTG and CARO. Planning for training delivery underway as follows:

- Fire Services Staff commenced training delivery in August to run until all fire services staff complete. 21/27 have taken up training to date.
- Outdoor staff training commenced in September through regional training centres. Completion of outdoor staff training in Q1 2025.
- Procurement of Learning Management System ongoing.

In addition to the above, 2025 Training Programme targeting:

- Senior Management and Elected Members (in association with AILG).
- New Revised Raising Awareness Programme (online) for all indoor staff.



- Climate Action staff and teams through webinar series.
- Bespoke Urban Water Nature based Solutions training
- Bespoke Green Public Procurement training



### **Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)**

Review of all 31 LACAPs to ascertain robust information on action typology, is now complete. A robust central database is in place that can be utilised to identify commonality of actions to support local authorities to work together, to inform of action prioritisation, reveal challenges in implementation, to help identify pertinent case studies and inform reporting and monitoring requirements. A PowerBI module has been used to aid the generation of reports for sectoral stakeholders.

The overall analysis of LA CAPs and the Stakeholder Analysis Reports (ten.) are all available view and access at: [Local Authority Climate Action Plans \(LA CAPs\) - CARO](#)

### **Sub-Regional Energy Projects**

The EM CARO is working with local authorities in each of the four sub-regions to develop regional energy units to avail of funding for projects that support the decarbonisation of local authority buildings. The energy units comprise:

Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth), commencing projects and accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.

Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon), have developed their project pipeline and sourced funding to match Pathfinder support.

Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI to build a project pipeline.



South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City and County) have issued a position paper to SEAI for their consideration. Further discussion will continue to progress to MOU stage.



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The EM CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonisation and is now working to finalise recommendations for the CCMA on support for fleet decarbonisation into the future.

### Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on Climate Action



Data collation for 2024 completed on 07 February 2025. This process collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral

performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. Report to be published mid-year. Data collation for 2023 was published at end of August 2023 and available on LGMA website at [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf) ([lgma.ie](https://www.lgma.ie)).

### GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. A recognition event was held in Croke Park on 09 November 2024 to celebrate the work of over 70 clubs from Phase two of the Programme. Phase three is now open to c 400 clubs to work their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.



## Kildare County Council Climate Action

### Kildare Climate Action Office



*Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow*

The CARO office provides support to the Climate Action Office (CAO). In turn the CAO assists the functional and operational areas of the council to decarbonise their roles and work through the members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team together with the Senior Management Team.

### Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (with DZ and SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans))

#### DemoHouse:

The official opening was a success. 80 people have visited since the morning of its official opening on 13 March. To increase accessibility a 360 degree is being undertaken with information imbedded for those who are unable to visit in person.

### Augmented Reality Image

#### Maynooth:

Additional funding allocated by Kildare Arts Section to gamify the augmented reality piece.

#### Recruitment

Paul Regan is to commence the position of Decarbonising Officer the week commencing 21 April.

#### Energy Updates:

##### ISO 50001:

We are working toward ISO 50001 certification. SGS have been appointed as the Certification Body. Stage 1 Audit is scheduled for 19 June, this will determine our readiness for Stage 2 Audit which is scheduled for 05 to 07 August. The Stage 2 Audit will determine if we will be recommended for Certification. SEU owners (Public Lighting, Fleet, Leisure Centres and Facilities) as well as a representative for Procurement and Design (Architects and Fire or Libraries), will need to be available on the dates above.

#### Energy Management Team:

Energy Team meetings are ongoing, two held this year (30 January and 01





April) and there are two more scheduled for May and June. Meetings are well attended, and engagement has been excellent.

Energy metering and monitoring is being considered for the Significant Energy Users to establish energy consumption profiles.

### **Staff Energy Awareness**

Free one to one Energy Clinics were setup online with the Optimising Power at Work Campaign for 09 and 11 April 2025. All 20 appointments were booked up within a few hours. We hope to organise and offer further clinics later in the year.

A Staff Energy Awareness Day will take place on 29 April from 10.00am to 2.00pm with experts attending from across the industry focusing on improving Home Energy. Information stands will be set up with representatives including Heat Pumps, PV Panels, One Stop Shops, Optimizing Power at Work, SEAI, Codema and Green Loans. We also hope to arrange expert talks later in the year.

### **Energy Performance Contract**

The Energy Performance Contract (EPC), for Aras Chill Dara and K Leisure Naas and Athy has moved to the next stage. Outline Solution reports are due back from two Energy Service Companies (ESCo) on 12 May 2025. Thereafter, we will move to Competitive Dialogue Stage, interviewing the ESCOs based on their reports and finalising our client requirements.

### **District Heating (DH)**

Codema are presently finalising the DH feasibility study for Naas and commencing the Maynooth feasibility study. The latter is in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF.

An opportunity is being explored to realise DH in Maynooth and possibly Celbridge area.

### **DISCO Project:**

‘Advancing District Heating and Cooling solutions for efficient waste heat utilisation’ in conjunction with CODEMA as associate partner has successfully received 70% Interreg Europe Funding. This will enable the





task under action B13 of Kildare County Council CAP to perform a county-wide assessment of waste heat and district heating.

Meeting with all stakeholders in late April to commence the research officially.

### **Energy Audits:**

Review of the audits for Athy and Leixlip Libraries have been undertaken, and the documents are being finalised. The documents will help to inform the works to be undertaken. We are exploring options for decarbonising of Athy Library due to the Conservation constraints. An Energy Audit has been carried out on Athy Municipal District offices and we are awaiting the initial report.

### **SEAI Monitoring and Reporting**

The requirement to update MPRN's for Council properties was completed by the end of January deadline. Further reporting will be by 16 May 2025.

### **SEAI Pathfinder Strategic Review:**

Request for information on match funding has been returned to enable the SEAI to reinforce their next five-year business case and outlining

challenges Kildare County Council will have in meeting finances.

### **Critical Success Factors Audit**

A meeting took place with SEAI regarding M+R and decarbonisation progress on 10 March. We are awaiting the final report but Kildare progressing well.

### **Staff EV (Electric Vehicle) GoCar**

The GoCar was booked 15 times in March. The dedicated charge point has now been installed and commissioned. Sports Partnership will also have use of the charge point and are awaiting the arrival of their electrically powered van.

### **SMT presentation:**

A summary report of Kildare County Council's energy review was given by Patricia Brennan on 18 February. A further update will be given on 27 May ahead of the ISO 50001 external Audits.



---

## Community Based Projects:

### Our Shared Plate:



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to create community gardens. The 18 month programme has seen the planting of trees this winter, edible hedges and vegetables. Presently a tool kit is being developed to provide scalability and longevity to the programme.

### Community Climate Action Program Fund:

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 the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in September, ten of the projects have

been completed. The second recoupment application was completed on 14 March. We await the DECC's approval.

### Climate Design Lab:

Co-creative events with the wider community undertaken in late February.

Both the Artist in Resident and the Creative Collaborator have been assigned to the project and will be introduced to the Focus group and Innovation Master students presently.

### Climate Innovation Fund (CIF) 2025:

We thank all for their consideration of LPT funding for 2025. CIF to assist grassroot innovation in Climate Action. Based on LPT funding made available the Climate Action Office is formulating a plan of approach for this year.

### Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance:

The launch of the 'Grass to Gas Dashboard' will be in the chamber on the 28 April from 2.00pm-3.00pm. Maynooth University's Terrain-AI team will be presenting the dashboard and findings. Invites have been circulated.



CARO are organising a national webinar based on the work to date for 16 May to inform all Climate Action Offices.

## Environment

### National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The Waste Management Act 1996, requires each local authority to make a Waste Management Plan. The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association, co-ordinated the preparation of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030. The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030.

The NWMP for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on 01 March 2024.

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan.

The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

### National Deposit Return Scheme

The National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in February 2024. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans.

The scheme is operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland (DRSI) CLG trading as Re-turn.

Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

The local government sector has the responsibility for monitoring compliance and enforcement of the Deposit Return Scheme



## National Tidy Towns 2024

The Tidy Towns competition involves participating areas being rated on various aspects of their local environment.

🏆🏆🏆 Kildare participants fared well in the 2024 competition with gold medals awarded to Celbridge, Clane, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas and Straffan.

Silver medals were awarded to Ballymore Eustace, Kilcullen and Rathangan.

Broadford received a bronze medal and Kildare town received a special Endeavour award.

## Tidy Towns Event

A workshop was held with Tidy Towns Groups with presentations given by the Biodiversity Officer, Climate Action Co-Ordinator and Cormac McCarthy, former national adjudicator for Tidy Towns. The event was well attended.

## Irish Business against Litter (IBAL)

Naas topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2024 survey.

This is the third time in four years that Naas has finished atop the rankings.

Maynooth, a former top-ranking town in the IBAL litter league, also performed well achieving status “cleaner than European norms” and fifth place overall in the IBAL survey.



## Entente Florale 2025

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. A public meeting day is scheduled for 24 April. Judging will take place on 12 July.

## Ireland’s Best Kept Towns Competition 2025

Naas Tidy Towns have been nominated by the Department of Rural and Community Development to participate in Ireland’s Best Kept Towns Competition 2025 for the Best Kept Large Urban Centre Award. Adjudication takes place anonymously during the month of May by two



adjudicators, one from the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition and one from the Best Kept Awards Competition

### **Water Framework Directive**

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period up to 2027.

This document is expected to be published this year and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2025**

The NEP's have been reviewed and there is a reduction in the number of priorities for 2025, moving from 20 in 2024 to 15 in 2025. The breakdown is as follows:

- Five Waste Enforcement Priorities
- Four Water Enforcement Priorities
- Four Air and Noise Enforcement Priorities
- Two Governance Processes Priorities

### **Environmental Enforcement**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its report on the environmental enforcement performance of local authorities in 2023 on 03 December. The EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework measures and reports on performance against National Enforcement Priorities, focused on improving environmental compliance and achieving positive outcomes for water quality, air quality and waste management. The report shows that the scale of environmental enforcement work carried out by local authorities in 2023 was significant. For the second consecutive year, Kildare County Council was the only local authority in the country to achieve a "Strong or Excellent" score across all 20 National Enforcement Priority categories

### **Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections**

Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: [www.nwcpo.ie](http://www.nwcpo.ie)





---

### **Green Schools**

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have been completed for the 2025 Green Schools programme. All successful schools will receive their flags in the Green School award ceremony in May.

### **Mulch Collection Day**

The council will hold a Mulch Collection Day on the 26 April at the Council Yard in Celbridge. This event is open to the public and will run from 10.00 am to 4.00pm. The mulch was generated from the Christmas tree Recycling Initiative.

### **Flood Risk Management Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)**

A steering group with the Office of Public Works (OPW) has been established to progress the consultant's brief for schemes within Kildare. The municipal districts will be briefed as schemes from the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM's) Programme commence.

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.morellfms.ie/>

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy FRS.

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the Naas FRS. Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.





## **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.**

New Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidelines have been published. The preparation of the guidelines was an action of the newly adopted County Development Plan. The document establishes a strong vision for implementing excellent SuDS in County Kildare through the planning process and for the lifelong maintenance of SuDS landscapes.

## **Kerdiffstown Park Project**

The official opening of Kerdiffstown Park took place on 31 January. The event was attended by Secretary General of the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy, Oonagh Buckley, Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD and Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD, along with 400 pupils from the local Scoil Bhríde in Kill who formed a St Brigid's Cross to mark the occasion.



## **Cemetery Capital Programme**

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals for columbarium walls is currently being reviewed in line with funding availability.

## **Columbarium Walls**

Columbarium walls have been completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries.

## **Grant Funding**

Grant applications are open on [www.submit.ie](http://www.submit.ie) for funding for cemetery committees and Tidy Towns Groups. The closing date is 16 April.

## **Legislation XL Bully Type dogs**

The last date for receipt of applications for exemption certificates was 31



January, 2025. This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner. It is now illegal to own an XL Bully dog without a certificate of exemption.

The Department will soon be introducing some minor amendments to the regulations to address some concerns that have been raised. The new regulations will provide details of an appeals process, specifically in cases where a Dog Warden seizes a dog on the premise that it is an XL Bully type that has not obtained a Certificate of Exemption, and the owner then wishes to appeal the determination of the Warden that the dog is an XL Bully type dog.

## **Water Services**

### **Service to Elected Members -**

Elected members queries will continue to be dealt with via the LRSD as follows:

By Phone: 0818 178 178

By Email: [localrepsupport@water.ie](mailto:localrepsupport@water.ie)

By Post: Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860,  
South City Delivery Office, Cork.

Notices of Motion:

[councilmeetings@water.ie](mailto:councilmeetings@water.ie)

Uisce Éireann Regional

Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at

<https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates>

### **Water Services Asset Transfer to Uisce Eireann –**

A business case has been completed for additional funding to resource this project. The Director of Service has been in communication with the Department regarding resourcing this body of work and is awaiting feedback regarding same.

Pending financial allocation, resource sanctions will be submitted to the Department.

## **Local Community**

### **Development Committee**

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 26 March 2025.

Councillor Mulroe was welcomed to her first meeting.



## **SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare.

Both the SICAP annual review 2024 and SICAP plan 2025 submitted to Pobal.

Work continues with the most disadvantaged individuals and groups across the county.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie) or telephone 045-895450

## **LEADER Programme**

Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare to implement the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027. This is implemented by CKLP, over the lifetime of the Programme.

The previous LEADER programme is at the final project claims stage. Work is underway to promote the new programme across Kildare.

One project was approved for LEADER funding at the last LCDC

meeting. This was an In House project, led by County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP), Smarter Villages. This will focus on developing the capacity and identify the priorities of the following villages/towns in Kildare:

- Rathangan
- Prosperous
- Coill Dubh - Robertstown
- Derrinturin - Carbury
- Nurney – Suncroft
- Castledermot – Levinstown
- Johnstownbridge - Tirmoghan

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership [www.countykildarelp.ie](http://www.countykildarelp.ie), or telephone 045-895450

## **Sláintecare Healthy Communities**

Kildare County Council is progressing the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme 2025-2029. Work is progressing to establish the Kiosk in Athy. This will provide information on a range of services, supports and events. The additional Dormant Account funding of €142,000 secured to support Traveller education and mens development is being rolled out by Kildare Traveller Action. The Sláintecare LDO is very actively



involved in the Child Poverty Initiative (one of four nationally) with CYPSC and the four Family Resource Centres, supporting neurodiverse children and their families.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer phone 087-9974155 or email [mhealy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:mhealy@kildarecoco.ie)

### **Healthy Ireland**

Emma Meates commenced in the role of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator on 24 February. She recently submitted the detailed progress report for 2024 and plan for 2025 to Pobal. 2025 is the last year of the current programme, which will see continued focus on physical activity and mental health initiatives across the county.

### **Empowering Communities Programme Athy**

Athy was selected by DRCD as a target area for the 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. DRCD recently extended the programme for another year.

### **Local Enhancement Programme**

The LCDC approved grants for running costs and capital/equipment to community-voluntary organisations. However, the results cannot be announced until the Department release the outcome. The number of applications exceeded the funding available.

### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Work is commencing to develop the monitoring tools to oversee and support implementation and monitoring of the LECP.

## **Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces**

### **Transport**

#### **Capital Projects**

#### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

The Stage 2 tender for the construction of the scheme has issued with a current tender return date of the 30 April 2025.



### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

All documents for the application have been received from consultant and being reviewed prior to submission to An Bord Pleanála.

### **Murtagh’s Corner/ Corbans’ Lane**

The scope of work for site investigations has been confirmed and a tender process to appoint a contractor will commence shortly.

### **Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.**

The preliminary business case has been submitted to the Department of Transport for consideration.

### **R448 National Cycle Network Pilot**

Tender recommendation report is due for review ahead of the appointment of a contractor. Works will commence following the completion of the appointment process.

### **Road Safety**

#### **Speed Limit Review**

Regional workshops for technical staff are being held nationally in April 2025 by the Department of Transport to explain updates to the mandatory

Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document. This will assist in the preparation of urban speed limit changes scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

Kildare County Council is separately preparing consultation material for the proposed 30 km/hr speed limits in housing estates that are taken in charge across the county.

#### **Junction Improvement Programme**

Option reports have been received and being assessed for delivery of the ten junctions.

JP01	Dagwelds
JP02	Prosperous Main
JP03	Allenwood Crossroads
JP04	Firmount Cross
JP05	Cloncurry Cross
JP06	Bert Cross
JP07	Perry Street
JP08	Watchhouse Cross
JP09	Thompsons Cross
JP10	Allen Cross

#### **Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes (NTA funded)**

Straffan National School. Design has been agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000. A public





consultation process will commence shortly.

St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town: SRTS construction element completed.

### **Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)**

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge: Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €100,000.

Scoil Bhride/Scoil Phadraig, Clane: Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €100,000.

Scoil Mochua, Design has been agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €100,000. A public consultation process will commence shortly.

### **Safe Routes to School Round 3 Schemes (NTA funded)**

Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous: Survey being undertaken by An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €20,000.

Kilkea National School, Athy: Survey being undertaken by An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €20,000.

## **Operations**

### **Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)**

Allocation: €11,081,000

59 road improvement projects covering 35km of regional and local roads to be completed in 2025.

### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

47 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 86 km of regional and local roads to be completed in 2025.

## **Climate Change Adaptation**

### **Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads**

Allocation - €500,000

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of four road improvement projects in 2025.

## **National Roads**

Allocation: Currently awaiting TII Funding Allocations for 2025.





---

## Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes

The Municipal District offices continue to deliver a significant volume of LPT funded projects, improving roads, footpaths and associated works throughout the county.

## General Maintenance

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

## Public Lighting

Kilaree Lighting Services are the public lighting maintenance contractor. Public lighting faults should be logged on the following website:

[www.deadsureapp.com](http://www.deadsureapp.com)

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. New LED installation works have

commenced and will continue throughout 2025.

## Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

Vehicle servicing and associated works have been transferred to the new facility, with road salting being the focus of operations over the winter months.

Installation of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles has been completed.

Five electric vehicles and a velocity patcher to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts are now in operation.

Documentation is being finalised for the procurement of further electric vehicles in 2025, to further the fleet decarbonation process.

## Winter Maintenance

Winter maintenance operations now completed for 2024-25 season.

## Sustainable Transport (2025 NTA Allocations)

### Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000



---

Construction ongoing – due for completion by July 2025.

### **Green Lane Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €250,000

Insufficient grant allocation to commence the construction works in 2025. Plans to proceed with accommodation works along the route are being implemented in anticipation of an increased allocation in 2026 for the scheme.

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway (Naas Harbour to Sallins)**

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Discussions with Waterways Ireland to continue in 2025 to agree the scope of works for extending the Greenway to Sallins.

### **Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Meetings held with the National Transport Authority to agree the preliminary design of the permanent scheme. The intention is to agree a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in 2025.

### **Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €125,000

Consultant progressing the Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme. A meeting with the National Transport Authority to agree the proposals is due to take place in Q2 2025.

### **Craddockstown (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000

Construction started in Q1 2025 and is progressing well.

### **Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Work is complete and retention monies to be paid.

### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

2025 Allocation: €300,000

Detailed design of bridge structure and construction documents due to be completed in 2025.

### **Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €20,000



---

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

### **Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €50,000

Construction documents are ready for Phase 1 of the works, subject to NTA approval and funding in 2026.

### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €200,000

Consultant progressing the Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme. A meeting with the National Transport Authority to agree the proposals is due to take place in Q2 2025.

### **Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

### **Naas to Sallins Greenway (Newbridge Road to Naas Harbour)**

2025 Allocation: €30,000

Discussions with Waterways Ireland to continue to agree the scope of works for extending the Greenway to the Newbridge Road.

### **Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop**

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

### **Mill Street Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Construction started in Q1 2025 and is progressing well.

### **Station Road, Newbridge Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €40,000

Part 8 drawings and report prepared for the Station Road Scheme from the Railway Station to Main Street, subject to NTA approval.

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

2025 Allocation: €500,000

List of key sites being prepared to progress the prioritising of work across the county. Preparations are being made for the new Local Link 888 Route as a template process for future works.

First phase of new bus shelter installations is being progressed to public consultation stage in April/May 2025.



---

## National Roads Office

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures are being constructed by the TII MMarC contractor. Progress to date includes drainage works, safety barriers and construction of the ERAs (emergency refuge areas) see photo below.



The expected completion date for the first phase of the project (Junction 5 to 6) is April 2025. Legislative changes are required to allow buses travel in the hard shoulder and the preparation of the new legislation is with the Department of Transport and TII.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Westbound Bus Priority Measures

Arup are progressing with Phases 3 (Design and Environmental) for the M4 Westbound Bus Priority Measures.

## M9 Park and Share Scheme

Traffic surveys carried out at M9 (Junctions 3-11)

Kildare County Council are currently preparing the feasibility and options reports for the proposed Park and Share sites at Junctions 3, 4, and 5.

## Open Spaces

### Sallins Amenity Land

Work is continuing on the completion of the detail design for Phase 1 and work to comply with the infrastructure guide to meet the conditions associated with the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Grant.

### Tree Works Programme

Work on the Celbridge Leixlip Programme is due to commence in mid-May.



---

## Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

### Planning

#### Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

Kilcullen Settlement Plan (Variation No.1 to the CDP) was adopted 31 March 2025.

Several further variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2025, including:

- Settlement Plans for smaller towns at Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock.
- An update to the *Core Strategy* in response to the revised National Planning Framework and anticipated new housing targets.
- s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.
- Landscape Character Assessment.
- Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy.
- Economic Strategy.

### County Development Plan Actions

A range of projects are being progressed, including Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Employment Locations Study; Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; and Landscape Character Assessment.

### Masterplans

#### Naas North-West Quadrant Framework Masterplan:

Preferred Masterplan Option is currently being refined.

#### Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan:

Preferred Masterplan Option is currently being refined.

### Local Area Plans / Settlement Plans Joint Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031

The Joint Plan came into effect on the 01 April 2025.

### Newbridge Local Area Plan

Following a discussion with the Department of Housing, Planning Officials, Kildare County Council were advised that the publication of a Local Area Plan is not advisable, given the



transition from the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to the Planning and Development Act, 2024 which is imminent. The new legislation, relating to the plan is making process, and is to commence in Q2 2025. The new Act makes no provision for the preparation of Local Area Plans.

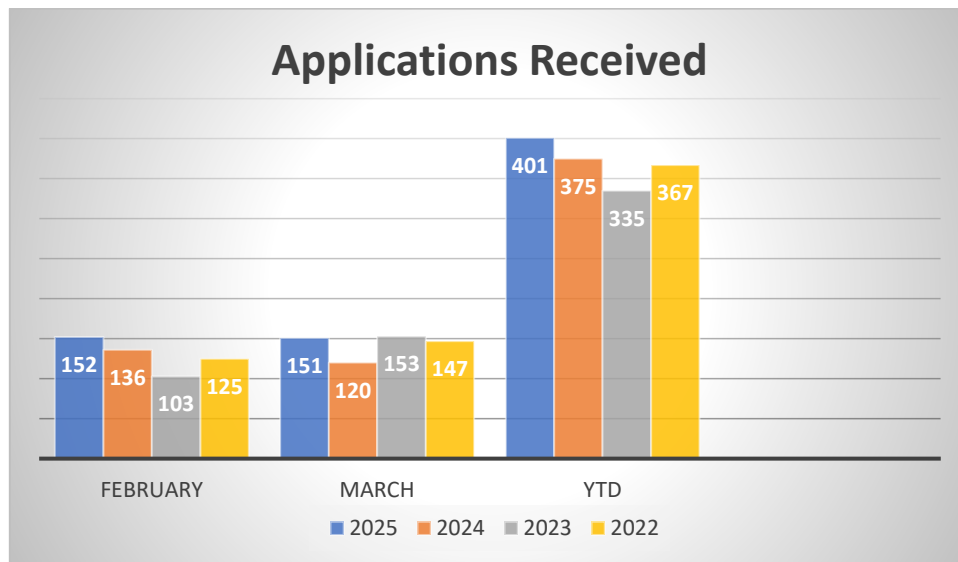
Work is therefore underway to prepare and transition the Draft Local Area Plan to a Draft Settlement Plan for Newbridge which will have regard to the revised NPF Housing Delivery targets when issued to Local Authorities. A meeting was held with the Municipal District members to advise of the pivot.

## Development Management

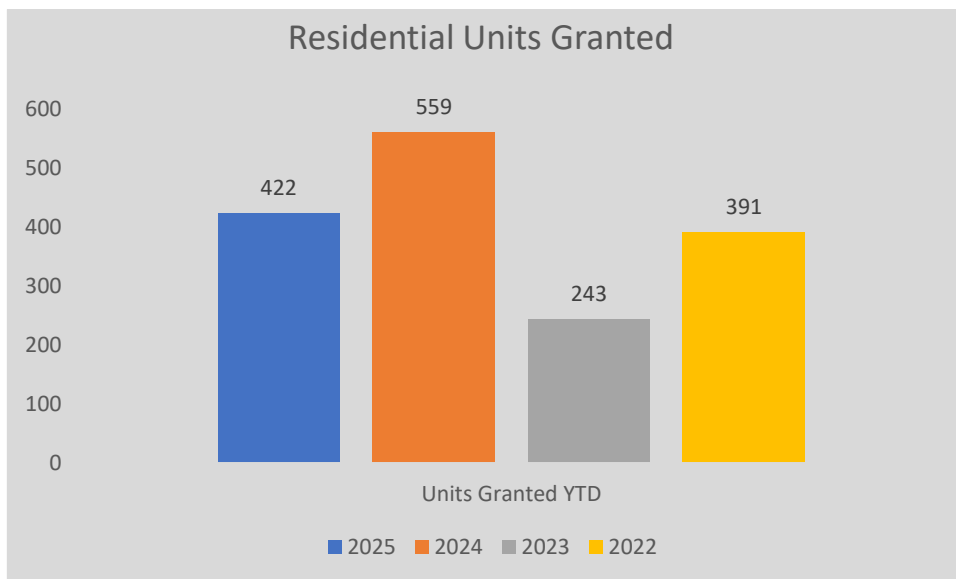
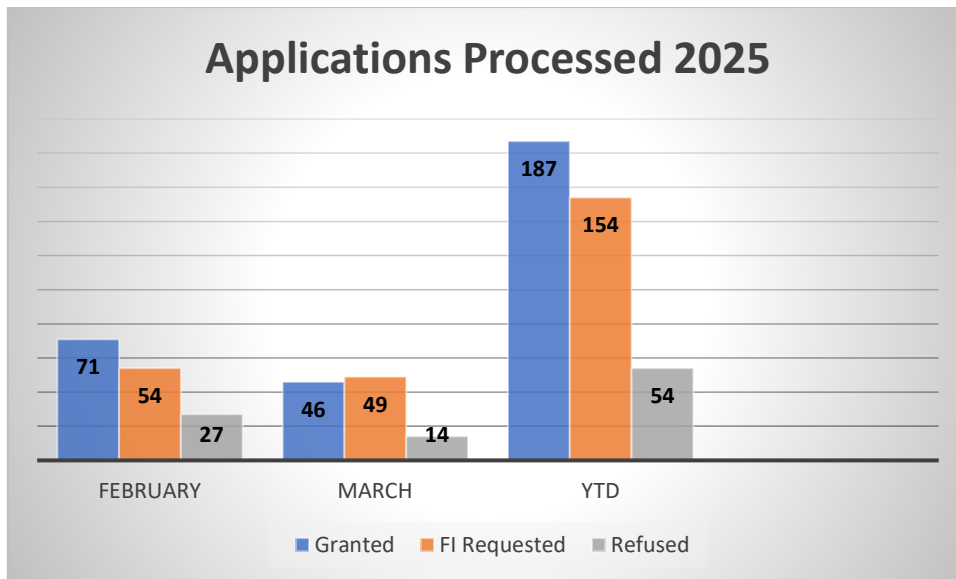
### ePlanning

In 2024, 78% of all applications received are via the online planning portal, 98% of submissions/observations submitted via online ePlanning.

In 2025 83.9% of all applications received up to 07 April 2025 are via the online planning portal.







**Pre-Planning**

29 new Pre-Planning Requests submitted. Total 83 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 03 April 2025

**Section 5s**

24 new Section 5 Declaration Requests. Total 42 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 04 April 2025.



## Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision Due
25/60025	16/01/2025	Briargate Developments Ltd	Curragh Farm, Ballymany Newbridge	Amendments to previously permitted development Board Ref. ABP-312704-22	FI requested 12/03/2025
25/60003	06/01/2025	Dunform Properties Ltd	Branganstown East Kilcock	133 Units	FI requested 27/02/2025
24/61327	11/12/2024	Oakway Homes Ltd	New Abbey Road, Nicholastown Kilcullen	180 Units	FI requested 13/02/2025
24/61319	10/12/2024	Beans Land Ltd	Ballymany, Newbridge	Alterations and Amendments to previously approved Strategic Housing Development (ABP-311040-21)	Conditional
24/61073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock Leixlip	Amendments to residential permission KCC Reg. Ref. 2360485/ ABP Reg. Ref.: 319625-24	Conditional
25/60297	21/03/2025	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	Amendments to 22/221502 and 23/942	Due Date 15/05/2025
25/60337	02/04/2025	Cairn Homes Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	Amendments to KCC Reg 23/656 and APB-318365-23	Due Date 27/05/2025



## Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

Five Strategic Housing Development Applications due, lodged between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with An Bord Pleanála.

## Heritage And Nature

### Heritage / Biodiversity / Conservation Unit

#### Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Action Plan - Pre-draft public consultation has been launched for the pre-draft stage of the Biodiversity Action Plan. All information is available on the consultation portal and the main website. An online survey is also open on the consultation portal and information has been circulated on social media, local radio and newspapers. Public information sessions are ongoing:

 <b>KCC Biodiversity Action Plan</b> (Pre-draft) Consultation Events 2025 			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> March	6pm-8pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> 6pm - Short talk on Biodiversity of Co. Kildare	The Chamber, <b>Naas Library &amp; Cultural Centre</b> - W91 E1RT
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> March	1pm-3pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> 1pm - Short talk on Biodiversity of Co. Kildare	<b>Kildare Town Library</b> - R51 P403
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> March	2pm-4pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> 2pm - Short talk on Biodiversity of Co. Kildare	<b>Athy Library</b> - R14 DK33
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> April	6pm-8pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> 6pm - Short talk on Biodiversity of Co. Kildare	<b>Leixlip Library</b> - W23 WR96
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	3pm-5pm	<b>Drop-in Session</b> 3pm - Short talk on Biodiversity of Co. Kildare	<b>Maynooth Library</b> - W23 WR96
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> April	7pm-8pm	<b>Online Session</b> Short presentation, followed by Q&A	Send an email to: <a href="mailto:biodiversity@kildarecoco.ie">biodiversity@kildarecoco.ie</a> to receive the meeting link

- Hogweed Removal Project along the Tully River, April 2025. All landowners identified. Awaiting confirmation from NPWS. Letters of notification to be issued in April 2025 and public meeting proposed.
- Himalayan Balsam Removal Project along the Liffey in Ballymore Eustace. This is an ongoing multi annual project - collaboration between Kildare County Council, Ballymore Eustace Community Volunteers and LAWPRO.
- Training – In house by Mary O’ Connor (Executive Ecologist) scheduled in April 2025 for all Planners on Soil Recovery Sites – Ecological Considerations.



## Heritage

- Heritage Plan pre-draft consultation stage due to commence in April 2025.
- Kildare County Council Community Heritage Grants – 38 applications received. 35 applications deemed eligible. Successful applications are to be informed in week commencing 07 April 2025.
- LPT funding allocated for Wogan Browne Mausoleum, Mainham, Clane.
- Historic Monuments Advisory Committee re convened in March 2025. Funding allocated, schedule of meetings agreed.
- Community Monument Funds nominations have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for approval.
- Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Land site – Archaeological testing completed in March 2025.

## Conservation– Architectural

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme conservation grant – Twelve grant applications have been approved under BHIS 2025. Applicants have been notified, and work should commence on twelve projects in the coming weeks.
- Historic Structures Fund Conservation Grant, 2025 – Five structures were nominated for consideration under the Historic Structure Fund 2025. This includes three structures in private ownership and two structures in public ownership. The DHLGH issued their decision in March 2025 not to fund any Kildare HSF funding applications.

## Planning Referrals.

Ongoing consultation with Planning and preparation of referral reports from the Heritage Officer and Ecologist.

## Staffing

- Meabh Boylan, Biodiversity Officer.
- Dara Wyer, Heritage Officer commenced in December 2024.
- Mary O' Connor, Executive Ecologist commenced in mid-January 2025.
- Patricia Hyland, Senior Executive Planner commenced in late January 2025.



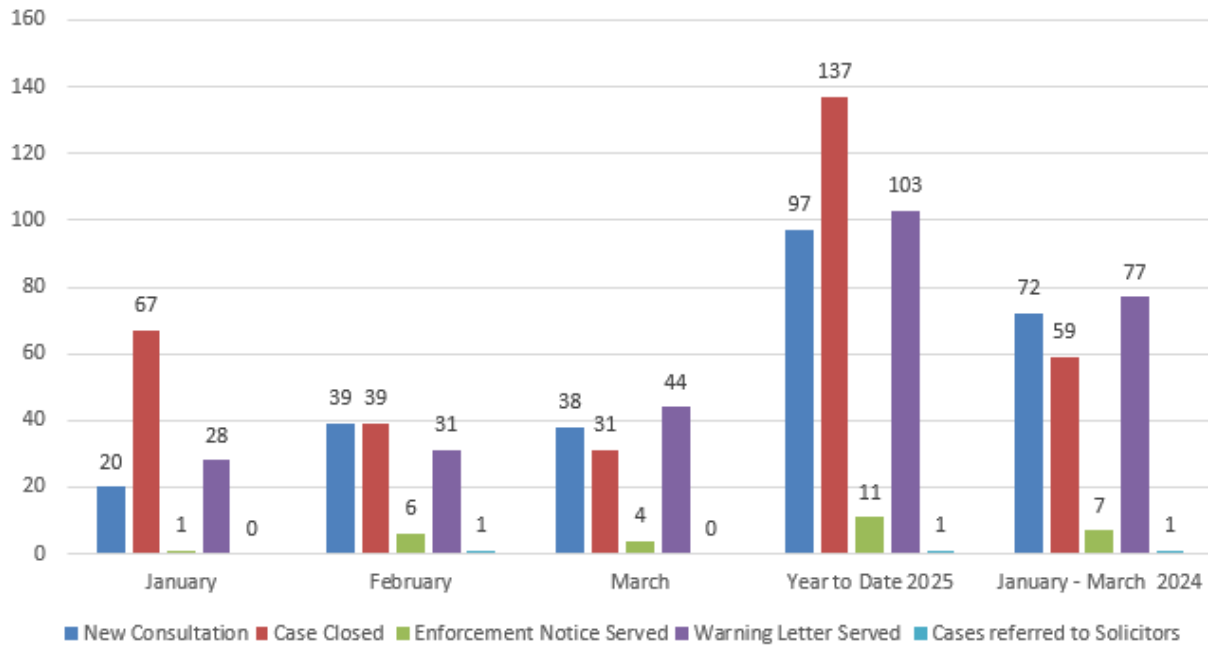
- Architectural Conservation Officer - Interviews took place during 2024. Unfortunately, the position remains vacant.

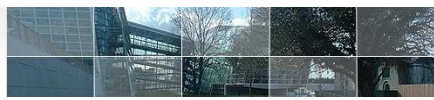
### Planning Enforcement

For period March 2025

38	New Consultations
31	Cases Closed
4	Enforcement Notices Served
44	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors

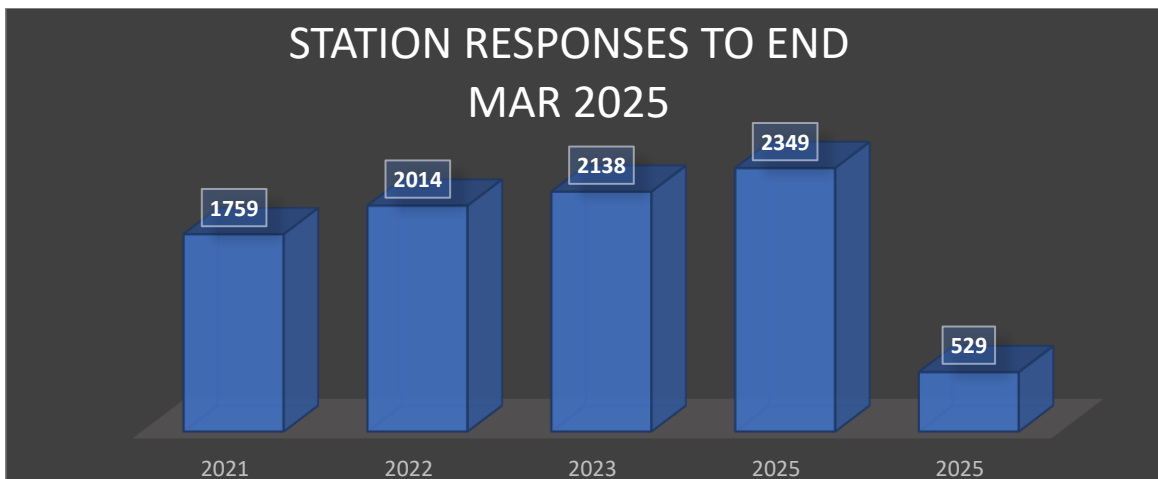
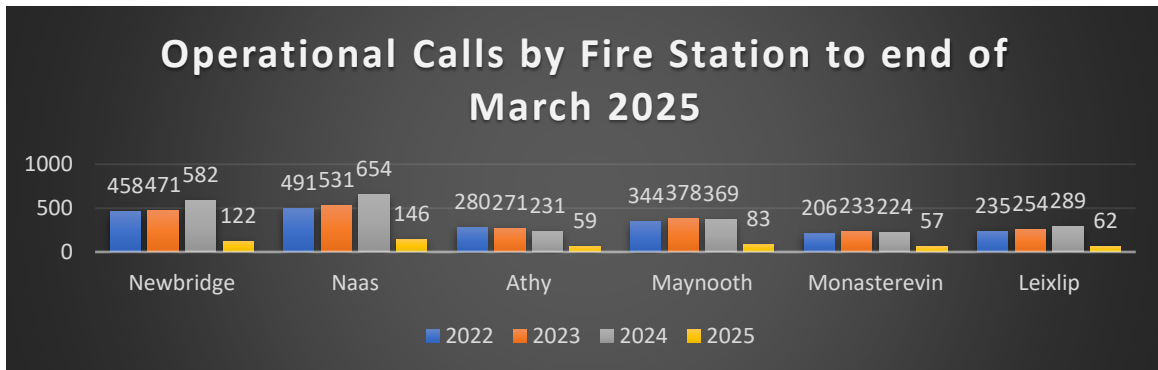
**Enforcement Statistics January-March 2025**





## Fire Service Operations:

2025 Summary: (Note: Figures for previous years indicate full year statistics)



## Fire Safety Certificates

Applications received to the end of March 2025 compared with the totals received in previous years.

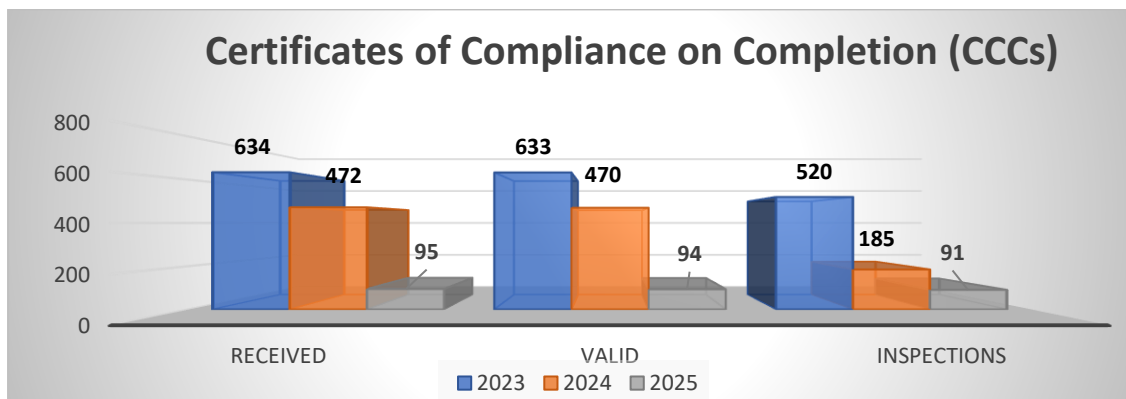
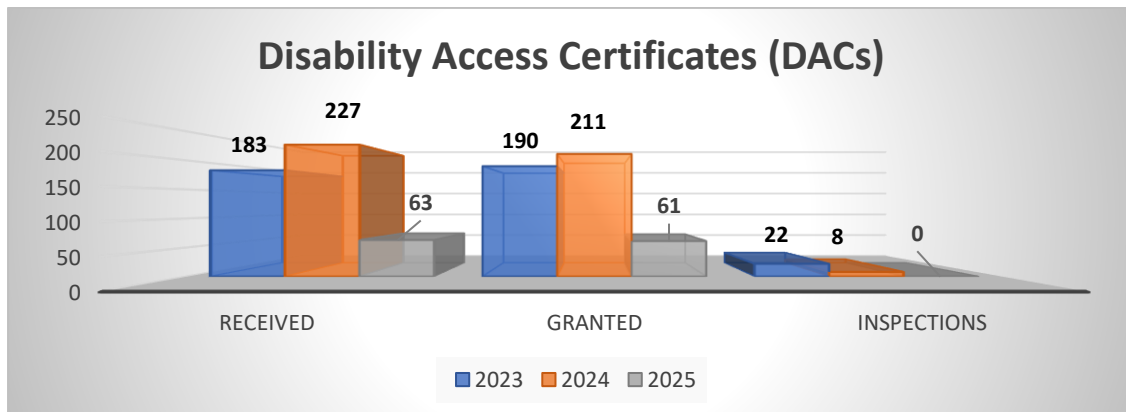
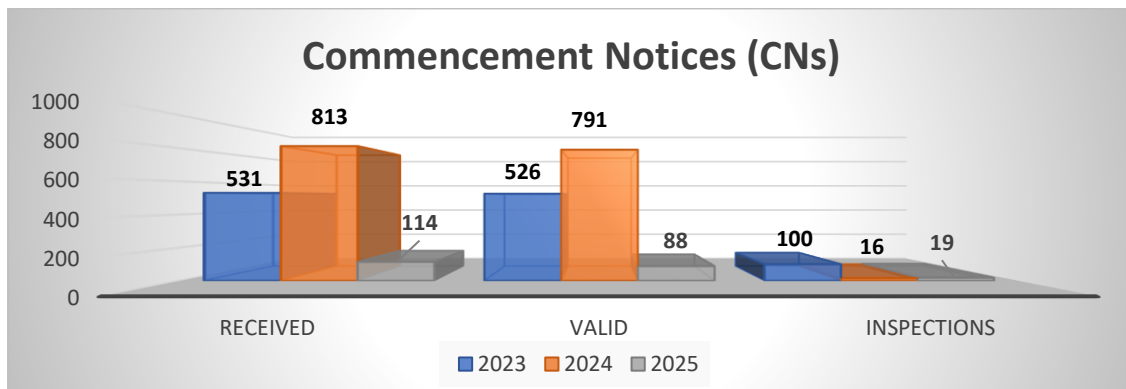
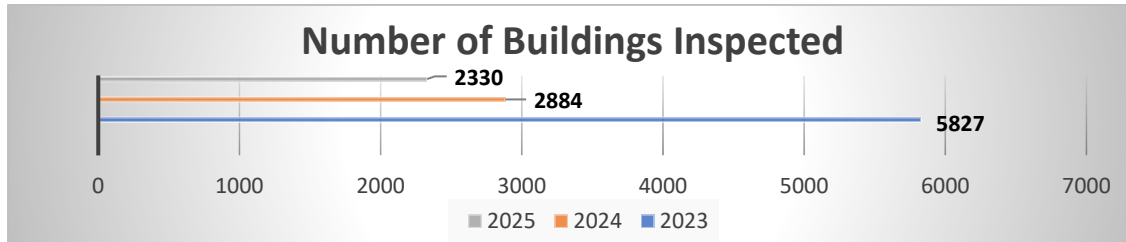


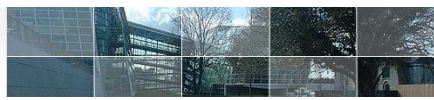




## Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of March 2025 set against full year figures for 2023 and 2024.





## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

In March, the tourism and hospitality businesses prepared for the annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations and parades, and Mother's Day treats.

The St Patricks Day parades across Kildare where promoted to all Into Kildare followers on social media and newsletter.



Hill of Allen

At the beginning of the month, Into Kildare Chief Executive, Aine Mangan attended the relaunch of the Barton Rooms at Barberstown Castle.

The first tourism networking event of the year was hosted by Kildare Failte in Kilkea Castle in partnership with Kildare's EU Just Transition Fund

Activator. Over 60 attendees of the Kildare tourism and hospitality sector attended reflecting a shared passion for Kildare's tourism sector. Chief Executive, Aine Mangan, outlined the key upcoming activities and opportunities for Into Kildare members to collaborate and drive tourism growth throughout the year.



David Mongey, Aine Mangan, Tina O'Dwyer

A guest speaker, delivered a keynote speech focusing on regenerative, sustainable, and slow tourism.

These insights provided attendees with actionable strategies to develop tourism experiences that not only attract visitors but also contribute positively to local communities and the environment. This sparked engaging discussions among members on how Kildare can further establish itself as a leader in sustainable tourism.



Attendees in discussion

Kildare Failte Board Meeting took place at Kilkea Castle following the member's event.

Mother's Day gifting ideas were promoted as Kildare Fáilte encouraged supporting local across social channels, newsletters and the Into Kildare website. Dining and activities in Kildare were promoted as a part of this message.

Into Kildare attended The Good Food Ireland Conference 2025 a cross-sector conference on the vital role of Ireland's agri-food and tourism sectors and the opportunities of cross-sector collaboration in ensuring long-term economic growth and social stability across the island of Ireland.



Aine Mangan with Minister Martin Heydon and Newbridge Silverware Representatives

For the third year Into Kildare have secured a Kildare Stand at Bord Bia Bloom running from the 29 May – 02 June. A number of tourism and hospitality providers in Kildare will participate on the stand with significant exposure for them and all of Kildare over the bank holiday weekend.



Kildare County Council are official host sponsors for the Womans Irish Open (WIO) once again which will take place in Carton House, 03 – 06 July.

Into Kildare in association with Kildare County Council will support the



promotion of this event and also have a presence at the event.



Into Kildare and a Taste of Kildare working group have preparations well under way for Taste of Kildare 2025. Again this year, Into Kildare is committed to showcasing the region's gastronomic offerings and enhancing Kildare's appeal as a culinary destination.

Planning meetings have also taken place with Tourism Ireland and the Irish Embassy in the UAE regarding fiftieth celebration opportunities in April.

Engagement on digital channels continued to be strong with a high interest in events taking place for St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and experiences in Kildare such as The Seven Wonders of Ancient Kildare.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### 2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 02.04.25	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant. (Product no longer available, replaced by Grow Digital Voucher)	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher	6	€24,170
Business Expansion Grant	2	€24,578
Priming Grant	1	€15,000
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€15,000
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (Product no longer available – replaced by Market Explorer Grant as outlined below)	1	€525
Market Explorer Grant		
Energy Efficiency Grant	18	€159,858
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>€241,631</b>





### Priming Grants Approved in February:

Retain and Grow Limited of Athy Municipal District was approved €15,000 to support the recruitment of a new employee. The business core App utilises AI to assist large corporates improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

### Business Expansion Grants Approved in February:

Sontai Data Solutions Limited of Clane - Maynooth Municipal District was approved €13,178 to support the recruitment of a new employee plus capital equipment. The business provides fully managed prebuild KPI Dashboards to SME's.

Fused by Fiona Uyema Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €11,400 to support capital expenditure. The business produces a range of ambient Asian sauces and ingredients for food service and retail markets

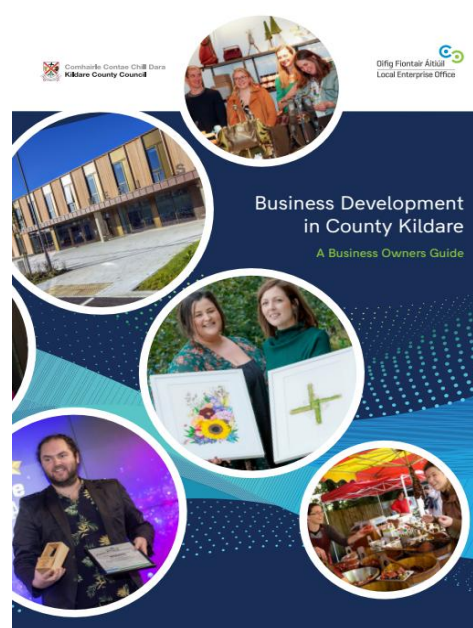
### Feasibility Study Grants Approved in February:

Aphelion Limited T/A CiviQ of Celbridge - Leixlip Municipal District was approved €15,000 to investigate the possibility of applying AI capability to assist in automating an

element of their cloud based analytical product.

### Entrepreneurship Support Business Owner's Guide

The aim of this publication is to assist entrepreneurs in Kildare to navigate the range of financial and non-financial supports available at the various stages of business development.



This publication can be accessed online

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Publications-Resources/Business-Downloads/>

### Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made <https://leokildare.submit.com/>



Throughout Q1 over 170 individuals availed of a business advice appointment. In addition, 32 individuals completed a Start Your Own Business Programme.

### Focus On Competitiveness

There are multiple supports available to businesses aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness. In Q1 19 businesses started their sustainability journey supported by Green for Business

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Business/>

13 businesses are working on lean projects supported by Lean for Business

[https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Lean%20for%20Business/)

[Supports/Lean%20for%20Business/](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Lean%20for%20Business/),

and 18 businesses are working on digital transformation projects supported by Digital for Business

[https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Digital%20for%20Business/)

[Supports/Digital%20for%20Business/](https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Digital%20for%20Business/).

### Focus On Digital

On 04 April, MERITS hosted 15 participants at a Generative AI training event, delivered in collaboration with Microsoft Ireland and Kildare County

Council, and facilitated by Fast Track into Technology.

### Focus On Food

Eight of the Local Enterprise Offices food producers attended the Irish Food Trade Connect Forum to connect with domestic and international food buyers and learn from industry experts.

### Focus On Tech

Athy-based equine tech start-up Jump Time was named the winner of the 2025 MERITS Tech Pre Accelerator



Participants competed across an eight week programme to validate their business idea, supported by Local Enterprise Office Kildare.

### Focus On Craft

Kildare Local Enterprise Office is delighted to partner with our colleagues in Kildare County Council to bring the First Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2025. This free community event aims to promote





inclusivity and celebrate the invaluable contributions that people with disabilities make to our community.

The festival will take place on Sunday, 11 May 2025, at Curragh Racecourse, running from 11.00am to 4.00pm, with a grand parade to kick off the day.

This exciting and inclusive event presents a fantastic opportunity for local craft, food, and beverage producers, as well as businesses offering products aligned with inclusivity, to showcase their goods and engage with a broad and diverse audience. Expressions of interest are welcome <https://submit.link/3yd>

**Sonya Kavanagh**  
**Chief Executive**