



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – December 2024



*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas
and a peaceful
New Year*

BRIGID 1500

Celebrating A Woman, A Life, A Legacy

www.brigid1500.ie





News Items

Kildare County Council wins at Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024

Kildare County Council was the recipient of the Age Friendly Initiative award at the 2024 Excellence in Local Government Awards, which took place in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin on Thursday 21 November. (see page 10).

Installation of Municipal Art Collection at MERITS and Kildare Town Library

Across Friday 22, Monday 25, Tuesday 26 artworks were moved from storage, Aras Chill Dara, and Naas Civil Defence building to MERITS (including recently acquired neon artwork) and Kildare Town Library (see page 14).

Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

Was due to launch in October 2024, however, we have received confirmation from the Department of Rural and Community Development that this will now be launched in Q1 2025 (see page 21).

Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Team can be contacted at 045 98023 (see page 21).

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 (see pages 49/50).



Christmas Tree Recycling 2025

Kildare County Council will again provide a free service to the public where they can bring their real Christmas trees to be recycled in a sustainable way. In total there will be seven sites across the county where this service will be provided (see page 54).

Columbarium Walls

Contracts have been awarded for the provision of new Columbarium Walls in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works. Works on all three walls will be substantially complete by early December (see page 56).

Monasterevin to Portarlington Greenway Feasibility Study

Tenders for this study have been received and it is planned to award the work before the end of the year (see page 64).

Kildare Failte

Into Kildare participated in a productive meeting with members of Tourism Ireland's international publicity team and Fáilte Ireland's publicity team in Clanard Court Hotel. Tourism Ireland's publicity team engages with over 22,000 media contacts globally each month, sharing stories and content about Ireland (see page 71).



Diary/Calendar

Applications are now open for the Community Monuments Fund 2025

Kildare County Council are now accepting applications for the 2025 Community Monuments Fund, a grant scheme for the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. (see page 8).

Brigid 2025 Festival Unveils Launch Programme

After the resounding success of the Brigid 1500 programme last year, which brought nearly 80,000 visitors to Kildare, Kildare County Council is thrilled to announce the internationally recognised festival will return for 2025 (see page 11).

Library Ireland Week

Library Ireland Week (LIW) is taking place this year from Sunday 01 – Saturday 07 December and the theme for this year is ‘Where Idea’s Matter. The Freedom to Think, to Discover and to Be Yourself’ (see page 12).

Dwelling by Caoimhe McGuckin opens in the Children’s Gallery –

Co-commissioned by Kildare Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre. At Riverbank Arts Centre until Saturday 21 December. (see page 14).

Serviced Sites Scheme

The council’s Serviced Sites Scheme in Clogherinkoe opened for applications on 21 November 2024. The application portal will remain open for four weeks until noon on 19 December 2024 (see page 21).



Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) Christmas Arrangements

DAC's will be closed for new arrivals on 23, 30 December and 02 January.

Approximately 36 people are due to leave Newhall on the lead up to 23 December and all agencies will concentrate on accommodating these residents before that date (see page 35).

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

DRCD allocated Kildare LCDC LEP grant aid funding to be awarded to community and voluntary groups. There is €244,336 available to be split- €209,431 towards capital and €34,905 towards running costs. The LCDC agreed an evaluation committee and work is underway to finalise the guidelines and application process. This will be available in early 2025 for applications (see page 58).

Road Safety Speed Limit Review

Public consultation process completed for the Supplementary Special Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads with no supplementary special speed limits. The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph has been confirmed as 07 February 2025 (see pages 59/60).

EU JTF – Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme

All expressions of interest have now been evaluated by Fáilte Ireland and the last few weeks until the closing date for applications on 13 January will focus on one-to-one work with applicants (see page 78).



January Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 Dec	31	1 Jan	2	3
6	7	8 10:00 Briefing on Kilkullen settlement; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	9	10 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
13 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	14 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	15 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	16	17 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
20 10:00 Athy MD Meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	21	22 10:30 Informal Briefing Planning; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Members Calendar	23	24
27 15:00 Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	28	29	30	31



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Kildare County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidelines



Kildare County Council has recently published its new Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) guidelines. The SuDS guidelines have been prepared to ensure that development across County Kildare is designed to reduce flood risk from stormwater surges, whilst also improving the amenity, biodiversity and placemaking value of Kildare's towns, villages and urban landscapes. Whether you are planning to design new housing, non-residential or mixed-use developments, or even just a new family home then the Guidance Document is relevant to you.

Applications are now open for the Community Monuments Fund 2025

Kildare County Council are now accepting applications for the 2025 Community Monuments Fund, a grant scheme for the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments.

The Community Monuments Fund provides funding for projects in relation to Archaeological Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended) and Archaeological Monuments that are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record, compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Kildare County Council Hosts Public Procurement Briefing for Local SMEs





Kildare County Council's Procurement Office, in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office, hosted a Public Procurement briefing on Wednesday, 20 November to equip local small medium enterprises (SME's) with the knowledge to successfully engage in Ireland's public procurement process. This briefing highlighted Kildare County Council's procurement plans for 2025, providing Kildare-based SME's with valuable insights into opportunities for business growth.

Kildare County Council in partnership with Maynooth University announce Ré Ó Laighléis as Scríbhneoir Cónaithe for the 2024 – 25 academic year



Kildare County Council in partnership with Maynooth University are pleased to announce Ré Ó Laighléis as Scríbhneoir Cónaithe for the 2024 – 2025 academic year. The role as

Scríbhneoir Cónaithe (Writer in Residence) was developed to give students and the general public the opportunity to engage with esteemed Irish language writers, and also to provide an opportunity for Irish language writers to advance their own projects.

Fógraíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara, i gcomhpháirt le hOllscoil Mhá Nuad, Ré Ó Laighléis mar Scríbhneoir Cónaithe don bhliain acadúil 2024 – 25

Tá áthas ar Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a fhógairt, i gcomhar le hOllscoil Mhá Nuad, go bhfuil Ré Ó Laighléis ceaptha mar Scríbhneoir Cónaithe don bhliain acadúil 2024 – 2025. Forbraíodh an ról mar Scríbhneoir Cónaithe Gaeilge chun deis a thabhairt do mhic léinn agus don phobal i gcoitinne a bheith ag plé le scríbhneoirí mór le rá na Gaeilge, agus chun deis a thabhairt do scríbhneoirí Gaeilge a dtionscadail féin a chur chun cinn.



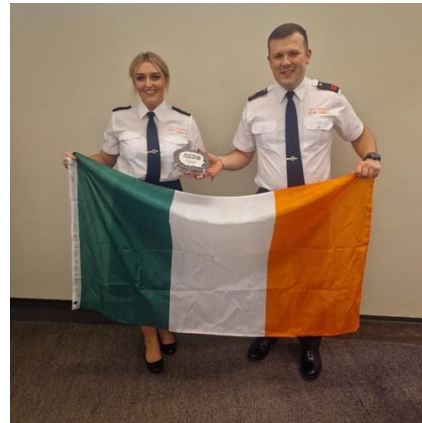
Kildare County Council wins at Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024



Kildare County Council was the recipient of the Age Friendly Initiative award at the 2024 Excellence in Local Government Awards, which took place in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dublin on Thursday 21 November.

Following the census of 2016, Ballymore-Eustace was selected as a potential village for Age Friendly and Climate Change Friendly initiatives by Kildare County Council due to its high proportion of elderly residents compared to the rest of the county. Ballymore-Eustace was selected as a case study for how rural commuter villages can implement community-level solutions to address climate change, focusing on Climate Action.

Kildare Civil Defence takes third place at the World Rescue Challenge, Azores, Portugal



Kildare County Council is delighted to announce that Shannon Reid, Assistant Civil Defence Officer, Kildare Civil Defence, and Aaron Cullen, Volunteer, Kildare Civil Defence, achieved third place in the Trauma Complex Challenge at the recent World Rescue Challenge, Azores, Portugal, and were ranked as the fourth best Trauma Team globally. Competing against 31 other trauma teams worldwide, the team is representing Kildare Civil Defence and Ireland for the second time at The World Championships, and their second time to receive a third place prize.



Kildare County Council announce Final Phase for Submissions for Community Recognition Fund 2024

Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the final application window for the Community Recognition Fund 2024 is now open, offering a final chance for community groups and organisations to benefit from this significant funding program.

Brigid 2025 Festival Unveils Launch Programme



After the resounding success of the Brigid 1500 programme last year, which brought nearly 80,000 visitors to Kildare, Kildare County Council is thrilled to announce the internationally recognised festival will return for 2025. Kildare County Council, Brigid 2025, Spirit of Kildare organisers hope the festival will continue to grow year on year as it becomes a festival mainstay in the Irish calendar.

The festival was launched on Wednesday, 13 November at Naas

Library and Cultural Centre, with special guests Mary Coughlan and Megan O' Neill.

Kildare to Bloom White in Honour of St. Brigid with Bulb Planting Scheme



As part of the Brigid 1500 programme, a special bulb planting initiative will take place across Kildare in partnership with local Tidy Towns groups. This initiative aims to celebrate St. Brigid and her connection to Spring, a season traditionally associated with new beginnings, hope, and renewal.

Public Sector Duty

The framework document has been approved by the Senior Management team. The establishment of the Steering Committee is in progress.



Members Services

Meetings Calendar 2025

The members of Kildare County Council adopted the 2025 Budget at the statutory budget meeting on the 18 November.

The Meetings Calendar for 2025 was also approved.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life. ~Henry Ward Beecher

Library Ireland Week

Library Ireland Week (LIW) is taking place this year from Sunday 01 – Saturday 07 December and the theme for this year is ‘Where Idea’s Matter. The Freedom to Think, to Discover and to Be Yourself’. Kildare Library Service represented public libraries on the LIW taskforce and will be supporting this national campaign with

events taking place in Kildare

Libraries, as well as promotion via all our social media platforms. The official press launch photo was taken in Naas Library and Cultural Centre at the Midlands Chapter of The Irish Woodturners' Guild Exhibition.

Athy Library

A wonderful start to November in Athy Library which hosted the ‘Future Ancestor Festival’ held on the library grounds beside River Barrow’s edge and inside the library involving local artists and the local community in their exploration of the relationship between themselves and the environment and how they imagine a sustainable future.

Naas Library and Cultural Centre

The two Age Friendly courses, Beginners Computers and Internet Skills/Genealogy finished at the end of November with wonderful feedback from the participants. Both these courses were a collaboration between Kildare Library Service and Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB). They were made possible by funding received from the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL)



Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2024.

Maynooth Library

This month, Maynooth library hosted a series of four evening talks on the topic of 'Behaviour Support for Your Neurodivergent Child', as part of the Kildare Libraries Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) programme. The series of talks was given by Eimear Kelly, founder of Aspire Behaviour Consultancy in Dublin, where she provides specialist behavioural support to individuals, their parents, caregivers, and wider support staff. Maynooth library collaborated with Maynooth University to host a course information evening during College Awareness Week, 18 - 24 November. This was an informal evening where adults considering returning to education could come and learn about the wide range of courses on offer at Maynooth University and meet and speak with Maynooth University staff.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

An exhibition of a digital archive of photographs of Athy Workhouse by Brian Cregan with an introduction to

the Poor Law Union archives of County Kildare by Karel Kiely, archivist, will take place on 06 December at 11.00am in at Kildare County Archives and Local Studies, Harbour View, Naas. This is the culmination of two Creative Ireland funded projects in 2023 and 2024 which involved artist photographer Brian Cregan working with the Archives service and local communities to explore and reflect on the heritage and history of the workhouse in Athy.

The second of four workshops, Writing the Past - Memoirs, family history and historical non-fiction, facilitated by Dr. Francesca Bratton, Kildare Writer in Residence 2023-24 and the county archivist took place on 19 November.

Accessioning, listing, and processing archival collections, including records stored in Kefron continues.

Working on Phase one of digital records clean up with IT in preparation for a move of files to a DAMS.

Subscription to provide the Irish Newspaper Archive in all library branches, including each edition of the



Kildare Nationalist and the first fifty years of the Leinster Leader, has been renewed for another twelve months. New content continues to be added to Kildare eHistory page every week. Staff continue to liaise with and assist local community groups and secondary school Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle exam classes.

Arts Service

Dwelling by Caoimhe McGuckin opens in the Children's Gallery –

Co-commissioned by Kildare Arts Service and Riverbank Arts Centre With a focus on everyday spaces and objects that form the backdrop of childhood imagination, this exhibition highlights the importance of nurturing imaginative capacities within the spaces children inhabit daily. At Riverbank Arts Centre until Saturday 21 December.

Support Salons for Musicians

Led by MU Musician in Residence Elizabeth Hilliard, the penultimate informal meetup took place at Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday 15 November.

Installation of Municipal Art Collection at MERITS and Kildare Town Library

Across Friday 22, Monday 25, Tuesday 26 artworks were moved from storage, Aras Chill Dara, and Naas Civil Defence building to MERITS (including recently acquired neon artwork) and Kildare Town Library. An info leaflet about the MAC artworks has been prepared for Kildare Town Library.

Professional Development Event at Celbridge Library

Kildare Arts Service teamed up with Visual Artists Ireland to deliver the fourth in their series of PDP sessions for artists focusing on how to plan effective funding applications. Led by Dr. Marianne O'Kane Boal, the session took place at Celbridge Library on Thursday 07, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

Six in the Attic opportunity for Theatre Producers from Kildare

Kildare Arts Service have partnered with the Irish Theatre Institute's year-long artist development programme which provides playwrights and theatre makers with resources to develop their practice and a community of peers.



One Kildare theatre maker has been awarded this opportunity.

Kildare Young Filmmakers (KYF) celebrate ten years

Kildare Young Filmmakers showcased a variety of short films with panel discussions with current and former KYF members and summer camp attendees from the last ten years at Riverbank Arts Centre on Sunday 27 October.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections: Two inspections completed in the following areas:
 - Environment – waste related
-Caragh
 - Finance Office-Áras Chill
Dara
2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)
Assessments: Six assessments completed
3. Survey sent to staff on PEEP's (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans)

Accessibility:

1. Preparation for Kildare Inclusivity Festival 11 May 2025 in Curragh
2. County Kildare Access Network Website is now completed and gone live.
3. Development of guidelines and check sheets for:
 - a. Reasonable Accommodations
 - b. Hosting events and meetings



Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

Finance

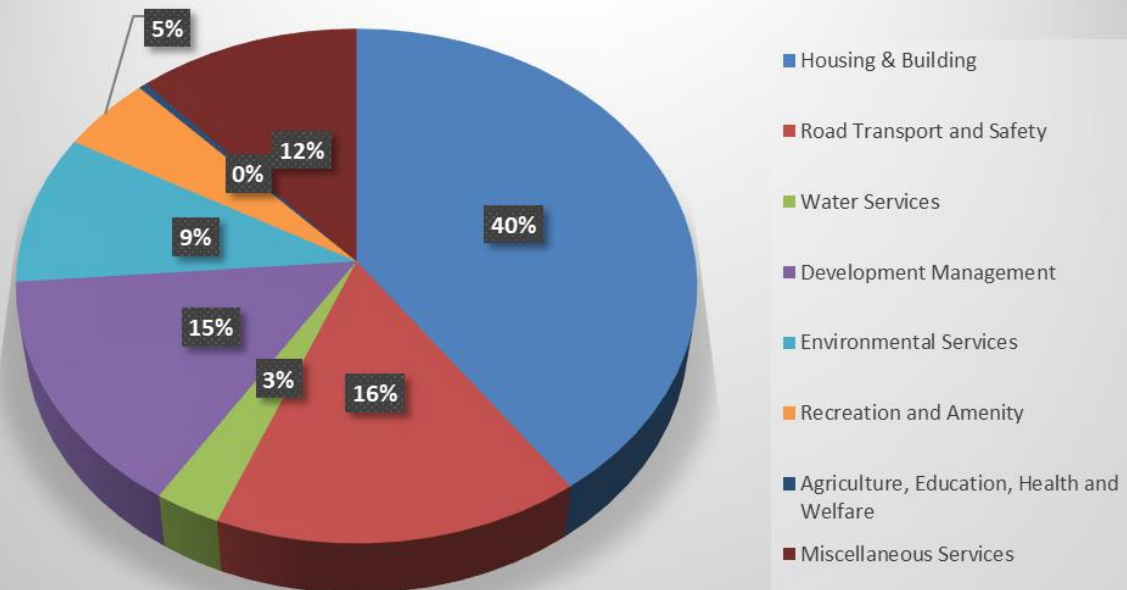
Revenue Account

Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Nov 2024

Division	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	98,060	88,215	111% -	9,845
Road Transport and Safety	39,091	44,078	89%	4,987
Water Services	7,051	9,767	72%	2,716
Development Management	36,049	29,330	123% -	6,719
Environmental Services	23,055	24,474	94%	1,419
Recreation and Amenity	11,780	17,635	67%	5,855
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	1,039	1,305	80%	266
Miscellaneous Services	28,327	21,941	129% -	6,386
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	244,451	236,745	103% -	7,706

Expenditure Year to Date





As Members are aware the budget in the public sector represents the ceiling to funding provision of a service – ie excluding additional grants, the budget amount is the maximum spend that can be incurred.

Estimates are fixed and service delivery is limited to within the envelope of funding. If a budget holder wants/needs to increase some aspect of the service beyond the budget provision, they need to find the funding elsewhere by reducing some other line of expenditure or by receiving additional grant income. You will note that the expenditure and

income in Housing and Building is significantly ahead of budget, this is due to additional expenditure and matching increased income on social housing leasing initiatives.

Development Management is also significantly ahead of budget, this is due to the expenditure and income on the “Increased Cost of Business Grant Scheme” of €9.9million and “Power Up Grant” of €5.3million being included in this division but not budgeted for in 2024 as the schemes were announced at a date after the Kildare County Council 2024 budget was adopted.

Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 Nov 2024

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	86,984	78,925	110% -	8,059
Road Transport and Safety	21,240	23,074	92%	1,834
Water Services	6,487	9,685	67%	3,198
Development Management	26,567	11,182	238% -	15,385
Environmental Services	6,104	7,886	77%	1,782
Recreation and Amenity	2,171	2,187	99%	16
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	315	308	102% -	7
Miscellaneous Services	9,227	10,043	92%	816
Local Property Tax Allocation	21,460	21,460	100%	-
Rates	66,353	71,995	92%	5,642
	246,908	236,745	104% -	10,163



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 November 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers/ Tribunal	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/11/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	72,405,447	2,502,583	482,777	77,800,552	64,600,080	13,200,472
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	20,104,590	13,540	-	21,435,108	19,927,050	1,508,058
Housing Loans	1,387,626	3,695,051	13	-	5,082,664	3,757,414	1,325,250

Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 30 November 2024.

Risk Management

The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed by senior management in October. As the Corporate Risk Register is a “live” document, it is updated on an ongoing basis and a further full review is planned for early 2025.

Increased Cost of Business

Grant/Power Up Grant

A third ICOB grant called the ‘Power Up’ grant was announced in Budget 2025. Those 1,807 businesses who received the second ICOB retail and Hospitality payment will receive a

further €4,000 payment each before the end of 2024. Of 1816 eligible businesses (those who previously got the ICOB 2 grant), 1750 submissions (96%) have been received. The portal for submissions closed on 22 November.

To date, 1644 submissions have been processed (94%), with payment already issued to 1533 businesses (88%, spend of €5.3m).

It is intended that all grants will be paid by week ending 13 December, with a total spend of €7m.

The first ICOB grant was equivalent to 50% of each customer’s rates bill up to a maximum grant of €5,000. A total of €6.25 million was paid to 3,187 small and medium businesses in County Kildare who had a rates bill of less than €30,000 (78% take up).



The second ICOB grant totalling €3.7m was paid to 1,807 businesses in the Retail and Hospitality industry.

It is estimated that Kildare County Council on behalf of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (DETE) for the year 2024 will have paid a total of €17m to small and medium businesses as part of the ICOB/Power Grant Schemes.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions in respect of residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of the build of the units by 31 December 2025.

The Government has approved, on 23 April 2024, an extension of the current arrangements for the waiving of local authority “section 48” development contributions to 31 December 2024 and the refunding of Uisce Éireann water and waste water connection charges to 30 September 2024.

On the fifteenth of each month each Local Authority is to submit a claim to

the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15-Nov-24
Total number of residential units		2589
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	1666	€12,231,406
Apartments	923	€3,829,645
Specials Roads Car Parking etc		€252,798
Car parking		
Total	2589	€16,313,850

Motor Tax

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at www.motortax.ie. If they are not in a position to use the online facility, we accept and continue to process postal applications or an appointment can be booked online or by telephone on 045 980 920.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting www.motortax.ie. Alternatively, customers can email motortax@kildarecoco.ie or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.



Digital Services

New Computers -

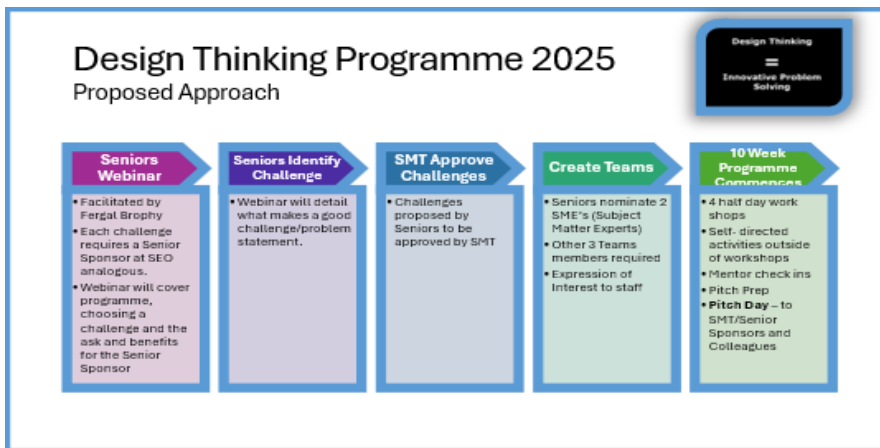
To date the IT department have deployed 33 new laptops to Council Members with five in preparation and two waiting for response from Members.

Innovation

Lean 6 Sigma

Delivery continuing and 2024 projects to be finalised with presentation on benefits of projects in 2025.

Design Thinking Programme to be delivered in 2025 with four projects to be identified.



Housing and Regeneration

Regeneration

Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) Funding Schemes

The DRCD Capital Delivery Team is an additional resource to Strategic Project and Public Realm (SPPR), adding three staff to the SPPR team, with responsibility for the delivery of

DRCD funded projects, existing and new. In this regard all funding applications to launch in the coming months will now fall under the remit of this team, moving from Parks/Community etc. There is a dedicated email address if you have any queries

capdeliversppr@kildarecoco.ie.



Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

Was due to launch in October 2024, however, we have received confirmation from the Department of Rural and Community Development that this will now be launched in Q1 2025.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

2024-2025 Scheme has been launched. An expression of interest will be published in the coming weeks on the Council website and social media platforms.

Housing

Serviced Sites Scheme

The council's Serviced Sites Scheme in Clogherinkoe opened for applications on 21 November 2024. The application portal will remain open for four weeks until noon on 19 December 2024. The cost of each site is €45,000 which is a reduction in the market value. The scheme is advertised in local newspapers, our website, social media sites and MyHome.ie. To date only two applications have been received.

Traveller Accommodation Unit

The Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller families was undertaken on Friday, 29 November (Housing Circular 29/2024). A report on the estimate will be presented to the next meeting of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC).

Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Team can be contacted at 045 98023.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works complete other than snagging. Substantial completion imminent
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site substantially in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
Approval Stage 3		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Stage 4 approval received from the Department. The Letter of Acceptance is now being prepared for issue to the Contractor for signing.
Approval Stage 2		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanala on 22 August. Preparation of works tender commenced. Planning condition surveys complete.
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	Revised stage 2 approval received - 14.10.2024. Part 8 launched and is due before April meeting of Athy MD. Contract for boundary wall at PPP site to be tendered to allow construction prior to PPP site commencement.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved. Site Clearance ongoing to allow completion of site investigation and finalisation of civils design. Site clearance completed: Part 8 being prepared, to be launched 2 nd week in January 2025



St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 presented and approved subject to amendments: Change to vehicular access requires further Part 8 consultation. Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. Part 8 relating to revisions to the works to be launched December 2024.
Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units] - Tendering ongoing.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH in November.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed. Design of existing units to be finalised: Mix of units agreed for existing building- 3x2bed units: design to be finalised and agreed.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing. Tender for Conservation Architect complete; appointment to follow.

Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design to be finalised and agreed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application submitted to DHLGH. Preparation of response to DHLGH queries in hand.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing.



Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Structural condition surveys progressing
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Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing. Civils design to be finalised subject to agreement on Arborist's Report with Parks Department. Stage 3 submission being prepared to be submitted in December 2024. Tender to be finalised and issued in Q1 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 4 approval received 1 st October. Awaiting contractor's insurance details before issuing letter of offer.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Substantial completion issued. Handover 28.11.2024.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLH on 28 th October.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: 3 tenders received. Tender Assessment complete. Preferred bidder to be approved by Project Board in early October. Commence works March/April 2025.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement has commenced.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 approved at September MD Meeting. Fire Cert and DAC applications being submitted. Procurement has commenced.



Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	82 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including affordable viability test. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27	Part 8 presented to MD and accepted: Stage 3 submission being prepared in conjunction with Sophia Housing.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents being prepared.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved.

*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme *CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility

Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	64
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	30
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	58
Total	209	247	152



Homeless Services

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 27 November 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	17	25	29
6 - 12 Months	16	26	32
12 - 18 Months	2	2	2
18 - 24 Months	2	5	5
24 - 30 Months	2	2	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	39	60	69

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 27 November 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	5	11	12
6 - 12 Months	5	9	8
12 - 18 Months	2	7	3
18 - 24 Months	1	2	2
24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
+ 36 Months	1	1	2
Total	15	32	30



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	<p>Unbound Towpath Works: Complete</p> <p>Bound Towpath Works: Works are complete except snagging.</p> <p>Pedestrian Bridge: Tender completed and contract has been awarded. Site works due to commence first week of December, subject to receipt of Temporary Licence Agreement from Waterways Ireland.</p> <p>Works to be progressed: Wayfinding Signage Tender Interpretation Signage</p>
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Part 8 preparation continues in advance of publication. Project proposal includes a Trailhead Car Park for the Barrow Blueway in Athy, bicycle parking, campervan set down area, picnic tables and benches incorporating SuDS in the overall project design.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€18,475,000	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Further assessment has been requested by the Department of Housing, Local



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>Government and Heritage, to assess the cumulative impact of the bridge development and Phase 2 of the Grand Canal Greenway on the Ballynafagh Lake (SAC). Planning has confirmed that the Part 8 process for the bridges must recommence. The Project Team have engaged with the DHLGH and are in the process of carrying out the assessment required.</p> <p>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 2024 early 2025 Tender Package 2 Towpath Works; undertaken by Waterways Ireland (sensitive area) 2025 and 2026</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 - 2027 Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027
Kildare-Newbridge	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600	KCC/DOD	Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	The Draft Plan has been submitted to the Minister for Defence and Tánaiste Micheál Martin. SPPR await confirmation from the Minister's Office that the document is approved for publication.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Three separate public consultation pieces have taken place as part of the information gathering and sharing process. In August, a public workshop took place in the library; and an online survey was held from 15 th July to 30 th August. An Art Competition for Primary Schools took place during the same periods. The Public consultation report has been published on our website and circulated by e-mail.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work programme recommenced with Metropolitan Workshop.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3))	Pre-Part 8	SPPR have successfully received funding under T&V (TCF Measure 3) to assist with bringing a project identified in the Monasterevin Masterplan through planning consent stages. The project identified is the Market Square. The DRCD Capital Delivery Team will include this project on their work programme for 2025, aiming to secure Part 8.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Market traders have moved to their alternative location. Road closure will take place on Leinster Street from 4th-8 th December to facilitate works necessary to progress Emily Square project. The contractor will aim to complete works in the shortest timeframe possible. Engaging with the artist of Shackleton Mural to see if the



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					new substation can be incorporated into the artwork.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Shard Extension: steel extension has arrived and will take 3 weeks to erect. A 2-week installation programme for glazing will follow.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	Oldstone Conservation, specialist conservation team continue work on site and will be completed by year end. Discussions underway with ESB regarding the undergrounding of cables.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Letters of regret and intent issued. Standstill period follows after which the contract will be awarded. Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.		<p>potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</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 have indicated they will be able to commence the Maynooth project in Q1 2025.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</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>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</p> <p>Subject to completion of the</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					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. The funding awarded does not include any construction element, a separate funding source will be required.
	Harbourfield, Maynooth	€181,794		Detailed Design & Works	Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway. This element is progressing well, with engagement continuing with stakeholders. An additional funding source is required to bring this project to the next stage and beyond.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be	TBC	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan –



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case</p>		<p>Letters of regret and intent issued. Standstill period follows after which the contract will be awarded.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. 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>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions. Final Business Case submitted to the URDF Team.</p> <p>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF/KCC	Masterplan	The project is currently at option selection stage and a further consultation period will take place before end of year.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are finalised. Revised draft is under review.

Integration

General

Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) Christmas Arrangements

DAC's will be closed for new arrivals on 23, 30 December and 02 January. Approximately 36 people are due to leave Newhall on the lead up to 23 December and all agencies will concentrate on accommodating these residents before that date.

Regular Day-75 clinics are being held in both Newhall and Punchestown to assist residents approaching the end of their stay in state provided accommodation.

The Citywest Transit Hub will be closed for processing of International Protection Applicants on 25 and 26 December and 01 January and for procession of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection on 24, 25, 26 and 31 December and 01 January.

Designated Accommodation Centre Severe Weather Arrangements

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have confirmed that no exit will take place from DAC's while weather warnings are in place.

Christmas Absence Policy

To support International Protection Applicants joining family and friends



for Christmas there will be a permitted absence period from 23 December to 06 January.

To support Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection joining family and friends for Christmas there will be a permitted absence period from 23 December to 08 January.

Change to Social Welfare Entitlements for BOTPs in Full Board Accommodation

Reduced social welfare payments for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Kill Equestrian Centre came into effect on 09 December. Payments will reduce to €38.80 per week for an adult and €29.80 per week for a child. Kill Equestrian Centre is full-board accommodation.

Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

On 25 June 2024, the European Council further extended the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for the protection of individuals fleeing the Ukraine crisis until 04 March 2026 (yet to be signed into law in Ireland). With this in mind, and following consultations across departments, the expectation is that the ARP will

continue as is, with minor adjustments possible. There is no further update on this item. Availability of the ARP is important to the supply of Offer a Home and Pledged accommodation.

Recent Developments Consolidation of Accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

DCEDIY continue to consolidate its existing accommodation portfolio for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 as numbers decline and existing BOTP's source their own accommodation. Relocation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from existing commercial arrangements has recommenced. There is no indication that Newhall will open as a Relocations Hub.

Branding of the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

A suite of branding material for the LAIT, developed in line with Local Government Shared Services guidelines has been approved.



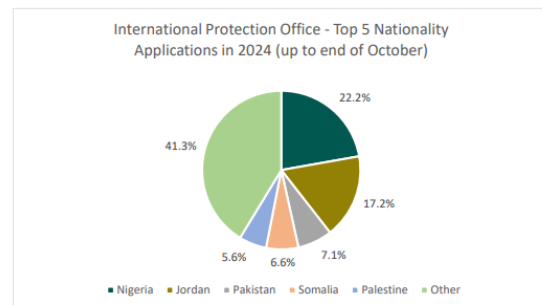
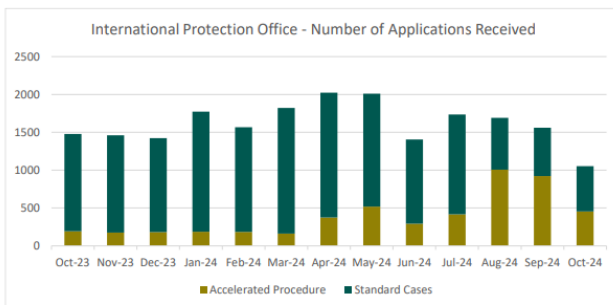
Downward Trend in International Protection Applicants

The Department of Justice International Protection October 2024 Report identifies a downward trend in International Protection Applicants. In

October 2024 there were 1,053 applications for asylum, down from 1,479 in October 2023.

Of those applications where a decision on status was made in October 2024, 40% of decisions were refusals, 3.5% were permission to remain and 56.5% were granted full status.

Applications and main nationalities



European Migration Network (EMN) Study

The EMN has produced a study on the application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and Good Practice in 2023.

[Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: Challenges and good practices in 2023 EMN Inform - The European Migration Network](#)

The study looked at registration and extension of stay after the first year, the possible pathways available for BOTP's to transition to other types and forms of legal residence or protection statuses, tracking beneficiaries travelling to other Member States and outside the EU, and registration and extension of stay after the first year. It also examined challenges and good practices in accessing rights provided



by the TPD in relation to accommodation, the labour market, healthcare, education, and social assistance/welfare. Finally, it outlined the supports available for vulnerable groups, specifically unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking in human beings.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

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

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

of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

From the 08 March to the 02 December 2024, Kildare LAIT has offered 162 information clinics, 82 clinics in UCTAT accommodation and 80 clinics in IPAS accommodation centres, five of which were group clinics. Through the clinics the LAIT provided information to 957 people of which 535 were beneficiaries of temporary protection, 422 were international protection applicants or persons with status in IPAS accommodation.

During November 2024, Kildare LAIT received 228 queries and resolved 217 queries. Up to the 02 December 2024, the LAIT received 1,497 queries and solved 1,483 queries. Out of those 839 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 547 by international protection applicants and 113 by persons with status.



During November 2024, Kildare LAIT organised 20 information clinics, 9 in UCTAT and 11 in IPAS accommodation centres providing information and advice to 101 people in State provided accommodation in County Kildare.

Kildare LAIT in collaboration with the Hope and Courage Collective organised a successful workshop on understanding how the far right operates and how to counteract disruption within our communities. This is the first of a series of workshops. The session took place on the 13 November 2024 in Naas and was attended by 27 participants from the gardai, youth sector (including youth advocates), Childcare Committee, Citizens Information Centre, accommodation centres managers, Kildare County Council Library Services, Homeless Services, Integration Team, and the DCEDIY Community Engagement Team representatives.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

During November 2024, Kildare LAIT arranged nine clinics with 68 beneficiaries of temporary protection. Most queries were related to access to accommodation (ARP, rent a room, private rented accommodation); employment; health services; community services; public services; and queries around finances and supplementary income. Vulnerable groups in State provided accommodation include age-out minors living in centres with no staff support onsite; and children and adults impacted by loss and with mental health needs.

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 891 (695 adults/ 196 children)

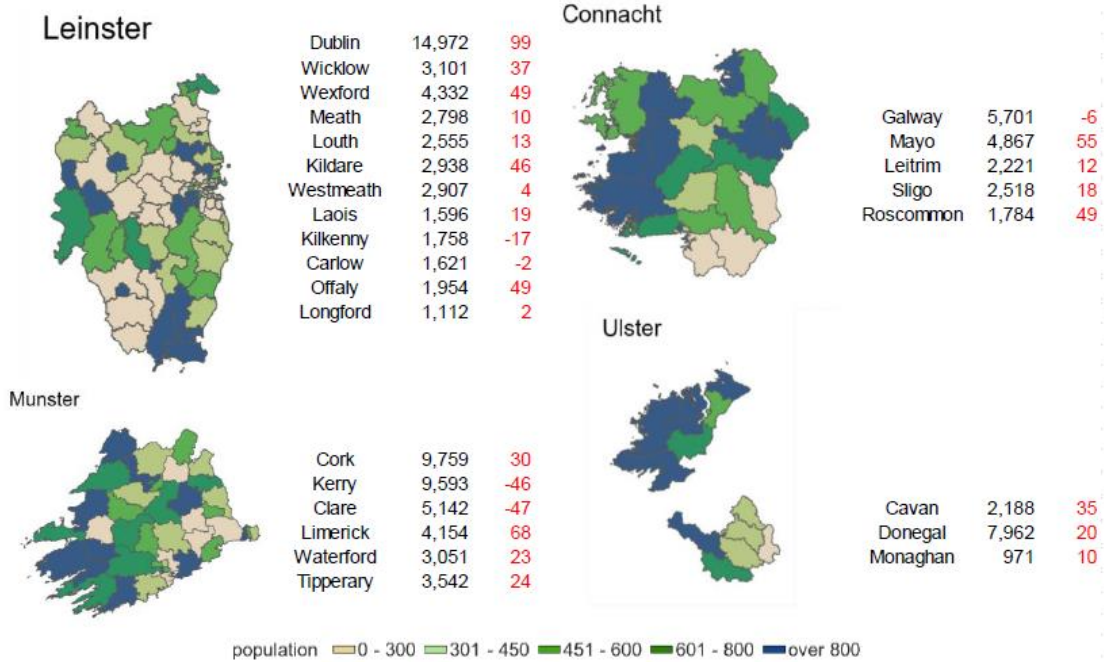
Data source DECDIY – 25 November 2024

The current distribution of BOTP's nationally is as follows:

Data source Central Statistics Office
01 November 2024



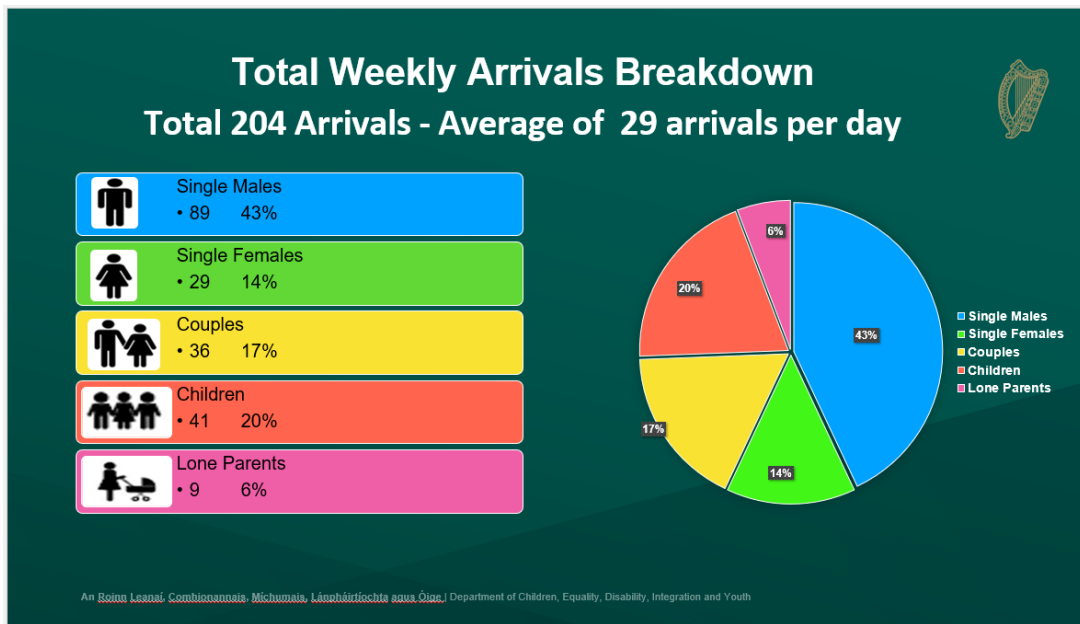
National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection



International Protection (IP) Applicants:

IP applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 669 (569 adults/1100 children) - Source DECDIY 17 November 2024

The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week 24 November 2024 is as follows:





Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority (17 November 2024)

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	430	Kerry County	908	Offaly County	476
Cavan County	165	Kildare County	669	Roscommon County	210
Clare County	987	Kilkenny County	174	Sligo County	655
Cork City	523	Laois County	454	South Dublin County	4288
Cork County	1537	Leitrim County	224	Tipperary County	800
Donegal County	1987	Limerick City & County	489	Waterford City and County	632
Dublin City	3469	Longford County	139	Westmeath County	771
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1361	Louth County	1154	Wexford County	634
Fingal County	2409	Mayo County	1603	Wicklow County	1558
Galway City Council	1717	Meath County	1117	Grand Total	32656
Galway County Council	400	Monaghan County	716		

In November 2024, Kildare LAIT organised 11 clinics in IPAS accommodation centres, supporting 33 international protection applicants and persons with status. Most queries were related to access to health, education, employment, community services, english classes, and other local services. Vulnerable groups include; survivors of gender-based violence; age-out minors with no support; and children living without adequate space for play and to do homework.

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted

the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of AHB and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches 2024, and the second quarter of 2025. The first resettlement of three families took place at the beginning of October 2024 with two more resettlements due to take place in Q1 2025.

Integration supports are in place with EU funds through the IRPP/DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council as an implementing partner through a tender



process for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for 18 months through an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).

The Refugee Resettlement Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired/facilitated by Kildare LAIT. The IAWG first meeting took place on 01 July to review and accept the terms of reference by all members and agree upon preparatory actions. A second meeting took place on the 27 September to coordinate the first resettlement, discuss the integration supports planned, and start planning for the second resettlement. The LAIT Integration Support Coordinator regularly provides updates to all the relevant agencies engaged in the programme.

National ISC and ISW Networks

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

Integration Support Coordinators met on the 25 November 2024 to discuss the implementation of the Refugee Resettlement Programme in their respective counties. Kildare LAIT shared lessons learned to date and provided advice to other local authorities about to embark in this programme.

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) (update 21 November 2024)

Properties occupied	62
Properties in progress	8
Properties withdrawn	<u>34</u>
Total properties offered to date	104

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Established to accommodate BOTP's arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. Kildare has two DAC's:

Punchestown:

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is



177 people (LGMA 28 November 2024).

Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 249 people (LGMA 28 November 2024).

Kildare County Council integration staff held Day-75 Clinics at the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's on 19 November with a further clinics scheduled for Newhall on 05 December.

Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:

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

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

The Community Integration Forum

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

A Thematic Meeting took place in Aras Chill Dara focused on Adult Education and Training on the 15 November 2024 with the participation of KWETB, CKLP, Kildare County Council Library Services and the Integration Team staff. During the meeting, services discussed the adult education and training needs of those accommodated in State accommodation. The main needs identified were english classes in various formats, including ESOL courses, vocational training, preparation for employment and digital and financial literacy.

A revised format has been agreed with members, and from 2025 meetings will be held bi-monthly with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 04 December 2024.



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, Local Link, Regional Education and Learning Teams Coordinator.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

A breakdown of the payments is detailed in the table below.

All Grants 2024		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	181	€265,295
Festival Grants	86	€79,860
Private Residents' Associations Grants	246	€227,234
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	64	€55,086
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	140	€879,436
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	70	€176,173
LCDC Schemes	65	€185,055
Twinning Grants	5	€13,270
Education Bursaries	46	€40,000
Brigid 1500	57	€191,214



Drehid Grants	43	€161,428
Total	1003	€2,274,050

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



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

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 SLA between Kildare County Council and DECC signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase climate training for the sector. Training will be delivered to elected members within the duration of the training plan, in partnership with the AILG.



Training for Fire Services Staff and Outdoor staff training commenced in September through regional training centres.

Elected member training webinar on Energy Efficiency and emission reduction targets to be delivered on 15 November with SEAI. Update on Green Club programme to be delivered by webinar on 22 November. Both webinars are to be delivered through the AILG.

Planning for 2025 training ongoing at present.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is published and identifies:

3935 climate actions adopted across the sector

637 actions related to DZ areas.

38% of all actions are mitigation, 13% adaptation and 49% combined mitigation and adaptation.

To support the implementation of Decarbonising Zones (DZ), Four DZ

workshop events were delivered as follows:

25 September in Kilkenny based on theme of Built Environment

01 October in Mullingar based on theme of Community Activation

09 October in Roscommon town based on natural environment.

16 October in Tipperary based on Bioeconomy (in conjunction with DECC/DAFM through EIT climate KIC)

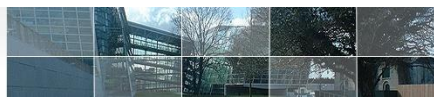


Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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.

The working group published guidance for local authorities on fleet management system elements necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2024 is in planning for January 2025 to collect data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action.

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 3 is now open to any club to work their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.



Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

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

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

The circular economy has been used in the house where possible inside and outside the house. The use of nature-based solutions including SuDS are evident in the garden and curtilage. Communications piece is now being examined further from the visitor's viewpoint. A soft launch with personalities from Kildare to give their

reactions on film has been undertaken. An opportunity to film Maynooth and house as part of the DZ funded by DECC with a very tight turnaround resulted in filming on 29 November. It is hoped the project will be broadcast as part of National programming in early 2025.

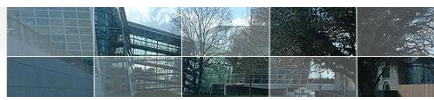
Augmented Reality Image

Maynooth:

To increase climate literacy and buy in a call for bids was made to create a 3D visualisation of Maynooth main street to show the main features should the DZ plan be implemented by 2030. NOHO has been the successful bidder with thanks to funding under the Creative Ireland funding administered by the Arts Section. The piece is in final rendering and will be available the week commencing 03 December.

Recruitment

Trish Brennan, Energy Efficiency Officer commenced on the 02 December and an assistant is due to commence on 13 January. The Community Climate Action Officer's replacement is due to commence on 06 January on a two year contract. The position of Decarbonising Climate Officer has been shortlisted, and



interviews are to take place in early 2025.

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) recoupment

Submission made to DECC for the position of Community Climate Action Officer as part of the Community Climate Action Fund Programme. Recoupment for the positions of Climate Action Coordinator and Climate Action Officer have been submitted separately as required.

Energy Audit/Analysis/BER:

Aras:

The energy review of Aras has been completed.

Libraries:

Reviews are underway for Athy and Leixlip libraries. Drafts being reviewed.

Swimming Pools:

A meeting was convened to discuss the implementation of the works based on the framework presently being finalised. The tendering process is to commence soon pending final framework item being satisfactorily qualified.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

The data required covering travel, building stock, projects and vehicles has been submitted by the deadline of 15 November with the help of various departments.

Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles)

GoCar

The underground services to supply a dedicated charger for the Go Car and Sports Partnership vehicle have been installed with Facilities assistance while ESB consider the grid capacity before ruling on the installation of the charger points.

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



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to create community gardens. The 18



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

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in September, four of the projects have already been completed. The first recoupment from DECC will be completed in early December and drawdowns will be quarterly from then on. The first drawdown will cover approximately €200,000 of the total allocation of €897,000. When all the projects are completed 635 solar PV panels will have been installed as well as pumped wall insulation for four social housing units and two community halls. Other projects focus on replacing floodlights or pitch walkways with LED bulbs. A number of biodiversity measures will also be implemented, including native tree planting and the installation of swift nest boxes.

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

Climate Innovation Fund 2024:

Except for Naas which had no projects assigned, the county projects are well advanced, and funding is being drawn down as expected.

Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance:

The project has been extended out to January/February 2025 as a little more time is required to complete aspects.

Water Services

December 2024

Shared Service Agreement

The Shared Service Agreement between Uisce Eireann and Kildare County Council is now in operation and completes another important step in the transition of Water Services to Uisce Eireann.



Water Services Asset Transfer to Uisce Éireann

A business case has been completed for additional funding to resource this project. The Director of Service has been in communication with the Department and further discussion is to follow. Pending financial allocation, resource sanctions will be submitted to the Department.

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

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

Notices of Motion:

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>

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 the recycling of plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans.

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

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

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



An October report indicates that over 600 million containers have been returned nationally since the beginning of the scheme.

In Kildare 86 stores are accepting containers.

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

National Tidy Towns 2024



The results of the National Tidy Towns Competition 2024 were announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, at an awards ceremony in Croke Park on 01 November.

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

🏆🏆🏆 Kildare participants fared well in the competition with gold medals awarded to Celbridge, Clane, Kill,



Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas and Straffan.

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

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

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 2024

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 were recently reviewed by the National Steering Group and a number of changes were made to reflect these discussions. The following remain as high-level priorities in the area of waste enforcement:

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,

- Construction and Demolition activity,
- End-of-Life Vehicles,
- Waste collection,
- PRI initiatives.

The Kildare County Council Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) and the 2023 Plan submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Kildare County Council was judged as one of the top performers nationwide in terms of environmental inspections.

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

Green Schools

Participation in the Green Schools initiative is increasing as schools improve their waste management. The rollout of the brown bin food waste infrastructure has been a catalyst for this. The schools were awarded their Green Flags at an awards ceremony in May.

GAA Green Clubs Initiative



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

Christmas Tree Recycling 2025

Kildare County Council will again provide a free service to the public where they can bring their real Christmas trees to be recycled in a sustainable way. In total there will be seven sites across the county where this service will be provided:

- Athy, Meeting Lane
- Council Yard, Celbridge Interchange
- Clane, GAA Club
- Maynooth, Council Depot, Leinster Street
- Monasterevin, Moore Abbey
- Naas, Fairgreen
- Newbridge, Lidl distribution centre.

The Christmas trees will be shredded, and the mulched trees made available to be used on local landscaping projects.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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



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

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

and collaboration workshops. Surveys are currently underway.

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

Detailed hydraulic modelling work continues for the Naas FRS. Details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

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

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.

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

Kerdiffstown Park project

A "soft" opening of Kerdiffstown park took place on 21 October and it is anticipated that the park will be fully



operational in 2025.



The 3D Visualisation Model of the proposed park can be viewed on Kildare County Council website: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/KerdiffstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/>

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

Contracts have been awarded for the provision of new Columbarium Walls in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries as part of the current capital programme of works.

Works on all three walls will be substantially complete by early December.

Cemetery Works

Allen

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

Staplestown

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

Boycetown Kilcock

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

Ballybracken

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

Legislation XL Bully Type dogs

From 01 October, 2024, new regulations prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs, and from 01 February, 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a Certificate of Exemption. This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner.



Local Community Development Committee December 2024

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 27 November 2024 in Merits.

SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare. The SICAP sub group met on November 14 2024.

All KPIs agreed in line with the SICAP programme to work with disadvantaged communities and individuals for 2024 are in line to be met (and exceeded). A review of 2024 will be submitted in January.

The SICAP Manager post is currently vacant. Recruitment is underway.

A case study on social farming was recently submitted to Pobal in line with requirements.

An audit of the programme by Kildare County Council in line with requirements is underway. The SICAP 2023 programme has also been randomly selected for LGAS audit commencing in November.

The SICAP Plan 2025 is due for submission for LCDC review on 13 December. A draft plan was submitted to the LCDC for review. Feedback was given to CKLP. The budget for 2025 is not yet known.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership
www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450

LEADER Programme

The LEADER Rural Development Sub group met on 12 November 2024.

Maeve Howe is the new Rural Development Manager.

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.

The LCDC/LAG approved grant aid funding of €13,228.75 to Kildare Volunteer Centre, to develop a five year strategic plan.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership



www.countykildarelp.ie, or telephone
045-895450

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

The Health and Wellbeing sub group met on 05 November.

Kildare County Council recently signed the extension of the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme 2025-2029.

Work is continuing to progress positively in Athy under the Healthy Communities programme with a range of needs led and evidence-based Health and Wellbeing initiatives being rolled out.

Progress is being made on the Athy Health and Wellbeing Kiosk.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer.

Phone. 087-9974155 or email

mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post is current vacant with interviews taking place on 10 December. Additional funding to continue the project supports of €75,000 in 2025 was announced recently as part of budget 2025.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

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

For further information contact: Terrie Devlin, Administrative Officer

Community tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie

phone: 087 1919765

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

DRCD allocated Kildare LCDC LEP grant aid funding to be awarded to community and voluntary groups.

There is €244,336 available to be split- €209,431 towards capital and €34,905 towards running costs. The LCDC



agreed an Evaluation Committee and work is underway to finalise the guidelines and application process. This will be available in early 2025 for applications.

LGBTI Funding

Kildare LCDC recently made an application for two projects under LGBTI Dormant Accounts funding through DRCD. One application per county was successful following assessment by DRCD. CKLP were awarded €4,620.

Audit

LGAS are currently auditing the SICAP programme 2023 and Community Support Fund (grants) 2023.

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

Capital Projects

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Tender documents are currently being finalised and reviewed prior to tender issue.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

A joint application to An Bord Pleanála for compulsory purchase of land and planning consent will be submitted in late 2024. All documents for the application are due from the consultant in early December and will be reviewed internally and by Senior Counsel prior to submission to the Board.

Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane

A consultant has been appointed to finalise the design for the short section of road and incorporate the traffic signal design. It is hoped to issue the construction tender in the first half of 2025.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

The final ABTA report is currently being finalised following consideration of submissions.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

A consultant has started work on the development of a preliminary business case for this project. This will be completed in early 2025 and will be submitted to the Department of Transport to seek funding for the project thereafter.



R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

Tender documents have issued for the appointment of a contractor to complete this project. Works will commence in early 2025 following the completion of tender evaluation and the appointment process.

JP07	Perry Street
JP08	Watchhouse Cross
JP09	Thompsons Cross
JP10	Allen Cross

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

Public consultation process completed for the Supplementary Special Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads with no supplementary special speed limits. The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph has been confirmed as 07 February 2025.

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

Junction Improvement Programme

Option reports 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

Safety Improvement Schemes

Allocation: €320,000

Works ongoing at 12 locations under municipal district offices.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes (NTA funded)

Straffan National School (€140,000).

Design being agreed with the NTA.

St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare

Town (€200,000): Construction underway.

Holy Child School Ballycane

(€150,000): Construction completed.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's

Schools, Newbridge (€20,000):

Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.

Scoil Bhride/Scoil Phadraig, Clane

(€20,000): Discussions continuing with

An Taisce Green Schools.

Scoil Mochua, Celbridge (€20,000):

Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools.



Operations

Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of 72 road improvement projects covering approximately 64 km of regional and local roads. 100% complete.

Restoration Maintenance

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

This has facilitated the delivery of 53 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 80 km of regional and local roads. Works are substantially complete with final grants being drawn down.

Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads

Grants as follows:

CCAR - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with works now complete.

National Roads

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

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

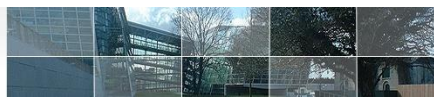
Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the County. Included in these works are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening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

Public Lighting

Kilaree Lighting Services are the new public lighting maintenance contractor with effect from 15 July 2024. Public lighting faults should be logged on the following website:

www.deadsureapp.com

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with



significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. Works are due to commence in 2025.

Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

Vehicle servicing and associated works have been transferred to the new facility, with surface dressing works being the focus of operations over the summer months.

Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles have been completed with the installation process ongoing.

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

Winter Maintenance

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

Sustainable Transport

(NTA Funded)

Maynooth North-South Corridor

(Phase 5)

Allocation: €1,500,000

Tenders have been evaluated, and a preferred contractor has been

identified. The NTA has approved the Council proceeding to construction and confirmation in writing of funding for 2025 is awaited from the NTA.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Allocation: €2,750,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by Summer 2025.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €1,200,000

Tenders have been evaluated, but the NTA has not approved the Council proceeding to construction at present.

The tender process has therefore ended. Confirmation in writing of funding for 2025 is awaited from the NTA.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Allocation: €225,000

Completion of works along public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge) is being completed by Q1 2025.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.



Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Appointment of consultant for preliminary design made and work continuing.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

Work on this scheme is complete.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

Allocation: €225,000

Detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works are progressing.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €10,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Appointment of consultant for preliminary design made and work continuing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €150,000

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

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

Allocation: €50,000

Section 38 drawings prepared.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Allocation: €500,000

List of key sites being prepared to progress the prioritising of work across the county.

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 current temporary speed limit reduction order between junctions 5 and 6 expires on 02 December 2024, the MMarC Contractor has requested an extension until April 2025 in order to complete this section of the project. Therefore, the expected completion date for the first phase of the project (Junction 5 to 6) is now April 2025. Legislative changes are also 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. The next steering meeting is on the 10 December 2024.

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.

Upcoming National Road Temporary Road Closure:
None

Road Works Speed Limit Orders in place on the National Roads:

M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 7 April 2025.

Open Spaces

Newbridge Natural Play Area

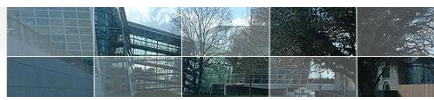
The playground is due to be completed and opened before Christmas.

Monasterevin to Portarlington Greenway Feasibility Study

Tenders for this study have been received and it is planned to award the work before the end of the year.

Tree Works

Tenders have been issued to carry out a programme of tree works in Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District and Kildare Newbridge. Tenders are due back before Christmas.



Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect in January 2023. Several variations to the Development Plan are likely to be brought forward, including:

- Kilcullen Settlement Plan – 29 no. submissions received to the Draft Settlement Plan which was on public display in October/ November.
- An update to the Core Strategy in response to an update to the National Planning Framework.
- Car Parking Standards.
- s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.
- Landscape Character Assessment; and
- Economic Strategy.

Work is underway regarding the Two-Year Progress Report.

CDP Actions

A range of projects are being progressed, including CK Active

Recreational Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Employment Locations Study; Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study; Corbally Canal Feasibility Study; CK Urban Neighbourhood Parks Strategy, CK Landscape Character Assessment and CK Allotments and Community Gardens Strategy.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

Synthesis and Vision to be prepared in November-December 2024.

Masterplan Options to follow in Q1 2025.

Naas Canal Quarter masterplan:

Masterplan Options under preparation. Key Stakeholder Options Workshop to be held in December 2024. Public consultation to follow.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031

The Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan are on public display until the 06 December.

Newbridge LAP

The Draft Newbridge Plan is currently being prepared. Work is on-going in preparing the evidence-based reports



to support the preparation of the Draft Plan.

Sallins LAP

Work has ceased due to staff resources.

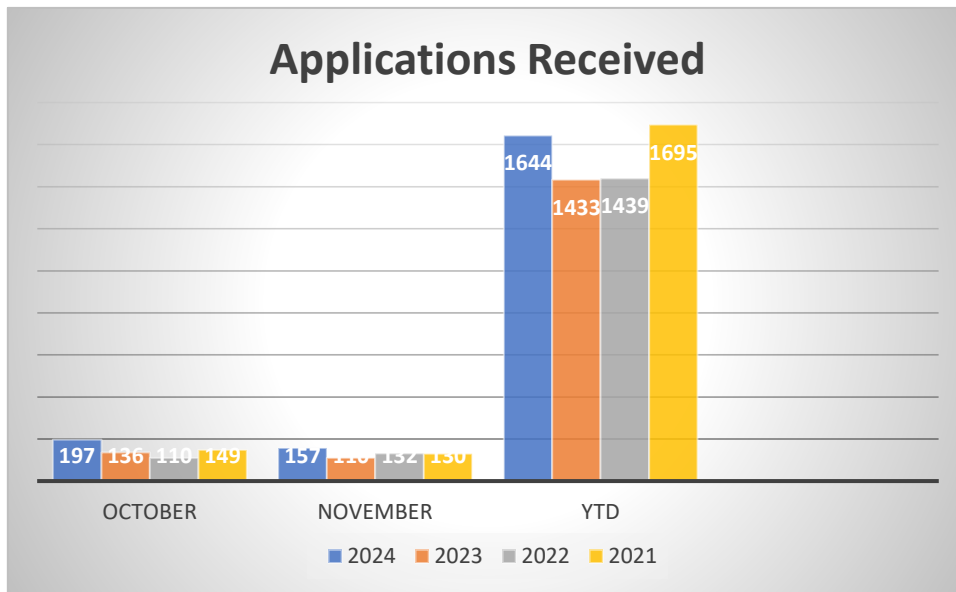
Monasterevin LAP

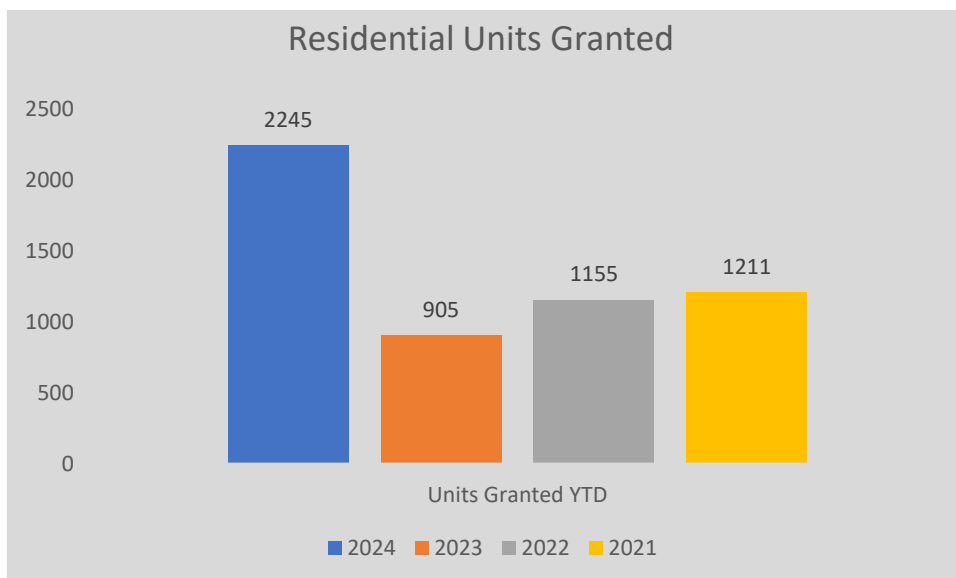
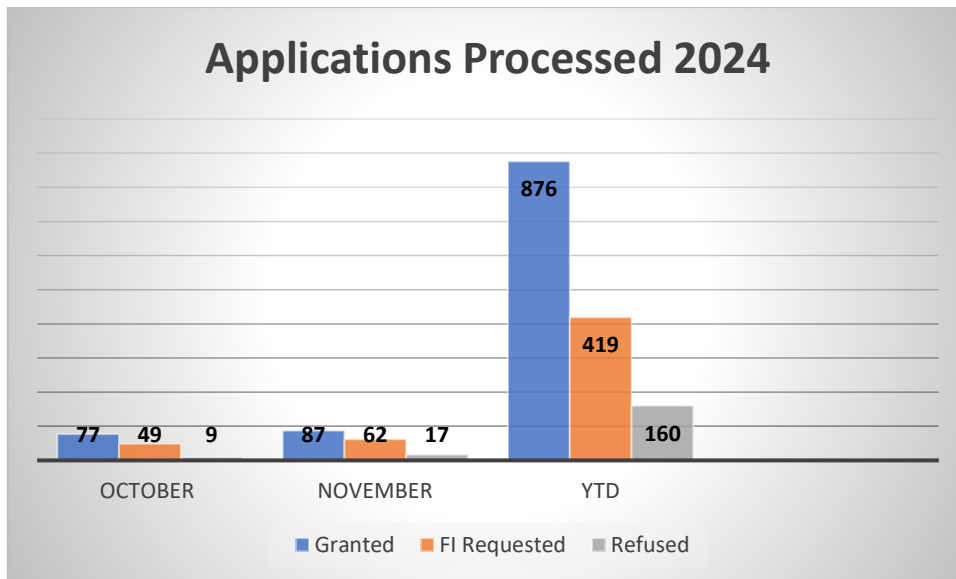
Work is on-going in preparing the evidence-based reports to support the Draft Plan.

**Development Management
ePlanning**

In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online.

In 2024 to date, 77.51% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.





Compliance

272 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 30 November 2024

24 Pre-planning requests submitted between 01 November 2024 – 30 November 2024

76 Section Five declarations requests received up to 30 November 2024

73 Section Five declarations requests processed up to 30 November 2024

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD applications must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD Opinion. Year to date, three LRD opinions have been issued.



LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP-307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed; KCC Grant 05/04/2024 Appeal Upheld 17/07/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Granted 22/07/2024
24/245	26/07/2024	Debussy Properties Ltd	Crockaun Commons, Clane	Amendments to 23/972	Granted 11/09/2024
24/60774	08/08/2024	Ladas Property Company Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	Amendments to 23/494	Appealed: KCC Granted 01/10/2024
2461073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes	Leixlip Gate	Amendments to 23/60485	Due 12/12/2024

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

1	Case resolved and costs paid
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Year to Date totals:

For period 01 January – 30 November 2024

Planning Enforcement

For period 01 November – 30 November 2024

11	New Consultations
13	Cases Closed
2	Enforcement Notices Served
39	Warning Letters Served
8	Cases due before the Courts in November

241	New Consultations
275	Cases Closed
133	Enforcement Notices Served
402	Warning Letters Served
8	Case referred re Court Proceedings



Heritage / Biodiversity /

Conservation Unit

A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Kildare County Council Biodiversity Officer is working towards 15 November deadline for recouplements for Biodiversity Action Plan and Heritage Council projects.

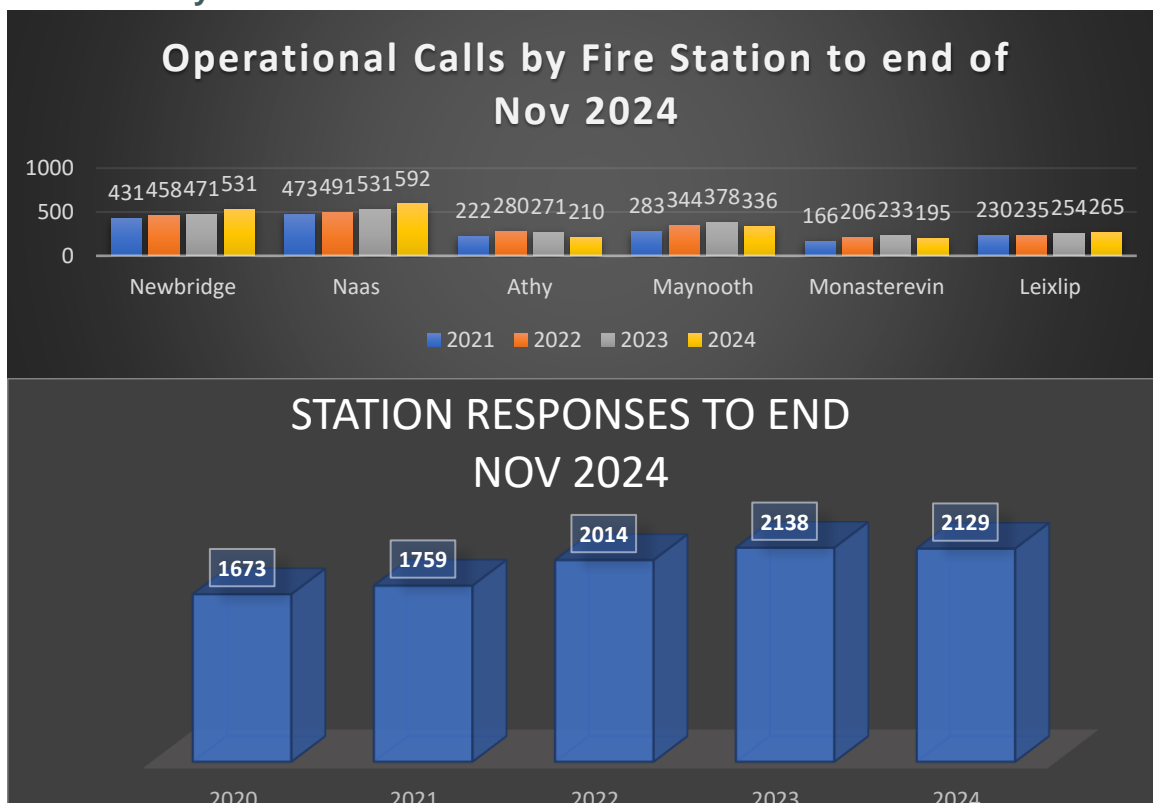
Staffing

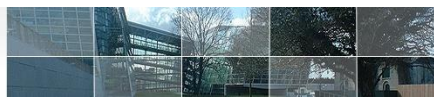
It is anticipated that the new Ecologist will commence in January 2025. Interviews for both the Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer have taken place in October and offers of employment have been made to the

successful candidates. The new Heritage Officer will commence employment with the Planning department on 09 December 2024. Unfortunately, the offer for the Conservation Officer position has been declined. The Heritage Team Manager left Kildare County Council in October and a process has commenced to find a replacement.

Fire Service Operations:

2024 Summary





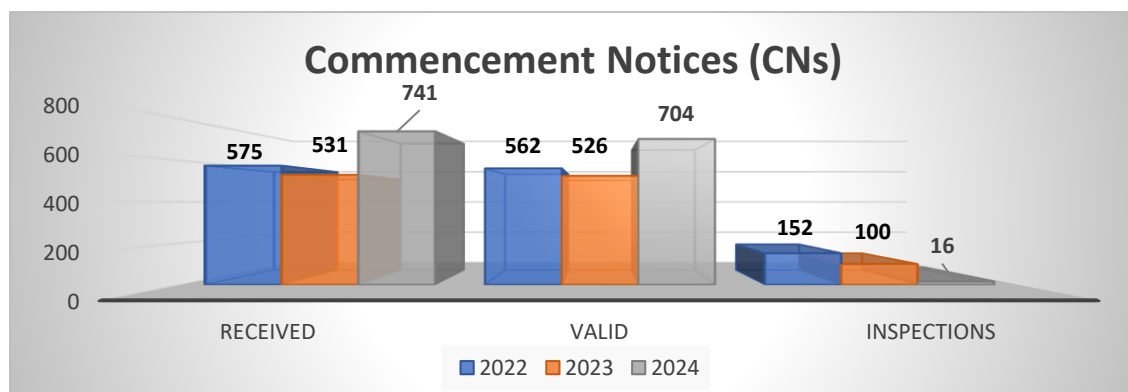
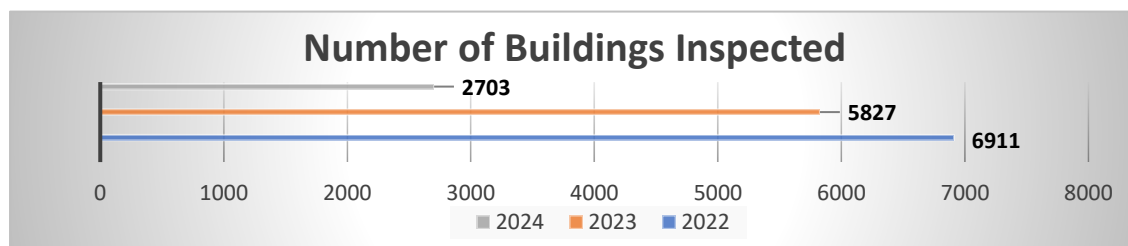
Fire Safety Certificates

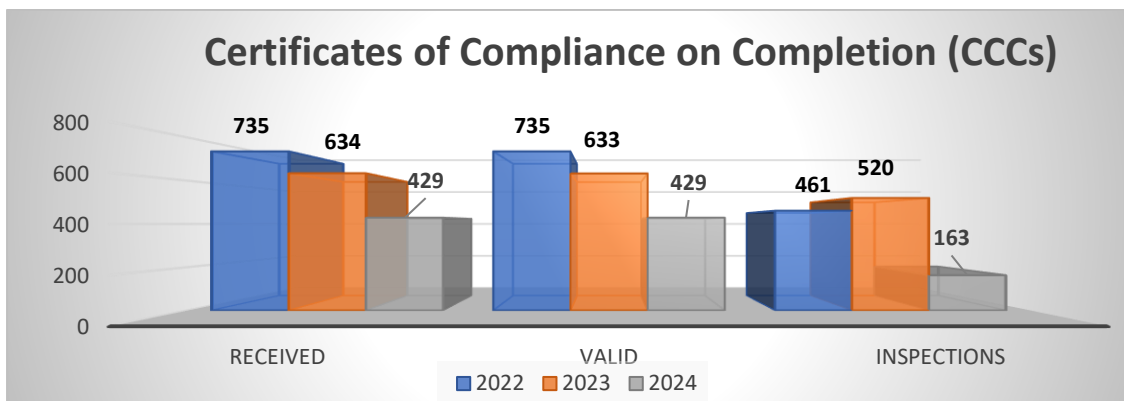
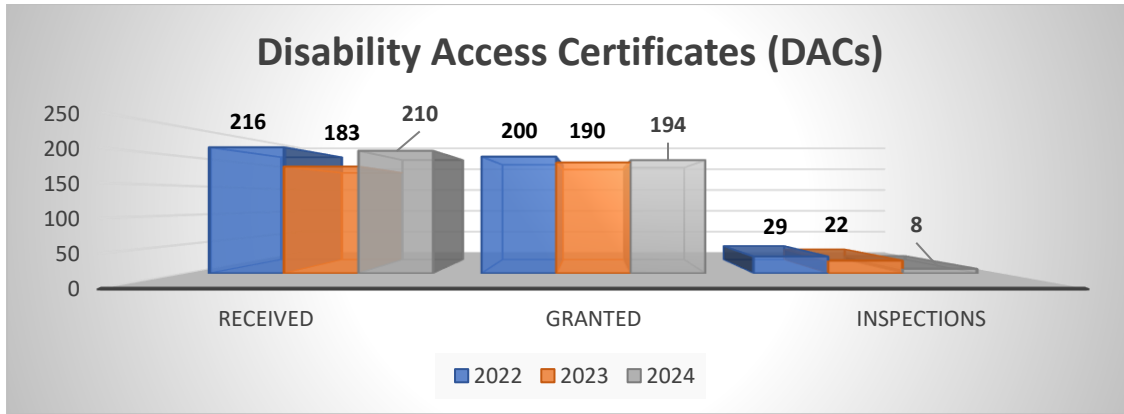
Applications received to the end of October 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.



Building and Development Control

The following figures are cumulative up to end of November 2024 set against full year figures for 2022 and 2023.





Please note the reduction in building inspection numbers in 2023 and 2024 is due to staff shortages.

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

In November, the Into Kildare team successfully executed several engaging initiatives.

An in-person training event as part of the EU Just Transition Fund was facilitated by Fáilte Ireland. The session focused on "Building Your Tourism Sales and Marketing Plan" and provided valuable insights for participants in preparing for future growth and development in the tourism sector.



Áine Mangan from Into Kildare was delighted to attend the Kildare Economic Forum with Kildare County Council Local Enterprise Office and other representatives from Kildare County Council in the Osprey Hotel.



Kildare Economic Forum

Into Kildare participated in a productive meeting with members of Tourism Ireland's International Publicity Team and Fáilte Ireland's publicity team in Clanard Court Hotel. Tourism Ireland's publicity team engages with over 22,000 media contacts globally each month, sharing stories and content about Ireland. This meeting provided an excellent opportunity to discuss upcoming plans and key events in County Kildare in 2025, including St. Brigid's activities, the reopening of the Shackleton Museum, and other significant initiatives.



Derek Dolan (Failte Ireland), Tourism Ireland's international publicity team, Mary Fenin and Chloe Kimmins

Into Kildare attended the launch of this years "Spirit of Brigid" festival in Naas Cultural Centre. This event outlined upcoming events planned by the Spirit of Brigid committee and showcased some of the key acts that will be headlining this years festival. A warm welcome from both Cathaoirleach Joeseph Neville and Sonya Kavanagh were warmly received.



Katie Lane and Chloe Kimmins



Áine Mangan, Into Kildare attended an overseas Sales Mission with Tourism Ireland to Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East to promote County Kildare to the luxury market and MICE clientele.

On 19 November, Into Kildare hosted it's Annual General Meeting at Lawlor's of Naas Hotel. A warm welcome was given to Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville, Sonya Kavanagh and other representatives from Kildare County Council, and nearly 60 members of the tourism and hospitality sector from across County Kildare.



Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville, Eoghan Corry, Áine Mangan and Into Kildare Board members

The AGM served as a platform to highlight the activities and accomplishments of 2024, while unveiling exciting plans for 2025. Attendees also gained valuable insights from travel commentator Eoghan Corry, shared his expertise on

trade and travel trends for 2024 and projections for 2025. The event provided an excellent networking opportunity for members, reinforcing collaboration and engagement across the Sector.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	99	€211,085
Business Expansion Grant	11	€330,383
Priming Grant	3	€57,235
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€39,598
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	16	€30,685
RD&I and IP	6	€150,772
GradStart	2	€60,000



Energy Efficiency Grant	19	€126,684
TOTAL	160	€1,006,442

Entrepreneurship Support Achievement Of KPIs

	TARGET	ACTUAL (as per 29.11.24)
Training	1200	1821
SYOB	160	282
MDP	72	87
Mentoring	468	584
Digital	7	16
Lean	20	44
Green	20	71

Focus On Start-Ups

Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#). Local Enterprise Office sponsored the “Best Emerging Business” category in the County Kildare Chamber Awards and are engaging with the winner ‘Castleteel’ on new business supports.

Focus On Sustainability

Nearing the end of a month of dedicated Walk-In Clinics to assist

Kildare’s Business community with applying for the €10,000 energy Efficiency Grant.

This free clinic offered expert assistance, making it easier than ever for eligible applicants to take advantage of the €10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant.

Focus On Digital

143 Attendees registered for Grow Digital events between 11 to 14 November demonstrating the immediate demand from the business community seeking support for digital adoption. The new Grow Digital support is dedicated to helping businesses with up to 50 employees to harness the power of digital technologies supported by the €5,000 Grow Digital Grant.



Focus On Craft And Creative

GATHER has grown to now host 20 Kildare-created brands at Southwells. The adjacent unit which has been used to host craft workshops has been transformed into an art display space for the month of December, supporting five artists to promote and sell their work.



GATHER hosted a late opening on 30 November launching the new Christmas gift collection.

Focus On Tech

LEO Tech Pre-Accelerator, hosted in MERITS, commences its next iteration in January 2025 with the aim of supporting founders with a business idea in the technology space to develop that idea into a viable business.

LEO clients and MERITS residents' recent successes include DreamDev speaking at Web Summit in Lisbon, Data and Design receiving a Mobility Award for Active Travel at the Smart City Expo in Barcelona and Vevol Media being listed on the hottest 100 Irish Startups by BOI's ThinkBusiness.

Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps. Approved	Value of Apps. Approved
ATHY	12	€15,532
CBLX	8	€15,017
CLMN	6	€17,700
KDNB	26	€42,129
NAAS	17	€34,729

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024 remain open for applications from Athy, Celbridge/Leixlip and Clane/Maynooth. There's a limited budget for Kildare/Newbridge and Naas for Christmas Retail Window Merchandising.



Focus On Retail

The Economic Development Team is communicating via print media, social media and radio. Both its “Shop Local, Support Local” campaign for residents to support local businesses this winter, and its Retail Window Merchandising Grant for businesses to apply for grant support to attract customers.

County Kildare Skills Audit

Kildare County Council commissioned KPMG to conduct a county-wide skills audit in partnership with the County Kildare Chamber. The interpretation of the preliminary data was presented at the Economic Forum on 07 November. It is anticipated that the report will be finalised in the coming weeks and submitted to Kildare County Council Elected members.

Public Procurement Day

Kildare County Council hosted its Public Procurement Briefing Day on Wednesday 20 November in MERITS, Naas. The event was attended by 54 individuals representing small and larger businesses. The agenda for the morning included guidance on Irish public procurement and overviews of procurement plans of five Kildare County Council departments. Attendees had the opportunity to pose

questions to the speakers through Q&A and networking sessions. A follow-up procurement masterclass will be delivered by the LEO in partnership with the County Kildare Chamber to assist local businesses with the technical aspects of bidding on eTenders and SupplyGov.

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI)

The Economic Development, along with Carmel Cashin, delivered the AFI Business Recognition Programme training to six businesses in Ballymore Eustace in the Ballymore Hub on Monday 25. The businesses are now equipped with the tools to put forward age friendly measures that they will implement in their respective premises to attain certification.

Diageo: Learning for Life

Kildare County Council’s economic team assisted Diageo with engaging local stakeholders and community groups in Athy/ South County to attract 21 successful applicants to Diageo’s ‘Learning for Life’ (QQI Level 4) programme. The programme is designed to attract individuals to the hospitality sector, including those from marginalised backgrounds. The three week training course concluded on the 21 November with a



graduation event in the Clanard Court Hotel, Athy; attended by Head Of Enterprise, Jacqui McNabb.

The students will receive work experience post-course completion with Diageo hospitality clients in the vicinity for the Christmas period.

European Projects

Young Equine Innovators (Erasmus+)

As part of Work Packages, Kildare County Council and its project partners are now creating case studies of young entrepreneurs; this will showcase three Kildare-based equine companies at a European level.

Repower Regions (Erasmus+)

Kildare County Council, as Project Coordinator, put in place the Grant Agreement for this project on the 05 November. The project has now formally commenced with the project 'kick off' meeting with the 12 partners to be arranged in Kildare.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub

Part 8 statutory process launched on Tuesday 29 October. Part 8 project can be found on the consultation portal:

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/proposed-monasterevin-fashion-textiles-design-hub-former-bank-ireland-site-dublin-road-monasterevin-0> and on Level 1 in Áras Chill Dara.

The closing date for submissions is on the 10 December 2024. Submissions are being collated and comments prepared for the Planners Report. Submissions from the public and prescribed bodies are being reviewed and included in the Part 8 Planning Report. Procured Architectural lead to commence detail design upon outcome of Part 8 process. Chief Executive Report to be presented to the Elected Members at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Meeting in February 2025 for decision.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works have entered the twenty-ninth week of the programme. 42.5% of construction programme is complete. Removal of sash windows for factory refurbishment, on site refurbishment, and refit is 53% complete. Installation of insulation to hallway, offices, WCs, and to second area of concrete is 50% complete. Commencement of installation of electrical and comms ducting to front of building. Commencement of



courtyard buildings and installations. Fit-out kitchen specialist procured, and draft layout design for kitchen fit-out complete and under review.



Tourism

EU JTF – Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme

All expressions of interest have now been evaluated by Fáilte Ireland and the last few weeks until the closing date for applications on 13 January will focus on one-to-one work with applicants.



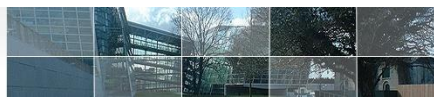
Food and Beverage Trail

A service agreement has been signed with Runda Tourism and Hospitality for concept development, marketing and branding of a new Food and Beverage Trail in Co. Kildare. The project is scheduled for delivery in 2025.

Podcast



An episode of Beár Bia – a Food and Drink Podcast by writers Dee Laffan and Oisín Davis has been recorded in County Kildare featuring local food and



drink parings with producers from the Flavours of Kildare network and Kildare LEO. The episode is now available [here](#)



Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive