

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Tuairisc Mhíosúil Bhainistíochta an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh -Feabhra 2026

Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report - February 2026







Brigid
Spiorad Chill Dara









News Items

Housing Focus – Social Media Campaign

Kildare County Council's Communications Team in conjunction with our Housing team, delivered a 'Housing Focus' public information campaign. Supported by the Local Government Management Agency, the social media campaign aimed to highlight the work of local authorities in housing delivery and providing housing supports (see page 7).

Major Boost for Tourism as Five Local Projects Secure Funding

Kildare County Council announced that five regenerative tourism projects in County Kildare have been awarded funding through Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme (see page 10).

Deiseanna Traenála Gaeilge d'Fhostaithe - Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara

Tá Rannóg na Seirbhísí Corparáideacha i gcomhar le Rannóg na nAcmhainní Daonna ag cur deiseanna oiliúna Gaeilge ar fáil go réamhghníomhach d'fhostaithe Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara. Le linn an earraigh, déanfaidh Gaelchultúr traenáil ar líne a sheachadadh ag leibhéal B1 (meánleibhéal íseal) agus leibhéal B2 (meánleibhéal ard), mar aon leis an Teastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil ag leibhéal B2 agus C1 (ardleibhéal) (see page 11).

Innovation

Four Kildare County Council projects that showcase innovation and good practice have been submitted for consideration to be included in the National Oversight and Audit Commission Good Practice 2026 Event in March (see page 20).

Housing Grant Schemes 2026

The Housing Aid Grant for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme 2026 is now open for applications (see page 21).



Veterinary Services

A New Service Provider, Midland Animal Care Limited., has taken on the operation of the Dog Warden Service on behalf of Kildare County Council from 01 January (see page 58).

Flood Response

The Council's crews have been busy over the past week responding to high water levels in the River Liffey due to the quantity of water released from the dam at Golden Falls and Poulaphouca (see pages 60/61).

Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival

A programme of 65 events took place from 29 January to 02 February, delivered by Kildare County Council, local community groups, and partner organisations including Solas Bhríde and Into Kildare (see pages 49/50).

Tree Planting Programme

A tree planting programme is taking place across the county. This will involve the planting of approximately 500 semi mature trees and 400 sapling/hedging (see page 64).

Celebrating Female Entrepreneurship, Resilience and International Growth

The Council's Local Enterprise Office, in partnership with County Kildare Chamber, Network Ireland Kildare and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), delivered the annual Women in Business – St. Brigid's Legacy event on 30 January at Kilkea Castle. Over 140 female entrepreneurs attended this year's gathering (see page 74).



Diary/Calendar

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2025 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2026. It will be brought to Council when complete (see page 18).

Creative and Arts Grants 2026

The Arts Service launched the opening of applications for its 2026 suite of Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards. Deadline 27 February (see pages 13/14).

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

The next meeting of the Climate Action SPC is scheduled for 11 March 2026 (see page 46).

Solar Popup Events

Will be held on 07 March in Naas Library at 10.00am to 1.00pm and 21 March in Athy Library at 11.30am to 2.30pm supported by Life Credit Union and People First Credit Union (see page 50).

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Kildare LCSP has been formally appointed by the Minister. The induction meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 13 February with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, 12 March (see page 50).

Community Grants

Community Grants, including the Drehid Grant, opened for applications at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 January 2026, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 March 2026 (see page 55).



March Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Mar	3 14:00 Audit Committee Prep; Boardroom; Members Calendar 14:30 Audit Committee; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	4	5 15:30 Coiste Gaeilge ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	6 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
9	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	11	12	13 09:00 Kildare ESC Debating Finals ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	17	18 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19	20 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
23 14:30 CPG March 2026 Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	24	25 10:30 County Rural Water Committee; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Committee Room; Members Calendar	26	27
30 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	31	**1 Apr**	2	3



INDEX

News Items **2**
Diary/Calendar **4**
Corporate, Library and Emergency Services **7**
Corporate Services 7
Gaeilge, Teangacha Oifigiúla/ Irish Language, Official Languages 11
Library and Arts Service 12
Health and Safety 15
Fire Service Operations: 17
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance **18**
Finance 18
Innovation 20
Housing and Regeneration **20**
Housing 20
Strategic Projects and Public Realm 22
Integration **36**
Climate, Community, Environment and Water **42**
Climate 42
Community 49
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) 52
Environment 56
Water Services 58
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces **60**
Transport 60
National Roads Office 60
Open Spaces 65
Moorefield Park Playground **65**
Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development **65**
Planning 65
Heritage and Nature 68
Building and Development Control 70
Kildare Fáilte 71
Enterprise and Economic Development 74



Corporate, Library and Emergency Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Housing Focus – Social Media Campaign

Kildare County Council's Communications Team in conjunction with our housing team, delivered a 'Housing Focus' public information campaign. Supported by the LGMA, the social media campaign aimed to highlight the work of local authorities in housing delivery and providing housing supports. Housing Focus, which was delivered across five days, was an information campaign designed to:
Inform the public that councils are actively addressing housing needs
Showcase the range of housing supports and accommodation options available
Demonstrate innovation, quality and community support in housing delivery, build trust in housing activities and planning decisions.

Council's response to Severe Weather

The Kildare County Council SWAT team managed the Council's response to Storm Chandra and the ongoing risk of flooding from the River Liffey and Poulaphouca Reservoir. Communications support of this included daily statements regarding the current situation and the work of our crews across the county to manage the ongoing flood risk. Comprehensive social media content further supported the communications efforts to keep the public and stakeholders informed.

Appointment of David Kelly as New Chair of Into Kildare



The Council has welcomed the appointment of David Kelly as the new Chairperson of Into Kildare, the official tourist board for County Kildare.



Creative Communities Grant 2026



The Council announced the opening of the Creative Communities Grant 2026. The grant is delivered as part of the Creative Ireland, all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme, and designed to inspire and empower people, places, and communities through creativity.

Tugann Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara cuireadh duit Dul Ar Strae le Leabhar Maith do Lá Éire Ag Léamh -Déan ceiliúradh ar an léitheoireacht, Dé Sathairn, 28 Feabhra



Cheiliúir Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara i gcomhar le leabharlanna ar fud na hÉireann an feachtas Éire Ag Léamh - feachtas náisiúnta a bhfuil mar aidhm aige an tír ar fad a spreagadh chun na léitheoireachta agus ar cuireadh buaic-chríoch leis le Lá Éire Ag Léamh ar an Satharn, 28 Feabhra. Trí mheán an fheachtais, atá mar chuid de chlár Éire Shláintiúil an rialtais, déantar iliomad buntáistí na léitheoireachta don fholláine agus taitneamhacht a cheiliúradh agus a chur chun cinn.

Get Lost in a Good Book for Ireland Reads Day - Saturday, February 28



The Council's Library Service joined libraries across Ireland in celebrating Ireland Reads, a national campaign to get the whole country reading, which culminated with Ireland Reads Day on Saturday, 28 February.
The campaign, part of the government's Healthy Ireland programme, celebrates and promotes the many benefits of reading for wellbeing and enjoyment.

Inaugural Spirit of Kildare Awards Honour Community, Creativity and Leadership Across Kildare



Renowned actress, comedian and writer Aisling Bea was among the winners announced at the inaugural Spirit of Kildare Awards. The Awards are a new initiative celebrating the individuals and groups who embody Brigid's values through their contributions to community life across Kildare.

Council Hosts Launch of "Christians in Morocco: Living Together" Exhibition



The Council welcomed His Excellency Lahcen Mahraoui, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Ireland, to Kildare Town Community Library for the launch of the "Christians in Morocco: Living Together" Exhibition. The exhibition aims to put a spotlight on Morocco's singularity as a representation of harmonious living, highlighting Morocco's unique model of peaceful coexistence, where Muslims, Jews and Christians have lived harmoniously together for centuries.

Launch of Did I Ever Tell You - A Tri-County Creative Ireland Health and Wellbeing Project



The Council announced the successful launch of Did I Ever Tell You, a deeply moving new publication capturing the stories, memories, and lived experiences of people in residential healthcare and palliative care settings across Kildare, Offaly, and Westmeath. The event took place on Wednesday, 21 January in the Lusine Centre, McAuley Place, Naas.

Recipient of 2026 'Connect and Gather Award'



The Council's Arts Service, in partnership with Creative Places Athy, announced multidisciplinary artist and cultural producer, Ali Clarke, as the recipient of the 2026 Connect and Gather Award.

Creative Places Athy Award Recipients

A year of ambitious, community rooted creativity for Athy - Kildare County Council's Arts Service announced the recipients of the Creative Places Athy Arts Grants and Awards 2025. These awards mark the beginning of an exciting year of artist-led and community driven creative activity across Athy and the surrounding municipal district.

Boost for Tourism as Five Local Projects Secure Funding



Five regenerative tourism projects in County Kildare have been awarded funding through Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme. The scheme is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the EU Just Transition Fund (JTF).

Gaeilge, Teangacha Oifigiúla/ Irish Language, Official Languages

Deiseanna Traenála Gaeilge d'Fhostaithe Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara





Tá Rannóg na Seirbhísí Corparáideacha i gcomhar le Rannóg na nAcmhainní Daonna ag cur deiseanna oiliúna Gaeilge ar fáil go réamhghníomhach d'fhostaithe Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara. Le linn an earraigh, déanfaidh Gaelchultúr traenáil ar líne a sheachadadh ag leibhéal B1 (meánleibhéal íseal) agus leibhéal B2 (meánleibhéal ard), mar aon leis an Teastas sa Ghaeilge Ghairmiúil ag leibhéal B2 agus C1 (ardleibhéal). Tá léirithe spéise i ranganna A1(glantosaitheoirí) agus A2 (tosaitheoirí) á lorg ó fhosaithe chomh maith agus cuirfear blaschúrsaí don fhoireann ar fáil mar chuid dár gclár Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Agus inniúlacht sa Ghaeilge á méadú go réamhghníomhach agus go straitéiseach feadh na heagraíochta, déantar cuspóirí tábhachtacha faoi An Plean Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge 2024-30 agus faoin An Plean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhísí Poiblí Gaeilge 2026-2028 a chomhlíonadh, agus an chomhairle ag féachaint le cur le líon agus caighdeán ár seirbhísí poiblí Gaeilge.

Irish Language Training Opportunities for Kildare County Council Employees

Corporate Services in conjunction with Human Resources are pro-actively offering Irish language training opportunities to Council employees. This spring term, Gaelchultúr will deliver online Irish language training at B1 level (lower intermediate) and B2 level (upper intermediate), and The Certificate in Professional Irish at B2



and C1(advanced) levels. Expressions of interest in A1(lower beginners) and A2 level (upper beginners) course are also being sought and taster classes at these levels will be offered as part of our Seachtain na Gaeilge programme for staff. Pro-actively and strategically increasing Irish language proficiency across the organisation delivers on key objectives set out under The National Plan For Irish Language Public Services 2024-2030 and The Action Plan for Irish Language Public Services 2026-2028, as we strive to enhance the quantity and the quality of our Irish language public services.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights – Library

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life" (Henry Ward Beecher)

St. Brigid's Day workshops

Kildare Libraries hosted 22 individual events through its library network and supported three events in the Irish National Stud and Gardens, all events were well attended.

New Updates to joining the library

Removal of barriers to membership to make it easier for people to join the library as per Library Development Plan; proof of address not required, providing an Eircode is sufficient.

Moroccan Ambassador launched 'Christians in Morocco' Exhibition in Kildare Library 27 January – to run for month of February – focus on Christians, Muslims and Jews living together in peaceful coexistence.

Outreach to IPAS Centre

Library staff member in Monasterevin arranged a talk in the Hazel Hotel (IPAS Centre) on 15 January – delivered leaflets and advice on resources available at the library. The outcome was very positive with visits and a family joining the library.

Book Launch

Full house in Naas Library on 29 January for Tanya Sweeneys new book 'Esther is Following You' – the interview with Emer MacLysaght will feature as a podcast on Ireland Reads Day. In association with Penguin/Random House



Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland funding submissions complete including possible partnerships with St. Raphaels in Celbridge, EVE/Harvest in Kildare Town and the Curragh/Newbridge family Resource Centres – focusing on inclusion, disadvantage and mental health

Local Studies and Archives

New flyer to promote the County Archives and Local Studies services has been circulated to all library branches.

The Curragh Internment Camp autograph book of Tom Smyth has been digitised and made available online. Over 8,000 census substitutes records compiled by Kildare Local Studies from 2005-2011 have been added to the County Kildare genealogy dataset on www.rootsireland.ie

A final draft of the Kildare County Council Records Management Procedures Manual for Physical File has been completed. Archivist presented on the council's-Files app with the IT analyst developer to other IT staff.

The archivist has been appointed to the Council of the County Kildare Archaeological Society. Archives and Local Studies staff attended the Heritage Forum meeting.

Kildare Arts Service

New Arts Officer

Kildare Arts Service has welcomed Éilis Lavelle as the new Arts Officer. Éilis commenced 05 January 2026 and brings with her over 20 years of experience, creativity, and leadership to the role. Her career spans an impressive breadth of arts roles, including Visual Arts Support Manager at the Arts Council, Creative Director and Founder of Áit Productions, Co-Director of Workhouse Union, Curator/Project Manager for the Wicklow Arts Office Public Art Programme, and Curator/Gallery Manager at Mermaid Arts Centre.

Creative and Arts Grants 2026

The Arts Service launched the opening of applications for its 2026 suite of Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards. With 15 separate grants, commissions and bursaries available, these opportunities are



designed to support artists, creatives, arts collectives, community groups and youth groups across County Kildare in the coming year. Deadline 27 February.

Arts Grants Information Sessions

Kildare Arts Service hosted three Arts Grants Information Sessions on the 14, 15 and 17 January. These took place online (36 attendees), at the Riverbank Arts Centre (17 attendees) and Celbridge Library (15 attendees).

Launch of Did I Ever Tell You - A Tri-County Creative Ireland Health and Wellbeing Project

Kildare Arts Service launched 'Did I Ever Tell You', a deeply moving new publication capturing the stories, memories, and lived experiences of people in residential healthcare and palliative care settings across Kildare, Offaly, and Westmeath. The event took place 21 January in the Lusine Centre, McAuley Place, Naas, and was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare, Councillor Carmel Kelly.

Creative Places Athy Award Recipients Announced

Kildare Arts Service announced recipients of the Creative Places Athy (CPA) Arts Grants and Awards 2025. Funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and Kildare County Council, CPA continues its mission to celebrate and strengthen the cultural life of the town.

CPA Artist Award Recipients:

Angelina Foster, Arthur Greene, Cathy Callan, Ciara O'Keeffe, Eileen Hutton, Elsie Nolan, Emily Rainsford, Ioana Constantin Pipelea, John MacKenna, Kate Park, Martin Malone, Natasha Conway, Nick Bryson and Paul Linehan.

Award Recipients: Cathy Callan, Dave Ryan (InSync), Leish Burke (Griese Youth Theatre) and Virginia Byrne.

Connect and Gather Award Recipient: Multidisciplinary artist and cultural producer, Ali Clarke.



Health and Safety

1. Update of Accident/Incident Database:
    - Accident and Incident record for 2025 now closed:
        - 65 incidents recorded for the year
        - 21 accidents recorded for the year
    - Accidents reported for January – One vehicle accident – Three employees injured- still awaiting completed report.
2. DSE (Display Screen Ergonomic) assessments including blended working assessments:
    - Celbridge Library (one)
    - Riverbank (two)
3. Site Inspections completed in the following areas:
    - Cotton Mills
    - Environmental Wardens
    - Housing – Tenant Liaison Officer
    - Roads – Naas Municipal District
    - Parks Team
    - Gallow Hill Depot
4. Pregnancy Risk Assessments completed:
    - Celbridge Library
    - Housing
    - Finance
5. RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) completed and approved:
    - Cotton Mills- two of each
    - Litter Wardens- seven of each
6. Work Plan developed for 2026 with key objectives -see attachment.
7. Health and Safety Governance Committee Meeting with Uisce Eireann.
8. Proworks meeting to look at implementation across the organisation.
9. Wellbeing/ Health and Safety meeting to discuss plans for 2026.
10. Review of Health and Safety documentation/ event management plans for Brigid Festival.
11. Bank of Toolbox being developed – 20 in total to date.
12. Briefing session on RAMS with Tech Support – 16 attendees.



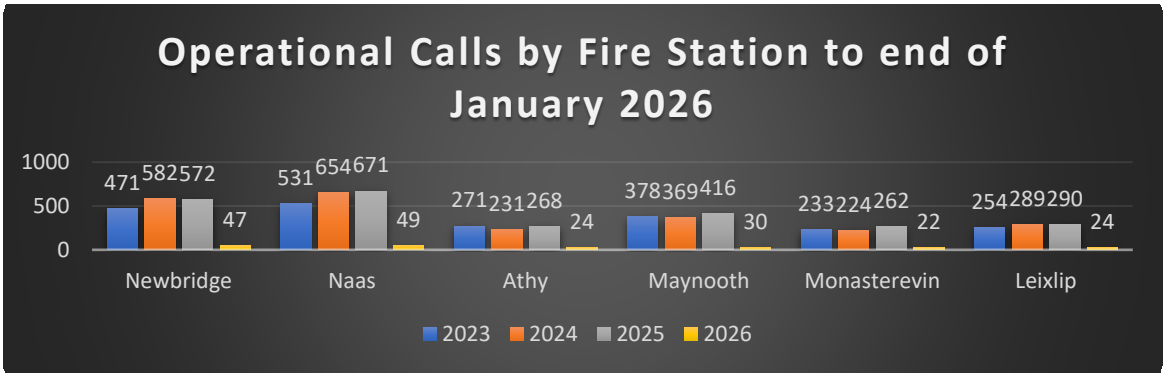
Accessibility:

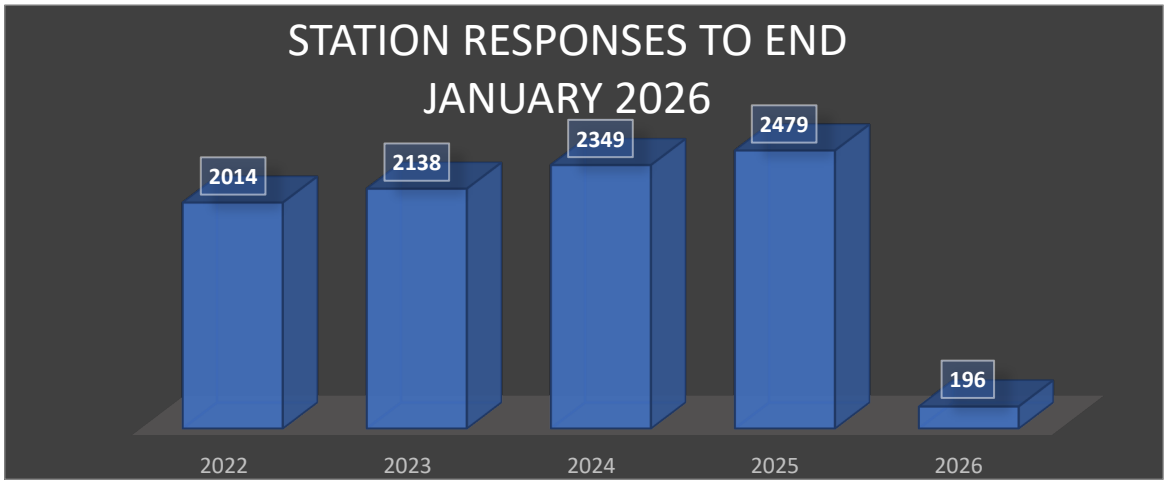
1. Access Group Meetings:
    - Maynooth Disability Access Group
    - Monasterevin Disability Access Group
    - Naas Disability Access Group
    - Celbridge Disability Access Group Meeting
2. Two County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Meetings held
3. Workplan developed for 2026 – see attachment.
4. Meeting with Director of Access at Maynooth University to discuss the possibility of recruiting a student intern with a disability to assist with the work of CKAN.
5. Meeting with Intel –three asks:
    - Provision of funding for Kildare Inclusivity Festival – received €20,000
    - Marketing and Rebranding support for CKAN – agreed.
    - Possibility of Intel staff to volunteer at Kildare Inclusivity Festival- in discussions.
6. Preparations for Kildare Inclusivity Festival:
    - RSA Shuttlebus booked
    - Meeting held with Curragh
    - Cry Choir booked
    - Discussions with KARE re providing inclusive sports
    - Events Parking booked
    - Exploring possibility of developing a sponsorship framework which includes tiered packages, activity-based sponsorships, and zone-based sponsorships. Each model would appeal to different budgets and marketing goals.
    - Libraries booked – providing sensory room, TTT collection and mobile Tovertafel.
7. Meeting with LEO to review and update Accessibility Grant Guidelines.



Fire Service Operations:

2026 Summary: (Note: Figures for previous years indicate full year statistics)





Fire Safety Certificates

Applications received to the end of January 2026 compared with the totals received in previous years.





Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

Finance

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2025 is currently being prepared and will be completed by 31 March 2026. It will be brought to Council when complete.

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 January 2026.

Schedule of Uncollected Rates

The schedule of uncollected rates was completed in January 2026, the total amount collected on Rates for 2025 was €71.8m compared to €67.4m for 2024.

The closing arrears balance has decreased from €6.8m for 2024 to €5.5m for 2025.

The overall collection percentage for 2025 is 94% an increase on the 2024 collection percentage of 92%.

The total amount of rate vacancy adjustments for 2025 is €3.8m as compared to €5m in 2024.

The total amount of rate write-off adjustments for 2025 is €1.4m as compared to €1.1m in 2024.
The total amount of rate waivers for 2025 was €4k compared to €482k rate waivers for 2024.

Rates Demands 2026

- The Rate Demands for 2026 have issued 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

Risk Management

A review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in December. The Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Governance is working with the Sections to complete and document the actions from the review.

Revenue Amnesty - Revenue's Karshan Settlement Arrangement – employee v contractor self-review

On 30 January 2026, Kildare County Council along with all other local authorities issued a liability disclosure to Revenue in accordance with Revenue's settlement opportunity following 'The Revenue Commissioners v Karshan (Midlands) Ltd. t/a Domino's Pizza'.

After undertaking a review of all payments made to individuals engaged by Kildare County Council in a self-employed capacity in the tax years 2024 and 2025, we have identified individuals who were misclassified as self-employed contractors in line with the five-step framework set out in the Karshan ruling. The underpaid tax liability amounted to circa €29k.

Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2026 will be submitted to Council as part of the monthly management report from March onwards.



Innovation

Four Kildare County Council projects that showcase innovation and good practice have been submitted for consideration to be included in the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Good Practice 2026 Event in March.

The projects nominated are:

- Demo House – Climate Action
- Full Circle Furnishing's – Housing and Climate Action
- Play day – Community
- Onboarding app – Human Resources.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Housing Capital



The development of 65 social housing units at Fitzgerald Close, Old Greenfields, Maynooth has now been completed, and the units were formally handed over to Kildare County Council in December 2025.
The scheme comprises a mix of one, two, three and four-bed units, delivered as apartments, duplexes, and houses.

All units have achieved a BER rating of A2, ensuring high energy efficiency and reduced running costs for future occupants.

Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county, operating in all five Municipal District areas.

Engagement with the HSE regarding participation from a member of their Social Inclusion Team has been positively received. It is intended that this collaboration will be introduced on a trial basis during Q1 2026.

Details of upcoming Outreach Clinics are published on our social media channels, and the team can also be contacted during office hours. Phone: 045 980 230.







Emergency Accommodation (EA)

The Council advertised a Multi-Party Framework for the Provision of Emergency Accommodation for families, which went live on eTenders on 01 December 2025 as part of efforts to increase Emergency Accommodation capacity within the county.

The closing date for submissions was 13 January 2026, and tenders are currently being assessed

Private Grant Schemes 2026

The Housing Aid Grant for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme 2026 is now open for applications.

Kildare County Council operates three private grant schemes:

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability

Housing Aid for Older People Grant (including roof repairs, rewiring, replacement doors and windows, and central heating)

Mobility Aids Grant

At the Housing SPC meeting in December 2023, it was agreed by the Elected Members that 60% of private grant funding will be ring-fenced for Housing Adaptation Grants, supporting people with a disability to continue living independently in their homes. The remaining 40% will be allocated to



the Housing Aid for Older People Grant.

These funding allocations and criteria will remain in place for 2026.

Affordable Purchase Schemes

Applications for the following Affordable Purchase Schemes are currently under assessment:
Pierce Park, Newbridge
Barracksfield West, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare
Grattan Park, Shackleton Road, Celbridge

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Newbridge Library and Archives

The tender pack has been issued through eTenders to the five shortlisted contractors. One contractor has withdrawn due to current workload. Tender responses from the remaining four contractors are expected by 02 March 2026.

Clane Library

Stage 4 funding approval is awaited. Letters of successful or unsuccessful tenderers will be issued once this approval is received.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Delivery expected mid to end - February 2026.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Substantial Completion Cert issued 19 Dec 2025 for 64 of the 65 Units. Last unit due mid-February.
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. No further update.
Approval Stage 3		



Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 being prepared
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 being prepared
Ardrew, Athy	73 units + community building	Stage 3 approval received from DHLGH on 18 Nov 2025.
Approval Stage 2		
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Design & Build construction tender issued and tenders due back late March 2026.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Tender for construction works being prepared and scheduled to be launched in Q1 2026.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Part 8 was considered and amended at the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District meeting in May. Site clearance and knotweed disposal to be included in main tender. Claim for additional fees from consultants to be resolved. Tender documents being prepared.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Design and Build construction tender issued and tenders due back March 2026

Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design team preparing design



		options for the site. Potential increase in number of units to around 80 with childcare facility.
Sarto Road, Naas. BIM Pilot	7 units	Single stage application approved by the DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design to be finalised and agreed with planning.

Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	New Single Stage Application proposal submitted to DHLGH for comments: comments received and design to be amended in line with DHLGH comments. Revised single stage application currently being prepared
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q1 2026.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 accepted at February meeting of Kildare - Newbridge MD. Due to significant increase in cost, alternative approach to works to be explored.

Pre-Approval		
Liffey Lodge	TBC	Preliminary design options being progressed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report progressing. Preparation of Stage 1 application to the DHLGH is ongoing.
Kilcock Courthouse	5 units	Revised single stage funding application approved by DHLGH. Tenders for consultants underway to proceed to Part 8.
Canalside, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report issued to Planning. Structural survey received. Single stage funding application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.



Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	Consultants appointed: tender to be prepared. Tender to be issued Q1 2026.
Blklion HS, Maynooth	2 day houses	Single Stage Application proposal submitted to DHLGH for comments: Consultants appointed. Comments received from DHLGH: Revised single stage application to be submitted Q1 2026.
Bothar Bui, Athy	8 units	Feasibility underway. Site investigations to be procured.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and structural survey complete. Survey drawings complete. Feasibility report issued to the Planning Section for comment.
Former Fire Station Site, Maynooth	TBC	Feasibility and design ongoing. Consultation with SPPR and Community Section commenced.
Blacklion, Maynooth	80 TBC	Feasibility underway.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 4 approval received from DHLGH on 27.11.2025: review of costs to be undertaken.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site. 5 new dwellings expected to be delivered by the end of the year, with refurbishment of Glandore House to follow.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18.03.2025. Tender documents being progressed.



PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. PPP Delivery Model under review by DHLGH.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. PPP Delivery Model under review by DHLGH.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Site investigations completed. Part 8 application to launch Q4 2025. PPP Delivery Model under review by DHLGH.
Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation complete. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Part 8 application to launch Q4 2025. PPP Delivery Model under review by DHLGH.

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Part 8 to be considered at the December meeting of Celbridge-Leixlip MD. Part 8 approved 19/12/25. Cluid to hold meeting with MD councillors to discuss various details of scheme. Meeting held with MD and Cluid



CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 4 approval issued 27 Nov 2025 to DHLGH. Contractor appointment by AHB to follow.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Stage 4 approval received. Work ongoing to transfer the site to Cluid.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort, (adj McAuley Place), Naas	45	Part 8 application underway. Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH. Following queries, from DHLGH, the AHB is required to submit a revised information.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10 units & communal building	CAS funding approved. Terms of Heads of Agreement have been signed. Legal process for transfer of units to KCC has commenced.

Acquisitions

	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	96	68	23
Housing Turnkeys	42	89	22
Part V Acquisitions	109	106	158
Total	247	263	203

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge - Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2025	41	21	63	50	28
MTR Delivery 2025 (via CALF and leasing)	0	1	2	10	2
CALF delivery 2025	9	7	2	85	11



Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number expiring 2026	Number Expiring 2027
74	29	45	0

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2024	380	40	376
2025	338	9	338
2026	13	0	13

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31January 2026

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	37	54	69
6 - 12 Months	23	35	57
12 - 18 Months	6	9	12
18 - 24 Months	7	11	11
24 - 30 Months	1	2	4
30 – 36 Months	1	3	2
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	75	114	155



Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 January 2026

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	5	13
6 - 12 Months	1	1	0
12 - 18 Months	3	5	10
18 - 24 Months	2	6	5
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
30 – 36 Months	1	5	1
+ 36 Months	2	3	5
Total	13	26	34

Regeneration

Year	CPOs Commenced	CPOs Awaiting Confirmation	CPOs Confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn/ On Hold	Acquired by Agreement
2024	19	6	10	3	0
2025	11	5	3	2	0
2026	0	5	0	2	0

Year	Vacant Property Grant Applications Received	Vacant Property Grant Approved	Vacant Property Grant Paid
2024	142	119	70
2025	117	94	100
2026	7	3	2



Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties Requiring Further Investigation	Property Owners Engaged With	Pre-CPO Notices Erected
2024	141	104	101	41
2025	164	113	146	29
2026	5	5	3	0

Year	Derelict Site Inspections	Section 8 (2) Notices Issued	Sites Added to the Register
2024	40	26	14
2025	46	31	10
2026	3	0	1

URDF

URDF Call 3	Six URDF Call 3 approved properties have been acquired by CPO. One property has been acquired by agreement and negotiations are ongoing to acquire one property. CPO is in process on one property Derisking/enabling works are complete on three properties, and they are being prepared for forward sale subject to approval of the elected members.

Town Centre First

TVRS	Funding Applications	Applications for Town and Village Renewal funding submitted for Clane and Kilcullen were successful, as follows: **Clane** - remedial and upgrade works to the town centre playground recreational space.



		This project was identified as a priority for the community in the TCF Plan. **Kilcullen** – a project comprising a number of elements including research, design and mapping of amenity, heritage and cultural walking and wheeling trails linking and identifying assets and opportunities. Work has commenced in-house on these projects, and the Town Regeneration Team will continue to work with Town Teams in the delivery of these projects.
Phase 2, Measure 2 TCF Suite of Supports	Castledermot Town Centre First Plan	Preparation of the Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot, in collaboration with the Town Team, is now complete. Launch and publication of final draft in Q1, 2026.
Phase 2, Measure 3 PDM - TCF Suite of Supports	Project Development Measure	GPR and topographical surveys completed. Design is progressing in-house on the various elements of the PDM project and as identified in the Clane TCF Plan.



Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	Landscaping, steel railing installation, grouting and antiskid surface application still ongoing. Contractor currently on site
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Awaiting Part VIII documentation from the consultant
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€25,621,000	DoT/TII and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	**Sallins Link**: Tenders received before Christmas, 9 tenders submitted, consultant currently assessing same. **Waterways Ireland Section**: Awaiting response from contractor regarding design package and pricing document. **Other Sections of Towpath**: Design completed for other sections of towpath. Discussing means of appointing Waterways Ireland



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					to complete towpath works.
Kildare-Newbridge	Newbridge Library and County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	Tender pack issued through eTenders to the 5 shortlisted contractors. **Liffey Lodge** Snagging underway and library staff have started to move library stock in. **Basin Street** Project completed. Library staff move expected week commencing 12 Jan. Additional fitout approved for Archive building where arts team will be housed.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work ongoing to finalise Draft Plan.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Draft Masterplan finalised and is currently under review by the SPPR team prior to going to Senior Management Team



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3)	Pre-Part 8	Surveys completed which will inform the pre-Part 8 design preparation which has recently received RRDF funding received. Awaiting Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement.
	Riverbank	TBC	TBC	Pre-Part 8	Approval received to go to Part 8 with fully inclusive design. Notification issued to Riverbank. Work to commence in Q1 2026.
Athy	Athy Sports Hub Ardrew			Pre-Part 8	Tender assessment is to take place in January.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€23.8m (most recent cost for entire project)		Pre-Part 8	An application will be prepared for the Historic Structures Fund.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved	Town Centre Masterplan	Draft Masterplan finalized and is to be issued to Senior Management Team for review.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			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 for sub projects A, B, C and F.		
	Clane Library	€3,760,000	TBC with Library Department	Tender Stage	Stage 4 approval is currently with the Department for consideration and once approval is received, we will be in a position to appoint a contractor.
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	TBC	Draft Masterplan completed and is to be issued to Senior Management Team for review.



			the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case		
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Final draft is under review by internal departments.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF	Pre-draft Masterplan	Transport and Infrastructure Assessment is being carried out by our consultant and will inform the Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan.

Integration

General

Numbers of New Arrivals

Numbers of new arrivals seeking Temporary Protection in Ireland have declined significantly. The percentage of new arrivals seeking State accommodation is down from 50% to 25%. The numbers in DAC's have reduced to 96 reported on 04 February. Change to 30-day accommodation offer means throughput of people is quicker.

Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

Indications are that the ARP ,will continue for 2026 in line with the Temporary Protection. It is unclear if there will be any change to the current €600 monthly payment.



Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) supports persons who have applied for international protection, persons with status, temporary protection, and programme refugees living in county Kildare. The LAIT has a social prescribed role, acting as connectors with local services and helping newcomers to navigate new civic systems to them. The LAIT supports those in State-contracted accommodation through regular information clinics where they can access information on local services and supports.

From the beginning of the year up to the 06 February 2026 the LAIT has delivered:

- Fourteen one-to-one information clinics in ten accommodation centres and in the community, supporting 68 people (of whom 50 were international protection applicants, five were persons with status and eight had temporary protection).
- Four group clinics around specific topics or addressing common needs in three accommodation centres supporting 39 people (of whom ten were international protection applicants and 29 were persons with temporary protection).

Received 107 and resolved 99 queries.

LAIT activities in accommodation centres in 2025 include:

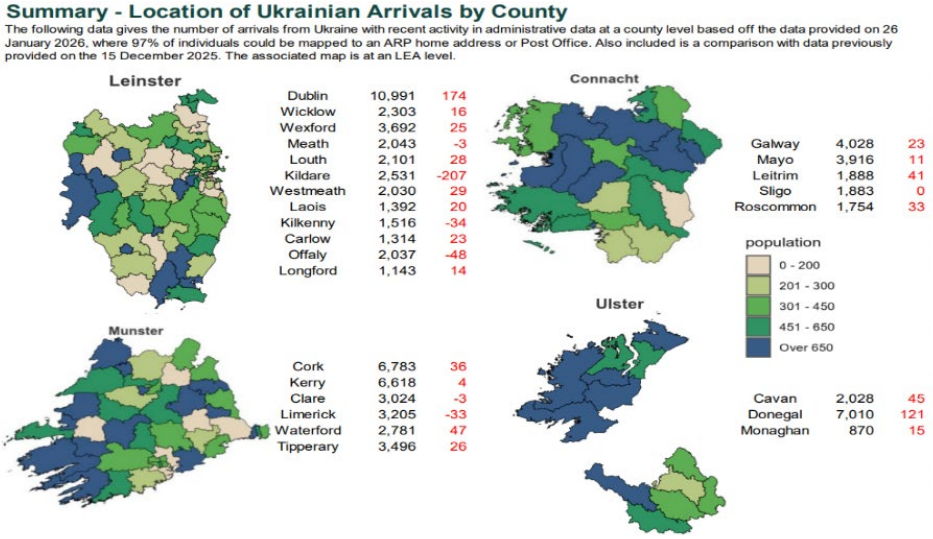
Four weeks of Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Training supporting 20 international protection applicants, persons with status and programme refugees living in North Kildare. This programme was delivered in partnership with DotoBa – Down to Basics. This is a migrant led organisation supporting people from migrant and diverse backgrounds to start, grow and sustain businesses in Ireland.



Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (Ukraine):

The number of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State contracted accommodation in County Kildare: **151** (129 adults/ 26 children).

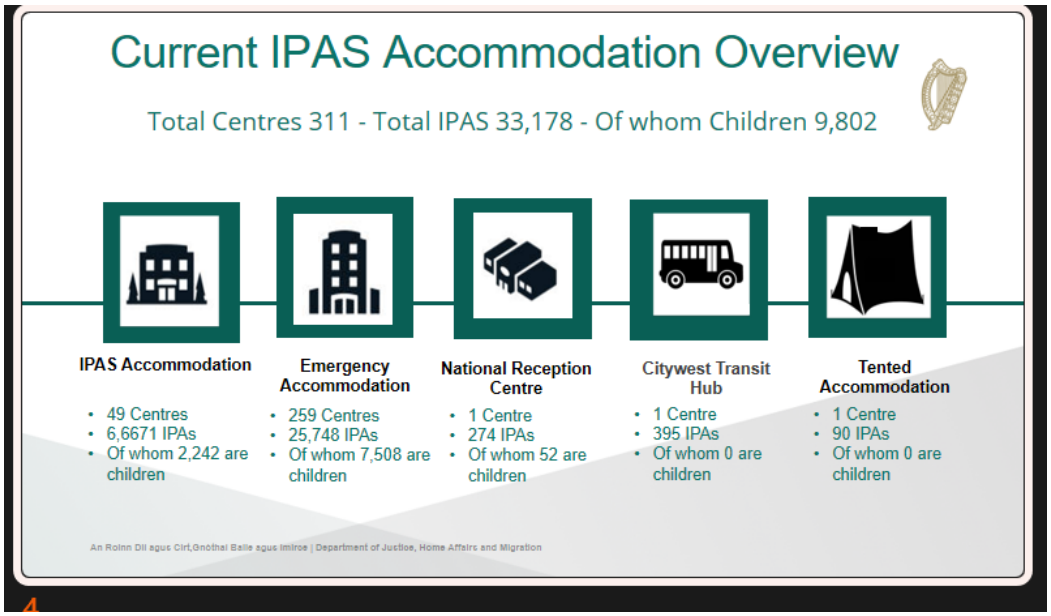
Data source Central Statistics Office 30 January 2026



International Protection Applicants:

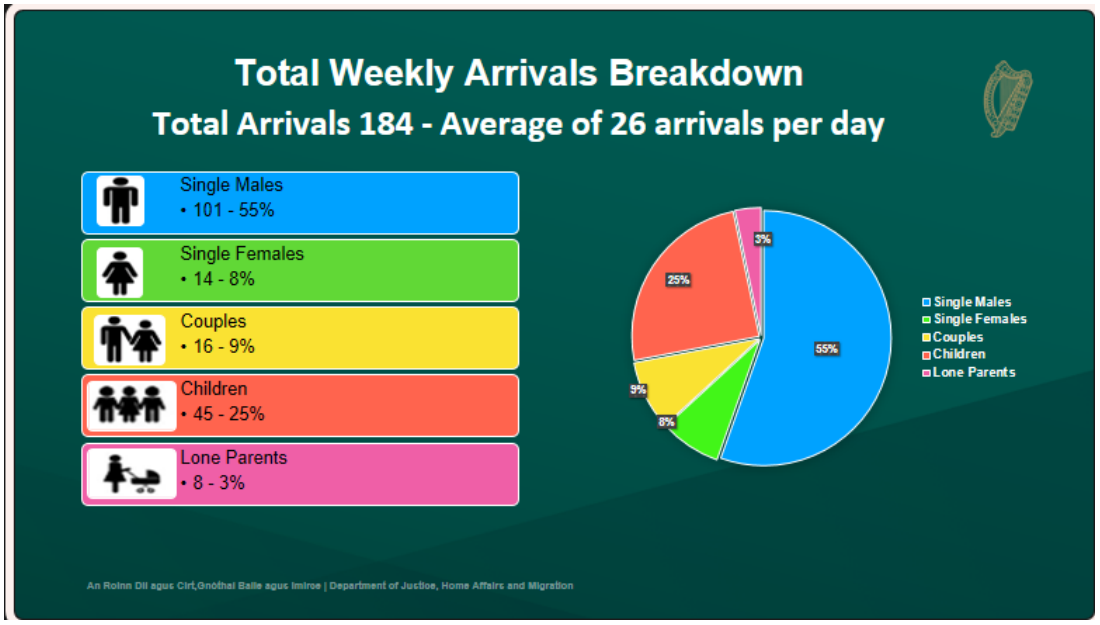
In State contracted accommodation in Kildare: **540** (435 adults/ 105 children)

Data source Department of Justice 01 February 2026



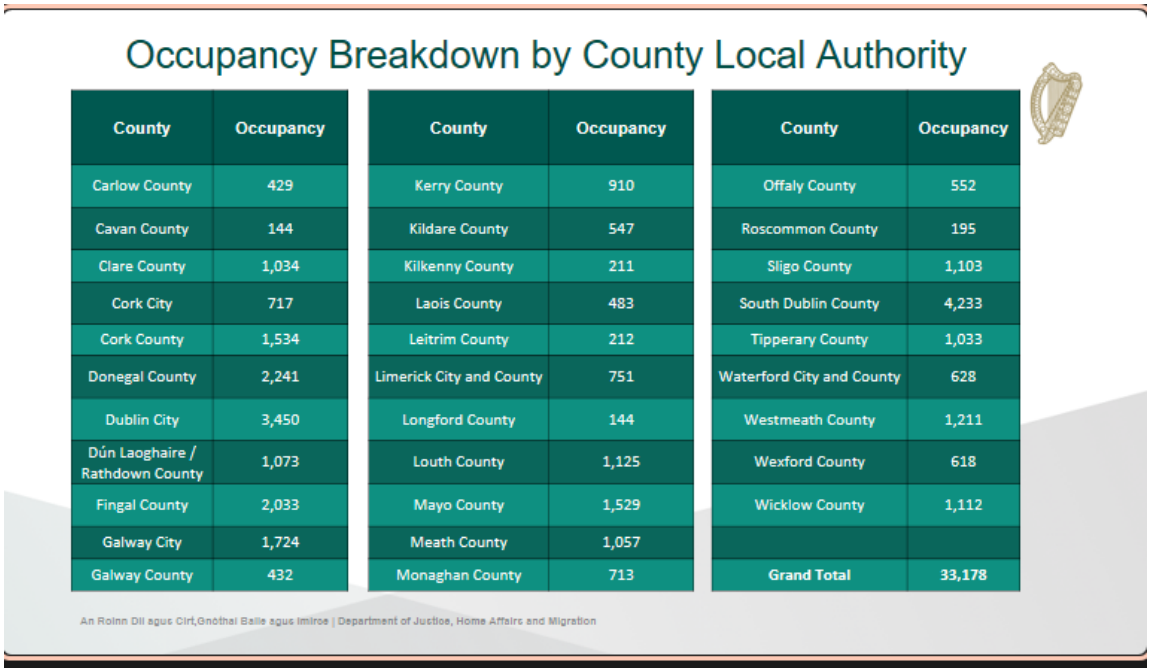
Weekly breakdown of new arrivals

Data source Department of Justice 01 February 2026



Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority

Department of Justice 01 February 2026



County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County	429	Kerry County	910	Offaly County	552
Cavan County	144	Kildare County	547	Roscommon County	195
Clare County	1,034	Kilkenny County	211	Sligo County	1,103
Cork City	717	Laois County	483	South Dublin County	4,233
Cork County	1,534	Leitrim County	212	Tipperary County	1,033
Donegal County	2,241	Limerick City and County	751	Waterford City and County	628
Dublin City	3,450	Longford County	144	Westmeath County	1,211
Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown County	1,073	Louth County	1,125	Wexford County	618
Fingal County	2,033	Mayo County	1,529	Wicklow County	1,112
Galway City	1,724	Meath County	1,057		
Galway County	432	Monaghan County	713	**Grand Total**	**33,178**



International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) is a national programme established by the Government on 10 September 2015 as part of Ireland's humanitarian response to the migration crisis in Europe. Its purpose is to provide safe and legal pathways for refugees (primarily those identified by the UNHCR) to resettle in Ireland.

The IRPP is working with Local Authorities engaged in resettling refugees, following the County and City Management Association's (CCMA) model for distribution for IRPP II, CCMA HBLU IRPP II Model for Distribution. Through this model, Kildare County Council was allocated a quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. Kildare County Council was involved in this programme as far back as 2010.

As of the end of January 2026, the Council has resettled 50 refugees who have been supported to integrate by a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Worker. The remaining families are due to resettle at the end of February 2026, and the project is due to finish on the 18 April 2026. The programme is supported by an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by the LAIT Coordinator, and at national level by the LGMA through a Working Group with all the local authorities participating in the IRPP. Further information is available at: gov.ie - Irish Refugee Protection Programme

Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme

The Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home (OAH) Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The supply of offers for OAH and Pledged accommodation continues to decline. Fortunately, the majority of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving under the new 30-day accommodation protocol have managed to source their own accommodation with very few returning to Citywest to date. A total of 25 people returned to Citywest from all



the six DAC's across the country in January 2026.

- Offered to date: 108 (59 apartments + 49 houses).
- Occupied: 64
- In Progress: 3
- Withdrawn: 41

The Ukraine Services and accommodation team is currently matching properties in rural locations offered by other Local Authority's. Indications from the Minister is that the ARP payment will extend beyond March 2026.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DACs)

DACs were established to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. The change to a 30-day accommodation offer has impacted on the delivery of services to the three DACs in County Kildare. The accommodation and Ukraine services team continue to provide Day-75/14 clinics on a roughly two week basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation.
Capacity at the Punchestown and Newhall DACs contracted by the Department of Justice, Homeland Security and Migration has been reduced. The temporary contract for Newhall has been extended for a further three months.

The Community Integration Forum

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. Membership includes Kildare County Council (LAIT, Accommodation Team, Community Services/Sport Kildare Partnership, Library Services/Creative Communities); Citizens Information Centre; An Garda Siochana; County Kildare Leader Partnership; Irish Red Cross; Kildare County Childcare Committee; Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC); In Sync; Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB); the Regional Education and Learning Team Coordinator (REALT – KWETB); INTREO/Department of Social Welfare; Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS); the HSE Social Inclusion Team; and TFI Local Link.



The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies.
The Community Integration Forum (CIF) meets every two months. A meeting was held on 04 Wednesday February.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

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

The 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 climate. There are 17 local authorities within the EM CARO region.



The CAROs are funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) 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

01 June 2024 marked the start of second phase climate training for the sector. 2026 training programme has planned training under six training pillars with a target of 9,450 over the year. Focus for the year ahead includes:



- Online training on climate science, policy and responses to all staff.
- Green Public Procurement
- Nature–based solutions
- Fire services training
- Other training targeting specific groups will be planned for delivery also.

Permanency of staff business case has commenced with a project board convened. As per the terms of the Project Initiation Document the business case is progressing to maintain, strengthen and secure climate action as a recognised function within the local government sector by: Addressing the permanency of dedicated resources on climate action within the sector i.e. 17 resources within the CAROs, and three resources within each of the 31 LA (Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer). The proposal as a minimum is seeking to regularise 110 staff positions.
Define the governance and working arrangements for the CAROs and three local authority climate resources.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is available on CARO website 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), delivering 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 and are progressing with projects.

- Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI and design team to progress projects.
- South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City and County) continue to progress through design stage towards delivery.



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



The report on 2024 data was published in September 2025. This is the third such report of the Climate Action KPI working group and explores a range of data to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. Report now available at: Climate Action Key Performance Indicators

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



GAA Green Club Programme: The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase three of the Programme sees c.400 clubs working 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.
Work is ongoing to renew the MOU between the CCMA and the GAA to continue and strengthen the partnership.

Kildare Climate Action Office

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.

National Coverage:

The Independent newspaper published an article on all 31 LACAPs. Kildare were interviewed as part of research.

Re-turn Bottle/Can Bin:

Launched in the Canteen and Level 0. Money from the scheme groups and other entities represented by staff monthly.
January is sponsoring Kildare Town Scouts Club.

Community Based Projects:

Community Climate Action Program Fund Round 2:

The application process for Round 2 of funding closed on the 22 December with 36 applications submitted. Assessment of applications is scheduled for late January and the results to be forwarded to the Department for approval or amendment by 20 February.

Under Round 1, the 24 projects approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant are completed substantially with five projects nearing completion.

Climate Design Lab:

To enable Behavioural Change, we need to create fun elements in the



community of Maynooth using nudge and fun theory to change behaviour. Creative Ireland met all parties involved including artists on Friday 14 November to experience the innovations, ideas, art and music associated. They were very pleased with the project's outcomes.
The last installation is due in place at the end of quarter 1/start of quarter 2 2026.

Climate Book Club:

Sadhbh O'Neill one of Ireland's leading environmental activists, launched Climate Book Club in Maynooth Library Tuesday, 28 October with the book title 'Lie of the Land by John Gibbons. The club will run for six months with view to scaling to all libraries over time.
The Book Club is in place in Kildare Town Library also.

+55 Climate Workshop:

Scheduled to be hosted in Naas Library and facilitated by Jacinta Barrins on Tuesday, 24 February. The six day course, and three additional sessions will run until May.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 March 2026.

Picnic in the Park:

Preparations are underway with Maynooth Community Council. Date of the event is 21 June 21 in Harbour Field Maynooth.

Glashouse Energy Hub:

The GlasHouse Hub - Kildare County Council has been successfully launched online, located within the Climate Action Section on the Kildare County Council Website. It provides a breakdown of information on retrofitting a home following the SEAI's Learn, Plan, Do model. This will simplify decision making and financial aspects.

CAP 2024-2029 Implementation Plan Report:

2025 CAP Implementation Report presented at Full Council meeting on 26 January. It is now available on the LA CAP Progress SharePoint page on the Intranet Kildare Climate Action Plan - Progress Dashboard as well as on a Kildare County Council CAP



Implementation Report page on the main Kildare County Council website.

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 Implementation Progress - Kildare County Council.

Maynooth Decarbonising Zone (DZ): Podcast:

Together for a Sustainable Future Podcasts with five of the DZ Climate Champions Awardees were released on 07 January. Aimed at inspiring others in the DZ area to take positive climate, sustainability, and biodiversity action and take part in the next round of the Climate Champions Awards.

Community Garden:

The lease agreement with Maynooth Tidy Towns for a community garden at Harbour Field following the Section 183 approval at Full Council in November 2025 is being progressed and lease is due in February.

Demo House:

Visitor numbers are rising again after the festive season with emphasis on accommodating groups. The ETB Head Future Building Skills Team visited on 16 January with positive feedback and will report in February to the FET Directors of all 16 ETB's.

The Irish Green Building Council (group of 20) are scheduled to visit on 10 Februay.

Energy Updates:

ISO 50001:

We have been awarded ISO 50001 Certification which is valid until 07th October 2028.

Energy Management Team meetings to resume as soon as possible. Surveillance Audit scheduled for June 2026.

Energy Performance Contract

Letter of intent issued to preferred tenderer, Lawler's Sustainability. Contract being finalised by Byrne Wallace Shields LLP. Window Actuators and ventilation are currently being investigated and priced. Pathfinder funding of 50% of the 75% funding has been received.



Energy Audits / Decarbonisation Projects:

Leixlip Library: decarbonising works has commenced. Due to be completed in April 2026.

Athy Library: a trial borehole for ground source heat pump for decarbonisation is completed and we are working with a consultant on a feasibly report.

Athy Municipal District offices: an Energy Audit has been carried out.

Newbridge Library : trying to secure Pathfinder funding for the Energy Efficiency works to the Protected Structure element of the larger capital project.

Clane Library: Pathfinder funding of 50% of the 75% funding has been received from SEAI for the energy efficiency works – i.e. Heat Pump and PV.

Community Facilities: IES Ltd. has been appointed to carry out foue Energy Audits for Community facilities in Newbridge, Kilcullen and Maynooth as well as Monread Community Centre.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting:

The SEAI M&R meter verifications to were completed by 30 January.
Building Register required to be completed as part of M&R.

SEAI Pathfinder Strategic Review:

Request for information on match funding has been returned to enable the SEAI to reinforce their next five-year business case and outlining challenges Kildare County Council will have in meeting finances.
Critical Success Factors Audit
Awaiting the 2026 meeting with the SEAI PSM.

District Heating (DH)

Maynooth District Heating feasibility study in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF. The initial draft is complete, comments have been issued to Codema.

DISCO project continues with peer-to-peer meeting held in December in the Netherlands attended by a team representative and the next meeting is



scheduled for Dublin during April/May 2026.

EV Charging for Kildare County Council Fleet:

The Energy Team is preparing tender for Kildare County Council Fleet EV charging to assist with decarbonising operations.

Solar Popup Events:

Will be held on 07 March in Naas Library at 10.00am to 1.00pm and 21 March Athy Library at 11.30am to 2.30pm supported by Life Credit Union and People First Credit Union. Kildare SEC Mentor and solar PV suppliers available for advice.

Community

Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival



A programme of 65 events took place from 29 January to 02 February, delivered by Kildare County Council, local community groups, and partner organisations including Solas Bhríde and Into Kildare. Public performances such as Luxe Landscape Theatre in Kildare Town and Volkidana in Maynooth attracted strong attendance. The Spirit of Kildare Sessions concert series proved a standout success, showcasing an exceptional range of artists across the St Brigid Festival weekend. Among its highlights was the sold-out homecoming performance by Picture This at Athy's Dreamland Ballroom. The series also featured acclaimed acts including Jack L, Altan, Celine Byrne, Paul Noonan, Lisa Hannigan, and Gurriers, whose performances across unique venues throughout Kildare added energy to the festival programme. The Spirit of Kildare Awards, introduced this year as a new initiative, proved to be a strong success. The awards drew wide community interest, with high levels of nominations and strong attendance at the event. Winners represented a broad mix of local volunteers, artists, and community leaders, highlighting the depth of talent and commitment across the county. The positive response from participants and partners confirmed the awards as a valuable addition to Kildare's annual



calendar, with clear potential to grow in future years.



Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Kildare LCSP has been formally appointed by the Minister. The induction meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 13 February with the first meeting scheduled for Thursday, 12 March. PPN nominees have been received for the final two positions - the youth representative and Kildare/ Newbridge local resident positions. These nominations will be going forward to the Minister for formal appointment to the partnership.

The National Office for Community Safety is leading on the development of the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety. They are inviting the public to contribute to the development of this new National Strategy by taking part in a National Community Safety Survey which is open until 27 February 2026. Click here for more information and to take part in the survey. People have different experiences of community safety. The National Office want to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences living in the Republic of Ireland today. It takes just ten to fifteen minutes and is an opportunity to share your experience and to help public service agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer.

Local Sports Plan



The final plan will be presented to Community, Culture and Integration Strategic Policy Committee on 12 February and to full Council in Q1 2026

Kildare Sports Partnership (KSP)

Kildare Sports Partnership recently completed its Year-End Report for



2025 to Sport Ireland. It was another hugely successful year for the team who directly, or indirectly, reached over 23,000 people through over 80 various initiatives. Many of those participants came from targeted programmes of hard-to-reach target groups, people from disadvantaged communities, people with disabilities, older adults, women in sport, and ethnic minorities. A snapshot of some 2025 highlights include:

Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2025

The inaugural Kildare Inclusivity Festival was held in the Curragh Racecourse in May 2025 and proved to be a huge success.

An estimated 6,000 people turned up for the event which provided a wide variety of fun games and activities, catering for people of all ages and abilities.

This initiative was a partnership between Kildare County Council, Kildare Sports Partnership, County Kildare Access Network, The Curragh Racecourse, Barretstown, and Nua Healthcare.

Fresh Air Fresh Start Programme with Cuan Mhuire

In 2025 KSP partnered with Cuan Mhuire to provide a physical activity component to people in addiction recovery. The impact has been significant with Cuan Mhuire requesting from KSP that physical activity now be embedded weekly in the recovery process moving forward. Over 60 people benefitted in 2025 with this number expected to grow in 2026.

Activator Poles, FitSticks and Seated Exercise Groups

Over 800 people engaged in the Activator Poles, county wide in over eight locations.

120 people utilised the FitSticks Trails in four locations.

Over 200 older adults participated in the adapted/seated exercise groups at six locations.

Back to Basics Physical Literacy for Kildare Preschools

Delivered in partnership with Kildare Education Centre, KSP ran two Physical Literacy courses for 14 Preschool Providers. Twenty-four teachers were trained on the Back to Basics programme with 1,600 estimated as having benefitted because of this programme.



Barrow Blueway Inclusive Sports Hub

Up to 150 people participated in activity at the Barrow Blueway Inclusive Cycling Hub. Expansion of the Hub continues as 2026 will see Inclusive Water Sports now delivered there for the first time.

Safeguarding Training

KSP continue to lead nationally in terms of Safeguarding course delivery. In 2025, 29 courses were delivered which trained over 450 people.

Impact of the new Swim Activator Louise McNamee

The new Swim Activator, Louise McNamee, has had a huge impact since coming on board in 2025, reaching over 4,000 participants in just over five months.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

SICAP Programme:

The SICAP subgroup met on 27 January to prepare for the upcoming LCDC meeting. The SICAP budget for 2026 has increased by 3% to €1,469,013 with an additional €231,664.00 available to support New Arrivals. The submission of the end of year report and Annual Plan 2026 was delayed due to national delays in confirming the budget.

The 2025 End of Year Report was submitted on 19 January and is due to be approved by the LCDC. The subgroup reviewed all the documentation submitted and there was significant work carried out with disadvantaged communities and individuals across the county. Both KPI targets were exceeded.

The 2026 Annual Plan was submitted on 23 January. This builds on the work in 2025. The review of the plan is currently underway, and it is also due for approval at the upcoming LCDC meeting.

Linda Walsh SICAP manager will present to the LCDC on progress 2025 and the plan for 2026.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy –

The plan for 2026 was recently submitted to DRCDG. This is based on supporting designated communities in Athy. The vacant



support worker post is currently advertised.

LEADER

The LEADER subgroup took place on 28 January 2026 to prepare for the upcoming LAG meeting. There are three projects being recommended for LEADER funding at the upcoming LAG. A new development worker post commenced in recent weeks- Ashleigh Byrne.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Maria Healy commenced her permanent role as Sláintecare Local Development Officer. This post is fully funded by the Department of Health. Work continues to support a wide range of projects in Athy with other agencies.

Healthy Ireland

The recruitment process for the permanent Healthy Counties Co-ordinator post is underway. This post is fully funded by the Department of Health. The priorities for 2026 are finalised with the plan based on the €75,000 allocation being submitted to Pobal in January. The progress report 2025 is due in February. The plan for 2026 is based on continuing work with Kildare Sports Partnership on a range of initiatives to increase physical health and wellbeing and through Newbridge FRC, Kildare Traveller Action, Place based planning, Trauma informed conference.

The health and wellbeing subgroup is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, 03 to prepare for LCDC.

Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2026

An allocation of €244,335 has been received from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDG) for small capital grants for community and voluntary groups. This will be overseen by the LCDC and follows Department guidelines and processes. The focus of LEP 2026 is prioritising Community Centres, Family Resource Centres and Youth Facilities, located in or targeting the most excluded in Kildare.

Applications are now invited and it has been widely advertised. The closing date is 27 February. The LEP is included as one of the grants available through Community and information sessions and supports are available.

Child Poverty Action Plan



Kildare is one of four counties that secured funding nationally based on a collaborative application between Children and Young Peoples Services Committee and LCDC. A meeting took place on 20 January in Department of Children to share progress and highlight the process used in the four counties. University of Limerick are evaluating to determine if the work can be replicated nationally. Kildare are focussing on supporting neurodiverse children and their families. This was a very successful event with Kildare highlighted a number of times by Department.

Community Support Centres (CSCs)

A funding application for the provision of four mobile generators (three x100kva and onex30kva) for the county was submitted to the Community Centre Investment Fund Emergency Generator Measure on the 14 January. Once all Community Support Centre designations are fully confirmed, the Council's website will be updated to include information on the facilities available at each location, including kitchen amenities, shower provision, and toilet facilities. Three Kildare County Council Libraries and two Community Centres will function as Community Support Centres should the need arise and work is progressing to engage community facilities and groups in priority geographic areas across the county, with the aim of achieving maximum countywide coverage. Once all locations are listed, an application for funding electrical works to connect the facility to the mobile generators will be progressed.

LECP Update

Current Status

Since the Mid-Term Review (covering 2024–2026) work remains active across all four goals, with many actions currently in preparatory or enabling phases, including design progression, procurement readiness, funding applications, and partner engagement. The Mid-Term Review continues to serve as the primary evidence base and has been formally presented to the Advisory Steering Group and the LCDC, with an updated progress overview also provided to the Economic Development SPC. Hard copies of the full report have been issued to all Elected Members.



To progress towards closure of the current plan cycle:
All LECP action leads will be requested to submit final updates by 31 July 2026 to allow full and timely close-out of the 2024–2026 Implementation Plan.

In parallel, preparatory work for the next three-year Implementation Plan (2027–2029) will begin, ensuring continuity between cycles and alignment with updated priorities, funding streams, and emerging national policy requirements.

Oversight

The Advisory Steering Group continues to monitor the implementation process. The next scheduled meeting is planned for May, where the group will review progress, confirm the July reporting requirements, and discuss early scoping for the 2027–2029 Implementation Plan.

Community Grants

Community Grants, including the Drehid Grant, opened for applications at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 January 2026, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 March 2026.
Applications for funding under the Local Enhancement Programme also opened on 19 January 2026 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 February 2026, in accordance with the relevant funding guidelines.
A Grants Information Evening was held Wednesday, 21 January 2026 in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara. Additionally, Community Grant Workshops will be held in each of the Municipal Districts commencing from 03 February.

Community Development

January marked the conclusion of our Food for Thought Age Friendly Pilot Programme. Thirteen participants began the programme in November, and all thirteen completed it — a fantastic outcome that reflects both participants commitment and the quality of the programme delivered. This was an interagency collaboration that included Age Friendly Kildare, the Community Team, Kildare Sports Partnership, and Kildare Leader Partnership. Participant feedback was very positive, with comments such as “Coming in to meet new people and to get more active” and “Overall very



productive and most enjoyable. My first ever course."

Environment

Tidy Towns

Kildare's tidy towns groups performed extremely well in the 2025 National Tidy Towns Competition with eleven towns winning a gold medal and Broadford winning a silver medal. Naas was once again the county winner. While Johnstownbridge was recognised with an endeavour award.

An information event for all Kildare Tidy Towns Groups was held on Wednesday, 11 February in the Council Chamber. Three speakers delivered presentations covering topics including the grant application, biodiversity and sustainability among others.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025

Ireland's Best Kept Town is an all-island competition in which some of the best towns in the national Tidy Towns competition compete against their counterparts in Northern Ireland's Best Kept competition.

Naas won the award in the Best Kept Large Urban Centre category and was also crowned the overall winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town competition.

CCTV

The CCTV camera scheme at the recycling banks at Edmund Rice Square in Athy has been extended for six weeks.
The scheme has proven successful in identifying and fining polluters.

Recycling Facilities

A new Bring Bank Centre is up and running in Allenwood. It's located in the ACDAL Centre on Station Road.



Pickers Pals



The Picker Pals programme which is supported by Kildare County Council has been in operation in the region since 2020. In the 2024-25 school year over 67 classrooms were engaged by the programme. To date, the programme has been delivered to 90% of all schools in County Kildare. Funding for the programme has been confirmed by Minister Darragh O'Brien for 2026.

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive.

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

Flood Risk Management

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.
Details of the scheme can be found at: https://www.morellfms.ie/

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals



for columbarium walls is currently being reviewed in line with funding availability.

Columbarium Walls

Columbarium walls have been completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries. Works on provision of columbarium walls at Donaghcumper cemetery in Celbridge and Monasterevin Cemetery have commenced. It expected the works will be complete by mid March.

Footpath works are also taking place within the grounds of Kilshanroe cemetery.

The Council provided a free service to the public where they can bring their real Christmas trees to be recycled in a sustainable way. In total, there were seven sites across the county where the service was provided. The sites were open from Monday the 05 January till Monday the 19 January 2026. In total, 134 tonnes of trees were collected.

Grant funding

Applications for grant funding under the Tidy Towns and Cemetery Maintenance grants are now open. The closing date for both applications is 30 March.
Information clinics are being held to assist groups with their applications.

Veterinary Services

A new service provider, Midland Animal Care Limited., has taken on the operation of the dog warden service on behalf of Kildare County Council from 01 January.
A new social media page to assist with the dog rehoming page has been set up on Facebook and has been advertised.

Water Services

Service to Elected Members -

Elected members queries will continue to be dealt with via the Local Representative Support Desk (LRSD) as follows:
By Phone: 0818 178 178
By Email: localrepsupport@water.ie
By Post: Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork.
Notices of Motion and Councillors Questions: councilmeetings@water.ie



Uisce Éireann Regional Communications team provide regular updates concerning upcoming projects in the area and planned works on the Uisce Éireann website at https://www.water.ie/?map=supply-and-service-updates

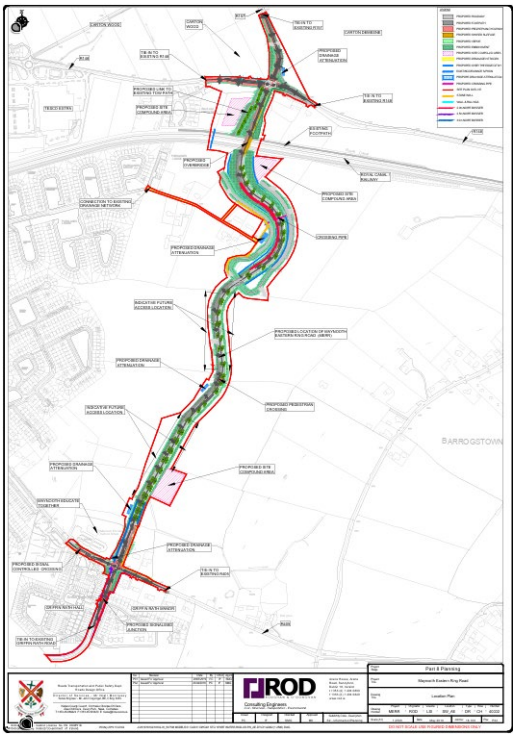


Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR)

The contractor has recommenced works on site following the Christmas break. Site fencing, site clearance, topsoil strip and road construction activities will take place this month however progress has been impacted by the weather conditions.



Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

Several submissions have been received by An Coimisiun Pleanála (ACP)in respect of the application for consent and the compulsory purchase of land. Response issued to ACP on 13 February 2026.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Road Safety Audit report has been received and the additional work required following the audit is currently being scoped.

Junction Programme

The Section 38 consultation period for Allenwood and Blackwood Cross (Dag Weld's) commenced on 03 February and will close on 09 March 2026.

National Roads Office

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Scheme

Construction ongoing, outstanding tasks are the completion of the ITS system and installation of noise barriers. Changes to legislation are required to allow Bus to run on the hard shoulder and the draft amendment to the legislation are with the department for approval by the minister.

M9 Park and Share sites:

Works progresses on the M9 Park and Share sites at Junctions 3,4 and 5.



Junctions 3 and 4 are in Kildare and the NRO are preparing the feasibility and options report and are currently identifying possible locations where land can be acquired by agreement.

N7 Bus Priority Measure (Feasibility Study)

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have been requested by the NTA to undertake a feasibility study on the suitability of a Bus Priority Measure Scheme for the N7. TII have engaged the MMaRC to undertake this study looking at the extents from Junction 7 to Junction 2 – inbound only.

TII Grant Allocations 2026:

TII Grant Allocations for 2026 yet to be announced.

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

The Council has commenced the process for the introduction of special speed limit by laws for built up areas in accordance with the updated mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document, published by the Department of Transport.

A comprehensive public consultation process is expected to occur during Q3 2026.

Bike Week 2026

Applications for funding now being assessed for bike week scheduled for May 2026.

Operations

Department of Transport allocations yet to be announced.

Municipal District engineers preparing schedule of works for Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance programmes.

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).

Flood Response

Kildare Count Council crews have been busy over the past week



responding to high water levels in the River Liffey due to the quantity of water released from the Dam at Golden Falls and Poulaphouca. The water levels in a number of areas of Newbridge alone with Clane and Celbridge were monitored on an ongoing basis. Sandbags were delivered to a number of locations and return flows from the river through the drainage system were abated. There are currently a number of properties being monitored and sandbags are in place.

Public Lighting

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

Winter Maintenance

Salting runs covering the ten Winter Maintenance Routes were carried out throughout January. The crews did a total of 29 runs on 17 nights this month with multiple double runs and one triple run on the 03 January.

Regional Salt Barn

The Regional Salt Barn is in operation with a busy few weeks with salt loaded and dispatched to Laois, Carlow, South Dublin and Dublin City with ongoing orders in place for the coming weeks.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

Applications are now being accepted for the above schemes for the improvement of non-public roads (LIS) and public roads (CIS).

Sustainable Transport

Details of the 2026 Active Travel and Bus Stop Enhancement Funding Allocations from the National Transport Authority are included in the table within this report.

Significant Updates

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Tender for construction delayed due to complex drainage requirements to provide a scheme consistent with Sustainable Drainage System. A decision on the timescale for tendering of the project will be made and



communicated before the end of Q1 2026.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

Completion of the draft preliminary design delayed due to requirement to include new active travel bridge to the west of the existing traffic bridge in Sallins Village. A decision to proceed with the scheme in segments will be made and communicated before the end of Q1 2026.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026. A further briefing session with elected members will be organised in advance of the public consultation process.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

The designers of the scheme are examining the independent post opening safety review of the scheme and a briefing with elected members is planned in Q1 2026.

Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme

Construction documents are due to be ready for Phase 1 of the works in Q1 2026.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Draft Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme are being submitted to the National Transport Authority for approval.
The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026 and a briefing was held with elected members on this project.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Work has commenced on the provision of bus stop infrastructure at Local Link Routes across the county.
The Council is expecting the delivery of new bus shelters from the National Transport Authority during 2026.



Table of NTA Active Travel and Bus Stop Enhancement Allocation for 2026.

Project Number	Project Name	2026 Allocation
KCC/13/0008	Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth - FCC Boundary)	€600,000
KCC/17/0005	Green Lane Active Travel Scheme	€870,000
KCC/20/0001	Naas to Sallins Greenway - Section 2: Naas Harbour to Sallins	€50,000
KCC/21/0001	Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme	€100,000
KCC/21/0003	Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme	€1,000,000
KCC/21/0011	Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme	€800,000
KCC/21/0013	Celbridge Active Travel Bridge	€50,0000
KCC/22/0002	Active Travel Staff Costs 2025	€900,000
KCC/22/0004	Monread Road Active Travel Scheme	€25,000
KCC/22/0005	Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme	€1,000,000
KCC/22/0009	Monasterevin Town Active Travel Scheme	€50,000
KCC/22/0013	Newbridge Main Street Active Travel Scheme	€200,000
KCC/23/0027	SRTS Round 2 - Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's, Newbridge	€150,000
KCC/23/0028	SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phádraig, Clane	€150,000
KCC/24/0004	Mill Street Active Travel Scheme	€1,700,000
KCC/25/0010	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme	€500,000
KCC/25/0001	SRTS (R3) - Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous	€350,000
KCC/25/0011	Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme	€525,000
KCC/25/0012	Dublin Road Naas Connector Active Travel Scheme	€400,000
	SRTS (R4) Ardscoil Rath Iomghain, Rathangan	€20,000
	SRTS (R4) Maynooth Educate Together NS	€20,000
	SRTS (R4) Scoil Eoin Phoil, Green Lane, Leixlip	€20,000
	SRTS (R4) Scoil Íde Naofa, Kilmead, Athy	€20,000
		€9,500,000



Open Spaces

Tree Planting Programme

A Tree Planting Programme is taking place across the county. This will involve the planting of approximately 500 semi mature trees and 400 sapling/hedging.

Lakeside Park, Dara Park Open Space, Newbridge

490 online surveys and 73 paper surveys were completed as part of the public consultation that closed the end of January. The information and opinions detailed in these will be used to inform the development of a masterplan for the open space.

Caragh Court Road Roundabout

Work on this was tendered and is due to begin in late Spring.

Moorefield Park Playground

Tenders for this work have been marked and the award process is ongoing to appoint a contractor.

Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

Several variations to the development plan were brought forward in 2025, including:

- The PMAs in respect of Proposed Variation No. 2 (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) were published on 06 January 2026.
- The Chief Executive Report for proposed Variation No. 3 (Revised NPF) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) was issued to the Elected Members on 19 December 2025 with a Special Council Meeting which took place on 23 January 2026.
- Settlement Plans are also being prepared for Monasterevin, Sallins, and Kilcock in 2025. These will all form Variations to the Kildare County Development Plan*.



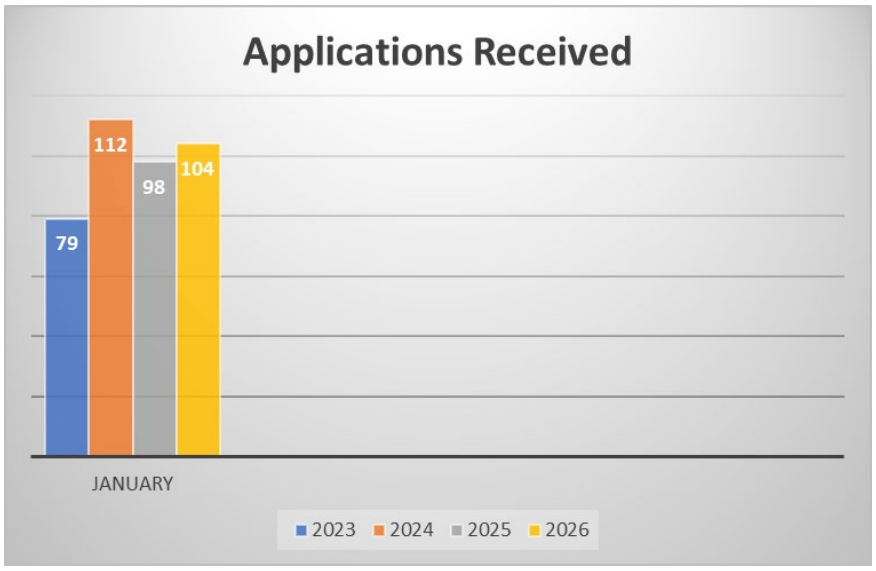
County Development Plan Actions

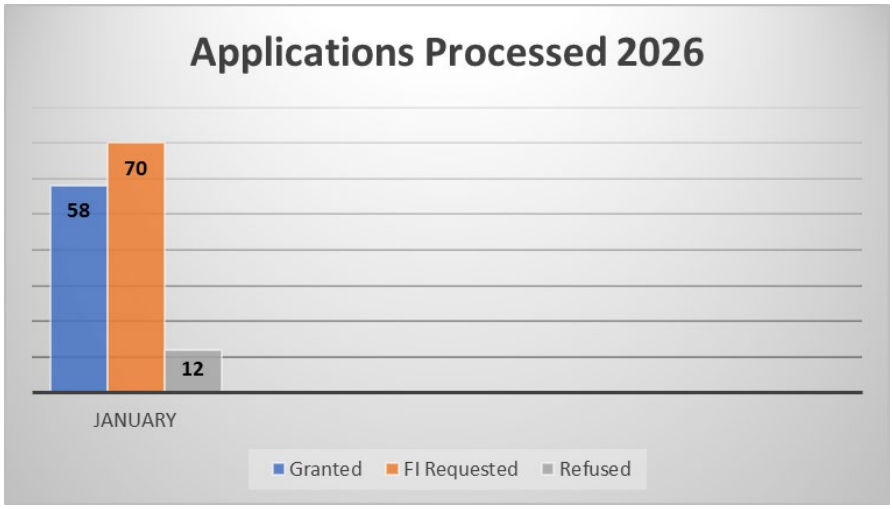
A range of projects are being progressed, including Active Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Employment Locations Study; Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; and Landscape Character Assessment.

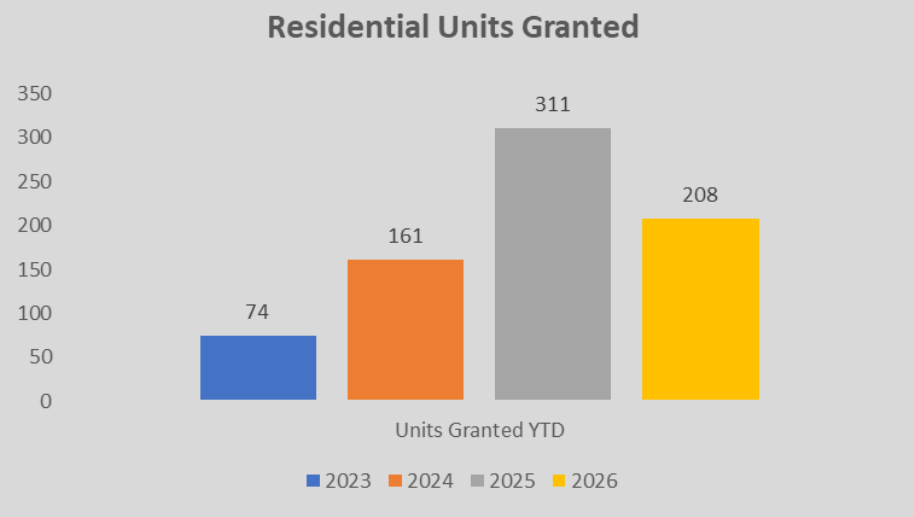
Development Management

ePlanning

In 2025, 89% of all applications received were via the online planning portal, an increase of 11% on 2024. 98% of submissions/observations continue to be submitted via online ePlanning.







Pre-Planning

16 new Pre-Planning requests were submitted in January.

Section 5s

Six Section 5 Declarations requests received in January.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications					
Ref No.	**Date Received**	**Applicant**	**Development Address**	**Proposed**	**Decision**
2561119	02/10/2025	Cozone Ventures Ltd	Railpark, Maynooth	581 Residential Units & Neighbourhood Centre	FI Requested 25/11/2025
2561468	19/12/2025	Maynooth Montane Ltd	Railpark West, Maynooth	139 Residential Units & Creche	Decision Due 21/02/2026

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

An Coimisiún Pleanála issued a decision to refuse a Strategic Housing Development application on 02 January 2026. The application was for a development of 344 residential units at Ballyoulster, Celbridge, application number 22313825.



Two Strategic Housing Development Applications, lodged between June 2022 – January 2023, remain outstanding with An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Heritage and Nature

A. Biodiversity / Ecology

- Biodiversity Action Plan – Due for approval at Full Council on 30 March 2026
- NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund, 2026, applications currently underway (€115,621.41)
- Ballynafagh SAC Baseline Ecological and Hydrological Surveys – Tender published on etenders. Issue arose regarding NPWS possible duplication of tender and ongoing clarity around ownership of Ballynafagh.
- An Ecological Capacity Building Programme for Planning and wider KCC underway for the Planning Department and wider Kildare County Council. Commencing Week one of March 2026.
- Green Infrastructure Strategy - Ecologist is preparing tender.

B. Heritage and Conservation

- Heritage Plan – due for approval at Full Council on 30.03.2026.
- Feighcullen Woodland Creation on Public Lands - Planting, habitat and biodiversity plan received on 04.02.2026. Planting due to commence March.
- Community Heritage Grants - Closing date 27.02.2026 (42,000)
- Community Monuments Fund - Moone Abbey Tower, St. Brigid's Cathedral, Carbury Castle, Dunmanogue Church Ruin, St. David's Church - Assessment Team meeting on 11.02.2026 to recommend three public and two private sites.
- ACO preparing two. Multi Party Framework Tenders for small scale and large-scale Conservation Architectural and Engineering Services to support ACO role and to support larger projects e.g. Thrive, Moore Abbey etc.
- BHIS and HTB- 23 applications approved (total €230,804.00 + €13,334.00)
- Historic Structures Fund – Applications submitted for The Wonderful Barn, Lodge Park Straffan, St. David's Church Tower Naas, Healy's Old Post Office Prosperous.
- Heritage Stewardship Fund- Application submitted for



Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Monasterevin.

Kildare Land Activation Office

Land Activation

The new team's focus is to accelerate the delivery of housing-led strategic developments across the County, including Confey in Leixlip and Naas North-West Quadrant, as well as advancing a wide range of other strategic developments that have the potential for delivery of housing, with a focus on early delivery. The team will co-ordinate bids for funding under the Town and City Fund, for which the funding call is expected imminently with the aim of accelerating housing delivery through the delivery of enabling infrastructure, with a focus on short-term delivery. The team is in the process of establishing working relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, including developers, utilities, and state / semi-state agencies.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant Framework Masterplan

The Delivery Strategy for the project is under preparation, including phasing, infrastructure, delivery, costings, viability, funding and finance strategy. The target is to finalise the Framework Masterplan by March 2026 for incorporation into the statutory planning framework in 2026. The completion of the Delivery Strategy will be twin tracked with the statutory plan-making process.

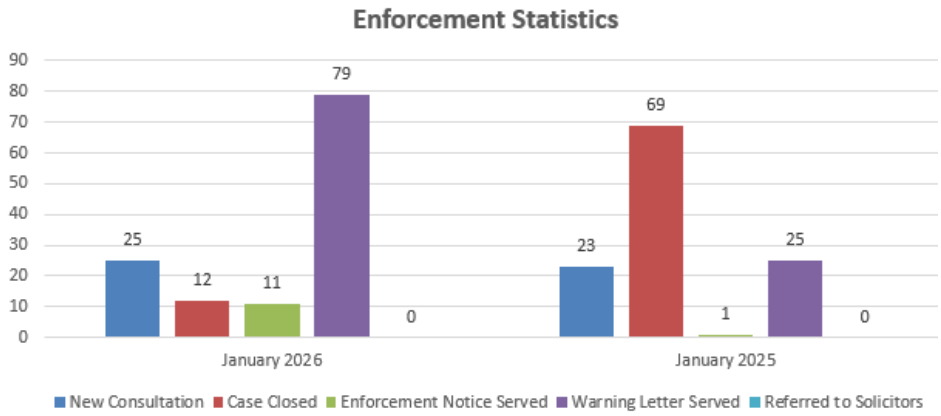
Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan

The Masterplan and its Programme Business Case are being updated following Kidare County Council Direction agreed by SMT in November

Planning Enforcement

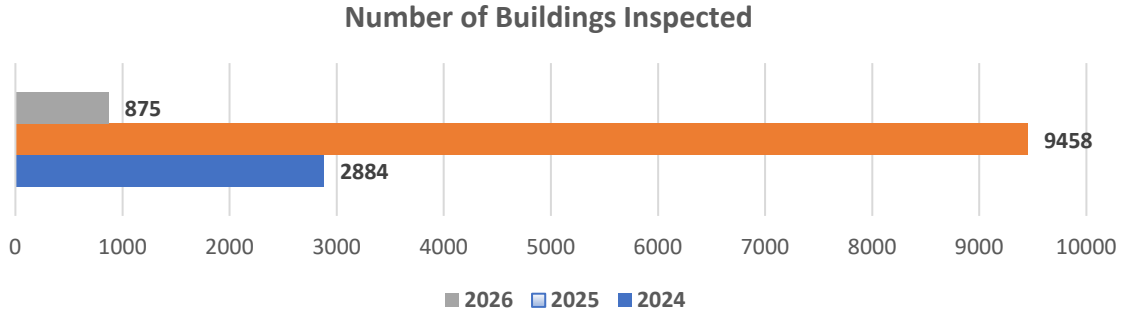
Summary for January 2026

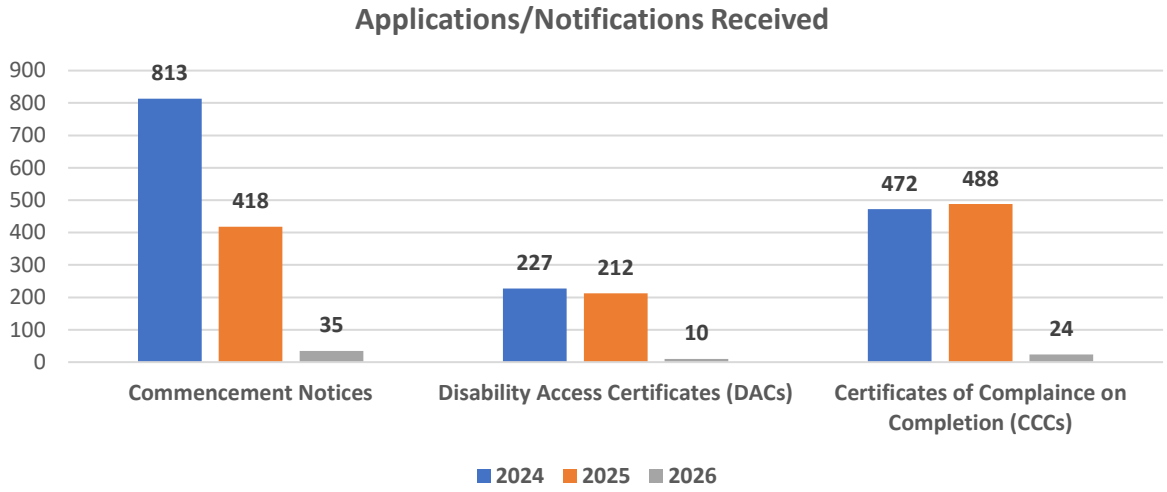
25	New Consultations
12	Cases Closed
11	Enforcement Notices Served
79	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors



Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of January 2026 set against full year figures for 2024 and 2025.





Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

January focused on strategic tourism planning, national and international promotion of County Kildare through St. Brigid's Day events, and preparations for major events scheduled for 2026, including the official announcement of the return of Taste of Kildare. Strong collaboration continued with key stakeholders including the Embassy of Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, local authorities, and international partners to position Kildare as a leading tourism destination.

Into Kildare attended a series of Horse Country Destination workshops, which focused on the International Sales Strategy and provided key updates.



Thoroughbred Country event at Club at Goffs

Into Kildare attended the Tourism Ireland Marketing Plans launch and overseas business exchange, where strategic priorities were outlined to deliver targeted promotional programmes across 15 overseas markets in 2026.



Kildare Tourism Trade and Into Kildare

Into Kildare held key meetings with Tourism Ireland officers in key markets worldwide, discussing opportunities and partnerships for 2026.



Alice Mansergh, CE of Tourism Ireland and Into Kildare

The team was delighted to attend the launch of the thirty third 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 and other key events.



St. Brigid's cards and crosses were also prepared and distributed to embassies worldwide, where they were very well received

The first Members Event of 2026 took place in Kilkea Castle during January. The event was a great success, with strong attendance and positive member engagement.

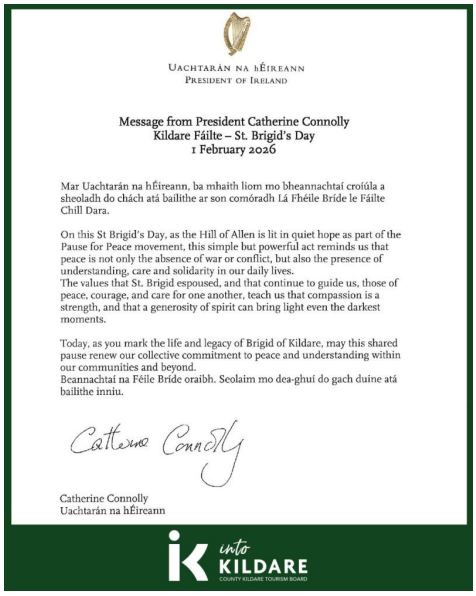


Into Kildare with Members

The session provided an opportunity to update members on key developments, including plans for the new Into Kildare website, which will feature an enhanced members portal to support improved communication, resources, and engagement. Upcoming member events and initiatives for the year ahead were also outlined, reinforcing ongoing collaboration and member value.



Into Kildare reached out and secured a letter of support from the President, along with a video message from Taoiseach's Michael Martin. This collaboration underscored the day's significance and promoted the Pause for Peace movement, highlighting the importance of unity and reflection.



Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

Message from President Catherine Connolly
Kildare Fáilte – St. Brigid's Day
1 February 2026

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann, ba mhaith liom mo bheannachtaí croíúla a sheoladh do chách atá bailithe ar son comóradh Lá Fhéile Bríde le Fáilte Chill Dara.

On this St Brigid's Day, as the Hill of Allen is lit in quiet hope as part of the Pause for Peace movement, this simple but powerful act reminds us that peace is not only the absence of war or conflict, but also the presence of understanding, care and solidarity in our daily lives.
The values that St. Brigid espoused, and that continue to guide us, those of peace, courage, and care for one another, teach us that compassion is a strength, and that a generosity of spirit can bring light even the darkest moments.

Today, as you mark the life and legacy of Brigid of Kildare, may this shared pause renew our collective commitment to peace and understanding within our communities and beyond.
Beannachtaí na Féile Bríde oraibh. Seolaim mo dea-ghuí do gach duine atá bailithe inniu.

Catherine Connolly
Uachtarán na hÉireann

into KILDARE

Support letter from the President

Into Kildare secured a competition slot on RTÉ's The Late Late Show as part of the "one for everyone in the audience" segment, providing valuable national exposure. The segment showcased the Curragh Racecourse, Punchestown Racecourse, and Naas Racecourse, alongside the Shackleton Experience, Irish National Stud and Gardens, and Taste of Kildare.



Tickets for Late Late Show to Shackleton Experience

On the eve of St. Brigid's Day, 31 January, and on 01 February, Into Kildare will coordinate the annual lighting of the Hill of Allen and Cupidstown Hill, marking this significant moment in the county's calendar of celebrations.
Plans are in place to enhance the event through a live stream across Into Kildare's social media platforms, with a focus on achieving strong reach, impressions, and engagement, and fostering high levels of community participation and collaboration.
Engagement with RTÉ News has also been arranged for St. Brigid's Day, with the Into Kildare team facilitating RTÉ's presence at the Hill of Allen to support coverage of the Pause for Peace initiative.
The Light Up Kildare event at the Hill of Allen will also serve as a key platform to promote the Pause for Peace initiative, encouraging participation from both local communities and visitors.



Into Kildare, in partnership with Tourism Ireland and the UAE embassy sponsored an Irish Race Day on St. Brigid's Day at Jebel Ali Racecourse, celebrating the strong and longstanding racing and cultural links between Ireland and the UAE. The event created a strong opportunity to promote Ireland and County Kildare to a wider international audience, with interviews conducted by CEO Áine Mangan with a range of media outlets. Into Kildarw also sponsored the "Taste of Kildare" race, delivering strong Kildare branding opportunities, and The Curragh Racecourse were also in attendance supporting Kildare's rich horse racing heritage.



Into Kildare presenting winning prize

Enterprise and Economic Development

2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 05 February 2026	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Grow Digital Voucher	2	€8,580
Business Expansion Grant	0	€0
Priming Grant	0	€0
Feasibility Study Grant	0	€0
Market Explorer Grant	0	€0
Gradstart	0	€0
IP Start Grant	0	€0
Energy Efficiency Grant	3	€22,489
TOTAL	**5**	**€31,069**



Entrepreneurship Support

Focus On Start-Ups

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office schedule for Training and Events 2026 is published on our website. To see our range of supports including Start Your Own Business programmes and Tax and Bookkeeping workshops please visit: https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/

Focus On Exports and Women In Business

Celebrating Female Entrepreneurship, Resilience and International Growth

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, in partnership with County Kildare Chamber, Network Ireland Kildare and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), delivered the annual Women in Business – St. Brigid's Legacy event on 30 January at Kilkea Castle. Over 140 female entrepreneurs attended this year's gathering, which celebrated leadership, innovation and resilience — key qualities supporting business growth at home and in international markets.

The event also launched the She Succeeds 2026 programme, strengthening supports for women-led enterprises and aligning closely with EEN's mission to help SMEs grow internationally through export advice, EU partnerships and innovation support services. Dr. Geraldine Osborne, keynote speaker, inspired attendees with reflections from her Arctic exploration, reinforcing the theme of resilience as a cornerstone of entrepreneurship and export ambition.

Key Achievements

- Delivered a high-impact regional event celebrating female entrepreneurship and business resilience.
- Successfully aligned She Succeeds 2026 with EEN supports, enhancing opportunities for women-led SMEs pursuing export growth.

Strategic Alignment

Strengthens Sustainable Communities and Economic Development by equipping Kildare's entrepreneurs — particularly women-led SMEs — with pathways to EU markets, innovation resources and export partnerships.



Upcoming Priorities

- Promote She Succeeds 2026 activities and EEN export services.
- Track business engagement and identify SMEs ready for Internationalisation supports.

Forward Focus

Prepare women-led enterprises for 2026 international missions and EU brokerage events, enabling them to secure new partnerships and export opportunities.

Focus On Craft

A full programme of training support for 2026 has been developed for the craft cluster beginning with a sold-out workshop on 'Pricing and Profitability' on 17 February.

Focus On Food

Following the Request for Quotation published on the Local Enterprise Office website seeking mentoring services for food and beverage producers, the procurement process has progressed positively. A strong response was received, with nine high-quality applications submitted by experienced food consultants.

These applications are now under active review as part of the selection process for the Food Mentor Panel. The calibre and depth of expertise represented among the applicants reflects strong industry interest and positions the programme well to provide impactful, specialist support to emerging and scaling food businesses in Kildare.

Leadership Development

The Advanced Leadership Development Spring programme for Established Entrepreneurs commences 24 February. For further information please visit: https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/advanced-leadership-development-programme-for-established-entrepreneurs-spring-2026.html

As part of Operation Excellence – Simplify, Standardise, Sustain course several Kildare-based businesses took part in a site visit to Adman Steel Sheds in Wexford on 23 January. The visit offered practical insights into efficient operational practices and process improvement. With workshops now underway, participants are reflecting on these observations while

exploring how leadership culture and mindset can drive continuous improvement and support a long-term, sustainable approach to operational excellence within their own businesses.





Economic Development

Retail Supports

A series of Roadshows and Municipal District visits is taking place to during February to promote Kildare County Council wide support in 2026 in the lead up to Enterprise Week in March. These free sessions are designed to support high-street and town-centre businesses by showcasing a range of grant schemes, financial supports, and business training opportunities available to eligible enterprises across County Kildare.

Tourism

Kildare County Council is working with IntoKildare, Laois County Council and Waterways Ireland to develop tourism itineraries and business supports for the Barrow Blue Way as part of the Barrow Blueway accreditation.

European Funded Projects

Repower Regions – Erasmus+ Project

Kildare County Council, in partnership with 11 European organisations, continues to advance the Erasmus+ Repower Regions project, supporting regional cooperation and green-skills development in the heating and cooling sector.

Key Achievements

Updated module specification templates are now aligned with quality-assurance standards and learner profiles, with partners progressing the final activity components needed to assemble the full curriculum.



- Social media and dissemination activity remains strong, with partners sharing the Landscape Analysis press release, new translations, and event-based content generating good traction.
- Regional Alliance development continues through outreach, translation of benefits documents, and onboarding of new members.

Strategic Alignment

This work supports Kildare's economic-development and climate-action priorities by strengthening green-skills provision, enabling SMEs to access EU-level knowledge networks, and advancing regional cooperation in the heating and cooling sector.

Upcoming Priorities

- Completion of all curriculum activities by 09 February, with full module specifications finalised by month-end.
- Reviewing partners to return consolidated curriculum feedback by 25 February.
- Partners to translate the website intro text for the Landscape Analysis page and continue supplying dissemination materials.
- Development of the Regional Alliance section of the website, including country contacts and translated benefits documents.

Forward Focus

The project remains on track to meet its February curriculum milestone. An upcoming article for the Build Up EU portal will further elevate the project's European visibility, while Regional Alliance expansion will enhance local SME participation in energy-transition opportunities. Further updates will be available at: www.repowerregions.eu

MERITS Innovation Hub, Naas

New startup companies, scaling businesses, FDI companies and remote workers continue to make great use of MERITS with the Founders Lab hot-desk space now at 100% occupancy.

National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC)

The NEIC also remains at full capacity with Equine technology startups and growing businesses.

Athy Enterprise Centre

The Enterprise Centre is also at full capacity with some office refurbishments underway to create some additional office capacity in the centre, scheduled to be completed in February.

Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub Athy

Skills Development and Training Activity

A Start Your Own Food Business course has been scheduled for Saturday, 07 and Saturday, 14 February, attracting a strong number of participants. This programme supports early-stage entrepreneurs in areas such as food safety, branding, pricing, production planning, and routes to market.

The partnership with KWETB remains a core driver of talent development in the local food sector. Since the last report:

Two 12-week Baking and Dessert Courses are now underway every Wednesday and Thursday in the Training Kitchen, delivered by Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board(KWETB). These programmes support both upskilling and pathways to employment within the hospitality and artisan food sectors.

KWETB successfully delivered a five day Bread Baking Course at the end of January, with strong participation and positive learner outcomes. Two additional five day Bread Baking Courses have been scheduled for February and March, further establishing the Hub as a key site for specialist culinary training.

These initiatives collectively expand the pipeline of skilled food producers in the region and strengthen the Hub's role in enterprise development and workforce capability.

Circular Economy Hub Athy

Internal Demolition and Removals Contract completed on last week of January 2026. Asbestos removal works tender completed and successful contractor awarded contract to commence 11 February.

Suite of tender documents for Internal and External Structural Works published. The closing date for tender submissions is 16 February.

Mechanical and Electrical suite of tender documents under review and programmed to be published week beginning 09 February. The site is fully secure with 24-hour security surveillance with all prohibited access points removed.



Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub Monasterevin

Asbestos removal works completed and certified on last week of January 2026. Demolition phase of the works programme has commenced including Mechanical and Electrical strip out and forming new window openings. Submittals for passenger lift shaft and steel staircase approved and programmed for construction. Expressions of Interest have been received from potential workshop facilitators, and a programme of skills-based workshops will be developed.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive