

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Tuarascáil Mhíosúil Bhainistíochta an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh -Aibreán 2026

Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report – April 2026















News Items

Launch of new Council Communications Strategy 2026–2030

Kildare County Council's new Communications Strategy 2026–2030 was published setting out a clear framework for our internal and external communications over the next five years, to make our work clearer, more consistent and easier to access. (see page 8).

Newbridge Library - Reopening of the library

Newbridge Library has reopened in its new temporary location at Liffey Lodge (see page 14).

Second Hand Acquisition Programme 2026

Minister Browne has announced €14 million in funding for Kildare for a second-hand acquisition programme in 2026 (Housing Circular 07/2026 refers) (see page 20).

Shackleton Centre Takes Double Honours at National Awards

Kildare County Council's Shackleton Experience in Athy has captured national attention after securing two major titles at the Irish Building and Design Awards 2026. The landmark project was awarded both Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year and Heritage and Conservation Project of the Year (see pages 22-23).

Integration

The Newhall Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) will close on 14 April leaving the Punchestown Centre as the only remaining 30-Day DAC in Kildare (see page 37).

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Kildare LCSP held its first official meeting on Thursday, 12 March 2026. The inaugural meeting brought together representatives from An Garda Síochána,



Kildare County Council, Tusla and HSE, alongside representatives from local community, youth and education sectors (see page 49).

Grant funding

Applications for grant funding under the Tidy Towns and Cemetery Maintenance grants closed on 30 March. Approximately 50% of Tidy Towns groups have applied for funding (see page 57).

Park and Stride Initiative

The Council in partnership and the Parents Council of St. Laurence's National School, Sallins launched Kildare's first Park and Stride initiative on 18 March with parents and pupils meeting in designated locations before walking to school as a group with the aim of reducing traffic congestion at school gates, improve road safety and increase physical activity (see page 61).

Into Kildare - Key Activities

In March, the tourism and hospitality sector prepared for the return of Spring which included a long weekend of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, special Mother's Day treats, events and activities along with enticing Spring breaks (see pages 71-73).

Economic Development - Retail Supports

Supporting local retailers is a core responsibility of the Economic Development team supporting local economies, employment and regeneration.

On the 20 March a new Retail Window Merchandising Scheme to support local retailers, enhance town-centre presentation and align with major festival activity across the county was launched (see page 76).



Diary/Calendar

Naas Town Centre Public Art Commission Launched

Kildare Arts Service launched a two-stage open competition for a permanent public artwork celebrating Naas's three-time IBAL Best Kept Town achievement. Information clinics and artists talks and advice sessions were delivered by Visual Artists Ireland from experience artists Ruth E Lyons and Joe Caslin's. The Stage one deadline for submissions is 23 April 2026 (see page 15).

Emergency Accommodation Provision

The Council has published a Preliminary Market Consultation Notice on eTenders seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from proprietors of hotels, hostels, Bed and Breakfasts and guesthouse accommodation who wish to have their facility or rooms therein, included in the Council's list of retained emergency accommodation for families and individuals requiring emergency accommodation. Interested parties are asked to complete an Expression of Interest form by 30 April 2026 (see pages 20-21)

Tenant Support Scheme 2026

The objective of the scheme is to assist Local Authority tenants to carry out improvement works to their homes. Priority will be given to climate action improvements such as new glazing, insulation, heat pumps, etc. Closing date for applications is 15 May (see page 21)

Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2026

Kildare Sports Partnership, alongside Kildare County Council and partners, will deliver the Kildare Inclusivity Festival on Sunday, 10 May at the Curragh Racecourse (see page 50).

Green Schools Flag Awards

The Green Schools Flag Awards for all successful schools will take place on 19 May at the Helix Theatre, Dublin (see page 58)



May Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 Apr 11:00 Sp Planning Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	28	29	30	**1 May** 10:00 Clane-Maynooth MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
4	5 14:00 Audit Committee Prep; Boardroom; Members Calendar 14:30 Audit Committee; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	6	7 11:00 LCSP; MERITS	8
11	12 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	13	14 10:00 Community Culture and Integration SPC ; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:30 Coiste Gaeilge ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	15 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
18 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:30 CPG May 2026 Meeting; Boardroom; Members Calendar	19	20 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	21	22
25 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	26	27	28	29



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Corporate, Library and Emergency Services

Corporate Services

Communications

DZ Climate Champions Awards 2026

Recognising and celebrating local climate action, biodiversity and sustainability initiatives across the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone - Kildare County Council announced that applications are open for the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Climate Champions Awards 2026. The awards recognise and celebrate local climate action, biodiversity promotion, environmental protection and sustainability initiatives taking place across the Maynooth DZ community.

Acquisition of Moore Abbey, Monasterevin

Kildare County Council is in the final stages of acquiring Moore Abbey, together with its associated lands and buildings in Monasterevin, County Kildare from the trustees of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary.

100 Years of Library Service - 1926 – 2026



The Council is celebrating 100 years of Kildare Library Service, marking a century of learning, community and innovation across County Kildare. The story began on 16 March 1926, when Kildare County Council formally adopted the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1855.

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership Holds Second Meeting -

The Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) held its second meeting, chaired by the newly appointed Chair, Councillor Angela Feeney. Members of the Kildare LCSP received a presentation from representatives of the Waterford Pilot Project who shared their experience of



establishing one of the country's first Local Community Safety Partnerships.

IBDA Awards 2026



The Shackleton Experience in Athy, was awarded the Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year and the Heritage, Conservation Project of the year at the Irish Building and Design (IBDA) Awards 2026.

Launch of newCommunications Strategy



Kildare County Council's new Communications Strategy 2026–2030 was published setting out a clear framework for our internal and external communications over the next five years, to make our work clearer, more consistent and easier to access. A short ten minute podcast was also published, featuring an interview with our Chief Executive, providing a summary of the strategy and highlighting why it matters.

Winners of the 2026 Rubbish Film Festival are Announced



The creativity, environmental leadership, and filmmaking talent of young people across County Kildare was celebrated on 23 March, as the winners of the Kildare section of the Rubbish Film Festival 2026 were announced. Proudly supported by Kildare County Council, the Rubbish Film Festival empowers transition year students to spotlight environmental challenges through one-minute films.



New High-Performance Firefighting PPE Launched



The Council officially launched new high-performance firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) for Kildare Fire Service, marking a significant investment in firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

The new PPE is being supplied by High Precision Motor Products (HPMP) in partnership with S-Gard, one of Europe's largest and longest-established manufacturers of firefighting clothing. Kildare Fire Service is the first fire service in Ireland to award a contract to HPMP Fire and S-Gard, following an extensive public tender process.

Extended Opening Hours for Kilcullen Library

Kilcullen Library has extended its opening hours, from Wednesday, 18 March 2026. The library is now open five days a week, offering an additional 13 hours and 15 minutes of service each week.

New Retail Window Merchandising Scheme to Support Local Businesses and Enhance Town Centres



The Council's Economic Development Unit, launched a new Retail Window Merchandising Scheme designed to support local retailers, strengthen town-centre presentation and enhance festival activity across County Kildare. The initiative will provide participating businesses with access to professional visual merchandising expertise, tailored one-to-one design support and grant aid to enable the creation of impactful, sustainable and year-round window displays.



School Community-Led Park and Stride Initiative Launched in Sallins



Kildare County Council, in partnership with the Green Schools Committee, supported the Parents Council of St. Laurence's National School, Sallins, in launching a new Park and Stride initiative. The initiative encourages families to park a short distance from the school and walk the remaining journey together - helping to create a safer, healthier and more sustainable school travel.

Fógraíonn Comhairle Contae Chill Dara Uaireanta Oscailte Sínte don Leabharlann i gCill Chuillinn

Tá áthas ar Sheirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a fhógairt go mbeidh Leabharlann Chill Chuillinn ag cur leis na huaireanta oscailte ón gCéadaoin, 18 Márta 2026. Beidh an leabharlann ar oscailt cúig lá sa tseachtain as sin amach, ó Mháirt go Satharn, a chuirfidh 13 n-uair an chloig agus 15 nóiméad de sheirbhís sa bhreis ar fáil gach seachtain.

FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2026
Freedom of Information Requests	63
Freedom of information appeals	2
Information Commissioner Appeals	1
Data Access Requests	10
Ombudsman	7

Gaeilge, Teangacha Oifigiúla/ Irish Language, Official Languages

Réaltaí Óga Teilifíse Gaeilge Chill Dara



Cuairt TG4 ar Scoil Náisiúnta Cheárach chun ócáid bhronnta Scéim na bhFáinní a chraoladh.

Thug baill Choiste Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara, Cill Dara le Gaeilge agus Conradh na Gaeilge cuairt ar Scoil Náisiúnta Cheárach chun Fáinní Gaeilge a bhronnadh ar dhaltaí rang a sé a chuir an clár Scéim na bhFáinní i gcrích le déanaí.

Ba í Scoil Náisiúnta Cheárach an chéad scoil sa chontae a chláraigh do Scéim na bhFáinní 2025-26, scéim a thacaíonn le agus a spreagann úsáid mhéadaithe na Gaeilge i rang a sé.

Bhronn An Comhairleoir Noel Connolly, Cathaoirleach Choiste Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara, Fáinní Gaeilge ar na daltaí ar fad agus mhol sé dóibh leanúint orthu agus 'Cúpla Focal' a úsáid gach lá. Chomh maith leis sin, bronnadh Teastas Scéim na bhFáinní ar phríomhoide na scoile.

Labhair Nuacht Cúla4 le hOifigeach Gaeilge na Comhairle agus le daltaí rang a sé i Scoil Náisiúnta Cheárach faoi na tionscnaimh Ghaeilge 'Scéim na bhFáinní' ar Sheanfhocail, Méimeanna agus Logainmneacha áitiúla agus faoi na haistí Gaeilge a scríobh na daltaí.

Comhghairdeas leis na daltaí - bhí sibh ar fad go hiontach! Is féidir féachaint siar ar an mír nuachta áitiúil seo ar an seinnteoir: ▶️ Nuacht Cúla4 | Player | Irish Television Channel, Súil Eile

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoi Scéim na bhFáinní agus an dóigh le cur isteach ar an scéim, tabhair cuairt ar ár suíomh gréasáin ag: Scéim na bhFáinní

Young Kildare Irish Language TV Stars

TG4 visit Caragh National School to capture Scéim na bhFáinní Presentation.

Members of Coiste Gaeilge (Kildare County Council's Irish Language



Committee), Cill Dara le Gaeilge and Conradh na Gaeilge visited Caragh National School to present Fáinní Gaeilge to sixth class pupils who recently completed the Scéim na bhFáinní programme.

Scoil Náisiúnta Cheárach was the first school in the county to register for Scéim na bhFáinní 2025-6, an initiative supporting and encouraging the increased use of Gaeilge in sixth class.

An Comhairleoir Noel Connolly, Cathaoirleach (Chair) of Kildare County Council's Irish Language Committee (Coiste Gaeilge), presented Fáinní Gaeilge to the students and encouraged them to continue to use a few words of Irish 'Cúpla Focal Gaeilge' every day. The Scéim na bhFáinní Certificate of Achievement was also presented to the school principal.

Nuacht Cúla4 interviewed the council's Irish Language Officer and sixth class students in Caragh National School about their Irish language 'Scéim na bhFáinní' projects on Gaeilge Proverbs, Gaeilge Memes and Local Gaeilge Placenames, and about their Irish language essays.

Comhghairdeas! Congratulations to the pupils – you were all wonderful!

This local news item can be viewed on the player: ▶ Nuacht Cúla4 | Player | Irish Television Channel, Súil Eile

To learn more about Scéim na bhFáinní and how schools may apply for this scheme, visit our website at: Scéim na bhFáinní.



Fógraíocht trí mheán na Gaeilge 2025: Alt 10A

Alt 10A

FÓGRAÍOCHT AG COMHLACHTAÍ POIBLÍ
FAISNÉIS ÓN GCOMHLACHT POIBLÍ

Sa bhliain 2025 chomhlíon Comhairle Contae Chill Dara na forálacha fógraíochta 20% agus 5% faoi Alt 10A d'Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021. Tá an tuairisceán bliantúil fógraíochta Gaeilge curtha faoi bhráid Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, agus léiríonn na figiúirí táscacha gur caitheadh 5.88% de chaiteachas iomlán fógraíochta na comhairle seo in 2025 ar fhógraí Gaeilge a crochadh ar na meáin Ghaeilge, agus go raibh 31.27%



d'fhógraí na comhairle seo in 2025 i nGaeilge.

Irish Language Advertising 2025: Section 10A

Kildare County Council achieved full compliance in 2025 with both the 20% and the 5% advertising provision under S10A of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. The Annual Irish Language Advertising Return was submitted to Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, with indicative figures showing that 5.88% of this council's total advertising spend in 2025 was spent on placing Irish language adverts on Irish language media, and that 31.27% of the adverts placed by this council in 2025 were placed in Irish.

Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one". Neil Gaiman

Kildare Library Service Projects

Kildare Libraries staff participated in the MIL-CC (Media and Information Literacy Community Connections) pilot project, conducted in Ireland, Spain, and Portugal and supported by the LGMA. The Kildare Libraries project is being considered for selection in the final documentation

Kildare Libraries have secured funding from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport to commemorate key events such as the Catalpa rescue, the Shackleton School in Ballitore and Mary Leadbeater as well as the one hundredth anniversary of the Library Service.

Climate Awareness

The award-winning Seed Library has begun again in Kildare Libraries and two new Climate themed Bookclubs have been established in Kildare Town and Athy as well as an over 55s Climate course in Naas.

Leixlip Library

Leixlip Library hosted the National Famine Way Roadshow; the Roadshow included an introduction to the National Famine Way and local historical insight.

Leixlip Library also had drop-in clinics with Hidden Hearing and the Irish



Heart Foundation as well as a Prostate and Breast Cancer Awareness talks with the Marie Keating Foundation.

Newbridge Library

Reopening of the library

Newbridge Library has reopened in its new temporary location at Liffey Lodge (W12 CP82). Opening hours have been reduced by one hour. Due to the building's smaller size, there are no dedicated study spaces. Most services remain available, including access to public computers, printing and photocopying, along with our full lending collections of books, DVDs, and games.

Outreach

Newbridge Library continues to provide outreach to ELCs and primary schools. On Wednesday, 08 April the library provided story time to Kildare County Childcare Committee's inaugural Parent Peer Support Group in Newbridge Parish Centre.
Amye Quigley and Aisling Kelly gave a guest lecture to the current master's class of University College Dublin School of Information and Communication Studies on The Creative Path art therapy programme for people living with an acquired brain injury. The programme was a partnership with Creative Ireland, Kildare Library and Arts Service, Headway and Platinum Clubhouse.

Kilcullen Library

Kilcullen Library is now open Tuesday to Saturday, with an additional 13 hours and 15 minutes. The library hosted its first craft event last Wednesday, 08 April for Easter.

Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library hosted writing and publishing guidance workshops in collaboration with Maynooth University and Kildare Arts, given by Irish Language Writer in residence, Dubhán Ó'Longáin.
The residents of Maynooth Community Care Unit, a public nursing home, held an exhibition in acrylic, fabric, and wool in Maynooth Library's exhibition space.

Skills for Life

Skills for Life in Libraries include Digital Skills classes in Celbridge and Maynooth, Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness sessions in Kildare Town and Maynooth, and



weekly HSE smoking cessation clinic in Athy. Chime – National Charity for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People / Outreach Clinic in Kildare Town every month, and OverEaters Anonymous Meeting in Naas every week.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

Tenth Irish Military Seminar, 06-09 May, Naas Library and Cultural Centre The annual seminar will host talks by several notable speakers. The launch of Martin Malone's latest book, Pike Hill, The Rath Massacre, and a panel discussion.

Archives

Ongoing appraisal, cleaning, and listing of collections including files held in the Cotton Mills Records Store. Kildare County Council-Files app development continues, with further updates and enhancements being made on an ongoing basis.

Local Studies

The Leinster Leader newspaper from 1881-2016 is now available as part of the Irish Newspaper Archive subscription service and is free to access for library members in all County Kildare branch libraries. The volumes from 1930s-1990s were provided by Local Studies for digitisation. Access to this resource is of huge benefit to researchers, students, and staff.

Artist Serena Devereux as VECTOR Digital Artist in Residence

Kildare Arts Service announces Serena Devereux as 2026 VECTOR Digital Artist in Residence, in partnership with MERITS Innovation Thinkspace, Naas, offering workspace, bespoke mentoring, international research travel, professional networking and a €5,000 bursary.

Naas Town Centre Public Art Commission Launched

Kildare Arts Service launched a two-stage open competition for a permanent public artwork celebrating Naas's three-time IBAL Best Kept Town achievement. Information clinics and artists talks and advice sessions were delivered by Visual Artists Ireland from experience artists Ruth E Lyons and Joe Caslin's. The Stage one deadline for submissions is 23 April 2026.



Kildare Jazz Festival 2026 at Riverbank Arts Centre

Kildare Jazz Festival returned for its third edition at the end of March 2026 presenting Irish and international jazz artists alongside workshops, family events and free performances across Newbridge and partner venues, including Maynooth University, as part of the festival programme. Curated by Kasia Eliasz and supported by the Festival Investment Scheme Funding from The Arts Council and Riverbank Arts Centre and Kildare Arts Service

Health and Safety

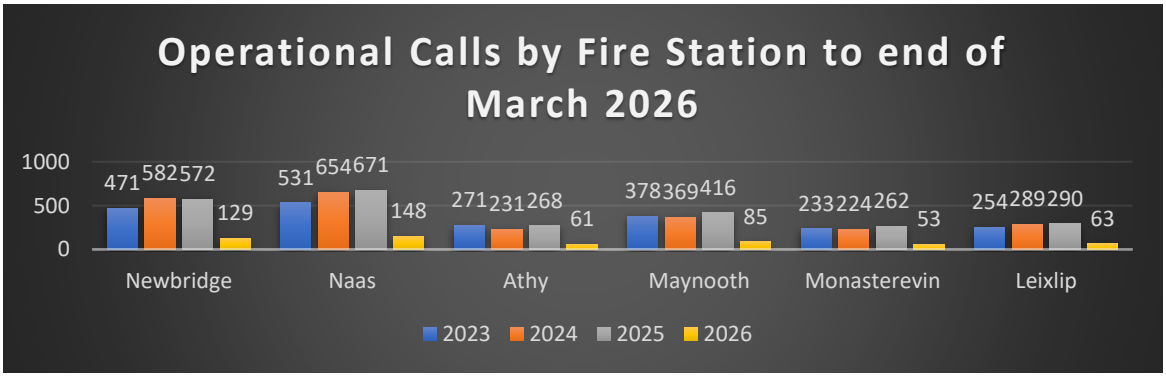
1. Health and Safety Roadshows scheduled for five Municipal Districts and Machinery Yard:
    - Newbridge/ Kildare Municipal District – 21 April
    - Athy Municipal District – 22 April
    - Maynooth and Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District's – 23 April
    - Naas Municipal District and Machinery Yard – 28 April

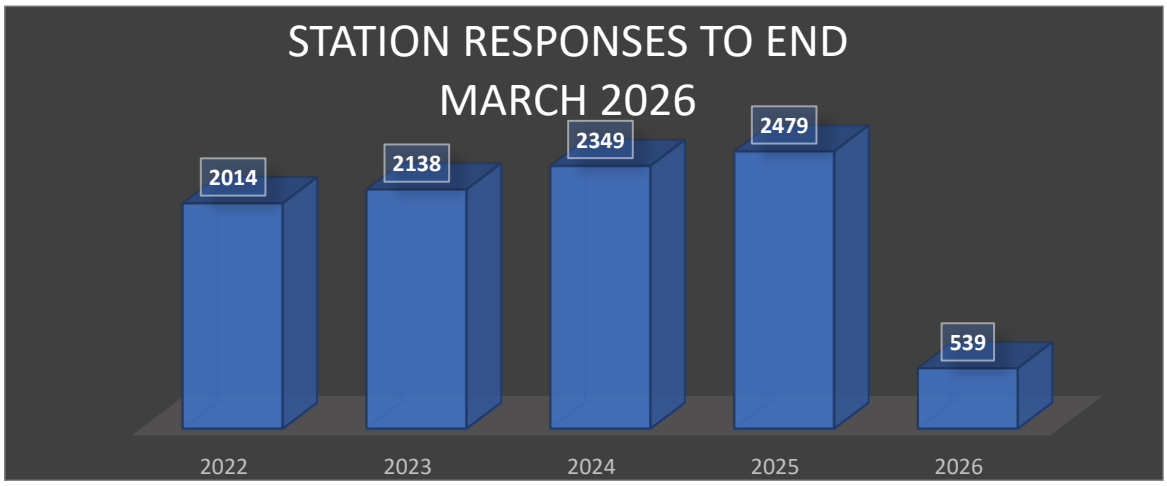
Accessibility:

1. Access Group Meetings:
    - Monasterevin Disability Access Group
    - Newbridge Disability Access Group
    - Naas Disability Access Group Meeting

Fire Service Operations:

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





Fire Safety Certificates

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



Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

Finance

Annual Financial Statement

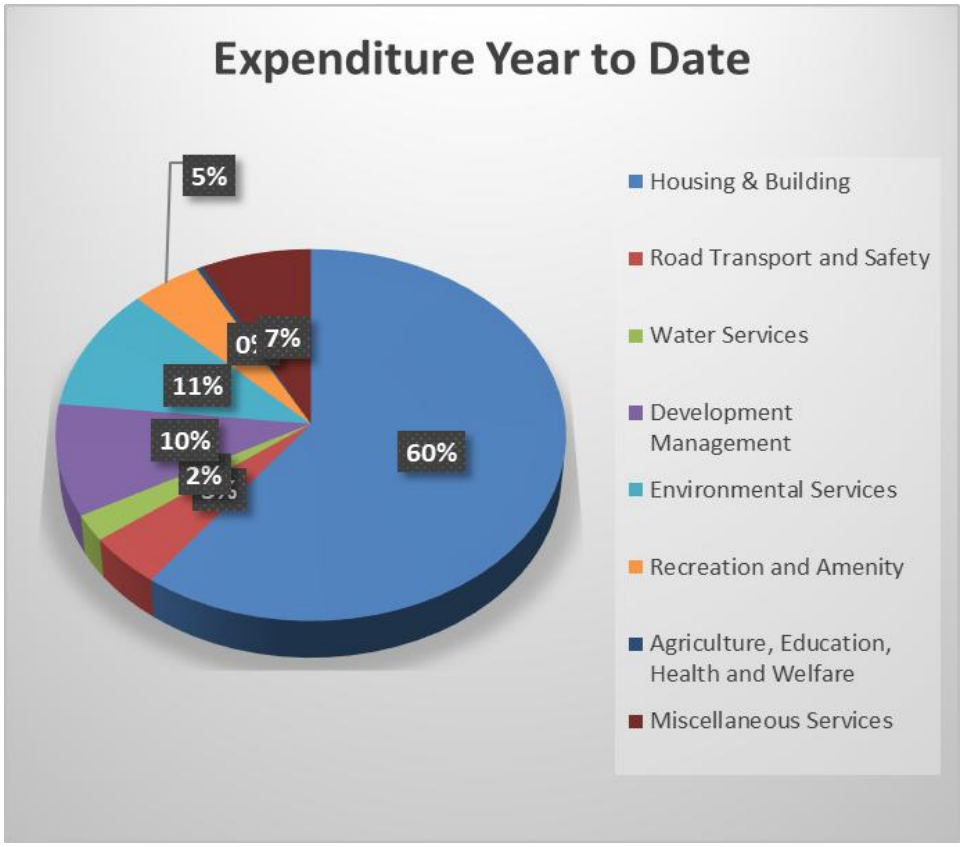
The Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31 December 2025 has been prepared and presented to Council in March 2026 and submitted to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage by 31 March 2026 in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Financial Statement for 2025 is now subject to audit by the Local Government Auditor.



Revenue Account

Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2026

Division	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	30,834	115,475	27%	84,641
Road Transport and Safety	2,315	51,384	5%	49,069
Water Services	1,177	9,008	13%	7,831
Development Management	4,983	34,286	15%	29,303
Environmental Services	5,496	29,923	18%	24,427
Recreation and Amenity	2,424	21,437	11%	19,013
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	213	1,475	14%	1,262
Miscellaneous Services	3,795	22,676	17%	18,881
Local Property Tax Allocation				-
Rates				
	51,237	285,664	18%	234,427





Kildare County Council
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 31 March 2026

Division	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	Income			
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	35,316	103,764	34%	68,448
Road Transport and Safety	1,750	25,965	7%	24,215
Water Services	593	7,993	7%	7,400
Development Management	3,120	12,365	25%	9,245
Environmental Services	663	10,375	6%	9,712
Recreation and Amenity	557	2,720	20%	2,163
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	148	321	46%	173
Miscellaneous Services	643	17,255	4%	16,612
Local Property Tax Allocation	4,548	27,291	17%	22,743
Rates	20,447	77,615	26%	57,168
	67,785	285,664	24%	-217,879

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 March 2026.

Risk Management

The first quarterly review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in mid-March 2026. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with the Sections to complete and document the actions from the review.

Digital Services

The 'AI for Good' Seminar, organised by Maria Barry, Digital Programme Officer Kildare County Council in collaboration with Maynooth University, was held over three consecutive Fridays at Naas Library. The event attracted an average of 30 participants per session, and the feedback received was highly positive.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Social Housing Delivery – PPP Sites

The Department of Heritage, Local Government and Housing (DHLGH) has confirmed that, following review, a decision has been made not to proceed with the PPP model. Local authorities engaged in the PPP programme are now instructed to



progress sites by way of direct LA delivery, preferably using established Design and Build frameworks. The sites impacted in Kildare are:

- Oldtown Mill, Celbridge – 60 social housing units;
- Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare Town – 99 social housing units and 32 affordable housing units;
- Rathasker Road, Naas – 104 social housing units;
- Rickardstown, Newbridge – 98 social housing units and 40 affordable housing units.

Next steps will now be considered by the Housing Capital Delivery Team.

Second Hand Acquisition Programme 2026

Minister Browne has announced €373 million in funding for a second-hand acquisition programme in 2026 (Housing Circular 07/2026 refers). Kildare County Council has been allocated a total of €14 million broken down across the following priority categories:

Priority categories for funding are:

- Tenancy Sustainment (via tenant-in-situ).
- Older Persons, Persons with Disability and Care Leavers requiring urgent housing responses - Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS).
- Exiting households from Homeless Services.

Buy and Renew acquisitions tackling vacancy and dereliction are no longer an eligible category of need under the Programme. The delivery of social homes through the renewal of vacant and derelict properties is now supported through the new Local Authority/AHB-led Buy and Renew and Contractor-led Buy and Renew initiatives. A Department Circular in respect of these new schemes is due to be issued shortly. An e-mail setting out the conditions attached to Tenant-in-Situ was sent to the elected members on 30 March 2026.

Homeless Services

Emergency Accommodation Provision

Kildare County Council has published a Preliminary Market Consultation Notice on eTenders seeking expressions of interest from proprietors of hotels, hostels, Bed and Breakfast's and guesthouse accommodation who wish to have their facility or rooms therein, included in



the Council's list of retained emergency accommodation for families and individuals requiring emergency accommodation. Interested parties are asked to complete an Expression of Interest form by 30 April 2026.

Local Authority Home Loan

Funding of €9.53 million has been allocated to Kildare County Council for the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) scheme in 2026, representing a slight increase on the €9.51 million allocated in 2025.

Revised scheme parameters came into effect on 01 April 2026, as follows:

- Maximum market purchase price: €415,000 (previously €360,000);
- Maximum mortgage amount (90%): €373,500:
- Income limit (single applicants): €80,000 (previously €70,000);
- Income limit (joint applicants): €85,000 (unchanged).

The MyCoCo online application portal for LAHL is scheduled to go live in early May 2026.

Tenant Support Scheme 2026

2026 scheme opened for applications on 10 March. The objective of the scheme is to assist Local Authority tenants to carry out improvement works to their homes. The scheme can be used to replace defective windows and doors, defective kitchen units or other minor works. Priority will be given to climate action improvements such as new glazing, insulation, heat pumps, etc. Closing date for applications is 15 May.

Affordable Purchase

The application portal for 12 affordable homes at Stradowe, Athy opened on 01 April and will close on 07 May. The scheme comprises ten three-bedroom houses and two four-bedroom houses.

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People Scheme

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has notified the Housing Department of our 2026 funding allocations, as set out below:

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People Scheme (private homes):

€6,380,888 in total, comprising €5,423,755 from the Exchequer and



€957,133 from Council resources.

Disabled Persons Grant:

€1,058,137 in total, comprising €952,323 from the Exchequer and €105,814 from Council resources.

Town Regeneration

Town Centre First



The Castledermot Town Centre First Plan was launched by Minister Heydon on 02 April at Teach Diarmada Community Centre, Castledermot.

Above the Shop Grant:

Three new grants were launched on 01 April 2026

- The Vacant Above the Shop Grant: Supports bringing vacant 'above the shop' spaces back into use as residential homes with grants of €95,000- €135,000 per building available.
- Extended Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant for Commercial/Public buildings: Supports renovation of vacant or derelict commercial properties into homes, including conversion of entire former commercial/public buildings with grants of €50,000 to €110,000 per building available.
- Expert Advice Grant: Provides up to €5,000 (max 67% of costs) to building owners to obtain early expert professional advice before undertaking conversions or refurbishments.

Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)

Shackleton Experience IBDA Awards

The Shackleton Experience in Athy has captured national attention after securing two major titles at the Irish Building and Design Awards 2026. The landmark project was awarded both Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality Project of the Year and Heritage and Conservation Project of the Year (Large) - a powerful endorsement of its architectural ambition, meticulous conservation work, and immersive visitor experience.





The dual win marks a significant achievement for the Council, reflecting its strong commitment to revitalising Athy's historic town hall and transforming it into a world-class cultural destination. The Shackleton Experience now stands as a flagship example of how strategic public investment can preserve heritage while elevating a county's tourism offering and cultural identity.

Clane Library – Project Update

The Clane Library project continues to gain strong momentum, with a preferred contractor now appointed. An 18-month construction programme is planned, reflecting a carefully considered approach that will ensure high-quality delivery while managing site sensitivities and utility coordination effectively.

Wonderful Barn

SPPR has been successful in securing Historic Structures Fund to continue conservation works at the Wonderful Barn. A grant of €187,871.00 has been awarded, representing a grant of 50% of the total expected expenditure costs for the next phase of works.

Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval - Stage 4		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Delivery expected April 2026.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Substantial Completion Cert issued 19 December 2025 for 64 of the 65 Units. Last unit delivered mid-February.



St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
Approval – Stage 3		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 submission to DHLGH has been lodged awaiting approval.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Contractor tender assessments complete. Stage 4 application submitted to DHLGH.
Ardrew, Athy	73 units + community building	Stage 3 approval received from DHLGH on 18.11.2025. Design & Build tender advertised in December 2025 and currently at Pre-Qual Assessment Stage. Subject to completion of procurement procedures, a contract award is targeted for Q3 2026.
Approval - Stage 2		
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Design & Build construction tender being assessed.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Ardrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units **(**5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Tender for construction works being prepared and scheduled to be launched in Q2 2026.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Part 8 was considered and amended at the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting in May. Site clearance and knotweed disposal to be included in main tender. Investigation & Clearance Works at tender stage. Final Design/Tender documents being prepared.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Design & Build construction tenders being assessed.



Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Design team preparing design options for the site. Being progressed to Part 8.
Sarto Road, Naas. BIM Pilot	7 units	Single stage application approved by the DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design finalised.

Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	6 apartments.	New Single Stage Application being prepared. Refurbishment of existing dwelling not feasible. Revised proposal finalised and issued to internal departments for comment.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q2 2026.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 accepted at February 2025 meeting of Kildare - Newbridge MD. Due to significant increase in cost, alternative approach to works to be explored. 3 options drafted: preferred option to be identified and issued to consultants for comment.
Kilcock Courthouse	5 units	Revised single stage funding application approved by DHLGH. Tenders for consultants underway to proceed to Part 8.

Pre-Approval		
Liffey Lodge	TBC	Preliminary design options being progressed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Feasibility report progressing. Preparation of Stage 1 application to the DHLGH is ongoing.
Canalside, Athy	5 units	Single stage funding application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.
Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	Consultants appointed: tender to be prepared. Tender to be issued Q2 2026.



Blacklion HS, Maynooth	2-day houses	Single Stage Application proposal submitted to DHLGH and comments received. Consultants appointed. Revised single stage application to be submitted Q2 2026.
Bothar Bui, Athy	8 units	Feasibility underway. Site investigations are being procured. DHLGH reviewing sketch feasibility.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report and structural survey complete. Survey drawings complete. Feasibility report issued to the Planning Section for comment.
Former Fire Station Site, Maynooth	TBC	Feasibility and design ongoing. Consultation with SPPR and Community Section commenced.
Blacklion, Maynooth	80 TBC	Feasibility underway.

Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 4 approval received from DHLGH on 27.11.2025: review of costs being completed. Construction to commence early Q2 2026.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site. 5 new dwellings and Glandore House expected to reach practical completion April 2026.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18.03.2025.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Confirmation received from DHLGH that PPP model is not proceeding. Delivery to be progressed via Design and Build.



Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Confirmation received from DHLGH that PPP model is not proceeding. Delivery to be progressed via Design and Build.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Confirmation received from DHLGH that PPP model is not proceeding. Delivery to be progressed via Design and Build.
Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	PPP Bundle 6: Confirmation received from DHLGH that PPP model is not proceeding. Delivery to be progressed via Design and Build.

Type	**Approved Housing Body**	**Location**	**No. of Units**	**Updated Status**
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Part 8 approved December 2025. Cluid to proceed with amendments to proposal required under conditions of Part 8 approval.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 4 approval submitted to DHLGH November 2025. Contractor appointment by AHB to follow.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Stage 4 approval received. Work ongoing to transfer the site to Cluid. Development License agreement being put in place to progress works.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort, (adj McAuley Place), Naas	44	Part 8 application launched 2 April 2026. Stage 4 approval application submitted to DHLGH.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10 units & communal building	CAS funding approved. Terms of Heads of Agreement have been signed. Legal process for transfer of units to KCC has commenced. Deed of Assurance and pre-Contracts have been received and reviewed



CAS	Homless Care	Jigginstown Phase 2, Naas	10	Stage 2 approval application to be submitted to DHLGH.

Acquisitions

	2025	2026
Housing Acquisitions	23	1
Housing Turnkeys	22	0
Part V Acquisitions	158	7
Total	**203**	**8**

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District	Athy	Celbridge - Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2025	41	21	63	50	28
MTR Delivery in 2025 (via CALF and leasing)	0	1	3	9	2
Acquisitions in Q1 2026	7	0	0	1	0
MTR Delivery in Q1 2026 to date (via CALF and leasing)	0	0	1	0	0

Regeneration

Year	CPO Commenced	CPOs awaiting confirmation	CPOs confirmed	CPOs on hold/ Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved	Vacant Property Grant payments
2025	11	5	3	2	0	117	94	100
Q1 2026	5	9	1	2	2	36	15	12



Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners Engaged with	Pre-CPO Notices Erected	Section 8(2) Derelict Sites Notices Issued	Properties added to the Derelict Sites Register
2025	164	113	146	29	31	10
Q1 2026	27	25	23	1	6	4

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2025	118	13	12,155	9,140
Q1 2026	46	1	3,547	1,423

Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number expiring 2026	Number Expiring 2027
100	35	65	0

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2025	338	9	338
2026	52	0	52



Homeless Presentations with Unique Presentations Breakdown:

Year	Total Cases	Unique Households	Of which Unique Adults	Of which Unique Dependents	Repeats Households
2025	2,368	531	558	441	1,837
Q1 2026	955	208	247	190	747

Homeless Exits from Emergency Accommodation:

Year	Total No Household Exits from EA	Local Authority Lettings	AHB Letting	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
2025	48	16	16	14
Q1 2026	13	9	2	2

Homelessness Preventions

Year	Total No Households Homelessness Prevention	Local Authority Lettings	LA – Tenant in Situ (TiS)	AHB Lettings	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
2025	117	58	18	19	22
Q1 2026	11	1	0	4	6

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

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	43	63	85
6 - 12 Months	18	27	42
12 - 18 Months	10	17	23
18 - 24 Months	5	7	11
24 - 30 Months	3	5	8



30 - 36 Months	1	3	2
36 Months +	1	1	2
Total	**81**	**123**	**173**

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 March 2026

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	3	5	13
6 - 12 Months	1	1	0
12 - 18 Months	2	3	6
18 - 24 Months	3	8	9
24 - 30 Months	1	1	0
30 - 36 Months	1	5	1
36 Months +	2	3	5
Total	**13**	**26**	**34**

Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2025	320	157	21	17	327	322
Q1 2026	111	21	6	1	117	58

Social Housing Assessments

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals	No. of Households added to List
2025	120	253	1226	11	345	1049



Q1 2026	38	82	433	5	97	187

Housing Allocations

Period	Total	CBL	Over 65	Disability	Homeless/Homeless Prevention	Refusals
2025	525	169	57	108	117	125
Q1 2026	137	40	22	26	38	52

Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2025	28	€5,809,730	8	1,827,400	11	€2,388,290
Q1 2026	6	€1,177,900	0	0	0	0

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers	Properties Sold
2025	35	2	33	10
Q1 2026	16	3	0	3 (Applications received in 2025 only sold in 2026)

Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	New HAP	HAP Review
2025	1,916	370	405
Q1 2026	518	81	102



Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Stage (iv) Construction	Snagging to be completed on the bridge installation. The bridge is now open for use.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Stage (ii) Planning Preparation	Part 8 process has commenced. The public consultation period ends on 28 April 2026
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€25,621,000	DoT/TII and Carbon Tax Fund	Part 8 Planning Process, DAV & Fure	Sallins Link: Procurement process completed and preferred contractor identified. Contractual agreements will now progress. Ticknevin: Proposed Junction Safety Improvements – Section 38 statutory process has been completed and will come before



					the Clane-Maynooth MD April meeting for noting.
Athy	Ardrew Amenity Lands			Stage (i) Preliminary Design	Tender process was completed and a preferred contractor has been identified.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€23.8m (most recent cost for entire project)		Stage (ii) Planning Preparation	An application for HSF funding has been approved. SPPR will commence the process to progress additional works at the Wonderful Barn.

Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved	Analysis - Masterplan	Masterplan – Draft document is currently under review.
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Stage (iii) Tender Action, Evaluation, Award	An Expression of Interest (EOI) has been submitted to the recent round of EU JTF Funding. The next phase will



					see the construction of the project.
	Clane Library	€3,800,000		Stage (iii) Tender Action, Evaluation, Award	Tender assessment completed and preferred contractor identified. Completion of contractual documents will now take place. A sod turning event with Minister for State, Jerry Buttimer, is scheduled for 14th April.
Kildare-Newbridge	Newbridge Library & County Archives		KCC/ Dept of Housing/ DRCD	Detailed Design	**Liffey Lodge** The Library Staff are now fully open and operational in Liffey Lodge.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Analysis - Masterplan	The Draft is in its final stages with urban design elements to be completed.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Analysis - Masterplan	Draft Masterplan is being finalised.



	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€163,900.00 (RRDF 80% KCC 20%)	Stage (i) Preliminary Design	Tender for consultant designer to prepare feasibility study to commence Q2 2026.
	Riverbank Arts Centre				SPPR will progress the Riverbank Arts Centre centre project through the statutory Part 8 process. The next step will be to carry out a Bat Survey which will inform the Part 8.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC	Analysis - Masterplan	Draft Masterplan completed and being reviewed.
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan - URDFKil006				Traffic and Infrastructure Assessment is being carried out by AECOM. This will then tie in with the Traffic Impact Assessment and surveys previously completed.



	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	T&V Renewal Masterplan Preparation	Final edits are expected to be completed shortly.

Integration

LAIT
Foireann Údaráis Áitiúil um Imeascadh
Local Authority Integration Team

General

Numbers of New Arrivals

Numbers of new arrivals seeking Temporary Protection in Ireland remain low with no indication of a return to pre-Christmas levels. The percentage of new arrivals seeking State accommodation remains around 30%. The numbers in Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's) in Kildare currently stands at 62 (13 April 2026. The Newhall DAC will close on 14 April leaving Punchestown as the only remaining 30-Day DAC in Kildare .

Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

The Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) scheme has been extended to 31 March 2027.

Approval of the Houses of the Oireachtas was required to extend the scheme. The matter was considered by Seanad Éireann and Dáil Éireann on 24 and 25 March 2026 respectively, at which time approval was granted to extend the scheme. The Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration made the above Order extending the scheme on 30 March 2026.

Ryevale House, Leixlip

Ryevale House in Leixlip officially closes as and IPAS accommodation centre in April. All residents accommodated in Ryevale House have now been relocated to other accommodation centres.



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Kildare County Council marked International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 20 March. Staff were invited to wear red as part of the Immigrant Council of Ireland anti-racism campaign, Wear Red Day.



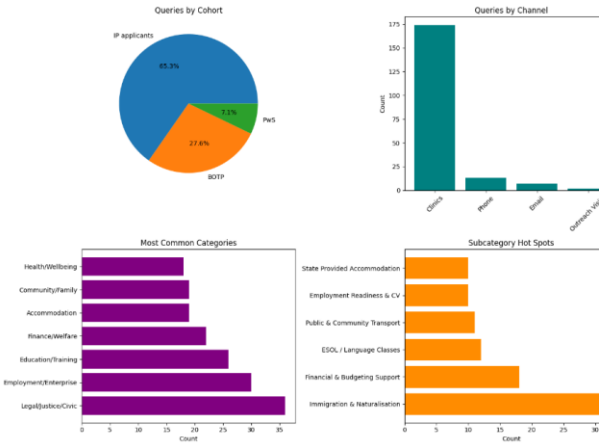
Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) supports persons who have applied for international protection, persons with status, temporary protection, and programme refugees living in county Kildare. The LAIT connect them with local services and helping them to navigate new civic systems to them. The LAIT supports those in State-contracted accommodation through information clinics. From the beginning of the year up to the 13 April 2026 the LAIT delivered:

43 one-to-one information clinics and 13 group clinics around specific topics or addressing common needs in accommodation centres.



Received 207 and resolved 213 queries. Most queries were received from international protection applicants (66%), followed by beneficiaries of temporary protection (26%) and refugees or persons with status (8%). Most queries were received through clinics (87.9%), phone (7.2%), email (3.9%) and visits to accommodation centres (1%). Most common queries categories were Legal/Justice/Civic (particularly immigration queries); Employment and Enterprise; Education and Training (language classes and employment readiness supports in the community); Finance; Accommodation; Community and Family; and Health and Wellbeing.



LAIT activities:

The Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship training delivered in partnership with DotoBa ended on the 11 February 2026 with the graduation of 21 international protection applicants and refugees living in North Kildare, who completed the four week programme.

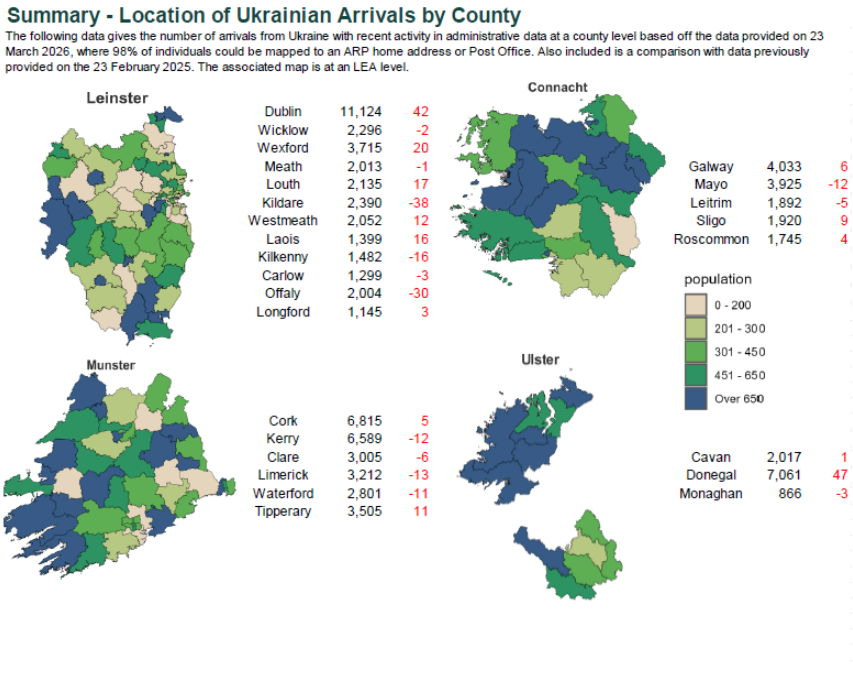
Information sessions on the international protection system and family reunification were organised in partnership with the Irish Refugee Council in the Hazel and De Burgh. Queries raised were related access to legal aid, travel documents, and how to address long waiting periods.

The Move and Groove Dance and Movement Programme delivered in partnership with Kildare Sports Partnership engaged 20 women living in Newbridge who completed the four week programme during February and March 2026.

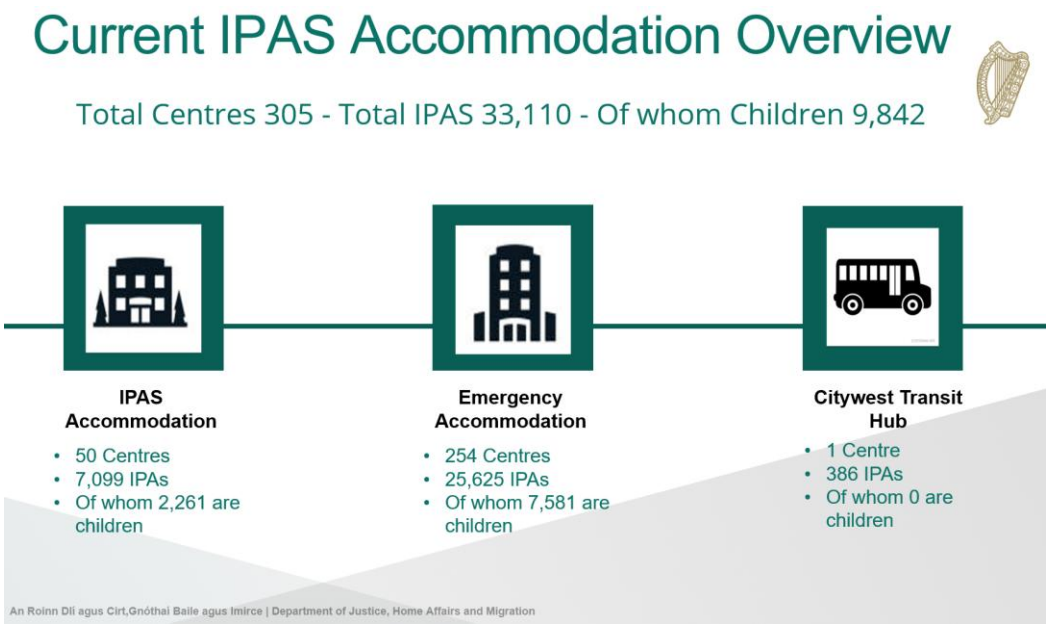
Information session and Q&A organised in partnership with KWETB Adult Guidance in Waterways (24 March), Gables (01 April) and De Burgh (19 April).

According to the Data source Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration (13 April 2026) there are 141 persons with Temporary Protection (Ukraine)115 adults/ 26

children in State-contracted accommodation in County Kildare.



According to the Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration (13 April 2026) there are 442 persons who have applied for international protection, 337 adults/ 105 children in State-contracted accommodation in County Kildare





Kildare Refugee Resettlement Programme

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

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

As of the end of January 2026, Kildare County Council has resettled 50 refugees who have been supported to integrate by a Resettlement Worker and an Intercultural Worker. The remaining families are due to resettle in April 2026. The integration supports have been extended until 16 July 2026. The programme is supported by an Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired by the LAIT Coordinator, and at national level by the LGMA through a Working Group with all the local authorities participating in the IRPP.

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

Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme

The Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The supply of offers for OAH and Pledged accommodation continues to decline. Fortunately, the majority of persons with temporary protection arriving under the new 30-day accommodation protocol have managed to source their own accommodation with very few returning to Citywest to date. Only two people returned to Citywest from Kildare DAC's since the start of 2026.



Offered to date: 108 (59 apartments + 49 houses).

- Occupied: 64
- In Progress: 3
- Withdrawn: 41

The Ukraine Services and accommodation team is currently matching properties in rural locations offered by other Local Authority's. The Minister has extended the ARP payment until March 2027.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

Designated Accommodation Centres were established to accommodate persons with temporary protection arriving in the State after 14 March 2024. The Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team continue to deliver Day-14 clinics on a roughly two week basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation.

Kill has ceased to be a 30-day DAC and will return to a Full Board DAC accommodating persons with temporary protection who arrived before March 2024. Newhall 30-day DAC will close on the 14 April 2026 and will be returned to its original use as farmland. The capacity at the Punchestown DAC has been reduced to 285.

Community Integration Forum

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



The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The migrant integration strategy is much broader and implemented through local community strategies.
The Community Integration Forum (CIF) meets every two months. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 April.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

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



- Online training on climate science, policy and responses to all staff.
- Green Public Procurement
- Nature–based solutions
- Fire services training

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

Permanency of staff business case continues to advance with a specially convened project board convened. The business case is seeking to address the permanency of dedicated resources on climate action within the sector i.e. 17 resources within the CAROs, and three resources within each of the 31 LA (Climate Action Coordinator, Climate Action Officer and Community Climate Action Officer). The proposal as a minimum is seeking to regularise 110 staff positions.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

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



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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

Border (Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim) are working with project manager assistance from SEAI and design team to progress projects.

South-east (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, Waterford City



and County) continue to progress through design stage towards delivery.



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

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



The Climate Action KPI working group continue to work to develop the report for 2025 aiming to publish in August. The report explores a range of data to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. 2024 Report now available at: Climate Action Key Performance Indicators

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



GAA Green Club Programme: The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase three of the Programme sees c.400 clubs working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.
Work is ongoing to renew the MOU between the CCMA and the GAA to continue and strengthen the partnership.



Kildare County Council Climate Action Office

Kildare Climate Action Office
Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

Community Based Projects:

Community Climate Action Program Fund Round 2:

The application process for Round 2 of funding closed on the 22 December with 38 applications submitted. 28 applications were forwarded to the Department for appraisal on 27 February, outcome expected in April. Under Round 1, the 24 projects approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant are completed substantially. Round 1 fund will close in May 2026

Climate Book Club:

The book club is going from strength-to-strength with the program being extended to the main libraries. The final session in Maynooth library will take place in May.

+55 Climate Workshop:

Hosted in Naas Library and facilitated by Jacinta Barrins. Session four on 19 March will capture carbon Footprint and presentation by SEAI Mentor - the sessions will run until May.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

The March SPC was held on 11 March. The program of works for the year was discussed and agreed. Focus is on policy need to support the LACAP and information building to support the SPC members.
The next meeting is scheduled for 13 May.



Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024-2029 Implementation Plan Report:

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

JTF START:

An allocation of €30 million is available for the eight counties within the EU JT Territory. Kildare County Council's Expression of Interest's to be discussed in person with Pobal on the 21 April.

Maynooth DZ:

Climate Champions:

The program for Maynooth has been launched for 2026, we are looking forward to having more persons and groups involved.

Community Garden:

The lease agreement with Maynooth Tidy Towns for a community garden at Harbour Field following the Section 183 approval at Full Council in November 2025 is close to being finalised. Tenders for the second phase of the project are due week commencing 20 April to inform Leader application.

Demo House:

Report submitted on the DemoHouse outlining the various aspects of the project and the outcomes to date.

Energy Updates:

Energy Performance Contract (EPC)

Updated EPC contract has been issued to Lawler Sustainability, preferred contractor. Window Actuators and ventilation are currently being investigated and priced. Pathfinder funding of 50% of the 75% funding has been received.

Energy Audits / Decarbonisation Projects:

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

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



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

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

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

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

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting (M&R):

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

SEAI Pathfinder Strategic Review:

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

Critical Success Factors Audit

Awaiting the results of recent meeting with the SEAI PSM.

District Heating (DH)

Maynooth District Heating feasibility study in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF. Document complete.
DISCO project continues with the next meeting of project partners scheduled for Dublin during April 2026.

EV Charging for Kildare County Council Fleet:

The Energy Team is preparing tender for Kildare County Council Fleet EV charging to assist with decarbonising operations. However, Resources are limited.



Community

Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)



The Kildare LCSP held its first official meeting on Thursday, 12 March 2026. The inaugural meeting brought together representatives from An Garda Síochána, Kildare County Council, Tusla and HSE, alongside representatives from local community, youth and education sectors. Led by the National Office for Community Safety, the Partnership will act as a central forum to identify local safety priorities and oversee the development and implementation of a Community Safety Plan for Kildare. A key aspect of the meeting was the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership. Councillor Angela Feeney was elected Chair and Mario Obijiaku was elected Vice Chair of the Kildare LCSP.

Local Sports Plan

The Kildare Local Sports and Physical Activity Plan 2026-2031 was adopted by Full Council on 30 March. Work is currently underway to arrange translation into Irish, prepare press releases, and organise the production of a limited number of printed copies. A reporting system to capture baseline data and indicators around delivery will also be developed in the coming months.

Kildare Sports Partnership (KSP)

KSP Club Grants Scheme

The 2026 KSP Club Grants Scheme opened for applications on Tuesday, 10 March, with deadline for submissions on Tuesday, 07 April. A limited number of projects/initiatives will be funded with an emphasis on the following areas:

- Coaching and Training Aids
- People with Disabilities
- Training and Education
- Women in Sport

Youthreach Exercise and Educational Fitness Programme – 'Foundations of Fitness'

KSP are working alongside Extern to deliver a Youthreach Exercise and



Educational Fitness programme for youths at risk. This is a six week project being delivered in Prosperous, with eight people taking part in the initiative. The project combines physical activity, with an educational element for participants of what is involved in running fitness facilities.

Kildare Inclusivity Festival 2026

KSP once again are playing a key role in the planning and delivery of the Kildare Inclusivity Festival alongside Kildare County Council, The Curragh Racecourse, and CKAN. The event this year takes place on Sunday, 10 May in the Curragh Racecourse and is projected to be bigger again than last year.

Water Safety Awareness Training

Through March, 855 Children in the county have completed Water Safety Awareness Training through Swim Activator Louise McNamee.

Sensory Swim for Children/Youths with Additional Needs

24 Children/Youths are participating in a six-week Sensory Swim programme in Athy.

Dormant Account Funding Application Submitted to Sport Ireland

KSP have submitted the 2026 Dormant Account Funding Application to Sport Ireland.

Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the LCDC took place on 25 March 2026.
The Kildare Chamber of Commerce representative stepped down as LCDC representative and a replacement is being sought following consultation with the Chamber President.

SICAP Programme:

The SICAP programme is progressing well. The End of Year Plan 2025 and Plan for 2026 are fully approved by Pobal. The LCDC noted that the KPIs are on track:

- KP I 1- working with community groups target 75 – Actual 30 groups/40%
- KPI 2 - working with individuals - target 898 – Actual 230/26%



Empowering Communities Programme Athy:

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

For further information contact: Linda Walsh, Manager, County Kildare LEADER Partnership linda@countykildarelp.ie

Local Enhancement Programme Grants 2026:

An allocation of €244,335 is available from DRCDG for small capital grants for community and voluntary groups. There are 89 applications received. The evaluation committee of the LCDC will meet to assess the applications to recommend grant approval at the additional LCDC meeting scheduled for Monday, 20 April at 11.00 a.m. on TEAMS.

TFI Local Link:

A presentation was made by the Manager of Local Link and the Co-ordinator of their Demand Led Response Service.

LEADER:

Graze Dairy funded under the last LEADER programme was one of two LEADER projects nationally invited to attend an event to celebrate the Rural Development Programme with the EU Commission Director General (DG) for AGRI, Elisabeth Werner, in attendance. The Department of Agriculture led the event.
Two additional projects were approved for LEADER funding:

Kildare Town AFC - were approved for grant aid of €186,252.65 for a 3G Community Multipurpose pitch and astro.
John Doran was approved for grant aid of €11,392.87 to purchase Bovine Scanning Equipment.
The Smart Villages Training project is progressing positively with communities in Northwest Kildare.

The next full meeting of the LCDC is on 27 May.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is progressing across a strong portfolio of collaborative initiatives in Athy. Traveller participation and education were a key focus in March,



as the current Department of Health pilot fund entered Year Two. A Men's Development Worker is now in place to strengthen engagement with Traveller men and families, supporting participation, education, and wellbeing. Ongoing monitoring with the Department of Health and Genio continues to receive positive feedback, particularly in relation to inclusive practice, community engagement, and the strengthening of working relationships between Kildare County Council and Kildare Traveller Action (KTA).

SHCP continues to advance Trauma-Informed practice and learning across the county. A key highlight this month is the first Kildare Trauma-Informed Conference on the 21 April in Kilashee Hotel, now sold out with over 200 participants and part-funded by SHCP.

Healthy Ireland

Emma Meates has commenced the role of Healthy County Co-Ordinator. Reports for 2025 have been submitted to Pobal along with the plan for 2026. The plan for 2026 includes Kildare's first ever Trauma Informed Conference. Continued collaboration with Kildare Traveller Action supporting the Equine Educational Programme and Traveller specific counselling. Healthy Ireland is undertaking a consultation process which will inform the plan over the next few years, this process closes the 22 of April, please see link; https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/consultations/healthy-ireland-framework-public-consultation/

Community Support Centres (CSCs)

A total of nine Emergency Hubs are now designated, with two sites at final stage, pending receipt of documentation to complete the designation process. Three additional designation letters are currently being issued as part of an ongoing programme to extend geographic coverage across the county. In addition, three GAA clubs across the county have accepted the request for designation, and engagement continues with other facilities to further expand coverage. Once all centres are formally designated, the project will progress to the next phase, involving the costing of electrical works required to facilitate generator connection, prior to submission to the Department for



approval. The Community Department met with Kildare Volunteer Centre who will support the resourcing of the Community Support Centre (CSC) network as required, and a new SLA has been signed in that regard.

Community Grants

Community Grants closed on Friday, 13 March 2026 and have been assessed. Community Grants Awards were presented for approval at the Municipal District meetings in April.

Community Centre Investment Fund 2026

The Community Centres Investment Fund (CCIF) 2026 is a €25 million national capital refurbishment programme supporting the upgrade and long-term sustainability of existing community centres. Applications under the scheme are made directly by community and voluntary organisations, not by the Local Authority, with two funding categories available: €10,000–€25,000 (Category 1) and €25,001–€100,000 (Category 2). Match funding of 5% is required for Category 1 projects and 10% for Category 2 projects. The fund supports a range of refurbishment and compliance works, including accessibility improvements, fire safety upgrades, energy efficiency measures, and essential building works. Applications open on 29 May and close on 13 July 2026 via the MyPobal portal.

Community Development

Misinformation/ Dis-information workshop held on the 26 April for the Athy Community. This was an outcome of the Athy Interagency Group who invited Niamh Conaghan from CKLP to facilitate the training for us as part of our last meeting. This also ties in with the continued work and collaboration with the Kildare Integration Network. Presentations were given to all Municipal Districts on the community work programme, with the next to be scheduled for October.

Age Friendly

Older persons Council meeting is took place on 14 April in Rathangan from 10:00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. with guest speakers from Age friendly Healthy homes, Local link and Alone.



Water Services

Rural Water

The Rural Water Programme, through Exchequer funding, delivers improvements to private domestic water and waste water services in areas of rural Ireland where there are no public (Uisce Éireann) water/waste water services. The Rural Water Section administers operational and capital funding and grants under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP), to ensure the delivery of national objectives for drinking water services in rural areas not served by Uisce Éireann.

The Rural Water Section also continues with the compliance monitoring of GWS (Group Water Scheme) and SPS (Small Private Supplies) under the GWS and SPS Monitoring Programme in conjunction with the HSE to ensure that private water supplies meet safe drinking water standards, as required by the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations.

County Rural Water Monitoring Committee

The County Rural Water Monitoring Committee monitors and advises on the implementation of policy regarding the Rural Water Programme. The first biannual County Rural Water Monitoring Committee meeting for 2026 was held on 25 March 2026. The County Rural Water Monitoring Committee is comprised of local authority officials, elected members from each Municipal District and representatives from the private group water scheme sector, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, rural organizations, HSE.

Environment

Water Action Plan 2024 (River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027)

The Water Action Plan is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and outlines the measures the Government and other sectors – local authorities, public sector agencies, public and private sector companies, environmental organisations, farm organisations, etc - are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters.

Draft Local Authority Water Action Work Plans, which are a requirement under the Water Action Plan 2024,



have been produced and feedback and comments have been sent back to the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). Final Local Authority Water Action Work Plans will be county-level, public facing work plans/trackers which will set out the actions taken by a local authority to protect and improve natural water quality.

National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP)

NAIP farm inspections which commenced in January continued and Kildare County Council completed their Q1 2026 NAIP farm inspections by the end of March 2026. Kildare County Council are required to submit details of NAIP farm inspections completed in Q1 2026 before the end of April 2026.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment System National Inspection Plan (DWWTS NIP)

The EPA have scheduled a workshop for the Septic Tank Inspector Network at the end of April 2026 to update progress under the current DWWTS NIP (2022-2026) and to review the DWWTS NIP for the period 2027-2031.

Section 4 Discharge Licences (Water Pollution Act 1977)

The Water Quality Team has collaborated with Kildare County Council IT Section to develop a tablet and web-based application which can be used for Section 4 licence inspections for new and existing licences. This new application will make the associated inspection process, data recording, GIS mapping and reporting more efficient and streamlined. The Water Quality Team would like to acknowledge and thank the IT Section for their assistance with this (Martin Donnelly and Calvin McCoy).

Water Framework Directive

Monitoring and investigation work continues in the water priority areas under the EPA's Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme 2022-2027.

Tidy Towns

Kildare's tidy towns groups performed extremely well in the 2025 National Tidy Towns Competition with 11 towns winning a gold medal and Broadford winning a silver medal. Naas was once again the county winner. While



Johnstownbridge was recognised with an endeavour award.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025

Ireland's Best Kept Town is an all-island competition in which some of the best towns in the national Tidy Towns competition compete against their counterparts in Northern Ireland's Best Kept competition.
Naas won the award in the Best Kept Large Urban Centre category and was also crowned the overall winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town competition.

CCTV

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

Recycling Facilities

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



Pickers Pals

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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

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

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



Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.

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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

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

Columbarium Walls

Columbarium walls have been completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries. Works on provision of columbarium walls at Donaghcumper cemetery in Celbridge and Monasterevin Cemetery are underway with works scheduled for completion in mid-April (weather dependent)

Works are being carried out in Confey Cemetery, Leixlip to provide for additional grave spaces.

Grant funding

Applications for grant funding under the Tidy Towns and Cemetery Maintenance grants closed on 30 March. Approximately only 50% of Tidy Towns groups have applied for funding.

Veterinary Services

A new service provider, Midland Animal Care Ltd., has taken on the operation of the dog warden service on behalf of Kildare County Council from 01 January.

A new social media page to assist with the rehoming page has been set up on Facebook and has been advertised.



The Dog Wardens have been proactive in issuing fines to Dog Owners who do not have a dog licence.

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

Rubbish Film Festival



The awards for the Kildare region of the Rubbish Film Festival took place in the Moat Theatre in Naas on the 23 March. Coláiste Chiaráin from Leixlip took home the “Best Film” award for their film ‘Blinded”. The school will go on and represent Kildare at the national awards. Other winners on the day were:

- Runner-up: Maynooth Post Primary for their film “Nightmare on Your Doorstep”
- Best Poster: Cross and Passion College, Kilcullen
- Impact Film: Coláiste Lorcáin, Castledermot for their film “The Truth Is Plane to See”

Green Schools

There are currently 47 schools engaged with the Green School Programme in the Kildare region. 19 green schools' assessment visits were undertaken by Kildare County Council during the 2025/2026 school year. The Green Schools Flag Awards for all successful schools will take place on the 19 May in the Helix Theatre in Dublin.

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

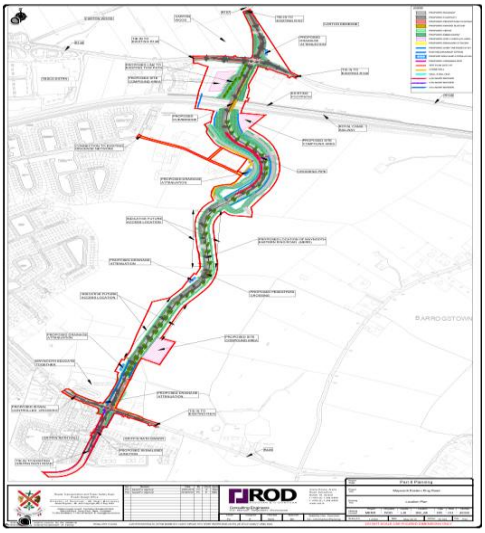
Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR)

The contractor is progressing well now that weather conditions are more favourable.



The following activities will take place over the coming month:

- Topsoil strip.
- Excavate and fill for side roads.
- Drainage works.
- Attenuation tank installation.
- Reinforced concrete noise barriers.
- Track monitoring.
- Piling platform construction.
- Piling works for the bridge.
- Offline diversion works for electricity and foul watermain services.



Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

A decision is due from An Comisiún Pleanála on 11 May 2026 on the planning consent (Case Reference: JP09.323851) and Compulsory Purchase Order (Case Ref: FAO9.232853).

Newbridge Southern Ring Road

An allocation of €200,000 has been received from the Department of Transport to progress this project. Draft tender documents are currently being reviewed by the Department of Transport and will be issued once finalised.

Celbridge Area Based Transport Assessment

Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed to complete this project and a kick off meeting has taken place on the 13 April.

Confey Barnhill Road

The tender period has now been completed and the process to appoint a consultant is nearing completion. A kick off meeting will be arranged once the appointment has taken place.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Road Safety Audit report has been received and the additional work required following the audit has been identified. A briefing has taken place with the local community group and



the works are currently being scheduled.

Junction Programme

The Section 38 for both Allenwood and Blackwell Cross were noted at the April Municipal District meeting. The project team are finalising tender documents and will issue the tender for the works shortly with a view to commencing construction works as soon as possible.

National Roads Office

M4 Eastbound Bus Priority Scheme

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

M9 Park and Share sites:

Works progresses on the M9 Park and Share sites at Junctions 3,4 and 5. Junctions 3 and 4 are in Kildare and the NRO are preparing the feasibility and options report and are currently identifying possible locations where land can be acquired by agreement.

N7 Bus Priority Measure (Feasibility Study)

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

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

The Council has commenced the process for the introduction of special speed limit by laws for built up areas in accordance with the updated mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document, published by the Department of Transport.
A comprehensive public consultation process is expected to occur during Q3 2026.



Park and Stride Initiative



Kildare County Council in partnership and the Parents Council of St. Laurence's National School, Sallins launched Kildare's first Park and Stride initiative on 18 March with parents and pupils meeting in designated locations before walking to school as a group with the aim of reducing traffic congestion at school gates, improve road safety and increase physical activity.

Operations

Department of Transport funding allocations were announced in February. Kildare County Council received a total of €20,014,300 for 2026.

Municipal District engineers have prepared their schedule of works for Restoration Improvement (RI) and Restoration Maintenance (RM) programmes for 2026. The total RI allocation is €11,334,000 and RM is €2,678,500, which is in line with the allocation for 2025.

The Municipal District offices are currently working through the design and tendering of the numerous road resurfacing projects for 2026. The first RI schemes have been completed in the Clane Maynooth Municipal District.

General Maintenance

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 3,300 kilometres of National Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

Public Lighting

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

Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season for 2026 finishes on the 30 April. A review of the season will be carried out in the coming months.



Regional Salt Barn

The Regional Salt Barn is in operation with salt loaded and dispatched to Laois, Carlow, South Dublin and Dublin City.



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

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

Sustainable Transport

Royal Canal Greenway Scheme

2026 Allocation: €600,000

Permanent works on Louisa Bridge at Railway Station to be completed in 2026. Final Account agreed with contractor.

Green Lane, Leixlip Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €870,000

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

Naas to Sallins Greenway (Section 2 Naas Harbour – Sallins Village)

2026 Allocation: €50,000

Meeting to be held with Waterways Ireland to discuss the scope of works and requirements between Osberstown Bridge and Sallins Village.

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €100,000

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

Celbridge Road, Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,000,000

The intention is to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q2



2026. A further briefing session with elected members will be organised in advance of the public consultation process. A number of internal stakeholder engagement events are taking place in April.

Kilcullen Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €800,000
The designers of the scheme are being appointed to examine the independent post opening safety review of the scheme and a briefing with elected members is planned following this initial review.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

2026 Allocation: €50,000
Land transfer discussions to continue for land required to build the bridge.

Monread Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €25,000
Approaches to Sallins Road Roundabout to be examined to prepare an alternative to the zebra crossing across the two-lane width approaches.

Dublin Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,000,000
Construction documents are being prepared and a tender process will then commence once all design issues are finalized.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €50,000
Preparations to commence a Part 8 Public Consultation process in Q1 2026 are underway and a briefing was held with elected members on this project. Engagement with the NTA ongoing.

Newbridge Main Street

2026 Allocation: €200,000
Site meeting held elected members on this project potential options drawing is being progress ahead of discussions with the National Transport Authority.

SRTS Round 2 - Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's, Newbridge

2026 Allocation: €150,000
Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.



SRTS Round 2 - Scoil Bhríde/Scoil Phádraig, Clane

2026 Allocation: €150,000

Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.

Mill Street, Maynooth Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €1,700,000

Substantial completion certificate issue and the contractor is completing snags in the twelve month defects period. Final Account being discussed with contractor.

SRTS (R3) - Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous

2026 Allocation: €350,000

Scheme due to be implemented in Summer 2026.

Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €525,000

Appointment of consultants to proceed with the detailed design of the scheme has been completed.

Dublin Road Connector Active Travel Scheme

2026 Allocation: €525,000

Site meetings to be held to agree the scope of works. Appointment of consultants to proceed with the design of the scheme will follow.

SRTS (R4) Ardscoil Rath Iomghain, Rathangan

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Maynooth Educate Together NS

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Scoil Eoin Phoil, Green Lane, Leixlip

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

SRTS (R4) Scoil Íde Naofa, Kilmead, Athy

2026 Allocation: €20,000

SRTS Delivery Plan to be completed by An Tasice Green Schools.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

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



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

Open Spaces

Newbridge Linear Park

Fencing has been completed along the riverbank between The Gables and The Strand.

St Catherine's Park, Leixlip

Work is due to commence on the sensory garden in the park in the next month. Work is expected to take four months to complete.

Carton Avenue, Maynooth

Work is continuing on the preparation on a tender to engage consultants to prepare a conservation and masterplan for the site.

Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

Variations currently underway;

- Variation No. 3 – Revisions to the National Planning Framework
  The Chief Executive Report for proposed Variation No. 3 (Revised NPF) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) issued to the Elected Members with a Special Could Meeting scheduled for 27April 2026.
- Variation No. 4 – Landscape Character Assessment
  The Chief Executive Report for proposed Variation No. 4 (LCA) of the Kildare County Development Plan (as varied) was issued to the Elected Members on with a Special Could Meeting scheduled for 27 April 2026.
- Variation No. 6 – Sallins Settlement Plan



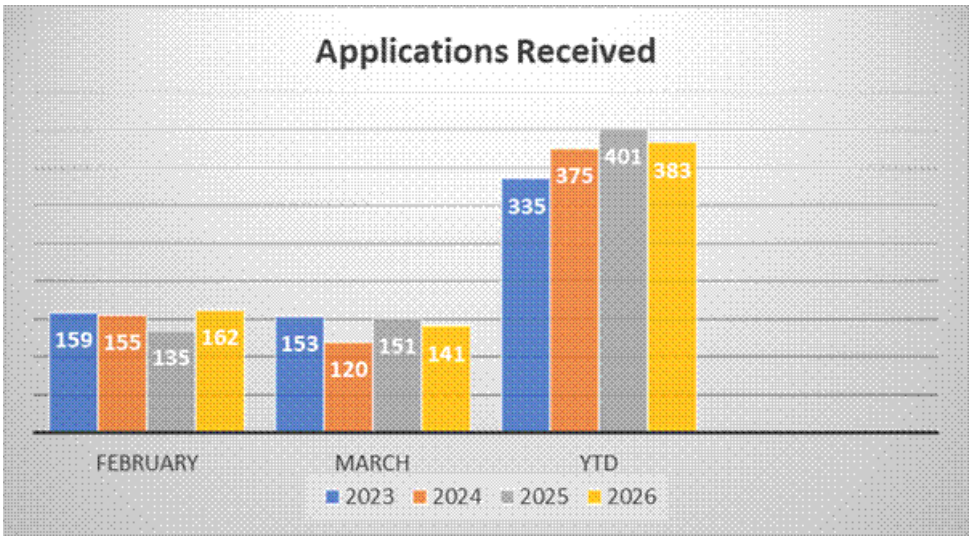
Preparation of Draft Variation and supporting documents complete and due for publication 22 April 2026

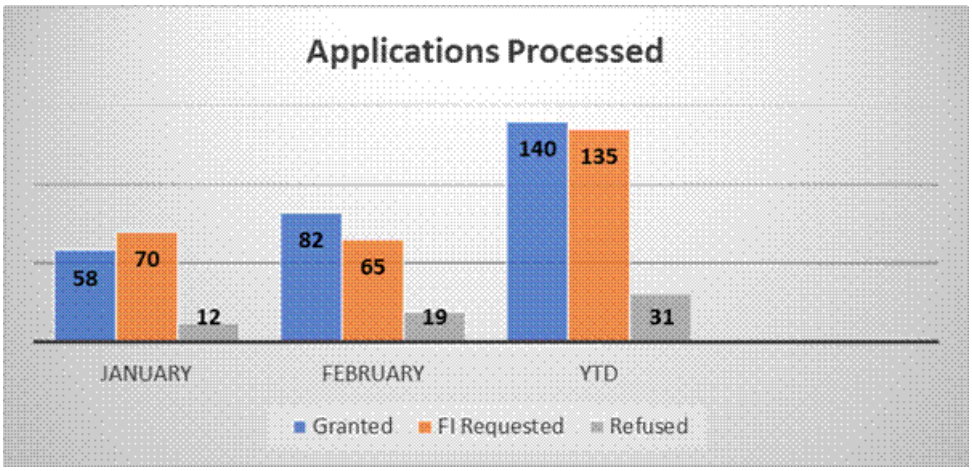
- Variation No. 7 – Monasterevin Settlement Plan
  Preparation of Draft Variation and supporting documents underway and due for publication Q2 2026
- Variation No. 8 – Kilcock Settlement Plan
  Preparation of Draft Variation and supporting documents underway and due for publication Q3 2026
- Variation No. 9 – Celbridge Settlement Plan
  Preparation of Draft Variation and supporting documents underway and due for publication Q4 2026

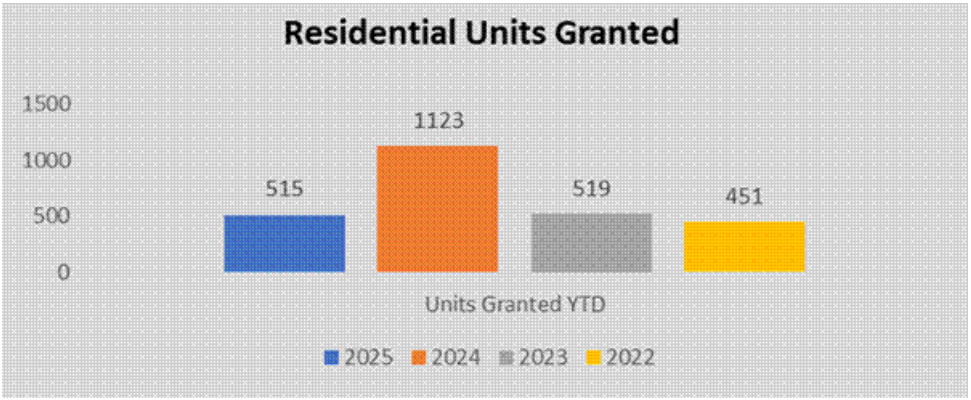
Development Management

ePlanning

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







Pre-Planning

25 new Pre-Planning requests were submitted in March, 64 applications received year to date.

Section 5s

10 new Section 5 Declarations requests received in March, 24 applications received year to date.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications					
Ref No.	**Date Received**	**Applicant**	**Development Address**	**Proposed**	**Decision**
2561119	02/10/2025	Cozone Ventures Ltd	Railpark, Maynooth	581 Residential Units &	Decision due 07/05/2026



				Neighbourhood Centre	
2561468	19/12/2025	Maynooth Montane Ltd	Railpark West, Maynooth	139 Residential Units & Creche	FI Requested 19/02/2026

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála (SHD)

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

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

Strategic Infrastructure Development Applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála (SID)

Uisce Éireann Water Supply Project

Eastern and Midlands Region. Special Council meeting held on 25 March. Chief Executive Report sent to An Coimisiún Pleanála 27 March.

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Nine wind turbines, onsite 110kV substation, turbine delivery route and a grid connection route in townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea (Monasterevin) in Co. Kildare. Special Council meeting on 14 April. CE Report due with An Coimisiún Pleanála by 16th April.

Heritage and Nature

A. Biodiversity / Ecology

- Ballynafagh SAC Baseline Ecological and Hydrological Surveys – Tender assessment to be arranged.
- An Ecological Capacity Building Programme for Planning and wider Kildare County Council underway for the Planning Department and wider Kildare County Council, beginning April 2026.



B. Heritage and Conservation

- Historic Structures Fund – Applications approved for The Wonderful Barn, St. David's Church Tower Naas, Healy's Old Post Office Prosperous.

Kildare Land Activation Office (KLAO)

Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund (HIF) - Call 1

All applications are currently being assessed for eligibility, and all eligible applications will be assessed based on the criteria set out in the Scheme Outline. Correspondence will issue to all successful and unsuccessful applicants when this process has been completed (estimated April / May 2026).

The land activation team continues to meet with all stakeholders, including developers, utilities, state/semi state bodies agencies with the aim of coordinating programmes of work, so that any blockages can be addressed and eliminated going forward.

Masterplans:

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

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

KLAO Steering Committee:

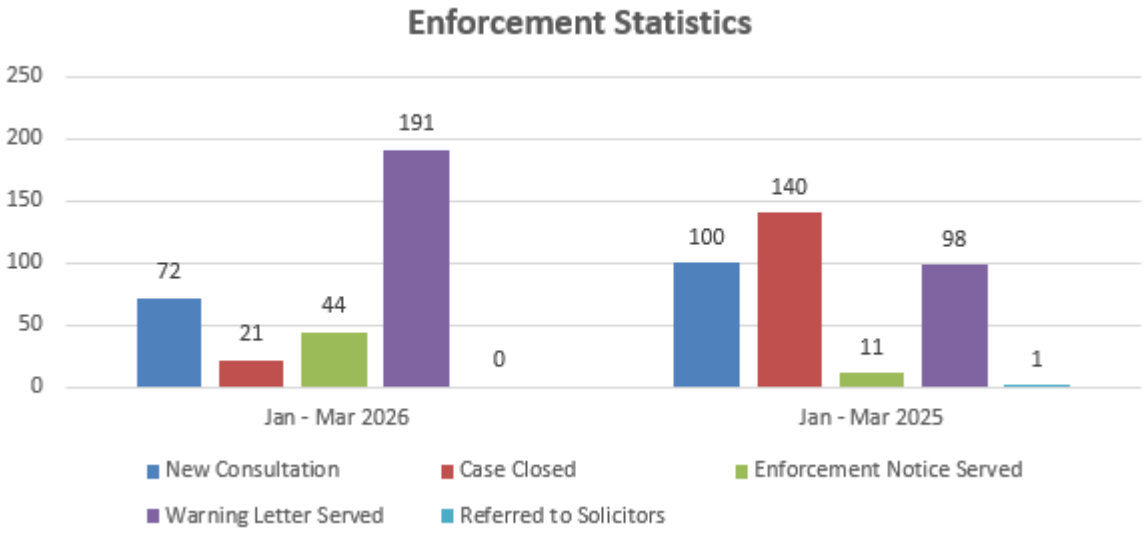
The second KLAO steering committee meeting met on Thursday, 26 March 2026. The KLAO unit is to expressly concentrate on activating large urban expansion areas, and their work will also be determined by the result of the HIIF application process. The Steering Committee is to meet again in circa 8 weeks' time to discuss the units' work programme and the outcome of the HIIF application process.



Planning Enforcement

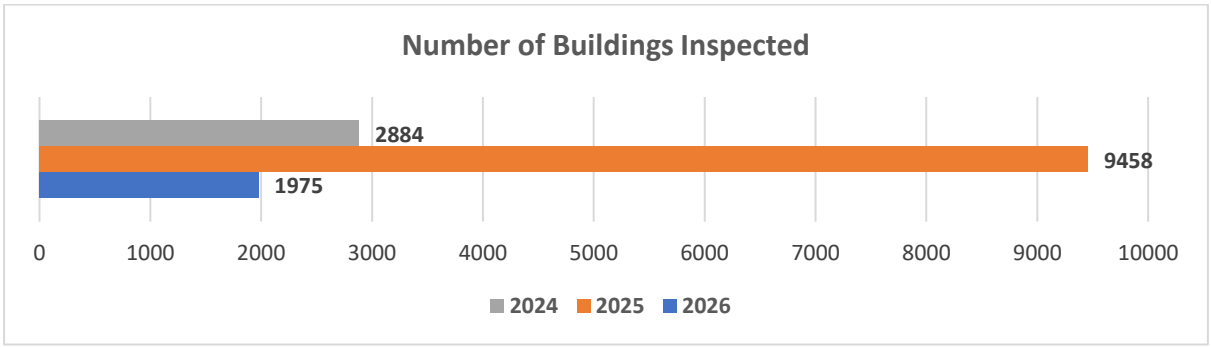
Summary for March 2026

33	New Consultations
5	Cases Closed
25	Enforcement Notices Served
65	Warning Letters Served
0	Cases referred to Solicitors

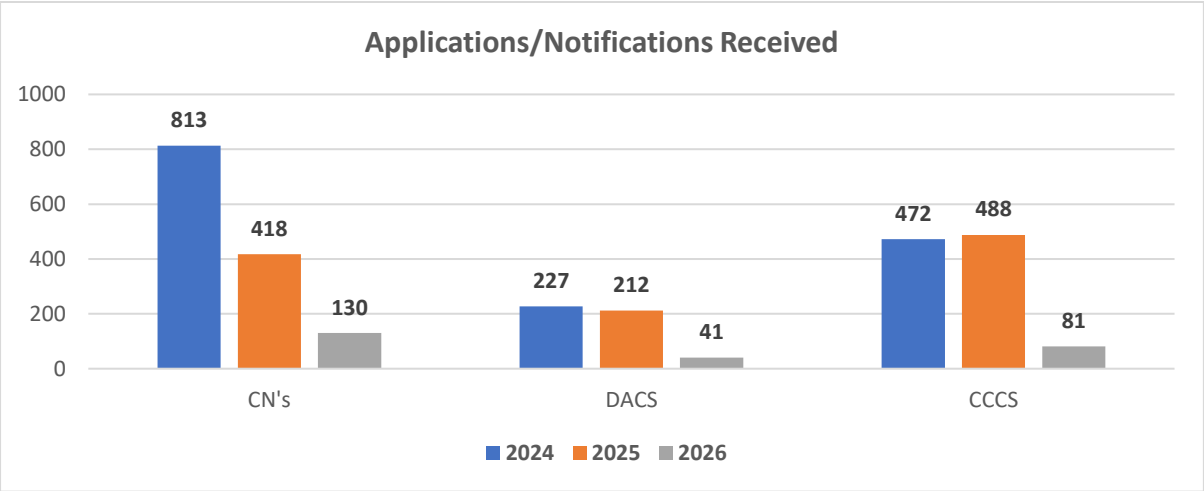


Building and Development Control

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







Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

In March, the tourism and hospitality sector prepared for the return of Spring which included a long weekend of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, special Mother's Day treats, events and activities along with enticing Spring breaks.

Kildare Fáilte collaborated with community organisations and its members to promote these events and activities across the County. A suite of enticing itineraries were curated to encourage visitors to spend the long weekend in Kildare. These were strategically promoted across various Into Kildare social channels and our website generating high interest in the events taking place.



Into Kildare progressed the development of Taste of Kildare 2026, including sponsorship meetings and securing confirmed sponsorship from a number of previous partners. The first steering group meeting was also successfully conducted at the Killashee Hotel, establishing a clear framework for delivery and stakeholder collaboration.



Into Kildare attended a Familiarisation Open Day at voco The Club, engaging with members of the Kildare tourism network and international tour operators. This included Royal Irish Tours, with whom previous meetings were held in Canada, allowing for continued discussions on developing and expanding tour offerings within County Kildare



Into Kildare participated in the Moulden Marketing St. Patrick's Day event in London, engaging with 34 key MICE (Meeting Incentive Conference and Events) planners to showcase County Kildare as a leading destination for business. Subsequent discussions were held with the Dublin Convention Bureau regarding the potential organisation of a Familiarisation (FAM) trip in September for UK MICE buyers. Planning and coordination for this initiative will progress in the coming months.



Into Kildare hosted platinum members at a lunch in Fairmont, Carton House, where plans for upcoming US Sales Mission were presented and discussed, outlining plans. A separate meeting was also conducted with Kildare Village to explore potential partnership opportunities in the US market, including alignment with Bicester Village.





Into Kildare attended Fáilte Ireland Meitheal to support industry trade engagement and connect with buyers from key international markets. Meetings were held with CIE Tours and Tourism Ireland representatives from the American market to discuss plans for collaboration in advance of the planned US FAM in October.



Into Kildare attended a site visit to the Church of the Oak Distillery in Monasterevin, which is scheduled to open next year and is set to become a significant attraction for the county. The visit provided an opportunity to explore potential collaboration initiatives in advance of its opening.



Enterprise and Economic Development

2026 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 09.04.2026	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Grow Digital Voucher	9	€20,607
Business Expansion Grant	0	€0
Priming Grant	0	€0
Feasibility Study Grant	0	€0
Market Explorer Grant	3	€13,113



Gradstart	0	€0
IP Start Grant	1	€2,160
Energy Efficiency Grant	5	€40,593
TOTAL	**18**	**€76,473**

Entrepreneurship Support

Focus On Start-Ups

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office in partnership with RACE academy and Equip Horse Racing Ireland with will deliver a Start Your Own Business course suitable for anyone developing a small equine-related business. This course will be delivered over a six week period (hybrid model) commencing on 06 May. For further details and information on how to apply please visit https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/news/apply-now-equine-start-your-own-business-course.html

Focus on Competitiveness

There are multiple supports available to businesses aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness:

Green for Business – to support businesses on their sustainability journey. https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Financial-Supports/Green-for-Business/

Lean for Business – to support businesses in becoming more efficient. https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/financial-supports/lean%20for%20business/

Digital for Business – to support businesses on digital transformation projects. https://www.localenterprise.ie/portal/digital/the-digital-for-business-support.html

Supports to Clients as of 09.04.2026	**Target**	**Applications Approved**
Lean for Business	18	14
Green for Business	32	11
Digital for Business	32	23

Focus On Tech

Local Enterprise Office Kildare continues to strengthen Kildare's technology ecosystem through a



programme of targeted events and supports.

On 26 March, the Tech Cluster event “Interns and Innovation Vouchers in Action” successfully connected 17 startups, higher education institutions and students to build links between Ireland's public knowledge providers (i.e. higher education institutes, public research bodies) and small businesses on Enterprise Ireland’s Innovation Vouchers that are available to assist a company or companies to explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider.

This was followed by an InterTrade Ireland briefing on 27 March, which showcased the Seedcorn Investor Readiness Competition, outlining an €800,000 funding opportunity for early-stage ventures across B2B, B2C and DeepTech sectors with eight Kildare Businesses in attendance.

Building on this momentum, the ten week Tech Pre-Accelerator Spring Programme will commence on 09 April, providing structured support to help early-stage tech companies develop scalable, innovation-driven business models.

Focus On Craft

The Product Photography for Makers workshop took place on 09 April.

The workshop supported participants to improve the quality of their product photography using accessible, low-cost techniques, strengthening brand presentation, enhancing online visibility, and supporting increased sales potential without the need for expensive equipment.

Over 20 Kildare businesses who operate in the food and craft sector will exhibit at the upcoming Kildare Inclusivity Festival which will take place on Sunday, 10 May 2026 from 11:00 – 18:00 in the Curragh racecourse.

Focus On Food

Kildare County Council, through the Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub and LEO Kildare, is supporting the Regional Food and Drink Producer Showcase 2026, a major trade-only event taking place on 30 April in Emerald Park, Co. Meath. Delivered in partnership with Boyne Valley Flavours and the Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan, the showcase brings together commercially ready food and drink



producers from six counties on a single regional platform.
Kildare's participation ensures strong visibility for local producers and reinforces the county's reputation for quality and innovation, while enabling direct engagement with retail buyers, chefs and distributors and supporting new routes-to-market, enterprise growth and regional collaboration.

Economic Development

Retail Supports

Supporting local retailers is a core responsibility of the Economic Development team supporting local economies, employment and regeneration.
On the 20 March a new Retail Window Merchandising Scheme to support local retailers, enhance town-centre presentation and align with major festival activity across the county was launched. The scheme provides access to professional visual merchandising workshops, tailored one-to-one design mentoring and grant support of up to €1,000 to deliver sustainable, high-impact window displays, with vacant units and pop-up shops also eligible. The programme supports retailers across the county and is complemented by free specialist training across visual merchandising, sustainability and data- driven store layout management.

Grant Breakdown

The provision of grant aid and promotional activity to drive business into our towns and villages across the Shopfront, Retail Window and Age-Friendly grants is represented as follows:

MD	Nr. Approved	€ Value Approved
ATHY	0	€0
CBLX	2	€4,800
CLMN	2	€4,735
KDNB	1	€1,000
NAAS	3	€5,792.50
	8	**€16,327.50**

The team is continuing to work through a strong pipeline of applications to support business owners.
Businesses with retail premises can make applications to these grant schemes by contacting the Economic Development Team at shopfrontgrant@kildarecoco.ie.





Tourism

Two targeted digital capability workshops will be delivered to tourism businesses in May, focused on strengthening online visibility and improving operational efficiency.

The Social Media for Tourism Businesses workshop will equip participants with practical tools to create engaging, high-impact content across key platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, helping them attract visitors and drive bookings through stronger digital storytelling and structured content planning.

https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/social-media-for-tourism-businesses-content-visibility-and-bookings.html

Complementing this, the AI Tools for Tourism Businesses – Work Smarter workshop will introduce tourism operators to accessible AI tools that support marketing, content creation and customer communication, enabling businesses to save time, improve productivity and adopt responsible AI practices in line with emerging regulations.

https://www.localenterprise.ie/kildare/training-events/online-bookings/ai-tools-for-tourism-businesses-work-smarter.html

Together, these programmes support tourism enterprises to compete more effectively in an increasingly digital-first visitor economy.

European Funded Project Repower Regions (Erasmus+)



Kildare County Council, as Lead Partner, is working with eleven European organisations on the Erasmus+ Repower Regions project, supporting regional cooperation and



green-skills development in the heating and cooling sector.

The most recent Transnational Partner Meeting took place in Stavanger, Norway (26–27 March 2026), hosted and co-ordinated by Fagskolen Rogaland, and focused on reviewing progress, managing delivery risk, and aligning future activity with regional and industry needs.

Key Achievements

- Regional skills landscape analysis substantially completed, providing a strong evidence base to support SME engagement, workforce planning, and targeted training investment.
- Skills curricula development progressing, with core vocational training completed and additional levels advancing through quality assurance.

Strategic Alignment

This work aligns with the Council's economic development and climate action objectives by focusing on the skills, partnerships, and governance structures required to support the transition to low-carbon heating and cooling at regional level.

- Partners reaffirmed the project's role in supporting future business growth in retrofit, renewable heating, and energy-efficient technologies through targeted skills development.
- Agreement was reached on progressing regional industry alliances, linking employers, training providers, and public bodies to better align EU-funded training with identified labour-market needs.

Food, Drink and Agri Innovation Hub, Athy



Kildare Local Enterprise Office supported the Irish Food Trade Connect (IFTC) Forum on 26 March



2026, securing ten exhibitor stands for Kildare-based food and drink producers. The forum provided participating businesses with direct access to national buyers, facilitated potential listing discussions, and enabled valuable networking opportunities to support business growth and route-to-market development.

Kildare LEO's support of the IFTC Forum contributed to strengthening the county's food and drink sector, assisting producers in expanding into retail and foodservice markets, and enhancing Kildare's profile as a leading food-producing region. Participation in the IFTC Forum delivered strong value for Kildare, supporting producer growth while aligning with the Council's broader economic development objectives.

Circular Economy Hub - Athy

An Expression of Interest has been submitted for Phase 2 and 3 of the Circular Economy Hub under the Smart Pobal Fund.

Internal Demolition and Removals Contract completed. Structural Construction Tender awarded and works have commenced. Fit out and finishes suite of tender documents reviewed and published. Closing date for tender submissions is the end of April. The site is fully secure with 24-hour security surveillance with all prohibited access points removed.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub - Monasterevin

Demolition and internal alterations nearing completion at 95%. New build substructure has commenced. Installations of reinforcement and pouring of ground floor foundations commenced. Pouring of lift base and reinstatement of floor areas to commence third week of April. All structural steel installation commencing third week of April with removal of all shoring. All submittals on schedule. Expressions of Interest have been received from potential workshop facilitators, and a programme of skills-based workshops will be developed.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive