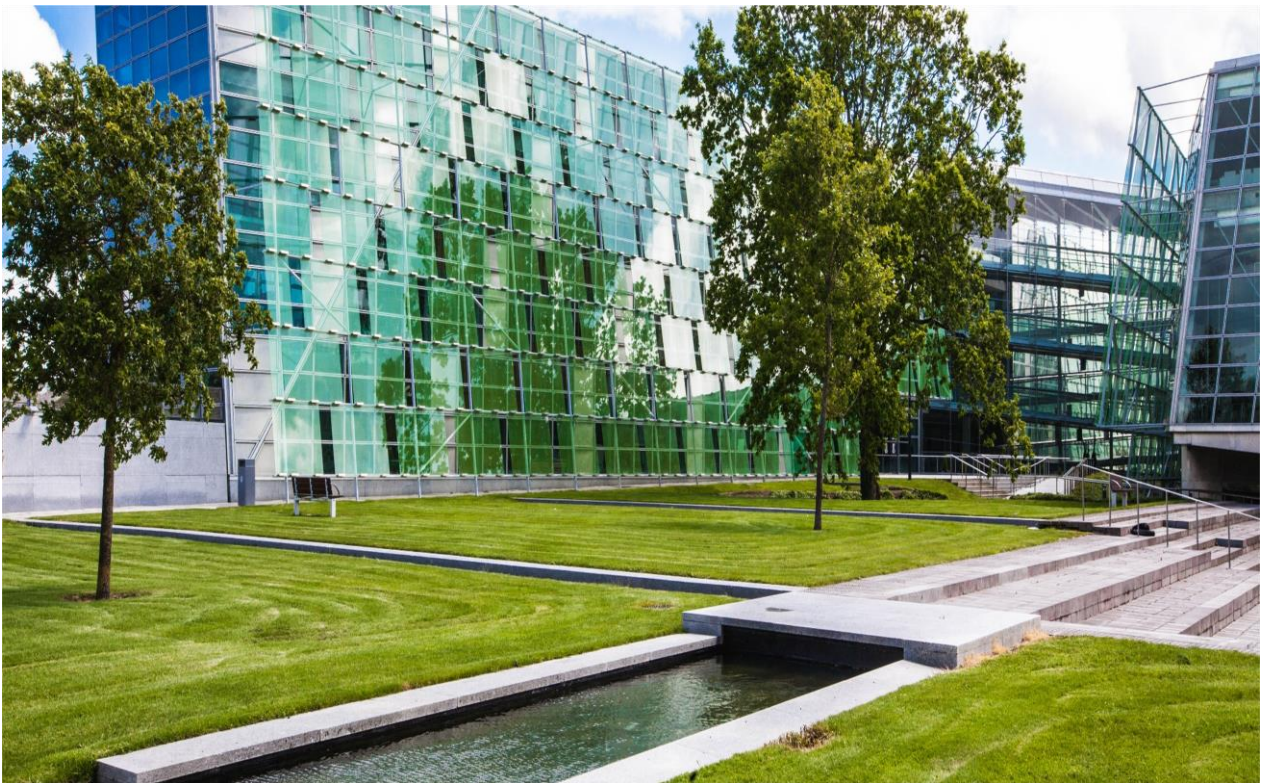




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## Kildare County Council

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





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## News Items

### **Naas regains title of Ireland's Cleanest Town**

Kildare County Council is delighted to welcome the announcement, that Naas has topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2024 survey (see page 11).

### **Kildare County Council appoints new Cathaoirleach**

Elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Kevin Duffy as Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare at a special meeting of the County Council which took place at Áras Chill Dara on 19 December 2024 (see page 12).

### **Kildare Library Service – 2024 Wrapped**

Kildare Library Service held 7,617 events which were attended by 122,226 library members (see pages 14/15).

### **Increased Cost of Business Grant/Power Up Grant**

The total amount paid to small and medium businesses in Kildare by way of ICOB and Power Up Grants in 2024 by Kildare County Council on behalf of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment in 2024 is €16.97million (see page 18).

### **Housing Grants Schemes**

In September 2024 the Government published the Report on the Review of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme. Following on from this review the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage introduced significant revisions to the operation of the schemes. The changes are effective from the 01 December 2024 (see page 20).



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## **Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders:**

This is the first report based on the 2024-2029 CAP. It will be made available at the January Full Council meeting (see page 57).

### **Veterinary Services**

Transfer of services undertaken by Local Authorities under its SLA with FSAI including official controls of Local Authority slaughter plants is transferring to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (see page 62).

### **Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029:**

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect in January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward (see pages 74/75).

### **SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme**

County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare. The SICAP annual review 2024 is due for submission on Friday 17 January (see page 66)

### **Into Kildare**

Aine Mangan, Into Kildare Chief Executive, represented County Kildare on Tourism Ireland's Australia and New Zealand and Middle East 2024 sales mission in association with Tourism Ireland. The sales mission covered Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland and Dubai and Abu Dhabi (see page 81).

### **Dare To Lead**

Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office celebrated its tenth anniversary with a milestone event titled Dare to Lead, held at The Osprey Hotel in Naas. The event brought together entrepreneurs from across Kildare, alongside key stakeholders. Since 2017, LEO Kildare has supported the creation of 2,107 new jobs (see page 84).



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## Diary/Calendar

### **Brigid 2025 Festival Announces Star-Studded Line-Up**

The Brigid 2025, Spirit of Kildare Festival has announced an extraordinary line-up for its highly-anticipated programme, featuring some of Ireland's most celebrated artists, performers and celebrities – with events taking place in towns and villages across Kildare from 24 January to 03 February 2025 (see page 9).

### **2025 Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards**

Kildare County Council is excited to announce a range of funding opportunities for Artists and Creatives in 2025. The Closing date for receipt of applications for the Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary Award is 12.00p.m., Friday 24 January 2025. All other awards have a closing date of 12.00p.m., Friday, 28 February 2025 (see page 11).

### **Seanad General Elections 2025**

Councillors of Kildare County Council can make an appointment to vote in the Seanad General Election 2025 through our online booking system. The poll closes at 11.00am Thursday 30 January 2025 (see page 12).

### **Traveller Accommodation**

The National Caravan Loan Scheme is continuing this year. The scheme offers preferential, discounted loans, for Traveller families to purchase a caravan / mobile for use as their primary residence. An update will be provided to the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee at their next meeting on 11 February (see page 22).

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

Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 05 February 2025 (see page 51).



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## **2025 Community Grants Schemes**

Applications for funding under Community Grants, Festival Grants, Local Authority Residential Grants and Private Residents Association Grants Schemes will open on Monday 20 January 2025 and will close on Friday 14 March 2025 (see page 52).

## **GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:**

Phase three is now open to any club to work their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel. Phase three open to accept new clubs until 25 January 2025 (see pages 55/56).

## **Kerdiffstown Park project**

Works are progressing for the Official Opening of the Park on 31 January 2025 (see page 64).

## **Legislation XL Bully Type dogs**

From October 01, 2024, new regulations prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs, and from 01 February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a Certificate of Exemption (see page 65).

## **Speed Limit Review**

Public consultation process completed for the Supplementary Special Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads with no supplementary special speed limits. The implementation date of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph has been confirmed as 07 February 2025 (see page 68).

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

Planning Report and Chief Executive Report will be presented to the Elected Members at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Meeting in February 2025 for decision (see page 86).



## February Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Feb	4	5	6 10:00 Community and Culture SPC (1... 11:30 County Twinning Committee 1... 15:00 Transport SPC 3PM	7 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
10	11 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	12 10:00 LCDC 10AM 14:30 Environment SPC 2:30PM	13 14:30 Housing SPC 2:30PM	14
17 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	18	19 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:30 Coiste Gaeilge 3:30pm	20	21 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
24 11:30 Briefing on the Section 15 CDP progress report ; Council Chamber; ... 15:00 Full Council; Microsoft Teams Meeting; Council Chamber; Member...	25	26	27	28
3	4	5	6	7 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar



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## Corporate, People and Cultural Services

### Corporate Services

#### Communications

#### New Natural Play Area opened in Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge by Kildare County Council



Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the opening of a brand new, natural play area in Liffey Linear Park, Newbridge. The play area is designed to provide a fun and stimulating environment for children of all ages and abilities, while promoting interaction with nature.

The Natural Play Area boasts a variety of exciting features designed to encourage imaginative and active play in a natural setting, including:

- Stone boulders for climbing and informal seating
- A sand play area with a fixed table for digging and building

- A mound with a tunnel for climbing and exploring
- Climbing logs and structures for testing strength and agility
- Stepping posts for developing balance and coordination
- A contoured, grassed mound for running and playing

#### On your doorstep: Ensuring you have the services and facilities you need close to your home



Kildare County Council is incredibly ambitious to ensure that its towns and villages provide the facilities and services that you need on your doorstep. This is rooted in national policy and international best practice and, allowing people to access what they need on your doorstep, will help us to walk and cycle more, drive less, tackle climate change, improve our quality of life and foster friendlier neighbourhoods.





## Brigid 2025 Festival Announces Star-Studded Line-Up



The Brigid 2025, Spirit of Kildare Festival has announced an extraordinary line-up for its highly-anticipated programme, featuring some of Ireland's most celebrated artists, performers and celebrities – with events taking place in towns and villages across Kildare from 24 January to 03 February 2025. Proudly delivered by Kildare County Council, leading the festival's women-focused musical line-up are Imelda May, Lyra, Sharon Shannon, Una Healy, Róisín O, Mary Coughlan, Orla Gartland, Lisa O'Neill, Camille O'Sullivan, Lemoncello, Megan O'Neill, Irish Women In Harmony, Hamsandwich, Cathy Jordan, Eimear Quinn, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Muireann Bradley, Rachael Lavelle and Laura Whitmore.

## Publication of the Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan



Kildare County Council, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, is very pleased to announce the publication of the Curragh Plains Conservation Management Plan and Curragh Plains Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy. The completion of both documents will provide a path on the future of the Curragh Plains, home to almost 5000 acres of open grassland of local, regional and national importance.

## Kildare County Council Hosts Dare to Lead: Inspiring Entrepreneurs with Visionary Leadership Insights

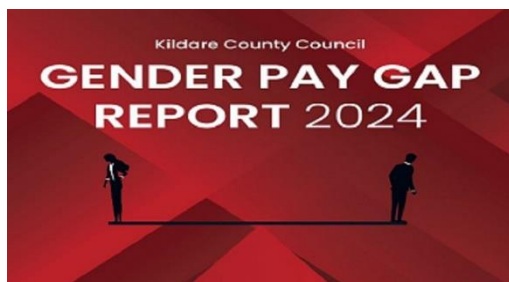


On 10 December, 2024, Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise



Office (LEO) celebrated its tenth anniversary with a milestone event titled Dare to Lead, held at The Osprey Hotel in Naas. The event brought together entrepreneurs from across Kildare, alongside key stakeholders, to reflect on the past decade of entrepreneurship in the region, share visionary leadership insights, and foster new connections.

### **Kildare County Council publishes 2024 Gender Pay Gap Report**



Kildare County Council has today published its Gender Pay Gap Report, highlighting the percentage difference between what men and women are paid on average in the organisation, irrespective of roles or levels.

The 2024 report shows a Gender Pay Gap of -3.87% mean and -12.45% median.

### **Kildare County Council Allotment and Community Garden Strategy 2024 – 2030**



Kildare County Council is excited to publish its first Allotment and Community Garden Strategy – which aims to develop a pilot programme of allotment and community garden projects to be delivered across the county over the next six years.

The popularity and rise of allotments and food growing as a land use and leisure pastime was recognised by the inclusion of an objective in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029. The case for allotments and community gardens received strong support through a public interest survey which garnered c.1350 responses, with people and communities right across County Kildare requesting allotments and community gardens. This illustrates a huge demand across the county that



far exceeds existing provision. County Kildare currently has one allotment at Wonderful Barn, Leixlip.

### **Naas regains title of Ireland's Cleanest Town**



Kildare County Council is delighted to welcome the announcement, that Naas has topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2024 survey.

This is the third time in four years that Naas has finished atop the rankings.

### **Kildare County Council Unveils 2025 Creative and Arts Grants and Bursary Awards**

Kildare County Council is excited to announce a range of funding opportunities for Artists and Creatives in 2025. With 17 distinct grants, commissions and bursary awards available, we aim to foster creativity and support artistic projects across the

county. The Closing date for receipt of applications for the Drama League of Ireland Summer School Bursary Award is 12.00p.m., Friday 24 January 2025. All other awards have a closing date of 12.00p.m., Friday, 28 February, 2025. Detailed eligibility criteria are available through each individual call out.

### **Executive Suite**

#### **Retained LPT**

Municipal District Co-Ordinators are liaising with Members and Municipal District managers throughout the month re allocation of retained LPT for 2025.

### **St. Patrick's Day New York**

Schedule of appointments being arranged for the Cathaoirleach and Deputy Chief Executive during their visit to New York on the invitation of the Kildare Association of New York. Appointments will include the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Consulate.



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## Members Services

### Kildare County Council appoints new Cathaoirleach



Elected members of Kildare County Council appointed Councillor Kevin Duffy as Cathaoirleach of the County of Kildare at a special meeting of the County Council which took place at Áras Chill Dara on 19 December 2024. Councillor Duffy was presented with the chain of office at yesterday's meeting and succeeds outgoing Cathaoirleach Joe Neville who was elected to Dáil Éireann at the recent General Election.

### Seanad General Elections 2025

Councillors of Kildare County Council can make an appointment to vote in the Seanad General Election 2025 through our online booking system. The poll closes at 11.00am Thursday 30 January 2025.

## New Councillors

Councillors Donna Phelan, Noel Connolly, Paul Brooks and Paula Mulroe, were Co-opted as members of Kildare County Council at a special meeting of Kildare County Council on the 19 December 2025.

## Annual Ethics Declaration

The Ethics Registrar will issue notice to all Councillors and Relevant Employees via email regarding their obligation under the Local Government Act 2001 to submit an annual declaration containing particulars of their declarable interests through a new App.

The new App includes Code of Conduct for Councillors and blank 2025 declaration form.

The annual declaration form includes a declaration that Councillors have read the Code of Conduct for Councillors and that they understand its meaning, and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the Code of Conduct for Councillors in the exercise of their functions.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be furnished to the Ethics Registrar by 28 February 2025.



### Political Donation Statements 2024

Under Local Elections (Disclosure of Donation and Expenditure) Act 1999 elected members are required to submit statements of any Political Donations received in the previous calendar year. Political Donation Statements for 2024 were issued to Elected members for completion.

The legislation requires that completed forms must be returned by the 31 January 2025.

### Freedom of Information, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2024	Total received Quarter 2, 2024	Total received Quarter 3, 2024	Total received Quarter 4 2024	Total 2024
Freedom of Information Requests	41	33	32	24	130
Freedom of information appeals	0	1	2	2	5
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	4	6	6	5	21
Ombudsman	5	6	12	4	27



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## Library and Arts Service

### News and Highlights

**“A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.” Shelby Foote**

### Family Time At Your Library

Family events and activities took place in all libraries during the month of December to support the involvement of the whole family in children’s reading.

Family Time at your Library events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. The whole family are also introduced to collections of children’s books, e-books and e-audio books. Kildare

Library Service hosted 41 events with an attendance of 750 people during the month of December.

### Naas Library and Cultural Centre

Naas Library and Cultural Centre celebrated its first Christmas in its new home and was delighted to welcome

back Santa and his entourage of Elves who distributing gifts to approximately 350 children. The townspeople of Naas have many wonderful memories of Santa’s Grotto in this building. Naas Christmas Lights Committee, the Elves, volunteer Rovers and the Naas Library team ran a great show and launched the festive season.

### Kildare Library Service – 2024 Wrapped

Kildare Library Service held 7,617 events which were attended by 122,226 library members.

New Registrations 18,274

Total Loans 615,064

Total Requests 82,581

### Top Ten Reserved Titles across all categories by Kildare Library members in 2024 were:

1. Long Island by Colm Tóibín
2. The Women by Kristin Hannah
3. The Bee Sting by Paul Murray
4. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
5. Fields of Home by Marita Conlon-McKenna
6. Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan



7. My Favourite Mistake by Marian Keyes
8. Prophet Song by Paul Lynch
9. Poor: Grit, Courage, and the Life-changing Value of Self Belief by Katriona O'Sullivan
10. It Ends with Us by Colleen Hoover

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

The John Devoy chair donated to Kildare County Archives by Frank Mac Gabhann has been delivered from the U.S. facilitated by the Irish Consulate in New York and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. An event with a talk and exhibition of the chair will take place in due course.

Work on Phase I of digital records clean up with IT in preparation for a move of files to a DAMS is ongoing.

The Irish Times Digital Archive, covering all issues from 1859 up to today, has recently been upgraded and is available in all branch libraries in Kildare along with the Irish Newspaper Archive.

The Kildare eHistory website had over 30000 visitors in 2024, with new content added every week

<https://kildarelibraries.ie/ehistory/>

### **Creative Ireland**

#### **Creative Communities 2025 funding confirmed**

On 11 December Creative Ireland held their end of year meeting for Coordinators and Engagement Officers from across the country. They announced that each local authority will receive an additional € 10,000 in core funding in 2025, to a total of €217,419.

#### **Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 launches 14 January 2025**

Applications for the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 will open on 14 January at

[www.kildarecocoarts.submit.com](http://www.kildarecocoarts.submit.com) .

Applications will be accepted from individual creative practitioners, artists, community groups, small and medium sized enterprises for projects which enhance access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of culture and creativity within County Kildare, with awards available between €3,000-€10,000.



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## Arts Service

### Kildare Arts Grants call outs published.

Kildare County Council has published details of 17 separate grants, commissions, and bursary award opportunities to support the development and presentation of creative and artistic projects in the county in 2025.

Applications will be accepted from individual artists and creatives, arts collectives, community groups, youth groups and schools. Applications can be made through [kildarecocoarts.submit.com](http://kildarecocoarts.submit.com).

### Arts Council Partnership funding

The Arts Service has received confirmation of Partnership Funding (€99,000) towards programme related activities in 2025 to be delivered under shared priorities: Arts, Health and Wellbeing', 'Young People, Children and Education', 'Support for Artists' and 'The Art of People and Place.'

### HSE Section 39 funding

The Arts Service has received confirmation of Section 39 Funding (€10,000) towards 'Arts, Health and Wellbeing' related activities in 2025, in

particular grants, the biennial Summer Dance School and the ongoing support of Community Choirs and Run of the Mill Theatre.

### VECTOR Digital Arts Residency Awarded

Siobhán Heaney, a visual artist based in Leixlip, has been awarded Digital Artist in Residence at MERITS. Her focus for the residency will be to develop her practice which merges digital art, technology, and ecology. Utilising CGI (computer-generated imagery) her work looks at how the Irish landscape, folklore and nature can be mediated through technology to create virtual worlds. She examines the strange boundaries between virtual reality and our disconnection from the natural world.

### Artist in Residence at Naas General Hospital Announced

Kildare native, visual artist John Conway has been announced as artist in residence at Naas General Hospital as part of the tri-county creative health and wellbeing project 'Did I ever tell you.' Throughout 2025 John will develop a project informed by ongoing engagement with service users with





life-limiting conditions, healthcare workers, and the wider hospital environment.

## Health and Safety

1. Review and update of the following procedures:
  - Management of consultation
  - Biological agents
  - Communications
  - Management of electrical installations and appliances
2. Four PEEPs (Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans) completed:
  - Aras Chill Dara- Corporate
  - Newbridge Library
  - Aras, planning
  - Celbridge library
3. Fire drill at Aras HQ. Exit time of three minutes overall.
4. Presentation to LGMA on Wellbeing Initiative
5. Commenced review of Kerdiffstown safety documentation for Kerdiffstown facility
6. Health and Safety Induction:
  - Delivered to four new staff

## Accessibility:

1. Kildare Inclusivity Festival Workshop
2. To mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities:
  - a. Launch of Accessible Adventures Story Book and Board Game by Ciara Chapman:
    - i. 3,500 copies printed.
    - ii. One copy will be given to each library across the country
    - iii. Free copies distributed on first come first serve basis from libraries in Kildare.
  - b. County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Flag Flown across c. 250 locations in Kildare
3. Inclusion and Disability Day – Children’s Ombudsman presented with copies of Johnny Magory Review of Disability Awareness eLearning Module.
4. Review of Disability Awareness eLearning Module.



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## Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

### Finance

#### Revenue Account

The 2024 Annual Financial Statements (AFS) are currently being prepared.

The draft AFS will be brought to the Members once complete.

#### Cashflow / Overdraft

Kildare County Council manages its cashflow requirements daily and did not avail itself of its overdraft facility in 2024.

#### Risk Management

A review of the corporate risk register will take place in January 2025. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with the sections on this review.

#### Increased Cost of Business

##### Grant/Power Up Grant

The total amount paid to small and medium businesses in Kildare by way of ICOB and Power Up Grants in 2024 by Kildare County Council on behalf of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment in 2024 is €16.97million.

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

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

A third grant called the 'Power Up' grant was announced in Budget 2025. Those businesses who received the second ICOB retail and hospitality payment could receive a further €4,000 payment each before the end of 2024. 1758 payments totalling €7.02 million were paid in December 2024.

#### Rates

New legislation regarding commercial rates took effect from 01 January 2024. The Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019 effects the following changes:

Replaces the payment of rates in two moieties with one rates amount due on the first of the year.

Provides for the application of interest on unpaid rates from 2025. Interest will be added to rates bills issued from 2026.



Removes the requirement for public notice to be given regarding Kildare County Council's intention to 'make the rate'. This is replaced by a notice advising that a 'rate has been levied'.

Should customers have any queries regarding their accounts, they should contact the rates office on 045 980 656 or [rates@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:rates@kildarecoco.ie)

The Draft Kildare County Council Rates Abatement Scheme in respect of Vacant Properties (Vacancy Relief) Scheme for 2025 was adopted at the Budget 2025 meeting on 18 November 2024.

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

### **Motor Tax**

Customers are encouraged to use the online motor tax facility at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). If they are not in a position to use the online facility, we accept and continue to process postal applications.

Most customer queries regarding motor tax matters can be found by visiting [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie). Alternatively, customers can email

[motortax@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:motortax@kildarecoco.ie) or contact the office by telephone on 045 980 920.

## **Digital Services**

### **Technical Support**

Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 10 on desktops and laptops starting October 2025. We have begun the process of upgrading our machines across the organisation.

Initiated a new Data Governance strategy to manage all organisational electronic data for future compliance.

### **Business and GIS Applications**

Initiated a project to migrate data from on-premises file shares to SharePoint in the Cloud.

Further development of the on-boarding application for Human Resources.

Continue enhancing the mobile inspection app and integrate it with the PIR application.



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## Housing and Regeneration

### Housing

#### Private Grants Schemes

In September 2024 the Government published the Report on the Review of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme. Following on from this review the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage introduced significant revisions to the operation of the schemes. The changes are effective from the 01 December 2024.

The key changes are:

The local authority contribution decreases from 20% to 15%.

An increase in maximum grant limits:

The Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability increases from €30,000 to €40,000

The Housing Aid Grant for Older People increases from €8,000 to €10,700

The Mobility Aids Grants increases from €6,000 to €8,000

Income thresholds increased by 25%\*

\*Tables on changes to grant limits and income thresholds are appended to this report.

Arising from an EU directive, changes have been made to the funding of fossil fuel burners under the Housing Aid for Older People Grant. For applications approved on or after the 01 January 2025, funding cannot be provided for the purchase of new standalone fossil fuel boilers.

The grant scheme continues to be available for:

the repair of an existing fossil fuel boiler by a qualified contractor (oil or gas); or

the purchase and installation of a second-hand fossil fuel boiler by a qualified contractor (oil or gas).

Grants may continue to be paid in respect of electric or biomass central heating solutions i.e. wall mounted electric heaters or wood pellet stoves, where either are deemed to be a suitable option in line with applicant's circumstances.

Applications received and approved for fossil fuel boilers prior to the 01 January 2025 may be granted.

If you need any further clarification, please contact Margaret O' Dwyer



Administrative Officer, Housing Grants Section.

### Homeless Services

#### Families in Emergency

#### Accommodation at Christmas

Each year the Homeless Team support families in emergency accommodation with special arrangements at Christmas. Children in Emergency Accommodation(EA) were given gifts, in age-appropriate categories, at the various accommodation centres. The support of the Library Service for books and Tesco / Smyth's Toys is much appreciated for this initiative. Each family in EA was also contacted by the Team to offer Christmas Day dinners (where required).



#### Cold Weather Initiative

A Cold Weather Initiative is in operation (from 30 October last to 31 March) to provide additional emergency beds for rough sleepers where needed – ensuring that additional temporary beds can be brought into use across a range of existing services and facilities, for singles during periods of cold weather. The service is operated by the Peter McVerry Trust.

#### Homeless Outreach Clinics

The Homeless Team continues to facilitate monthly outreach clinics across the county. Details are published on social media. The Team can be contacted at 045 980230.



## Traveller Accommodation

### National Caravan Loan Scheme

The National Caravan Loan Scheme is continuing this year. The scheme offers preferential, discounted loans, for Traveller families to purchase a caravan / mobile for use as their primary residence. The loan limit has increased from €40,000 to up to a maximum of €80,000, in certain circumstances (for example, providing accommodation for larger households). An update will be provided to the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee at their next meeting on 11 February.

## Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)

### Newbridge Library

SPPR will be leading on this project in conjunction with the Library Service. The next stage in the process is the Detailed Design stage, which is underway with the Project Team, Design Team and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

### Emily Square

Construction has commenced on site and a completion date of June 2025 has been confirmed.

## Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
<b>Approval Stage 4</b>		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works complete. Allocation process underway.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site; substantially in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25	Works have commenced on site. The contractor is ML Quinn Construction.



Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	units, construction of 7 units.	
<b>Approval Stage 2</b>		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanála on 22 August 2024. Preparation of works tender commenced. Planning condition surveys complete. Includes 10 affordable units
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at Clane-Maynooth MD meeting in November. Preparation of works tender in hand.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, refurb and amalgamation of 4 existing units into 2 units)	Revised Stage 2 approval received. 14 October 2024. Part 8 launched and is due before Athy MD in April. Contract for boundary wall at PPP site to be tendered to allow construction prior to PPP site commencement.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Stage 2 application approved. Site clearance completed: Part 8 being prepared; to be launched in January 2025.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Part 8 presented and approved subject to amendments. Amendments which include change to vehicular access requires a further Part 8 consultation.  Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. Part 8 relating to amendments launched during December 2024 and due a before Kildare-Newbridge MD. In March or April.



<b>Approval</b>		
<b>Stage 1</b>		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 affordable units]. Tendering ongoing for consultants.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 application to be submitted to DHLGH in January 2025.
<b>Single Stage Approval</b>		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	Revision to Single Stage approval to be prepared and submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed; Part 8 to be launched in Q1 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 launched on the 3 October 2024. Due before Kildare-Newbridge MD February 2025.

<b>Pre-Approval</b>		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete. Design to be finalised and agreed.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application submitted to DHLGH. Response to DHLGH queries in hand.
Canalside, Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application complete but on hold pending resolution of lease with HSE. Structural condition surveys progressing.





Millfield Manor, Newbridge	2 units	House and adjacent site purchased with planning for 2 apartments. Single stage application to follow.
Blacklion, Maynooth	2 day houses	Feasibility being prepared.
Basin Street, Naas	TBC	Tender for conservation report to commence. Completion of survey drawings near completion.

### Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 3 submission being prepared for submission to DHLGH in January 2025. Tender to be finalised and issued in Q1 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works commenced on-site on 06.01.2025
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 application submitted to DHLH on 28 October 2024.

### PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Preferred tenderer working on planning compliance submission. Commence works March/April 2025. Tender for shared wall with halting site being progressed.



Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at July MD meeting. Procurement has started.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved at September MD meeting. Procurement has started.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing including AHF application. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	108 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Part 8 application in Q1 2025.

### Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Part 8 presented to MD and accepted: Stage 3 submission being prepared in conjunction with Sophia Housing.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents being prepared.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved.



## Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	68	-
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	89	-
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	101	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>5</b>

## Homeless Services

### Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 31 December 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	16	24	26
6 - 12 Months	16	26	30
12 - 18 Months	1	1	1
18 - 24 Months	2	5	5
24 - 30 Months	2	2	1
36 Months +	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>

### Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 31 December 2024

Duration	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	4	9	11
6 - 12 Months	6	11	9
12 - 18 Months	1	2	2
18 - 24 Months	2	7	3



24 - 30 Months	1	2	3
+ 36 Months	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>

## Public Realm

### Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€11,683,034	RRDF €9,007,827	Construction	<p><b>Unbound Towpath Works:</b> Complete</p> <p><b>Bound Towpath Works:</b> Complete, except snagging.</p> <p><b>Pedestrian Bridge:</b> Contract awarded. Site works due to commence, subject to receipt of Temporary Licence Agreement from Waterways Ireland.</p> <p><b>Works to be progressed:</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Wayfinding Signage Tender Interpretation Signage
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Part 8 preparation continues in advance of publication. Project proposal includes a Trailhead Car Park for the Barrow Blueway in Athy, bicycle parking, campervan set down area, picnic tables and benches incorporating SuDS in the overall project design.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€18,475,000	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Further assessment has been requested by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>           assess the cumulative impact of the bridge development and Phase 2 of the Grand Canal Greenway on the Ballynafagh Lake (SAC). Planning has confirmed that the Part 8 process for the bridges must recommence. The Project Team have engaged with DHLGH and are in the process of carrying out the assessment required.         </p> <p>           Detailed design for Phase 2 is ongoing. The project will be split into phases         </p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>and tendered accordingly:</p> <p>Grand Canal Greenway Phase 2; made up of 4 tender packages totaling €18,475,000</p> <p>Tender Package Sallins Phase 1 &amp; 2 Tie-in; end 2024 early 2025</p> <p>Tender Package 2 Towpath Works; undertaken by Waterways Ireland (sensitive area) 2025 and 2026</p> <p>Tender Package 3; consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings 2025 - 2027</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Tender Package 4; 2 No. Additional Bridges 2027
<b>Kildare-Newbridge</b>	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600	KCC/DOD	Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	The Curragh Plains Management Plan and the Interpretation, Branding and Wayfinding Strategy have now been published on the KCC and DoD websites. Hard copies have been prepared for the elected representatives of the Kildare-Newbridge MD. One hard copy is available for viewing by the public at the Planning Department counter.
	Newbridge Library		KCC/	Detailed Design	SPPR will be the project lead





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			DHLGH/ DRCD		on the delivery of the Newbridge Library. The Project Team and Design Team are engaged to complete the detailed design stage of this project in preparation of approval.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work is underway to prepare a Draft Plan, taking account of all the surveys, public consultation and engagement.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Work programme recommenced with Metropolitan Workshop.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin		€34,335.00 (grand aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3)	Pre-Part 8	SPPR have successfully received funding under T&V (TCF Measure 3) to assist with bringing a project identified in the Monasterevin Masterplan through planning consent stages. The project identified is the Market Square. The DRCD Capital Delivery Team will include this project on their work programme for



<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Estimated Value</b>	<b>Funding Awarded</b>	<b>Project Stage</b>	<b>Notes</b>
					2025, aiming to secure Part 8. This project will also be considered for the next round of RRDF funding.
<b>Athy</b>	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Construction work is underway on Emily Square with a completion date of June 2025
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€7,265,037	€5,207,500 (RRDF)	Construction	Shard Extension: The extension has been erected and work continues to install the panels/glazing.
<b>Celbridge-Leixlip</b>	Wonderful Barn	€2,548,351		Pre Part 8	Oldstone Conservation, specialist conservation team continue work on site and will be completed by year end.



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					Discussions underway with ESB regarding the undergrounding of cables.
<b>Clane-Maynooth</b>	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT  €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for	Town Centre Masterplan	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.  <b>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</b> Currently awaiting approval from the DHLGH (URDF Team) to proceed and appoint consultant.  <b>Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration</b>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>sub projects A, B, C and F.</p>		<p><b>project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</b></p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Codema have indicated they will be able to commence the Maynooth project in Q1 2025.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p> <b>Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</b>            Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.         </p> <p> <b>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</b>            Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a         </p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan. The funding awarded does not include any construction element, a separate funding source will be required.</p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth	€181,794		Detailed Design & Works	<p><b>Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway.</b></p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>Detailed design for the project is progressing well, with engagement continuing with stakeholders. An additional funding source is required to bring this project to the next stage and beyond.</p>
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC  Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan</b> – Currently awaiting approved from the DHLGH (URDF Team) to proceed and appoint consultant.</p>





Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			<p>report as part of Final Business Case</p>		<p><b>Sub Project B: Background Assessments.</b>            Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David's Castle is now complete.            Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St. David's Castle and grounds.</p> <p><b>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</b>            KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions.            Final Business Case submitted</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>to the URDF Team.</p> <p><b>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions.</b></p> <p>Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only.</p> <p>Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.</p>
	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	€320,000	URDF/KCC	Masterplan	The project is currently at options selection stage and a further consultation



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					<p>period will take place in Q1 2025 via an online portal. A virtual room with a selection of boards, will be available online.</p>
	<p>Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan</p>	<p>€70,000</p>	<p>€70,000 LPT</p>	<p>Masterplan</p>	<p>SEA and AA screenings are finalised. Revised draft is under review.</p>



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## Integration

### General

#### Relocation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) are continuing the process of consolidating their portfolio of contracted accommodation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection around the country. No existing accommodation centres in Kildare have been identified for closure in the short term.

#### Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) Severe Weather Arrangements

DCEDIY have reconfirmed that no exits will take place from DAC's while weather warnings are in place. There were no exits from Newhall or Punchestown during recent low temperature snow/ice warnings.

The Kildare County Council Integration Team and the LGMA assisted Irish Red Cross (IRC) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in sourcing and matching of accommodation for Beneficiaries of

Temporary Protection across the country using links with other Integration Teams. All Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection due to exit the DAC's and requiring accommodation up to and over the Christmas/New Year period were accommodated.

#### Extension of Temporary Protection

There are indications that Temporary Protection will be extended for a further year until 04 March 2026 in line with the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

#### Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)

The ARP is directly linked to the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for the protection of individuals fleeing the Ukraine. There are ongoing consultations across Departments and the expectation is that the ARP will continue as is, with minor adjustments possible. Availability of the ARP is important to the supply of Offer a Home and Pledged accommodation.

#### Recent Developments

##### Resources

Kildare County Council has received approval for one additional permanent



post for Integration Support Worker and one twelve month contract post Integration Support Worker to support the work of the Local Authority Integration Team.

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

Local Authority Integration Teams |  
Local Government Ireland

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

and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

### **Clinics**

From 08 March to the end of December 2024, Kildare LAIT has arranged 175 information clinics, 90 clinics in Ukraine Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team (UCTAT) accommodation centres and eight in IPAS accommodation centres. Through information clinics, Kildare LAIT has supported 1,035 people to access local services, overcome barriers related to access and resolve queries in 2024. Out of this, 590 were beneficiaries of temporary protection, 420 were international protection applicants and 25 persons with status in IPAS accommodation. In addition, Kildare LAIT conducted 41 outreach visits to 22 visits to UCTAT centres and 19 visits to IPAS centres to facilitate coordination of service providers and build the capacity of staff and management at these centres.



Kildare LAIT organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. The team has furthermore developed a needs system based on regular communication with service users and accommodation providers that inform how often clinics are arranged at each centre.

### Queries

From 08 March to the end of December 2024, Kildare LAIT has received 1,623 and solved 1,617 queries. Out of those, 927 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 568 by international protection applicants and 126 by persons with status.

Kildare LAIT in collaboration with the Hope and Courage Collective organised a successful workshops on understanding how the far right operates and how to counteract

disruption within our communities. The sessions took place on the 13 November and 11 December 2024 in Naas and was attended by 60 participants from the gardai, youth sector (including youth advocates), Childcare Committee, Citizens Information Centre, accommodation centres managers, Kildare County Council Library Services, Homeless Services, Integration Team, and the DCEDIY Community Engagement Team representatives.

Kildare LAIT through Willow Community Counselling delivered a six week psychosocial activities programme with body-based trauma informed practices targeted at GBV survivors accommodated in an IPAS centre in Athy. The programme ends on 12 December and includes yoga, group meditation, breath work, dance/movement work and female body empowerment practices.

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 900 (699 adults/ 201 children)

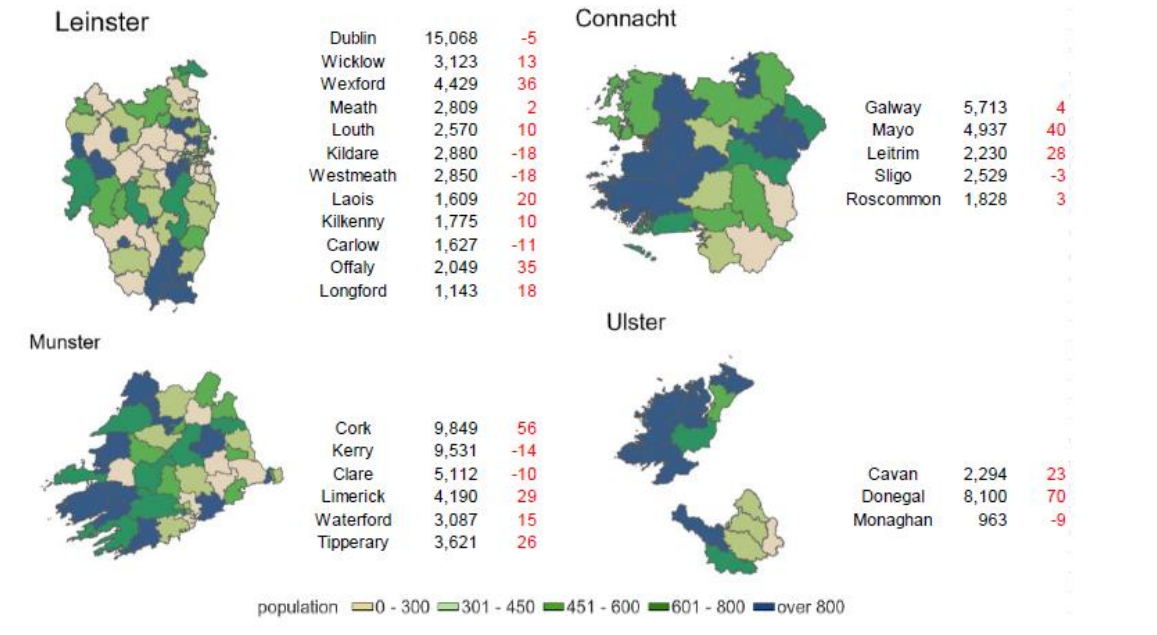
Data source DECDIY – 13 January 20



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

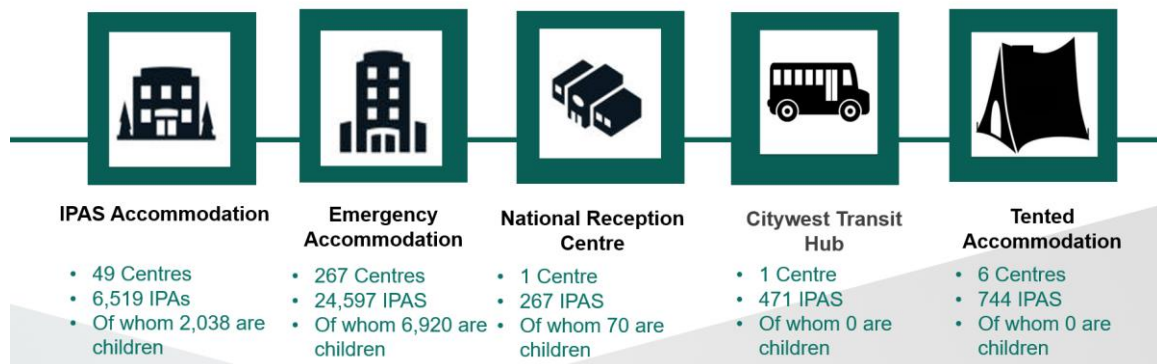
Data source Central Statistics Office 20 December 2024.

### National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection



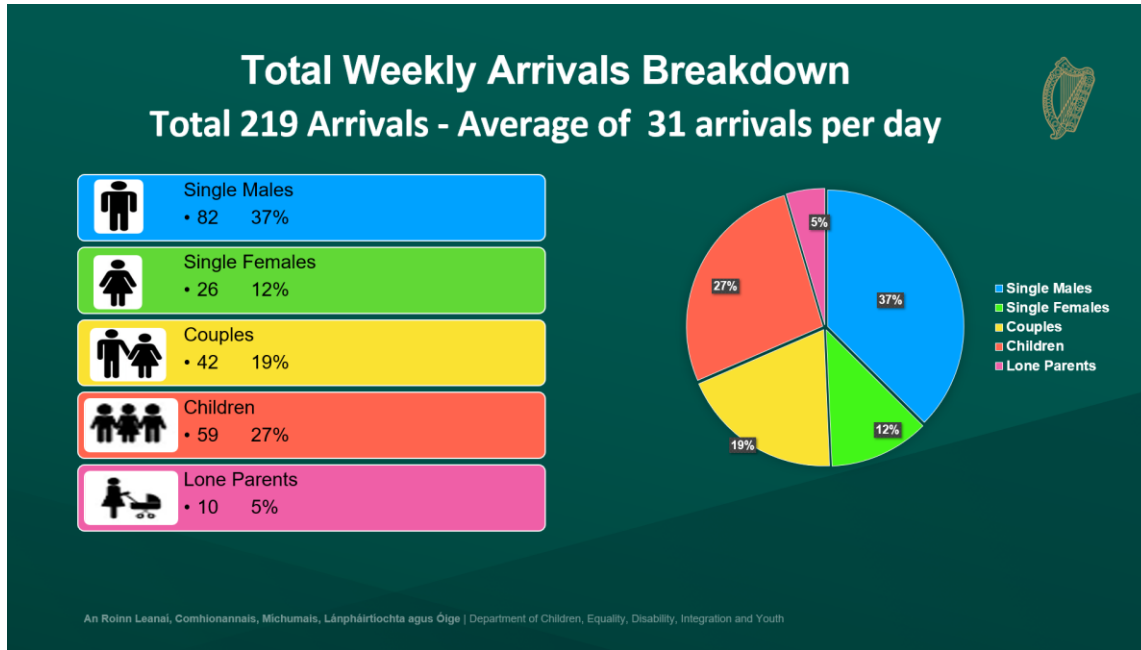
### International Protection Applicants:

There are a total of 32,701 International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation of whom 9,152 are children. Source DECDIY 08 January 2025





The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week up to 05 January 2025 is as follows:



International Protection applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 671 of whom 103 are children. Source DECDIY 08 January 2025

### Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority (05 January 2025)

County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	442	Kerry County	921	Offaly County	483
Cavan County	156	Kildare County	671	Roscommon County	205
Clare County	990	Kilkenny County	169	Sligo County	675
Cork City	611	Laois County	472	South Dublin County	3983
Cork County	1463	Leitrim County	230	Tipperary County	774
Donegal County	2005	Limerick City & County	563	Waterford City and County	618
Dublin City	3405	Longford County	138	Westmeath County	979
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1356	Louth County	1379	Wexford County	638
Fingal County	2436	Mayo County	1667	Wicklow County	1465
Galway City Council	1736	Meath County	987	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32701</b>
Galway County Council	388	Monaghan County	696		





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

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II Local Authorities, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of Approved Housing Bodies and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches 2024, and the second quarter of 2025. The first resettlement of three families took place at the beginning of October 2024 with two more resettlements due to take place in Q1 2025. The target is to have all 66 participants resettled in Kildare by the end of Q2 2025.

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

Support Worker (in place from the end of July 2024).

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

## **National Integration Support Coordinators and Integration Support Workers Networks**

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

Integration Support Coordinators met on the 25 November 2024 to discuss



the implementation of the Refugee Resettlement Programme in their respective counties. Kildare LAIT shared lessons learned to date and provided advice to other local authorities about to embark in this programme.

**Accommodation Team**  
**Offer a Home Scheme**

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM).  
(update 02 January 2025)

Properties occupied	62
Properties in progress	9
Properties withdrawn	<u>35</u>
Total properties offered to date	106

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

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

**Punchestown:**

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 156 people (LGMA 13 January 2025).

**Newhall:**

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 391 people (LGMA 13 January 2025).

**Winter preparations in Newhall**



**Christmas Celebrations in Newhall**



Kildare County Council integration staff held Day-75 Clinics at the Newhall and Punchestown DAC's on 05 December 2024 and accommodation clinics on 17, 18 and 19 December 2024, in



Newhall on 08 January 2025. A further Day-75 clinic is scheduled for both Newhall and Punchestown on 14 January 2025.

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

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's. A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

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

Meetings are taking place on the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration. The Community Integration Forum has met six times in 2024 from May June, through to December.

A revised format has been agreed with members, and in 2025 meetings will

be held bi-monthly with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The next CIF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 05 February 2025.

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



## Climate, Community, Environment and Water

### Community

#### 2025 Community Grants Schemes

Applications for funding under Community Grants, Festival Grants, Local Authority Residential Grants and Private Residents Association Grants Schemes will open on Monday 20 January 2025 and will close on Friday 14 March 2025. Applications for

funding under Department of Community and Rural Development funded Local Enhancement Programme 2025 will also open on Monday 20 January 2025 and will close on Friday 28 February 2025. Guidelines for these funding streams along with details of how to apply can be found on Kildare County Council website at [www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/CommunityGrants/)

#### 2024 Grants

Funding applications processed in 2024

<b>All Grants 2024</b>		
<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>€279,720</b>
<b>Festival Grants</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>€79,860</b>
<b>Private Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>€230,386</b>
<b>Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>€56,286</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Specific Grants</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>€987,359</b>
<b>Local Property Tax Mini Schemes</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>€176,973</b>
<b>LCDC Schemes</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>€196,442</b>
<b>Twinning Grants</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>€13,270</b>
<b>Education Bursaries</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>€40,000</b>
<b>Brigid 1500</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>€191,214</b>
<b>Drehid Grants</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>€161,428</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>€2,412,938</b>



## Climate

### Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



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

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



The CAROs are funded by the Department of Environment, Climate

and Communications (DECC) and work through the four lead local authorities by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to mid 2029.

### Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



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

Executive Training Group for oversight of training delivery for 2025 to convene its first meeting on 15 January 2025. Group is Chaired by Teresa Walsh Director of Service with South Dublin County Council on behalf of CCMA and group comprises representation from Climate Ireland, AILG, SEAI, Met Eireann, Heritage Council, LASNTG and CARO. Planning for training delivery underway as follows:

- Fire Services Staff commenced training delivery in August to run until all fire services staff complete. 21/27 have taken up training to date.



- Outdoor staff training commenced in September through regional training centres. Completion of outdoor staff training in Q1 2025.
- Procurement of Learning Management System ongoing.

In addition to the above, 2025 Training Programme targeting:

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

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

Review of all 31 LACAPs to ascertain robust information on action typology, is now complete. A robust central database is in place that can be utilised to identify commonality of actions to support local authorities to work together, to inform of action

prioritisation, reveal challenges in implementation, to help identify pertinent case studies and inform reporting and monitoring requirements. A PowerBI module has been used to aid the generation of reports for sectoral stakeholders.

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



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

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

Mid-east (Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth), commencing projects and



accessing Pathfinder support from SEAI.

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

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

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



### Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

The EM CARO supports the reconfigured working group established to explore support and options for local authorities on fleet decarbonisation.

The working group published guidance for local authorities on fleet management system elements

necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation.

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



Data collation for 2024 is planned to commence on 15 January 2025. This process collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action. Report to be published Mid-year. Data collation for 2023 was published at end of August 2023 and available on LGMA website at [2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf](https://www.lgma.ie/2023-local-government-climate-action-key-performance-indicators-report.pdf) ([lgma.ie](https://www.lgma.ie)).

### GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to



advance the Green Club Programme. A recognition event was held in Croke Park on 09 November 2024 to celebrate the work of over 70 clubs from Phase two of the Programme. Phase three is now open to any club to work their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel. Phase three open to accept new clubs until 25 January 2025.

## **Kildare County Council Climate Action**

### **Kildare Climate Action Office**



*Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow*

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

Team together with the Senior Management Team.

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

### **The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:**

An opportunity at national level to film the house and curtilage has arisen. We are working at a pace to increase the required communications and physical elements such as wi-fi and air monitors in the house to facilitate further filming with a view to being aired in Q1 of 2025.

### **Augmented Reality Image**

#### **Maynooth:**

To increase climate literacy and buy in a call for bids was made to create a 3D visualisation of Maynooth main street to show the main features should the Decarbonising Zone (DZ) plan be implemented by 2030. NOHO has been the successful bidder with thanks to funding under the Creative Ireland funding administered by the Arts Section. The piece has been completed and will be on view in the





Demo House and Maynooth Library soon.

### **Kildare County Council Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders:**

This is the first report based on the 2024-2029 CAP. It will be made available at the January Full Council meeting. It is also the first in the country and will inform other Local Authority's report format with the assistance of the EM CARO.

### **Recruitment**

We welcome Stephen O'Reilly who commenced the role of as the Community Climate Action Officer on 06 January.

Jordan Cooney is due to commence the role of Assistant Energy Efficiency Officer on 13 January.

The position of Decarbonising Climate Officer has been shortlisted, and interviews are scheduled to take place in late January.

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

Codema are presently finalising the DH feasibility study for Naas and commencing the Maynooth feasibility

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

### **DISCO Project:**

'Advancing District Heating and Cooling solutions for efficient waste heat utilisation' in conjunction with CODEMA as associate partner has successfully received 70% Interreg Europe Funding. This will enable the task under action B13 of Kildare County Council CAP to perform a county wide assessment of waste heat and district heating. Work is scheduled to commence after the Maynooth feasibility study is finalised.

### **Energy Audit/Analysis/BER:**

#### **Aras:**

The energy review of Aras has been completed.

#### **Libraries:**

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

### **Swimming Pools:**

A meeting was convened to discuss the implementation of the works based on the framework presently being



finalised. The tendering process is to commence soon pending final framework item being satisfactorily qualified.

### **SEAI Monitoring and Reporting**

The next requirement is for MPRN's to be confirmed for all properties by the end of January.

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

#### **GoCar**

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

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

#### **Action:**



The project is going from strength to strength with three active community efforts in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy. Maynooth University continues to

monitor the social effects and Neighbourhood Networks are advancing plans with the groups to create community gardens. The 18 month programme will see the planting of trees this winter, edible hedges and vegetables in the spring.

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

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the time since the grants were finalised in September, four of the projects have already been completed. The first recoupment from DECC will be completed in early December and drawdowns will be quarterly from then on. The first drawdown will cover approximately €200,000 of the total allocation of €897,000

When all the projects are completed 635 solar PV panels will have been installed as well as pumped wall insulation for four social housing units and two community halls. Other projects focus on replacing floodlights or pitch walkways with LED bulbs.



A number of biodiversity measures will also be implemented, including native tree planting and the installation of swift nest boxes.

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

#### **Climate Design Lab:**

Logo being developed to advance link to initiatives on site and social media. Artists position to be advertised during January in conjunction with the Arts Officer.

#### **Climate Innovation Fund 2024:**

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

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

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

#### **Water Services**

##### **Water Action Plan 2024**

The Water Action Plan is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it 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.

#### **Environment**

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

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



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

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

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

The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

### **National Deposit Return Scheme**

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

The scheme is operated by Deposit Return Scheme Ireland (DRSI) CLG

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

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



An October report indicates that over 600 million containers have been returned nationally since the beginning of the scheme. In Kildare 86 stores accept containers.

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

### **National Tidy Towns 2024**

The results of the national Tidy Towns competition 2024 were announced by



the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, at an awards ceremony in Croke Park on 01 November.

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

Kildare participants fared well with gold medals awarded to Celbridge, Clane, Kill, Leixlip, Maynooth, Newbridge, Naas and Straffan. Silver medals awarded to Ballymore Eustace, Kilcullen and Rathangan. Broadford received a bronze medal and Kildare town received a special Endeavour award.

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

Naas has topped the rankings as the cleanest town in Ireland by Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) in their 2024 survey. This is the third time in four years that Naas has finished atop the rankings. Maynooth, a former top-ranking town in the IBAL litter league, also performed well achieving status “cleaner than European norms” and fifth place overall in the IBAL survey.



### **Entente Florale 2025**

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. An on-site briefing from reps of the Department of Rural and Community Development has been scheduled for next week.

### **Water Framework Directive**

Monitoring and investigation work continue in the water priority areas under the Water Framework Directive. The council awaits the publication of the third cycle of the River Basin Management Plan for the period up to 2027. This document is expected to be published this year and will set the priorities and areas for action over the next cycle.

### **Enforcement Priorities 2025**

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities have been reviewed and



there is a reduction in the number of priorities for 2025, moving from 20 in 2024 to 15 in 2025. The breakdown is as follows:

Five - Waste Enforcement Priorities

Four - Water Enforcement Priorities

Four - Air and Noise Enforcement Priorities

Two - Governance Processes Priorities

### **Environmental Enforcement**

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

Excellent" score across all 20 National Enforcement Priority categories

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

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

### **Veterinary Services**

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

### **GAA Green Clubs Initiative**



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



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## **Green Schools**

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

## **Christmas Tree Recycling 2025**

Kildare County Council are again providing a free service to the public where they can bring their real Christmas trees to be recycled in a sustainable way. In total there are seven sites across the county where this service is being provided until 20 January:

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

The Christmas trees will be shredded, and the mulched trees made available

to be used on local landscaping projects.

## **New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge**

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

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

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

## **Morell Flood Management Scheme**

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

### **Athy Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Naas Flood Relief Scheme**

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

### **Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme**

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

consultancy services to design a flood relief scheme for Leixlip.

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

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

### **Kerdiffstown Park project**

A “soft” opening of Kerdiffstown park took place on 21 October. Work progressing for the Official Opening of the Park on 31 January 2025.



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





[fstownPark/KerdiffstownParkVisualisation/](#)

### **Cemetery Capital Programme**

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

### **Columbarium Walls**

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

### **Cemetery Works**

#### **Allen**

Works have been completed on a cemetery extension.

#### **Ballybracken**

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

#### **Staplestown**

Landscape improvement works have commenced in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are ongoing in

terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

### **Boycetown Kilcock**

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

### **Legislation XL Bully Type dogs**

From October 01, 2024, new regulations prohibit the importing, breeding, selling, and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs, and from 01 February 2025, it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a Certificate of Exemption. Last date for receipt of applications for exemption certificates is 31 January 2025. This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner.



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## Local Community

### Development Committee

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

### SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) are contracted by the LCDC to implement SICAP 2024-2028 in Kildare.

The SICAP annual review 2024 is due for submission on Friday 17 January. The SICAP plan 2025 was submitted on 02 January 2025. The SICAP budget 2025 is €1,425,342. Both the review and plan for 2025 will be considered at the upcoming LCDC meeting.

The SICAP Manager post is currently vacant. Recruitment is underway. An audit of the programme by Kildare County Council in line with requirements is being concluded. In addition the SICAP 2023 programme was audited by LGAS. This is also concluding.

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

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

### LEADER Programme

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

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

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

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Kildare County Council recently signed the extension of the Sláintecare



Healthy Communities Programme  
2025-2029.

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

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

### **Healthy Ireland**

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. Interviews for the vacant Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator post took place on 10 December. The position is in the process of being filled. The report on progress 2024 and plan for 2025 is currently being compiled for submission to Pobal.

### **Empowering Communities Programme Athy**

Athy was selected by DRCD as a target area for the 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work

and employ the project staff. DRCD recently extended the programme for another year.

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

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

For further information contact: Terrie Devlin, Administrative Officer Community on [tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:tdevlin@kildarecoco.ie) or phone 087 1919765

### **Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025**

DRCD allocated Kildare LCDC LEP grant aid funding to be awarded to community and voluntary groups. There is €190,096 available towards capital/equipment costs and €34,905 towards running costs. Work is underway to finalise the guidelines and application process. The applications will open through online submit process, on 20 January until 28 February at 5.00p.m. These grants will be advertised and promoted as part of the grant schemes available through the Community Section of Kildare County Council.



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

### **Transport**

#### **Capital Projects**

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

Stage one tender documents have issued with a tender return date of 31 January. Stage two tender documents due from consultant this week and it is expected to issue the stage two tender in February.

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

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

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

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

##### **Newbridge Transport Strategy**

The final ABTA report is currently being reviewed ahead of publication.

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

Consultant developing of a preliminary business case for this project. This will be completed in early 2025 and will be submitted to the Department of Transport to seek funding for the project thereafter.

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

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

#### **Road Safety**

##### **Speed Limit Review**

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

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



## Junction Improvement Programme

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

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

### Safe Routes to School Round one Schemes (NTA funded)

- Straffan National School. Design being agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000.
- St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town: Construction underway.
- Holy Child School Ballycane: Completed.

### Safe Routes to School Round two Schemes (NTA funded)

- Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge: Discussions continuing with An

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

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

### Safe Routes to School Round three Schemes (NTA funded)

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

## Operations

### Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

72 road improvement projects covering 64km of regional and local roads completed in 2024.



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### **Restoration Maintenance**

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

53 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 80km of regional and local roads completed in 2024.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

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

Allocation - €487,500

Former National Roads - €550,000

This funding is facilitating the delivery of road improvement projects, with 2024 works completed.

#### **National Roads**

Allocation: €22,386 for N78/N81 for the general maintenance of both National Secondary roads completed in 2024.

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

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

#### **General Maintenance**

Kildare County Council maintains in excess of 2,600 kilometres of National

Secondary, Regional and Local roads throughout the county. Included in this work are road surface repairs, footpath repairs, drainage maintenance, sign maintenance, road marking renewals and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

#### **Public Lighting**

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

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

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. Works are due to commence in 2025.

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

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

Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles



has been completed with the installation process ongoing. Five electric vehicles and a velocity patcher to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts are now in operation.

### **Winter Maintenance**

Winter maintenance operations commenced for the 2024/2025 season. 8,000 tonnes of salt was delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024. Recent severe weather, with both snow, ice and freezing temperatures required the services of 30 drivers to treat the primary routes in Kildare in accordance with the Winter Maintenance Plan. This work continued from Saturday 04 January to Friday 10 January on a 24-hour basis.



Due to the extreme nature of this weather event, footpaths at schools and town centre locations were salted and secondary routes treated, using all available Transportation outdoor staff. Approximately 1,300 tonnes of salt was used over this period.

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

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

2025 Allocation: €250,000

There is insufficient grant funding to commence the construction works in 2025. It is intended to proceed with accommodation works along the route in anticipation of an increased allocation in 2026 for the scheme.

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

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by early Summer 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

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



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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing with the intention of agreeing a Part 8 Public Consultation package with the NTA in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €125,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000

Tenders have been evaluated, and a preferred contractor has been identified. Construction will start in Q1 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Work is complete and retention monies to be paid.

### **Celbridge Active Travel Bridge**

2025 Allocation: €300,000

Detailed design of bridge structure progressing with a view to having construction documents completed in 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €20,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

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

2025 Allocation: €50,000

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

### **Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme**

2025 Allocation: €200,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.





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

2025 Allocation: €30,000

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

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

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

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

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Tenders have been evaluated, and a preferred contractor has been identified. Construction will start in Q1 2025.

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

2025 Allocation: €40,000

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

### **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme**

2025 Allocation: €500,000

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

the county. Preparations are being made for the new Local Link 888 Route as a template process for future works.

### **National Roads Office**

#### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4**

#### **Eastbound Bus Priority Measures**

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



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



### **M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4**

#### **Westbound Bus Priority Measures**

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

### **M9 Park and Share Scheme**

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

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

## **Open Spaces**

### **Leixlip Playground**

Contract has been awarded for the construction of the new playground. Work is scheduled to commence in May.

### **Monasterevin to Portarlington**

#### **Greenway Feasibility Study**

Consultants have been appointed and work is due to be completed by the end of Q3.

### **Celbridge Outdoor Youth Facilities**

Consultants have been appointed to complete the installation of a hangout area at The Slip in Celbridge.

### **Cherry Avenue Park**

Tender to procure consultants to prepare detail designs based on the masterplan advertised and is due to close at the end of January.

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

### **Planning**

#### **Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029:**

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

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



Work is underway regarding the CDP Two-Year Progress Report, which will be published in Q1 2025.

Variation Number one of the CDP - Kilcullen Settlement Plan due for adoption by the Members in Q1 2025. Chief Executive's Report issued 18 December 2024. The Council will consider the Plan at a Special Meeting on 27 January 2025.

### **CDP Actions**

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

### **Masterplans**

#### **Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:**

Masterplan Options Workshop in Q1 2025. Masterplan Synthesis and Visioning Workshop held December 2024.

#### **Naas Canal Quarter masterplan:**

Key Stakeholder Options Workshop held in December 2024. Public consultation on Masterplan Options in January 2025.

#### **Local Area Plans (LAP)**

##### **Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031**

The Chief Executives Report on the submission received in respect of the Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan is going to the elected members on the 10 January 2025.

##### **Newbridge LAP**

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

##### **Monasterevin LAP**

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

##### **Sallins LAP**

Work has ceased due to staff resources.

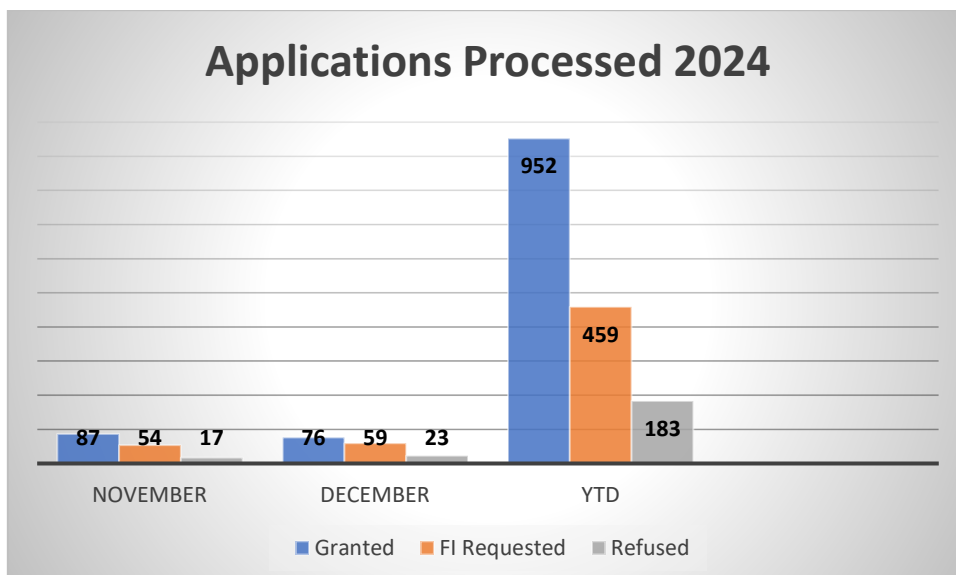
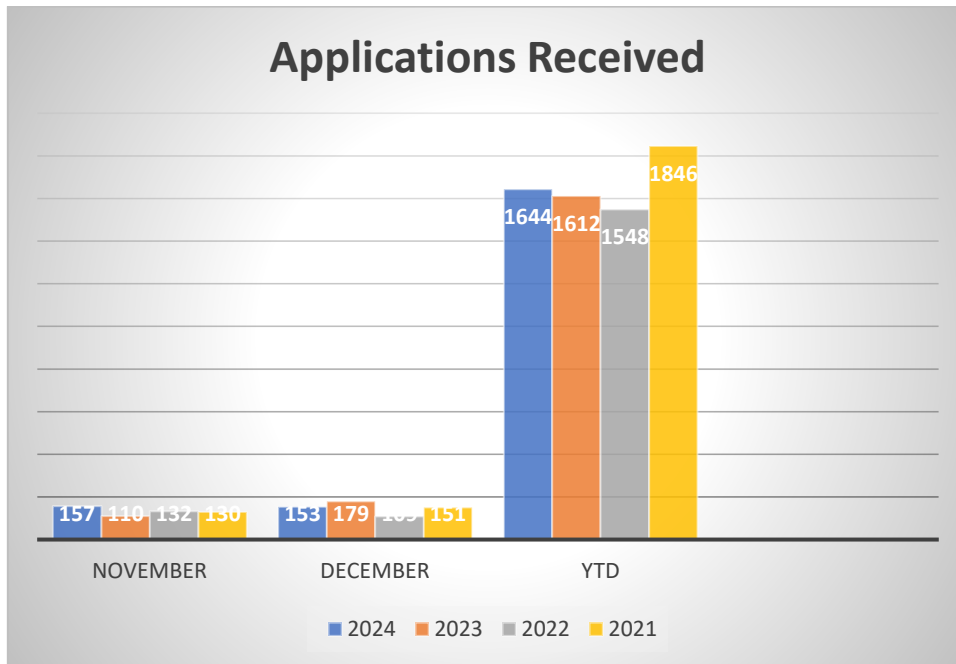


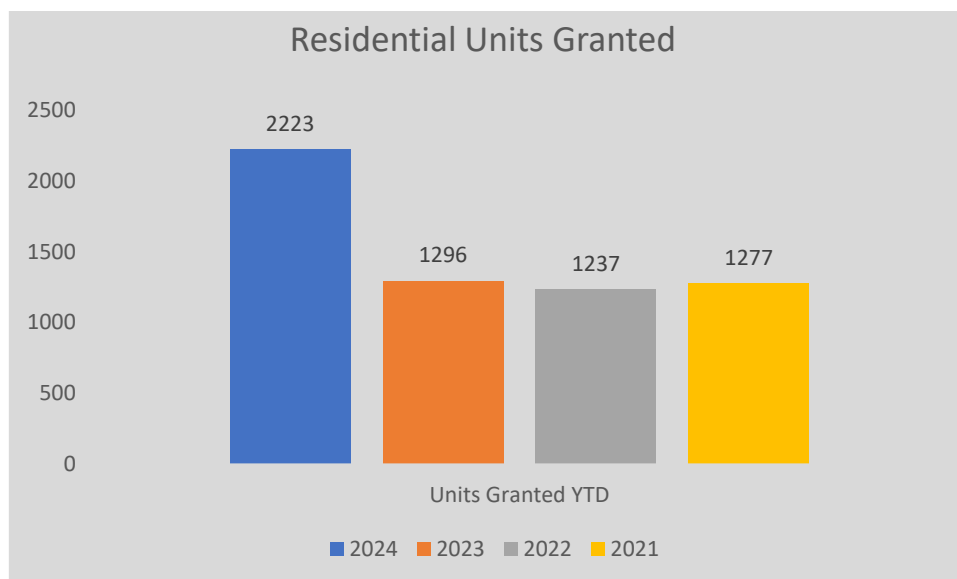
## Development Management

### ePlanning

In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online, 85% of submissions/observations submitted via ePlanning.

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





### Compliance

281 PrePlanning meeting requests up to and including 31 December 2024.

82 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 31 December 2024.

74 Section 5 Declarations requests processed up to 31 December 2024.

### Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD applications must be submitted within six months of the issue date of the LRD

Opinion. Three LRD opinions have been issued in 2024

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendments to ABP-307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendments to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed; KCC Grant 05/04/2024



					Appeal Upheld 17/07/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Granted 22/07/2024
24/245	26/07/2024	Debussy Properties Ltd	Crockaun Commons, Clane	Amendments to 23/972	Granted 11/09/2024
24/60774	08/08/2024	Ladas Property Company Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	Amendments to 23/494	Appeal Withdrawn 17/12/2024: KCC Granted 01/10/2024
24/61073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes	Leixlip Gate	Amendments to 23/60485	FI Requested 09/12/2024
24/61319	10/12/2024	Beans Land Ltd	Ballymany, Newbridge	Amendments to SHD 21/311040	Decision Due 12/02/2025
24/61327	11/12/2024	Oakway homes	Nicholastown, Kilcullen	182	Decision Due 13/02/2025
25/60003	06/01/2025	Dunform Properties Ltd	Branganstown East Lands, Kilcock	133	Decision Due 02/03/2025

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

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

### Planning Enforcement

For period 01 December – 31 December 2024

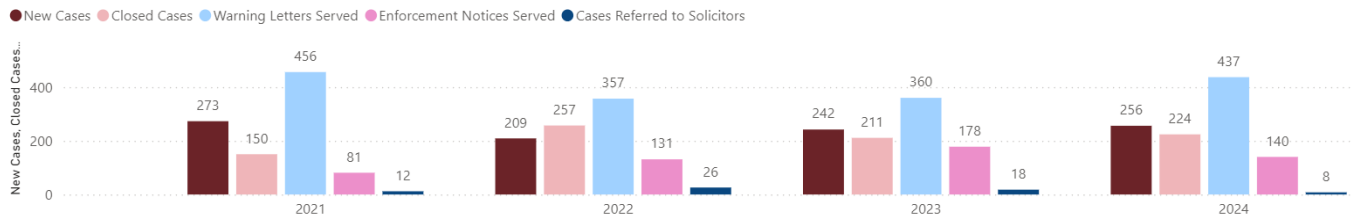
15	New Consultations
23	Cases Closed
2	Enforcement Notices Served



23	Warning Letters Served
7	Cases due before the Courts in November
1	Case concluded as legal agreement reached

## Fire Service Operations

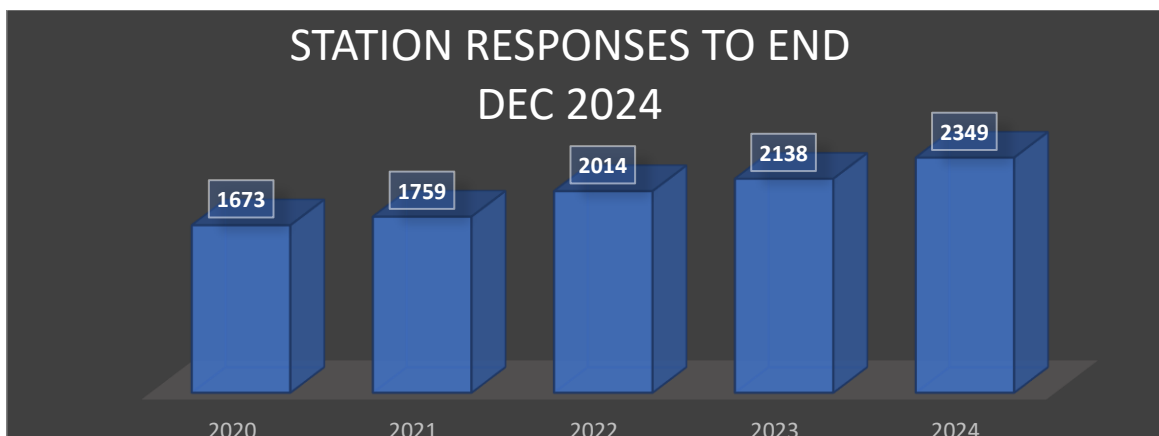
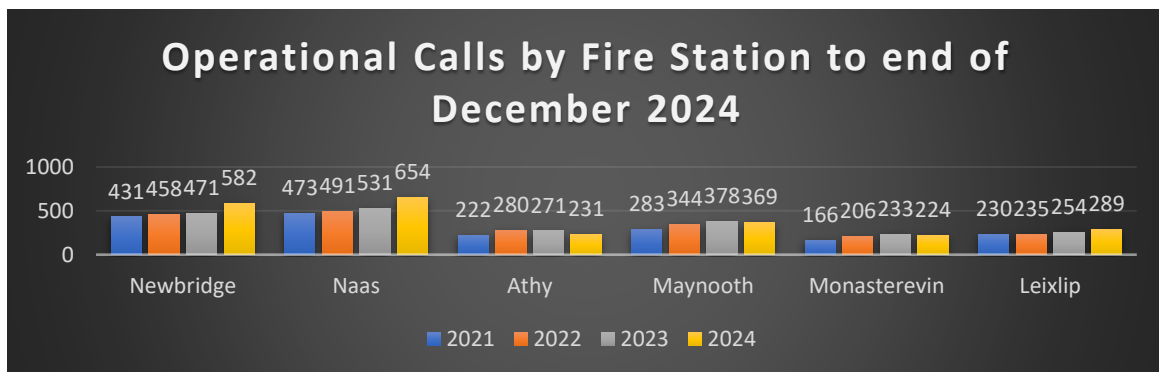
### Enforcement Statistics 2021-2024:



### Fire Service Operations:

#### 2024 Summary:

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





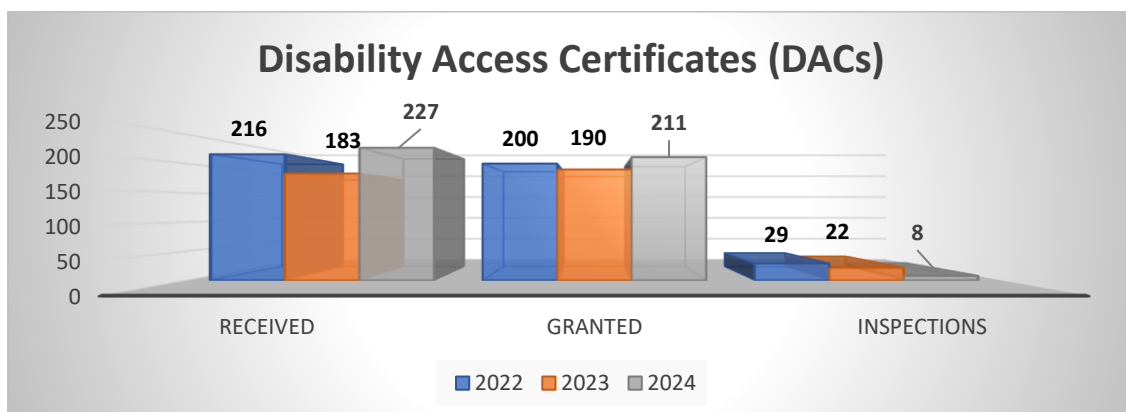
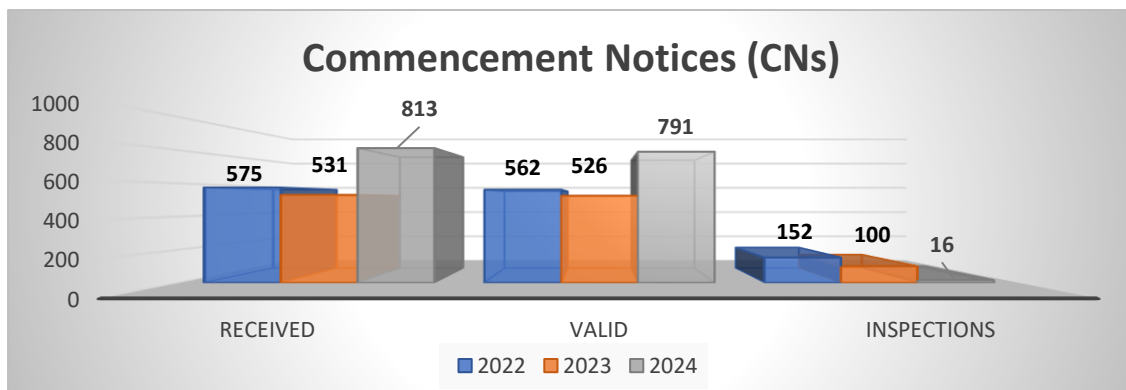
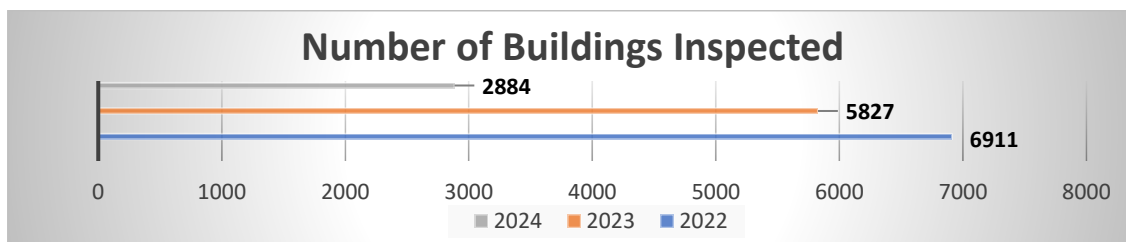
## Fire Safety Certificates

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

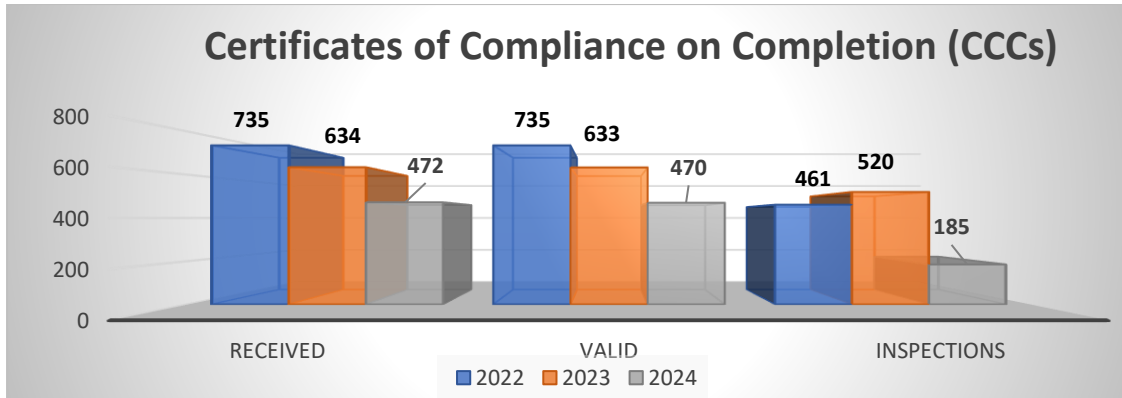


## Building and Development Control

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







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

## Kildare Fáilte

### Key Activities

In December, Into Kildare were happy to promote the extensive range of festive offerings from all over the county and encouraged local shopping to support the community. Kildare celebrated the season with Christmas markets, festive dining and parties, Santa workshops and experiences for all the family. Many of our hotels offered great Christmas breaks including New Year’s Eve Balls and promotions ahead of “Twixmas”. Aine Mangan, Into Kildare Chief Executive, represented County Kildare on Tourism Ireland’s Australia and New Zealand and Middle East 2024 sales mission in association with Tourism Ireland.



### Tourism Ireland leads sales mission to Australia and New Zealand

Updated / Wednesday, 27 Nov 2024 13:13



The sales mission will visit Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland.

Aine Mangan with Tourism Ireland

The sales mission covered Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland and Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Each city hosted a B2B event allowing for interactive presentations and networking to more than 250 travel agents, 70 industry executives and members of the media. This was a



great opportunity for us to showcase County Kildare.

Meetings with key tour operators, airlines and travel journalists also took place.



Visit to Flemington Race Course, Melbourne



Aine Mangan with Dnata Dubai

Into Kildare attended the third workshop for the Naas Canal Regeneration to participate in and learn about the aspirations for emerging opportunities for the area.

Preparations are well underway for St. Brigid celebrations. Into Kildare will once again light up the Hill of on the

eve of St. Brigid's Day and call for a global pause for peace.

Into Kildare continue to promote the Spirit of Brigid festival in collaboration with Kildare County Council.

Visitor engagement across all social media channels continues to be strong. Into Kildare once again is in the top five search results for many of the Festive events and experiences.

The Q4 Into Kildare Board Meeting was held in and kindly hosted by The Club at Goffs Hotel. Two new board members, Veronica Cooke and Mary Fennin, were warmly welcomed to the Board.

As the year end approached, Into Kildare reviewed activity from 2024 and have put plans in place for 2025 to progress the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Tourism in Kildare.



## Enterprise and Economic Development

### 2024 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports 2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	104	€222,306
Business Expansion Grant	17	€508,693
Priming Grant	3	€57,235
Feasibility Study Grant	4	€39,598
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	19	€38,184
RD&I and IP	6	€150,772
GradStart	2	€60,000
Energy Efficiency Grant	20	€130,821
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>€1,207,609</b>

### Entrepreneurship Support

#### Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for

start-ups. Appointment requests can be made here:

<https://leokildare.submit.com//show/113>

#### Focus On Sustainability

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Team continues to support Kildare-based businesses on their sustainability journey with a fully funded energy efficiency assessment. Applications remain open for the €10,000 Energy Efficiency Grant which supports businesses with up to 50 employees to invest in technologies, equipment, and sustainability measures.

#### Focus On Digital

Businesses are encouraged to join an online briefing on the 21 January, designed to give a clear understanding of how digital tools can help streamline their operations, improve efficiency, and drive growth in key business areas.

Specifically, this will provide an overview of the digital supports available from the LEO, aligned to improved internal processes/operations and eligibility for the €5,000 Grow Digital Voucher. Bookings can be made at this URL:



<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/Access%20the%20%E2%82%AC5,000%20Grow%20Digital%20Voucher.html>

The new Grow Digital support is dedicated to helping businesses with up to 50 employees to harness the power of digital technologies supported by the €5,000 Grow Digital Grant.

### Focus On Retail

Re-imagining retail is a full day course aimed at small to medium retailers in county Kildare and will focus on maximising sales for the first quarter of trading in 2025.

Delivered by Miriam Simon on the 21 January, places can be booked online at this URL:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online-Bookings/Re-Imagining%20Retail%20-%2021st%20January.html>.

### Dare To Lead

On 10 December 2024, Kildare County Council's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) celebrated its tenth anniversary with a milestone event titled Dare to Lead, held at The Osprey Hotel in Naas. The event brought together

entrepreneurs from across Kildare, alongside key stakeholders, to reflect on the past decade of entrepreneurship in the region, share visionary leadership insights, and foster new connections.



The event featured an inspiring keynote address from Leo Clancy, CEO of Enterprise Ireland, who commended the significant impact of LEO Kildare on the local economy. Since 2017, LEO Kildare has supported the creation of 2,107 new jobs and, in 2018, Kildare was recognised as having the highest net job creation increase in the country, with 285 jobs created — a 30% rise since 2017.

Key figures from the event highlighted LEO Kildare's extraordinary contribution to local business development:

- €13.8 million in direct financial assistance for 2,438 business projects since 2014



- 4,188 mentoring sessions completed, benefiting over 5,700 participants.
- 1,287 training courses, aimed at helping 22,562 entrepreneurs develop their businesses.
- LEO Kildare has led several successful national initiatives, including the introduction of TOVs (Trading Online Vouchers), LEAN and Green programs and its K Hub network strategy has become a model in the National Hub Policy Document.

### Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants 2024	No. of Apps. Approved	Value of Apps. Approved
ATHY	13	€16,430
CBLX	12	€19,892
CLMN	6	€17,700
KDNB	26	€42,129
NAAS	17	€34,679

The closing figures for the 2024 Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants are tabulated above. We look forward to opening the 2025 grants in the early

Spring where a pipeline of applicants already exists.

The St Brigid Retail Window Merchandising Scheme is now open for applicants via:

<https://submit.link/3eP>

### Public Procurement Masterclass

The Economic Development (ED) and LEO team will host this masterclass on Thursday 16 January in MERITS; the session will equip local SMEs in navigating the technical aspects of national procurement portals (etenders and SupplyGov) and how to bid for tenders in an effective manner.

The masterclass is a direct follow on from Kildare County Council's Public Procurement Briefing Day which was delivered in late November 2024, which provided guidance on Irish public procurement and overviews of procurement plans of five Kildare County Council Departments.

34 individuals have registered for next Thursday's masterclass; local businesses can still register via:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Public%20Procurement%20Masterclass%20-%20January%2016th.html>.



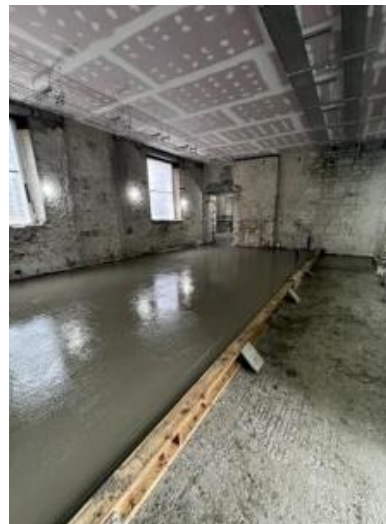
### **Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub**

Part 8 statutory process submissions period for the proposed Fashion, Textiles, and Design Hub closed on the 10 December 2024. All submissions received were collated and a Submissions Report was created and forwarded to the Planning Department. This report will be used to form the Planning Report and Chief Executive Report which will be presented to the Elected Members at the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District Meeting in February 2025 for decision. Procured Architectural lead to commence detail design upon outcome of Part 8 process.

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

Construction works have entered the thirty-third week of the programme. 53% of construction programme has been completed. Extensions to the main building structure, the bike shelter, and the Courtyard shelter are 100% completed. All site service ductwork installed. Finished level ground floor slab poured. Electrical and mechanical first fix ongoing and to be completed mid Q1. Removal of sash windows for factory refurbishment, on site refurbishment, and refit 57% complete. Fit-out kitchen

specialist procured, and draft layout design for kitchen fit-out complete and approved.





process. Unsuccessful grantees will be supported with business advice and signposting alternative opportunities to advance their proposal.

The next phase of activation will be to set out a network roadmap and establish a tourism business cluster and with Fáilte Ireland.

## **Tourism**

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

The closing date for applications (under Categories one (visitor experience) two (accommodation) and three (design and planning) is 13 January. At the time of writing, five applicants have submitted applications for a total of eight projects. This includes re-submission of a project which was unsuccessful in early 2024. A further five are putting the final details together for submission. Fáilte Ireland have advised that the evaluation process will take a minimum of eight weeks, with no upper limit on the time frame. As with other EUJTF schemes, the list of successful beneficiaries will be published online by EMRA. Successful grantees will require hands-on support with procurement, project management and the claims

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