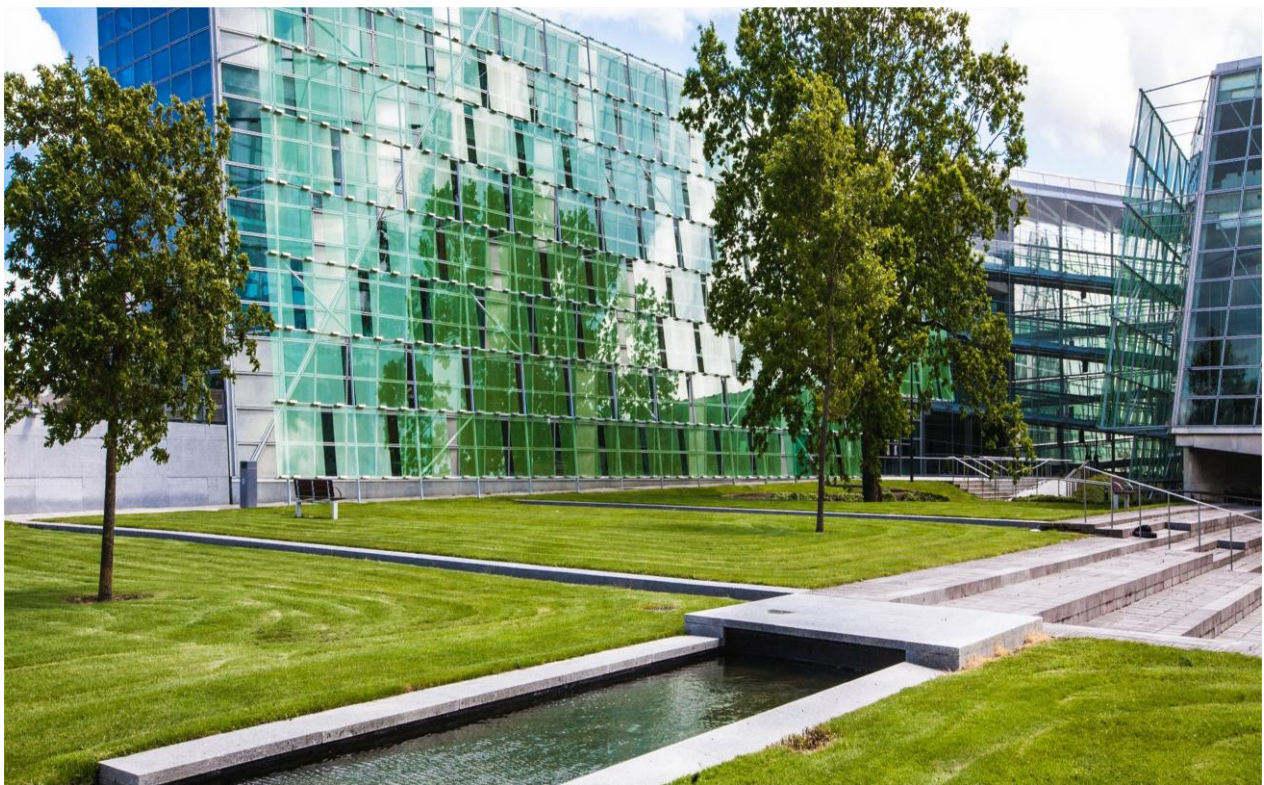




## Kildare County Council

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





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## News Items

### **Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027**

Kildare County Council is inviting submissions on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027, which is now open for public consultation (see page 9).

### **Athy Welcomes Senator Bernie Sanders and Jane Sanders for a Historic Visit**

On Sunday, 25 May 2025, the town of Athy had the distinct honour of welcoming U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Jane Sanders. The visit was part of the "Made of Athy" series, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and history of the town (see page 9/10).

### **VECTOR Digital Arts Residency Open Studio**

On Thursday, 22 May colleagues from the County Council and local art world were invited to the open studio of Iíing Heaney at MERITS as part of the new VECTOR Digital Arts Residency initiated by Kildare Arts Service (see page 13).

### **Budget 2026**

It is envisaged that there will be a property revaluation for 2026 Local Property Tax (LPT) liability and Revenue will have to be notified of the decision on variation of the Local Property Tax (LPT) by 31 August 2025, therefore a decision will need to be made by the Members at the July council meeting on 28 July 2025. LPT public consultation has been advertised and is ongoing from 03 June to 04 July 2025 (see page 17).

### **Homeless Outreach Clinics**

The Housing Department is continuing to hold monthly homeless outreach information clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Homeless Section can be contacted at 045 980230. Clinics are taking place in Maynooth, Kildare Town, Athy, Newbridge, Curragh and Celbridge (see page 18).



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### **Relocation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State Accommodation**

With the declining demand for accommodation for people fleeing the war in Ukraine some existing accommodation centres across the country will be closing, returning to their original use or an alternative use. This will result in the relocation of existing residents to alternative accommodation (see page 31).

### **Community Climate Action Program Fund**

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund Grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and since the grants were finalised in September, ten of the projects have been completed (see page 48).

### **Erasmus+ Repower Regions**

Kildare County Council, in collaboration with twelve European partners, continues to progress the Erasmus+ Repower Regions project, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation and skills development in the heating and cooling sector. Partners have moved further into the interview and case study stages, with best practice insights shared at the most recent Management Committee meeting on 03 June (see pages 79/80).



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## Diary/Calendar

### Affordable Housing

The application portal for affordable housing units at Lattin Place closes on Friday, 20 June.. Assessment of applications is underway (see page 18).

### Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

The Integration Team hold Day-75 Clinics in the Punchestown DAC on a fortnightly basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation. A clinic was held on 28 May 2025 with further clinic scheduled for 01 July 2025 (see page 39).

### Entente Florale 2025

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. Judging will take place on 12 July (see page 51).

### Gum Litter Roadshow

A Gum Litter Roadshow will be held in Newbridge on 16 July. The roadshow is interactive and educational, and aims to raise awareness about the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter (see page 53).

### Outdoor Recreation Strategy

An online public consultation to ascertain the public's input into the outdoor recreation strategy and sports strategy has been advertised. Link to the survey is <https://forms.office.com/e/DthKMaSPAD> The survey is open until 27 June (see page 64).

### Focus On Women In Business

The next She Succeeds event takes place on 24 June and focuses on mastering financial terminology and concepts (see page 78).



## July Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>30 Jun</b> 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>1 Jul</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 LCDC 10AM	<b>3</b> 10:00 Community and culture SPC 10AM 11:30 County Twinning Committee 11:30am	<b>4</b> 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 Twinning Liaison Committee 10am	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b> 14:00 Protocol Committee Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
<b>21</b> 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b> 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 Aug</b>





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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services

#### Communications



#### Kildare County Council Presents Nine Awards for Inaugural DZ Climate Champions 2025

Kildare County Council's Climate Action Team proudly distributed nine awards to community groups, farmers, businesses and a local national school, as part of the inaugural DZ Climate Champions 2025.



#### Kildare County Council Unveils Ambitious Library Development Plan: "Building for Tomorrow"

Kildare County Council is proud to announce the official launch of Building for Tomorrow – Kildare

Library Service Plan 2025–2029, a visionary roadmap for the future of library services in the county.

#### Foilsíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara Plean Forbartha Leabharlainne Uaillmhianach: "Ag Tógáil don Todhchaí"

Is le teann bróid a fhógraíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara seoladh oifigiúil 'Ag Tógáil don Todhchaí – Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chill Dara 2025-2029', treochlár físiúil maidir le todhchaí na seirbhísí leabharlainne sa chontae.

#### Successful Applicants under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Announced

#### Funding awarded to 100 applicants

Kildare County Council and Kildare Local Community Development Committee are delighted to announce the successful applicants under the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 (LEP).



### **Kildare County Council Libraries Service Announce the Return of Summer Stars 2025**

Ireland's public libraries are once again inviting children of all ages to dive into the joy of reading with the Summer Stars Reading Programme, launched on Thursday, 12 June 2025. Summer Stars is a free national programme that encourages children to read for fun during the school holidays.

### **Fógraíonn Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara go mbeidh Réaltaí an tSamhraidh ag filleadh in 2025**

Tá leabharlanna poiblí na hÉireann ag tabhairt cuireadh do leanaí de gach aois arís i mbliana le tumadh isteach in aoibhneas na léitheoireachta trí mheán Chlár Léitheoireachta Réaltaí an tSamhraidh, a sheolfar Déardaoin 12 Meitheamh 2025.

Is clár náisiúnta saor in aisce é Réaltaí an tSamhraidh a spreagann páistí le

bheith ag léamh ar mhaithe le spraoi le linn na laethanta saoire scoile.



### **Kildare Company Triumphs at National Enterprise Awards**

Kildare-based company 'Fused' by Fiona Uyema, supported by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office, has emerged as the Mid-East Regional winner at this year's National Enterprise Awards.



### **Kildare County Council Launches Pre-Draft Consultation for New Heritage Plan 2025-2031**

Kildare County Council is excited to announce the initiation of a pre-draft consultation for the new Heritage Plan (2025-2031). This plan aims to deepen our understanding of Kildare's heritage





and promote best practices in its conservation and management.

### **Kildare County Council Arts Service Announces Arts Grants 2025 Awards**

Kildare County Council Arts Service has announced funding under the Arts Grants 2025, to support creative and artistic projects in County Kildare. Grant aid of €126,302 has been awarded via 17 separate schemes to 87 projects which will take place across all five of Kildare's Municipal Districts in 2025.

### **Kildare County Council launches Survey for an Outdoor Recreation Plan and Local Sports Plan**

Kildare County Council has launched a consultation exercise to support the development of a new Outdoor Recreation Plan and a new Local Sports Plan.

These plans aim to guide the management and development of sports and outdoor recreation while increasing participation over the course of the next five years.



### **Kildare County Council Opens Public Consultation for Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027**

Kildare County Council is inviting submissions on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2025-2027, which is now open for public consultation. This is your chance to make a difference. The Litter Management Plan aims to address the impact of litter across the county. It will outline the activities and resources required to achieve a cleaner, greener Kildare over the next three years.



### **Athy Welcomes Senator Bernie Sanders and Jane Sanders for a Historic Visit**

On Sunday, 25 May, 2025, the town of Athy had the distinct honour of welcoming U.S. Senator Bernie



Sanders and Jane Sanders. The visit was part of the "Made of Athy" series, celebrating the rich cultural heritage and history of the town.



### **Innovators and Entrepreneurs Gather at MERITS for Funding Innovation Event**

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office hosted a dynamic Funding Innovation Event, at MERITS (Mid-East Regional Innovation Thinkspace), in Naas. The event brought together entrepreneurs, start-ups and business leaders from across the mid-east region and beyond.



### **Kildare County Council Launches Affordable Housing Scheme at**

### **Lattin Place, Rathasker Road, Naas, Co. Kildare**

Kildare County Council is excited to announce the launch of an affordable housing purchase scheme at Lattin Place, Rathasker Road, Naas, Co Kildare. This initiative offers an opportunity for private buyers to purchase one of eight newly built homes, aimed at first-time buyers and other eligible homebuyers.

### **Library and Arts Service**

#### **News and Highlights**

**"Libraries are the backbone of our education system." - Karin Slaughter**

The National Famine Way Roadshow came to Leixlip Community Library, on Wednesday 21 May. This is part of a nationwide initiative designed to engage communities in the heritage, history, and legacy of the Famine through the story of the 1,490 walkers from Strokestown to Dublin. The fascinating talks were very well received by the large turnout that attended. Speakers included Carolin Callery, National and Global Famine



Way; Dr. Jason King, Irish Heritage Trust; Kildare County Archivist, Karel Kiely who spoke about the Poor Law Unions that served Kildare and the three workhouses at Athy, Naas and Celbridge.

Kildare Libraries say Welcome: Kilcock Branch Librarian, Siobhán, was on hand on Saturday 24 May to support the local community for Africa Day 2025; Kildare Libraries also provided a professional face painter to the delight of the children on the day.

Librarian, Catherine, showcased her storytelling skills and entertained the children with traditional African traditional folktales and a book display in Celbridge Library.

The Athy Library opened on Sunday 25 May for Bernie and Jane Sanders visit. Jane traced her roots back to Athy, and found she still has family locally. The visit was part of the “Made of Athy” series, with a plaque unveiling commemorating the anti-war song ‘Johnny I hardly knew ye’ and a music session in the town. Athy Library hosted over 180 guests.

At Kildare Town Library, illustrator David Butler recently launched his

graphic novel celebrating the life of Irish Antarctic explorer Tom Crean which was written by Michael Smith. The special guest speaker was Ivan O’Brien of O’Brien Press, and the book was launched by Kevin Kenny of Athy Shackleton Museum.

### **KARE Presentation**

Newbridge library recently showcased Kildare Library Services to KARE organisation and this was presented by Éamonn Keenan. As part of our outreach programming the library organised a presentation for the staff and patrons of KARE showcasing; Borrow Box, Right to Read, STEAM, and membership drive, the presentation paid particular emphasis on our TTT programs and sensory toys.

The Tover Tafel and a selection of TTT toys were demonstrated on site. There was a video added as part of the presentation, giving KARE an idea of what the full capabilities of the Tover Tafel offer. As part of the free literature and merchandise, 28 copies of Accessible Adventures were handed out.



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### **Launch of Cruinniú na nÓg 2025**

The national launch of Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Friday 09 May followed by a local press release for our Kildare Programme of Events on 16 May. Kildare's Programme of Events was featured in The Nationalist on 23 May, and in a KFM radio interview 05 June. This year's festival takes place on 07 June, with over 35 free creative events for young people taking place across the county. A full listing of events is available at <https://cruinniu.gov.ie/>

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

Kildare County Council-Files (a physical file management system to deal with records from creation to destruction/archiving, including the application of retention schedules) is now in operation and further testing in the County Archives, Corporate and HR (Project in conjunction with IS). The Kildare County Archives and Local Studies Disaster Plan was approved by Local Community and Cultural SPC on 08 May. The archivist gave a presentation on 21 May as part of the National Famine Way Roadshow in Leixlip Community

Library about Kildare's Poor Law archives.

The ninth Irish Military Seminar took place with events in Naas Library and Cultural Centre, Kildare Town Library and Riverbank Arts Centre from 13 May to 17 May. The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport has approved the submitted Kildare County Council plan for 2025 commemorative activities.

### **Kildare Arts Service**

#### **First Music Contact Professional Development Sessions for Kildare Musicians**

Kildare Arts service hosted one of eight professional development sessions available to Kildare musicians on Monday 12 May - Approaching Media: How to use media to grow your reach. This April and May First Music Contact partnered with Kildare Arts Office, as well as arts offices in Galway City, Galway County and Roscommon to deliver a high level of professional development series to musicians in Kildare as well as creating an opportunity for musicians to give feedback on what local



supports are needed to develop a career as a professional musician. First Music Contact is the leading national music organisation for resourcing popular musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland. This new Regional Development Project aims to develop a way of offering equal access to professional development services to musicians all around Ireland as well as developing a framework for supporting artists at a local level.

### **VECTOR Digital Arts Residency Open Studio**

On Thursday, 22 May colleagues from the Kildare County Council and local art world were invited to the open studio of Iíing Heaney at MERITS as part of the new VECTOR digital arts residency initiated by Kildare Arts Service. Iíing has been working at MERITS since January 2025 and has been working on new projects using exciting augmented reality glasses (Hololens) and other new tech available at MERITS. During her time at MERITS, Iíing has been developing artwork examining environmental loss using Ireland's ancient oak forests, as a reference point. At the open studio,

Iíing presented previous work, alongside current research documents and visual experiments from her practice at MERITS since January 2025.

### **Performing Arts Forum, Limerick Gathering Conference**

The Arts Service attended a two-day Performing Arts Forum, the Limerick Gathering on 27 and 28 May. This important annual event in the performing arts calendar took place this year at the Lime Tree Theatre for two days of conversation, provocation, inspiration and included performances by Limerick musicians, comedians, dancers and arial performers.

### **Municipal Art Collection Acquisitions**

Kildare Arts Service are pleased to announce that the Municipal Art Collection Committee approved the acquisition of three new artworks for Kildare's Municipal Art Collection. These include an archival pigment print Shark Fin by internationally renowned artist Dorothy Cross and two acrylic paintings, Everything's Blue In This World and The Awakening Sky, by Kildare-born artist Paul Halahan.





## Health and Safety

1. Five Site Inspections across directorates
2. Five Blended Working Assessments completed and one VDU Assessment
3. Review of RAMS with Environment Team (Three RA and three MS).
4. Check for completed arrangement section for five Municipal District's-part of Safety Statement.
5. Health and Safety Roadshows covering Safety Statement and CPR and Defib training delivered to:
  - Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District (36 attendees)
  - Maynooth and Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District's (41 attendees)
  - Naas Municipal District and Machinery Yard (42 attendees)
  - Athy Municipal District (14 attendees)

### Accessibility:

1. Kildare Inclusivity Festival:
  - a. Held on 11 May - approximately 6,000-7,000 attendees.

- Debrief to see what worked well, what could be improved on.

2. Meetings:
  - a. Monasterevin Access Disability Group
  - b. Newbridge Access Disability Group
  - c. County Kildare Access Network (CKAN)
3. Review of final draft of eLearning Disability Awareness Training Module which will sit on Meta Compliance platform.

## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

### Finance

#### Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2024 has been prepared and presented to Council in March 2025 and submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 31 March 2025 in accordance with statutory requirements.



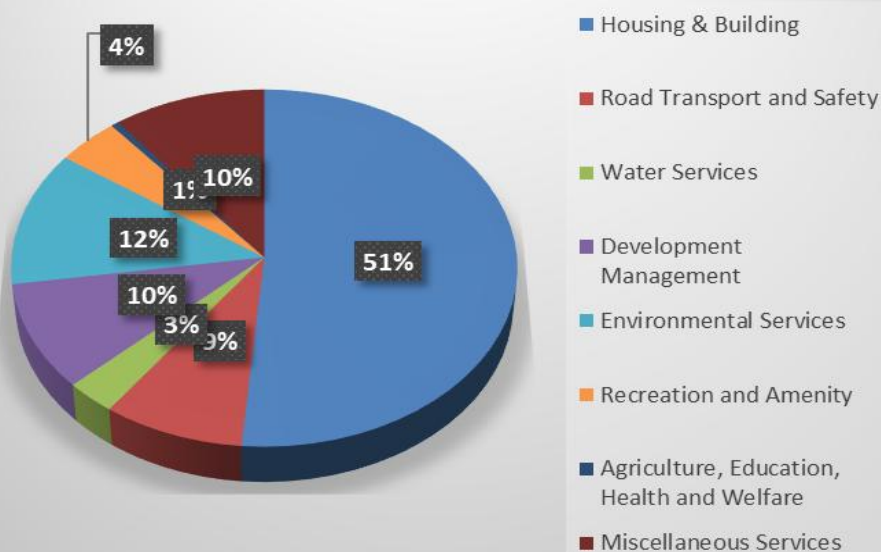
The Annual Financial Statement for 2024 is now subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor.

## Revenue Account

### Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2025

Division	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	48,564	101,730	48%	53,166
Road Transport and Safety	8,095	48,554	17%	40,459
Water Services	2,850	10,199	28%	7,349
Development Management	9,150	31,158	29%	22,008
Environmental Services	11,560	26,403	44%	14,843
Recreation and Amenity	4,028	19,596	21%	15,568
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	520	1,416	37%	896
Miscellaneous Services	9,793	21,315	46%	11,522
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	94,559	260,371	36%	165,812

## Expenditure Year to Date





Kildare County Council Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 May 2025				
Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	51,889	91,453	57%	39,564
Road Transport and Safety	3,179	25,619	12%	22,440
Water Services	3,284	9,640	34%	6,356
Development Management	5,647	11,468	49%	5,821
Environmental Services	3,620	7,830	46%	4,210
Recreation and Amenity	897	2,560	35%	1,663
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	187	305	61%	118
Miscellaneous Services	1,405	14,980	9%	13,575
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,385	22,155	33%	14,770
Rates	19,228	74,361	26%	55,133
	96,722	260,371	37%	163,649

## Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 31 May 2025							
	Arrears 01/01/2025	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/05/2025
Commercial Rates	6,789,898	75,477,750	89,517	4,440	82,173,691	47,019,763	35,153,928
Rents & Annuities	1,172,913	10,060,989	18,076	-	11,215,826	9,584,147	1,631,679
Housing Loans	1,215,080	1,676,304	-	-	2,891,384	1,668,667	1,222,717

### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements on a daily basis and did not avail of its overdraft facility during the period 01 January to 31 May 2025.

2025. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with the sections to complete and document the actions from the review. The next review is scheduled for late June 2025.

### Risk Management

A review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in mid March

### Budget 2026

It is envisaged that there will be a property revaluation for 2026 Local Property Tax (LPT) liability and



Revenue will have to be notified of the decision on variation of the Local Property Tax (LPT) by 31 August 2025, therefore a decision will need to be made by the members at the July council meeting on 28 July 2025. We await confirmation and circular guidance from DHLGH on this matter. LPT public consultation has been advertised and is ongoing from 03 June to 04 July 2025.

## **Digital Services**

### **Windows 11**

The update of council devices from Windows 10 to Windows 11 has commenced, with 80% of machines successfully updated. All devices need to be updated by October 2025.

### **Programme and Project Management System**

A request for quotation has been recently issued, and the responses are currently being analysed.

### **Storage Area Network (SAN)**

The Council recently issued a public tender for a new or upgraded SAN, which serves as the primary digital storage infrastructure.

## **Housing and Regeneration**

### **Housing**

#### **Social Housing Delivery – Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schemes**

On 05 June, the Council received notification from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) that they had decided not to award the contract for PPP Bundle 3 which involved the construction of 486 homes nationally, including our site at Ardrew, Athy (73 social housing units and a community building). The Department advised that the decision not to award the contract was made following a cost evaluation but that they remain committed to delivering the social housing that PPP Bundle 3 was designed to provide. They indicated that the homes to be provided under PPP Bundle 3 will be delivered by way of an alternative procurement and delivery strategy and that the investments already made in securing planning consent and progressing design work will not be lost and will in fact facilitate delivery of the 486 homes as expeditiously as possible under a new procurement and delivery strategy.



As part of the decision not to progress to award the contract for PPP Bundle 3, DHLGH advise that they are initiating a review, in collaboration with the National Development Finance Agency, of PPP Bundles 4 to 7 to ensure value for money and that the most appropriate delivery strategies

are used to ensure homes proposed under PPP Bundles 4 to 7 are delivered.

Kildare County Council has the following units included in PPP Bundles:

PPP Bundle	Location	No. of Units
<b>Bundle 3</b>	Ardrew, Athy	73 social units + community building
<b>Bundle 4</b>	Oldtown Mill, Celbridge Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	60 social units 99 social units + 32 afford. units
<b>Bundle 6</b>	Rathasker Road, Naas Rickardstown, Newbridge	104 social units 98 social units + 40 afford units
	<b>Total</b>	<b>434 social + 72 afford.</b>

### Affordable Housing

The application portal for affordable housing units at Lattin Place (8) closes on Friday, 20 June. To date 228 completed applications have been received. Assessment of the applications is underway.

Details are published on social media.

The Homeless Section can be contacted at 045 980230. Clinics are taking place in Maynooth, Kildare Town, Athy, Newbridge, Curragh and Celbridge.

### Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Housing Department is continuing to hold monthly homeless outreach information clinics across the county.

### Traveller Pride in Newbridge

Members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and staff attended the annual Traveller Pride event in





Newbridge on Thursday, 29 May last.  
The event was hosted by Kildare  
Traveller Action as part of a series of  
national events.



### Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site; substantially in line with programme. Delivery expected Q3 2025.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLGH on 27.05.2025.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at the November meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Revised Stage 2 approval received 14 October 2024. Part 8 presented and accepted at March meeting of Athy MD. Works to boundary wall are near completion.



Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Site clearance completed. Part 8 was considered and amended at the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting in May.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Part 8 was accepted by the members of the Kildare-Newbridge MD at their April MD meeting. Tender being finalised.
<b>Approval Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender assessment ongoing for consultant's tender.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 approval received. Part 8 has closed for submissions; Housing report being prepared.

<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	Revision to Single Stage approval to be prepared and submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q2 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 accepted at February meeting of Kildare -Newbridge MD. Tender to be prepared.

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



Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and structural survey commencing. Survey drawings complete.
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### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 3 approval received 20 March 2025. Tender to be completed and issued.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site. Practical completion date expected June 2025.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18 March 2025.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Andrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Expected start of construction phase was June 2025, the scheme did not receive Ministerial approval. Discussions ongoing with DHLGH as to how this development will be progressed.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. Target is to commence tender stage in mid-June 2025. DHLGH review ongoing.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. Target is to commence tender stage in mid-June 2025. DHLGH review ongoing.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Site investigations ongoing on site. Part 8 application towards end of July 2025. DHLGH review ongoing.
Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation complete. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Part 8 application towards end of July 2025.



		DHLGH review ongoing.
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### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Part 8 launched and on display from 13 June to 25 July. Submissions accepted up to 25 July.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 3 approval received 20 March 2025. Tender package to be completed and issued.
CALF	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	AHB liaising with DHLGH regarding CALF application.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort, (adj McAuley Place), Naas	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10 units & communal building	CAS funding approved. Draft Terms of Heads of Agreement are substantially agreed. Communal building being considered for residential use.

### Acquisitions

Type	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	96	68	17
Housing Turnkeys	42	89	3
Part V Acquisitions	109	106	21
Total	247	263	41

### Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number Expiring June-December 2025	Number Expiring 2026
58	30	27	1



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

Duration in months	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0-6	27	40	62
6-12	11	15	16
12-18	10	15	21
18-24	1	1	1
24-30	2	5	5
30 +	0	0	0
Total	51	76	105

## Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 May 2025

Duration in months	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0-6	0	0	0
6-12	5	11	12
12-18	3	5	5
18-24	2	7	3
24-30	0	0	0
36 +	2	3	5
Total	12	26	25

## Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827 DHLG €2,675,000 Waterways Ireland	Construction Project Completion date: Q3 2025	Bridge installation underway, expected completion August 2025.
	Barrow Blueway Trailhead	€80,000	€80,000		Part 8 drawing package received.





			Community Recognition Fund		Expect to publish in June/July.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen (including the tie in works for Sallins approved by Part 8)	€25,621,938	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 for two additional bridges on the Scheme launched on 20 May. We are currently in the public consultation phase, receiving submissions. TII funding for 2025 is €4.2m which will complete the Phase 1 and 2 tie in at Sallins along with works near the Clonkeen border. Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2, made up of 4 tender packages: Tender 1 Package Sallins Q2 2025; currently meetings are underway with utility providers regarding diversions. The tender issue will be dependent on agreement with utility providers. Tender Package 2 Towpath Works undertaken by



					Waterways Ireland (sensitive Area). Tender Package 3 Consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings. Tender Package 4 – 2 No. additional bridges.
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<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Newbridge Library	€17,000,000	KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	Detailed design and preparation of tender package continues.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Finalising content and layout, specific projects and visuals to be prepared. Next steps: finalise draft for second round of public consultation.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Draft TRMP is being reviewed in the context of the completed ABTA. A public consultation event is being scheduled.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3)	Pre Part 8	This project has been selected for RRRDF Call 4 – Category 2 projects. Awaiting funding decision.



<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177 EUJTF	€980,000 KCC	Construction Projected Completion Date: Q2 2025	Paving works well underway. Footpaths are now open for public to use around the perimeter of the site. Fountain has been installed. Feature paving is being installed.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037 (revised cost submitted to RRDF)	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000	Construction Projected Completion Date: Q2 2025	Fit out works commenced with the delivery of the first load of fixtures on Tuesday, 03 June. Works have commenced on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor. Snagging of the contractor's works is completed by the Architect on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor. Works to the Shard extension to be completed by end June (weather dependent). Rent table installation largely completed on the ground floor.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre-Part 8	Enabling works continue on site to conserve and preserve the building over the next ten weeks.



					After these works are complete, a funding stream is required to deliver the remaining elements of the project.
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<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	<p>€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT</p> <p>€1,908,750 URDF approved</p> <p>Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>	Pre-Draft consultation	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid – Town Renewal Masterplan</b></p> <p>Consultant attended the Picnic in the Park event on 15 June.</p> <p><b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town centre – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b></p> <p>Codema commenced feasibility study in Q1 2025, to be completed by Q4 2025.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot</b></p>
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					<p><b>Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b></p> <p>Re-engaging with NUI Maynooth.</p> <p><b>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</b></p> <p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Prelim Business Case to DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development.</p>
	Harbourfield			Detailed Design & Tender	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b></p> <p>Detailed design and tender package being finalised.</p>

<b>Naas</b>	Sallins Town	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Draft Masterplan	Final Draft is under review by internal departments.
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	Renewal Masterplan				
	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	Pre-Draft Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. <b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received. Consultant appointed and information gathering is underway. <b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b> Conservation Management Plan complete. Tender for archaeological survey to issue. <b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b> <b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b> Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner



					and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	320,000	URDF	Pre Draft - Masterplan	Work has commenced on drafting the plan and traffic surveys have been completed as part of the Traffic Impact Assessment.

## Integration

### General

#### Numbers of New Arrivals

The number of people arriving in the State seeking temporary protection or international protection continues to decrease.

#### Accommodation Recognition

##### Payment (ARP)

The ARP was extended in March 2025 until March 2025. A second order was signed on 30 May to reduce the payment from €800 to €600 commencing on 01 June 2025. As payments are made monthly in arrears the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 08 July.

#### Recent Developments

##### Further Extension to Temporary Protection Directive

The political agreement has been reached at the EU Justice and Home Affairs Committee on the 13 June

2025 to extend Temporary Protection status for Ukrainians until March 2027.

The Council will formally adopt the decision to extend the temporary protection at one of its upcoming sessions.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/13/eu-member-states-agree-to-extend-temporary-protection-for-refugees-from-ukraine/>

#### Eyre Powell Hotel, Newbridge

Fire Safety remedial works at the Eyre Powell are complete and Kildare Fire Service has confirmed that the Fire Safety Notices in place for the building have been lifted.

#### Ryevale House, Leixlip

A recent decision by An Bord Pleanála on the use of Ryevale House has been referred to the Courts for Judicial Review. The case was expected back before the Courts on 12 May 2025 but



has been further put back until 11 June.

### **Former Kilcock Convent and Nursing Home**

The Community Engagement Team in Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration has confirmed that that the Department had previously received an offer of potential accommodation for people seeking international protection at Shalom Nursing Home, 16 R148 Church Street, Kilcock, County Kildare but the property is no longer under consideration.

### **Relocation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State Accommodation**

With the declining demand for accommodation for people fleeing the war in Ukraine some existing accommodation centres across the country will be closing, returning to their original use or an alternative use. This will result in the relocation of existing residents to alternative accommodation.

This process of accommodation portfolio consolidation was paused

during March 2025. This process has recommenced and the relocation of residents from some of the centres identified for closure will begin in June 2025. The link below provides details of the centres where contracts for the accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are finishing over the coming months.

[Accommodation centres returning to original or alternative use](#)

### **Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)**

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

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



(February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### Clinics

Kildare LAIT organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on 1:1 basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. From the beginning of the year, as to the 16 June 2025 the LAIT has organised 50 clinics (one-to-one session between a service user and the Coordinator or an Integration Support Worker), four group clinics (sessions held by the LAIT for multiple people at once) and nine informal sessions (where service users can meet staff and learn about available supports). In this way the LAIT has supported 299 people (137

beneficiaries of temporary protection and 151 international protection applicants and 11 persons with status) in state-funded accommodation centres in Kildare.

### Queries

From the beginning of the year, as to the 16 June 2025 the LAIT has received 655 queries, and resolved 636. Out of those, 346 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 213 by international protection applicants and 93 by persons with status. Most of the queries are received in the information clinics, others are received by email, drop-ins or outreach visits to the centres.

Queries raised by persons with status accommodated in IPAS centres: on going queries about employment and enterprise; community groups and networks; family reunification; and housing and tenancy supports.

Accommodation moves for those with status: Families with status who have been in IPAS centres for over a year after receiving status have been requested by IPAS to seek independent accommodation before



the 01 July 2025. De Paul Ireland is responsible for supporting these families to source alternative accommodations and are directly funded by IPAS to provide this support.

Queries raised by International Protection Applicants in IPAS accommodation centres: queries about labour market permission and employment supports; access to employment and third level education; queries related to immigration; revenue and taxation; financial and budgeting support; sports and wellbeing; volunteering; adult education and literacy; and delays with medical cards.

Queries raised by persons with temporary Protection: Most queries were related to access to medical cards and primary care services and public health; job search and work experience; financial and budgeting support; and private accommodation search. On going queries about the UCTAT absence policy. Vulnerable groups in UCTAT emergency accommodation include children, youth and adults impacted by loss.

### **LAIT Activities**

LAIT Information Session on the differences between Temporary and International protection delivered in partnership with UNHCR Ireland in Kill Full Board DAC on the 11 June 2025 with simultaneous English Ukrainian interpretation onsite. Attended by 28 residents.

LAIT Monthly Women's Group holds meetings with vulnerable residents in IPAS accommodation centres for single women. Linking residents with the local library, and community centre, and key service providers such as Kildare Sports Partnership, Kildare County Council Community Workers and CKLP New Communities Worker among others.

### **Networking**

- Kildare LAIT continues participating in the National Asylum Support Network and the National Ukraine Civil Society Forum connecting civil society and community responses into the State's response structures supporting reception and integration.
- Collaboration with Naas Library in hosting an activity to mark [Refugee](#)





[Week Ireland – Get involved](#) which runs from 16-22 June. Refugee Day is on the 20 June.

- Kildare LAIT attended the Immigrant Council of Ireland's National Integration Conference (22 May) in Dublin. The theme was "stronger and united, building the future of migrant integration together". The Minister of State for Migration, Colm Brophy, was one of the key speakers, he announced changes to the National Integration Strategy which was due to be published this year. The strategy will now be a National Migration and Integration Strategy, for publication in 2026.
- Ongoing collaboration with Kildare Sport Partnership, Kildare County Council Library Services, Kildare County Council Housing, Kildare County Council Community, Healthy Ireland, other local services, and national organisations.
- Engagement with LCDC Coordinator and SICAP Manager to support the request of additional funding to support new arrivals. Kildare LAIT provided an overview of statistics and needs and supported the funding application which was successful.
- Kildare LAIT attended the LGMA sessions to foster coordination and collaboration between the LAITs and the Sport 4 Empowerment (20 May) and Regional Literacy Programmes (10 June).
- Kildare LAIT is supporting the LGMA in the development of a Joint Working Model between the Tusla Separated Children Seeking International Protection Unit and LAITs, which focuses on supporting aged-out minors within the international protection process or with status. ISC is part of the Working Group at the request of the LGMA.

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

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 456 (360 adults/ 96 children)

Data source Department of Justice 16 June 2025



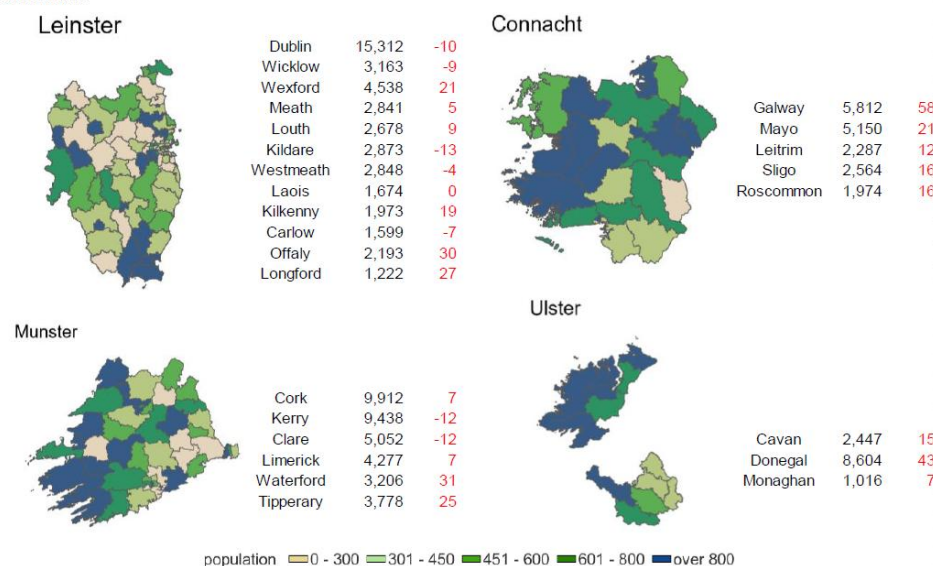
There is a gradual reduction of those seeking temporary protection in Ireland.

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

Data source Central Statistics Office 06 June 2025

### Summary - Location of Ukrainian Arrivals by County

The following data gives the number of arrivals from Ukraine at a county level based off the data provided on 03 June 2025, where 95% of individuals could be mapped to an ARP home address or Post Office. Also included is a comparison with data previously provided on the 06 May 2025. The associated map is at an LEA level.



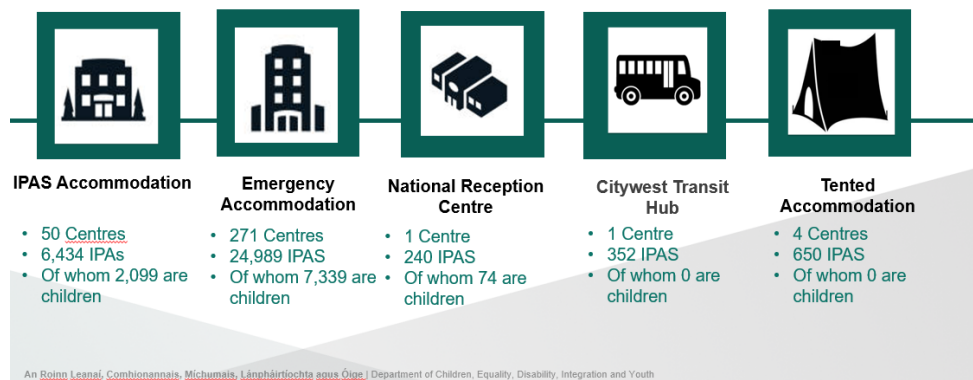
### International Protection Applicants:

International Protection Applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: **572** (456 adults/ 116 children)

Data source Department of Justice 09 June 2025

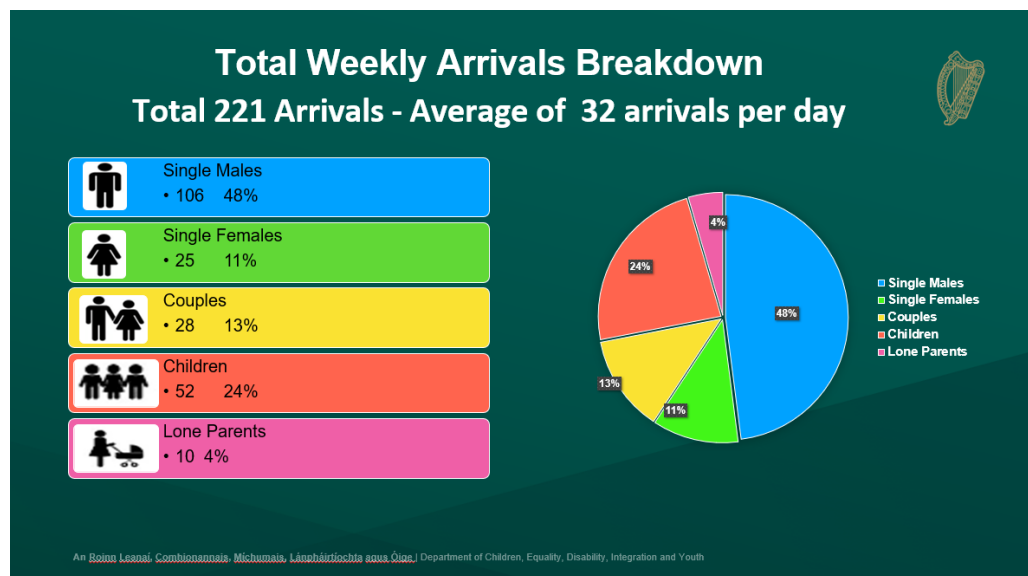
## Current IPAS Accommodation Overview

Total Centres 327 Total IPAS 32,665 Of whom Children 9,512





The current breakdown of new arrivals as at 25 May 2025 2025 is as follows:



There are a total of 32,665 International Protection applicants in 327 State provided accommodation centres nationally of whom 9,512 are children. Source DECDIY 28 May 2025

Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority Source DECDIY 16 April 2025

### Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	433	Kerry County	930	Offaly County	520
Cavan County	156	Kildare County	572	Roscommon County	226
Clare County	992	Kilkenny County	187	Sligo County	796
Cork City	637	Laois County	475	South Dublin County	3922
Cork County	1498	Leitrim County	244	Tipperary County	895
Donegal County	2094	Limerick City & County	681	Waterford City and County	657
Dublin City	3380	Longford County	138	Westmeath County	1196
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1185	Louth County	1115	Wexford County	600
Fingal County	2374	Mayo County	1715	Wicklow County	1353
Galway City Council	1689	Meath County	989	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32665</b>
Galway County Council	384	Monaghan County	632		

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lámháirtíochta agus Óige | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



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## **International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)**

On 10 September 2015, as part of Ireland's response to the migration crisis in central and southern Europe, the Government established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). Under this programme, the IRPP has seen the arrival of over 4,000 refugees under various resettlement strands, the largest of which is the UNHCR led programme. In December 2019, the second phase of the IRPP (IRPP II) was put in place to welcome up to 2,900 refugees through the UNHCR programme between 2020 and 2023 through a combination of resettlement and new community sponsorship initiatives. The new phase planned for 650 UNHCR resettlements in 2020, 700 in 2021, 750 in 2022 and 800 in 2023. This commitment was to be made up of a majority of Syrian refugees' resident in Jordan and Lebanon. The numbers assisted over this period was impacted by Covid 19.

Ireland's pledge for resettlement and humanitarian admission under Article 19 AMIF for 2023, along with forecasted resettlement numbers for 2024-2025 was submitted to the

European Commission on 07 October 2024. Ireland pledged to support the arrival of 800 refugees under the UNHCR resettlement process from Lebanon and Jordan, with a further 100 humanitarian admissions from Afghanistan.

The programme has two strands, The Local Authority Resettlement Programme and the Community Sponsorship Programme.

The IRPP has worked with Local Authorities engaged in resettling refugees. Local authorities have housed approximately 3,000 programme refugees across Ireland. On 20 May, 2021, the County and City Management Association's (CCMA), submitted the new proposed model for distribution for IRPP II, CCMA HBLU IRPP II Model for Distribution". It is anticipated that the ongoing requirement for local authority accommodation to resettle refugees will require some 150 to 200 homes each year.

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66



refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of AHB and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches planned for completion during the second and third quarter of 2025. The programme to date has resettled to date a total of 34 persons (fourteen adults and seven children) in County Kildare. The remaining families are scheduled to be resettled before the end of 2025, reaching the agreed quota of 66 refugees (before January 2026) under this agreement.

A delegation from the IRPP travel to refugee camps and select, interview and vet the families identified for the programme. Families are brought to Ireland and accommodated initially in Reception and Orientation Centres until such time as they are linked with Local Authority's who have sourced suitable accommodation. Families are accommodated in social housing units either by Kildare County Council or our partner Approved Housing Bodies operating in the county.

Families participating in the programme receive direct integration

supports funded by AMIF (EU funds) through the DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council through a tender process as the implementing partner for the provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for a set period of 18 months. Integration supports are provided by an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker, recruited at the end of July 2024. When the programme ends, Kildare LAIT will continue supporting these families. The overall programme is managed by the LAIT Coordinator.

The Refugee Resettlement Programme is supported by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by Kildare LAIT. The IAWG have met on 01 July and 27 September in 2024 and on 31 January and 07 April in 2025. The LAIT Integration Support Coordinator regularly provides updates to all the relevant agencies engaged in the programme.





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

Further information is available at:  
[gov.ie - Irish Refugee Protection Programme](https://gov.ie - Irish Refugee Protection Programme)

### **Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme**

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in County Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Note that the supply of offers for OAH and pledged accommodation has reduced, due initially to the uncertainty regarding continuation of the ARP scheme but also due to the time of year where there is less availability of holiday homes. We will monitor activity as the ARP payment reduces from €800/month to €600/month.

Properties occupied	64
Properties in progress	6
Properties withdrawn/shared	<u>36</u>
Total properties offered to date	106

The Ukraine Services and accommodation team liaise with other local authority's where surplus accommodation has been identified. These offers are usually in rural locations.

### **Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)**

DAC's were established to accommodate Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024.

The Integration Team hold Day-75 Clinics in the Punchestown DAC on a fortnightly basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation. A clinic was held on 28 May 2025 with further clinics scheduled for 18 June and 01 July 2025.

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

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to



Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation. The most significant developments in accommodation for International Protection Applicants are detailed above.

### **The Community Integration Forum**

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each alternative month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The last CIF meeting took place on the Wednesday 04 June 2025 online. The next CIF meeting is scheduled the first Wednesday in September 2025. Additionally, a thematic meeting on Children and Youth is planned for the

17 September, which will be facilitated by CYPSC.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes.

Membership includes Kildare County Council (LAIT, Accommodation Team, Community Services/Sport Kildare Partnership, Library Services/Creative Communities); Citizens Information Centre; An Garda Síochána; CKLP; Irish Red Cross; KCCC; Kildare Children and Youth People's Services Committee (CYPSC) hosted by Tusla; In Sync; KWETB Board; Regional Education and Learning Team Coordinator; INTREO, Department of Social Protection; Tusla Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) Kildare West Wicklow (KWW) HSE Social Inclusion Team; Local Link.

The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDCC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The Migrant Integration Strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies.



Kildare County Council completed a survey prepared by the LGMA gathering information on how the Community Integration Forum (CIF) is operating locally in Kildare (21 March).

This is to support the funding requirements for 2025 and for the DCEDIY to determine the reporting requirements going forward.

## Climate, Community, Environment and Water

### Community

#### Community Grants

All Grants 2025		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	150	€197,397
Festival Grants	54	€62,170
Private Residents' Associations Grants	223	€239,942
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	39	€32,551
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	23	€113,779
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	11	€24,364
LCDC Schemes	0	€0
Twinning Grants	5	€12,700
Education Bursaries	0	€0
Brigid Spirit of Kildare	32	€65,810
Drehid Grants	37	€90,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>€839,442</b>

### Climate

#### Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



The Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) works to support local

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



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



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

### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



Training Service Level Agreement between Kildare County Council and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) signed as of 01 June 2024. This marks the start of second phase Climate Action training for the sector.

Executive Training Group for oversight of training delivery for 2025 convened its first meeting on 15 January 2025.

The Group is chaired by Teresa Walsh, Director of Service with South Dublin County Council on behalf of CCMA and group comprises representation from Climate Ireland, AILG, SEAI, Met Eireann, Heritage Council, LASNTG and CARO.

Planning for training delivery underway as follows:

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

In addition to the above, 2025 Training Programme targeting:

- Senior Management and Elected Members (in association with AILG).



- New Revised Raising Awareness Programme (online) for all indoor staff.
- Climate Action staff and teams through webinar series.
- Bespoke Urban Water Nature based Solutions training
- Bespoke Green Public Procurement training

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

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

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



### **Sub-Regional Energy Projects**

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

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

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

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





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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



Data collation for 2024 completed on 07 February 2025. This process

collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on Climate Action.

Report to be published mid-year.

Data collation for 2023 was published at end of August 2023 and available on LGMA website at [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf) ([lgma.ie](https://www.lgma.ie)).

### GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

#### Programme:



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



five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

## **Kildare County Council Climate Action**

### **Kildare Climate Action Office**



*Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow*

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

### **Augmented Reality Image**

#### **Maynooth:**

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

### **Energy Updates:**

#### **ISO 50001:**

The Council are working toward ISO 50001 Certification. SGS have been appointed as the Certification Body. Stage 1 Audit is scheduled for 19 June, this will determine our readiness for Stage 2 Audit which is scheduled for 05 August to 07 August 2025. The Stage 2 Audit will determine if we will be recommended for Certification. SEU owners (Public Lighting, Fleet, Leisure Centres and Facilities) as well as a representative for Procurement and Design (Architects and Fire or Libraries), will need to be available on the dates above.

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

Energy Team meetings are ongoing; two were held this year (30 January and 01 April) and there is one more scheduled for June. Meetings are well attended, and engagement has been excellent.

Energy metering and monitoring is being considered for the Significant Energy Users to establish energy consumption profiles.

#### **Staff Energy Awareness**

Free one to one Energy Clinics were setup online with the Optimising Power at Work Campaign for 09 and 11 April



2025. All 20 appointments were booked up within a few hours. We hope to organise and offer further clinics later in the year.

A Staff Energy Awareness Day took place on 29 April from 10.00am to 2.00pm with experts attending from across the industry focusing on improving Home Energy. Information stands representing Heat Pumps, PV Panels, One Stop Shops, Optimizing Power at Work, SEAI, Codema and Green Loans.

### **Energy Performance Contract**

The Energy Performance Contract (EPC), for Aras Chill Dara and K Leisure Naas and Athy has moved to the next stage. Outline Solution reports were received from two Energy Service Companies (ESCo) on 12 May 2025. We have moved to Competitive Dialogue Stage, interviewing the ESCOs based on their reports and finalising our client requirements. In-person interviews will be held in early July.

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

Codema have finalising the DH feasibility study for Naas. Maynooth feasibility study has commenced. The

latter is in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF.

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

### **DISCO Project:**

‘Advancing District Heating and Cooling solutions for efficient waste heat utilisation’ in conjunction with CODEMA as associate partner has successfully received 70% Interreg Europe Funding. This will enable the task under action B13 of Kildare County Council CAP to perform a county-wide assessment of waste heat and district heating.

Kick off occurred in April of the ten countries involved with Sweden leading the project. The first in-person consultation session and site visits of various District Heating and Circular Economy examples were held in Aalborg, Denmark in April.

### **Energy Audits:**

The Energy Audits for Athy and Leixlip Libraries have been finalised. The documents will help to inform the works to be undertaken. We are



preparing a tender for decarbonising of Athy Library due to the conservation constraints and Leixlip Library in 2025. An Energy Audit has been carried out on Athy Municipal District offices and we are awaiting the initial report.

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

The SEAI M&R reporting window for 2024 closed on 16 May and we are awaiting the final verified 2024 position on Kildare County Council's progress towards 2030 targets.

### **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. We are awaiting the final report but Kildare is progressing well.

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

The dedicated charge point has now been installed and commissioned.

Sports Partnership will also have use of the charge point and are awaiting the arrival of their electrically powered van.

A tender for the supply of a shared car service is being progressed by the Sustainable Transport Section.

### **SMT presentation:**

A further update on Kildare County Council's energy status will be given on 08 July ahead of the ISO 50001 Stage 2 External Audit.

### **Community Based Projects:**

#### **Our Shared Plate:**



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to create community gardens. The 18 month programme has seen the planting of trees this winter, edible



hedges and vegetables. Presently, a tool kit is being developed to provide scalability and longevity to the programme.

### **Picnic in the Park:**

The annual collaboration with Maynooth Community Council was held on Sunday 15 June (Father's Day) from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in Harbour Field Maynooth. The collaboration is resulting in over 40 stands and activities providing climate action items through creativity and fun to nudge people towards sustainable lifestyles.

### **Community Climate Action Program Fund:**

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in September, ten of the projects have been completed. The second recoupment application has been approved by DECC. The third recoupment application was submitted by 14 June.

### **Climate Design Lab:**

The first two innovations will be available to see at Picnic in the Park. The remaining innovations are in various stages of concept and design.

### **Climate Innovation Fund (CIF)**

#### **2025:**

We thank all for their consideration of LPT funding for 2025. CIF to assist Grassroot Innovation in Climate Action. Based on LPT funding made available the Climate Action Office is formulating a plan of approach for this year.

One of the projects funded in 2024 was a film written and produced by youth in the Kildare town area. The short film is called 'Dance of the Cranes' and a special showing for all involved has been sponsored by the Odean Cinema, Newbridge.

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

The launch of the 'Grass to Gas Dashboard' took place in the chamber on the 28 April from 2.00pm-3.00pm. Maynooth University's Terrain-AI team presented the dashboard and findings. A





presentation was made at the Climate Action SPC on 14 May.

CARO organised a national webinar based on the work to date on 16 May to inform all Climate Action Offices. A further national event is planned for October with additional presentations being made where requested.

### **Climate Action Awareness Building Climate:**

To act, we must first understand what climate change is and the causes.

The 60+ programme in Maynooth is very well attended, using a cup of tea to explain the concepts.

Monica Hayes, Climate Graduate, with a background in education and communications, has worked closely with LEO to provide training to students in Athy and Monasterevin. We are working with Libraries to assist them with outreach programme to increase awareness and action behavioural change.

The Public Participation Network (PPN) with the assistance of the county SEAI Mentor are utilising a visit to the DemoHouse during Climate Action Series 22 May to 24 May.

Climate Champions has been launched in Maynooth. Nominations have been assessed, and nine winners were announced at Picnic in the Park on 15 June. Listen to our podcast with Marian Higgins, Director of Service and Paul Regan, Decarbonising Officer to learn more

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Ew2VNN\\_GEB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Ew2VNN_GEB8)



### **Demo House:**

Over 200 people have visited the house to date. Various bodies such as the SEAI, LGMA, DCEE, IPB have visited the house. The reactions have been very favourable from all visitors. Some bodies have utilised the house to have cross departmental meetings to inform strategic policy into the future. They have found the house and curtilage an inspirational space to discuss and examine the 'Show and





Tell' items to further their joint understanding.

## Environment

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

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

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

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy

responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

### **National Deposit Return Scheme**

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

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

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

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

### **National Tidy Towns 2024**

The Tidy Towns competition involves participating areas being rated on



various aspects of their local environment.

🏆🏆🏆 Kildare participants fared well in the 2024 competition with gold medals awarded to Celbridge, Clane, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas and Straffan.

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

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

### **Tidy Towns Event**

A workshop was held with Tidy Towns Groups with presentations given by the Biodiversity Officer, Climate Action Co-Ordinator and Cormac McCarthy, former national adjudicator for Tidy Towns. The event was well attended.

### **Irish Business against Litter (IBAL)**

Naas topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2024 survey.

This is the third time in four years that Naas has finished atop the rankings. Maynooth, a former top-ranking town in the IBAL litter league, also performed well achieving status

“cleaner than European norms” and fifth place overall in the IBAL survey.



### **Litter Management Plan**

A draft of the Council's Litter Management Plan is currently out on public consultation. It will remain open for submissions until Wednesday, 09 July.

### **Entente Florale 2025**

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. Judging will take place on 12 July.

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

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



Adjudication took place anonymously during the month of May by two Adjudicators, one from the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition and one from the Best Kept Awards Competition. The results/Awards Ceremony is to take place in June.

### **Water Framework Directive**

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

This document is expected to be published this year and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2025**

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

Five Waste Enforcement Priorities

Four Water Enforcement Priorities

Four Air and Noise Enforcement Priorities

Two Governance Processes Priorities

### **Environmental Enforcement**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its report on the environmental enforcement performance of local authorities in 2023 on 03 December. The EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework measures and reports on performance against National Enforcement Priorities, focused on improving environmental compliance and achieving positive outcomes for water quality, air quality and waste management. The report shows that the scale of environmental enforcement work carried out by local authorities in 2023 was significant. For the second consecutive year, Kildare County Council was the only local authority in the country to achieve a "Strong or Excellent" score across all 20 National Enforcement Priority categories

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

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



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### **Veterinary Services**

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

### **Green Schools**

The Green School Awards took place in the Helix Theatre on the 20 May. In total 22 schools from County Kildare were awarded flags on the day.

### **Gum Litter Roadshow**

A Gum Litter Roadshow will be held in Newbridge on 16 July. The roadshow is interactive and educational, and aims to raise awareness about the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter.

### **WEE Collection Events**

Kildare householders are encouraged to bring their batteries, electrical, and electronic waste to a set of free collection days to help the county meet national e-waste recycling targets for 2025.

The events, hosted by WEEE Ireland in partnership with Kildare County Council, commenced on Saturday 07 June from 10.00am-4.00pm at Kilcock GAA Club.

On Saturday 14 June, a collection took place at the Tesco Superstore, Maynooth from 10.00am-4.00pm, and on Saturday 21 June from 10.00am-4.00pm at the Tesco Superstore, Celbridge.

### **Flood Risk Management**

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

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

### **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

The Council, in partnership with the OPW have begun drafting requirements for the procurement of consultancy services to design a Flood Relief Scheme for Leixlip.

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

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

### **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.

### **Grant funding**

Applications for Tidy Towns and Cemetery Committee grants are now closed. The closing date was 16 April.





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## Legislation XL Bully Type dogs

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

Amendments to the regulations have been notified which include an appeals process any dog confirmed to be an XL Bully dog born before 10 December 2024.

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

## Water Services Asset Transfer to Uisce Éireann

A business case has been completed for additional funding to resource this project. The Director of Service awaits feedback from the Department in relation to resourcing this body of work.

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

## Water Services

### Service to Elected Members

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

By Phone: 0818 178 178

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

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

Notices of Motion:

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

Uisce Éireann Regional

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

## Local Community

### Development Committee

A meeting of the LCDC and LAG (to oversee LEADER) took place on 28 May.

### Annual Report:

The LCDC Annual Report 2024 was approved by the LCDC. Copies were left for elected members at Corporate. The LCDC oversaw €3.5m directly in 2024 and worked to oversee and lead on a number of programmes to support communities, particularly the most excluded to develop.





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### **LEADER Programme:**

Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to Kildare to implement the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

There was one project approved for LEADER grant aid at the May meeting. Teach Tearmainn Housing were approved for LEADER grant aid of €11,152.80 to aid the development of their strategic plan.

Two new staff have joined the CKLP LEADER team as development workers: Sabrian Whelan and Christopher Morrison.

### **SICAP Programme:**

Work is progressing to implement the Social Inclusion Programme SICAP across the county. An opportunity to apply for additional funding to support new arrivals occurred in late May. A meeting with the KCC LAIT Team and CKLP was held. The LCDC made the application based on this meeting to request an additional €45,000 to support enhanced English language classes, health and wellbeing initiatives, transport and day to day essentials. The SICAP mid year review

will take place as part of the July LCDC meeting.

### **Sláintecare Healthy Communities:**

The LCDC approved the seed funding of €75,000 available as required by Department of Health by 30 June 2025. This funding will be used to support a) Neurodiversity and Inclusion supports, b) Trauma informed practice training c) Children's Recreation and Play in Castlepark, d) Older Adults Living Well.

Work is very advanced to open the Athy Wellbeing Hub (kiosk) and Sláintecare continues to progress a range of initiatives in Athy.

### **Healthy Ireland:**

Pobal approved the HI Report 2024 and plan 2025. Work is underway to transfer funding to the approved projects. The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator is progressing the Plan for 2025 and working with a broad range of organisations.

### **Local Enhancement Programme 2025**

These grants were approved at LCDC in March, the outcome cannot be



announced until the Department issue their press release.

### **Family Resource Centres**

Minister Foley recently announced that five new Family Resource Centres will be established nationally in 2025. The LCDC Co-ordinator and LECP Co-ordinator, worked to highlight awareness of this opportunity and to support any applicants practically. There was close liaison with the CYPSC Co-ordinator. Two applications in Kildare were submitted by ACDAL and Leixlip Youth and Community centre. There is a real need to establish FRCs in both areas. Letters of support were given by the LCDC, Kildare County Council and other LCDC representatives to accompany the applications.

### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

A presentation was made on the progress to establish an online monitoring tool developed using Microsoft Lists. Training is taking place with organisations leading out on actions. A progress report will be prepared at the end of 2025.

Work has also advanced to develop an online portal to access Census 2022 and other updated data sets.

## **Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces**

### **Transport**



The upgraded and realigned R148 at Intel, Leixlip – now officially opened.

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

Eight tenders have been returned for the civil works associated with this project. The tender evaluation is currently ongoing and a further update will be provided in due course.

#### **Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor**

All documents for the application have been received from consultant and being reviewed prior to submission to An Bord Pleanála.



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### **Newbridge Area Based Transport Assessment**

The final report from this project has been finalised and is due to be published shortly.

### **Murtagh's Corner, Naas**

A contractor has been appointed to carry out site investigations which will commence shortly. This will allow for the detailed design to be completed.

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

A contractor has been appointed and discussions are ongoing to agree a start date for works onsite.

### **Road Safety**

#### **Speed Limit Review**

Briefings are being held in June 2025 with elected members in advance of the public consultation process for the proposed 30 km/hr speed limits in housing estates that are taken in charge across the county.

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 1 Schemes (NTA funded)**

Straffan National School. Design has been agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000. A public consultation process has been completed and work tendered.

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

Scoil Mochua, Design has been agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €100,000. A public consultation process has been completed.

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

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



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

## **Operations**

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

Allocation: €11,081,000

59 road improvement projects covering 50 km of regional and local roads to be completed in 2025. Projects are currently at various phases of development including design, procurement and construction stages.

Works completed at:

Kildare-Newbridge

- Bridge St. Rathangan
- Ryston, Newbridge
- R445 Newbridge
- Grey Abbey Road, Kildare
- Ballyfair, Cutbush
- Chapel Lane, Newbridge
- Canal Harbour, Monasterevin

Athy Municipal District

- Coltstown to Knocknacree
- Dalkinstown
- Ballyshannon/ Tipteenan
- Ballycullane Upper

Other Municipal Districts are in progress.

### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

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

Surface dressing works will commence on the 26 May 2025 and continue over the summer months.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

#### **Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads**

Allocation - €500,000

Former National Roads - €550,000

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

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

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

### **General Maintenance**

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this



work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

### **Public Lighting**

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

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

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

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

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

Twelve electric vehicles have been ordered to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts and to further the fleet decarbonation process.

Works are now ongoing in preparation for the 2025 surface dressing season.

### **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations for the 2024-2025 season have now been completed.

### **Health and Safety**

The annual Health & Safety roadshows have been completed for the Transport Operation staff. Included was a review of RAMS, the Safety Statement and a demonstration on the use of defibrillators. This was conducted with the Health and Safety Team.

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

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

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000

Construction ongoing – Completion due by July 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €250,000

Insufficient grant allocation to commence the construction works in 2025. Landowner agreements being pursued to facilitate accommodation works along the route.





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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Meetings held with the National Transport Authority to agree the preliminary design of the permanent scheme. The intention is to agree a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €125,000

Draft Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme is being discussed for agreement with the National Transport Authority. The intention is to agree a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000

Construction started in Q1 2025 and is progressing well. The scheme is due to be completed in Q3 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Work is complete and retention monies to be paid. Consultants appointed to conduct a post opening safety review of the scheme.

### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

2025 Allocation: €300,000

Detailed design of bridge structure and construction documents due to be completed in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €20,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

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

2025 Allocation: €50,000

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

### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €200,000





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

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

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

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

2025 Allocation: €30,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

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

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Construction started in Q1 2025 and is progressing well.

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

2025 Allocation: €40,000

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

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

2025 Allocation: €500,000

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

The first phase of new bus shelter installations is included in the current public consultation process will be completed in June. Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 processes for the provision of bus shelters were completed for:

- Dublin Road, Naas  
(Southbound 103791)
- Athgarvan (southbound 11670)
- Athgarvan (northbound 11689)
- Calverstown (Northbound 11729)
- Calverstown (Southbound 11734)
- Maddenstown (Westbound 132301)
- Maddenstown (Eastbound 104041)

Section 38 commenced for:



- Broadford (Westbound 132991)

## National Bike Week 10-18 May



Students participating in Bike Week event at Mondello

Kildare County Council in association with the National Transport Authority (NTA) held a programme events to celebrate National Bike Week. Events were held throughout the County including family cycling events in Athy, Donadea, Monasterevin, and Naas and a very successful visit to Mondello Park for primary school students.

## Open Spaces

### St. Catherines Park – Sensory Garden

Part 8 application for a sensory garden is due to be advertised before the end of the month. The garden will feature a variety of planting, seating areas and

circulation paths. The main seating area will feature an art piece.



## Outdoor Recreation Strategy

An online public consultation to ascertain the public's input into the outdoor recreation strategy and sports strategy has been advertised. Link to the survey is

<https://forms.office.com/e/DthKMaSPAD>

The survey is open until 27 June. An in-person consultation is planned for north and south of the county before the end of the month. Full details to be announced shortly

### Carton Avenue

Work on a tender to procure consultants to develop a conservation plan and masterplan for the site has commenced.



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## National Roads Office

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

The M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Measures are being constructed by the TII MMarC contractor and there is a speed limit reduction order on the M4 between junctions 5 and 6 until 31 August 2025 to facilitate the pavement works and completion of the civil works.

The contractor is aiming to have all the pavement and civil works completed no later than the end of the summer. The ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) works may be completed in tandem or will follow e.g. electronic gantry signage. However, the ITS works will be less intrusive and should not require the varioguard and/or speed limit order.

The contractor must wait until after the bird breeding and nesting season before commencing installation of noise barriers to safeguard nesting birds and other wildlife. Legislative changes are required to allow buses travel in the hard shoulder and the preparation of the new legislation is

with the Department of Transport and TII.

### M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

#### Westbound Bus Priority Measures

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

### M9 Park and Share Scheme

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

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

## Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

### Planning

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

Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2025, including:

- An update to the *Core Strategy* in response to the revised National Planning Framework



and anticipated new housing targets, incorporating s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.

- Settlement Plans for Newbridge, Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock.

### County Development Plan Actions

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

### Masterplans

#### Naas North-West Quadrant

#### Framework Masterplan:

Preferred Masterplan Option is currently being refined.

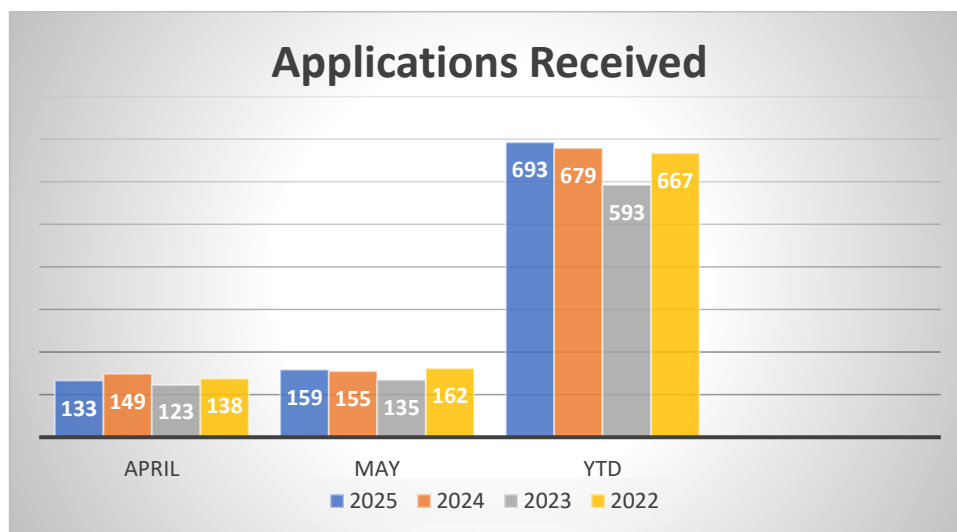
#### Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan:

Preferred Masterplan Option currently being refined.

### Development Management ePlanning

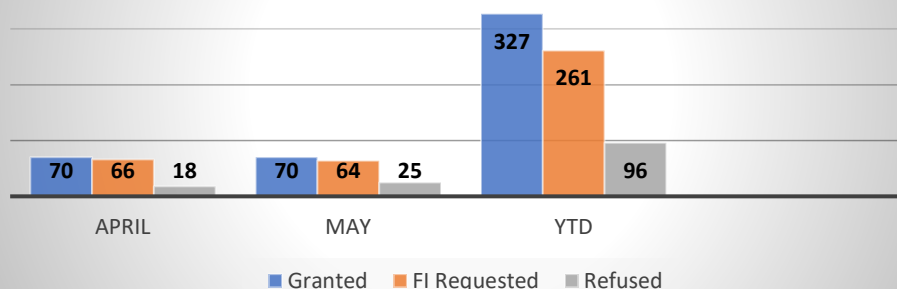
In 2024, 78% of all applications received are via the online planning portal, 98% of submissions/observations submitted via online ePlanning.

In 2025 85.82% of all applications received up to date are via the online planning portal.

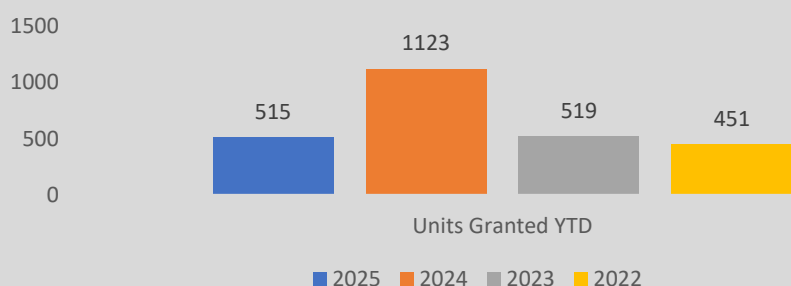




## Applications Processed 2025



## Residential Units Granted



### Pre-Planning

23 new Pre-Planning Requests submitted in May. Total 131 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 30 May 2025.

### Section 5s

Total 56 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 30 May 2025.

### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision Due
25/60025	16/01/2025	Briargate Developments Ltd	Curragh Farm, Ballymany Newbridge	Amendments to previously permitted development Board Ref. ABP-312704-22	<u>Granted</u> <u>29/05/2025</u>



25/60003	06/01/2025	Dunform Properties Ltd	Branganstown East Kilcock	133 Units	FI requested 27/02/2025
24/61327	11/12/2024	Oakway Homes Ltd	New Abbey Road, Nicholastown Kilcullen	180 Units	Granted 20/05/2025
24/61319	10/12/2024	Beans Land Ltd	Ballymany, Newbridge	Alterations and Amendments to previously approved Strategic Housing Development (ABP-311040-21)	Conditional
24/61073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock Leixlip	Amendments to residential permission KCC Reg. Ref. 2360485/ ABP Reg. Ref.: 319625-24	Conditional
25/60297	21/03/2025	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	Amendments to 22/221502 and 23/942	Invalidated 07/05/2025
25/60337	02/04/2025	Cairn Homes Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	Amendments to KCC Reg 23/656 and APB-318365-23	Refused 27/05/2025
25/60453	11/04/2025	Lagan Homes	Southgreen, Kildare	Amendment to APB-318401-23	Due Date 25/06/2025
25/60543	22/05/2025	Seattle Construction Ltd	Crodaun, Celbridge	Modification to ABP307100	Due Date 16/07/2025
25/60515	16/05/2025	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	Alterations to 22/221502	10/07/2025





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

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

## **Heritage and Nature Team**

### **Heritage / Biodiversity /**

### **Conservation Unit**

#### **A. Biodiversity / Ecology**

- Biodiversity Action Plan - Pre-draft public consultation stage is complete. Plan preparation underway. Biodiversity Working Group Second Meeting scheduled for 19 June 25.
- Two invasive species projects ongoing/underway – Himalayan Balsam (Ballymore Eustace) and Giant Hogweed (Nurney).
- Leixlip Spa (Carton/Rye Water SAC) – Habitat Surveys ongoing, Hydrology Surveys commenced.

#### **B. Heritage**

- Heritage Plan pre-draft consultation stage currently in progress.
- Heritage Council offered Kildare County Council a grant of

€37,500 towards the Heritage Plan Projects.

- Kildare County Council Community Heritage Grants – 38 applications received. 35 applications deemed eligible. Successful applications circulated to Members and groups are to be informed in April 2025.

#### **C. Conservation– Architectural**

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme Conservation Grant – twelve grant applications have been approved under BHIS 2025. Applicants have been notified, and work should commence on Twelve projects in the coming weeks.
- Framework for Conservation Architectural and Engineering Services is due to be published on eTenders on 20 June 2025.

#### **D. Planning Referrals.**

- Development Management: Ongoing preparation of reports from the Heritage Officer and Executive Ecologist.



## Staffing

Architectural Conservation Officer –

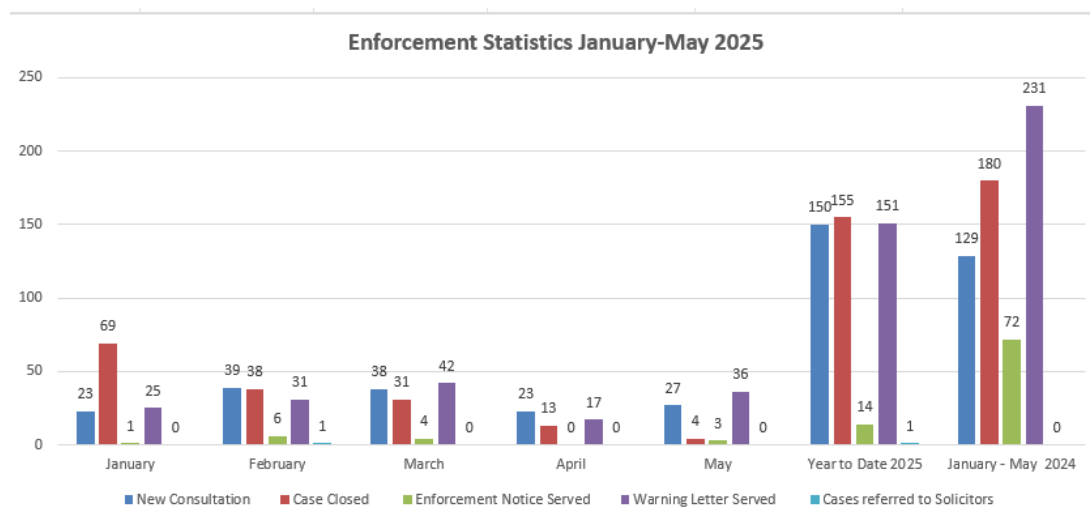
Despite significant efforts in 2024,

unfortunately, the position has not been filled to date.

## Planning Enforcement

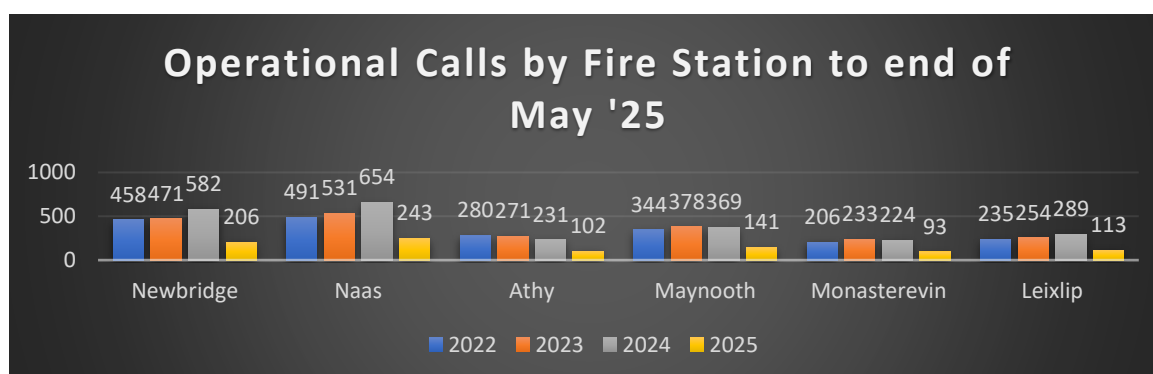
For period May 2025

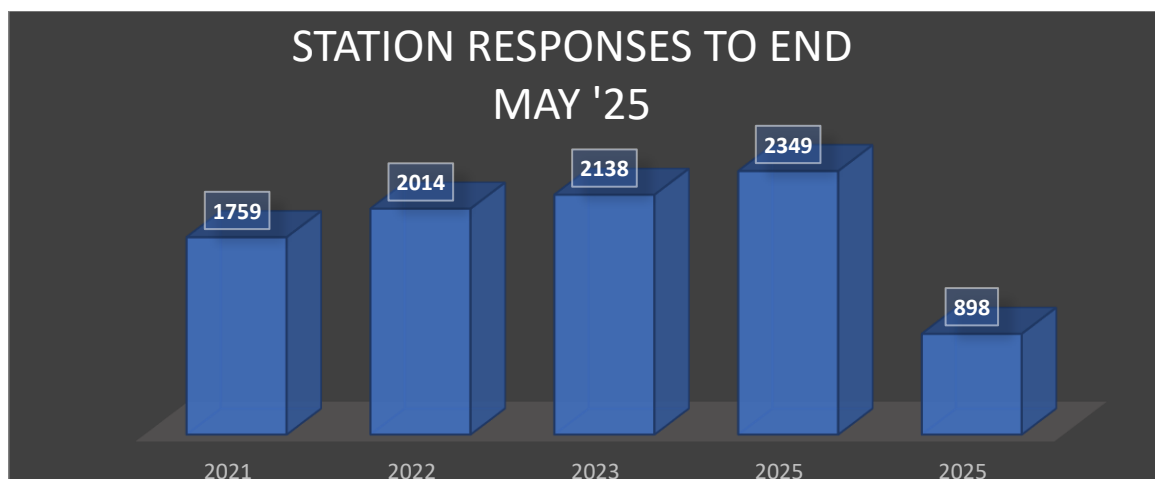
27	New Consultations
4	Cases Closed
3	Enforcement Notices Served
36	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors



## Fire Service Operations:

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





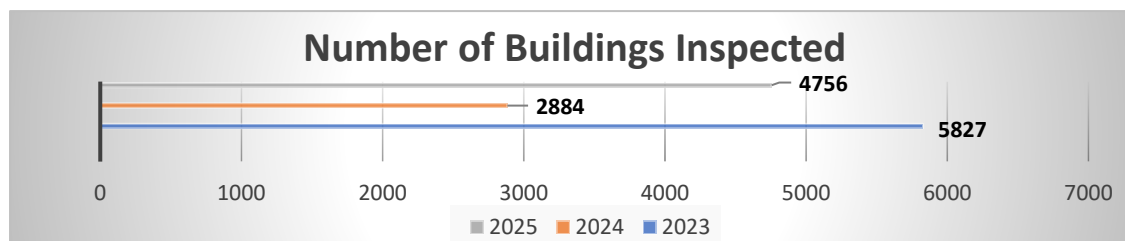
## Fire Safety Certificates

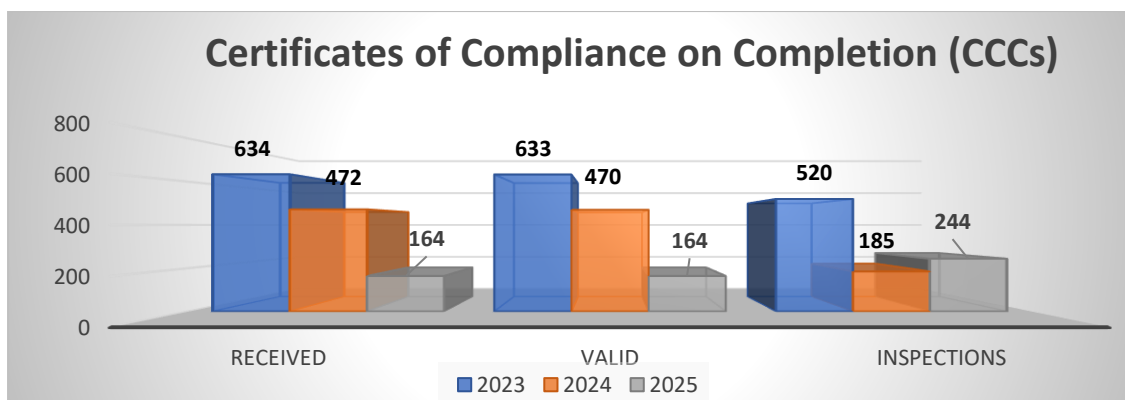
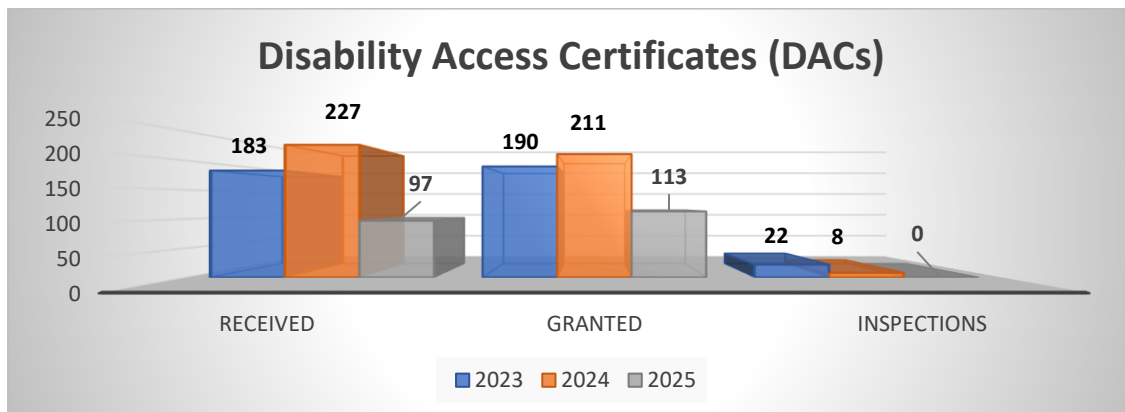
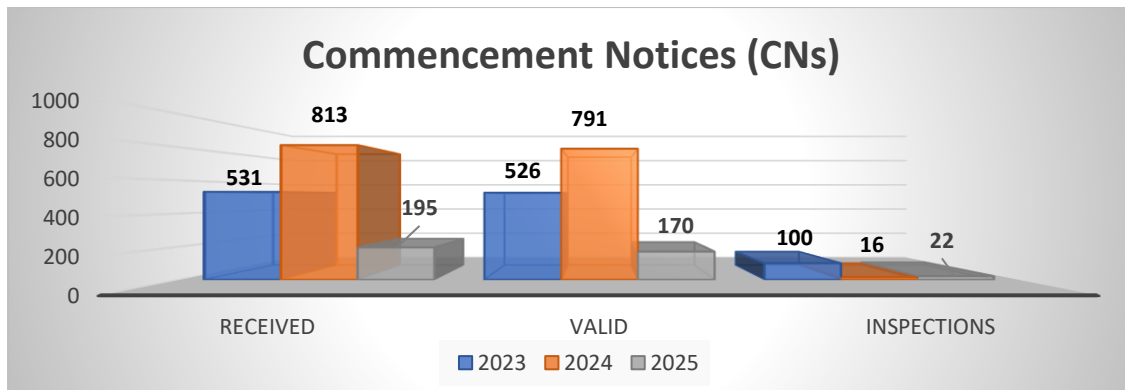
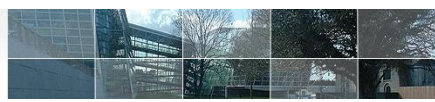
Applications received to the end of May 2025 compared with the totals received in previous years.



## Building and Development Control

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





## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

Key events which took place this month included Punchestown, Kildare Inclusivity and Bord Bia Bloom. Into Kildare supported the Punchestown Festival with a dedicated promotional campaign across social media channels in the lead-up to the event. During the festival itself, live

coverage and key moments were highlighted showcasing Kildare as a premier destination for visitors. This activity helped drive strong engagement and ensured widespread visibility for both the festival and the local tourism offering. Into Kildare also attended the launch of the Horse country during the festival



Into Kildare were invited to participate in a newly established Kildare Inclusivity community event at the Curragh Racecourse. This invitation provided an opportunity to engage with the community, while actively promoting the upcoming Taste of Kildare festival. The team used the occasion to distribute flyers, share event details, and build awareness of the festival across the community.



Representative from Into Kildare

Fáilte Ireland's, Ireland's Ancient East Champions Programme took place in Lawlor's of Naas. This program, which was supported and attended by Into Kildare, aimed to enhance customer service skills and deepen local product knowledge within the hospitality and tourism industry.



Into Kildare partnered with Tourism Ireland in a luxury workshop in Cologne. The workshop was a valuable platform to connect and have 1:1 appointments with German luxury travel buyers highlighting all that County Kildare has to offer.





As part of the Desintation Development Programme organised by Fáilte Ireland, Into Kildare joined members on a trip to visit some of Couny Kildares horse country experiences as well as other well-known attractions and activity providers.

Into Kildare supported the Irish Guineas Festival at the Curragh with organic promotion across social media channels. Throughout the weekend, timely updates were shared to capture key moments and celebrate the festival online helping to position Kildare as a leading destination for racing.

Into Kildare attended ongoing meetings at part of the steering group for the Food and Grain trail.

Ongoing Just Transition training sessions have been participated in throughout the month to support continued learning and engagement. Planning is also underway for Into Kildare's next members event in association with Just Transition in the Glenroyal Hotel and guest speaker Santina Kennedy.

For the third year running, a stand was secured at the Bord Bia Bloom Festival in Phoenix Park from the 29 May – 02 June. Planning and preparation for Bloom took place throughout April and May, leading up to the five-day festival held over the June Bank Holiday weekend



Into Kildare's presence at Bloom provided an excellent platform for its members to attend and showcase their offerings, alongside the Into Kildare team who represented and promoted





County Kildare. Over 15 partners were involved in the event, which was expected to attract over 100,000 visitors.

Bloom was a great opportunity to promote the Taste of Kildare festival and KPMG Womans Irish Open, another key event happening in the county.



The upcoming Taste of Kildare Festival is progressing smoothly, with strong interest from a wide range of food and drink producers eager to participate. Additionally, preparations for the festival's launch at Naas Racecourse are well underway.



Along with Alan Dunney, Into Kildare welcomed the Vice President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Carmen Goby, to Ireland.





## Enterprise and Economic Development

### 2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 21.05.2025	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant. (Product no longer available, replaced by Grow Digital Voucher)	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher	8	€30,156
Business Expansion Grant	5	€100,703
Priming Grant	6	€162,546
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€15,000
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (Product no longer available – replaced by Market Explorer Grant as outlined below)	1	€525
IP Start Grant	3	€6,480
Energy Efficiency Grant	19	€166,357
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>€484,267</b>

### Priming Grants Approved in June:

Amanda Durkan t/a Squashed of Athy Municipal District was approved €7,437 to support the purchase of capital equipment to facilitate production of product to enter the Retail / Wholesale markets. This is a craft business producing notebooks, journals, leather goods.

Juan Ignacio Pita Hoffman T/A MarkCompare – Newbridge/Kildare was approved €15,000 to support the promoter's self-employment in the business. This business offers a vendor neutral service to businesses to assist them manage their IP assets.

### Business Expansion Grants approved in June:

Vacuum and Pressure Services Limited – Clane/Maynooth was approved €13,000 to employ a scheduling/administration person, this business provides an end-to end service to their clients who require a clean environment for their production facilities.



### **Focus On Innovation:**

#### **Intellectual Grants Approved in April:**

##### **IP Start Grant Approved**

Fused by Fiona Uyema Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection on new products to ensure established market share.

### **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 <https://leokildare.submit.com/>

### **Know Your Community**

Know Your Community took place on Tuesday, 20 May at Kilcock Community Centre. Attendees met with local community groups, support services, and organisations including LEO Kildare, who were on hand to offer advice on business supports. Free refreshments and face painting added to the family-friendly atmosphere, encouraging people to connect and get involved in their community.

### **Focus On Retail**

A six-week programme commenced aimed at everything you need to know about launching a retail business. From business models to pricing, branding, production and ecommerce and retail. LEO Kildare is keen to support the next generation of retail ideas and products.

### **Focus On Export**

Over the past six weeks months, fifteen companies have taken bold steps to explore new markets, build global strategies, and unlock international growth as part of the LEO Export Accelerator.

From 19-21 May, three Kildare companies joined a trade mission to B2B Software Days in Vienna. Babogue, Acorn Star and Hub 360, all based in Naas Municipal District travelled to Vienna with the objective of meeting new international customers and ensuring alignment with future digital trends.

Business Beyond Borders was hosted on 27 May in MERITS for businesses preparing to enter the U.S Market. The event provided insights into legal and regulatory requirements and guidance



on navigating the U.S. Business environment.



It attracted a strong attendance and received positive feedback from participants who valued the practical and informative content delivered throughout the session.

### **Focus On Innovation**

15 May 2025 – The Funding Innovation Event, hosted by Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office in MERITS, brought together a dynamic group of entrepreneurs, start-ups and business leaders from across the mid-east region and beyond.



The event aimed to demystify the funding landscape for research and innovation-driven enterprises.

### **Focus On Women In Business**

She Succeeds event Take the Digital Leap was hosted in MERITS on 20 May. The objective was to ensure our clients are staying ahead of the trend in an increasingly competitive digital landscape.

The next She Succeeds event takes place on 24 June and focuses on mastering financial terminology and concepts and can be booked online <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/SHE-SUCCEEDS-Mastering-Financial-Terminology-and-Concepts-24th-June.html>.

### **Focus On Craft And Creative**

Embracing Digital Change was hosted in MERITS on 20 May.

The objective was to support clients to adopt new technologies to free time to create, ensuring their work remains impactful in an increasingly digital world. The next creative cluster event takes place on 24 June and focuses on mastering pricing models and can be booked online at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online->





[Bookings/FOCUS%20ON%20CRAFT%20-%20A%20Forensic%20View%20of%20Your%20Manufactured%20Cost%20-%2026th%20June.html](#).

## Focus On Tech

You're the Business winners' event was hosted on 26 May at Google's EMEA Headquarters in Dublin. The event recognised 24 SME winners who demonstrated a strong commitment to digital development within their business journeys.



Each winner, including Kildare's Katie Mugan of Nursing Mama, received a digital support package from google along with an official winner's trophy.

MERITS hosted a series of dynamic, hands-on digital workshops designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking in young minds. These fun and interactive two

hour sessions were designed to challenge eight to sixteen year-olds to explore new skills, experiment with ideas, and think like future business leaders – all in a supportive, tech-forward environment.



Workshops took place in MERITS, Devoy Park, Naas on 07 June and included two sessions:

- Entrepreneurship and Podcasting
- Mini CEOs

Presented as part of Cruinniú na nÓg.

## Economic Support Services

### Retail Supports

#### Grants

MD	No. Approved	€ Value Approved
ATHY	4	€7,664.00
CBLX	10	€12,973.85
CLMN	5	€11,523.00



KDNB	11	€34,072.17
NAAS	8	€29,322.17
	38	<b>€95,555.19</b>

The team is continuing to work through a strong pipeline of Expressions of Interest and new applicants.

### **Athy Building Enhancement Financial Support Scheme**

The Economic Development team continues to engage with businesses in Athy to communicate Phase One (Leinster St, Emily Sq., and Duke St (bridge to Post Office)) of the scheme throughout May.

To date, three applications have been completed and submitted for six units under this grant scheme and are ready to be assessed by the Economic Development team. We will continue to engage with businesses who have expressed an interest and guide them through the application process.

Applicants can receive up to €5,000 (or 80% of enhancement value) per building, and can be made via:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/Athy%20Building%20Enhancement%20Financial%20Support%20Scheme/>

### **Erasmus+ Repower Regions**

Kildare County Council, in collaboration with twelve European partners, continues to progress the Erasmus+ Repower Regions project, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation and skills development in the heating and cooling sector.

Partners have moved further into the interview and case study stages, with best practice insights shared at the most recent Management Committee meeting on 03 June. Methodologies to support regional alliance development are also advancing and are expected to enhance engagement and support interview completion. The dedicated project website

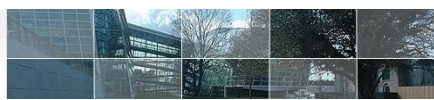
[www.repowerregions.eu](http://www.repowerregions.eu) is live and is populated on an ongoing basis with additional content. The next

Transnational Partner Meeting will take place in Riga, Latvia on 26 –27 June, where partners will align on interview methodologies, validate emerging themes, and coordinate upcoming regional alliance engagement strategies. The project remains on track with work package deliverables.

### **Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub**

Bat and Swift survey complete and mitigation measures to be incorporated into construction tender documents.





Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate applications submitted and awaiting approval (24 June and 11 July).

### **Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub**

Construction works have entered the fifty-seventh week of the programme. 78.5% of construction programme has been completed. Kitchen Equipment Specialist tender completed, and tenderer approved. ESB subcontractor to commence road crossing on Geraldine Road for electrical connection. Internal vinyl flooring fitting commenced. First layer of permeable base course to north carpark and courtyard commenced.



### **Circular Economy Hub and Green Training Centre**

Storm Water survey of site complete and report provided under review. Window replacement tender completed, and successful tenderer approved. Mechanical & Electrical surveys carried out and Periodic Inspection Report provided and under review. Draft Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate applications produced and currently under review. A draft scope of the Design Team to be procured is under review and publish.



As part of our Just Transition measures, and to animate the hub development, a training programme in Bicycle Mechanics will be delivered by the Rediscovery Centre in Athy on Tuesday 08 and 15 July. Applications are open online. The closing date is 26 June 2025.



## **Tourism**

### **EU JTF Tourism Activation**

Fáilte Ireland has one project still under evaluation, and further announcements are expected before the end of June on recent grant awards.

The next joint networking event in partnership with INTO Kildare will take place on 19 June at the Glenroyal Hotel.

### **Flavours of Kildare**

Two local businesses, Fully Free Ireland (vegan cashew cheese) (Broadford) and the Dew Drop Brewhouse (Kill) have successfully completed the Super Valu food academy as their products are being stocked in selected local supermarkets. Meanwhile, interviews are being conducted to select participants for the 2025/2026 programme.

**Sonya Kavanagh**

**Chief Executive**