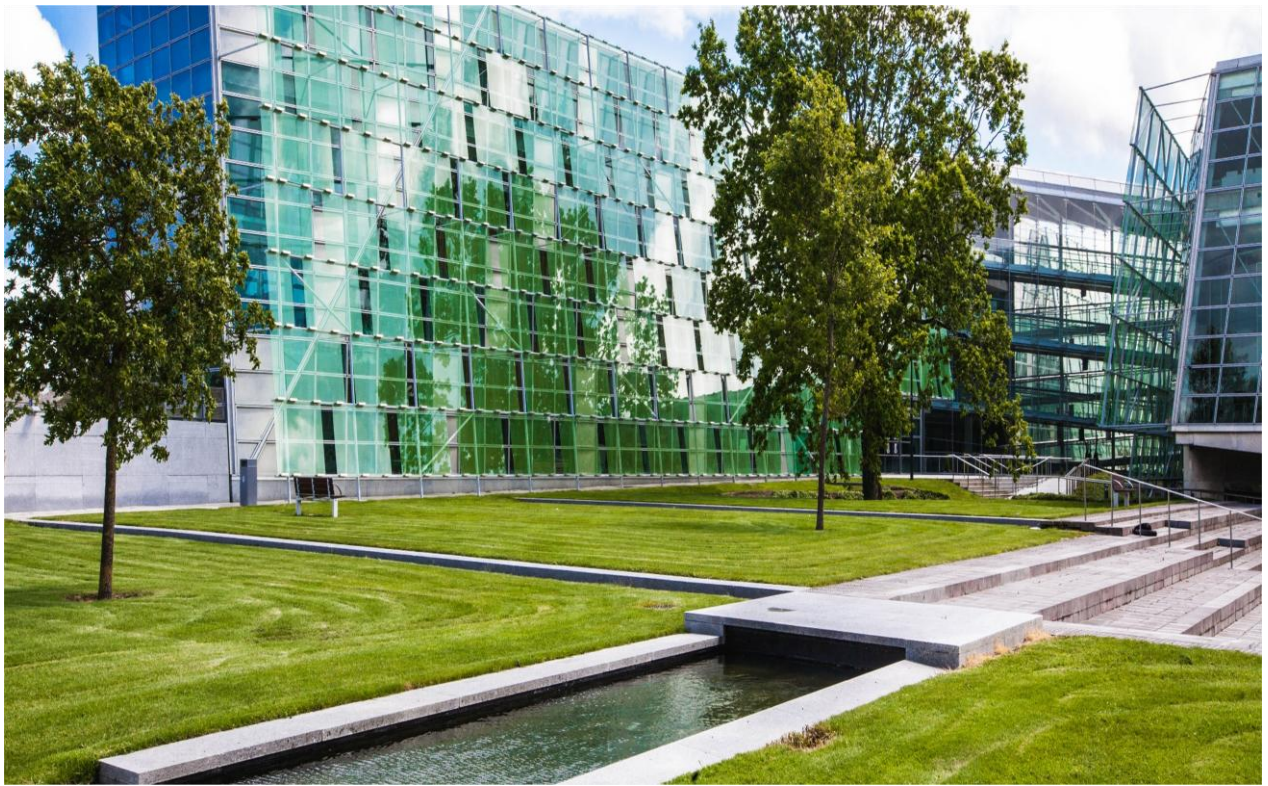




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## Kildare County Council

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





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## News Items

### **Exciting Opportunity for Aspiring Food Entrepreneurs in County Kildare: Apply for Food Academy 2025!**

Applications are now open for Ireland's next generation of food and drink producers to apply for Food Academy 2025 (see page 8).

### **Kildare Arts Service**

Kildare Arts Service, in collaboration with Kildare Sports Partnership, were successful in their proposal for funding through Kildare's 2025 Creative Communities programme (see page 14).

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

Hereford Park Affordable Purchase Scheme was launched on 04 March, and applications are being accepted via an online application portal, which remains open for a period of three weeks (see page 17).

### **Integration - Activities**

Kildare LAIT organised an Information Session on Social Housing (HAP) jointly with the Kildare County Council Housing Team and an awareness session with the HSE Social Inclusion Team targeted at managers and staff in emergency accommodation centres in Kildare (see pages 31/32).

### **Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan - DemoHouse**

Kildare County Council officially opened the innovative energy-efficient DemoHouse in Maynooth, as part of its Decarbonising Zone initiative (see pages 42/43).

### **Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025**

Naas Tidy Towns have been nominated by the Department of Rural and Community Development to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025 for the Best Kept Large Urban Centre Award (see page 47).



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## **Speed Limit Review**

Regional workshops for staff are being organised in April 2025 by the Department of Transport to explain updates to the mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document. This will assist in the preparation of urban speed limit changes scheduled to be implemented in 2025 (see page 54).

## **Open Spaces - Works Programme 2025**

A detailed works programme for the current year has been presented to all the Municipal Districts and this will be the basis for the delivery of works in the current year (see page 59).

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

The Elected Members were briefed on Monday 24 February regarding the Section 15 Two-Year Progress Report for the County Development Plan (see page 60).

## **Kildare's Business Owner's Guide Launched**

Minister Martin Heydon, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine was in attendance and officially launched Kildare's Business Owner's Guide: Supports for business (see page 70).

## **Economic Support Services Retail Supports Grants**

The Shopfront and Retail Window Merchandising grants have opened for 2025. The team is working through both the pipeline of existing Expressions of Interest and new applicants (see page 71).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Kildare County Council Launches Affordable Housing Scheme at Hereford Park, Leixlip, County Kildare**

Kildare County Council has launched an affordable housing purchase scheme for private buyers at Hereford Park, Leixlip. The scheme aims to provide first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers the opportunity to buy a newly built home in a private development (see page 9).

### **Calling all over 60's in Maynooth. Are you interested in Climate Action?**

Kildare County Council is delighted to support this Climate Course taking place in Maynooth from Thursday, 27 March 2025 to Thursday, 26 June 2025 (see page 10).

### **Annual Oireachtas Presentation**

The annual Oireachtas presentation is scheduled for 07 April at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Áras Chill Dara (see page 12).

### **2024 Performance Indicators**

The deadline for submission of Performance Indicators to NOAC is Thursday, 17 April (see page 12).

### **Kildare Arts Service Bursaries for Performing Arts Forum Gathering**

Kildare Arts Service is working with Performing Arts Forum to offer two bursaries for Arts Practitioners based in Kildare to attend the Performing Arts Forum Gathering in Limerick 27 and 28 May April (see page 14).

### **Annual Financial Statement**

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2024 has been prepared and presented to Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group and is listed on the Agenda for the Council meeting for March (see page 15).



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### **Traveller Cultural Awareness**

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) is facilitating Traveller Cultural Awareness Training for members of the Committee and Housing Department staff in Kildare town on Tuesday, 25 and Wednesday, 26 March next (see page 17).

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

Maynooth University's Terrain AI team will be presenting the dashboard and findings from 2.00-3.00pm on the 28 April in the Chamber before the scheduled full council meeting (see page 46).

### **Green Schools**

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have commenced for the 2025 Green Schools programme. Schools have until the end of March to book in their renewal visits (see page 48).

### **LCDC**

The next meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is scheduled for 26 March 2025 (see page 52).

### **Focus On Student Enterprise**

Teenage entrepreneurs from Salesian College Celbridge will represent Kildare at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Final on Thursday 08 May (see page 71).



## April Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31 Mar Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>1 Apr</b>	2	3 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee 10am	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
7 10:00 Annual presentation to Oireachtas members ; Committee Room; Members Calendar	8 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	9	10	11 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
14 10:00 Athy MD Meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	15	16 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	17	18
21	22 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	23	24 11:30 County Twinning Committee 11:30am	25
28 14:00 Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	29	30	<b>1 May</b>	2 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar



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## **Corporate, People and Cultural Services**

### **Corporate Services**

#### **Communications**

#### **Kildare County Council advises of Grant Scheme for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS)**

Kildare County Council wishes to advise owners of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems about the DWWTS Grant Scheme. This scheme aims to assist householders with 85% of the cost of works, up to a maximum of €12,000, for the remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of a DWWTS, subject to the eligibility criteria below.

#### **Exciting Opportunity for Aspiring Food Entrepreneurs in County Kildare: Apply for Food Academy 2025!**

Applications are now open for Ireland's next generation of food and drink producers to apply for Food Academy 2025. This programme from SuperValu, in association with the Local Enterprise Office, is designed to nurture and scale innovative small to medium food and drink businesses, encouraging entrepreneurs to take

their products from concept to consumer, gaining expert mentorship, retail insight, and exposure.

#### **Kildare County Council announces 2025 Inspections for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems**

Inspections to be conducted under the EPA Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) National Inspection Plan

Kildare County Council wishes to advise all homeowners that inspections of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (including septic tanks) will be carried out during 2025. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that DWWTS are not causing negative impacts on human health or the environment. Inspections are carried out in accordance with the EPA DWWTS National inspection Plan, which is a risk-based approach.

#### **Kildare County Council advises Farmers of Inspections in 2025**

Notice in relation to farm inspections under the EPA National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) in 2025. Kildare County Council wishes to advise all farmers in County Kildare





that farmyard and farmland inspections will be carried out throughout 2025, in accordance with the EPA National Agricultural Inspection Programme.

### **Kildare County Council launches National Pride of Place 2025 Applications**

Kildare County Council is inviting expressions of interest from local community groups who wish to be nominated for the 2025, IPB National Pride of Place Competition, in association with Co-Operation Ireland. Pride of Place is an annual all-island competition run in conjunction with local authorities. It seeks to recognise improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition celebrates the efforts and endeavours of communities throughout Ireland, focusing on people coming together to shape, change and improve the daily lives of people in their communities.

### **Kildare County Council Launches Affordable Housing Scheme at Hereford Park, Leixlip, County Kildare**



Kildare County Council has launched an affordable housing purchase scheme for private buyers at Hereford Park, Leixlip. The scheme, which consists of 16 new homes, (two and three bedroom dwellings), being sold in partnership with Glenveagh Properties, aims to provide first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers the opportunity to buy a newly built home in a private development.

### **Kildare County Council awarded fund to transform Old Athy Christian Brothers School into Circular Economy Centre**

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce that it has been awarded €998,802 under the Department of Rural and Community Development's Community Recognition Fund. This



funding will be used to revitalise the former Athy Christian Brothers School on Saint John's Lane, Athy, into a state-of-the-art Centre for Circular Economy and Regenerative Business Activity. This exciting development aims to foster sustainable business practices, enhance local economic resilience, and create new opportunities for employment and training within the community.

### **Calling all over 60's in Maynooth. Are you interested in Climate Action?**

Join us for a free six session course to learn about climate science, understand the barriers to behavioural change, and discover how you can make positive changes in your own life that benefit both the planet and your wellbeing.

Kildare County Council is delighted to support this Climate Course for the over 60s, taking place in Maynooth from Thursday, 27 March 2025 to Thursday, 26 June 2025. The six-week course, with two-hour sessions each week, will explain in simple terms how our everyday actions, like making a cup of tea or taking a shower, are connected to climate change.

### **Kildare Library Service Launches New Podcast: Kildare Reads**



Kildare Library Service is thrilled to announce the launch of its new podcast, Kildare Reads, a celebration of books, authors, and the joy of reading. This podcast offers listeners a chance to revisit captivating conversations from past Kildare Readers Festivals.

### **Kildare County Council signs Works Contract for Barrack Close Housing Project**



Kildare County Council has today signed a contract appointing Suirside Construction Limited as the Main Contractor and Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS), for the Barrack Close housing project located on Woodstock Street, Athy, Co Kildare.



The Part VIII design was completed by the Kildare County Council Architects Department. The construction stage design team is led by Vincent Hannon Architects (VHA) with the other design team members including Tom Mc Namara, Quantity Surveyors, Tobin Consulting Engineers (Civil and Structural+ PSDP), Coffey Consulting Engineers (Mechanical, Electrical and BER) and Cunnane Stratton Reynolds (Landscape Architects).

The project involves the construction of five new social housing units, known as Barrack Close, and the refurbishment of the existing Glandore House to bring this property back into use. The project is funded through the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is scheduled for completion in 2025.

### **Commencement of works, Mill Street, Maynooth**

Kildare County Council is delighted to announce that Glas Civil Engineering has been awarded the Mill Street Active Travel Contract. This project includes a comprehensive upgrade of

Mill Street, spanning from the Leinster Street /Main Street junction to the Kilcock Road / Moyglare Road junction.

### **Kildare County Council reminds landowners and occupiers of nesting season obligations**



Kildare County Council remind landowners and occupiers of the restrictions on cutting hedges and clearing vegetation on uncultivated lands from 01 March to 31 August. These restrictions are in place to protect nesting birds, as outlined in Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Heritage Act 2018.

Hedgerow cutting is permitted from September to February, when hedgerows are dormant.

### **New York Visit – St. Patrick’s Day**

The Deputy Chief Executive, Annette Aspell and Cathaoirleach, Kevin Duffy, visited New York for St. Patrick’s Day



on the invitation of the Kildare Association of New York. They undertook visits to the IDA's New York Office and Enterprise Ireland and participated in the Parade representing County Kildare.

### **Annual Oireachtas Presentation**

The annual Oireachtas presentation is scheduled for 07 April at 10.00am in the Committee Room, Áras Chill Dara.

### **2024 Performance Indicators**

The deadline for submission of Performance Indicators to NOAC is Thursday, 17 April 2025..

Staff are currently inputting and approving data. External data sets are still awaited from a number of third parties.

## **Library and Arts Service**

### **News and Highlights**

**“Librarians have always been among the most thoughtful and helpful people. They are teachers without a classroom.” - Willard Scott**

### **Library Development Plan**

‘Building for Tomorrow’ the new Kildare Library Development Plan 2025-2029 was approved by the Full Council on Monday 24 February, after passing through the Strategic Policy Committee and Corporate Policy Group.

### **Reader Services – Right to Read Activities**

#### **Ireland Reads**

“Ireland Reads” is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts. It is a month-long initiative to encourage everyone to read more books and join a National Day of Reading on 22 February 2025.



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There were 60 Ireland Reads events in February with over 1,129 participants.

### **Kildare Reads**

Kildare Library Service announced the launch of its new podcast, Kildare Reads, a celebration of books, authors, and the joy of reading in February. This podcast revisits conversations from past Kildare Readers Festivals, available now on Spotify. Search for "Kildare Reads" on the Spotify app or visit <https://open.spotify.com/show/62t0eaHyS35lxja8rHdqAX?si=40708e1e1ab04145>

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

Applications for the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 closed on 07 March.

An assessment panel will meet in mid-March. The number of applications has significantly increased from previous years.

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

The deadline has passed for child and youth groups/organisations to submit an expression of interest to be part of

the Cruinniú na nÓg Festival.

Shortlisted applicants are liaising with the Creative Communities

Engagement Officer to submit a full project plan and proposal. These targeted community-based projects compliment a wider programme of free workshops and creative events in Kildare libraries and arts venues.

### **Creative Communities Evaluation meeting**

On 20 February Sheila Deegan (APO Creative Ireland) and Caomhín Corrigan (evaluator from M.CO) met with Kildare County Council's Culture and Creativity Team to evaluate Creative Communities 2023-2027 which is taking place across all counties. This meeting included a presentation regarding the strategic direction of Creative Ireland, data from Kildare County Council's 2023 programme, and discussions regarding how these projects and others have enabled change and impacted on communities and the local authority. Further evaluation will occur later this year.



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

The archivist is assisting IS with the development and testing of Kildare County Council-Files, a physical file management app for current and non-current files.

The ninth annual Irish Military Seminar is taking place in Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2025. The programme again features a stellar line-up of speakers exploring a wide range of topics relating to Irish military history. The Local Studies Librarian facilitated an Irish language tour of the collections during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

## **Kildare Arts Service Funding Approved for Creative Movement Project**

Kildare Arts Service, in collaboration with Kildare Sports Partnership, were successful in their proposal for funding through Kildare's 2025 Creative Communities programme. €15,000 will support the proposed project of demarcating a number of 'movement zones' in public spaces, that will be 'activated' through a series of fun, creative and active interventions that

draw attention to physicality and movement in response to Creative Ireland's key strategic priority of enhancing wellbeing through creative participation. This proposal aims to function as a catalyst in inspiring and engaging new audiences while bridging gaps between artistic and sporting communities in County Kildare.

## **Municipal Art Collection, Evie Hone Stained Glass, Loaned for National Gallery Exhibition**

Three Small Fishes, a stained-glass panel by Evie Hone (1894-1955), which is part of Kildare Art Service's Municipal Art Collection has gone on loan to the National Gallery of Ireland, an upcoming exhibition Mainie Jellett and Evie Hone. The Art of Friendship which will run from 10 April - 10 August 2025.

## **Kildare Arts Service Bursaries for Performing Arts Forum Gathering**

Kildare Arts Service is working with Performing Arts Forum to offer two bursaries for arts practitioners based in Kildare to attend the Performing Arts Forum Gathering in Limerick 27 and 28 May. This will see hundreds of



artists, arts workers and arts organisations from arts centres and production companies, festivals and funders getting together for two days of conversation, constructive interaction, and inspiration.

### **Kildare Arts Service sponsoring two writers for the National Mentoring Programme**

The Arts Service is collaborating with the Irish Writers Centre to sponsor 2 Kildare based writers for the National Mentoring Programme 2025. The awarded writers will receive sustained creative and professional mentoring from an established Irish writer of their choice.

### **Kildare Arts Service Grants**

A panel of assessors has been put in place to assess and award 17 separate arts grants, commissions and bursary award opportunities under Kildare Arts Service.

### **Focus Groups for Co-Creative Lab**

Kildare Arts Service, Kildare County Council Climate Action and Maynooth University have delivered six community focus groups (24 February – 01 March) in Maynooth Library as

part of the Co-Creative Lab, a creative Climate Action project with the aim of exploring human-centred design thinking as a progressive and dynamic model for community engagement and behavioural change in Maynooth.

These focus groups will help inform ideas for the Co-Creative Lab Artist in Residence and Creative Collaborators. The Co-Creative Lab is supported by Creative Ireland's Creative Climate Action Ignite Fund.

### **Health and Safety**

1. Seven Site Inspections across directorates
2. 12 Blended Working Assessments completed
3. Health and Safety Induction – six new starts

### **Accessibility:**

1. Annual report completed
2. Kildare Inclusivity Festival preparation and planning
3. Restocking of sensory boxes in libraries
4. Working on eLearning disability training module
5. Meeting with ASIAM re: making County Kildare Autism Friendly



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## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

### Finance

#### Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2024 has been prepared and presented to Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group and is listed on the agenda for the Council meeting for March. The Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2024 shows a surplus for the year of €7,204 and will be submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 31 March 2024 in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Financial Statement for 2024 is now subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor.

#### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail of its overdraft facility in January or February 2025.

#### Monthly Management Reports

Actual expenditure v budget reports for 2025 will be submitted to Council as

part of the monthly management report from April onwards.

### Risk Management

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

### Innovation

The organisation is currently in the second cycle of Lean Six Sigma. A further 18 staff undertook training in this continuous improvement methodology and are working on eight improvement projects in areas including etranslation, climate reporting, capital project mapping, a new starters training platform, a library data dashboard and standardisation of National Transport Authority reporting.





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## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Second Hand Acquisition Programme 2025

Minister Browne has announced €325 million in funding for a secondhand acquisition programme in 2025.

Priority categories for funding are:

- Tenant in Situ
- Older Persons and Persons with a Disability
- Exits from Homeless Services
- Buy and Renew which tackles vacancy

In terms of the Tenant in Situ local authorities are required to prioritise acquisitions for families with children, older persons or people with a disability who are at serious risk of homelessness where a valid notice of termination has been issued due to the landlord's intention to sell. Properties may only be purchased in cases where a tenant has been in receipt of HAP or RAS support on the property for at least two years. The council will not be entitled to claim any refurbishment costs on Tenant in Situ acquisitions. Properties included in the 2024 acquisition programme where the sale

did not conclude in the year will be funded from the 2025 Acquisition Programme.

We are awaiting receipt of a circular detailing the specifics terms of the scheme and the council's allocation under the scheme and will keep the Members updated.

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

Hereford Park Affordable Purchase Scheme was launched on 04 March, and applications are being accepted via an online application portal, which remains open for a period of three weeks. This is the first Part V affordable scheme in County Kildare, it delivers 16 houses at a 30% discount from the market rate. To date we have received 105 complete applications.

The prices of the units are as follows:

- Two Bed, from €310,000-€320,000
- Three Bed, from €343,000-€355,000

#### Traveller Cultural Awareness

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) is facilitating Traveller cultural awareness training for members of the committee



and Housing Department staff in Kildare town on Tuesday, 25 and Wednesday, 26 March next. The training is funded under the Dormant

Accounts Fund (DHLGH) and is being provided by Kildare Traveller Action (KTA).

### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site; substantially in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanála on 22 August 2024. Preparation of works tender commenced. Planning condition surveys complete. Includes 10 no. affordable units.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at the November meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Revised Stage 2 approval received 14.10.2024. Part 8 presented and approved at March Athy MD meeting. Boundary Wall with PPP site agreed and works to start in March 25.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Site clearance completed: Part 8 launched January 2025 and due before meeting of Newbridge/Kildare MD in May 2025.



St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. Part 8 relating to revisions to the works launched December 2024. Due at April meeting of Kildare-Newbridge MD.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tendering ongoing for consultants.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 application has been submitted to DHLGH.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	Revision to Single Stage approval to be prepared and submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed; Part 8 to be launched in Q1 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 proposal presented and approved at February Newbridge/Kildare MD meeting. Tender to be prepared.

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



Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report to commence. Survey drawings near completion.
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### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Detailed design and tender documents received from consultants. Stage 3 submission to be collated and issued to DHLGH in March 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works commenced on site on 06.01.2025.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLGH October 2024. (no update).

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Preferred tenderer working on planning compliance submission. Works to commence on site May/June 2025. (NDFA to confirm) Boundary Wall with PPP site agreed and works to start on 18 March 2025
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement phase ongoing including planning compliance submissions.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at September MD meeting. Procurement phase ongoing including planning compliance submissions.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation to start 24 March. Public Information event in Newbridge 27 March. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	108 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. SI to start 24 <sup>th</sup> March. Part 8 application in Q2 2025.

### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission.



CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 3 submission made on 06/02/2025, DHLGH to approve submission.
CALF	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents published. AHB liaising with DHLGH regarding CALF application
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved.

### Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	68	6
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	89	0
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	106	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>12</b>

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 28 February 2025

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	21	31	43
6 - 12 Months	13	20	27
12 - 18 Months	3	4	6
18 - 24 Months	2	5	5
24 - 30 Months	1	1	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>82</b>

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 28 February 2025

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	6	9
6 - 12 Months	6	14	13
12 - 18 Months	2	3	2
18 - 24 Months	1	5	1



24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
+ 36 Months	2	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>

## 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	Pedestrian bridge to be delivered. Temporary Licence required from Waterways Ireland
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€18,475,000	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 preparation is being finalised for two additional bridges on the Scheme. Detailed design for Phase 2 is ongoing. The project will be split into phases and tendered accordingly: Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2; made up of 4 tender packages totaling €18,475,000 Tender 1 Package Sallins Phase 1 & 2 Tie-in; end Q1 2025 – discussions with utility providers ongoing. Tender Package 2 Towpath Works; undertaken by Waterways Ireland



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					(sensitive area) 2025 and 2026 Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 - 2027 Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027.
<b>Kildare Newbridge</b>	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	A commencement meeting has taken place with the Project Team and Design Team to determine the work programme required to deliver this project.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	The Project Team is finalising content and layout with specific projects and visuals to be prepared. A draft document will be finalised in preparation for a further round of public consultation
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Progress on the Draft Town Renewal Masterplan is underway with public consultation to take place in the coming weeks.



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	RRDF Call 4 Category 2 application submitted.
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Connection to storm drain complete on old N78. Storm water installation continues. Public lighting ducting installations are complete. Tree pit installation preparation is ongoing with actual delivery and installation due on 4 <sup>th</sup> February. Paving material delivery expected end January/early February.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Tree pit installation completed. Paving works commenced on site. Project completion date June 2025
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	Conservation works completed on site, with some small items to be addressed later. SPPR have applied for the HSF 2025 funding programme.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT  €1,908,750 URDF approved  Updated costings to	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. <b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b> Consultant appointed,





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>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.</p>		<p>commencement meeting scheduled for end March 2025 with KCC internal departments.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Codema are completing a feasibility study for Maynooth, commencing Q1 and completion Q4 2025.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</b>            Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth	€181,794	URDF 75%/ KCC 25%	Detailed Design & Works	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b>            Detailed design and tender package is almost complete with some refinements underway. Estimated project delivery value is €5.5m.</p>
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC  Updated costings to	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan –</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case</p>		<p>Consultant appointed, commencement meeting scheduled for end March 2025 with KCC internal departments.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b>            Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David's Castle is now complete. Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St. David's Castle and grounds.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b> KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.</p> <p><b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b>            Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Revised draft is under review with final edits and project proposals being considered.

## Integration

### General

#### Relocation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

Kildare County Council were informed that the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) had indefinitely paused the process of consolidating their portfolio of contracted accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection around the country. No existing accommodations centres in Kildare had been identified for closure in the short term.

Kildare County Council were informed on 12 March of the relocation of 79 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection including 14 children from the Hubble Living, Dublin to the Kill Equestrian

Centre on 14 March. Kildare LAIT support individuals and families through relocations. These moves can be incredibly stressful and unsettling, and the role the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) plays is mainly ensuring a smooth transition in terms of integration supports. As relocations continue, individuals and families are given the contact details of the LAIT in the county they are relocating to so they can reach out for support directly. In many cases, residents are receiving 48 hours notice of where they are moving to. This is being raised with the DCEDIY and more advanced notice is being sought, where operationally possible, to allow residents to make necessary arrangements in their new locations.



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## Accommodation Recognition

### Payment (ARP)

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

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

### Recent Developments

#### Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre

The Newhall DAC will close on 28 March 2025. Any residents remaining at that time will likely be relocated to the Punchestown DAC or to a new DAC opened at Wallslough, Kilkenny (capacity of 280 people).

### Eyre Powell Hotel, Newbridge

Design work is continuing to address fire safety requirements related to the basement area of the property. The overall occupancy of the building has been reduced to 61 people.

### Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

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

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities to facilitate coordination of the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and displaced persons. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT



identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### **Clinics**

Kildare LAIT organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. From the 06 January – 12 March 2025, Kildare LAIT carried out 16 information clinics in accommodation centres, attended by 98 people. Three clinics were conducted in the first week of March 2025. The LAIT have fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services, and have developed a needs system based on regular communication.

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

will close on the 28 March 2025. The LAIT have supported Newhall residents since the centre opened. The LAIT facilitated coordination meetings between Pastures New and relevant local services and facilitated and coordinated the initial access to the centre. To date, the LAIT has organised 19 information clinics in Newhall, and solved 260 queries raised by residents, mostly related to accommodation, employment, transport, immigration, disability, education, supplementary welfare, and health. The LAIT have directly assisted 99 residents to access local services and facilitated group sessions on topics such as primary and secondary education in Ireland. The LAIT have worked very closely and collaboratively with Newhall staff and management, who have participated in various trainings organised by Kildare LAIT, including training on the international protection system in Ireland and on how to counteract the far-right movement in our communities.

### **Queries**

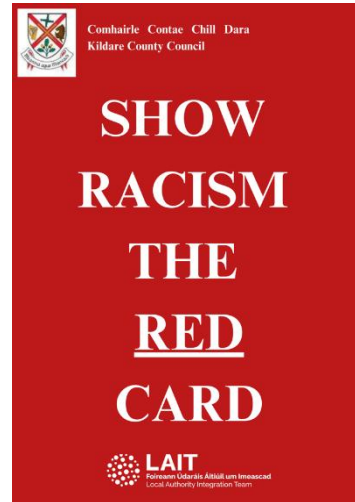
From the 06 January – 12 March 2025, Kildare LAIT received 486 queries and solved 478 queries. The first week of



March 2025 the LAIT received 58 queries and resolved 55. Out of those, 80 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 18 by international protection applicants and 12 by persons with status. Most queries were related to immigration assistance, access to accommodation, employment, and education, recognition of foreign qualifications, school transport, medical cards, and language support.

### Activities

Kildare LAIT organised an Information Session on Social Housing (HAP) jointly with the Kildare County Council Housing Team and an awareness session with the HSE Social Inclusion Team, targeted at managers and staff in emergency accommodation centres in Kildare. A total of 15 persons participated including six managers from IPAS centres. The session took place on 18 February 2025 in Áras Chill Dara.



To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21 March 2025, the Local Authority Integration Team (Kildare LAIT) is inviting Kildare County Council staff to wearing red and meet in the main entrance to show their support to the anti-racism campaign (Wear Red Day | Immigrant Council of Ireland) and opposition to racism, xenophobia, and far-right ideologies. This follows similar events last year, including a training on intercultural competency and anti-racism in collaboration with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and two workshops on understanding how the far right operates and how to counteract disruption within our communities facilitated by the Hope and Courage Collective. The event to mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial



Discrimination follows Kildare County Council passing a motion, in its February 2025 meeting, to commit to eliminate discrimination and “promote equality of opportunity, and protect the human rights of its members, staff, and the persons to whom it provides services”. The motion was jointly brought by Councillors Peter Melrose and Chris Pender, formally stating that “the council affirms its commitment to eliminate discrimination, and provides training for staff and elected members on, Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, which seeks to eliminate discrimination”. The motion followed an election pledge as part of the #CheckTheFacts campaign by Belong To, which was developed by the youth organisation in response to the increase in misinformation and disinformation, and the contribution of both to the erosion of human rights, both in Ireland and internationally.

### **Networking**

Kildare LAIT actively participated in the LAITs National Network Event organised by the LGMA on the 26-27 Feb. This was a two-day programme designed specifically for Integration

Support Coordinators (ISCs) and Integration Support Workers (ISWs) in local authority integration teams (LAITs) across the country. The programme included one day conference on integration supported by the Immigrant Council of Ireland (26 Feb). The network event was attended by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

Kildare LAIT continues participating in the Integration Support Coordinators (ISC) and Integration Support Workers (ISW) networks. The aim of these networks is to facilitate the sharing of tools and best practices across LAITs. Kildare LAIT continues participating in the National Asylum Support Network (meeting held on the 12 February) and the National Ukraine Civil Society Forum (meetings held on the 11 February and 12 March) connecting civil society and community responses into the State’s response structures supporting reception and integration. UCTAT and IPAS will be transferred from DCEDIY to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, headed by Jim O’Callaghan, with Colm Brophy as Junior Minister for





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Migration. Around 2,000 staff will be relocated.

Kildare LAIT had an initial engagement with Tusla Aftercare Separated Children Seeking Asylum through the LGMA to increase communication and coordination regarding age out minors moving from Tusla care into IPAS accommodation.

Kildare LAIT is working closely with Kildare Sports Partnership and the Immigrant Council of Ireland to engage local sports and GAA clubs in the Show Racism the Red Card Programme that has been operating in Ireland since 2007. In 2021, the programme was relaunched under the leadership of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. This is an educational initiative that uses different sports as a vehicle to combat racism and raise awareness in primary and secondary schools, youth groups and sporting. The programme is supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund overseen by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

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

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State provided with accommodation in Kildare:

824 (692 adults/ 241 children)

Data source DECDIY – 09 February 2025.



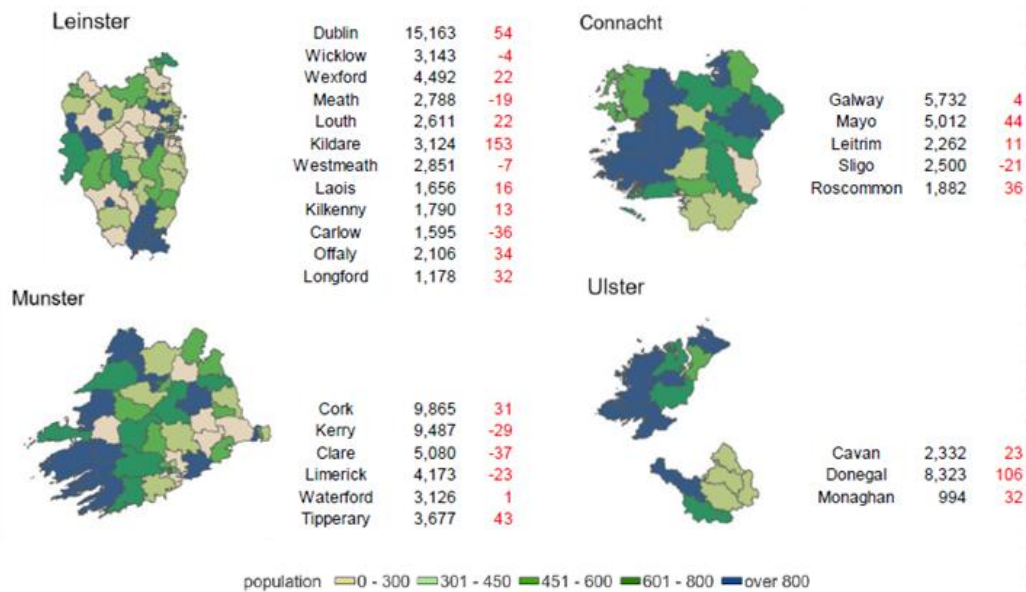
The current distribution of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection nationally is as follows:

Data source Central Statistics Office 17 January 2025

## National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

### Summary - Location of Ukrainian Arrivals by County

The following data gives the number of arrivals from Ukraine at a county level based off the data provided on 10 February 2025, where 95% of individuals could be mapped to an ARP home address or Post Office. Also included is a comparison with data previously provided on the 13 January 2025. The associated map is at an LEA level.



Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) in Ireland were invited to renew their permission to remain in the country if they wished to do so and extend it until 04 March 2026. The online renewal opened on Thursday, 13 February at 09:00 am. Proof of identity, permission, and residency were required.

### International Protection Applicants:

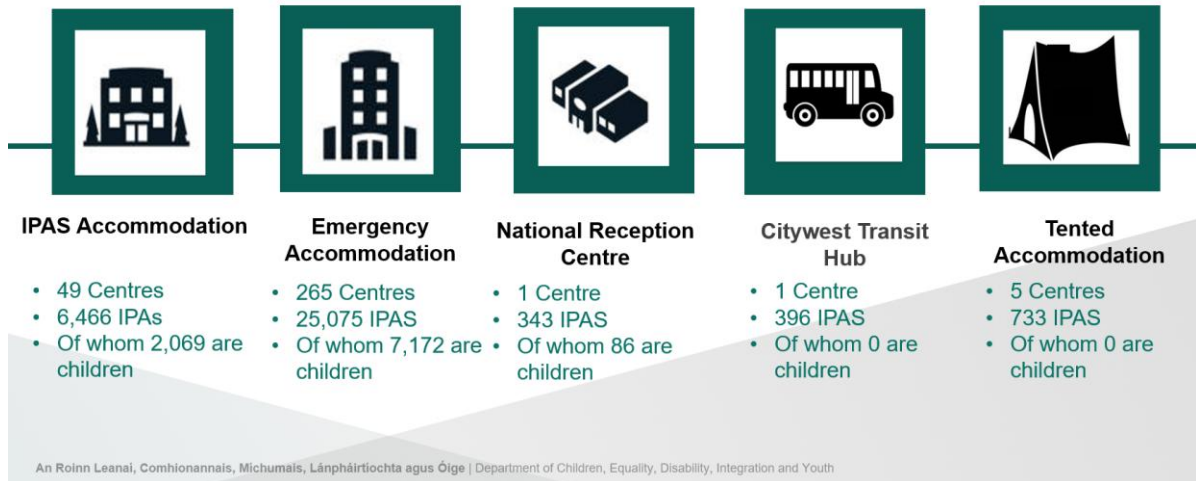
A total of 33,013 International Protection applicants in the State were provided accommodation of whom 9,327 are children. Source DECDIY 07 March 2025



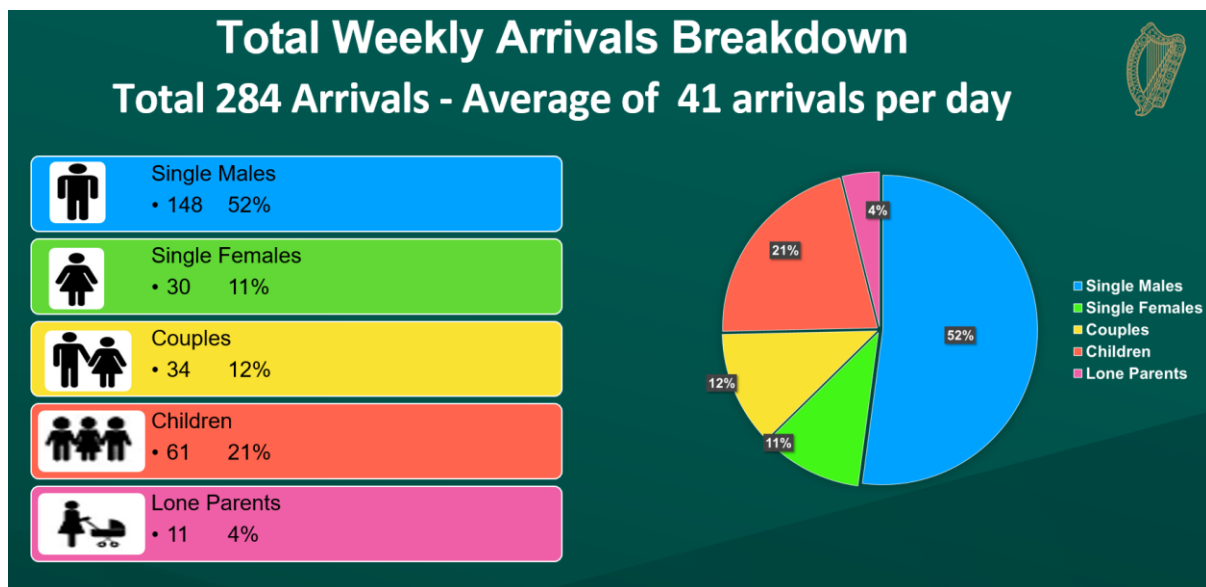
# Current IPAS Accommodation Overview



Total Centres 321 Total IPAS 33,013 Of whom Children 9,327



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



The number of International Protection Applicants accommodated in State provided accommodation in Kildare is 606 of whom 99 are children Source DECDIY 07 March 2025



## Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority

Source DECDIY 07 March 2025

## Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority



County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	426	Kerry County	961	Offaly County	502
Cavan County	146	Kildare County	606	Roscommon County	229
Clare County	995	Kilkenny County	179	Sligo County	735
Cork City	590	Laois County	485	South Dublin County	4052
Cork County	1479	Leitrim County	248	Tipperary County	814
Donegal County	2067	Limerick City & County	626	Waterford City and County	610
Dublin City	3443	Longford County	142	Westmeath County	1108
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1298	Louth County	1179	Wexford County	616
Fingal County	2494	Mayo County	1687	Wicklow County	1492
Galway City Council	1761	Meath County	981	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>33013</b>
Galway County Council	378	Monaghan County	684		

### International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

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

Families participating in the programme receive direct integration supports funded by AMIF (EU funds) through the IRPP/DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council as an implementing partner through a tender process for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).



## The Refugee Resettlement

Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by Kildare LAIT. The IAWG have met on 01 July and 27 September in 2024 and on 31 January 2025 to coordinate the second resettlement programme, discuss the integration supports planned, and plan for subsequent resettlements in Q1 and Q2 2025. The LAIT Integration Support Coordinator regularly provides updates to all the relevant agencies engaged in the programme.

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

## Accommodation Team

### Offer a Home Scheme

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

(update 27 January 2025 – note that the supply of offers for OAH and pledged accommodation has reduced significantly due to the uncertainty regarding continuation of the ARP scheme)

Properties occupied	64
Properties in progress	06
Properties withdrawn/shared	36
Total properties offered to date	106

## Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Established to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. Kildare has two DAC's:

### Newhall:

A St. Patrick's Day event is being held in the Newhall DAC on Friday 14 March. Local elected representatives and local residents have been invited. The centre management have also arranged for residents to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Newbridge on 17 March.

A Day-75 clinic was held in Newhall on 11 March to assist residents with sourcing of accommodation.



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### **Punchestown:**

The numbers accommodated in Punchestown is expected to increase with the closure of the Newhall DAC on 28 March.

### **Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:**

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

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

### **The Community Integration Forum (CIF)**

Meetings are taking place on the first Wednesday of each alternative month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items.

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



## Climate, Community, Environment and Water

### Climate

#### Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



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

Kildare County Council is the host local authority for the Eastern and Midlands (EM) CARO, one of four CAROs working as a shared service within local government on climate. There are 17 local authorities within the EM CARO region.



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

#### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



Training Service Level Agreement between Kildare County Council and DECC signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase of climate training for the sector.

Executive Training Group for oversight of training delivery for 2025 convened its first meeting on 15 January 2025. The group is chaired by Teresa Walsh Director of Service, with South Dublin County Council on behalf of CCMA and group comprises representation



from Climate Ireland, AILG, SEAI, Met Eireann, Heritage Council, LASNTG and CARO. Planning for training delivery underway as follows:

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

In addition to the above, 2025 Training Programme targeting:

- Senior Management and Elected Members (in association with AILG).
- New Revised Raising Awareness Programme (online) for all indoor staff.
- Climate Action staff and teams through webinar series.
- Bespoke Urban Water Nature based Solutions training
- Bespoke Green Public Procurement training

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

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

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







## Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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

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

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



## Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



Data collation for 2024 completed on 07 February 2025. This process collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on Climate Action.

Report to be published mid-year.

Data collation for 2023 was published at end of August 2023 and available on LGMA website at [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-](#)

[2023-local-government-climate-action-key-](#)



[performance-indicators-report.pdf](#)  
(lgma.ie).

### GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



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

### Kildare County Council Climate Action

#### Kildare Climate Action Office



*Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow*

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

### Kildare County Council unveils Innovative Energy-Efficient DemoHouse in Maynooth



Kildare County Council officially opened the innovative energy-efficient DemoHouse in Maynooth, as part of its Decarbonising Zone initiative. The official opening was a success.



18 people visited on the first morning of the house being open to the public. This project aims to showcase sustainable living practices. The DemoHouse, built in the early 1990s, has undergone a comprehensive energy upgrade and retrofit. The improvements include new insulation on internal walls, enhanced airtightness, and the replacement of double-glazed windows with triple glazing. These measures have significantly improved the houses energy efficiency, with scientists from Maynooth University engaged to quantify the energy savings over the coming year.

### **Augmented Reality Image**

#### **Maynooth:**

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

### **Recruitment**

The position of Decarbonising Climate Officer has been formally accepted. Awaiting start date.

### **Energy Updates:**

#### **ISO 50001:**

The Energy Efficient Officer and Assistant are working diligently toward the time audit dates as follows:

Stage 1 Thursday 19 June '25

Stage 2 Tuesday – Friday 05 – 08 August '25

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

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

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

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

#### **DISCO Project:**

Advancing District Heating and Cooling solutions for efficient waste heat utilisation in conjunction with CODEMA as associate partner has successfully received 70% Interreg Europe Funding. This will enable the task under action B13 of Kildare



County Council CAP to perform a county wide assessment of waste heat and district heating. Work is scheduled to commence after the Maynooth feasibility study is finalised. Formal matching funding agreement is being finalised between Kildare County Council and CODEMA.

#### **Energy Management Team:**

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

#### **Libraries – Energy Audits:**

Review of the audits for Athy and Leixlip libraries have been undertaken, and the documents are being finalised. The documents will help to inform the works to be undertaken.

#### **SEAI Monitoring and Reporting**

The requirement to update MPRN's for Council properties was completed by

the end of January deadline. Further reporting will be required in May.

#### **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 outline challenges Kildare County Council will have in meeting financials.

#### **Critical Success Factors Audit**

A meeting with SEAI regarding Monitoring and Reporting (M+R) progress took place on 10 March, Kildare progressing well.

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

The dedicated charge point has now been installed and commissioned. Sports Partnership will also have use of the charge point and are awaiting the arrival of their electrically powered van.

#### **SMT presentation:**

A summary report of Kildare County Council's energy review was given by Patricia Brennan on 18 February. An update will be given later in the year.



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



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

**Community Climate Action Program Fund:**

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund Grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in

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

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

Second quarterly drawdown from DECC applied for by the deadline of Friday 14 March.

**Climate Design Lab:**

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

Both the artist in resident and the Creative Collaborator have been assigned to the project.



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

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

Also, CARO are organising national session webinar based on the work to date.

### **Entente Florale:**

The Climate Action Office plans a visit to Maynooth by the delegates and is working towards a sustainable visit where feasible.

## **Environment**

### **National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy**

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

management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030.

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

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period.

### **National Deposit Return Scheme**

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

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

Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their



premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

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



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

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

### **Entente Florale 2025**

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the

Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. An on-site briefing from reps of the Department of Rural and Community Development has taken place along with representatives from the Maynooth Tidy Towns group.

### **Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025**

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

### **Water Framework Directive**

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

This document is expected to be published this year and will set the



priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2025**

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

Five - Waste Enforcement Priorities

Four - Water Enforcement Priorities

Four - Air and Noise Enforcement Priorities

Two - Governance Processes Priorities

### **Environmental Enforcement**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its report on the environmental enforcement performance of local authorities in 2023 on 03 December. The EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework measures and reports on performance against National Enforcement Priorities, focused on improving environmental compliance and achieving positive outcomes for water quality, air quality and waste management. The report shows that the scale of environmental enforcement work carried out by local

authorities in 2023 was significant. For the second consecutive year, Kildare County Council was the only local authority in the country to achieve a "Strong or Excellent" score across all 20 National Enforcement Priority categories.

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

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

### **Veterinary Services**

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

### **Green Schools**

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have commenced for the 2025 Green Schools programme. Schools have until the end of March to book in their renewal visits. All successful





schools will receive their flags in the Green School award ceremony in May.

### **GAA Green Clubs Initiative**



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

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

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy FRS. A Public Participation Day was held on 27 February in Athy. This was the first of a series of community engagement and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of



consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

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

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

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

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



### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

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

### **Cemetery Works**

#### **Staplestown**

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



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## Boycetown Kilcock

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

## Ballybracken

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

## Legislation XL Bully Type dogs

The last date for receipt of applications for exemption certificates was 31 January, 2025. This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner. It is now illegal to own an XL Bully dog without a certificate of exemption.

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

determination of the Warden that the dog is an XL Bully type dog.

## Water Services

### Service to Elected Members -

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

By Phone: 0818 178 178

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

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

Notices of Motion:

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

Uisce Éireann Regional

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

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

### Water Services Asset Transfer to Uisce Eireann –

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



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

## Local Community Development Committee

The next meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is scheduled for 26 March 2025. The previous meeting was held on the 12 February 2024 in Merits.

**SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**  
County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare.

Both the SICAP annual review 2024 and SICAP plan 2025 were considered and approved subject to final checks by the Chief Officer.

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

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

## LEADER Programme

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

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

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

## Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Kildare County Council is progressing the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme 2025-2029. Additional Dormant Account funding of €142,000 was recently secured to support Traveller education and mens development. This will be implemented by Kildare Traveller Action. Kildare was one of five successful applicants nationally.

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



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## Healthy Ireland

Emma Meates commenced in the role of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator on 24 February. Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The report on progress 2024 and plan for 2025 is currently being compiled for submission to Pobal.

## Empowering Communities

### Programme Athy

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

## Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Work is commencing to develop the monitoring tools to oversee and support implementation and monitoring of the LECP. A presentation of the economic development actions was made at the last LCDC.

## Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

### Transport

#### Capital Projects

##### Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

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

##### Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

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

##### Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane

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

##### Newbridge Transport Strategy

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



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

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

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

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

### **Road Safety**

#### **Speed Limit Review**

Regional workshops for staff are being organised in April 2025 by the Department of Transport to explain updates to the mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document. This will assist in the preparation of urban speed limit changes scheduled to be implemented in 2025.

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

### **Junction Improvement Programme**

Option reports have been received and being assessed for delivery of the 10 junctions.

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

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

Straffan National School. Design being agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000.

St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town: Construction nearing completion.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### **Operations**

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

Allocation: €11,081,000

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

#### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

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

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

Allocation - €500,000

Former National Roads - €550,000

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

### **National Roads**

Allocation: Currently awaiting TII  
Funding Allocations for 2025.

### **Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes**

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

### **General Maintenance**

Kildare County Council maintains in  
excess of 2,600 kilometres of National  
Secondary, Regional and Local roads  
throughout the county. Included in this  
work are road surface repairs, footpath  
repairs, drainage maintenance, sign



maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

### **Public Lighting**

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

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

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. New LED installation works have commenced and will continue throughout 2025.

### **Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn**

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

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

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

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

### **Winter Maintenance**



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

Recent severe weather, with both snow, ice and freezing temperatures required the services of 30 drivers to treat the primary routes in Kildare in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Plan. Approximately 1,300 tonnes of salt was used over this period. Currently 10,000 tonnes of salt are being delivered to the salt barn.





It is proposed that the Regional Salt barn will be fully operational for the 2025/2026 winter maintenance season.

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

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

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000  
Construction ongoing – due for completion by early Summer 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €250,000  
Insufficient grant allocation to commence the construction works in 2025. It is intended to proceed with accommodation works along the route in anticipation of an increased allocation in 2026 for the scheme.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000  
Discussions with Waterways Ireland to continue in 2025 to agree the scope of works for extending the Greenway to Sallins.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000  
Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing with the intention of agreeing a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €125,000  
Consultant progressing the Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme. The next step is a statutory public consultation process.

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

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000  
Construction started in Q1 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000  
Work is complete and retention monies to be paid.

#### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

2025 Allocation: €300,000  
Detailed design of bridge structure progressing with a view to having



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construction documents completed in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €20,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

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

2025 Allocation: €50,000

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

### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €200,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

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

2025 Allocation: €30,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

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

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Construction started in Q1 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €40,000

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

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

2025 Allocation: €500,000

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



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## National Roads Office

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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



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

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Westbound Bus Priority Measures

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

## M9 Park and Share Scheme

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

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

## Open Spaces

### Works Programme 2025

A detailed works programme for the current year has been presented to all the Municipal Districts and this will be the basis for the delivery of works in the current year.

### Cherry Avenue Park

A tender for the detail design of the park is in the process of being awarded. It is hoped to have the consultants appointed by the end of the month.



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

### **Planning**

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

The Elected Members were briefed on Monday 24 February regarding the Section 15 Two-Year Progress Report for the County Development Plan.

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

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

Variation No. 1 of the County Development Plan - Kilcullen Settlement Plan due for adoption by the Members in March 2025.

Settlement Plans for other smaller towns to be integrated into County Development Plan during 2025, including: Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock.

#### **County Development Plan Actions**

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

#### **Masterplans**

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

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

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

Public Consultation on Masterplan Options published 04 February 2025.



**Local Area Plans**

**Joint Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031**

The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan was adopted by the members of Maynooth Clane Municipal District on the 17 February and by the members of Meath County Council on the 19 February. The Plan will come into effect on the 01 April 2025.

**Newbridge Local Area Plan**

The Draft Newbridge Plan is currently being prepared.

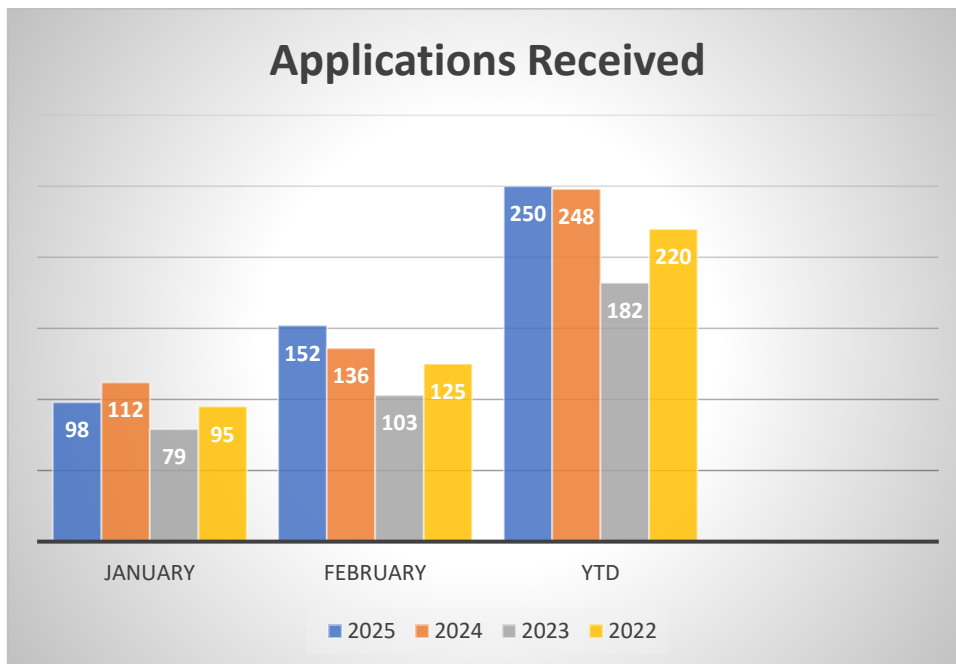
**Monasterevin Local Area Plan**

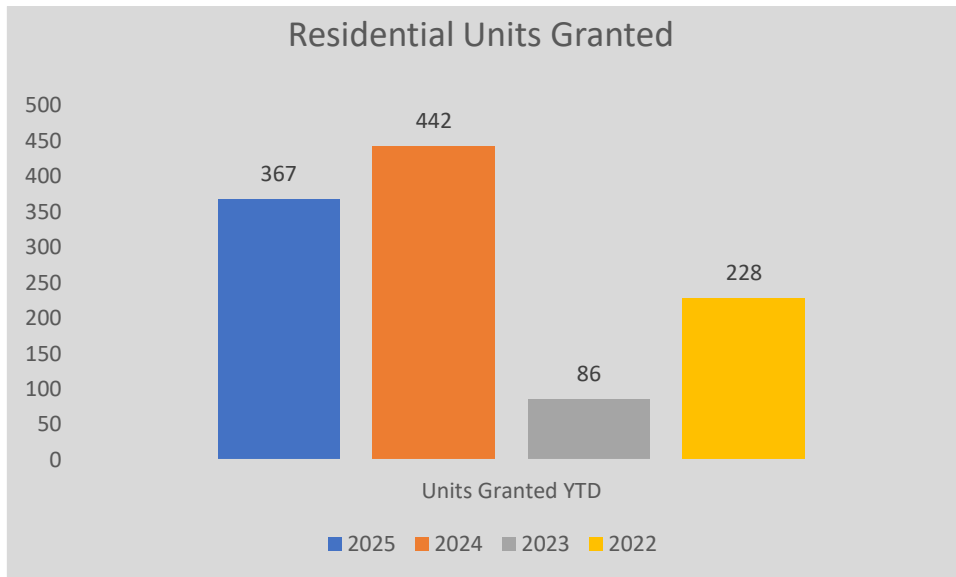
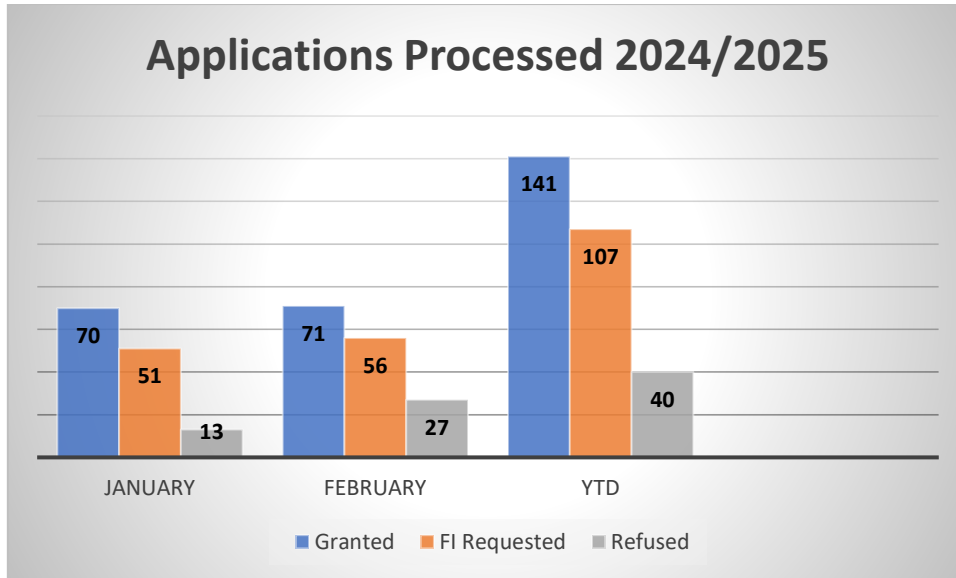
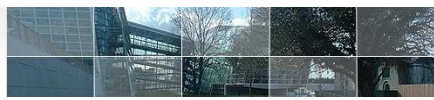
Work has ceased due to staffing resources but will resume in Q2.

**Development Management ePlanning**

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

In 2025 81.6% of all applications received up to 28 February 2025 are via the online planning portal.





### Pre-Planning

33 new Pre-Planning requests submitted. Total 54 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 10 March 2025

11 new Section 5 Declaration requests. Total 18 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 10 March 2025



## Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

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

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

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

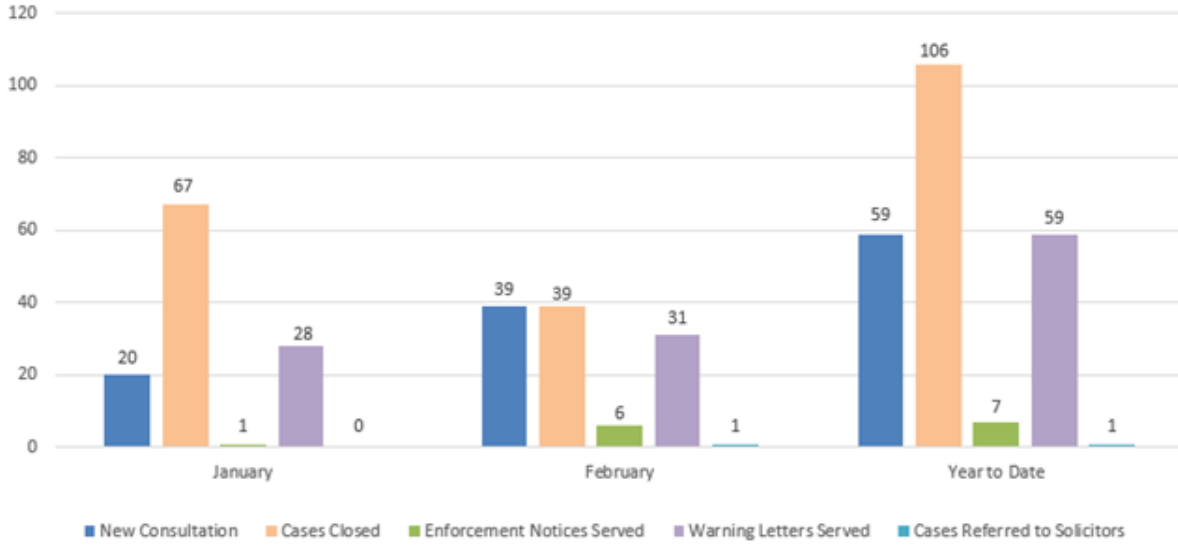
## Planning Enforcement

For period February 2025:

39	New Consultations
39	Cases Closed
6	Enforcement Notices Served
31	Warning Letters Served
1	Cases referred to Solicitors



**ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025**

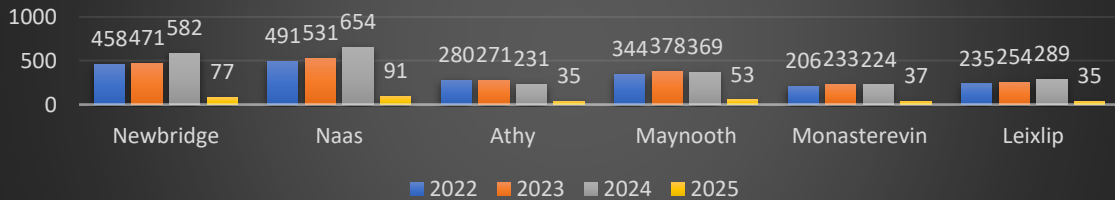


**Fire Service Operations:**

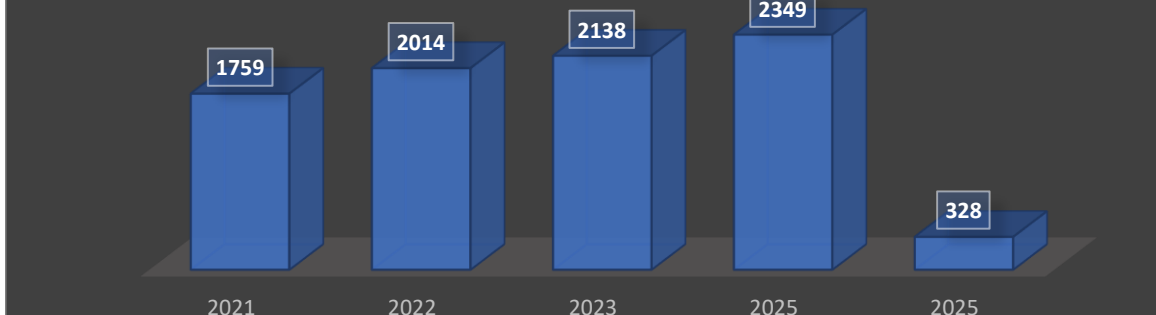
**2025 Summary:**

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

**Operational Calls by Fire Station to end of February 2025**



**STATION RESPONSES TO END FEB 2025**







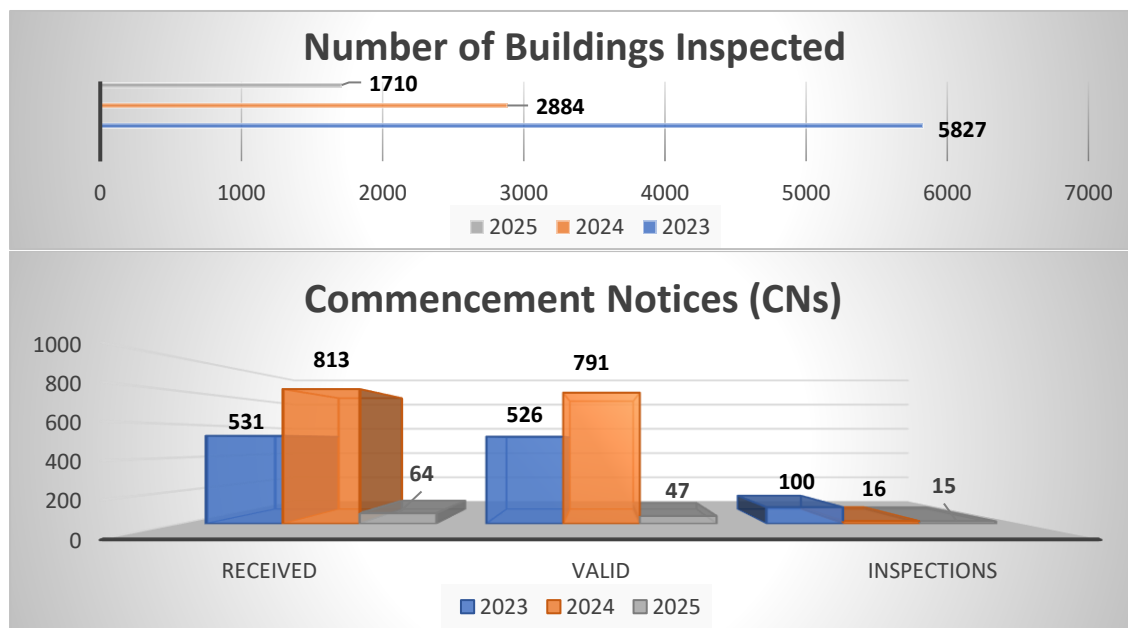
### Fire Safety Certificates

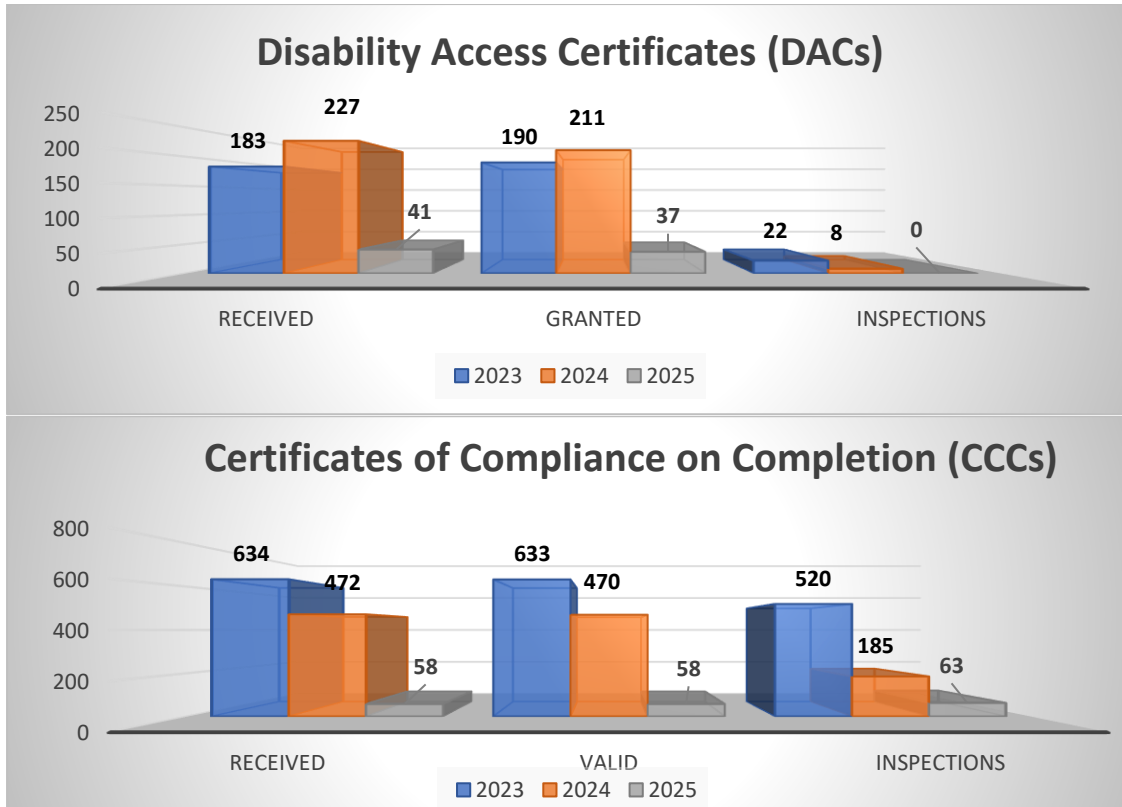
Applications received to the end of February 2025 compared with the totals received in previous years.



### Building and Development Control

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



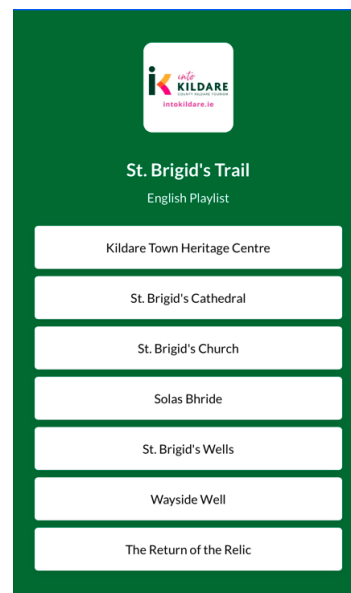


## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

In February, celebrations for St Brigid's Day were widespread across the county and beyond.

Into Kildare expanded the St. Brigid's Trail audio guide by commissioning the additional content on The Return of the Relic on the St Brigid's trail Audio Guide in all languages. This enhancement is prominently promoted on the Into Kildare website, featuring a QR code that directs consumers straight to the guide.



The Hill of Allen was illuminated from the 31 January until the 02 February shining a light over Kildare and was featured across a number of media



channels bringing a sense of pride to the county.



The Kildare presence in London was prominent over the St Brigid Bank holiday weekend. Into Kildare Chief Executive Aine Mangan once again attended a service held at St. Bride's Church, London, in memory of its "matron saint" during which Kildare was highlighted by Rev Alison Joyce.



Aine Mangan, Rev Alison Joyce and members of St Brides Church

Later David Mongey, Chairperson Into Kildare, and Aine Mangan attended a reception at the Irish Embassy in London for its annual St Brigid's event.

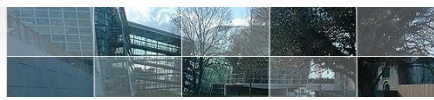


David Mongey, Aine Mangan and Mr. Michael Lonergan

Into Kildare attended a 'Meet the Media 2025' networking event in Dublin. This event connected Into Kildare with media from all over Ireland, the UK and internationally. 28 speed networking sessions were scheduled in advance, providing valuable opportunities for new partnerships and enhancing the visibility of Into Kildare with the media landscape.



Into Kildare at Meet the Media



Into Kildare was invited to attend an event in conjunction with the Embassy of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and Tourism Ireland in the Irish Ambassador's Residence in Abu Dhabi.



Aine Mangan with the Ambassador of Ireland and Tourism Ireland

The event attracted a number of guests from Ireland and the Middle East. Aine Mangan had the opportunity of representing County Kildare to the audience and providing a prize sponsored by Into Kildare members.

Failte Ireland requested Chief Executive Aine Mangan to speak at Kildare and Tipperary's destination forum and networking event. The event brought all tourism providers across the two counties together with a

spotlight on the Thoroughbred Country. The Into Kildare team had one to one appointments with trade afterwards.



Aine Mangan and other speakers at Failte Ireland destination forum

Into Kildare supported the opening launch of Lily and Wild at the Post restaurant at Naas Racecourse.

Communication and messaging in February covered Valentine's Day and inspiration for family activities over the February mid-term break. These messages were communicated across social media, and through newsletter, press release and blogs.

Planning is well underway for our Q1 members event in March in collaboration with Just Transition Tourism Activator.

Discussions for the Taste of Kildare are underway, with a subcommittee



involving a number of volunteers being formed.

## Enterprise and Economic Development

### 2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 07.03.2025	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant. (Product no longer available, replaced by Grow Digital Voucher)	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher	3	€12,650
Business Expansion Grant	2	€24,578
Priming Grant	1	€15,000
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€15,000
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (Product no longer available – replaced by Market Explorer Grant as outlined below)	1	€525
Market Explorer Grant		

Energy Efficiency Grant	13	€118,248
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>€188,501</b>

### Entrepreneurship Support

#### Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for one to one confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made:

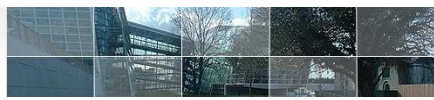
<https://leokildare.submit.com>

#### Focus On Business

Kildare's first Big Business Show was a must for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Attended by 200 entrepreneurs/exhibitors, the MERITS building was a hive of networking, creative thinking, and enthusiasm in support of small business.



Attendees had the opportunity to speak with over 20 exhibiting business support agencies including Enterprise Ireland, Intertrade Ireland, KWETB, Guaranteed Irish, Skillnet Ireland, and



more. They also availed of one to one sessions with experts and mentors in the adviser zone. Immerse and experiment in virtual reality in the MERITS Content Lab. Guests even got their own professional headshot free of charge, while others demoed their first podcast.

Throughout the evening, attendees attended multiple workshops, talks and discussions in the Masterclass Zone.

### Government Procurement Opportunities For Smes

Minister Emer Higgins, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform spoke about Government Procurement Opportunities for SMEs.



She also profiled Kildare-based Green IT to highlight the OGP’s work around SME inclusion and to encourage SMEs to bid on OGP frameworks. Some themes she touched on were

green public procurement, consortium bidding and OGP information sessions.

### Kildare’s Business Owner’s Guide Launched

Minister Martin Heydon, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine was in attendance also to officially launch Kildare’s Business Owner’s Guide: Supports for business.



This Business Owner’s Guide has been developed to ensure that Kildare’s business community takes advantage of the dynamic supports available to their business. The aim of this publication is to assist entrepreneurs in Kildare to navigate the range of financial and non-financial supports available at the various stages of business development. These stages are defined as Pre-start, Start-Up and Business Expansion. Our hope is that this guide will aid business development and, ultimately, job-



creation in the region. This publication can be accessed online here:

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

### **Focus On Student Enterprise**

Teenage entrepreneurs from Salesian College Celbridge will represent Kildare at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Final on Thursday 08 May.



The team impressed the judges with their self-illustrated and strategy-based card game.

The local students will be competing for the title of 'Student Enterprise of the Year' against hundreds of other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland at the Student Enterprise Programme National Final, taking place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 08 May.

### **Economic Support Services**

#### **Retail Supports Grants**

The Shopfront and Retail Window Merchandising grants have opened for 2025. The team is working through both the pipeline of existing Expressions of Interest and new applicants.

#### **European Projects**

##### **Erasmus+ Repower Regions**

This three-year project formally kicked off in December 2024, comprising of 12 project partners.

Kildare County Council will host the first in-person meeting between 19 – 21 March; the agenda will comprise both technical workshops and a site visit to a facility demonstrating innovation in heating and cooling systems.

##### **Erasmus+ Young Equine Innovators**

This three-year project (comprising five partners) is completing its work packages in accordance with the project objectives. Kildare County Council successfully developed video footage of the Irish equine innovation landscape showcasing LEO Kildare clients and is working on sectoral trends for publication as part of project outcomes.



### County Kildare Skills Audit

The skills audit of the County was launched by James Lawless TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, at the LEO Big Business event on Tuesday 04 March in MERITS.



The publication is available to be viewed at:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/County%20Kildare%20Skills%20Strategy/>

### Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Part 8 approval for the proposed Fashion, Textiles, and Design Hub was granted at the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting on 19 February. The procured Architectural Lead has commenced the development of the detail design, cost breakdowns, and reviewed necessary surveys to be completed. Preparation of the construction tender documents,

assessment of tender returns and recommendation of successful construction tenderer to follow.

### Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works have entered the forty-fifth week of the programme. 67% of construction programme has been completed. First floor ceiling, electrical containment and stud partition metal standing completed. Lime render to external walls complete and ready for lime skim. Stone infill replacing blockwork, stone cleaning and installation of kerbing ongoing. Roof and gutting repairs underway. Electrical second fix, Mechanical first fix in progress and relaying of flagstones nearing completion. Kitchen specialist equipment tender published on 20 February with a closing date of 14 March.

### Tourism

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

Fáilte Ireland have estimated that the assessment of funding applications under the SME scheme will be completed by end of March 2025. It has been flagged to Fáilte Ireland that some applications were submitted





several months before the January 2025 deadline, but still have not been assessed, and this delay will have a knock-on impact of shortening the time for project implementation. The first joint networking event with Into Kildare took place on 11 March and was hosted by Kilkea Castle who have completed an accessibility audit and will feature their learning as part of the event. The keynote speaker on the topic of Regenerative Tourism was Tina O'Dwyer of The Tourism Space.

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