



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – January 2026



Brigid
Spiorad Chill Dara



News Items

Protecting Our Watercourses – Slurry Spreading Season Opens in Kildare

Kildare County Council reminds farmers of the importance of safeguarding watercourses as the 2026 slurry spreading season which opened on 13 January (see page 6).

Launch of 12 new Affordable Homes

Kildare County Council announced the launch of an affordable housing purchase scheme for private buyers at Grattan Park, Shackleton Road, Celbridge (see pages 7/8).

Launch of Art Project for Palliative Care Patients in Naas General Hospital

Artist John Conway launched a custom fabricated mobile printing press designed specifically for Palliative Care patients in Naas Hospital. The launch marked a significant milestone in Conway's year-long Artist in Residence programme, (see page 15).

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership

The Kildare LCSP has been formally appointed by the Minister with the first meeting provisionally scheduled for Friday 27 February. PPN nominees are awaited for two positions - the youth representative and Kildare/ Newbridge local resident positions (see page 42).

Into Kildare

In December, Into Kildare were happy to support the extensive range of festive offerings in the county by promoting and amplifying a range of Christmas events from Christmas markets, seasonal dining, corporate and social celebrations, festive hotel stays, and immersive Christmas experiences, appealing to families and visitors of all ages (see pages 69-71).



Diary/Calendar

Creative Communities Project Awards Open Call 2026

Creative Ireland Kildare's Creative Communities welcome applications for project proposals for grants of €1,500-€10,000. The application form and criteria was published on Tuesday, 13 January with a deadline for submission on Wednesday, 25 February. Submit interest to creative@kildarecoco.ie (see page 14).

Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival

This year's festival is set to take place from 29 January to 02 February 2026 across the county with a central festival hub 'Cruinniú Chill Dara', located on the grounds of Áras Chill Dara, Naas (see pages 41-42).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC and LAG is scheduled for Tuesday 10 February 2026 (see page 43).

Community Grants

Community Grants, including the Drehid Grant, will open for applications at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 January 2026, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 March 2026 (see page 46).

Tidy Towns

Kildare's tidy towns groups performed extremely well in the 2025 National Tidy Towns Competition. An information event for all Kildare Tidy Towns Groups is planned for February 2026. Details are being finalised at present (see page 56).

Local Enterprise Office - Focus On Tech

LEO's Tech Cluster events resume in February. The first event is scheduled on 26 February (see page 73).



February Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Feb	3	4	5	6 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
9 14:30 Protocol Committee; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	11	12 10:00 Community Culture and Integration SPC ; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; ... 14:30 CPG February 2026 Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	17	18 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19	20 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
23 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	24	25	26	27 10:00 LCSP



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Protecting Our Watercourses

– Slurry Spreading Season Opens in Kildare



Kildare County Council reminds farmers of the importance of safeguarding watercourses as the 2026 slurry spreading season opened on 13 January. From this date, organic fertiliser, including slurry and farmyard manure, may be applied to land subject to suitable weather and ground conditions.

Arts Service Launches 2026 Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards

The Council's Arts Service announced the opening of applications for its 2026 suite of Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards. With 15 separate grants, commissions and bursaries

available, these opportunities are designed to support artists, creatives, arts collectives, community groups and youth groups across County Kildare in the coming year.

Seolann Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara Deontais agus Duaiseanna-Sparánachta Cruthaitheachta agus Ealaíon 2026



Tá lúcháir ar Sheirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a fhógairt go bhfuil an tréimshe iarratas á n-oscailt dá sraith Deontas Cruthaitheacha agus Ealaíon agus dá Dámhachtainí Sparánachta 2026.



Ireland's Flagship Brigid Festival Returns to Kildare with Five Days of Culture, Creativity and Family Events



Kildare is set to welcome thousands of visitors as 'Brigid 2026 – Spirit of Kildare Festival' returns, offering a vibrant programme of free family events, performances and cultural experiences taking place across the county from Thursday, January 29 to Monday, February 02, 2026.

Launch of 'Together for a Sustainable Future' Podcast Series Showcasing Climate Champions in Maynooth



The Council's Climate Action Office launched the 'Together for a Sustainable Future' podcast series. This new audio-visual initiative shines a spotlight on the inspiring climate and biodiversity efforts taking place within the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone.

Kildare County Council Announces Recipient of the Amplify Artist Practice Bursary



The Council's Arts Service announced Conor Burke as the recipient of the Amplify EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Artist Practice Bursary Award 2026.

Launch of 12 new Affordable Homes

The Council announced the launch of an affordable housing purchase scheme for private buyers at Grattan Park, Shackleton Road, Celbridge. This initiative, in partnership with Brian M Durkan and Co. Limited., aims to



provide first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers with the opportunity to purchase newly built homes at reduced prices.

New Book About Archaeological Discoveries on the M9 Motorway in South Kildare Published by Transport Infrastructure Ireland



Book launch hosted by Kildare County Council in Athy Library
Landscapes With Lineage, the latest title published in the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Heritage series was launched in Athy Library, County Kildare by Dr Sharon Greene, archaeologist from South Kildare, former editor of Archaeology Ireland magazine and member of the County Kildare Monuments Advisory Committee.

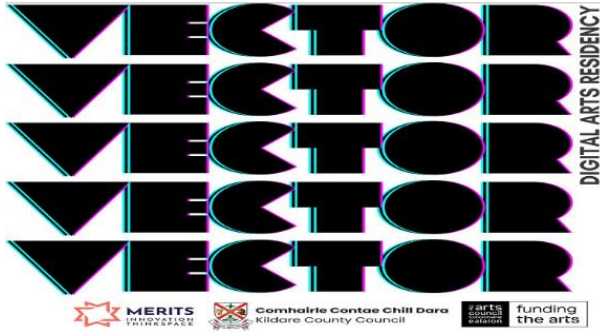
Kildare County Council's DemoHouse wins at SEAI Energy Awards 2025



Kildare County Council announced that its DemoHouse had won the 'Energy in Buildings' award at this year's SEAI Energy Awards. The awards which were held in Dublin, on 27 November attracted more than 140 entries from businesses, communities and the public sector. The 'Energy in Buildings' award celebrates sustainable and low carbon commercial and public sector buildings which have demonstrated new and emerging practice, design, construction, retrofit and operation of new and existing buildings.



**Arts Service and MERITS Announce
VECTOR Digital Arts Residency
2026**



The Council’s Arts Service, in partnership with MERITS Innovation Thinkspace, launched the VECTOR Digital Arts Residency 2026. This unique extraordinary opportunity invites a digital artist to innovate, experiment and and push the boundaries of art and technology.

**Maynooth Post Primary School
Welcomes Ukrainian Students for
Cultural Exchange**



The Council supported a unique cultural exchange programme between Maynooth Post Primary School and its

partner school, Lyceum No 80 in Kyiv, Ukraine. As part of this initiative, a group of fourteen Ukrainian students and two teachers visited County Kildare from 01 to 10 December 2025, hosted by the families of Maynooth Post Primary School students.

**Kildare County Council Launches
Public Consultation Survey for
Lakeside/Dara Park, Newbridge**



The Council invited residents of Newbridge to have their say on the future of the open space at Lakeside and Dara Park. The Council is preparing a masterplan for this community area and wants to ensure the design reflects the needs and interests of local people. Residents were asked to share their views through an anonymous online survey.



Official Opening of Leixlip Playground and Car Park Marks Significant Investment in Community Amenities



The Council announced the official opening of the new Leixlip Playground at Station Road, alongside a newly constructed car park. This milestone represents a significant investment of €1,082,225 in the town's community amenities, reflecting the Council's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Win at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2025



The Council announced that its innovative K-Hub Strategy has been awarded the winner in the 'Promoting Economic Development' category at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in

Local Government Awards 2025, held on 27 November.

Art in Every Place: Celebrating 40 Years of Arts Council and Local Government Partnership



The Council participated in a landmark event hosted by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and Ireland's 31 local authorities on Friday 21 November. The special celebration "Art in Every Place", held at Limerick City Gallery of Art, commemorated 40 years of partnership between the Arts Council and local government.

Council launches Scéim na bhFáinní Irish language initiative



New initiative to encourage increased use of spoken Irish in sixth class



Kildare County Council invited expressions of interest from primary schools wishing to participate in an innovative Irish language planning initiative, Scéim na bhFáinní 2026.

Seolann Comhairle Contae Chill Dara an tionscnamh Gaeilge Scéim na bhFáinní

Tionscnamh nua chun úsáid na Gaeilge labhartha i rang a sé a spreagadh

Faoi láthair, tá Comhairle Contae Chill Dara ag fáiltiú roimh léirithe spéise ó bhunscoileanna ar mian leo páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscnamh nuálach pleanála Gaeilge, Scéim na bhFáinní 2026.

Official Opening of Osberstown Cottage – New Transitional Housing for Women in County Kildare



Kildare County Council announced the launch of Osberstown Cottage, a new shared transitional housing service in County Kildare. The facility provides

secure, short-term accommodation for up to five women experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, with a focus on supporting their transition towards permanent housing.

Irish Language/Official Languages

Feachtas Fógraíochta ‘Eispéireas Shackleton’ ar TG4

‘Shackleton Experience’ Advertising Campaign on TG4



Comhfhiontar Fógraíochta idir Seirbhísí Corparáideacha agus Pleanáil

Tá músaem nua úrscothach Chill Dara, ‘Shackleton Experience’, atá tiomnaithe do Sir Ernest Shackleton a rugadh i gContae Chill Dara, á fhógairt faoi láthair ar TG4. Cuimsíonn an feachtas fógraíochta teilifíse gnáthfhógraí agus fógraí spriocdhírthe araon trí urraíocht a dhéanamh ar



chláir faisnéise faoin taiscéalaíocht Antartach. Rachaidh an feachtas seo i dtreo oibleagáidí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021 a chomhlíonadh agus, ina theannta sin, beidh tionchar dearfach ag an bhfeachtas ar an ngeilleagar agus ar an turasóireacht chultúrtha agus oidhreacht i mBaile Átha Í agus fud fad Chontae Chill Dara.

currently being advertised on TG4. The television advertising campaign includes both regular adverts and targeted adverts through sponsorship of Antarctic exploration documentaries on TG4. This campaign will go toward meeting obligations under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 while reaping positive economic, cultural and heritage tourism outcomes for Athy and across County Kildare.

Joint Advertising Venture between Corporate Services and Planning

Kildare’s new state-of-the-art museum ‘Shackleton Experience’, dedicated to Kildare-born Sir Ernest Shackleton, is

Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2025	Total received Quarter 2, 2025	Total received Quarter 3, 2025	Total received Quarter 4 2025	Total 2025
Freedom of Information Requests	38	32	35	38	143
Freedom of information appeals	4	3	2	2	11
Information Commissioner Appeals	1	1	0	0	2
Data Access Requests	3	2	3	1	9
Ombudsman	4	4	9	0	17



Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

“We may sit in our library and yet be in all quarters of the earth.” — John Lubbock

Newbridge Library

Newbridge Library closed to the public on Thursday, 11 December. Staff are packing up the library and preparing for the move to Liffey Lodge in early 2026.

Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Programme

Kildare Library Service TTT Programme is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs.

Free events which will be taking place from February – June this year. The brochure can also be accessed online in both English and Gaeilge:

English: [WEB TTT26-Spring with Booking Links](#) and Gaeilge: [IRISHTTT26-Spring with Booking Links](#).

Attendance at events is free of charge, but booking is required via the links in the brochure.

Certificates of attendance are available for Continuing Professional Development purposes.

Family Time at Your Library

‘Family Time’ at your library was held in December in branches across the county, promoting literacy and reading development and consisted of a series of free workshops and events at family-friendly times. Events included festive family Storytimes, family LEGO clubs, *Spraoi Teaghlaigh um Nollaig* and arts and crafts workshops for all the family! A total number of 36 events took place with over 600 participants.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

In 2025 the Archives Service dealt with over 372 public and Kildare County Council queries. Twenty volumes/items were digitised and made available online comprising 8,023 pages. Views of the Online Archives were 6,225 and of the Kildare genealogical database hosted on rootsireland.ie were over 74,000.

A flyer outlining the services provided by Kildare County Archives and Local



Studies has been sent to all library branches.

On 12 December, Local Studies gave presentation at the Library Health and Safety Training Day in Naas Library and Cultural Centre. Presentation focused on upcoming developments with Irish Newspaper Archives, informing staff of what genealogical/history resources are available to patrons in branch, and the possibility of hosting workshops to make patrons aware of services available.

On 18 December, copies of The Liffey Champion newspaper that had been sent to a supplier to be bound, were returned to Local Studies. This is part of an ongoing process to preserve items in our Special Collections.

Creative Ireland Kildare – Creative Communities Project Awards Open Call 2026

Creative Ireland Kildare’s Creative Communities welcome applications for project proposals for grants of €1500-€10000. The application form and criteria was published on Tuesday 13 January with a deadline for submission on Wednesday, 25 February. Submit interest to creative@kildarecoco.ie The

following information clinics will be held in relation to the criteria and application process in a selection of libraries and online:

-Saturday, 24 January 10.30am:

Maynooth Community Library

-Tuesday, 27 January, 5.30pm: Naas Library and Cultural Centre

-Wednesday, 28 January 5.30pm:

Online

-Thursday, 29 January 10.30am: Athy Community Library

-Thursday, 29 January 2.00pm: Kildare Town Community Library

Kildare Arts Service

Suite of Arts Grants

Kildare Arts Service published a suite of 15 Arts Grants and Bursaries for 2026 in December. Deadline for these grants is 27 February.

The Artist and the Gallery: Building the Relationship with Ronan Lyons

As part of a series of professional development support for artists, Kildare Arts Office, in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland (VAI), welcomed Ronan Lyons, of the Molesworth Gallery. Ronan discussed the vital process of nurturing and developing



the gallery-artist relationship, 10 December, Riverbank Arts Centre.

Launch of Art Project for Palliative Care Patients in Naas General Hospital

Artist John Conway launched a custom fabricated mobile printing press designed specifically for Palliative Care patients in Naas Hospital. The launch marked a significant milestone in Conway's year-long Artist in Residence programme, which is part of the "Did I Ever Tell You..." initiative, a partnership between Creative Ireland, Kildare County Council Arts Service and Naas Hospital.

Sing in Exultation – Christmas Concert

Past Times Community Choir and Voices of Spring presented a heartwarming afternoon of music and celebration at Naas CBS on 13 December.

Writers in Residence

Kildare County Council Arts and Library Services and Maynooth University announced the appointment of Aingeala Flannery and Dr Dubhán Ó Longáin as Writer-in-Residence and

Scribhneoir Cónaitheach for 2025/26. Both writers will be on campus for the academic year and will work with Kildare Library and Arts Services to deliver several creative public workshops.

The Painted Man by Dan Colley

The Painted Man by Dan Colley screened at Riverbank Arts Centre, 09 December. This short film was supported by Kildare Arts Service's Short Grass Film Commission Award and performances devised as part of Dan Colley's residence in Riverbank Arts Centre.

Riverbank Arts Centre

Riverbank were delighted to present a number of events over December which included a sharing of The Very Curious Céili by Ceol Connected, a new intergenerational show by Ceol Connected, written and directed by Aisling Byrne, supported by Riverbank Arts Centre and funded by The Arts Council. A screening of The Painted Man by Dan Colley, produced by Samson Films funded by Creative Media Europe and Kildare County Council Shortgrass. Four Music Generation Workshops, JuneFest



presents Winter Medley and Teen Spirit Showcase. Commercial events included music by Ye Vagabonds, comedian Neil Delamere and Newbridge native Luka Bloom. An Nollaig Sa Nagin, a free Irish language show by Ré Ó Laighléis was also presented in schools and in Riverbank, funded by Kildare County Council Library Services.

Health and Safety

1. Update of Accident/Incident Database.
 - Accidents investigated and actioned.
2. DSE (Display Screen Ergonomic) assessments including blended working assessments:
 - Transportation (one)
 - Environment (two)
 - Planning (one)
3. Induction:
 - Ten new staff – outdoor workers
4. Attended LASOG (Local Authority Safety Officers Group) Meeting
5. Review of arrangement section in place across all depts in Aras, Libraries and transportation (61 locations examined)

6. Liaison with all departments for placement of Health and Safety documentation on shared folders for central storage.
7. Indoor air quality risk assessment discussed with facilities team for Aras. Report has been completed by external contractor and available on request.
8. Driving for work seminar- RSA
9. Assistance to HR on Employee Safety Handbook- ongoing
10. Review of documents on shared drive and recording of such in our control of documentations records from all depts
11. Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting
12. Review and update of Procedures:
 - Water Safety
 - Violence and Aggression

Accessibility:

1. Access Group Meetings:
 - Athy Disability Access Group
 - Monasterevin Disability Access Group
2. Meeting with Corporate to discuss reasonable accommodations.
3. Kildare Disability Week (28 November – 07 December):



-
- County Kildare Access Network (CKAN):
 - i. Flag flown in prominent locations around the county- 250 flags distributed.
 - ii. Johnny Magory Colouring books (Irish and English) distributed.
 - iii. Promotional products distributed – CKAN bags, Colouring pencils.
 - Leixlip Disability Access Group:
 - i. Vacant shop (Leixlip) decorated – engaged disabled artist to design
 - ii. Official opening of Inclusive playground (Leixlip)
 - iii. Sensory Santa in Leixlip– 36 booking slots
 - Newbridge Disability Access Group:
 - i. Exhibition stand in Whitewater Shopping Centre Newbridge
 - Celbridge Disability Access Group:
 - i. Presentation and panel discussion on National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030 in conjunction with Dara Community Living.
 - Maynooth Disability Access Group:
 - i. Presentation of sensory toys to Stepping Stones School (a school for children with autism and complex needs)
 - ii. Landmarks turned purple the adopted colour of disability e.g. Maynooth University
 - iii. Presentation to Maynooth Library of Communication Boards and Sensory Tent.



- Naas Disability Access Group:
 - i. Hidden Disability poster design competition with 3 primary schools in Naas.

4. Preparation for Kildare Inclusivity Festival

- Fire Service booked
- Civil Defence booked.
- Music generation booked.
- Meeting with sports partnership.

Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

Finance

Revenue Account

The 2025 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) are currently being prepared. The draft AFS will be brought to the Members once complete.

Cashflow / Overdraft

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

Risk Management

A review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in December 2025. The Head of Internal Audit and Corporate Governance is working with the sections on their Departmental Risk Registers.

Rates

New legislation regarding commercial rates took effect from 1st January 2024. The Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 effects the following changes:

- Replaces the payment of rates in two moieties with one rates amount due on the first of the year
- Provides for the application of interest on unpaid rates from 2025. Interest will be added to rates bills issued from 2026.
- Removes the requirement for public notice to be given regarding Kildare County Council's intention to 'make the rate'. This is replaced by a notice advising that a 'rate has been levied'.

Should customers have any queries regarding their accounts, they should



contact the rates office on 045 980 656 or rates@kildarecoco.ie

The Kildare County Council Rates Abatement Scheme in respect of Vacant Properties (Vacancy Relief) Scheme for 2026 was adopted at the Budget 2026 meeting on 17 November 2025.

The proposed scheme continues to give 100% vacancy relief to eligible properties but with an application limit of five consecutive years.

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.

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.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Homeless Services- Christmas

The Council's Homeless Team purchased, wrapped and delivered Christmas packs for all children in emergency accommodation throughout the county in the lead up to Christmas. The support of Kildare County Council's Library Service through the provision of age-appropriate games and a variety of books have proven a great addition to the Christmas packs over recent years.

Local businesses including SuperValu, Tesco and Smyths Toystore were contacted and these businesses made donations and gave discounts on purchases made which are very welcome to support this initiative. Each family in EA was also contacted by the Team to offer Christmas Day dinners (where required) and to ensure no families were left behind at this time of year.

Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly outreach clinics



across the county with clinics operating in all five Municipal District areas. Engagement with the HSE in relation to a member of their Social Inclusion Team attending these clinics on a trial basis has been positively received and it is intended to roll this out to Clinics in Q1 2026. Details are published on social media in relation to Outreach Clinics and the team can be also contacted during office hours @ 045 980230.

Emergency Accommodation (EA)

The Council advertised a Multi Party Framework for Provision of EA for families which went live on eTenders on 01 December 2025 in an effort to increase our Emergency Accommodation supply in the County. There have been several enquiries from potential suppliers in relation to this and the closing date for submissions is 13 January 2026.

Private Grants Schemes 2026

The Housing Aid Grant for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme 2026 is now open. The council operates three private grant schemes.

- Housing Adaptation Grant for People with Disability
- Housing Aid for Older People Grant (Roof, Rewiring, Replacement doors and windows, central heating)
- Mobility Aids Grant

At the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting in December 2023 it was agreed by our Elected Members, that 60% of the private funding will be ringfenced for Housing Adaptation Grants, this grant facilitates people with a disability to continue to live independently in their homes and 40% will be allocated to Housing Aid for Older people. The same criteria will apply for 2026.

Affordable Purchase

Pierce Park, Newbridge – six units

We are currently assessing the applications for this scheme.

Barracksfield West, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare – 66 units

The online application portal opened on 26 November 2025 and closed on 17 December 2025. We received 300 applications for the scheme and we are assessing applications



**Grattan Park, Shackleton Road,
Celbridge – 12 units**

The statutory notice was published on 18 December 2025. The online application portal opened on 06 January 2026 and will close at 12.00 noon on 28 January 2026.

Regeneration

Applications for funding to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) for Kilcullen and Clane were successfully approved.

Strategic Projects and Public Realm

Newbridge Library and Archives

SPPR are finalising the tender for the main contractor and it will be published on e-tenders in the coming week.

Clane Library

Stage 4 approval has been submitted to the Department for their approval. Once received and tender assessments are complete, SPPR will be in a position to appoint a contractor.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Delivery expected mid to end - January 2026.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Substantial Completion Cert issued 19 th Dec 2025 for 64 of the 65 Units
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site. NFU
Approval Stage 3		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Stage 3 application approved by DHLGH. Building contractor tenders returned; assessment ongoing.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Stage 3 application approved by DHLGH. Building contractor tenders received; assessment ongoing.
Andrew, Athy	73 units + community building	Stage 3 approval received from DHLGH on 18.11.2025.



Approval Stage 2		
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Design & Build construction tender being finalised.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Tender for construction works being prepared and scheduled to be launched in Q1 2026.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Part 8 was considered and amended at the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting in May. Site clearance and knotweed disposal to be included in main tender. Claim for additional fees from consultants to be resolved. Tender documents being prepared.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Design & Build tender to be issued through eTenders Q1 2026 (Jan 26).

Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design team preparing design options for the site. Potential increase in number of units to 83 with childcare facility.
Sarto Road, Naas. BIM Pilot	7 units	Single stage application approved by the DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design to be finalised and agreed with planning.

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



Pre-Approval		
Liffey Lodge	TBC	Preliminary design options being progressed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report progressing. Preparation of Stage 1 application to the DHLGH is ongoing.
Kilcock Courthouse	5 units	Revised single stage funding application approved by DHLGH. Tenders for consultants underway to proceed to Part 8.
Canalside, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report issued to Planning. Structural survey received. Single stage funding application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	Consultants appointed: tender to be prepared.
Blacklion HS, Maynooth	2 day houses	Single Stage Application proposal submitted to DHLGH for comments: Consultants appointed.
Bothar Bui, Athy	8 units	Feasibility underway. Site investigations to be procured.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and structural survey complete. Survey drawings complete. Feasibility report issued to the Planning Section for comment.
Former Fire Station Site, Maynooth	TBC	Feasibility and design ongoing. Consultation with SPPR and Community Section commenced.
Blacklion, Maynooth	80 TBC	Feasibility underway.

Infill Schemes

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



PPP Schemes

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

Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Part 8 to be considered at the December meeting of Celbridge-Leixlip MD. Part 8 approved 19/12/25. Cluid to hold meeting with MD councillors to discuss various details of scheme.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 4 approval issued 27.11.2025 to DHLGH. Contractor appointment by AHB to follow.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Stage 4 approval received. Work ongoing to transfer the site to Cluid.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort, (adj McAuley Place), Naas	45	Part 8 application underway. Stage 2 application submitted to DHLGH. Following queries, from DHLGH, the AHB is required to submit a revised information.



CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10 units & communal building	CAS funding approved. Terms of Heads of Agreement have been signed. Legal process for transfer of units to KCC has commenced.
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Acquisitions

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

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge-Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2024	57	79	22	50	55
MTR Delivery in 2024 (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	1
Acquisitions in 2025	41	21	63	50	28
MTR Delivery 2025 to date (via CALF and leasing)	0	1	2	10	2

Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number expiring 2025	Number Expiring 2026
79	30	0	49

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	29	46	48
6 - 12 Months	24	37	61
12 - 18 Months	5	6	10
18 - 24 Months	9	14	18



24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
30 – 36 Months	1	3	2
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	68	106	139

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31st December 2025

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	6	13
6 - 12 Months	0	0	0
12 - 18 Months	4	9	11
18 - 24 Months	3	5	5
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
30 – 36 Months	1	5	1
+ 36 Months	2	3	5
Total	14	28	35

Regeneration

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

Year	Vacant Property Grant Applications Received	Vacant Property Grant Approved	Vacant Property Grant Paid
2024	142	119	70
2025	115	93	98

Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties Requiring Further Investigation	Property Owners Engaged With	Pre-CPO Notices Erected
2024	141	104	101	41
2025	164	113	114	29

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

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

URDF Call 3	<p>Six URDF Call 3 approved properties have been acquired by CPO.</p> <p>One property has been acquired by agreement and negotiations are ongoing to acquire one property.</p> <p>CPO is in process on one property</p> <p>Derisking/enabling works are complete on three properties and they are being prepared for forward sale in Q1 2026, subject to approval of the elected members.</p> <p>Six properties have been brought back into use following engagement.</p> <p>Plans are in progress to bring 23 properties back into use following engagement.</p>
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Town Centre First

TVRS	Funding Applications	<p>Applications for Town & Village Renewal funding submitted for Clane and Kilcullen were successful, as follows:</p> <p>Clane - remedial and upgrade works to the town centre playground recreational space. This project was identified as a priority for the community in the TCF Plan.</p> <p>Kilcullen – a project comprising a number of elements including research, design and mapping of amenity, heritage and cultural walking and wheeling trails linking and identifying assets and opportunities.</p> <p>The Town Regeneration Team will continue to work with Town Teams in the delivery of these projects.</p>
Phase 2, Measure 2 TCF Suite of Supports	Castledermot Town Centre First Plan	Preparation of the Town Centre First Plan for Castledermot in collaboration with the Town Team is



		now complete. Launch and publication of final draft in Q1, 2026.
Phase 2, Measure 3 PDM - TCF Suite of Supports	Project Development Measure	GPR and topographical surveys completed. Design is progressing in-house on the various elements of the PDM project and as identified in the Clane TCF Plan.

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	Bridge deck installed at Rathangan with some sections resting in place awaiting modifications. Project completion and snags - January 2026.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Survey provided to the Design Team; awaiting receipt of updated reports. Preparing Part 8 documentation.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€25,621,000	DoT/TII and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Agreement document to be prepared with Waterways Ireland to allow them to progress some works on our behalf which will require the approval of TII from a procurement perspective.



					Sallins Tie-In tenders returned mid-December. Approval given to proceed with environmental studies and reports for the Boardwalk section of the path.
Kildare-Newbridge	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	<p>Detailed design ongoing and tender pack being prepared.</p> <p>Liffey Lodge Works ongoing on site. Library staff expected to start moving in January 2026.</p> <p>Basin Street Naas – works completed to provide office space to staff currently based in Newbridge Library.</p>
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work ongoing to finalise draft Plan.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Draft Masterplan finalised and is currently under review by the SPPR team prior to going to Senior Management Team.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V)	Pre-Part 8	Surveys completed which will inform the pre-Part 8 design preparation which



	Market Square Monasterevin		(TCF Measure 3)		has recently received RRDF funding received. Awaiting Letter of Offer and Funding Agreement.
	Riverbank	TBC	TBC	Pre-Part 8	Approval received to go to Part 8 with fully inclusive design. Notification issued to Riverbank. Work to commence in Q1 2026.
Athy	Athy Sports Hub Andrew			Pre-Part 8	Tender assessment to take place in January.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€23.8m (most recent cost for entire project)		Pre-Part 8	An application will be prepared for the Historic Structures Fund.

Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan. Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid Project has commenced. Draft document with SPPR for review prior to submission to Senior Management Team for comment. Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and
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			<p>Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>		<p>report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</p> <p>Codema working on District Heating feasibility study which is due for completion.</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>Re-engaging with NUI Maynooth.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</p> <p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan.</p>
	Clane Library	€3,760,000	TBC with Library Department	Tender Stage	Tender assessment ongoing, Stage 4 approval is currently with



					the Department for consideration and once approval is received we will be in a position to appoint a contractor.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case	TBC	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – Preparation of Masterplan is underway. Draft document with SPPR for review prior to submission to Senior Management Team for comment. Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Conservation Management Plan completed. Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre. Acquisition of St. David's Castle complete. 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. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
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	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	Final draft is under review by internal departments.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF	Pre-draft Masterplan	Transport and Infrastructure Assessment is being carried out by our Consultant and will inform the Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan.

Integration

General

Numbers of New Arrivals

Numbers of new arrivals seeking Temporary Protection has declined significantly since before Christmas. The numbers in DAC's has reduced from 900 prior to Christmas down to 386 reported on 12 January. Change to 30-day accommodation offer means throughput of people is quicker.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

A permanent network of Local Authority Integration Teams (LAIT's) were established across Ireland in all 31 Local Authorities to support persons seeking international protection in Ireland; persons with status; temporary protection; or participating in the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. The LAIT have a social prescribed role, acting as mentors and connectors with local services.



The Local Authority Integration Teams are a strong example of how integration policy can be turned into practical, people-centred action that supports newcomers from the moment they arrive navigating new civic systems. Structured support through the LAIT model strengthens newcomers' sense of belonging and fosters social cohesion, while demonstrating how national funding can be used strategically to enhance local capacity and ensure that local integration is both immediate and sustainable.

At present the primary focus of Kildare LAIT is supporting people in State-funded accommodation. Outreach clinics are held regularly to identify needs and link people with services and/or develop with other key stakeholders the required supports.

Key achievements in 2025

- Delivered 151 one-to-one information clinics in accommodation centres. Received 1,741 queries and solved 1,708 queries in 2025.
- Provided 28 group clinics around specific topics or

addressing common needs in a centre.

- Facilitated nine sessions with the Women's Group in the single women IPAS centre, including facilitating a wide range of activities with community groups and organisations, including yoga classes and mindful walking (in partnership with Kildare Sports Partnership). The walks through the area were a simple and effective way of helping women become familiar with the new surroundings and services.
- Eight Information sessions delivered by a partner organisation including migrant-led organisations such as Akidwa on women's health; IOM on the Voluntary Return Programme; the Local Development Company (CKLP) on job readiness training and supports; and UNHCR on the difference between temporary protection versus international protection.



LAIT activities in accommodation centres in 2025 include:

- A Printing Workshop for children aged nine to twelve in collaboration with Naas Library to mark and introduce Refugee Week as a community festival to celebrate, foster connections, inclusion, and community cohesion.
- In partnership with Library Services, offered six creative expression and play workshops as psychosocial support for young children (two to seven years) and parents accommodated in two IPAS family centres (Hazel and De Burgh) as part of the Power of Play (POP!) programme, partly funded by the LAIT.
- Song Seeking Project 10-week project of facilitated group singing workshops to promote wellbeing, creative expression and as an informally therapeutic offering in IPAS centres. Funded by Creative Ireland. LAIT supported trial sessions, access to the centres, signposting and consultations with residents, attendings the first and last sessions.
- Six weeks Learn to Swim Programme for four mothers and seven children in IPAS accommodation centres during December 2025. Led by Swim Ireland and in partnership with Kildare Sports Partnership. Six weeks Self-Defence Programme for women in IPAS accommodation centres delivered in partnership with Her Space and Kildare Sports Partnership (November – December 2025).
- In partnership with the Community department at Kildare County Council, the Kildare LAIT delivered free period products to vulnerable girls and women in State-funded accommodation centres.
- Volleyball and basketball tournaments started in December 2025 in conjunction with Kildare Sports Partnership to encourage and support sports and physical activities among young men accommodated at the 30-days DACs in Kildare.



- Awareness event to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 21 March 2025.
 - Food sharing activity in North Kildare in August.
 - The LAIT staff supported the Soccer Tournament organised by Kildare Sports Partnership in September as part of the Social Inclusion Week, targeted at men in IPAS centres. This resulted in LAIT staff supporting weekly social soccer in K-Leisure in Newbridge with a KSP coach/facilitator.
 - Children's Water Sports Summer Camp delivered by KSP partially funded by LAIT to support children accommodated in IPAS family centres to participate during the summer months.
- Ruhama on the 17 June in Naas delivered by Ruhama for 20 people.
 - Two workshops on understanding racism and discrimination facilitated by the Immigrant Council of Ireland. On the 13 May 2025 for 23 service providers including primary and secondary school principals and deputy principals; community and youth workers, Family Resource Centres staff; and staff managing or working in IPAS centres. A similar training was organised on the 01 October 2025 targeted at 15 service provider and community leaders in Newbridge at the request of the Newbridge Family Resource Centre (NFRC).
 - Two workshops on addressing misinformation, disinformation and mal information delivered by the Community Links Worker at County Kildare Leader Partnership, one targeted at CIF members and the other to the Kildare Peer Support Network front line workers.

The LAIT in partnership with the Community Integration Forum (CIF) organised five trainings for local service providers and frontline staff:

- One workshop on human trafficking and sexual exploitation delivered by



Two information sessions in partnership with service providers targeted at accommodation centres staff and managers to build relationships and build capacity. One information sessions with KCC Housing Department and De Paul Ireland to understand how persons with status can access social housing. Another session on the HSE Social Inclusion Team supports for new arrivals without medical cards or access to a GP.

Additionally, Kildare LAIT supported the CIF thematic meetings on children and youth to find immediate responses to specific issues, e.g., homework support for primary school children in IPAS family accommodation centres; needs and supports around aged-out minors. The LAIT will meet with participating organisations and agencies to further develop, fund and support some of the proposed projects in 2026.

Kildare LAIT hosted and led the first meeting for frontline workers engage in integration in January. The Kildare Integration Workers Network is formed

by community workers directly supporting integration and has been a great success to enable and encourage information sharing and collaboration.



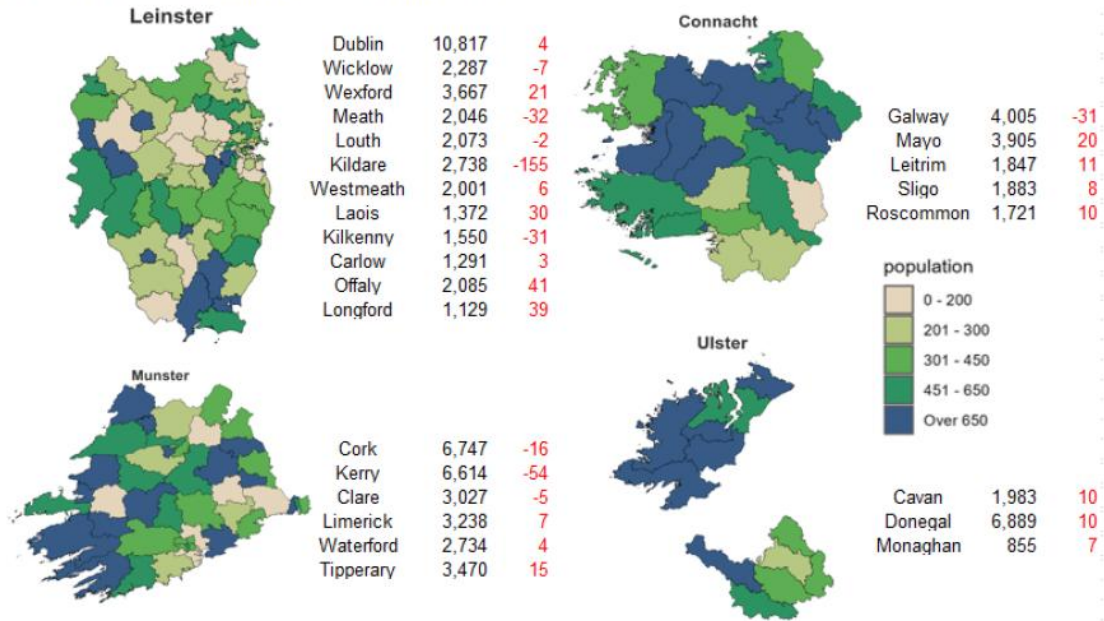
Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (Ukraine):

The number of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State contracted accommodation in County Kildare: 441 (389 adults/ children)

Data source Central Statistics Office 19 December 2025

Summary - Location of Ukrainian Arrivals by County

The following data gives the number of arrivals from Ukraine with recent activity in administrative data at a county level based off the data provided on 15 December 2025, where 97% of individuals could be mapped to an ARP home address or Post Office. Also included is a comparison with data previously provided on the 24 November 2025. The associated map is at an LEA level.



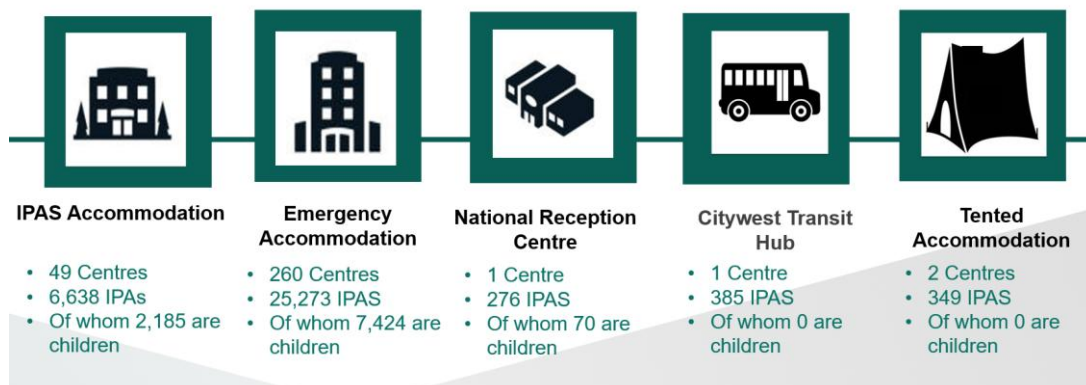
International Protection Applicants:

In State contracted accommodation in Kildare: 568 (465 adults/ 103 children)

Data source Department of Justice 19 December 2025

Current IPAS Accommodation Overview

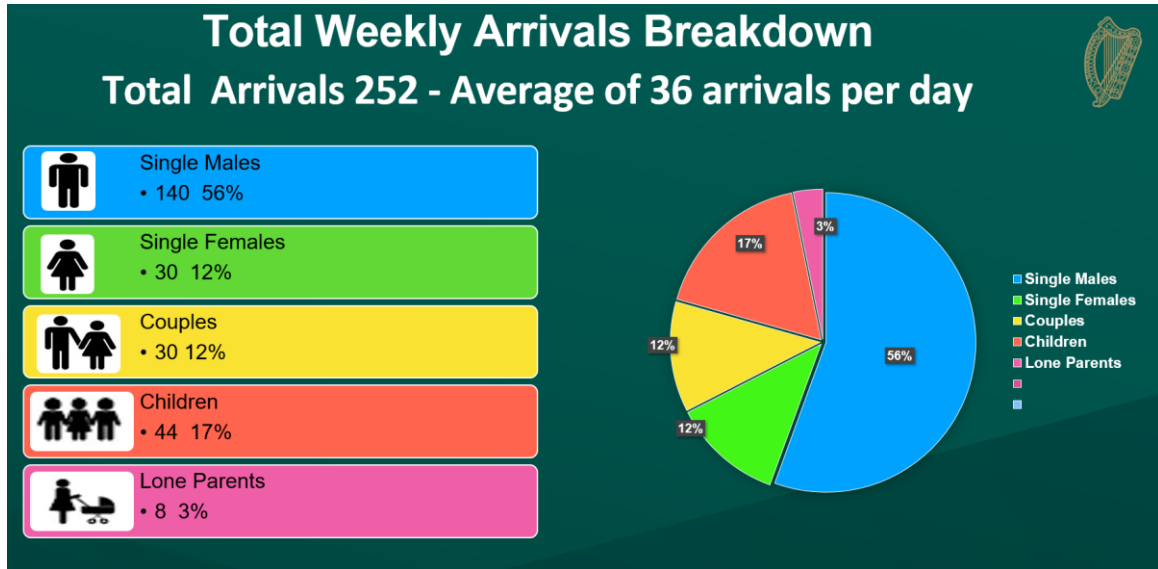
Total Centres 313 - Total IPAS 32,921 Of whom Children 9,679





Weekly breakdown of new arrivals:

Data source Department of Justice 19 December 2025



Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority Department of Justice 19 December 2025

Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	416	Kerry County	888	Offaly County	549
Cavan County	124	Kildare County	549	Roscommon County	186
Clare County	994	Kilkenny County	198	Sligo County	1084
Cork City	682	Laois County	480	South Dublin County	4169
Cork County	1503	Leitrim County	216	Tipperary County	1005
Donegal County	2193	Limerick City & County	699	Waterford City and County	611
Dublin City	3375	Longford County	140	Westmeath County	1166
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1336	Louth County	1111	Wexford County	604
Fingal County	2034	Mayo County	1551	Wicklow County	1247
Galway City Council	1714	Meath County	1000	Grand Total	32921
Galway County Council	400	Monaghan County	697		

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthai Baile agus Imirce | Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

50 of the 66 programme refugees have been resettled in Kildare. The families

supported by one Integration Support Worker, and one Intercultural Support Worker to integrate from the duration of the programme. The overall



programme is managed by the LAIT Coordinator.

The IRPP is working with Local Authorities engaged in resettling refugees, following the County and City Management Association's (CCMA) model for distribution for IRPP II, CCMA HBLU IRPP II Model for Distribution. Through this model, Kildare County Council was allocated a quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement has been carried out in a combination of Approved Housing Body (AHB) and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches. The remaining families are scheduled to be resettled in early 2026. The project, which was due to end on the 18 January 2026, has been extended three month with the same project budget.

The Refugee Resettlement

Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by Kildare LAIT. The LGMA initiated at the beginning of 2025 a Working Group with all LAITs and local authorities participating in the IRPP to share good practice and lessons learned.

Further information is available at: gov.ie - Irish Refugee Protection Programme

Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme

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

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

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

The Ukraine Services and accommodation team is currently



matching properties in rural locations offered by other Local Authority's.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

DAC's were established to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. The change to a 30-day accommodation offer has impacted on the delivery of services to the three DAC's in County Kildare. The accommodation and Ukraine services team continue to provide Day-75/14 clinics on a roughly two week basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation.

The Community Integration Forum

The Community Integration Forum (CIF) organised bi-monthly meetings in 2025, and two thematic meetings focused on children and youth needs. Additionally, the CIF arranged a coordination meeting in November to discuss key services to be prioritised in the 30-Day Designated Accommodation Centres in Kildare after the national policy change.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water Community



Brigid, Spirit of Kildare Festival

The festival is set to take place from 29 January to 02 February 2026 across the county with a central festival hub Cruinniú Chill Dara, located on the grounds of Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

- Features Spirit of Kildare Sessions with Jack L, Picture This, Gurriers, Celine Byrne, Paul Noonan, Gemma Hayes, Lisa Hannigan, Altan, Madra Salach and more.
- Includes live podcasts: The Blindboy Podcast and How To Gael.
- Family events include Bee is for Bríd, Fireside Stories, Taylor Swift Party, Carrying Her Flame, Joe the Magician and more.



- Mix of free and ticketed events, inclusive and autism-friendly programming.

Limited number of tickets still available - full details of events and how to book are available on www.spiritofbrigid.ie.

Spirit of Kildare Awards

The Spirit of Kildare Awards will take place on St. Brigid's Day, 01 Feb 2026 at 7.00p.m. in Cruinniú Chill Dara Spiegel tent at Áras Chill Dara and celebrates individuals and groups making a difference in Kildare. It will be an evening of celebration and recognition as we honour the outstanding spirit and achievements within our county.

Invitations have issued to all shortlisted nominees and other guests.

Creative and Community Grant Scheme

- 29 creative and community groups were supported with funding of €51,700 to deliver a broad host of projects across the county. Initiatives supported include Féile Bride, Monasterevin Camino, Sallins Pedal Parade, Sparks of Enterprise.

- These events form part of the overall festival programme. Full details available at www.spiritofbrigid.ie.

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Kildare LCSP has been formally appointed by the Minister with the first meeting provisionally scheduled for Friday 27 February. PPN nominees are awaited for two positions - the youth representative and Kildare/Newbridge local resident positions.

Local Sports Plan



Feedback was provided on the draft Plan, and Plan will be presented to Community, Culture and Integration SPC on 12 February and to full Council in Q1 2026. Thereafter an implementation plan will be developed to pursue the actions identified.



Kildare Sports Partnership Annual Christmas Activator Poles and Wellbeing Event

The annual Christmas Activator Poles gathering took place in St. Kevins GAA club, Staplestown, on the 19 December. This is primarily a social event for the participants in the Activator programme which reaches over 800 people in eight locations year-round. There were 140 people in attendance on the day.

2025 Swim Activator Programmes

The new Swim Activator, Louise McNamee, has had a huge impact since coming on board in 2025. She has reached over 4,000 participants since first starting between programmes and water safety awareness courses. This number has been achieved by partnering with 32 organisations to deliver 42 various programmes. Programmes to date have engaged people with disabilities, older adults, women in sport, ethnic minorities, disadvantaged communities, and many other groups.

Athy 2km Walk and Talk Group

Seventy people are participating in the weekly Athy 2km Walk and Talk group.

The group continues to go from strength-to-strength engaging people right across the town. Success is evident in this programme in that the group now meet on occasion together outside their scheduled Tuesday walks, with the most recent example being the gathering they had on New Years Eve.

Fighting Fit Cancer Rehab

In collaboration with MDC Physiotherapy Clinic, KSP delivered the Fighting Fit Cancer Rehab classes. There were 40 participants in the last six months of the year in this programme.

Local Community

Development Committee

The next meeting of the LCDC and LAG (to oversee LEADER) is scheduled for Tuesday 10 February 2026.

SICAP Programme:

The SICAP budget for 2026 has increased by 3% to €1,469,013. The budget for New Arrivals is not yet agreed nationally. This is impacting on the finalisation of the 2026 SICAP plan and SICAP 2025 end of year report.



We await the new deadline dates. However, a preliminary draft of the plan 2026 has been reviewed by the LCDC team.

Empowering Communities

Programme Athy

The plan for 2026 was recently submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG). This is based on supporting designated communities in Athy. Minor upgrades to the Community House in Townspark are welcomed as this is the primary location of the work carried out through this programme.

LEADER

Work is commencing to prepare for the upcoming LAG meeting. There are funding opportunities available for community groups and individuals to avail of LEADER funding in line with the Local Development Strategy.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

The Sláintecare Local Development Officer permanent recruitment post recently concluded, with Maria Healy securing the post. This post is fully funded by the Department of Health.

Work continues to support projects in Athy funded through seed funding. Kildare County Council Parks Section worked with the programme to respond to the need for goal posts and play equipment in Ballyroe, which were highlighted in 2025 as part of the Place Based Planning in that area.

Healthy Ireland

The recruitment process for the permanent Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator post is underway with interviews being scheduled. This post is fully funded by the Dept of Health. The HI Co-ordinator continues to support projects funded through HI funding. The priorities for 2026 are being finalised with the plan based on the €75,000 allocation due for submission to Pobal in late January. The progress report 2025 is due in February.

Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2026

An allocation of €244,335 has been received from DRCDG for small capital grants for community and voluntary groups. This will be overseen by the LCDC and follows Department guidelines and processes. It will be



advertised in January and communicated through a broad range of channels e.g. PPN, KCC social media etc. The focus of LEP 2026 is prioritising Community Centres, Family Resource Centres and Youth Facilities, located in or targeting the most excluded in Kildare. The LEP is included as one of the grants available through Community and information sessions and supports are available.

Child Poverty Action Plan

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

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The 40+ stakeholders continue to progress the Implementation Plan actions, the midterm report shows strong progress across each of the goals. Copies of the midterm report have been provided to Senior Management and Elected Members.

Community Support Centres (CSCs)

Additional guidelines were received from the Department in relation to the designation of Community Support Centres on 19 December. Following an open call and an expression of interest process, six Community Centres volunteered to be designated as a Community Support Centre. A site visit was carried out on each Community Centre and work is underway to notify the successful Centres and publish the list. The Council is also gathering information to make a funding bid for electrical works to CSCs to enable them to be compatible with mobile generators (four to be provided from Government for the whole County), to be used in the event of a prolonged power outage (c three days+).



A follow up Community Support Centre Activation Team meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Community Grants

Community Grants, including the Drecht Grant, will open for applications at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 19 January 2026, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 March 2026.

Applications for funding under the Local Enhancement Programme will also open on 19 January 2026 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 February 2026, in accordance with the relevant funding guidelines.

A Grants Information Evening has been scheduled for Wednesday, 21 January 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara. Additionally, Community Grant Workshops will be held in each of the Municipal Districts commencing on 03 February.

Community Development

Kildare's first Hygiene Hub update: Hygiene poverty refers to the inability to afford basic personal and household hygiene products. It is an often-overlooked but growing issue in Ireland. The Community Team has

partnered with Hygiene Hub Ireland, whose vision is for everyone in Ireland to have equal access to hygiene and household cleaning products. We are in the process of rolling out Hygiene Hubs across Kildare to work with community partners to distribute donated hygiene products to those who are identified as needing them most.

Working with the initiative, Free Cycle Furnishing established by Kildare County Council Tenant Liaison Officers in Housing, we have been able to donate the unopened/unused products found in Kildare County Council properties and distribute them through our community partner, Athy FRC. The FRC works with some of the most vulnerable families in the Athy area, and all items which have been dropped off at the Hygiene Hub drop-off point by the initiative have been redistributed, not only helping families in need, but also preventing these items from going to landfill

Age Friendly

We have launched our new initiative Age-Friendly Voices: A Legacy Of Kindness



This is a celebration of the incredible older volunteers who make County Kildare a better place for everyone. Through this spotlight series, we will share inspiring stories of individuals nominated by their peers for their dedication, compassion, and community spirit. Each feature highlights their journey, their impact, and the wisdom they offer our future generations.

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



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

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



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

- Online training on climate science, policy and responses to all staff.
- Green Public Procurement



- Nature-based solutions
- Fire services training

Other training targeting specific groups will be planned for delivery also.

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

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

- All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans. A review of all LACAPs is complete and findings report is available on CARO website Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) - CARO.



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

- Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, and Louth), delivering projects and accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.
- Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon), have developed their project pipeline and



sourced funding to match Pathfinder support and are progressing with projects.

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



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

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



GAA Green Club Programme: The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase three of the Programme sees c.400 clubs working their way through a range of



sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Work is ongoing to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CCMA and the GAA to continue and strengthen the partnership.

Kildare County Council Climate Action Office



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.

RENEW Project:

As part of the pilot programme 30 homes have now been fitted with Power Pal to ascertain potential power efficiencies and carbon reduction while balancing the grid usage. Thanks to our council colleagues for offering their homes to be part of the pilot.

The Climate Action Office attended Energy Innovation Prize Panel with Maynooth University on 7th October to compete for further funding of the project to increase access to the programme to scale up over time nationally and internationally.

The results were issued on 05 December at a launch event and the Renew project received €2,000,000 and will be seeking more houses to take part in the project.

Re-turn Bottle/Can Bin:

Launched in the in the Canteen and Level 0. Money from the scheme groups and other entities represented by staff monthly. To date September - Caragh Community Park and October – KWWSPCA, November Sarsfield GAA and December Johnstownbridge GAA are the beneficiaries.



Community Based Projects: Community Climate Action Program Fund Round 2:

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

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

Climate Design Lab:

To enable Behavioural Change, we need to create fun elements in the community of Maynooth using nudge and fun theory to change behaviour. The 'Magic Bin' has been installed in 3 locations on Maynooth Main Street and Market Square. Seating, totem poles are now in position created by 3D industrial printer from recycled plastic bottles through the Return Scheme and bottles collect of the coast of Ireland. The Lego City

and GameOfChoice - Maynooth DZ Action are also being utilised to build awareness.

Creative Ireland met all parties involved including artists on Friday 14 November to experience the innovations, ideas, art and music associated. They were very pleased with the project's outcomes including song and music composed specifically based on the data yielded and being performed for the first time on 04 December by Maynooth University Choir.

The last installation is due in place at the end of quarter 1/start of quarter 2 2026.

Climate Book Club:

Sadhbh O'Neill one of Ireland's leading environmental activists, launched Climate Book Club in Maynooth Library Tuesday, 28 October with the book title 'Lie of the Land by John Gibbons. The club will run for six months with view to scaling to all libraries over time. Initial club with nominated guests and Climate Action Office staff partaking to facilitate the monthly events.



Climate Action - Awareness

Building Climate Awareness:

Climate Action SPC:

The November SPC 12 November- Prof. Jennie Stephens gave a talk 'From Climate Obstruction to Climate Justice'. It was very well received with many asking for it to be broadened out to the full council.

Picnic in the Park:

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

Glashouse Energy Hub:

Launching later this month. The Hub, located within the Climate Action Section on the Councils Website, will provide a breakdown of information on retrofitting a home following the SEAI's Learn, Plan, Do model. This will simplify decision making and financial aspects.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Working with Community Section on a consultation period submission, on behalf of the Council, for the Third

National Implementation Plan for the closing date 16 January.

CAP 2024-2029 Implementation Plan Report:

Report being issued to CPG and Full Council in January with presentation. This is the second year to present this information and will show the progress being made and the areas associated.

Maynooth DZ:

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

Community Garden: progressing the lease agreement with Maynooth Tidy Towns for a community garden at Harbour Field following the Section 183 approval at Full Council in November 2025

Demo House: good interest with tours continuing during this quarter.



Energy Updates:

ISO 50001:

We have been awarded ISO 50001 Certification which is valid until 07 October 2028. Surveillance audits will take place annually with the first scheduled for June 2026. Continued support to keep certification will be needed across the organisation. An internal Audit schedule for Q4 2025 and 2026 will be communicated to the Energy Team.

Energy Team meetings to resume.
surveillance Audit in June 2026.



Energy Management Team:

Energy Team meetings will be held bimonthly (six per annum).
Energy metering and monitoring is being considered for the Significant Energy Users to establish energy consumption profiles. To this end the team is liaising with ESB Networks on

smart Meter installations and regularising account.

SEAI Internal Auditor Training for Local Authorities was held in Aras Chill Dara on 24 October, the team are still awaiting the recommendations for improvements from the attendees.

Energy Performance Contract

Letter of intent issued to preferred tenderer, Lawler's Sustainability. Contract being finalized and Legal agent procured for review.
Codema reviewing clarifications, tender docs and final submission.
Pathfinder funding of 50% of the 50% funding is being processed by Wicklow County Council as lead authority.

Energy Audits /Decarbonisation Projects:

The Energy Audits for Athy and Leixlip Libraries have helped to inform the works to be undertaken at both libraries. Leixlip Library decarbonizing works due to commence week starting 26 January 2026.

Athy Library is awaiting trial bore hole to be undertaken to inform viability -of ground source heat pump for decarbonisation.



An Energy Audit has been carried out on Athy Municipal District offices and the final report is awaited.

The team are advising SSPR on energy efficiency related items for Clane Library, Newbridge Library and Riverbank Arts Centre.

It was agreed to work with the Community Section to procure Energy Audits for three Community Centres in Newbridge, Kilcullen and Maynooth.

Energy Audit tender returns due on 15 January 2026 for four number community facilities – Newbridge Youth Facility, Maynooth Fire Station, Monread Community Centre and Teach na Daoine Kilcullen.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting(M&R):

The SEAI M&R reporting window for 2026 has opened with meter verifications to be completed by 30 January.

SEAI Pathfinder Strategic Review:

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

challenges Kildare County Council will have in meeting finances.

Critical Success Factors Audit

A meeting took place with SEAI regarding M&R and decarbonisation progress on 10 March. The team is awaiting the final report but Kildare is progressing well.

District Heating (DH)

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

DISCO project continues with peer-to-peer meeting held in December in the Netherlands attended by a team representative and the next meeting is scheduled for Dublin during April/May 2026.

EV Charging for Kildare County Council Fleet:

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



Environment

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period up to 2030.

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

Litter Management Plan

The draft litter management plan was approved and adopted by the elected members at the Council meeting on 24 November.

Tidy Towns

Kildare's tidy towns groups performed extremely well in the 2025 National Tidy Towns Competition with 11 towns winning a gold medal and Broadford

winning a silver medal. Naas was once again the county winner. While Johnstownbridge was recognised with an endeavour award.

An information event for all Kildare Tidy Towns Groups is planned for February 2026. Details are being finalised at present.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025

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

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

Litter CCTV

CCTV cameras have been installed at the recycling banks at Edmund Rice Square in Athy. Instances of littering have been recorded and fines have issued.



Recycling Facilities

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



Pickers Pals

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

Water Framework Directive

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

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

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

Details of the scheme can be found at:
<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/naas/home/>

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

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

services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

Columbarium walls have been completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries. Works on provision of columbarium walls at Donaghcumper cemetery in Celbridge and Monasterevin Cemetery have commenced.

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

Veterinary Services

A new service provider has taken on the operation of the dog warden service on behalf of Kildare County Council from 01 January 2026.



Legislation XL Bully Type dogs

The closing date for receipt of applications for exemption certificates was 31 January, 2025. It is now illegal to own an XL Bully dog without a certificate of exemption.

Water Services

Service to Elected Members -

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

By Phone: 0818 178 178

By Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

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

Notices of Motion and Councillors

Questions: councilmeetings@water.ie

Uisce Éireann Regional

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

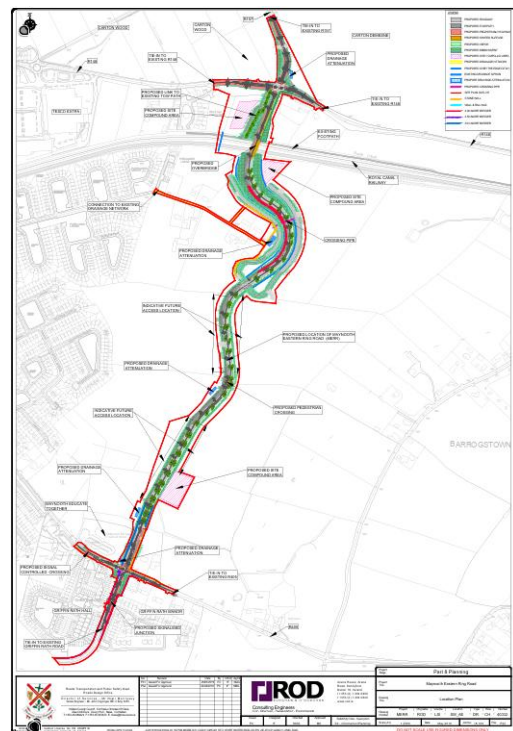
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

Capital Projects

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR)

The contractor has recommenced works on site following the Christmas break. Site fencing, site clearance, topsoil strip and road construction activities will take place this month.



Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

The deadline for the receipt of submissions relating to the application for consent and the compulsory



purchase of land was 05 January. Council are awaiting an update from ACP on the submissions received and the next steps in the consenting process.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Road Safety Audit report is awaited this month following the audit last month.

Junction Programme

The Section 38 consultation period for Allenwood and Blackwood Cross (Dag Weld's) is due to take place in Q1 2026 with construction works to take place thereafter.

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

The Council is awaiting the release of the revised mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document, to be published by the Department of Transport.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge: Meeting to be held with principals to discuss An

Taisce Green Schools proposals. 2025 Allocation of €100,000.

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

Safe Routes to School Round 3 Schemes (NTA funded)

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

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

Bike Week 2026

The portal is now open seeking applications for funding for bike week please see Cycling - Kildare County Council for further information (May 2026).

Operations

Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €11,081,000

59 road improvement projects covering 50 km of regional and local roads were completed in 2025.



Restoration Maintenance

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

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

Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads

Allocation - €500,000

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of 4 road improvement projects in 2025.

General Maintenance

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

Public Lighting

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

following website:

www.deadsureapp.com

Winter Maintenance

Salting runs covering the ten Winter Maintenance Routes were carried out throughout the Christmas period with some salting runs restricted to Route 6 (Baltinglass/Dunlavin area) including double runs on Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day.

Regional Salt Barn

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

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

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

Sustainable Transport

The final drawdown of National Transport Authority funding was €11,502,527 and was 15% in excess



of the original 2025 grant allocation provided to Kildare County Council reflecting the intensive amount of construction projects undertaken in 2025. Details for each project are included in the table within this report.

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Scheme substantially completed.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Tender for construction due to commence when there is confirmation of 2026 Grant Allocation from the National Transport Authority.

Naas to Sallins Greenway (Naas Harbour to Sallins)

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

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

Draft preliminary design being reviewed in association with the National Transport Authority. The intention is to agree a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in Q1 2026.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026. A briefing session with elected members has been organised.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

The independent post opening safety review of the scheme is being examined and discussed with the NTA. A briefing with elected members is planned in Q1 2026.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

Tender documents for the bridge are due to be completed in Q1 2026.

Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Draft Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme are being discussed for agreement with the National Transport Authority.

The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026.



Mill Street Active Travel Scheme

Construction is nearing substantial completion.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Work has commenced on the provision of bus stop infrastructure at Local Link Routes across the county.

The Council is expecting the delivery of new bus shelters from the National Transport Authority during 2026.

Table of NTA Funding Allocation for 2025, announced in Q1 2025 compared to funding drawdown in Q4 2025.

Project Number	Project Name	Funding Allocation	Funding Drawdown
		Q1 2025	Q4 2025
KCC/13/0008	Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth - FCC Boundary)	€3,000,000	€3,788,803
KCC/17/0005	Green Lane Active Travel Scheme	€250,000	€257,222
KCC/20/0001	Naas to Sallins Greenway - Section 2: Naas Harbour to Sallins	€100,000	€73,247
KCC/21/0001	Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme	€100,000	€35,207
KCC/21/0003	Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme	€125,000	€83,224
KCC/21/0004	Kilcock Road Active Travel Scheme	€0	€0
KCC/21/0007	Craddockstown Active Travel Scheme	€1,300,000	€1,301,771
KCC/21/0011	Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme	€100,000	€108,637
KCC/21/0013	Celbridge Active Travel Bridge	€300,000	€178,881
KCC/22/0002	Active Travel Staff Costs 2025	€750,000	€841,972
KCC/22/0004	Monread Road Active Travel Scheme	€20,000	€0
KCC/22/0005	Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme	€50,000	€54,682
KCC/22/0009	Monasterevin Town Active Travel Scheme	€200,000	€201,418



KCC/22/0010	Naas to Newbridge Inter-Urban Active Travel Scheme	€0	€0
KCC/22/0012	Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme	€35,000	€0
KCC/23/0011	Meadowbrook Active Travel Scheme	€0	€0
KCC/23/0018	SRTS Round 1 - St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town	€0	€49,171
KCC/23/0026	SRTS Round 1 - Straffan National School	€250,000	€441,623
KCC/23/0027	SRTS Round 2 - Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's, Newbridge	€100,000	€0
KCC/23/0028	SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phádraig, Clane	€100,000	€0
KCC/23/0029	SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Mochua, Celbridge	€100,000	€205,392
KCC/24/0001	Naas to Sallins Greenway - Section 1: Newbridge Road to Naas Harbour	€30,000	€0
KCC/24/0003	Poplar Square, Naas - Interim Bus Stop	€10,000	€0
KCC/24/0004	Mill Street Active Travel Scheme	€2,500,000	€3,411,409
KCC/25/0010	Bus Stop Enhancement Programme	€500,000	€466,191
KCC/25/0001	SRTS (R3) - Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous	€20,000	€1,501
KCC/25/0008	SRTS (R3) - Kilkea National School	€20,000	€0
KCC/25/0009	Station Road (Newbridge) Active Travel Scheme	€40,000	€0
KCC/25/0011	Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme	€0	€0
KCC/25/0012	Dublin Road Naas Connector Active Travel Scheme	€0	€2,177

€10,000,000	€11,502,527
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Open Spaces

Monread Park, Naas

Five new seats have been installed in the park to provide resting places for users of the park to replace the existing two seats.

Clane-Maynooth Municipal District

Tree Works

A tender has been awarded for tree works in the Municipal District. A start date and estimated time to complete



the programme will be agreed shortly with the contractor.

Lakeside Park, Dara Park Open Space, Newbridge

A public consultation survey has been advertised on the consultation portal (<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/surveys>) to get the views of local residents and park users on what facilities and features could be considered for a masterplan for the space. Closing date for the survey has been extended to Friday 30 January.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

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

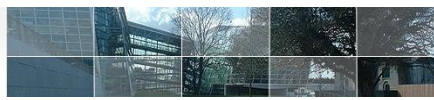
- The PMAs in respect of Proposed Variation No. 2 (Newbridge Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County

Development Plan (as varied) were published on 06 January 2026.

- The CE Report for proposed Variation No. 3 (Revised NPF) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) was issued to the Elected Members on 19 December 2025 with a Special Meeting scheduled for 23 January 2026.
- Settlement Plans are also being prepared for Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock in 2025. These will all form Variations to the Kildare County Development Plan.

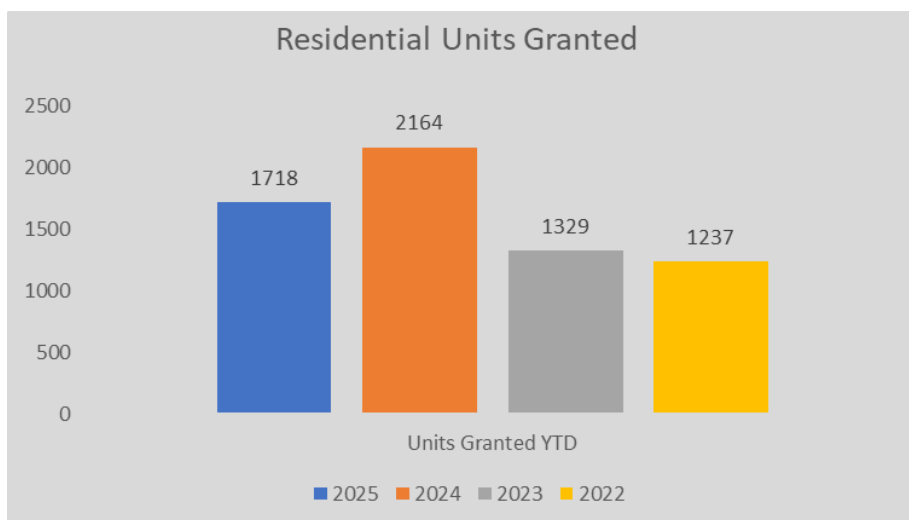
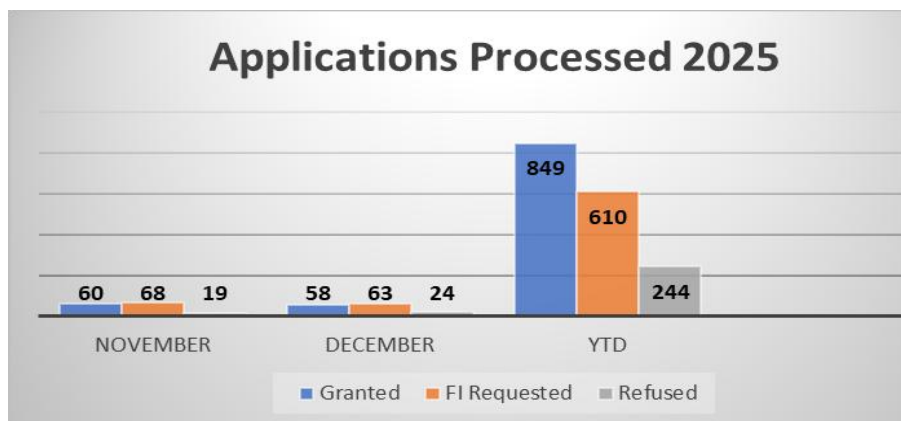
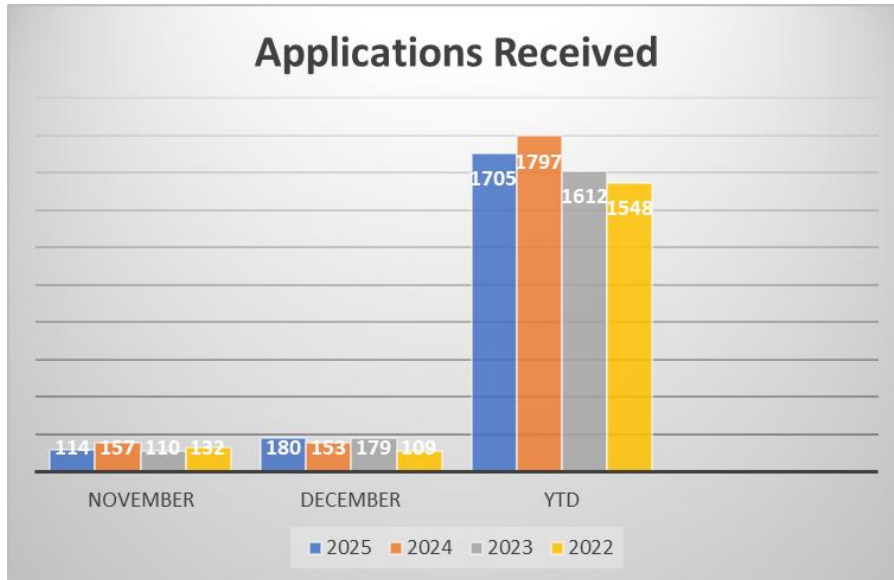
County Development Plan Actions

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



Development Management ePlanning

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





Pre-Planning

A total of 278 Pre-planning meeting requests were received up to and including 31 December 2025, with 14 new Pre-Planning requests submitted in November.

Section 5s

A total of 134 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 31/12/2025.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications					
Ref No.	Date Received	Applicant	Development Address	Proposed	Decision
25/60543	22/05/2025	Seattle Construction Ltd	Crodaun, Celbridge	Modification to ABP307100	Granted 15/07/2025 Appeal – upheld 21/11/2025

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

An Coimisiún Pleanála issued a decision to refuse a Strategic Housing Development application on 02/01/2026. The application was for a development of 344 residential units at Ballyoulster, Celbridge, application number 22313825.

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

Heritage and Nature

A. Biodiversity / Ecology

NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Fund - Recoupment is complete (€95,425).

Green Infrastructure Strategy -

Ecologist is preparing tender

Ballynafagh SAC Baseline Ecological and Hydrological Surveys – Ecologist is preparing tender.

An Ecological Capacity Building Programme underway for the Planning Department and wider Kildare County Council. Rolling out over the coming months through training, toolkits and advice notes.



B. Heritage and Conservation

Dún Ailinne World Heritage Site application process ongoing, discussions held on potential enabling works to be funded by World Heritage Strategic Infrastructure Fund in 2026.

Kildare Land Activation Office Land Activation

The new team's focus is to accelerate the delivery of housing-led strategic developments across the county including Confey in Leixlip and Naas North-West Quadrant, as well as advancing a wide range of other strategic developments that have the potential for delivery of housing, with a focus on early delivery. The team will co-ordinate bids for funding under the Town and City Fund, for which the funding call is expected imminently with the aim of accelerating housing delivery through the delivery of enabling infrastructure, with a focus on

short-term delivery. The team is in the process of establishing working relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, including developers, utilities, and state / semi-state agencies.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant Framework Masterplan –

The Delivery Strategy for the project is under preparation, including phasing, infrastructure, delivery, costings, viability, funding and finance strategy. The target is to finalise the Framework Masterplan (including its Delivery Strategy) in March / April 2026 for consideration by SMT.

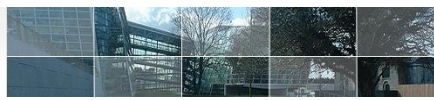
Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan

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

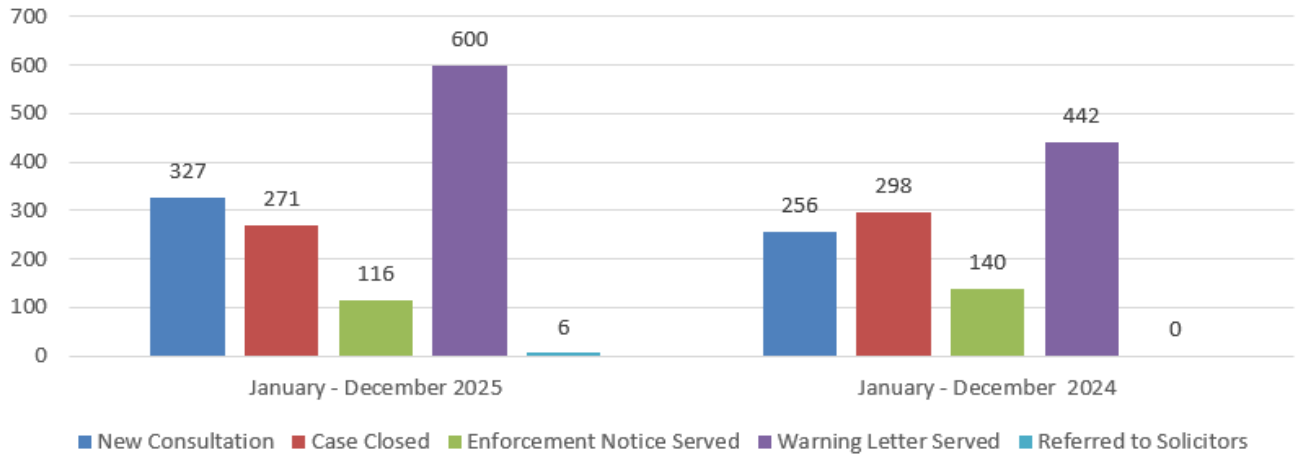
Planning Enforcement

Summary for December 2025

22	New Consultations
5	Cases Closed
15	Enforcement Notices Served
54	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors

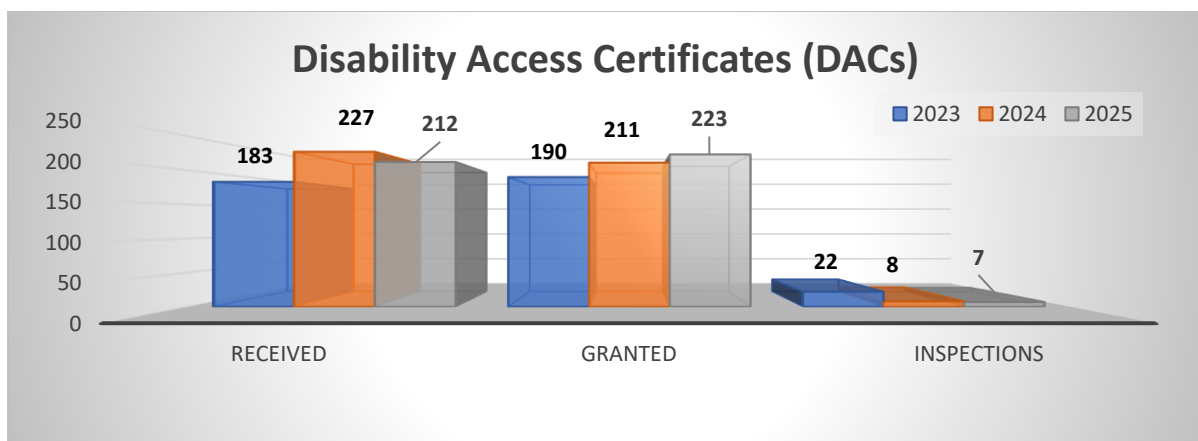
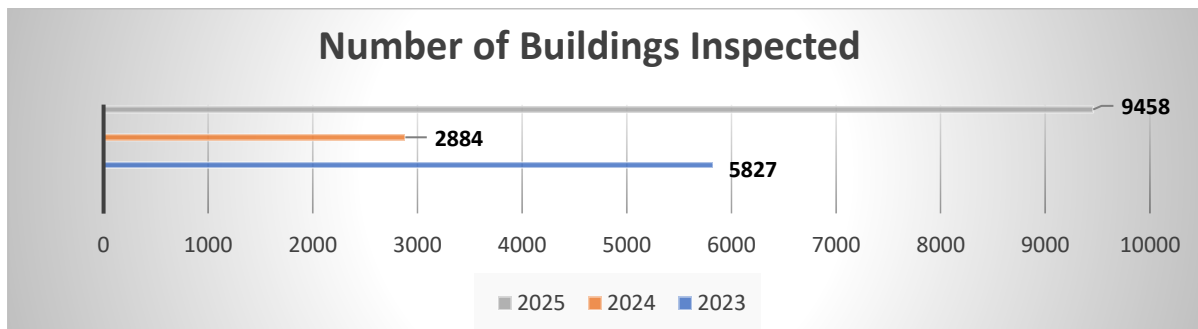


Enforcement Statistics



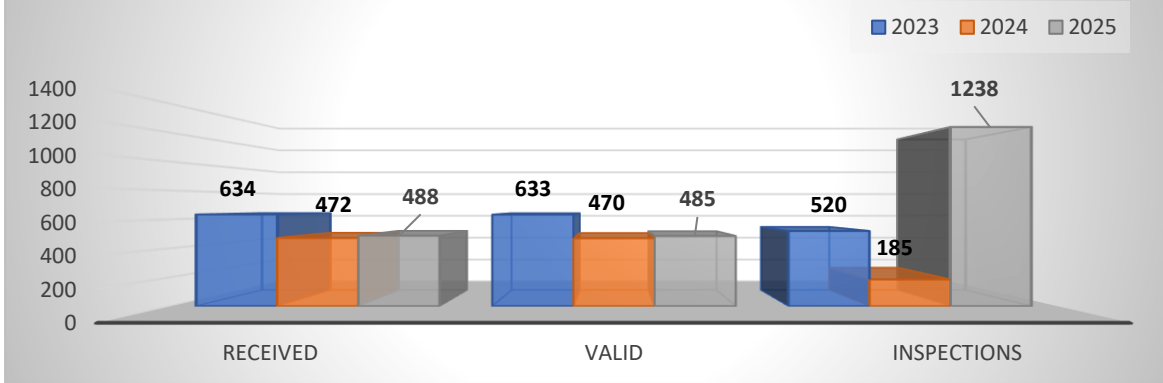
Building and Development Control

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

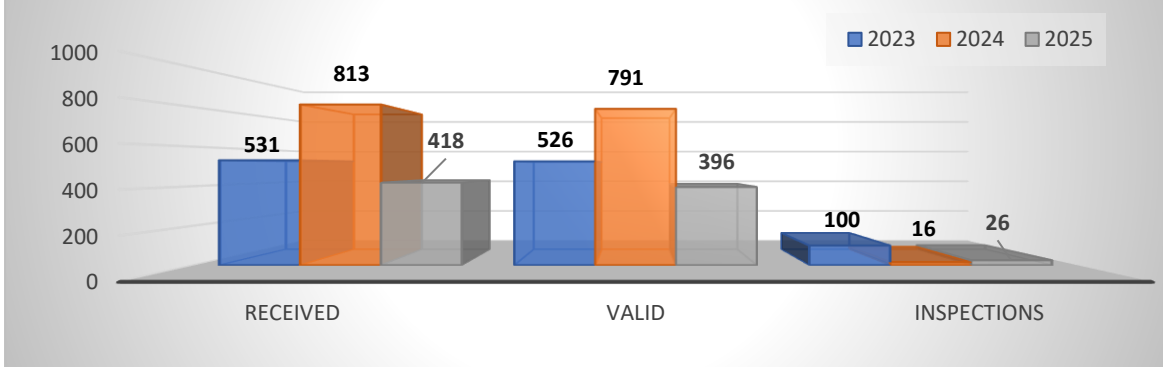




Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCCs)



Commencement Notices (CNs)



Kildare Fáilte- Into Kildare

Key Activities

In December, Into Kildare were happy to support the extensive range of festive offerings in the county by promoting and amplifying a range of Christmas events from Christmas markets, seasonal dining, corporate and social celebrations, festive hotel stays, and immersive Christmas experiences, appealing to families and visitors of all ages. This was delivered through a series of campaigns aimed at driving footfall and increasing engagement throughout the county.





Christmas greetings were issued to local and national media, as well as meeting, incentive, conference and events buyers, supporting relationship building and potential collaborations in the year ahead.

St. Brigid's cards were also prepared to send to embassies across the world, extending greetings and inviting them to join us for a Pause for Peace with a St. Brigid's prayer inside, promoting the link with St. Brigid and County Kildare.



During December, a series of strategic meetings took place to support tourism development and coordinated event planning across the county for the year ahead.

The Q4 Into Kildare Board Meeting was held and kindly hosted by Hartes of Kildare.

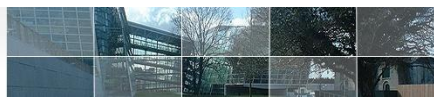
Into Kildare attended a meeting with Fáilte Ireland that focused on the Royal Canal and Greenway mapping, with an emphasis on alignment with visitor information and destination development objectives.

Aine Mangan met with Kildare County Council to discuss strategic plans and priorities for 2026, with a focus on tourism and event-related initiatives.

Into Kildare attended a meeting with Waterways Ireland, representatives from other County Councils, and Fáilte Ireland to explore collaborative opportunities for waterways development.



Planning took place to support the return of Taste of Kildare in August in Naas Racecourse, building on previous years. Meetings were held with the selected venue and events company, and will continue throughout the year with potential sponsors.



Preparations for St. Brigid’s celebrations are progressing well. Into Kildare met with Solas Bhríde and Spirit of Brigid to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership in relation to St. Brigid 2026 initiatives. With a number of events and activities currently in development, the focus is on maximising this opportunity to promote and share St. Brigid’s message both nationally and internationally, while also encouraging increased visitation to the county.



As year-end approached, Into Kildare reviewed 2025 activities and implemented plans for 2026 to further advance the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Tourism in Kildare.

Into Kildare secured a segment on RTÉ Nationwide to promote County

Kildare. A planning meeting took place in late December for the segment, which will be filmed on 10 January in Athy at Emily Square, highlighting the county, including Emily Square, Shackleton, St. Brigid, horse racing, and other key aspects of Kildare.



Enterprise and Economic Development

2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports 2025	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher	21	€57,653
Business Expansion Grant	13	€363,189
Priming Grant	9	€261,185
Feasibility Study Grant	6	€76,886
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	1	€525



Gradstart	1	€30,000
IP Start Grant	11	€23,047
Energy Efficiency Grant	22	€185,428
TOTAL	85	€1,000,413

Priming Grants Approved in December:

Luppio Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €21,121 to support the employment of one new full-time position, capital expenditure and consultancy. Luppio helps facilities management providers and their clients streamline operations, enhance service quality, and improve communication by automating the specification and communication of facilities management services, turning requirements into smart, analysable, and actionable data.

Business Expansion Grants Approved in December:

Fully Free Ireland Limited of Clane / Maynooth Municipal District was approved €31,000 to support the employment of one new full-time position, capital expenditure and consultancy. The business is an artisan producer of plant-based cheese alternatives – naturally

fermented from cashew nuts and live cheese cultures.

Pop Up Races Limited of Clane / Maynooth Municipal District was approved €32,612 to support the employment of one new full-time position and capital expenditure. The business provides timing services to events such as marathons, triathlons and HYROX to domestic and international markets.

Killadoon Farm Limited of Celbridge / Leixlip Municipal District was approved €22,500 to support the employment of one new full-time position and capital expenditure. Business is the manufacture and distribution of flavoured milk products via vending machines in retail outlets and also to the B2B sector.

Feasibility Study Grants approved in December:

Nathan Proudfoot of Celbridge / Leixlip Municipal District was approved €6,456 to assist with the development of a Minimum Viable Product to assist visually impaired population.

Equigenesis Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €12,000 to assist with innovation costs and



technical development costs associated with study into establishing an equine biotechnology centre in Kildare.

Entrepreneurship Support

Focus On Start-Ups

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

<https://leokildare.submit>

The Local Enterprise Office's 2026 schedule of training and events, along with registration details can be found at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/>

St. Brigid's – One Woman's Journey Of Resilience

The annual Women in Business Lunch celebrating St. Brigid's Day will take place on 30 January at Kilkea Castle.

Geraldine Osborne has been confirmed as a keynote speaker.

Geraldine will share insights from her extraordinary expedition to the Arctic Circle. Her book, *Somewhere Cold*, explores themes of pushing boundaries, embracing uncertainty, and discovering valuable lessons in unexpected places. Book your place at

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/>

Focus On Tech

LEO's Tech Cluster events resume in February. The first event is scheduled on 26 February. This Pitch Pace networking event is designed to help entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders craft and deliver compelling pitches with confidence and clarity. The Tech Pre-Accelerator programme will commence in April.

The full 2026 schedule and links to registration can be found online

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/focus%20on%20tech/>

Focus On Export

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) – Export Growth and Internationalisation Update:

The upcoming Saint Brigid's Legacy event on 30 January at Kilkea Castle is delivered in collaboration with EEN, which supports SMEs to grow internationally through export advice and EU partnerships.

Key Achievements:

Preparations complete for Saint Brigid's Legacy, launching *She Succeeds 2026* to promote female entrepreneurship and resilience.



Strategic Alignment:

Advances Sustainable Communities and Economic Development by enabling SMEs to access EU markets and strengthen export capability.

Upcoming Priorities:

Deliver event; track engagement; promote EEN export services and She Succeeds 2026 activities.

Forward Focus:

Prepare businesses for 2026 international missions and brokerage events to secure new export opportunities.

Focus On Craft

Gather

The Gather Craft Pop Up in Kildare Town reached sales of over €100,000 in 2025. This was the first full 12-month operational period, having opened mid-2024. December sales performed well with a marked increase in sales during Christmas week.

Showcase Ireland

The premier creative trade event, Showcase Ireland takes place from 18-20 January in the RDS, Dublin. Over 3,350 buyers from Ireland, the UK, the USA, Mainland Europe and Asia will attend, generating multimillion-euro

sales orders over the three days. This year three Kildare LEO clients will feature in the LEO Zone, having received mandatory mentoring and training. A further eight established Kildare LEO craft clients will have their own exhibition space at the event.

Focus On Lean, Green And Digital

Applications for 2026 are open for Lean for Business, Green for Business, and Digital for Business.

Focus On Food

A Request for Quotation published on the Local Enterprise Office website seeking quotes for mentoring services specific to food and beverage producing businesses. The closing date for receipt of quotations is 30th January
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/news/>

Leadership Development

The Advanced Leadership Development Programme commences with 'Focus on Retail' in MERITS on 12 and 26 January with Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) in partnership with LEO Kildare. This programme is for retail and hospitality business owners or staff in leadership roles.



LEO are seeking Expressions of Interest for LEO's spring Export Development Programme – for information please visit <https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/call-for-expressions-of-interest-export-development-programme-spring-.html>

Operation Excellence – Simplify, Standardise, Sustain commencing 23 January with a tour of the Adman Sheds in Wexford leading into a hybrid program schedule over two months. This program is designed to help businesses move beyond short-term initiatives and create a lasting culture of operational excellence <https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/simplify-standardise-sustain.html>

Economic Development (ED)

Promotional Activity

The ED Team delivered promotional activity throughout 2025, including targeted media campaigns (radio, print media and social media), as well as a Christmas #shoplocal campaign where Santa Claus visited nine towns, engaging 50 local businesses while capturing the festive activities of the County's streetscapes and market areas.



Retail Supports

The 2026 programme for local retailers commenced with the opening of the St. Brigid's Day Window Merchandising Scheme.

A series of Roadshows and Municipal District visits is being scheduled for February to promote Kildare County Council-wide support in 2026 in the lead up to Enterprise Week in March.

Grant Assistance

In 2025, Shopfront Improvement and Retail Merchandising Window Grants grew by 9.4% (€ value) from 2024, while a further 20 clients benefited from the Athy Building Enhancement Financial scheme, thus bringing the overall year-on-year growth of KCC grant approvals to +59.2%.

The 2025 Retail Support Schemes for both grant and promotional activity concluded as follows:



MDs	2025 Allocation	Nr. Approved	
		Nr.	Value
Athy	€40,000.00	16	€36,727.97
CBLX	€40,000.00	12	€27,197.16
CLMN	€40,000.00	7	€19,037.21
KDNB	€40,000.00	21	€53,627.32
Naas	€40,000.00	15	€36,020.17
	€200,000.00	71	€172,609.81

Athy Building Enhancement Financial Support Scheme	Nr. Approved	€ Value Approved
Approved Applications	20	€65,037.62

Tourism



A press release has been issued announcing €1,891,000 investment in tourism projects in County Kildare. The five successful grantees from the Fáilte Ireland EUJTF Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme are:

- Zipit Forest Adventures Limited (Donadea Forest Park)

- Lullymore Heritage and Discover Park
- Burtown House and Gardens, Athy
- Boat trips.ie, Athy
- Cycling Trails and Tours in Ireland's Midlands

European Funded Projects

Young Equine Innovators (YEI) – Erasmus+ Project

The Council, in partnership with European organisations from Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden, continues to advance the Erasmus+ Young Equine Innovators project, which promotes youth entrepreneurship, vocational training, and sustainability in the equine sector.

Key Achievements:

Planning for the Young Equine Innovators Summit (03–06 March 2026) is on track. The event will position Kildare as a leader in equine innovation and education, supporting Council priorities for Enterprise, Economic Development, and Tourism. A national day on 05 March at the Curragh Racecourse will feature EU partners, national stakeholders, and keynote addresses from MEP Nina



Carbery and Minister for Agriculture
Martin Hayden.

Strategic Alignment:

Supports corporate goals on youth entrepreneurship, skills development, and rural economic growth, aligned with LECP objectives for sustainable communities.

Upcoming Priorities:

Complete curriculum modules by 19 January to integrate vocational training. Finalise summit programme, including exhibitor zone and live-streaming. Deliver WP2 mini-launch during the summit to maximise visibility.

Forward Focus:

The summit will showcase innovation in racing, breeding, sport horses, veterinary practice, and equine services, highlighting career opportunities and collaboration between industry, education, and policy.

Further updates will be available at <https://youngequineinnovators.eu>.

Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub, Athy

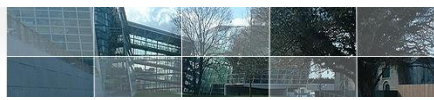
The Hub continues to build economic momentum as a centre for enterprise, skills development, and industry collaboration. The KWETB Chef Apprentice Programme now operates every Monday and Tuesday, strengthening workforce capability in the hospitality sector and supporting long-term employment growth.

Commercial activity is increasing:

- Two local food businesses will begin weekly use of the Shared Kitchen, fostering micro-enterprise development.
- Two of the three Own Door Production Kitchens will be rented soon signaling confidence from scaling businesses and generating sustainable rental income.

In addition, two small food businesses are scheduled to begin using the Shared Kitchen on a weekly basis, further enhancing the Hub's role as a collaborative space for local food producers.

The Hub will host a Love Irish Food networking event on 20 January, featuring Conor Kilduff, Executive Director at Love Irish Food. This session will highlight the economic benefits of subscribing to the Love



Irish Food brand, including enhanced consumer trust, marketing support, and retail visibility. The Love Irish Food brand represents a significant opportunity for local producers to leverage brand affiliation for growth and market expansion.

These developments underscore the Hub's strategic role in driving enterprise growth, job creation, and positioning Kildare as a leader in food innovation and branding.

Circular Economy Hub

Internal Demolition and Removals

Contract published and contract to be awarded beginning of January 2026.

Asbestos removal works tender

completed and successful contractor to be awarded contract. DAC and FSC application submitted to BMCS.

Mechanical and Electrical suite of tender documents under review and programmed to be published in the beginning of January 2026. The site is fully secure with 24-hour security surveillance with all prohibited access points removed.

Application made in December 2025 for CCAP funding to fit-out some workshop spaces and to install a small solar array for renewable energy.

Engagement ongoing with CKLP regarding potential additional funding

streams and a joint programme with the DSP to potentially create a new CE scheme based out of the Hub.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub:

Five Tender Submissions Received

Asbestos removal works tender

completed and successful contractor

to be awarded contract. Hoarding

license submitted and approved.

Expressions of Interest have been received from potential workshop facilitators, and a programme of skills-based workshops will be developed.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive