



## Kildare County Council

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

# BRIGID 1500





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## News Items

### **Kildare County Council Hosts Second Annual Women in Business event in Celebration of St. Brigid.**

On 30 January 2025 over 180 female entrepreneurs descended on the historic grounds of Kilkea Castle to celebrate the legacy of St. Brigid. (see page 9).

### **Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme Spring 2025**

The TTT programme is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities, or more significant needs, consisting of a specialised collection of toys and assistive equipment that can be borrowed free of charge. (see pages 12-13).

### **Homelessness - Cold Weather Initiative**

A Cold Weather Initiative (CWI) remains in operation up to 31 March 2025 to provide additional emergency beds for rough sleepers where needed (see page 18).

### **Housing Clinics**

Ten housing clinics were held in 2024 at various locations. A total of 47 customers attended. Clinics will continue to run in 2025, and the elected members will be notified of the details in advance (see page 18).

### **Integration - Accommodation Recognition Payment**

The Accommodation Recognition Payment that supports the Offer a Home and pledged properties, is due to end on 31 March 2025 (see page 37).

### **Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival 2025**

The Brigid Spirit of Kildare hosted an extensive programme of events throughout the county to celebrate St. Brigid "Her Spirit, Our Story". Starting on 25 January and running until 03 February, this inclusive celebration invited locals and visitors alike to



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engage with Kildare's rich heritage, highlighting St. Brigid's significance in Irish culture (see pages 45-46).

### **Energy Management Team:**

The first meeting of the newly formed Energy Management Team took place on 30 January (see page 51).

### **Kerdiffstown Park**

The official opening of Kerdiffstown Park took place on 31 January (see pages 57-58).

### **LCDC - Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) allocated Kildare LCDC LEP grant aid funding to be awarded to community and voluntary groups (see page 60).

### **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations commenced for the 2024/2025 season. 8,000 tonnes of salt was delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024.

Recent severe weather, with both snow, ice and freezing temperatures required the services of 30 drivers to treat the primary routes in Kildare in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Plan (see page 63).

### **Kildare Fáilte**

Into Kildare's activities throughout January highlighted the organisation's proactive and diverse approach to promoting tourism and cultural heritage in County Kildare (see pages 72-75).

### **EU JTF – Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme**

Fáilte Ireland have updated the role and responsibilities for the next phase of the tourism activation programme. The activators met as a team on 29 January to agree a common network roadmap and progression pathway (see pages 79-80).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Electoral Commission Public Consultation**

An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Ireland's Independent Electoral Commission are preparing an Education and Public Engagement Strategy to encourage democratic participation in its ultimate expression, voting in a polling booth.

To help inform the strategy, they are undertaking a comprehensive public consultation process. The consultation begins on 10 February and will finish on 24 March 2025 (see page 12).

### **Seeking Expressions of Interest for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025**

Creative Ireland Kildare is seeking expressions of interest from Kildare-based youth groups, childcare services, family/parent groups, and community groups to be part of this year's Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations (see page 13).

### **GeoCollect**

GeoCollect, a commercial rates application developed in-house, will be showcased at the upcoming CCMA/NOAC Good Practice in Local Government event taking place on the 13 February 2025 in Kilkenny Castle (see page 17).

### **Housing - Serviced Sites Scheme**

The Serviced Sites Scheme at Clogherinkoe ran for four weeks in December. The scheme was reopened to applicants on Monday, 27 January 2025. The application portal will remain open for four weeks until 12.00 midday on Monday, 24 February 2025. (see page 18).

### **Green Schools**

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have commenced for the 2025 Green Schools programme. Schools have until the end of March to book in their renewal visits. All successful schools will receive their flags in the Green School award ceremony in May (see page 56).



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## **Speed Limit Review**

The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 was 07 February 2025.

Subsequent phases (i.e. urban speed limit of 30kph and national secondary speed limit default of 80kph) are scheduled to be implemented in 2025 (see page 61).

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

The Elected Members will be briefed on Monday 24 February regarding the Section 15 two-year Progress Report for the County Development Plan (see page 66-67).

## **Local Area Plans - Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

A Special Meeting for the Maynooth Clane Municipal District is scheduled for the 17 February (see page 67).

## **Local Enterprise Office - European Projects**

Erasmus+ Repower Regions - As project coordinator, Kildare County Council hosted the first online meeting on the 28 January. The first in-person meeting will occur in Kildare 19 – 21 March; agenda will follow to align with project work packages as well as site visits to facilities demonstrating innovation in heating and cooling systems. (see page 77).





## March Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 Feb 11:30 Briefing on the Section 15 CDP... 15:00 Full Council; Microsoft Teams ...	25	26	27	28
3	4	5	6	7 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
10 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Council Cha... 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; ...	11 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	12 14:30 Climate SPC 2:30PM	13 14:30 Housing SPC 2:30PM	14
17	18	19 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	20	21 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
24 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	25	26 10:00 LCDC 10AM 10:30 County Rural Water Monitorin...	27	28
31 Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>1 Apr</b>	2	3 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee 10am	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar




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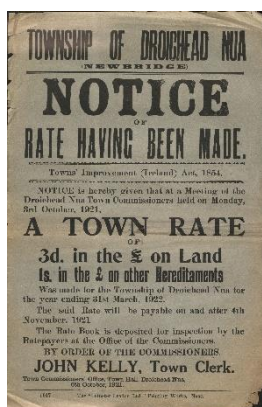
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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services Communications

### Digital on-line Archives include Town Commissioners' records and Poor Law Union



Kildare County Council's County Archives Service release additional digitised archival materials available online [here](#) and include:.

- Athy Board of Guardians, Minute Books 1841-1862
- Register of Interments for St. Michael's Cemetery, Athy, 1875-1900.
- The Athy Town Commissioners' Minute Book 1855-1891.
- Newbridge Town Commissioners' Minute Books 1891-1984.
- Marquis of Drogheda, rent books detailing lands in Monasterevin, Co.

Kildare and Mountmellick, Co Laois. The first volume records arrears and rents, 1874 to 1875 for the Manors of Fontstown and Monasterevin in Co. Kildare, and Maryborough, Mellifont and Mountmellick in Co. Laois.

- The second volume documents arrears and rents, 1879 to 1888, for the Monasterevin and Mountmellick estates.

These records serve as valuable census substitutes, in the absence of Irish census returns before 1901.

The digitisation of these volumes was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Commemorations Fund 2024.

### Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office accredited with creating 323 jobs in 2024

Recent figures released by Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Peter Burke, T.D., reveal that companies supported by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) created 323 jobs in 2024.





Taking into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading or transferred to Enterprise Ireland, there were 163 net jobs created by LEO Kildare supported clients in 2024.

### **Kildare County Council seek public assistance following illegal tree felling in The Peoples Park, Athy**



The tree, a mature Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) stood approximately 40ft (13m) tall, with an estimated value of €63,000, and is believed to be over 100 years old, planted back when the park opened in the 1860's, was cut down in the early hours of Monday 27 January, possibly between 4.00-5.00am.

### **Kildare County Council Hosts Second Annual Women in Business event in Celebration of St. Brigid.**



On 30 January 2025 over 180 female entrepreneurs descended on the historic grounds of Kilkea Castle to celebrate the legacy of St. Brigid. This annual Women in Business event, now in its second year, was led by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, in association with County Kildare Chamber and Network Ireland Kildare Branch.

The luncheon celebrated leadership, resilience and innovation, featuring the inspirational story of Sarah de Lagarde.

### **Help Shape the Future of the Naas Canal Quarter**





Kildare County Council is excited to announce the launch of a public consultation on the Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan. This consultation is a critical step in shaping the future of the area.

Building on public engagement conducted in August 2024, Kildare County Council is now seeking further input from the community to refine the masterplan. The goal is to transform the underused Canal Quarter into a vibrant, lively, and mixed-use place that makes provision for the entire community, including young people and children.

### Official Opening of new Kerdiffstown Park



Kildare County Council welcomed 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, to join with the Cathaoirleach of County Kildare, Councillor Kevin Duffy, for the official opening of the new Kerdiffstown Park.

The event marked a significant milestone for the community, celebrating the transformation of the former Kerdiffstown landfill into a 30-hectare multi use vibrant public space.

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities Kildare announced as a successful project for the Traveller Health Initiative



The Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Colm Burke TD recently announced Athy, Co.Kildare as one of five areas nationally to share in a €710,000 Dormant Accounts fund, to address the social determinants of Traveller health.



Kildare secured the maximum allocation of €142,000, for this two year programme. The successful application was made as part of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, through the Local Development Officer in Kildare County Council. Athy is one of 20 Sláintecare Healthy Community Programmes, established throughout Ireland by the Department of Health, in areas with a higher population of Travellers compared to the rest of the country.

### **Ireland's Largest Brigid Festival lit up Kildare**



Kildare prepared to welcome over 100,000 visitors for Brigid 2025 - Spirit of Kildare Festival, to celebrate the legacy of Ireland's iconic female patron saint, whose history is deeply rooted in the county. The festival combined intimate concerts, large-scale events, and a series of community activities that honour Brigid's enduring legacy

through the theme "Her Spirit, Our Story".

### **Funding opportunity for Community Groups/Organisations and Centres**

Kildare County Council, through Kildare Local Community Development Committee, is now accepting applications for the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP). This Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, with a total of €233,001 available through two separate application processes.

### **Fáiltíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara roimh Iarratais ar Dhámhachtain-Sparánachta Éire Ildánach Chill Dara 2025**

Tá Comhairle Contae Chill Dara ag glacadh le hiarratais ar Dhámhachtain-Sparánachta Éire Ildánach Chill Dara 2025 faoi láthair. Tacaíonn an dámhachtain seo le tionscadail agus le tograí a chuireann feabhas ar an rochtain atá ar chultúr agus cruthaitheacht i gContae Chill Dara, ar an gcaoi a nglacann daoine páirt agus ar an gcaoi a mbaineann daoine taitneamh as cultúr agus cruthaitheacht. Baineann luach idir



EUR 3,000-EUR 10,000 leis na dámhachtainí – sparánachta a chuirfear ar fáil chun tacú le tionscadail chruthaitheacha chultúrtha agus chun tacú leis an gcomhoibriú idirdhisciplíneach i réimsí na n-ealaíon, na hoidhreachta, na dtionscadal cruthaitheach, an ghníomhaithe ar son na haeráide, na folláine agus i réimsí eile nach iad.

### **Register of Electors**

#### **Electoral Commission Public Consultation**

An Coimisiún Toghcháin, Ireland's Independent Electoral Commission are preparing an Education and Public Engagement Strategy to encourage democratic participation in its ultimate expression, voting in a polling booth. To help inform the strategy, a comprehensive public consultation process will commence on 10 February to 24 March 2025.

To read more go to,

[www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation](http://www.electoralcommission.ie/consultation) or by scanning the QR code below.



### **Library and Arts Service**

#### **News and Highlights**

**“I always felt, if I can get to a library, I’ll be okay.” Maya Angelou**

#### **Let’s talk about Parenting**

The Spring ‘Let’s talk about Parenting’ Programme has been launched with 26 talks to take place in the seven main library branches between February and May. Topics include School avoidance, Supporting Babies Development through Play, Raising Bilingual Children in Ireland and Youth Emotional Health. Certificates of attendance are available for those attending in a professional capacity for CPD. The programme is supported by the Kildare and West Wicklow Parenting Forum as well as Kildare CYPSC. Parenting Programme can be viewed through the following link <https://kildarecoco.ie/library/ProgrammesandEvents/LetsTalkAboutParenting/>

#### **Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme Spring 2025**

The TTT programme is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities, or more significant needs, consisting of a specialised collection of toys and





assistive equipment that can be borrowed free of charge.

The programme also includes a series of talks and workshops each year, offering guidance to parents, teachers and healthcare professionals. The Spring series will run until May and includes over 30 events, including include OT workshops, Behavioural Support talks, Active Kids Academy, a Sibshop Seminar for the siblings of children with additional needs, Sensory Storytime. TTT Programme can be viewed through the following link  
<https://kildarecoco.ie/library/ProgrammesandEvents/ToysTechnologyandTraining/>

### **My Little Library Bag**

Libraries put together a selection of books to help children navigate starting school. Little Library Book Bags are free of charge, available in both Irish and English, and are available in any library. The book bag includes;

- A book on starting school, making friends or being comfortable to be yourself.
- Their very own library card.

Throughout 2024, 3,444 bags in English and 450 in Irish were given out. This initiative will be rolled out again in 2025.

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

Kildare County Council is now accepting applications for the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 until 07 March at 12:00 at, [www.kildarecocoarts.submit.com](http://www.kildarecocoarts.submit.com) .

Applications are accepted from individual creative practitioners, artists, community groups, and SMEs for projects which enhance access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of culture and creativity within Co Kildare. Awards available, €3,000-€10,000.

### **Seeking Expressions of Interest for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025**

Creative Ireland Kildare is seeking expressions of interest from Kildare-based youth groups, childcare services, family/parent groups, and community groups to be part of this year's Cruinniú na nÓg celebrations. Up to ten proposals will receive €2000 in grant funding for their project. Kildare Creative Ireland team can





assist in matching applicants with a professional artist/creative to work with them. Expressions of interest can be submitted online at

<https://kildarecocoarts.submit.com/show/344>

Deadline: 07 March at 12.00pm

### **Kildare Creative Communities info sessions completed**

The Creative Ireland Coordinator and Creative Communities Engagement Officer held six information sessions in each MD between 25 January – 04 February to spread awareness about the Creative Communities programme and current funding opportunities.

### **Arts Service**

#### **Arts Grants Information Sessions**

Three grants information sessions were delivered by the Kildare Arts Service in Athy, Maynooth and Naas libraries during January. 19 arts grants are currently live.

#### **First Fortnight: projects supported by Kildare Arts Service**

[First Fortnight](#) is Ireland's national Mental Health Arts and Culture Festival which takes place in January each year. Several events took place

in Kildare as part of the festival including STEREO, a performance challenging stereotypes and celebrating the diverse creative expressions of young individuals with Down syndrome. Singer-songwriter Megan O'Neill's new album exploring grief and resilience was also funded by Kildare Arts Service First Fortnight Award 2024.

### **Music Network Professional Development Training**

Music Network presented a two-day training course at the Riverbank, Taking Charge of Your Performance Career 2025: Engaging with Venues on 21/22 January for professional musicians. This was delivered in partnership with Riverbank Arts Centre, Kildare Arts Service and industry professionals.

### **Climate Design Lab Artist in Residence 2025 and Climate Design Lab Call Out for Creative Collaborators**

Two call outs went live for artists and/or creative partners to work with communities in Maynooth and Maynooth University on Climate Design Lab, a creative climate action



project. Kildare County Council Climate Action and Kildare Arts Service are collaborating on this, along with communities in Maynooth and Maynooth University.

### **Beauty of Brigid Exhibition at Art House, Creative Places Athy**

The Beauty of Brigid, a new exhibition at Art House in Athy opened on 30 January. This exhibition is part of Anthony Haughey's residency under Creative Places Athy's 'Connect and Gather' Award.

### **James Winnett's, The Stones of the Hollow Hill**

A series of 18 carved stones were part of the official launch of Kerdiffstown Park on 31 January. James led several tours and presentations to coincide with the opening. This project was commissioned under the Department. Housing, Local Government and Heritage Percent for Art scheme with additional funding from Kildare Arts Service.

## **Health and Safety**

Workplan for 2025, three Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans and Health and Safety Induction for 7 new starts completed.

### **Accessibility:**

Workplan completed for 2025  
Kildare Inclusivity Festival Meeting held with Newbridge, Monasterevin, Leixlip, Naas and Maynooth Disability Access Group.  
CKAN Budget Meeting and Cruinniú Na Oig working group meeting held.

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

### **Finance**

#### **Financial Reports**

##### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2024 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2025. It will be brought to Council when complete.

##### **Schedule of Uncollected Rates**

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2025, the total amount collected on Rates for 2024



was €67.4m compared to €57.9m for 2023. The closing arrears balance has decreased from €8.4m for 2023 to €6.8m for 2024.

The overall collection percentage for 2024 is 92% an increase on the 2023 collection percentage of 88%.

The total amount of rate vacancy adjustments for 2024 is €5m as compared to €3.4m in 2023.

The total amount of rate write-off adjustments for 2024 is €1.1m as compared to €3.1m in 2023.

The total amount of rate waivers for 2024 was €482k compared to €50k rate waivers for 2023.

### **Rates Demands 2025**

The Rate Demands for 2025 will issue in February to all ratepayers.

New legislation regarding commercial rates took effect from 01 January 2024. The Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 effects the following changes:

- Replaces the payment of rates in two moieties with one rates

amount due on the first of the year

- Replaces the issuing of Property Entry Levy (PEL) and valuations taking effect the year after issue of a schedule (by Tailte Eireann) with immediate billing through the calendar year.
- Provides for the application of interest on unpaid rates from 2025. Interest will be added to rates bills issued from 2026.
- Removes the requirement for public notice to be given regarding Kildare County Council's intention to 'make the rate'. This is replaced by a notice advising that a 'rate has been levied'.
- Removes the requirement for the rate book to be available for inspection, either in paper form or electronically.

Should customers have any queries regarding their accounts, they should contact the rates office on 045 980 656 or [rates@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:rates@kildarecoco.ie)



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## Risk Management

A review of the corporate risk register took place in January 2025. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with the sections to complete and document the actions from the review.

## Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2025 will be submitted to Council as part of the monthly management report from March onwards.

## Innovation



## GeoCollect

GeoCollect is a collaboration between our Commercial Rates and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) sections. Kildare is a large and fast-growing county. Keeping abreast of changes to commercial activity is challenging. GeoCollect answers this

challenge and will maximise our commercial rates income, which is fundamental to funding the delivery of services to our citizens and communities.

The Good Practice in Local Government event is organised by NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission), in collaboration with the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency) and the CCMA (County and City Management Association). The event celebrates outstanding examples of Local Authority Innovation. Each year numerous projects from across the 31 Local Authorities are nominated for the event and this year, GeoCollect has been selected as one of only six Local Authority projects to be showcased at this event.



## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Serviced Sites Scheme

The Serviced Sites Scheme at Clogherinkoe ran for four weeks in December. Despite an extensive advertising campaign and over 2,000 views on MyHome.ie only 2 expressions of interest were received. The scheme was reopened on 27 January and will remain open for four weeks until midday, Monday, 24 February 2025.

#### Homelessness

##### Cold Weather Initiative

A Cold Weather Initiative (CWI) remains in operation up to 31 March 2025 to provide additional emergency beds for rough sleepers where needed. Additional bed capacity is also available under the Extreme Cold Weather Beds. The service is operated by The Peter McVerry Trust on our

behalf. Over the recent cold weather period and Storm Éowyn, the Outreach Team actively assisted individuals and families to access services.

#### Traveller Accommodation

##### Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller Families

The annual estimate of the accommodation position of Traveller families for 2024 has been completed. The report is considered and noted by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

#### Housing Clinics

Ten housing clinics were held in 2024 at various locations. A total of 47 customers attended. Clinics will continue to run in 2025 and the elected members will be notified of the details in advance. We would welcome suggestions for potential future locations. Below are the details of clinics held in 2024:

MD	Date	Locations	Customers
Celbridge – Leixlip	25/03/2024	Leixlip Library	6
Kildare – Newbridge	15/04/2024	Newbridge Town Hall	4
Clane – Maynooth	14/05/2024	Maynooth Community Space	8





Naas	12/06/2024	Naas Library	3
Athy	16/07/2024	Athy Library	3
Celbridge – Leixlip	14/08/2024	Celbridge Library	12
Kildare – Newbridge	18/09/2024	Kilcullen Community Centre	6
Clane – Maynooth	15/10/2024	Clane Library	3
Naas	13/11/2024	Naas Library	2
Athy	10/12/2024	Athy Library	0

### **Regeneration - Addressing Vacancy – Overview of 2024**

140 vacant property inspections were carried out in 2024.

The targets set for Kildare County Council in 2024 of 70 properties to enter the CPO activation programme and 15 compulsory purchases/compulsory acquisitions to commence were exceeded, with 99 properties entering the CPO activation programme and 19 compulsory acquisitions commencing in 2024.

The Derelict Sites Register transferred from the Environment Department to Housing in 2024. 15 properties have been added to the Derelict Sites register in 2024 and compulsory acquisition under the Derelict Sites Act commenced for ten derelict properties.

Work has commenced to refurbish properties acquired compulsorily, The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund [URDF] Call 3 programme saw a dedicated fund being made available to local authorities to tackle long term vacant and derelict properties in URDF eligible areas. 56 properties across the eligible towns in the county were identified and approved for inclusion on the Call 3 programme. Compulsory acquisition has commenced on ten of the approved properties.

142 vacant property grant applications were received and processed in 2024. 114 applications were approved and 69 grants paid in 2024.



### Town Centre First

The Clane Town Centre First Plan was published in April 2024 and work has now commenced in preparing a Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot with the establishment of a Town Team.

Following consultation with Local Enterprise Office, an Invitation to Quote has been issued for a consultant to complete a training needs analysis linked to the development of the Textile Hub.

Consultants have been appointed to provide support to town teams in Kilcullen and Ballymore Eustace.

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works complete. Allocation of units progressing.
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 launched and is due before April meeting of Athy MD.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Stage 2 application approved. Site clearance completed: Part 8 launched January 2025.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Part 8 presented and approved subject to amendments: Change to vehicular access requires further Part 8 consultation. Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. Part 8 relating to revisions to the works launched December 2024. Due at March or 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 ongoing for consultants.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH.
<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 Q1 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 launched October 2024. Due before meeting of Kildare-Newbridge MD in February 2025.



Pre-Approval		
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 underway.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Structural condition surveys progressing.
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.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report to commence. Survey drawings near completion.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 3 submission being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Tender to be finalised and issued in Q1 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works commenced on site on 06.01.2025.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLGH October 2024.

### 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. Works to commence on site April/May 2025.



		Tender returned for shared wall with halting site; currently being assessed.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement phase ongoing including planning compliance submissions.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at September MD meeting. Procurement phase ongoing including planning compliance submissions.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work, archaeology and site investigation in Q1 2025. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	108 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including site investigation in Q1 2025. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.

### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Part 8 presented to MD and accepted: Stage 3 submission being prepared in conjunction with Sophia Housing.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents published.
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

	2022	2023	2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	68
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	89
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	106
Total	209	247	263





<b>Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District</b>	<b>Athy</b>	<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	<b>Naas</b>
Acquisitions in 2023	26	70	38	68	15
Leasing 2023 (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	13	77	7	67	3
Acquisitions in 2024	57	79	22	50	55
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	1

## Regeneration

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total No. CPOs</b>	<b>CPOs with ABP/at Intention Stage</b>	<b>CPOs confirmed</b>	<b>CPOs Withdrawn</b>	<b>Acquired by agreement</b>	<b>Vacant Property Grant Applications</b>	<b>Vacant Property Grants Approved</b>	<b>Vacant Property Grant payments</b>
2023	22	1	16	4	1	144	106	24
2024	19	6	13	0	0	142	117	69

<b>Year</b>	<b>Vacant Property Inspections</b>	<b>Properties identified as requiring further investigation</b>	<b>Property Owners Engaged with</b>	<b>Pre-CPO Notices Erected</b>	<b>Section 8(2) Derelict Sites Notices Issued</b>
2023	1,006	301	128	47	0
2024	140	102	106	45	31

## Housing Maintenance

<b>Year</b>	<b>Vacant House Turnarounds</b>	<b>New House Purchases Upgrades</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged</b>	<b>Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed</b>
2023	127	19	11,136	8,876
2024	113	24	11,689	9,634



Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86	61 units completed (incl. vacant units) on the 2023 EERP.
2024 EERP	69	Contractor appointed and retrofit works to commence to 26 units in Lakeside Park, Newbridge early February 2025. 55 units identified in Kilmeague/Castlefen/Naas/ Calverstown/ Ballymore Eustace, Newbridge for 2023/2024 EERP.

## Homeless Services

### Homeless Presentations with Unique Presentations Breakdown:

2023	Cases	Unique Households	Of which Unique Adults	Of which Unique Dependents	Repeats Households
Total	1910	616	708	452	1294
2024	Total Cases	Unique	Adults	Dependents	Repeats
Total	1907	546	656	445	1361

### Homeless Exits from Emergency Accommodation:

2024	Total households exiting EA	LA Letting	AHB Letting	HAP and RAS
Total	60	15	24	21

## Homelessness Preventions

2024	Total No Households Homelessness Prevention	Local Authority Lettings	LA – Tenant in Situ (TiS)	AHB Lettings	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
Total	209	65	62	54	28

## Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs at 31/12/2024

Duration	No. of Hseholds with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	16	24	26
6 - 12 Months	16	26	30
12 - 18 Months	1	1	1



18 - 24 Months	2	5	5
24 - 30 Months	2	2	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
Totals	37	58	63

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation at 31 December 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	9	11
6 - 12 Months	6	11	9
12 - 18 Months	1	2	2
18 - 24 Months	2	7	3
24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
36 Months +	1	1	2
Total	15	32	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
2023	321	193	20	14	442	266
2024	320	157	21	17	327	322

### Social Housing Assessments

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals	No. of Households added to List
2023	323	26	1,049	16	329	1006
2024	158	189	1,377	20	415	750



## Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2023	41	€8,327,127	19	€2,679,766	19	€3,754,714
2024	21	€4,422,200	10	€1,961,100	22	€4,078,720

## Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers	Properties Sold
2023	53	4	25	5
2024	52	6	31	4

## Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2023	397	16	414
2024	349	60	346

## Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	New HAP	HAP Review
2024	2,047	441	370

## Strategic Projects and Public Realm

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm team have submitted LPT funding requests to each Municipal District for consideration. From the 14 Town, Village and Settlement Masterplans delivered, a total of 120 projects have been identified across five Municipal District's as follows:

Municipal District	Plans	Projects
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	3 Masterplans	40 Projects
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	7 Masterplans	37 Projects
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	3 Masterplans	23 Projects
<b>Athy</b>	1 Masterplan	11 Projects



A further three Masterplans are to come in 2025:

Municipal District	Location[s]	Projects
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Newbridge	10 Projects Estimated
<b>Naas</b>	Sallins Naas	10 Projects Estimated for each
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth	10 Projects Estimated

Strategic Projects and Public Realm have no defined schedule for funding opportunities to support the progression of these projects, they are released by Government departments several times during the year. To ensure that Kildare County Council can identify a suitable project, prepare a funding application and submit it within the timeframe required, it is necessary to have the Kildare County Council match funding in place. It is also a requirement to have that funding in place for the duration of the project. Some funding models require 20/25% of match funding to be assigned. Other funds, such as the Historic Structures Fund, allows us to recover 50%. Having LPT funding committed by the elected members on an annual basis is key to updating our work programme as other projects progress, ensuring continued project delivery in our towns and villages.

### Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
<b>Countywide</b>	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	Contractor appointed to deliver pedestrian bridge in Rathangan. A Temporary Works License from Waterways Ireland required, once granted works will commence..





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€18,475,000	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 document underway for the two additional bridges. Expected Part 8, March 2025; Phase 2 is ongoing. Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2; includes 4 tender packages totaling €18,475,000 Tender 1 Package Sallins 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>	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Conservation Plains Management Plan and the Interpretation, Branding, Wayfinding Strategy have both been published on KCC



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					and DoD websites. A hard copy has circulated to the elected members of the Kildare Newbridge MD. A copy is also available to view in the Planning Department.
	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	A commencement meeting has taken place with the Project Team and Design Team to determine the work programme required to deliver this project.
	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 finalising 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.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	The Project Team and Design Team are scheduled to meet in February to progress the TRMP.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3))	Pre-Part 8	This project will now be considered for further funding through the RRDF Call 4 stream.
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Connection to storm drain on old N78 complete. Storm water installation continues. Public lighting installations complete. Tree pit installation ongoing. Paving material delivery expected end January/early February.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Shard panels came on site mid-January with installation ongoing. JSD progressing flooring and tiling. Electrical and Mechanical continuing. ESB connection 3 <sup>rd</sup> week January. Main works complete end of March. Interactive and exhibition



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>elements progressing well. Multimedia Guide tender published, closing 9<sup>th</sup> February. Triangle on target to commence site installation in April.</p>
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	<p>Conservation works progressing with a completion date shortly. SPPR have applied for the HSF 2025 funding programme.</p>
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	<p>€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT</p> <p>€1,908,750 URDF approved</p> <p>Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part</p>	Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b></p> <p>Tender award letter issued, contract documents will now be signed and a commencement meeting thereafter.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>		<p><b>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. SPPR liaising with CARO to investigate further.</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 preparation of a feasibility study and report following consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development of</b></p>





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p><b>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> Tender has been awarded to bring the project through detailed design and prepare a tender package. The consultant is currently engaging with internal departments. An additional funding source is required to bring this project to</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					the next stage and beyond.
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	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – Tender award letter has issued, contract documents will now be signed and a commencement meeting held with consultant team.</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</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p> <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.</p> <p>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.



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## **Integration**

### **General**

#### **Relocation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have indefinitely paused the process of consolidating their portfolio of contracted accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection around the country. No existing accommodations centres in Kildare have been identified for closure in the short term. Kildare LAIT support individuals and families through relocations. These moves can be incredibly stressful and unsettling, and the role the LAIT plays is mainly ensuring a smooth transition in terms of integration supports. As relocations continue, individuals and families are given the contact details of the LAIT in the county they are relocating to so they can reach out for support directly. In many cases, residents are receiving 48 hours notice of where they are moving to. This is being raised with the DCEDIY and more advanced notice is being sought, where operationally possible, to allow residents to make necessary arrangements in their new locations.

## **Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)**

The Accommodation Recognition Payment (€800 grant) that supports the Offer a Home and pledged properties, is due to end on 31 March 2025.

The ARP is directly linked to the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for the protection of individuals fleeing the Ukraine. There are ongoing consultations across Government departments and, as yet no confirmation has been issued that the ARP will continue. Accommodation offered with the benefit of an ARP is a major source of accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary protection particularly for residents exiting the Designated Accommodation Centres who have a maximum of 90-days State provided accommodation.

### **Recent Developments**

#### **Resources**

Kildare County Council has received approval for one additional permanent post for Integration Support Worker and one 12-month contract post to cover maternity leave of one of the Integration Support Workers.



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### **Moyvalley Hotel and Resort**

The International Protection Procurement Service (IPPS) in DCEDIY has confirmed that they are not continuing negotiations for the establishment of IPAS accommodation at the Moyvalley Hotel and Resort at this time. A number of protests had been held at the entrance to the hotel in recent weeks.

### **Eyre Powell Hotel, Newbridge**

Residents of the Eyre Powell have received letters from IPAS confirming that they are to be relocated from that accommodation centre. No further details are available at the time of writing.

### **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 organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on 1:1 basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. From the 06 - 31 January 2025, Kildare LAIT carried out five outreach visits to UCTAT centres (two) and IPAS accommodation centres (three) and arranged one information





clinic in an IPAS accommodation centre, which was attended by two international protection applicants. The session was focused on immigration and employment. The team has also developed a needs system based on regular communication with service users and accommodation providers that inform how often clinics are arranged at each centre.

### **Queries**

From the 06 – 31 January 2025, Kildare LAIT received and solved 26 queries. Out of those, queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, eight by international protection applicants and two by persons with status. Most queries were related to access to State provided accommodation, employment, DSP financial support, childcare, secondary school education, medical cards, youth work and services, and immigration queries.

Service users have reported ongoing issues with the ISD Online Forms Portal and difficulties experienced when trying to communicate these issues with the International Protection Office (IPO). This has been shared with the LGMA to advocate for a

solution, in addition to a dedicated information session for the LAIT's to discuss this directly with the DCEDIY.

### **Data Sharing:**

Discussions are ongoing between the LGMA and the DCEDIY in relation to a formalised Joint Controller Agreement between DCEDIY and Local Authorities to govern the processing of personal data in LAIT work. In the meantime, all data sharing continues to follow existing KCC policies and GDPR principles.

### **Networking**

Kildare LAIT hosted the first Peer Support Network Group Meeting for frontline workers engage in integration (08 January). The meeting took place online and was attended by 12 integration workers including Kildare LAIT Integration Support Workers, Kildare County Council Community Workers, In-Sync, CKLP and Childcare Committee staff. The group will meet every two months.

Moreover, Kildare LAIT attended the Ukraine Forum Meeting (14 January) led by Ukraine Civil Society Forum (UCSF) a national coordination forum of civil society and community responses, connecting into the State's



response structures supporting reception and integration. Discussion around relocations.

Kildare LAIT is included in the Irish Refugee Council (IRC) Support Maps to ensure visibility of Kildare services nationally.

### Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (Ukraine):

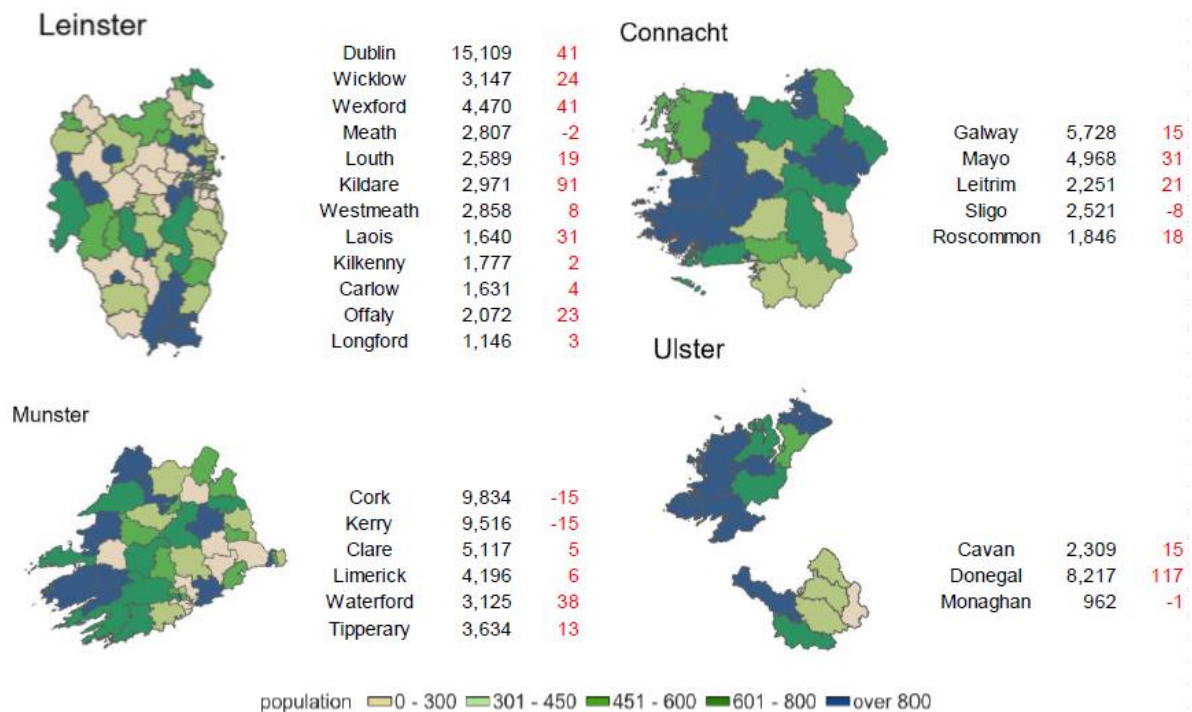
BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 933 (692 adults/ 241 children)

Data source DECDIY – 09 February 2025.

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

Data source Central Statistics Office 17 January 2025

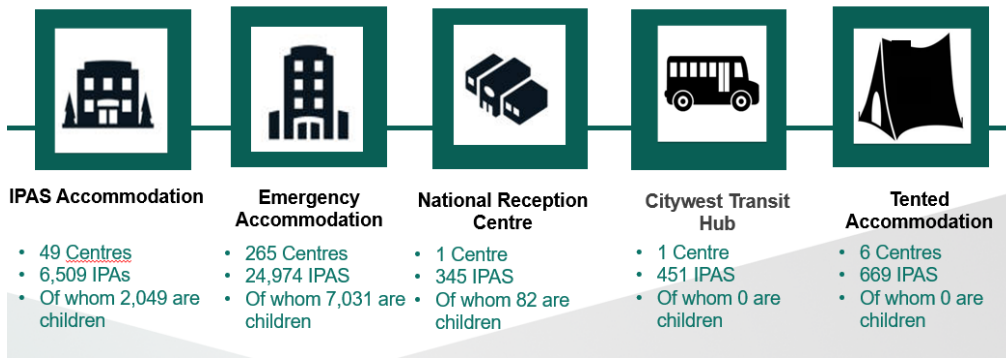
### National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection



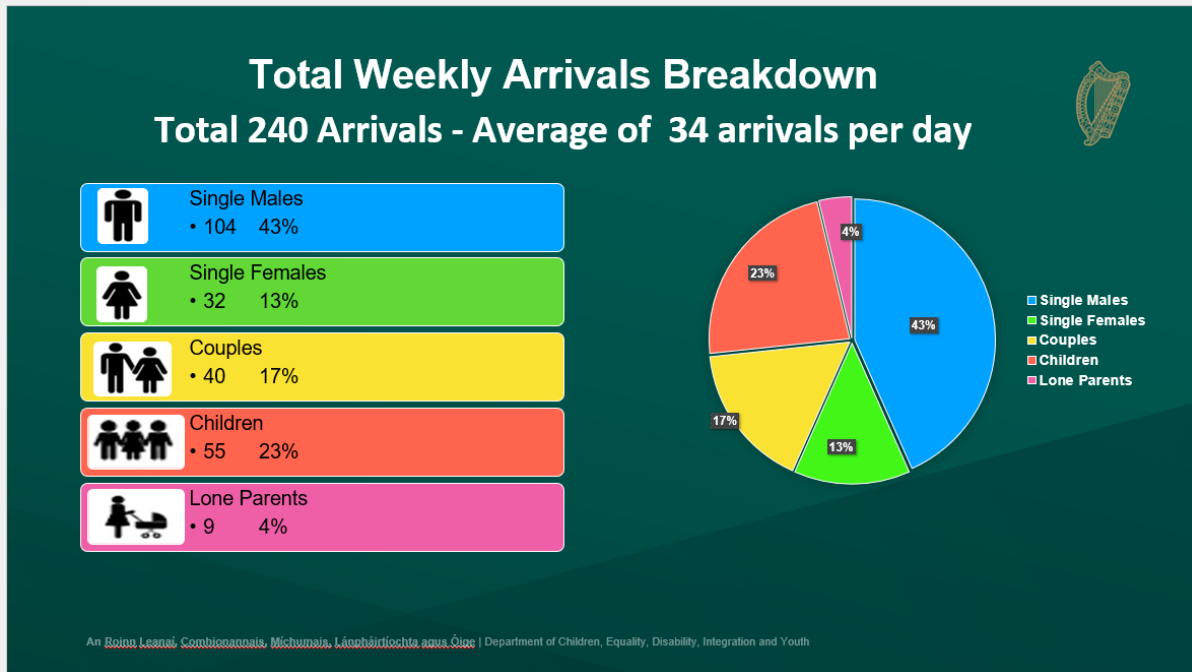


### International Protection Applicants:

There are a total of 32,948 International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation of whom 9,122 are children. Source DECDIY 05 February 2025.



The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week up to 02 February 2025 is as follows:



International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 674 of whom 104 are children. Source DECDIY 02 February 2025



## Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority (05 February 2025)

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	434	Kerry County	970	Offaly County	489
Cavan County	168	Kildare County	674	Roscommon County	240
Clare County	1008	Kilkenny County	163	Sligo County	699
Cork City	591	Laois County	480	South Dublin County	4066
Cork County	1464	Leitrim County	245	Tipperary County	816
Donegal County	2036	Limerick City & County	588	Waterford City and County	623
Dublin City	3406	Longford County	141	Westmeath County	1043
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1220	Louth County	1221	Wexford County	637
Fingal County	2513	Mayo County	1675	Wicklow County	1533
Galway City Council	1745	Meath County	976	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32948</b>
Galway County Council	386	Monaghan County	698		

### International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of AHB and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches 2024, and the second quarter of 2025. The first resettlement of three families took place at the beginning of October 2024 with two more resettlements due to take place in Q1 2025. The target is to have all 66 participants resettled in Kildare by the end of Q2 2025.

Integration supports are in place with EU funds through the IRPP/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 as an implementing partner through a tender process for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).

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 2025 to coordinate the second resettlement, discuss the integration



supports planned, and start planning for the third resettlement (March 2025). The LAIT Integration Support Coordinator regularly provides updates to all the relevant agencies engaged in the programme.

### National ISC and ISW Networks

The LAIT continues participating in the Integration Support Coordinators (ISC) and Integration Support Workers (ISW) networks. The aim of these networks is to facilitate the sharing of tools and best practices across LAITs.

### 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).  
(update 27 January 2025)

Properties occupied	64
Properties in progress	6
Properties withdrawn/shared	<u>36</u>
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. Kildare has two DAC's:

#### Punchestown:

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 209 people (DCEDIY 10 February 2025).

#### Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 405 people (DCEDIY 10 February 2025). Residents were temporarily decanted from Newhall during Storm Eowyn and transported to Naas GAA club as a precautionary measure.

Kildare County Council integration staff held Day-75 Clinics at the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's on 05 December 2024 accommodation clinics on 17, 18 and 19 December 2024. An accommodation clinic was held in Newhall on 08 January 2025 and a further Day-75 clinic is scheduled for both Newhall and Punchestown on 14 January 2025.





 PASTURES NEW
Newhall DAC

## Creative Workshop at Newhall: Unleashing Artistry

We are excited to announce our latest initiative at Newhall DAC – a Creative Workshop led by the talented Justyna Doherty from NCAD. This workshop is designed exclusively for our adult residents, offering a unique opportunity to explore their creative potential in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Throughout the workshop, Justyna guides participants through a range of artistic techniques and mediums, encouraging them to experiment, express themselves, and discover new facets of their creativity. The sessions are not only a space for learning new skills but also a time for reflection and connection, allowing residents to unwind and find joy in artistic expression.

The creative journey culminates in a vibrant onsite exhibition that will showcase the diverse artworks created during the workshop. This exhibition is more than just a display of art—it's a celebration of the community's talent, resilience, and the transformative power of creativity. We are incredibly proud of the courage and passion our residents have shown, and we can't wait to share their creations with the wider community.







An extract from edition Number five of the Newhall DAC Newsletter showing a recent creative workshop at the centre.

### 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 International Protection Procurement Service (IPPS) in DCEDIY is currently negotiating a contract for the establishment of an IPAS accommodation centre at the Moyvalley Hotel and Resort.

### The Community Integration Forum

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration. The Community Integration Forum has met 6 times in 2024 on the 01 May, 05 June, 03 July, 04 September, 02 October and 04 December.

A revised format has been agreed with members, and in 2025 meetings will be held bi-monthly with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. A meeting of the CIF was held on Wednesday 05 February 2025. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 02 March 2025.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information



sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). Links with the Kildare Integration Strategy Working Group need to be defined. The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies. Participation in the CIF includes Kildare County Council (LAIT and Accommodation Team, Community Services, Library Services) Citizens Information Centre, An Garda Siochana Community Policing, County Kildare Leader Partnership, The Irish Red Cross, Kildare County Childcare Committee, Kildare CYPSC/Tusla, Kildare/Wicklow Education and Training Board, INTREO, HSE Social Inclusion coordinator, InSync, Local Link, Regional Education and Learning Teams Coordinator.

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

### **Community**

#### **Brigid, Sirit of Kildare Festival 2025**

The Brigid Spirit of Kildare hosted an extensive programme of events throughout the county to celebrate St. Brigid "Her Spirit, Our Story". Starting on 25 January and running until 03 February, this inclusive celebration invited locals and visitors alike to engage with Kildare's rich heritage, highlighting St. Brigid's significance in Irish culture. The festival programme featured a host of free public events alongside a series of ticketed performances by leading artists. Highlights included aerial dance performance, fire and light procession, family fun days, wellness activities, storytelling sessions, musical performances and sports demonstrations.





**Maynooth crowds enjoying Luxe Landscape Theatre ‘Carrying Her Flame’**



**‘The Brigid’s Day Gathering’ in the Curragh Racecourse**



**‘Spirit of Play’ days in Clane and Kilcock**



**‘The Cloak in the Night Sky’ in Market Square, Kildare**



**2025 Community Grants Schemes**  
Applications for funding under Community Grants, Festival Grants, Local Authority Residential Grants and Private Residents Association Grants Schemes opened on Monday 20 January 2025 and will close on Friday 14 March 2025. Applications for funding under Department of Community and Rural Development funded Local Enhancement Programme 2025 also opened on Monday 20 January 2025 and will





close on Friday 28 February 2025. Guidelines for these funding streams along with details of how to apply can be found on Kildare County Council website at [www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/)

## 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 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. The 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 10 KPI's from 2024 was completed on 07 February 2025.

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)**

### **The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:**

Launch of the house expected late February or early March.

### **Augmented Reality Image**

#### **Maynooth:**

The initial piece has been created and currently exploring how to build on the project further to enable greater understanding and outreach.

## **Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders:**

This is the first report based on the 2024-2029 CAP. It is also the first in the country and will inform other Local Authority’s report format with the assistance of the EM CARO.



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## Recruitment

The interviews for the position of Decarbonising Climate Officer took place at the end of January and a panel formed.

## Energy Updates:

### ISO 50001:

The energy efficient officer and assistant are working diligently toward the time audit dates as follows:

Stage 1 Thursday 19 June 2025

Stage 2 Tuesday – Fri 05 – 08 Aug 2025

If successful, the council will be ISO 50001 certified as statutorily required

### 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. Work is scheduled to commence after the Maynooth feasibility study is finalised.

Formal matching funding agreement being finalised between Kildare County Council and CODEMA.

### Energy Management Team:

The first meeting of the newly formed Energy Management Team took place on 30 January. Patricia Brennan gave an overview of the council’s position to date, projects being advanced, decarbonising path and EPC framework to advance competitive negotiated procedure to undertake works on Naas and Athy swimming pools and Aras Chill Dara.

### Libraries – 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.



## **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 required in May.

## **Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles) GoCar**

The dedicated charge point has now been installed and commissioned.

## **SMT presentation:**

A summary report of Kildare County Council's energy review will be given by Patricia Brennan on 18 February.

## **People's Patches/'Our Shared Plate Project' for Community Climate Action:**



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 will see the planting of trees this winter, edible hedges and vegetables in the spring.

## **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, four of the projects have already been completed. The first recoupment from DECC was completed in early December and covered approximately €200,000 of the total allocation of €897,000. The next drawdown by groups is the end of February.

When all the projects are completed 635 solar PV panels will have been installed as well as pumped wall insulation for four social housing units and two community halls. Other projects focus on replacing floodlights or pitch walkways with LED bulbs. A number of biodiversity measures will also be implemented, including native tree planting and the installation of swift nest boxes.



DECC have indicated that they will be finalising the second iteration of the grant in 2025 for climate projects for community groups in the county next year. As there are some geographic and demographic gaps in the county in the applications for the first round, it is proposed to highlight the scheme to these groupings to improve participation.

#### **Climate Design Lab:**

Logo being developed to advance link to initiatives on site and social media. Artists position to be advertised during January in conjunction with the Arts Officer.

Co-creative events with the wider community planned for late February.

#### **Climate Innovation Fund 2024:**

Depending on LPT discussion we hope to be able to run the fund again in 2025.

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

The project has been extended out to January/February 2025 as a little more time is required to complete aspects. Maynooth University wish to provide an informative session on the

dashboard to full Council and SMT in April. Also, CARO are hoping to have a webinar based on the work to date.

## **Water Services**

### **Water Action Plan 2024**

The Water Action Plan is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors – local authorities, public sector agencies, public and private sector companies, environmental organisations, farm organisations, etc - are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters.

## **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.

From 01 June, all stock not branded with the Re-turn logo has been phased out of shops and consumers are now only able to buy drinks for which a deposit is payable.



Re-turn, the operator of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), Last week announced the milestone of 1 billion drinks containers returned by the public under this scheme.

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





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### 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. An on-site briefing from reps of the Department of Rural and Community Development has taken place along with representatives from the Maynooth Tidy Towns group.

### 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





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## **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)

## **Veterinary Services**

Transfer of services undertaken by Local Authorities under its SLA with FSAI including official controls of Local Authority slaughter plants is transferring to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM). Statutory responsibility for these services has moved to DAFM with effect from the 01 January 2025

## **Green Schools**

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have commenced for the 2025 Green Schools programme. Schools have until the end of March to book in their renewal visits. All successful schools will receive their flags in the Green School award ceremony in May.

## **GAA Green Clubs Initiative**



Cappagh GAA club is the pilot club for Kildare for this national initiative. The next phase of the project involves reducing waste arisings within the clubhouse and work on this is continuing.

## **Christmas Tree Recycling**

360 tonne of mulch from trees was collected during the Christmas tree recycling initiative this year.

## **New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge**

A joint project of the civic amenity in conjunction with the proposed Municipal District depot is being assessed.

## **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. A Public Participation Day was held on 27 February in Athy. This was the first of a series of community engagement and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.

### **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 substantially completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries.

### **Cemetery Works**

#### **Staplestown**

Landscape improvement works have commenced in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are ongoing in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

#### **Boycetown Kilcock**

Works were completed in Boycetown cemetery to help alleviate the ongoing drainage problems. Additional road and pathway resurfacing works as well as landscape improvements were also carried out as part of the project.

#### **Ballybracken**

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

### **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.



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## Local Community Development Committee

### February 2025

The next meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is scheduled for 12 February 2025. The previous meeting was held on the 27 November 2024 in Merits.

### 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 were submitted in January. The SICAP budget 2025 is €1,425,342. Both the review and plan 2025 will be considered at the upcoming LCDC meeting.

An audit of the programme 2023 by Kildare County Council in line with requirements is concluded. In addition the SICAP 2023 programme was audited by LGAS. This is concluding.

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.

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. Additional Dormant Account funding of €142,000 was recently secured to support Traveller education and mens development. This will be implemented by Kildare Traveller Action. Kildare was one of five successful applicants nationally.

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





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## Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. Appointment of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator is progressing. The report on progress 2024 and plan for 2025 is currently being compiled for submission to Pobal.

## 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 Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

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

For further information contact: Terrie Devlin, Administrative Officer,  
Community [tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie)  
phone: 087 1919765.

## Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) allocated Kildare LCDC LEP grant aid funding to be awarded to community and voluntary groups. There is €198,096 available towards capital/equipment costs and €34,905 towards running costs. The closing date for receipt of applications is 28 February at 5.00pm. These grants are advertised and promoted as part of the grant schemes available through the Community Section of Kildare County Council. Over 190 people attended an information event held with PPN members in late January.

## Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

### Transport

#### Capital Projects

##### Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Nine submissions received as part of the Stage 1 tender process. These are currently under review to finalise a tender list for stage 2. Tender documents are currently under review ahead of tender issue.



### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

All documents for the application have been received from consultant and will be reviewed internally and by Senior Counsel prior to submission to the Board.

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

Consultant has been appointed to finalise the design for the short section of road and incorporate the traffic signal design.

### **Newbridge Transport Strategy**

The final ABTA report is currently being finalised following review internally.

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

Consultant developing of a preliminary business case for this project. An initial draft has been received, and the final report is currently being finalised.

### **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**

The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 was 07 February 2025. Subsequent phases (i.e. urban speed limit of 30kph and national secondary speed limit default of 80kph) are scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

#### **Junction Improvement Programme**

Option reports are 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. Finalising design with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000. St. Brigid’s Primary School, Kildare Town: Construction nearing completion. Holy Child School Ballycane: Completed.





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

Scoil Mochua, Celbridge: Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €100,000.

### **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: €10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

72 road improvement projects covering 64 km of regional and local roads completed in 2024.

### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

53 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 80 km of regional and local roads completed in 2024.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads**

Allocation - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with 2024 works completed.

### **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).

### **National Roads**

Allocation: €22,386 for N78/N81 for the general maintenance of both National Secondary roads completed in 2024.

### **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. Works are due to commence in 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. Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles has been completed with the installation process ongoing.

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

### **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations commenced for the 2024/2025 season. Recent severe weather, with both snow, ice and freezing temperatures required the services of 30 drivers to treat the primary routes in Kildare in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Plan. This work continued from Saturday 04 January to Friday 10 January on a 24-hour basis. Due to the extreme nature of this weather event, footpaths at schools and town centre locations were salted and secondary routes treated, using all available Transportation outdoor staff. Approximately 1,300 tonnes of salt was used over this period.

### **Sustainable Transport (2025 NTA Allocations)**

#### **Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)**

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by early Summer 2025.



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

2025 Allocation: €250,000

There was insufficient grant allocation to commence the construction works in 2025. It is intended to proceed with accommodation works along the route 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 agree the scope of works for extending the Greenway to Sallins.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing with the intention of agreeing a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA.

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

2025 Allocation: €125,000

Consultant progressing the Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme. The next step is a statutory public consultation process.

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

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000

Tenders have been evaluated, and a preferred contractor has been identified. Construction start: Q1 25.

### **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 progressing with a view to having construction documents completed in 2025.

### **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. The next step is a statutory public consultation process.



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

2025 Allocation: €20,000

Preliminary design agreed with NTA.

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

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design 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.

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

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Tenders have been evaluated.

Preferred contractor identified.

Construction expected: Q1 25.

### **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.

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

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

### **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.

### **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 Co Co are currently preparing the feasibility and options reports for the proposed Park and Share sites at Junctions 3, 4, 5.

## **Open Spaces**

### **Kilcock Playground**

Award of contract progressing.

### **Outdoor Recreation Strategy**

Consultants have been appointed to prepare this strategy. It is hoped to have it completed by Q3.

## **Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services**

### **Planning**

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

The Elected Members will be briefed on Monday 24 February regarding the Section 15 two-year Progress Report for the County Development Plan, prior to the publication of this report.

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

- An update to the Core Strategy in response to the revised National Planning Framework and new housing targets.
- s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.
- Landscape Character Assessment
- Economic Strategy, and
- Settlement Plans.

Variation No. 1 of the CDP - Kilcullen Settlement Plan due for adoption by the Members in April 2025. Proposed Material Amendments to be published





Friday 07 February 2025. Settlement Plans for other smaller towns to be integrated into CDP during 2025, including: Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock.

### **CDP 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:**

Masterplan Options under development, with Key Stakeholder Workshop scheduled for March Q1 2025.

##### **Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan:**

Public Consultation on Masterplan Options published 4 February 2025.

### **Newbridge LAP**

The Draft Newbridge Plan is currently being prepared.

### **Local Area Plans**

#### **Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

A Special Meeting for the Maynooth Clane Municipal District is scheduled for the 17 February where the Elected Members will decide whether to make the Maynooth Plan with all, some or none of the Proposed Material Alterations as published.

#### **Monasterevin LAP**

Work has ceased due to staffing resources but will resume in Q2.

### **Development Management**

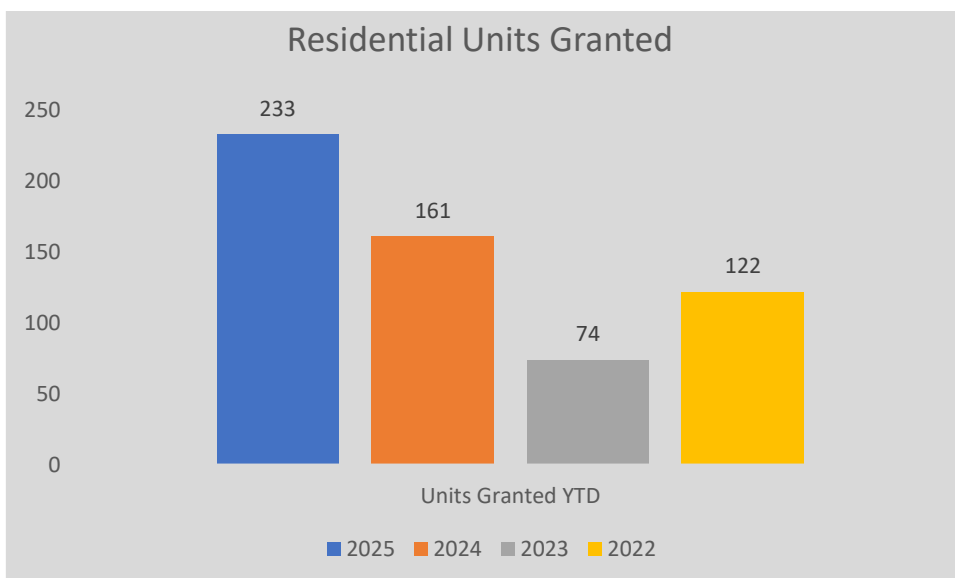
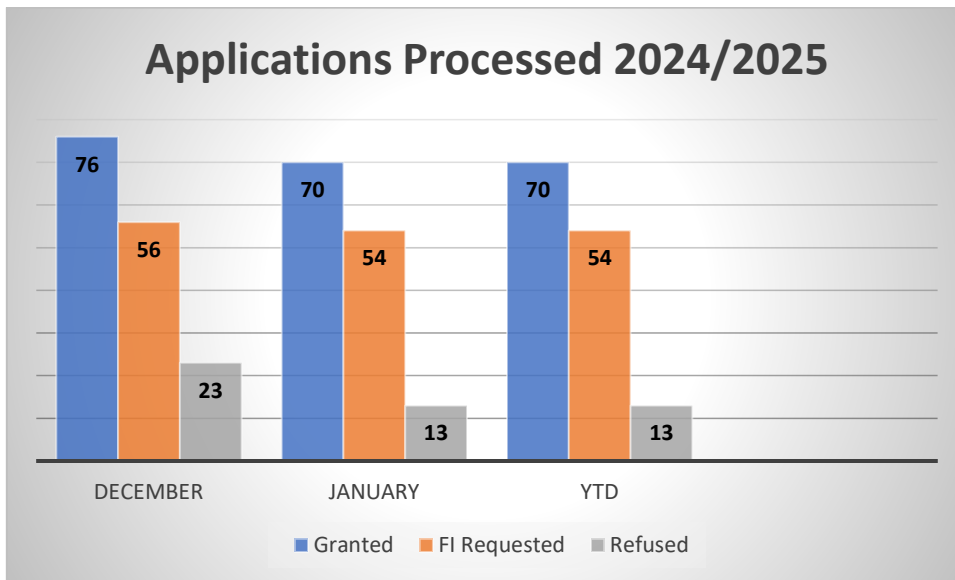
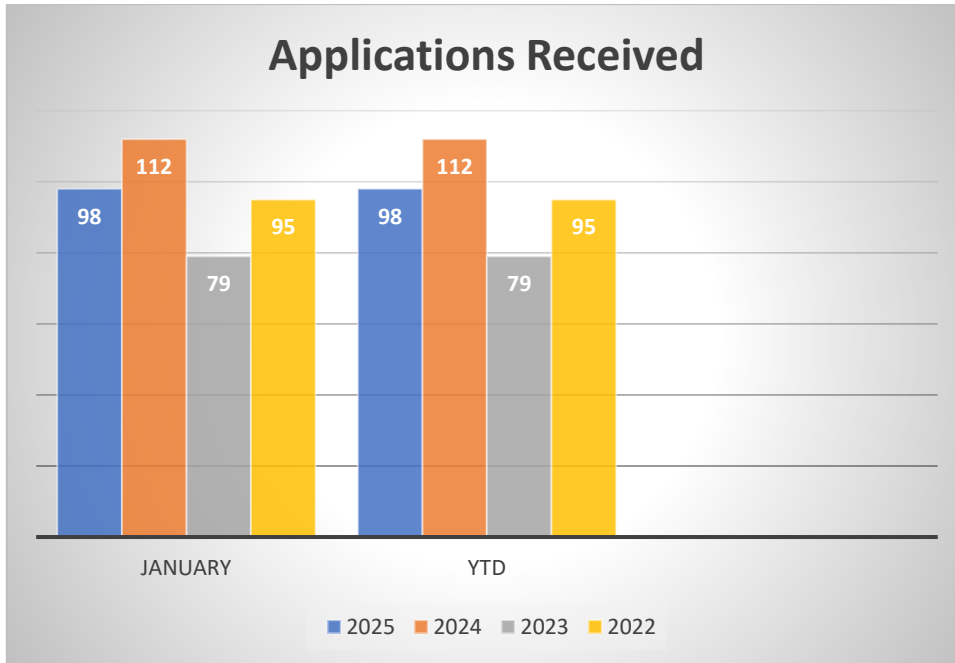
#### **ePlanning**

In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online, 85% of submissions/observations submitted via ePlanning.

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

In 2025 84.55% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.







## Pre-Planning

21 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 31 January 2025

Seven Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 31 January 2025

## Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

Five LRD applications due for decision up to the 12 March 2025.

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	12/03/2025
25/60003	06/01/2025	Dunform Properties Ltd	Branganstown East Kilcock	133 Units	02/03/2025
24/61327	11/12/2024	Oakway Homes Ltd	New Abbey Road, Nicholastown Kilcullen	180 Units	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.	17/02/2025



				2360485/ ABP Reg. Ref.: 319625- 24	
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### Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

Five SHD applications due lodged between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with ABP.

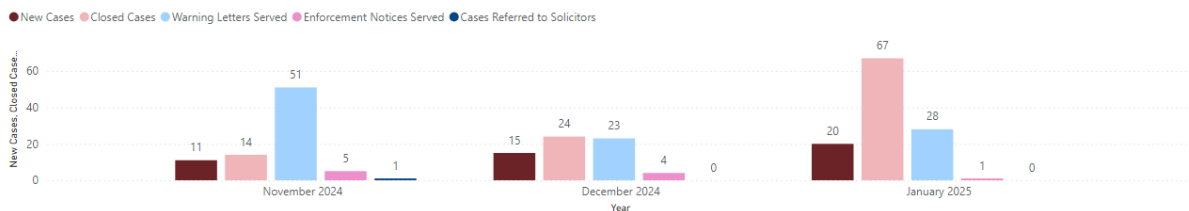
### Planning Enforcement

For period January 2025

20	New Consultations
67	Cases Closed
1	Enforcement Notices Served
28	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors

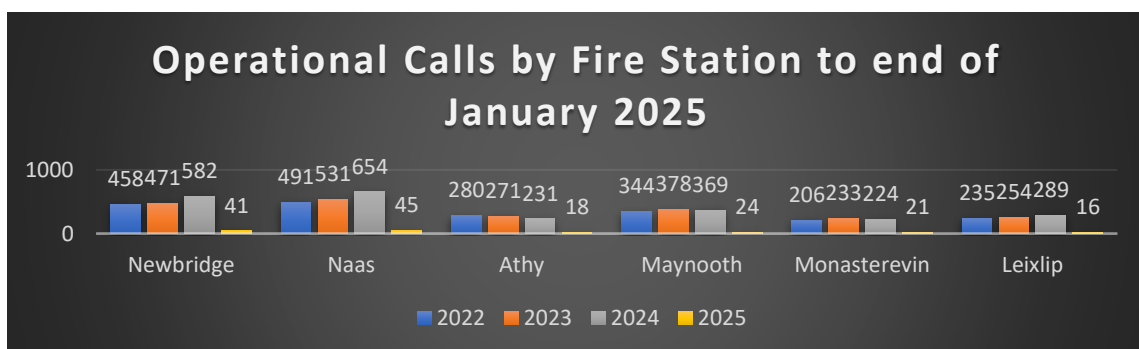
### Enforcement Statistics November/December 2024 and January 2025:

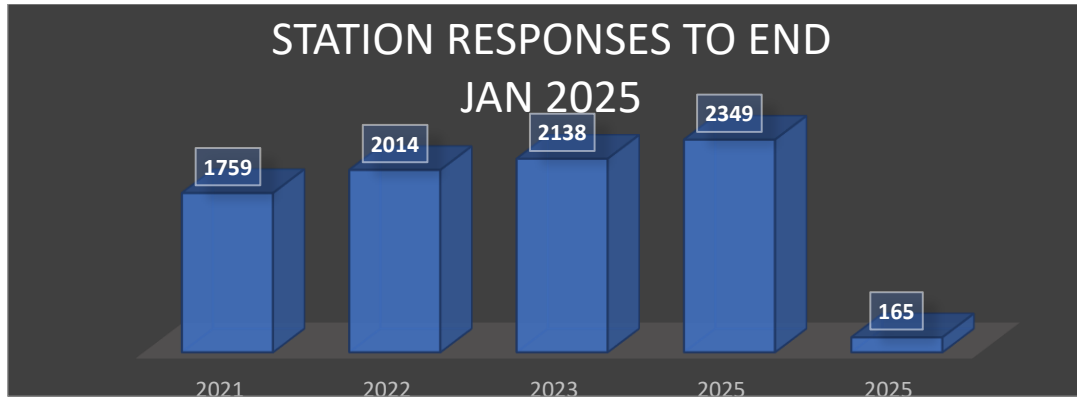
Enforcement Overview



### Fire Service Operations:

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





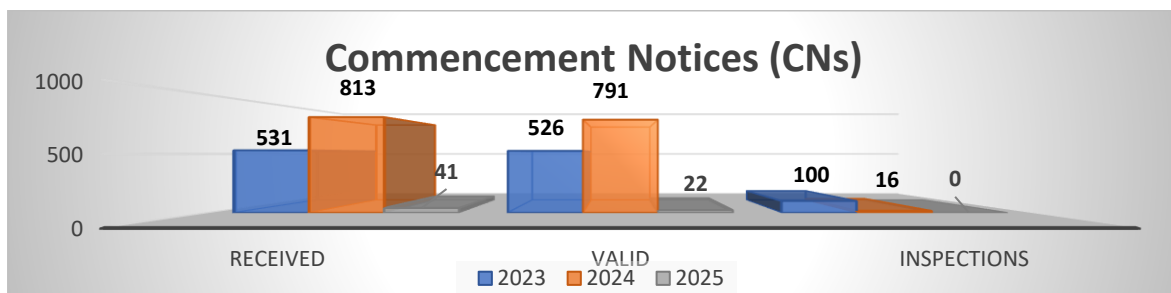
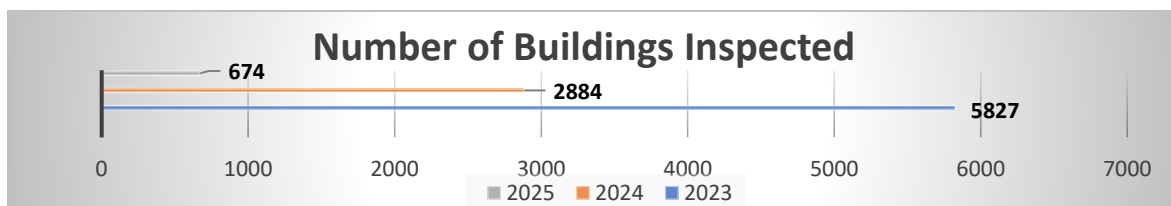
### Fire Safety Certificates

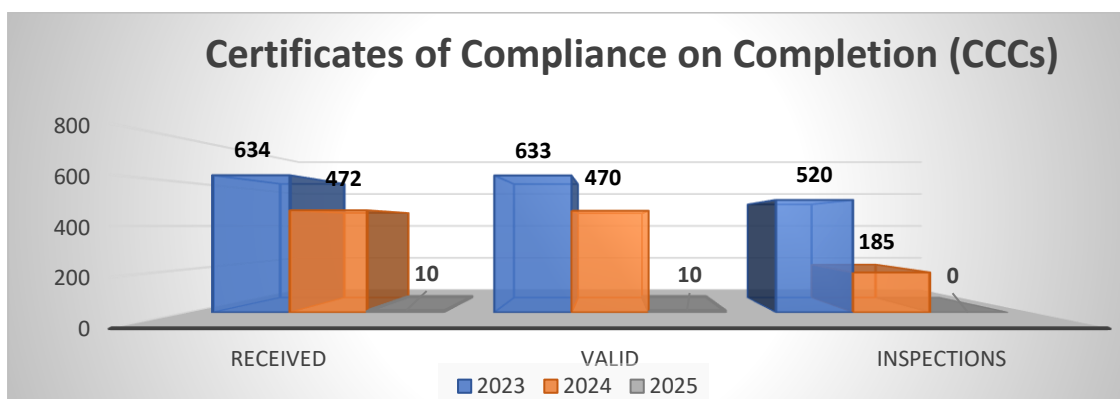
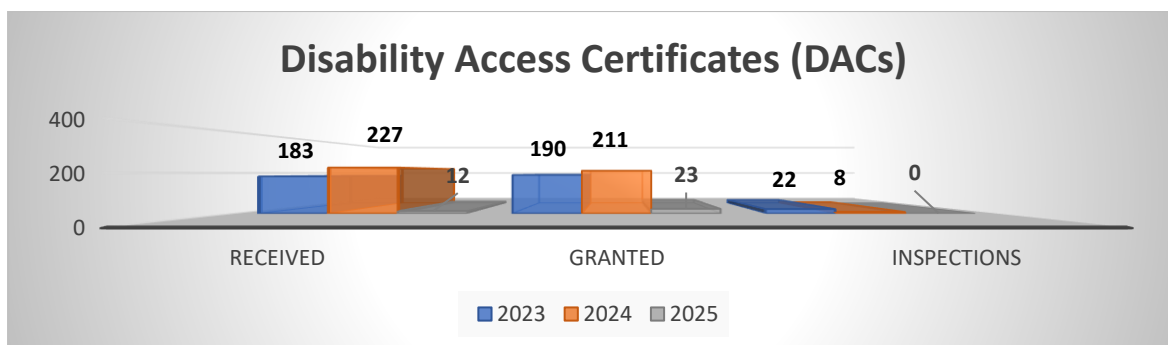
Applications received to the end of January 2025 compared with the totals received in previous years.



### Building and Development Control

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





## Kildare Fáilte

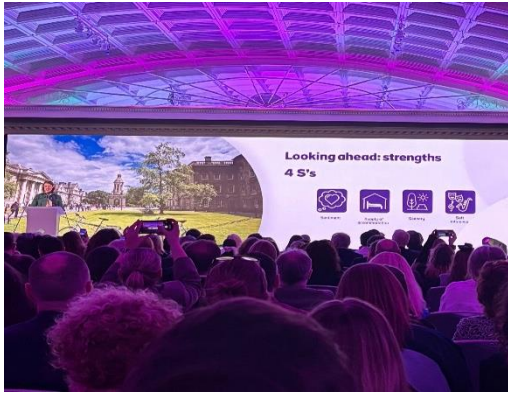
### Key Activities

Into Kildare's activities throughout January highlighted the organisation's proactive and diverse approach to promoting tourism and cultural heritage in County Kildare. These initiatives celebrate the rich history and vibrant presence of the region while showcasing Kildare as an exciting destination for both domestic and international visitors.

Into Kildare attended Tourism Irelands annual launch of their marketing plans for 2025 and participated in the overseas business exchange

gathering. This meeting was an opportunity for Tourism Ireland to share insights gathered from the tourism sector in 2024 and to outline the strategic marketing initiatives designed to strengthen tourism for the year 2025. A key component of this event was the series of one-to-one meetings that allowed Into Kildare representatives to engage directly with Tourism Ireland's representatives from various overseas offices.





The Into Kildare team were delighted to attend the launch of the thirty-second Annual Féile Bhríde at Solas Bhríde. The launch presented the varied programme of events highlighting the life and legacy of St Brigid. The importance of the Pause for Peace initiative was emphasised and how it has gained widespread support both nationally and internationally



Into Kildare attended The K Club's celebration of St Brigid. The afternoon was filled with wonderful Brigid-inspired elements including lively talks

and samples from expert speakers and suppliers, some of those from County Kildare.



Into Kildare sent greeting cards and a prayer card to all Irish embassies worldwide, encouraging participation in the Pause for Peace initiative and inviting a moment of reflection.



Into Kildare reached out to and secured a letter of support from the President, as well as a video message of support from the Taoiseach's office. This collaboration highlighted the



significance of the day and promoted the Pause for Peace movement, emphasising the importance of unity and reflection.



Into Kildare secured the competition slot on RTE's Late Late Show providing an opportunity for national exposure.

Four members within the county sponsored prizes while Into Kildare bolstered the prize.



On the eve of St. Brigid's Day, 31 January, and on 01 February, Into Kildare successfully organised the annual lighting up of the Hill of Allen and Cupidstown Hill. This event, enriched by a streaming message from the Taoiseach, achieved impressive reach, impressions, and engagement across various social media platforms, demonstrating strong community engagement and collaboration. The highlight of the ceremony was a performance by Eimear Quinn at the foot of the tower, encapsulating the essence of St. Brigid's message of grace, hope, and light to the world.



The Light Up Kildare event at the Hill of Allen also served as a platform to



promote the Pause for Peace initiative, inviting participation from locals and those afar to take part.



Planning and preparations also took place for events in UK – St. Brides Church, House of commons and in the Irish Embassy in London.

Following the success of the Taste of Kildare festival in 2025, IK is preparing for the Taste of Kildare 2025 committed to showcasing the region's offerings and enhancing Kildare's appeal as a destination.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### 2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports <b>At 05.02.2025</b>	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant. (Product no longer available, replaced by Grow Digital Voucher)	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher		
Business Expansion Grant		
Priming Grant		
Feasibility Study Grant		
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	5	€40,518
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>€43,543</b>





## Entrepreneurship Support

### Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made through this link:

<https://leokildare.submit.com>

### Focus On Women In Business

On 30 January, over 180 female entrepreneurs descended on the historic grounds of Kilkea Castle to celebrate the legacy of St. Brigid. This annual Women in Business event, now in its 2nd year, was led by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, in association with County Kildare Chamber and Network Ireland Kildare Branch.

This Women in Business luncheon, was a celebration of leadership, resilience, and innovation, featuring the inspirational story of Sarah de Lagarde.

The event also launched the She Succeeds programme of events for Kildare's Women in Business for 2025. Female entrepreneurs are encouraged to stay informed on the She Succeeds programme of events by registering online via

[www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare)

## Focus On Craft

Lorna Frawley and Joanna Brien-Sammons of Kildare's SIOG Botanicals, were shortlisted in the 'Best Newcomer' category in what is the second year of the Business of Craft Awards at Showcase Ireland.



In addition to supporting SIOG Botanicals to exhibit at the LEO Zone @ Showcase Ireland, Tamzen Lundy Designs and Loinnir Jewelry also exhibited.

## Economic Support Services

### Retail Supports

- Grants

The Shopfront and Retail Window Merchandising grants are due to open in early Spring, subject to budget approval. A strong pipeline of applicants exists through ongoing engagement with businesses through Municipal District Roadshows and training workshops.



- Training

The Reimagining Retail Masterclass was delivered by expert retail consultant, Miriam Simon, in MERITS on Tuesday 21 and was attended by 14 individuals. The class demonstrated to retailers how to manage their premises and inventory around seasonal change and periods of peak demand.

On 28 January, four local businesses attended an interactive workshop in an empty retail unit on Emily Square, Athy. The workshop assisted retailers in designing effective window displays for the festive events occurring in the Spring.

### **Public Procurement Masterclass**

The ED and LEO team hosted this masterclass on Thursday 16 January in MERITS; the session equipped the 32 attendees from local SMEs in navigating the technical aspects of national procurement portals (etenders and SupplyGov) and how to bid for tenders in an effective manner.

The masterclass was a direct follow on from Kildare County Council's Public Procurement Briefing Day which was delivered in late-November 2024, which provided guidance on Irish

public procurement and overviews of procurement plans of five Kildare County Council departments.

### **European Projects**

- Erasmus+ Repower Regions

This three-year project formally commenced in December.

Kildare County Council, as project coordinator, hosted the first online meeting on 28 January where work packages and deadlines were addressed.

The first in-person meeting will occur in Kildare 19 – 21 March; agenda will follow to align with project work packages as well as site visits to facilities demonstrating innovation in heating and cooling systems.

- Erasmus+ Young Equine Innovators

This three-year project (comprising five partners) is completing its work packages in accordance with the project objectives. An online meeting occurred on 21 January where partners provided updates on work packages relating to trends across Europe's equine sector.





### County Kildare Skills Audit

The skills audit of the County will be published and circulated to Elected Members in February 2025.

Kildare County Council, in partnership with County Kildare Chamber, commissioned KPMG in 2024 to undertake an audit of the County's current and future skills and training requirements through a series of consultations with key stakeholders, employers, trainers, and employees.

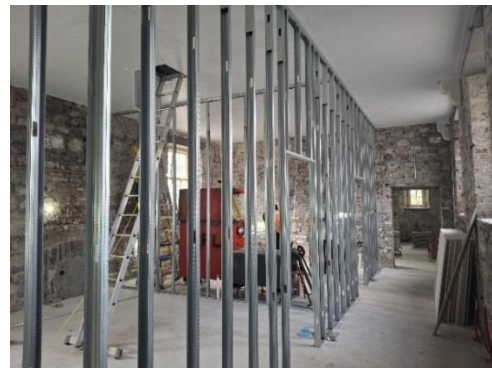
### Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Part 8 submissions period for the proposed Fashion, Textiles, and Design Hub closed on the 10 December 2024. All submissions received were collated and a Submissions Report was created and forwarded to the Planning Department. This report will be used to form the Planning Report and Chief Executive Report which will be presented to the Elected Members at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Meeting in February 2025 for decision. Procured Architectural lead to commence development of detail design, costs, and review outcomes: prepare construction tender documents, assess tender returns and

recommend successful tenderer; progress operations on site and close out of project upon outcome of Part 8 process.

### Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works have entered week 39. 58.5% of construction programme has been completed.





### **MERITS Innovation Hub**

MERITS is now operating at 97% occupancy across the Founders Lab, hot desks and office spaces. Meetings, events and the use of the Content Creation Lab continue apace. A number of resident businesses have expanded to the point of needing to exit the hub into their own dedicated space though some delays are being experienced resulting from a lack of available office space in the local area.

The VECTOR Digital Arts Residency, run in partnership with Kildare County Council Arts Service, has commenced with the successful artist – 1iing Heaney – having started working in MERITS on her project portfolio of digital art, technology, and ecology.

### **National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) Hub**

The NEIC is now operating at 100% capacity across office space and hot-desks. Collaborations are being developed between resident clients in some cases and clients are integrating with the tourism opportunities being developed by Thoroughbred Country, also based in the hub.

### **Athy Enterprise Centre (AEC) Hub**

The AEC hub is now utilizing all available capacity. More capacity is being developed onsite. Security upgrades are being investigated and costed with a view to implementation in Q2. The outcome of a funding application is awaited from Pobal (Dormant Accounts Fund) which would see the creation of a pilot Paint Reuse Facility in the Hub. Works will commence in Q2 on the installation of an EV charging station at the hub.

### **Tourism**

#### **EU JTF – Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme**

Fáilte Ireland have updated the role and responsibilities for the next phase of the tourism activation programme. The activators met as a team on 29 January to agree a common network roadmap and progression pathway. This proposal was presented to Fáilte Ireland on 06 February. It will then be shared with local authorities, tourism officers and destination marketing companies in the relevant areas so that local activities can be agreed collaboratively and without duplication.



In County Kildare, a calendar of activities is being prepared, and procurement processes are being set up for tourism client business development supports. This will include supporting the quarterly network events with INTO Kildare. These networking events will connect new and emerging tourism providers with an established network. These events will be scheduled to take account of seasonal factors, the enterprise supports calendar and regional tourism enterprise supports.

#### **Athy Circular Economy Hub (ACEH)**

The ACEH hub will be constructed in the CBS in Athy once sufficient funding received. An initial tranche of funding has been secured from Pobal which will facilitate some upgrade works. This hub will house the Paint Reuse Facility, pending the success of the pilot scheme. In time, will also be home to a bicycle repair and upcycling workshop, training and development programmes based around the circular economy and other “green” initiatives.

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