



Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – July 2024



Newly Elected members of the Council 2024-2029

(not present in image: Cllr Brian Dooley, Cllr Brian O'Loughlin, Cllr Vera Louise Behan, Cllr Ivan Keatley, Cllr Suzanne Doyle, Cllr Fintan Brett, Cllr Bernard Caldwell)



News Items

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

The Annual Meeting of the Council on June 21 saw the election of the new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach (see page 8).

Kildare County Council Published 2023 Annual Report

Kildare County Council has published its Annual Report for 2023, giving an overview of the Council's programme of work delivered last year (see page 8).

Presentation to Retired Members

Retired members have been invited for lunch on Monday 29 July along with new council and senior management (see page 9).

Corporate Plan

Public consultation will begin in late July to inform the development of a new Corporate Plan for Kildare County Council for the period 2024 – 2029 (see page 11).

Strategic Policy Committees

Public consultation is also planned for the development of a new Scheme for the formation of Strategic Policy Committees for the period 2024 – 2029 (see page 11).

Kildare Town Library

The staff of Kildare Town Library were thrilled to reopen to the public on Thursday 06 June, following major renovation works. (see page 12).

Second round of ICOB grants announced in May 2024.

Eligibility for the second payment of ICOB grant is based on being in the category of accommodation and food provider or wholesale, retail or motor industry.
(see page 21).



Notice Of Consideration Of Setting A Local Adjustment Factor For 2025

Kildare County Council will meet in September 2024 to consider the setting of a local adjustment factor (see page 22).

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires the Council to prepare and adopt a five year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers who are eligible for social housing support within County Kildare (see page 27).

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

A review of all LACAPs is underway to ascertain robust information on action typology (see page 44).

Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) survey June 2024

The first national litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) since the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme reveals a fall in cans and plastic bottles on our streets contributing to an overall improvement in litter levels. Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities (see page 55).

Speed Limit Review

Presentations made at each Municipal District Meeting in July 2024 to outline the process for Supplementary Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads (see page 63).

Local Enterprise Office

MERITS clients continue to grow and expand with four new recruits being added to MERITS businesses last month and an FDI company expanding their office space footprint as they grow their EU market share.

(see pages 85/86).



Diary/Calendar

KPMG Women's Irish Open

Kildare County Council, in collaboration with Into Kildare, are official host sponsors for the Women's Irish Open (WIO) taking place in Carton House, 28 August – 01 September this year (see page 9).

Gerard Manley Hopkins Society

The Gerard Manley Hopkins society will visit Áras Chill Dara on 23 July. They will be greeted in the chamber, followed by coffee and pastries, before receiving a talk on the Oisín Sculpture (see page 10).

Library - Forthcoming events

22 August, 11.30 am – Heritage Week event at our premises at Harbour View, Naas (see page 14).

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2024

The SSHA 2024 forms, together with an introductory letter, will be posted to the relevant applicants week beginning 12 August (see page 28).

Uisce Éireann Councillor Workshop – September 2024

Following the recent local elections, Uisce Éireann will be holding in-person workshop in September to meet with all the newly elected Kildare County Council members to outline the work of Uisce Éireann across all areas (see page 53).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 September 2024 (see page 62).

De Burgh Woodland Gardens

Opened to the public on Saturday 13 July and will open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am- 5.30pm. (see page 69).



Play Day 2024

Planning for the annual play day event has started. The event will take place on Saturday 14 September in Aras Chill Dara (see page 70).

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031

The Draft Joint Local Area Plan was published on the 19 June 2024. A public ‘drop-in’ event took place at the TSI Building, Maynooth University on Wednesday the 10 July. Submissions from the public are welcome before 4.00pm on the 01 August 2024 (see page 71).

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Economic Development will deliver the AF Recognition Programme to businesses in Ballymore Eustace on 23 July (see page 83).



September Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Sep	3	4	5	6 10:00 Clane Maynooth MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
9 14:30 Protocol Committee Meeting; Members Calendar	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting ; Council Chamber ; Members Calendar	11	12	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting September; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 14:00 Corporate Policy Group; Mem...	17 14:30 Audit Committee 14:30 Housing Disability Steering Group	18 10:00 Kildare Newbridge MD Monthly Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19 11:30 County Twinning Committee	20 10:00 Celbridge Leixlip monthly municipal district meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
23 15:00 Full Council Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	24	25 10:00 LCDC	26 11:30 Kildare Interagency Integration Committee	27



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Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Appointment of new Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach



At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 21 June 2024, Councillor Joe Neville was elected as Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council and Councillor Kevin Duffy was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Kildare County Council Published 2023 Annual Report



Kildare County Council has published its Annual Report for 2023, giving an

overview of the Council's programme of work delivered last year.

In addition to the wide range of services provided by Kildare County Council, many changes and improvements were delivered throughout the year to improve service delivery and support the daily lives of the citizens of Kildare and those visiting the county. The report was published in both English and Irish on the Council's website and the communications promoting the publication of the report was also published in both languages.

Your Council Day 2024



Kildare County Council's role in supporting quality living in Kildare was highlighted and celebrated to mark Your Council Day 2024, which took place on Friday 05 July.

Across County Kildare, amenities and services operated, supported and provided by Kildare County Council have a positive impact on the quality of life, wellbeing and health of our



citizens and visitors. An extensive array of local authority services are used by people on a day-to-day basis which support quality living.



On Your Council Day 2024, Kildare County Council along with other local authorities dedicated our social media channels to highlighting some of the work of the local authority which positively impacts on people's everyday lives. The communications activity for Your Council Day 2024, including the press release and some social media content was published in both English and Irish, to help reach and engage with the broadest possible audience.

KPMG Women's Irish Open



Kildare County Council, in collaboration with Into Kildare, are

official host sponsors for the Women's Irish Open (WIO) taking place in Carton House, a Fairmont Managed Hotel from 28 August to 01 September this year.

The partnership will help to promote the event within the county of Kildare and support one of the best events on the Ladies European Tour calendar. Leona Maguire will be competing for the title alongside her Solheim Cup teammate Georgia Hall. Global stars, Olivia Cowan, Annabel Dimmock, Sara Kouskova and Ireland's Lauren Walsh and Olivia Mehaffey have also been confirmed as star players for the event. Into Kildare CEO, Aine Mangan, represented County Kildare at the WIO Media and Partners Day.



Aine Mangan with Pro Golfer Leona Maguire and Forefront Director Roddy Carr

Presentation to Retired Members

Retired members have been invited for lunch on Monday 29 July along with



the new council and senior management. A presentation of gifts and photographs of retired members will take place before full council meeting

Gerard Manley Hopkins Society

The Gerard Manley Hopkins society will visit Áras Chill Dara on 23 July. They will be greeted in the chamber, followed by coffee and pastries, before receiving a talk on the Oisín Sculpture. The group will then visit the new library in Naas.

Members Services

The July 29 Monthly Full Council meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube channel.

Municipal Districts Annual Meetings

The following Councillors were elected as Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual Meetings of these Committees between June 27 and 28.

Clane Maynooth

Cathaoirleach Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Daragh Fitzpatrick.

Naas

Mayor Councillor Fintan Brett,

Deputy Mayor Councillor Seamie Moore.

Athy

Cathaoirleach Aoife Breslin, Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Ivan Keatley.

Kildare Newbridge

Mayor Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer, Deputy Mayor Councillor Chris Pender.

Celbridge Leixlip

Cathaoirleach Councillor Bernard Caldwell.

Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Rupert Heather.

Councillors elected for the first time at 07 June local elections are reminded to submit their Ethics Declarations by July 26, 2024.

All local election candidates have been contacted in writing and a reminder has issued advising that they must submit their statement of donations and expenses following the local elections in accordance with Section 13 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999. Kildare County Council is obliged to make a register of such statements available for public inspection and



there are penalties for non-compliance.

The statements and declarations must be returned by 06 September, 2024.

Draft Scheme for the formation of Strategic Policy Committees

Following the local elections Kildare County Council is obliged to develop and adopt a Scheme for the period 2024-2029 to enable the formation of Strategic Policy Committees.

It is intended that consultation will commence in August and run up to and including September 2, 2024.

Consultation on a Corporate Plan 2024-2029.



Following the local elections, the Council is also obliged to develop and adopt a Corporate Plan for the period 2024-2029.

It is intended that consultation will run from July 30 up to and including September 9.

A range of measures including press releases, advertisements, radio and social media posts will be used to publicise the consultation.

The adoption of both the Draft SPC Scheme and Draft Corporate Plan are a reserved function of the elected council and will likely be listed for consideration in Q4 2024.

FOI, Data Requests and Ombudsman

	Total received Quarter 1, 2024	Total received Quarter 2, 2024	Total
Freedom of Information Requests	41	33	74
Freedom of information appeals	0	1	1
Information Commissioner Appeals	0	0	0
Data Access Requests	4	6	10
Ombudsman	5	6	11



Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open” – Laura Bush

Kildare Town Library

The staff of Kildare Town Library were thrilled to reopen to the public on Thursday 06 June, following major renovations. Since reopening, we have welcomed back all our regular groups. We were also pleased to host many events throughout the month, including a fun “Literary and Jazz Night” as part of the Kildare Derby Festival, where we were joined by the lively Des Hopkins Jazz Band and poet Mae Leonard, who read a selection of poetry and short stories accompanied by readers from the Wordsmiths writing group. We were also joined by horticulturist Judith O’Connor, who delivered a fascinating “Get Growing” workshop as part of the Kildare Seed Library programme, and occupational therapist Sarah Butler, who delivered a talk on “play in every way” as part of

the TTT programme. We also welcomed author David Butler, who delivered a four week creative writing course as part of the Connections Through Literature programme, in partnership with the Irish Writers Centre.

Reader Services

Ukrainian Resources

A new collection of Ukrainian books has been purchased. The books are based in Naas Library and Cultural Centre but can be borrowed through the library management system by all borrowers.

Better Basics Boosting Reading

Naas Library and Cultural Centre hosted the end of year Better Basics Boosting Reading event. To commemorate the tenth year of the programme, Kildare Library Service and County Kildare LEADER Partnership introduced a Writer in Residence as part of the programme. The celebration event launched a book of short stories written by the 56 children who took part in this year’s programme.



Better Basics is a reading enhancement programme with paired one-to-one reading with a volunteer, twice a week for 15 weeks. The programme is aimed at primary school children who are not in receipt of mainstream supports but who are struggling to keep up in class. This year with the addition of Writer in Residence, Emma-Jane Leeson we launched “Our Stories” written by the children of the five schools involved in the programme.

Library IT

Upgrade works at selected libraries were finished at the end of June to facilitate making new laptops available for borrowing by library members. These two in one touchscreen convertible laptops are available for use in the library on three hour loans, and come installed with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. To borrow, members scan their card at self-service pickup lockers in-branch; the interface of these lockers is available in English and Irish, and users with accessibility requirements can avail of an ‘Easy Access’ mode to borrow laptops from easier-to-reach locker bays.

Laptops are available to borrow from Athy, Celbridge, Kilcock, Kildare Town, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge and Rathangan libraries.

Funding assistance towards this new equipment was provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

The Kildare eHistory Journal has been updated to the latest version of WordPress which has given the site a fresh appearance with revised categories. Originally developed in 2006, it contains over 1,700 articles on all aspects of the history and heritage of County Kildare. It can be found at [Kildare eHistory Journal \(kildarelibraries.ie\)](http://kildarelibraries.ie)

Some works on the building at Harbour View are ongoing. Kildare County Archives is open to researchers on Thursdays and Fridays, 10.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 17.00 by prior appointment. Local Studies is open to researchers from Wednesday-Saturday, 10.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 17.00 by prior appointment.



The Archivist is working on Kildare County Council Records Management; accessioning, listing and processing archival collections. Local Studies staff are cataloguing their collection.

Forthcoming events

22 August, 11.30 am – Heritage Week event at our premises at Harbour View, Naas: ‘Tunnels from Tintown’ will explore the connections, networks and routes that played a part in the story of the Curragh Internment Camps using camp autograph books and photographs and artifacts.

Kildare Arts Services

Funding secured for Phase II of Creative Places Athy

Kildare County Council Arts Service has secured €70,000 from the Arts Council for further development of the Creative Places Athy (CPA) programme. Phase II (November 2024 – October 2025) will support the delivery of socially engaged arts projects in Athy centered on capacity building, collaboration and sustainability.

Invitation to contribute to Creative Places Athy Roadmap Planning and Evaluation

Creative Places Athy will host a series of workshops facilitated by Workhouse Union to explore and plan the next steps for Phase two of the Arts Council- funded project open to contributions from members of the public. Evaluation of the three year programme from 2021-2024 is taking place with David Teevan and Associates.

Summer Solstice Gathering Athy

Over 12 weeks of sculpture, music, poetry and drumming workshops, culminated in a summer solstice event at Athy Library supported by Creative Places Athy. This celebration of local folklore brought together a range of communities and individual artists.

‘Brigid Sings’ at Kildare Cathedral

A choir of over 120 children representing primary schools from across Kildare took to the stage in Kildare Cathedral on Saturday 08 June for the inaugural Brigid Sings gala performance. A collaboration between Kildare County Council, Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland,



the concert was the culmination of a months-long programme of workshops and weekly singing sessions, with schools from all of Kildare's five Municipal Districts. The Brigid Sings project, specifically designed for Kildare, celebrates the life and story of Brigid through music and song, bringing her accomplishments to life. Performing world premieres of five new songs, children were joined onstage by the singer-songwriters commissioned to pen them: Sive, SAL, Megan O'Neill, Lea Heart and Inni-K. Each song was accompanied by illustrations from Kildare illustrator, Laura Dempsey. Over 3,800 children from 32 primary schools engaged in the Brigid Sings workshops across April and May, learning and rehearsing with musician educators from Music Generation Kildare and Sing Ireland.

Assistant Arts Officer Role Announced

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for inclusion on a panel for the permanent role of Assistant Arts Officer.

Artist in Residence Programme at The Acre Project

Applications are invited from professional artists and/or collectives or companies practicing in any art form for a 30-week residency, commencing Autumn 2024. The Artist in Residence Bursary Award will support an artist to develop their professional practice and/or develop a specific artistic project, alongside a programme of public-facing workshops to engage communities from the local area. This is a partnership between Kildare Arts Service and The Acre Project.

Our Shared Plate Artist/Creative Practitioner Call Out Announced

Kildare County Council Arts Service and Neighbourhood Network are seeking applications from professional artists across all art forms to engage with a food security and climate resilience project called Our Shared Plate.

Kildare Young Filmmakers Summer Camp in Leixlip

Kildare Young Filmmakers' Summer Camp is taking place at Platform 4, Leixlip Library over two weeks in July. Proudly funded by Kildare Arts Service.



Local Writers selected for the Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme

Following a national call, 39 writers from across Ireland have been selected from a total of 416 applicants to participate in the Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme. Clive Henry and Cora Crampton have been selected as Kildare-based writers to receive professional literary mentoring over eight months from acclaimed Irish writers of their choice. Kildare County Council Arts Service with the Arts Council have funded literary mentorships.

Municipal Art Collection at Athy Civic Amenities Building

A number of artworks from the County Council's Municipal Art Collection have been installed at the Athy Civic Amenities Building, Gallows Hill.

Cruinniú na nÓg events in June

Kildare's Cruinniú na nÓg children's creativity festival took place on 15 June and included 32 events across the five Municipal Districts. Over 1,300 people took part in the day's events, which were organised by library branches, arts and community

organisations. This included our first ever 'Teen Night' festival event at Naas Library, which was attended by over 270 local teens, their families and friends. Event reports and financial details are being uploaded to the Creative Ireland portal, in preparation for financial drawdown from The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media by 31 July.

Health and Safety

1. Site Inspections:

Five inspections completed in the following areas:

- Roads team Celbridge- sign placement
- Maynooth library
- Water /Uisce Éireann Dowden town reservoir –
- Castledermot library
- Athy area office

2. VDU (Visual Display Unit)

Assessments:

Eight assessments completed in the following area:

- National Roads Office

3. Three Health and Safety

Inductions:

- Delivered to 11 new staff.

4. Placement of Risk Assessment for transportation on Proworks



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| <p>5. Health and Safety Management Committee Meeting</p> <p>6. Review of induction e-learning programme</p> <p>7. Review of safety statement e-learning programme</p> <p>8. Preparation of information flyer on Hogweed</p> <p>9. Update of Accident/Incident Database.</p> <p>10. First Aid Training</p> <p>11. Two Safety Meet and Greets completed with surface dressing crew.</p> <p>12. Pregnancy Risk Assessment: One assessment completed in the following area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Services <p>13. Safety Committee meeting with safety representatives.</p> <p>14. Meeting regarding Proworks with Athy transportation team.</p> <p>15. Review of safety statement e-learning programme</p> <p>16. Brownstown facility – review of Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) and introduction of Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP) with team</p> <p>17. Updated all transport Risk Assessments and Method</p> | <p>Statement onto Proworks which can now be added to job packs</p> <p>18. Update Safety Statement onto Proworks</p> <p>19. Working with training on first aiders/fire marshals for Aras.</p> <p>20. Preparation for Annual Conference – including meeting with Comms Team.</p> <p>21. Briefing session at National Roads Office on Safety statement and RAMS-Eight National Roads Office staff in attendance</p> <p>22. Review of safety statement e-learning programme – final induction draft for review</p> <p>23. Review of school wardens RAMS with Road Safety Officer</p> <p>Accessibility:</p> <p>1. Meeting with Now Org re:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Continued Partnership/Membership renewal – JAM Cardb. JAM Card Trainingc. Marketingd. Employment Development - opportunities to support NOW Group participants.e. Events |
|---|--|



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| <p>2. Meeting with HR on Employment of person with disabilities within organisation</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Requirement to meet target: minimum of 6% of our employees are persons with disabilities by 2025.</p> <p>3. Additional Meeting with Now Org re:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Employment Development - opportunities to support NOW Group participants.</p> <p>4. Workshop with Maynooth Access Group on development of an</p> | <p>accessible streetscape with Our World Toy Resource.</p> <p>5. Meeting with ESUS Consultants on development of eLearning training module for accessibility – to be run on Meta compliance platform</p> <p>6. Accessibility Tour of Google</p> <p>7. Meetings:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. CKAN (County Kildare Access Network)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Leixlip Disability Access Group</p> |
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Finance, Digital Services and Innovation

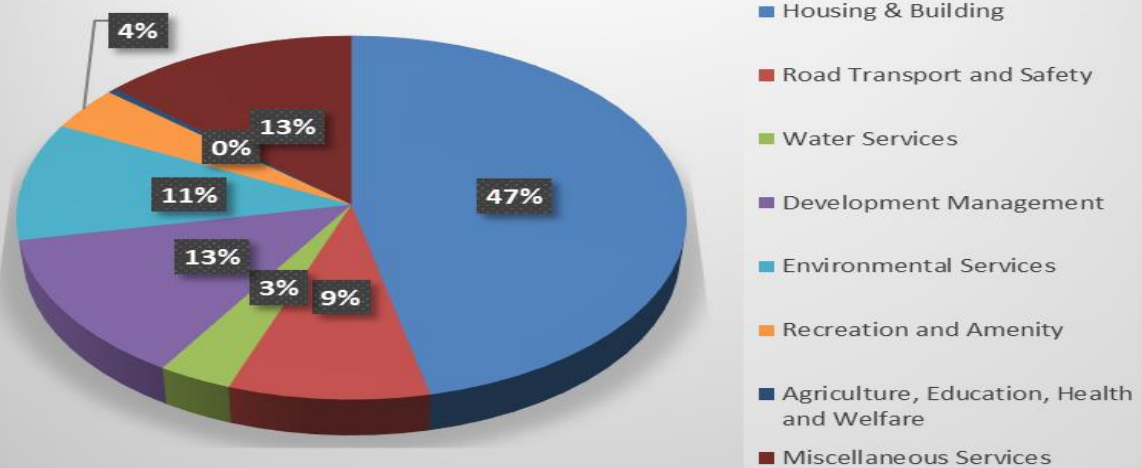
Finance

Revenue Account

Kildare County Council				
Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 June 2024				
Division	Expenditure	Budget	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	55,662	88,215	63%	32,553
Road Transport and Safety	10,884	44,078	25%	33,194
Water Services	3,988	9,767	41%	5,779
Development Management	15,545	29,330	53%	13,785
Environmental Services	12,570	24,474	51%	11,904
Recreation and Amenity	4,642	17,635	26%	12,993
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	568	1,305	44%	737
Miscellaneous Services	15,878	21,941	72%	6,063
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	119,738	236,745	51%	117,007



Expenditure Year to Date



Kildare County Council

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

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€ ,000	€ ,000		€ ,000
Housing & Building	53,888	78,925	68%	25,037
Road Transport and Safety	3,423	23,074	15%	19,651
Water Services	2,652	9,685	27%	7,033
Development Management	12,321	11,182	110% -	1,139
Environmental Services	2,351	7,886	30%	5,535
Recreation and Amenity	1,456	2,187	67%	731
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	101	308	33%	207
Miscellaneous Services	2,167	10,043	22%	7,876
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,153	21,460	33%	14,307
Rates	36,152	71,995	50%	35,843
				-
	121,663	236,745	51%	115,082



Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 June 2024							
	Arrears 01/01/2024	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 30/06/2024
Commercial Rates	8,380,465	72,242,187	54,130		80,568,522	45,856,435	34,712,087
Rents & Annuities	1,344,058	10,646,618	6,453	-	11,984,223	10,342,174	1,642,049
Housing Loans	1,387,626	2,003,011	-	-	3,390,637	2,010,263	1,380,374

Cashflow / Overdraft

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

Risk Management

The individual directorates have had workshops on their individual Risk Registers with IPB. A quarter two review between directorate and IPB is to be arranged. The Information Technology risk register was presented to the Audit Committee at their May meeting.

Local Government Audit

Eamon Daly, Local Government Auditor will commence his audit of the Financial Statements of Kildare County

Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 on the 26 July 2024. Publication of the notice of commencement of audit has been arranged.

Increased Cost of Business Grant (ICOB)

As part of Budget 2024, the Government announced a €257m package to help small to medium businesses deal with the rising costs facing businesses.

Kildare County Council has approx 4,100 eligible businesses.

First round ICOB grants 3,180 submissions (77% of eligible businesses) received by 28 June.

3,121 (98.1%) grants paid as of 02 July with a value of €6,098,138.



A second round of ICOB grants was announced in May 2024.

Eligibility for the second payment of ICOB grant is based on being in the category of accommodation and food provider or wholesale, retail or motor industry.

A review of customers to establish eligibility for the second ICOB grant is underway. The classification used on ICOB one submission is key to qualifying and a number require reclassification.

The second grant amount is the same that the business got first time round and basically means that they will have got the lesser of one year’s rates or a max of €10,000 as ICOB.

Grant payment ICOB two will be begin in August.

It is expected that 1,500 rates customers will receive second grants to a value of circa €3m.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme

Circular PL 04/2023 introduced a Temporary Time-Limited Waiver for Development Contributions in respect of residential developments with commencement notices issued on or after 28 March 2023 and completion of

the build of the units by 31 December 2025.

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

On the 15 of each month each Local Authority is to submit a claim to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage the value of waivers applied.

Development Contributions Waiver Scheme		
Position at:		15-Jun-24
Total number of residential units		792
Type of Residential Units	Number	Value
Houses	625	€4,980,101
Apartments	167	€664,744
Special Roads		€150,000
Total	792	€5,794,845

Digital Services

Novatel have won the tender for providing the upgrade to the internal mobile coverage in the Áras – Install dates 07 to 14 August.



Budget 2025

Public consultation on local property tax (LPT) will take place as outlined in the notice below.

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL

ADJUSTMENT FACTOR FOR 2025

The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended), makes specific provision that elected members of a local authority may pass a formal resolution to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax for their administrative area by a percentage known as the local adjustment factor. At the meeting set by Kildare County Council to consider this matter, the members may set a local adjustment factor within the range of +/- 15% of the basic rate, or, may decide not to adjust the basic rate.

Kildare County Council will meet in September 2024 to consider the setting of a local adjustment factor.

Kildare County Council welcomes written submissions from the public on this matter specifically covering the potential effects of varying the basic rate of the Local Property Tax on

businesses, individuals and on local authority services.

The period of submissions is from Tuesday 16 July 2024 to 5.00pm on Friday 16 August 2024.

Submissions must be received by 5.00 pm on Friday 16 August 2024 and be made by either completing an on-line survey at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/> by post to: LPT, Finance Department, at the address below. or email lptsubs@kildarecoco.ie

Integration Team

General:

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's) have reached 90-day threshold for State provided accommodation. The vast majority of residents are sourcing their own accommodation prior to reaching day-90. The Local Authority will commence day-75 clinics specifically to assist and advice residents who have not sourced accommodation by that date.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



(DCEDIY) continue to consolidate its existing accommodation portfolio for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) that arrived prior to 14 March 2024 as numbers decline. As centres are closed residents are being relocated to alternative accommodation centres.

Recent Developments

People with Status in State provided accommodation in IPAS centres have received letters informing them that they must leave that accommodation.

Local Authority's have received questionnaires from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to be completed by home owners involved in the Offer a Home Scheme to provide feedback on the operation of the scheme. Homeowners currently receive an €800 accommodation recognition payment under the scheme.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT is part of 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' and empowering new arrivals to live independently in the community. The LAIT provides information, advice and guidance to international protection applicants, persons with status, beneficiaries of temporary protection and programme refugees in county Kildare. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, signposting services available locally appropriate to needs, supporting access, and solving queries.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection Statistics:

BOTP in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 958 (706 adults/ 252 children) – Data source DECDIY – 11 July 2024

As of 08 July 2024, the LAIT has visited all centres accommodating BOTP in county Kildare and arranged 11 outreach visits and 24 clinics as well as three coordination meetings with service providers at Designated Accommodation Centres.



International Protection (IP)

Applicants Statistics:

IP applicants in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 754 (608 adults/146 children) - Source DECDIY 07 July 2024

As of 08 July 2024, the LAIT has visited all IPAS accommodation and carried out 14 outreach visits and 20 clinics.

A total of 313 persons have been supported through clinics.

Up to the 08 July 2024, the LAIT has received 517 queries and resolved 499 of those queries. This entailed supporting 11 persons with status, 259 persons with temporary protection and 247 applicants of international protection to access local services and/or solve queries related to Housing (19.1%), Employment (11.6%), Adult Education (10.6%), Health (9.3%), Community (8.9%), Social Welfare (7.7%), Immigration (7.7%), Accommodation (5.6%), English classes (5.4%), Online Gov Access (3.3%), Civil Legal (2.3%), Transport (2.3%), Children Education (1.7%), Finances (1.4%), Early

Education and Childcare (1%), Disability (0.8%), and Legal (0.2%).

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

Through the model for distribution for IRPP 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 in August, October, and November 2024, and in the second quarter of 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. An implementing partner was identified by Kildare County Council 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 Resettlement Programme will be overseen by a recently established Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) chaired/facilitated by the LAIT. The IAWG first meeting took place on 01 July. The terms of reference have been reviewed and accepted, and members agreed on key preparatory actions.

National ISC and ISW Networks

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

Accommodation Team:

The Accommodation Team manage the Offer a Home Scheme in county Kildare in conjunction with the Irish Red Cross (IRC) and manage the SLA agreed with The Peter McVerry Trust for the management of the Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge.

Offer a Home Scheme

(update 12 July 2024)

Properties occupied	55
Properties in progress	10
Properties withdrawn	<u>31</u>

Total properties offered to date 96

Rest Centre at Liffey Lodge, Newbridge

(update 07 July 2024)

Number accommodated 26

The Accommodation Team are also involved in the following accommodation programmes:

Refurbishment Programme

Assessment and reporting on proposals logged on the LGMA refurbishment portal. All current applications must be complete and delivered by 31 October 2024 as the temporary directive expires on 04 March 2025. A minimum capacity of 30 people is required for all refurbishment proposals. The scheme is currently closed for new applications. All current applications under this scheme must be completed and submitted to the LGMA by Friday 19 July.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

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



Punchestown:

Opened in mid-March with a capacity of 378 people. Current occupancy is 183 people (07 July 2024).

Newhall:

Opened in mid-May with a capacity of 985 people. Current occupancy is 332 people (07 July 2024).

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties signposted 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 to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS and the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

The Community Integration Forum

Formerly known as the Community Response Forum (CRF) responsibility for the Community Integration Forum (CIF) transferred to the Integration Team in May 2024.

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each month chaired by the Director of Service. The Community Integration Forum has met three times, on the 01 May, 05 June and 03 July 2024. The role of the Community Integration Forum is to enhance information sharing, collaboration and coordination among service providers to maximise integration supports outcomes. The role of the Community Integration Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action 1.7.7 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.

Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2029



The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires the Council to prepare and adopt a five year Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers who are eligible for social housing support within County Kildare.

A draft plan is currently being prepared and will be published over the coming weeks. A further period of public consultation will follow and details will be published in local press and will be updated on the Council's Consultation

Portal (Online).

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/>

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2024

Circular 22/2024 has been received instructing the council to commence SSHA 2024.

The SSHA 2024 forms, together with an introductory letter, will be posted to the relevant applicants week beginning 12 August.

Only applicants registered and approved with Kildare County Council as in need of social housing between 01 March 2019 and 28 February 2021 are required to complete this form. This assessment does not apply to an applicant in receipt of the following supports: Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme or transfer tenants. The closing date for receipt of the Summary of Social Housing assessment forms is Friday, 23 August 2024.

In accordance with the terms of the circular, failure by applicants to submit fully completed SSHA 2024 form, along with relevant documentation, may result in their file being closed and



the applicant being removed from the housing list.

Summary of Social Housing

Assessments 2023

SSHA 2023 was recently published, the SSHA provides details of the number of households qualified for social housing across all local authority areas in 2023; the SSHA does not count households with a HAP or RAS tenancy. Nationally a total of 58,824 households qualified for social housing support, compared to 57,842 households in 2022, this represents a 1.7% increase. Twenty-two counties recorded an increase in the number of qualified households. The number of qualified households in Kildare increased from 3,008 in 2022 to 3,450 in 2023, an increase of 14.7%. The Mid-East Region of Kildare, Meath, Wicklow and Louth accounts for 14.3% of the national demand for social housing.

Nationally, Kildare has the 4th highest number of qualified households. The following statistics relate to qualified households in Kildare:

- The largest household category is single person households (51%),

followed by one Adult with 1-2 children (22%).

- 51% of applicants derive their entire income from social welfare, 25% from employment, 9% of households have a combination of income derived from employment and social welfare.
- 2,222 (64%) of households are on the housing list for a period of less than five years.
- 71% of households are headed by an Irish citizen, 20% by an EEA citizen, 8% by a non-EEA citizen, 1% by a United Kingdom citizen.
- 7.8% of households have a household member with a physical, sensory, mental or intellectual impairment.
- 12.6% of households are headed by a person aged 60 and over.
- 33% of households are in private rented accommodation, 25% are living with parents, 12% are living with relatives or friends, 10% are living in emergency accommodation.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Athgarvan Village	18 units	Works progressing on site.
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works are progressing on site in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
Approval Stage 2		
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Tenders being assessed
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Decision awaited from An Bord Pleanala. Archaeology excavation works to commence in the coming weeks.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 being prepared.
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	Stage 2 approval received with conditions. Site Investigation to be completed to allow design to be finalised.
Station Road, Kildare.	28-30 units	Stage 2 application approved.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	15 units	Part 8 to be presented at July MD meeting



Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tender for Architect Framework Agreement being assessed.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage1 funding approved. Civil & Structural Engineer appointed. Design works for planning application commenced.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 2 existing units	Civil/Structural Engineer appointed.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team to be appointed.
Ballitore Garda Station	5 (2 x refurb + 3 new)	Design team appointed; preparation of Part 8 documents progressing.

Pre-Approval		
Sarto Road, Naas	7 units	Single stage application being prepared for submission to DHLGH. Site investigation works complete.
Tanyard, Ballitore	4 units	Pre-funding application submitted to DHLGH.
Kilcock Courthouse	3 units	Funding application to be submitted to DHLGH.
Canalside , Athy	3 units	Feasibility report progressing.
Whitestown House, Kilcock	14 units	Funding application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Preparation of contractor tender documents progressing.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Stage 3 application approved. 2 tenders received; 1 valid tender but overbudget. Project being re-tendered; deadline 6 th August
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site in line with programme.
25 Corbans Place Naas	1 major refurbishment and extension	Substantial completion expected mid-August.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Part 8 considered at meeting of Athy MD on 15 th July and agreed without amendment.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Ardrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: 3 tenders received. Tender Assessment ongoing, with preferred bidder to be known in September.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 application for decision at Celbridge-Leixlip MD meeting 19 th July.
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 5: Part 8 submissions period has closed. Housing report being prepared. Target September MD meeting for consideration.
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team preparing feasibility options.
Rathasker Road, Naas	82 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design team preparing feasibility options.



Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CALF	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Draft Section 179A documents received for review. Briefing to be arranged with Celbridge-Leixlip MD members.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	27	Part 8 to be presented at July MD meeting.
CAS	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents being prepared.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved

*CAS = Capital Assistance Scheme

*CALF = Capital Advance Leasing Facility

Acquisitions

	2022	2023	2024
Housing Acquisitions	41	96	35
Housing Turnkeys	82	42	6
Part V Acquisitions	86	109	39
Total	209	247	80

Acquisitions and Leasing by Municipal District					
	Athy	Celbridge - Leixlip	Clane-Maynooth	Kildare-Newbridge	Naas
Acquisitions in 2023	26	70	38	68	15



Leasing 2023 (includes AHB leasing and MTR Leasing)	13	77	7	67	3
Acquisitions in 2024	16	10	14	24	16
MTR Delivery in 2024 to date (via CALF and leasing)	1	0	1	0	0

Regeneration

Year	Total No. CPOs	CPOs with ABP/at Intention Stage	CPOs confirmed	CPOs Withdrawn	Acquired by agreement	Vacant Property Grant Applications	Vacant Property Grants Approved	Vacant Property Grant payments
2023	22	1	16	4	1	144	106	24
Q1 2024	2	1	1	0	0	35	27	16
Q 2 2024	8	3	0	0	0	37	34	11
Total	10	4	1	0	0	72	61	27

Year	Vacant Property Inspections	Properties identified as requiring further investigation	Property Owners Engaged with	Pre CPO Notices Erected	Section 8(2) Derelict Sites Notices Issued
2023	1,006	301	128	47	0
Q1 2024	50	39	32	19	11
Q2 2024	38	35	26	11	3
Total	88	74	58	30	14

Housing Maintenance

Year	Vacant House Turnarounds	New House Purchases Upgrades	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Logged	Number of Response Maintenance Requests Completed
2023	127	19	11,136	8,876



Q1 2024	25	0	3,249	919
Q2 2024	35	0	2,491	1,164
Total	60	0	5, 740	2, 083

Programme	No. of Units	Updated Status
2023 EERP	86	61 units completed (included retrofit of vacant units) on the 2023 EERP.)
2024 EERP	69	55 Units identified in Naas/Calverstown/ Ballymore Eustace and Lakelands, Newbridge for 2023/2024 EERP.

Homeless Services

Families in PEA including Supporting Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 June 2024

Duration	No of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0 - 6 Months	31	46	72
6 - 12 Months	4	5	5
12 - 18 Months	5	10	10
18 - 24 Months	2	3	2
24 - 30 Months	0	0	0
36 Months +	1	2	1
Total	43	66	90

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 June 2024

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



18 - 24 Months	1	2	3
24 - 30 Months	1	1	2
36 Months +	0	0	0
Total	12	23	22

Homeless Presentations with Unique Presentations Breakdown

2023	Cases	Unique Households	Of which Unique Adults	Of which Unique Dependents	Repeats Households
2023	1,910	616	708	452	1,294
2024	Total Cases	Unique	Adults	Dependents	Repeats
Quarter 1	500	163	204	124	337
Quarter 2	511	149	178	121	362
Total	1,011	312	382	245	699

Homeless Exits from Emergency Accommodation

2024	Total No Household Exits from EA	Local Authority Lettings	AHB Letting	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
Quarter 1	23	5	13	5
Quarter 2	10	3	4	3
Totals	33	8	17	8

Homelessness Preventions

	Total No Households Homelessness Prevention	Local Authority Lettings	LA – Tenant in Situ (TiS)	AHB Lettings	Private Rented (HAP and RAS)
Quarter 1	68	19	23	26	0
Quarter 2	48	17	18	3	10
Totals	116	36	41	29	10



Housing Adaptation Grants

	Housing Adaptation Applications Received	Housing Adaptation Grants Approved	Mobility Aid Applications Received	Mobility Aid Applications Approved	Housing Aid for Older Persons Apps Recd	Housing Aid for Older Persons Grant Approved
2023	320	208	15	15	436	272
Q1 2024	58	52	3	6	112	135
Q2 2024	102	47	4	5	44	66

Local Authority Home Loan

Year	Approval No.	Approval Amount	Approval Drawdown No	Approval Drawdown Amount	Expired No	Expired Amount
2023	41	€8,327,127	19	€2,679,766	19	€3,754,714
Q1 2024	3	€633,400	5	€999,000	6	€1,181,700
Q2 2024	7	€1,449,200	2	€347,600	2	€305,150

Tenant Purchase Scheme

Year	Applications	Ineligible	Letter of Offers	Properties Sold
2023	53	4	25	5
Q1 2024	16	2	6	1
Q2 2024	9	3	3	0

Housing Assistance Payment – HAP

Year	Applications Received	Applications Rejected	Applications Approved
2023	397	16	414



Q1 2024	97	9	96
Q2 2024	97	25	96

Social Housing Assessments - Quarterly

Period	Existing Housing File Updates	Transfer Requests	New Valid Applications	Mortgage to Rent Apps	Refusals	No. of Households added to Housing List
2023	323	26	1,049	16	329	1,006
Q1 2024	46	56	263	3	64	243
Q2 2024	42	86	403	0	88	222

Rent Assessments

Year	LA Rents	LA New HAP	LA Hap Review
2023	2,205	458	413
2024 Q1	576	112	111
2024 Q2	408	117	86

Public Realm

Capital Works – Strategic Priorities

Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
Countywide	Barrow Blueway	€10,711,698 (incl additional costs)	RRDF €8,858,455 (incl add funding requested)	Construction	Additional Funding under Call 5 RRDF successful. Pedestrian bridge in Rathangan out for tender; closing mid-July. Contractor commencing anti-skid works and road markings at junctions. Snagging of road working works commenced. Awaiting agreement with Irish Rail



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					to commence works at Monasterevin railway station.
	Barrow Blueway Trail Head	€80,000	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund	Part 8	Preparing drawings and documents for Part 8.
	Greenway – Phase 1 & 2 Tie In (Sallins)			Part 8	Subject to meeting timelines between July and November in relation to technical reports, tender period, tender assessment etc, anticipate construction on site before end of 2024.
	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen	€10,102,080	€400,000 DoT and Carbon Tax Fund	Developed Preliminary Design	Part 8 for 2 additional bridges to be published in July, with a decision in December.
Kildare-Newbridge	Kildare Square (Phase 2)	€2,190,000	€1,750,000 RRDF €440,000	Part 8	Phase 2 and Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet: On hold due to potential alternative route being identified.
	Kildare Square (Phase 1)	€1,500,000	€500,000 Destination Towns – Failte Ireland €1,000,000 KCC/LPT	Part 8	Drawdown submitted to Failte Ireland for final claim. Interim works are nearing completion. Items completed include tree lighting, pruning, planting, new bollards, painting of lamp standards and planters. 2 x belly bins installed. Removal of concrete around trees to be carried out. Part 8 approved in May 2024.
	Curragh Plains Strategy	€148,600		Land Observation Plan & Interpretative & Branding Plan.	Fact check completed on the historical and archaeological references completed. Final outstanding issues to be discussed with Department of Defence.
	Kilcullen Market Square	€1,421,207 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding under RRDF Call 5 was refused.
	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Research underway. Base maps completed, document formatting has commenced. This Plan will be researched, prepared and delivered in-house by the SPPR



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					team, drawing on external resources where specialised skills are not available within the Council.
	Rathangan Market Square	€1,760,849 (Aug 2023)		Post Part 8	Part 8 approved. An application for funding under RRDF Call 5 was refused.
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan		LPT	Town Renewal Plan	Review of the latest draft document is underway to consider the impact of the ABTA proposals.
Athy	Emily Square	€3,026,177	€980,000 (KCC)	Detailed Design	Just Transition Fund approved. Contract awarded with proposed start date of September. Notice has been given to market traders re temporary relocation of market on a Tuesday to Barrow View Carpark.
	Shackleton Museum (RF0024)	€6,964,937	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €1,500,000 (KCC)	Construction	Works progressing. Cabin delivered and installed on site on 4 th July. No issues to report. Negotiations ongoing with 2 tenderers for Exhibition and Interpretive element.
Celbridge-Leixlip	Wonderful Barn	€3,488,370		Pre Part 8	Part 8 published on 7 th June; closing date for submissions/observations 19 th July. Advance works continue at the site. HSF funding of €100,000 confirmed. Project team working with Transport, Open Spaces/Parks.
Clane-Maynooth	Maynooth Town Centre Master Plan	€3,438,500	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved Updated costings to include	Town Centre Masterplan	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Masterplan.</p> <p>Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid</p> <p>Masterplan is currently published on eTenders; closing date end of July 2024.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as part of Final Business Case for sub projects A, B, C and F.		<p> Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town center – Feasibility study and report on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. SPPR will liaise with CARO to investigate further. </p> <p> Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform. Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. </p> <p> Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects. Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan and a Preliminary Business Case to the DHLGH on the priority projects identified through that process for further development. These projects will emerge from the Town Renewal Plan. </p>
	Harbourfield, Maynooth			Detailed Design & Works	<p> Sub Project F: Harbourfield Park – redevelopment of existing park and canal walkway. Approved to tender for the design team and subsequently detailed design and secure all necessary </p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
					permissions/ consent. Part 8 approved. Additional funding will be required to bring the project through the construction stages. Tenders received; consultant to be appointed mid-July.
	Allenwood Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Robertstown Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Kilmeague Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
	Coill Dubh Small Village Renewal Masterplan	€30,000	100% LPT	Small Village Renewal Masterplan	Published and available on Kildare County Council website.
Naas	Naas Town Centre Masterplan	€4,662,000	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC Updated costings to include VAT to be submitted to the Dept with additional funding considered upon receipt of a tender report as	TBC	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – Masterplan is currently published on eTenders; closing date end of July 2024.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Feasibility Study and Conservation Management Plan for St David’s Castle is now complete. Tender documents are being prepared to complete an Archaeological Survey for St David’s Castle and Grounds.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</p>



Municipal District	Project Name	Estimated Value	Funding Awarded	Project Stage	Notes
			part of Final Business Case		KCC to provide an update on the proposed acquisition of key sites, the current status of planned acquisitions. Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and subsequently the detailed design and secure all necessary permissions for Poplar Square to progress to detailed design stage only. Proceed to develop Murtagh's Corner and Corbans Lane to Part 8 stage only.
	Market House Naas (Canal Quarter)	As above	As above	TBC	Proposed water-based hub/bike hub.
	Sallins Town Renewal Masterplan	€70,000	€70,000 LPT	Masterplan	SEA and AA screenings are being finalised.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Community

All Grants 2024		
Type	No.	Amount
Community Grants	148	€165,145
Festival Grants	65	€46,900
Private Residents' Associations Grants	232	€210,850
Local Authority Residents' Associations Grants	50	€45,351
Local Property Tax Specific Grants	57	€316,800
Local Property Tax Mini Schemes	0	€0
LCDC Schemes	56	€160,647



Twinning Grants	5	€13,270
Education Bursaries		
Brigid 1500	57	€191,214
Drehid Grants	37	€124,863
Total	707	€1,275,040

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office



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

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



The EM CARO project manages climate action training for the sector. The Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan 2024-2027 has been endorsed by the CCMA in May 2024.



The training plan will oversee the delivery of training to the end of 2027, guided by the training needs and priorities of elected members and local authority staff on climate action.

Kildare County Council, on behalf of local government, signed a SLA with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to fund the delivery of training over the duration of the plan.

Planning for training to outdoor staff and fire services staff is currently at planning phase for delivery from September 2024. Training will be delivered to elected members within the duration of the training plan, in partnership with the AILG.

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

All 31 local authorities have adopted their climate action plans.

A review of all LACAPs is underway to ascertain robust information on action typology. The review process involves a three phased approach including:

- Scope: Requirements, outputs and needs were identified as well as options

for data analysis. Status: Complete.

- Develop: Information Management System was established, tested and refined. Status: Complete.
- Data processing: Input of actions of all 31 LACAPs and DZs (3919 actions) against pre-determined categories, actions analysed, actions peer reviewed for consistency in interpretation. Status: Quality check is nearing completion.

The outcome will be a robust central database 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. Database will inform sectoral reports.

EM CARO is working on the reporting aspect of the LACAPs with a proposal to be brought to CATCEN committee in September 2024.



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 are focusing on a publication for local authorities on fleet management system elements necessary to guide and monitor fleet decarbonisation.

Development of Local Authority Key Performance Indicators on Climate Action



Data collation for 2023 is complete with a report due to be published in July. This is the second such report of the Climate Action KPI working group and explores a range of data to highlight the sectoral performance of



the network of local authorities on climate action.

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs

Programme:



The EM CARO continues to work with the GAA and expert partners to advance the Green Club Programme. Phase two of the Programme sees c.200 clubs working their way through a range of sustainability and climate action related projects as provided for by Green Club Toolkits covering the five themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel.

Points of Contact have been identified in each local authority and CARO is planning a further webinar on 18 September to support points of contact in engaging with clubs in their area.

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 areas of the council to decarbonise their roles and work through the members of the Climate Action Team and Energy Management Team together with the Senior Management Team.

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

The Decarbonising Zone – ‘Show and Tell’ house:

The preferred contractor has been notified and pending contracts being signed the works are due to commence towards the end of July with an expected completion date of late September/early October.

The Mid-East Energy Unit (MEEU)

SEAI have agreed to pilot Pathfinder funding (approx. €20m between the



four Mideast Energy Unit (MEEU) LA's for various Energy/Carbon savings related projects at scale. This matched grant funding includes projects such as:

1. The installation of approx. 220 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels at the Cotton Mills. This contract was awarded and an application to the ESB for the generation connection has been approved. Works are due to start over the next two months post preparatory elements being undertaken presently in the Mill buildings by Facilities.
2. PV and Geothermal/Air heat pumps for heating at K Leisure pools facilities at Naas and Athy along with works on swimming pools in Meath, Wicklow, and Louth.
3. The appraisal of the Aras and K-Leisure buildings' heating systems has been undertaken by our MEEU consultants Codema and reports produced.
4. Pathfinder funding is potentially available for upgrading works to some of our library buildings. This may include energy-related elements of the new Clane Library.

These projects will enable retrofit works (energy efficiency and decarbonisation) on our existing

buildings, thus reducing energy utility bill costs.

District Heating (DH)

Given the potential for a future district heating scheme (DH) in Naas, a DH feasibility study commenced at the start of July by Codema and due to be completed by the end of 2024/start of 2025. SEAI have agreed to 100% fund this Naas study. Preliminary discussions on this scheme are ongoing with potential customers (Naas Hospital, local hotels, schools) and suppliers.

A more in-depth discussion into the sustainable sources of the supplied heat for this DH scheme will be required.

There may also be scope to undertake a similar DH study for Maynooth later in 2024/early 2025, this to be funded directly by our planning department. Kildare has signed a partnership agreement with Interreg to partake in their DH DISCO scheme at county level.

Display Energy Certs/ BER

All public buildings with a floor area over 250 m² require Display Energy Certificates (DEC). A DEC was



recently procured through our Facilities department, for the Aras, the grade received for the building was a D2 grade.

An in-depth energy audit and BER survey took place of the Aras building by a company called IES and the initial report is currently being reviewed.

ISO 50001 Energy Management System

Kildare County Council hopes to apply for ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) certification in Q4 of 2024, for the organisation as a whole. Our Energy Officer and Climate Action Officer are attending the SEAI Ten-day ISO50001 accelerator training programme as part of this process. The implementation of ISO 50,001 is a statutory requirement.

The timeline is likely to be impacted by staff movement and it is hoped a new timeline of Q2 2025 might be reached once the positions of Energy efficiency Officer and assistant Energy Efficiency Officer are realised.

Energy Audit/Analysis/BER of Aras:

Took place 02 April, the initial report has been received, and will feed into decarbonisation strategy for the Aras

building. Report published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) also sets out that non-electricity greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 17% below the baseline (2016-2018 average), Energy efficiency Performance -32% improvement in 2022.

Swimming Pools:

CODEMA undertook site visits to inform decarbonisation appraisal reports at Athy and Naas pools and the resulting reports have now been received with stakeholders meeting held 13 May to inform the path forward.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting

Second deadline of the year was the end of June, fleet fuel and thermal fuel verified. Next window commences 29 July covering travel, building stock, projects, vehicles and travel with a closing date of 15 November. Training to be supplied in September.

Staff use EV (Electric Vehicles)

GoCar

A six-month trial of a staff use GoCar Electric Vehicle (EV) has been under way since the start of the year. Approx 60 staff have signed up to the scheme.



Extension of the scheme is being considered. A designated charging point is to be installed in July for the Go Car and electric vehicles operated by various sections based in Aras.

Staff use E Bikes

Work on the back of house elements is close to being finalised and IPB have been extremely helpful in assisting. It is hoped the bikes can be launched soon through interdepartmental co-operation.

Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

New elected members have been assigned to the SPC and stakeholder members are to be finalised as soon as possible. The Chair is Councillor Suzanne Doyle.

Climate Action Community Initiatives -

Funding Aids and Projects:



An Roinn Leanáí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Following the successful implementation of Gnáthóga Nádúrtha (Natural Habitats) a second phase of the project focusses specifically on the

artists, resulting in an additional €35,000 in funding.

Picnic in the Park



With thanks to the Maynooth Community Council a highly successful, family friendly, fun filled day was held on the 16 June in Harbour field, Maynooth, with an attendance of approximately 3,000 people. The sustainable aspects for the whole of community were available to interact with.

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



our shared plate



Kildare, Longford, and Laois County Council along with Maynooth University, The Useless Project and Neighbourhood Network (lead) have been awarded by Pobal €271,000 funding for the Community Climate Action project submitted in January 2022. The name of the project has changed to 'Our Shared Plate Project' to reflect the community cohesion through the celebration of food. Sites in Maynooth, Newbridge and Athy have been chosen for the project and community contacts identified. The Maynooth grouping had a highly successful street feast in May to commence the project. Athy's first event took place on the 07 June. The group attended Picnic in the Park to create awareness.



'Climate Design Lab: Where Creativity in Practice Meets Climate Action'
Under Creative Climate Action Fund II:
'Agents for Change Creative Ireland' informed Kildare County Council on 12

July 2023 that a conditional award of funding of €250,000 was approved. Kildare County Council along with the Design Innovation Department in Maynooth University and Riverbank Arts Centre will pilot a Climate Design Lab that aims to use design-thinking and behavioural economics to co-create fun theory solutions for Maynooth, the decarbonising zone for the county. Preliminary work has commenced at Maynooth University. The new Principal Investigator has been assigned and is Dr. Amy Fahy, School of Business, Maynooth University. Amy is coordinating aspects of the work with other third level institutes to increase awareness and has formulated communications elements alongside information gathering methodologies to inform the process including information gathering at Picnic in the Park. Work continues apace.





Community Climate Action Program

Fund:



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The list of 25 projects across all Municipal District's and size of project were submitted to the Department for consideration as of 01 May. 23 have been approved, two have been rejected by DECC, with up to 20 other projects on reserve listing should there be funding leftover. Round 2 is being considered by the Department. The list also includes reserve projects should they be required. All applicants have been notified.

Climate Innovation Fund 2024:

Eight applications received, five approved by the assessment panel. Of the €125,000 potential €80,495 has been assigned. No projects were approved for the Naas Municipal District and an amount of monies remain available in the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District totaling €44,505. Potential options for the remaining funding are being explored with the Innovation Team.

Grass to Gas:

This project aims to assess the potential for green spaces to generate biomass e.g., grass-clippings as a feedstock for energy generation in Kildare with the potential of scaling the study up to different county councils and state bodies nationwide.

Stakeholders including Microsoft, Teagasc, Kildare County Council, Gas Networks Ireland, Green Generation met in Maynooth University hosted by Terrain AI in April to advance the project inputs.

Phase two of the project has now been agreed between Terrain Ai and the Climate Action Office to advance the measurement of the gas production and the wider socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon reduction potentials. It is expected a final dashboard will be completed by the end of 2024 and will inform a business case to decarbonise our fleet.

IRESI (International Renewable and Energy Systems Integration) - International Renewables and Energy Systems Integration

A workshop was held in February with IRESI led by Fabiano Pallonetto and Amy Fahy of Maynooth University and



their team, to balance energy grid usage and potential Kildare County pilot project for up to 500 houses (social and private). We continue to work collaboratively on this project and the meeting held with SFI enshrines the milestones being met.



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Councillor Workshop – September 2024

Following the recent local elections, Uisce Éireann (UE) will be holding in-person workshop in September to meet with all the newly elected Kildare County Council members to outline the work of Uisce Eireann across all areas such as Asset Operations, Infrastructure delivery, Customer operations etc. Uisce Eireann will liaise with the meetings team in Corporate Services to agree this date and the

members will be advised accordingly. The dates for online Councillor Clinics will be arranged thereafter.

In a recent letter to the Chief Executive, Kildare County Council has been advised as follows in relation to Notices of Motion:

Notices of Motion

To ensure Councils receive a timely response to Notices of Motion related to Uisce Éireann that arise at Council meetings, UE have put in place a dedicated email address councilmeetings@water.ie through which all Notices of Motion are logged and responded to. Each notice will be acknowledged on receipt, and a response issued before the next meeting.

Elected members queries will be continue to be dealt with via the Local representative Support Desk, as follows:

By Phone: 0818 178 178

By Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

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



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

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

Uisce Éireann Framework

The Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services was published in June 2022, setting out the Government policy with Uisce Éireann taking full control of all aspects of the delivery of water and wastewater services.

Uisce Éireann is engaging with key national bodies and representative groups to prepare for the implementation of the Framework provisions.

The original Service Level Agreement has been replaced by a Master Co-operation Agreement with all local authorities and an individual Support Service Agreement (SSA) per local authority, takes into consideration the changes included in the new Framework.

In this regard, the Master Co-operation and Data Sharing Agreements were signed by Kildare County Council in May 2023.

Kildare County Councils Shared Service Agreement is at the final stage of completion.

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 National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 was formally launched on 01 March

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

A National Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) was launched by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications on 01 February 2024. The DRS is a circular economy initiative, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans.

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

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

An interim report details that 6,004,496 containers have been accepted in Kildare. There are 103 Reverse Vending Machines in the county and 70 stores are accepting containers.

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

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

Further details can be found at <https://re-turn.ie/>

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2024

Arising from Kill's performance in the 2023 Supervalu Tidy Town Competition, Kill Tidy Towns was nominated to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition for 2024 for the Best Kept Small Town Award.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition is an all-island initiative organised jointly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council.

The results were announced at an awards ceremony in Belfast on 18 June with Randalstown, County Antrim named overall winner of Ireland's Best Kept Town competition, 2024 as well



as being named Irelands Best Kept Small Town.



Irish Business against Litter (IBAL) survey June 2024

The first national litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) since the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme reveals a fall in cans and plastic bottles on our streets contributing to an overall improvement in litter levels.

Naas was top of the rankings of 40 towns and cities

The study, conducted by An Taisce on behalf of IBAL, showed a rise in towns reaching the upper tier of cleanliness – ‘Cleaner than European Norms’ - and a fall of 35% in the number of towns branded ‘littered’.

Single Use Plastics

Single Use Plastics campaign was run from 20 May - 02 June.

The campaign by MyWaste.ie was run on radio, print and digital media.



Water Framework Directive

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

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

Enforcement Priorities 2024

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

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity,



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

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

Environment Complaints

Pollution complaints continue to be investigated in accordance with national guidelines.

Poster Monitoring

Monitoring compliance of regulations for election posters was carried out in conjunction with the Transportation Department.

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

Domestic and commercial waste collections are continuing as normal. Details of approved operators are available via the National Waste

Collection Permit Office (NWCPO) website: <https://www.nwcpo.ie/>

Green Schools

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

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 proceeding.

New Initiatives – Civic Amenity Site North – Near Celbridge

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



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

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design consultants for the Athy FRS. A Public Participation Day was held on 27

February in Athy Library. 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

The construction of Kerdiffstown Park is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the park will be operational in 2024. Final snagging on the landfill infrastructure is being completed ahead of issuing the substantial completion certificate to the contractor.



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

The local community is being kept informed of progress through the Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings and the wider public have access to updates on the council website: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/KerdiffstownPark/>

Cemetery Maintenance Grants

Applications were submitted through the Submit portal for the first time thus

streamlining the process. Payment has been made to committees who applied for grant assistance. Grants have been paid to the respective local cemetery committees .

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

New Columbarium walls were completed in Crookstown and Rathangan cemeteries.

Tenders have been returned and assessed for new Columbarium Walls in St. Michaels 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.



Staplestown

Landscape improvement works have commenced and are expected to continue until early summer in the new extension to Staplestown Cemetery. Civil improvement works are expected to commence in mid-summer in terms of road surfacing, drainage, kerbing, and general landscaping.

Boycetown Kilcock

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

Ballybracken

Additional plinths are planned at this cemetery to facilitate burials.

Local Community

Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on the 03 July 2024 in Aras Chill Dara.

SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

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

SICAP focuses on responding to priorities agreed by Kildare LCDC that fit with current national priorities.

For further information contact: County Kildare LEADER Partnership

www.countykildarelp.ie or telephone 045-895450

LEADER Programme

Kildare LCDC have signed a contract with CKLP to implement the new EU-funded Rural Development LEADER Programme 2023-2027, following the recent approval of the Kildare LEADER Local Development Strategy by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Funding of €5.44 million has been allocated to



Kildare over the lifetime of the Programme.

The previous LEADER programme is at the final project claims stage.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

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.

2023 Seed Funded projects are due for completion. A focus on Neurodiversity and Inclusion, Trauma Informed Practice and Food Insecurity will continue for the duration of 2024. An application for 2024 Seed funding will be submitted to the Dept of Health in July with the following themes approved by the LCDC:

- (1) Food Insecurity
- (2) Children and Young People's Wellbeing
- (3) Addressing Health and Wellbeing through 'Place'.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer ph.

087-9974155 or email

mhealy@kildarecoco.ie

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland funding continues to be rolled out under the LCDC on behalf of the county. The LCDC agreed on a number of new initiatives to be rolled out in 2024 under an additional budget of €35,000. Priorities of the overall programme for 2023-2025 focus on mental health and physical activity initiatives.

For further information contact Claire Morrissey, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator: phone 086-8858505 or email cmorrissey@kildarecoco.ie

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

Athy was selected by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) as a target area for a new community development programme 'Empowering Communities Programme' (ECP) with a funding allocation of €140,000. County Kildare LEADER Partnership are the programme lead on this work and employ the project staff. The programme has continued for 2024 with the same budget allocation.



Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The LECP was approved by the full Council at their meeting on 29 April. AIRO have completed demographic, economic development/commuting, housing, education and health analysis from Census 2022. The LECP is also available As Gaeilge. The final documents can be viewed on the LECP page of the Kildare County Council website <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Community/KildareLCDC/LocalEconomicandCommunityPlan/>

The Implementation Plan, that outlines over 350 priorities for community and economic development over the next two years is finalised and is currently being printed.

For further information contact: Susan Bookle, LECP Co-ordinator phone 087 6687808 or email sbookle@kildarecoco.ie

LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funding

Kildare LCDC has been awarded Dormant Account funding of €16,852 in 2024 to support LGBTI+ Community Organisations. Funding has been

allocated to help provide services to LGBTI+ organisations targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI+ identities.

Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan

Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) in collaboration with the LCDC submitted an application in June to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to establish a Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan in Kildare. There will be at least four areas selected nationally under this pilot scheme.

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for: Wednesday 25 September 2024



Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport

Capital Projects

Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn



The official opening of the project took place on 27 May 2024. Transfer of outdoor staff and drivers is substantially complete.

A traffic management plan and operational plan for the development are under review.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Notices to Treat and engagement with landowners in respect of CPO will issue during Quarter 3 2024.

Detailed design and issue of tender documents being prepared.

Further engagement with all the landowners on the scheme is due to be scheduled with further LIHAF engagement to happen thereafter.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

CPO and planning consent will be submitted in Quarter 3 2024.

Murtagh's Corner/ Corban's Lane

Awaiting appointment of consultant engineer for detailed junction.

Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy

Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) is complete and has been published on the Kildare County Council website.

Newbridge Transport Strategy

Phase 2 consultation is due to take place from the 15 July to the 15 September. An in person briefing event will take place in the Town Hall on the 25 July.

Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

Planning permission 22/1504 for part of relief road and second bridge over the Liffey has been granted by Kildare County Council to Aston Ltd. Transport Department have been in contact with Department of Transport in relation to a funding application.



R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

The Project Team are working with the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to progress this project.

JP06	Bert Cross
JP07	Perry Street
JP08	Watchhouse Cross
JP09	Thompsons Cross
JP10	Allen Cross

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

Presentations made at each Municipal District Meeting in July 2024 to outline the process for Supplementary Speed Limit Bye Laws for Rural Local Roads. A public consultation process will commence in August (subject to the agreement of the members) with implementation of the rural local road default speed limit of 60 kph scheduled for November 2024. 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

Safety Improvement Schemes

Allocation: €320,000

Works ongoing or tendered at 12 locations under municipal district offices.

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes (NTA funded)

Straffan National School (€140,000)

St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town (€200,000): Section 38 process complete. Construction proposals are being prepared.

Holy Child School Ballycane (€150,000): Section 38 process complete. Construction proposals are being prepared.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge (€20,000):

Workshop with An Taisce Green Schools to be held in September 2024.

Scoil Bhride/Scoil Phadraig, Clane (€20,000): Workshop with An Taisce Green Schools - September 2024.



Scoil Mochua, Celbridge (€20,000):
Workshop with An Taisce Green
Schools - September 2024.

Operations

Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €10,174,500

Supplementary: €1,007,000

This will facilitate the delivery of 62 road improvement projects covering approximately 54km of regional and local roads. Works ongoing with 60% completed to date.

Restoration Maintenance

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

This will facilitate the delivery of 48 road maintenance projects by direct labour covering 74km of regional and local roads. Works ongoing with 55% completed to date.

Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads

Allocation: €487,500 (CCAR)

Former National Roads Grant of
€550,000.

This will facilitate the delivery of road improvement works across the county.

Works are ongoing and will be completed in the coming months.

National Roads

Allocation: €22,386 for N78/N81

Additional funds requested for improvement works to the N78 (Athy – M9 Roundabout).

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).

Street Sweeping

Kildare County Council operates a street sweeping and bin emptying service to the urban centres



throughout the county. This is a labour-intensive operation with significant costs associated with its delivery. Kildare County Council continues to perform well both with IBAL (Naas and Maynooth) and Tidy Towns competitions (seven gold medals 2023)

Public Lighting

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

www.deadsureapp.com

The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) is ongoing, with significant survey works completed across all five municipal districts. Works are due to commence in 2025. This project will deliver significant savings on energy and maintenance costs going forward.

Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

Vehicle servicing and associated works continue to transfer to the new facility, with surface dressing works

being the focus of operations over the coming weeks.

Tender for the supply of telematics (GPS tracker systems) to all vehicles has been completed with the commencement of the installation process to commence in August 2024. Five electric vehicles and a velocity patcher to assist in the delivery of services across the Municipal Districts have been delivered

Winter Maintenance

The Machinery Yard team are preparing for winter maintenance operations for the 2024/2025 season, including fleet maintenance. 8,000 tonnes of salt will be delivered to the Regional Salt Barn in September 2024.

Sustainable Transport (NTA Funded)

Maynooth North-South Corridor (Phase 5)

Allocation: €1,500,000

Tendered for construction. Contractor to be appointed with a provisional start date of October/November 2024.



Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

Allocation: €2,750,000

Construction ongoing – due for completion by Summer 2025.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €1,200,000

Tendered for construction. Contractor expected to be appointed in Quarter 4 2024.

Naas to Sallins Greenway

Allocation: €225,000

Section 38 public consultation process commenced in April 2024 on the section of project along the public road (from Abbey Bridge to Osberstown Bridge).

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the permanent scheme is progressing.

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Tender process to appoint consultant for Preliminary Design to public consultation is ongoing. Appointment

will be made when approval is received from the NTA.

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme



Works on this scheme are complete.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

Allocation: €225,000

Site investigations and detailed design of bridge structure and ancillary works are continuing to inform the preliminary design stage.

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €10,000

Agreement of preliminary design is being discussed with the NTA.

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €75,000

Approval from the NTA required prior to starting Public Consultation. A tender process to appoint a consultant



to progress the Preliminary Design to public consultation is ongoing.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €50,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

Newbridge Main Street and Station Road Active Travel Scheme

Allocation: €150,000

Preliminary design of the Station Road scheme is progressing.

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

Allocation: €50,000

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Allocation: €500,000

Details of how to progress this work has been received by the NTA.

National Roads Office

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

Works have now commenced (a speed limit reduction will be in place from April to December 2024).

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Westbound Bus Priority Measures

Contract signed with Arup for Phases 3 and 4 (Design and Statutory Process) on 26 May 2024 for the M4 Westbound Bus Priority Measures.

M9 Park and Share Scheme

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

Junctions 3, 4, 5 are to be investigated further at this time (the remaining junctions may follow in the future).

Kildare NRO examining suitable sites in conjunction with Carlow regarding junction 5 and Kilkenny regarding junction 9.

Upcoming National Road

Temporary Road Closures:

M7 Temp Road Closure Junctions 12 – 15 (Egis Lagan) from Monday 10 June 2024 and Friday 14 June 2024 and Monday 08 July to Friday 12 July 2024

M7 Temp Road Closure Junctions 12 – 14 (Jons Civil Engineering) between Wednesday 19 June and Friday 30 August 2024



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

M7 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO1-2024. (Junctions 14-12). Until 15/07/2024

M4 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO2-2024. (Junctions 6 – 5). Until 02/12/2024

M7 Road Works Speed Limit Order NRO4-2024. (Junctions 14-12) – Starting 19 June 2024 until 23 August 2024.

N78 Athy to the M9 Pavement Scheme

Funding requested from TII for pavement testing and topographical surveys to commence a pavement rehabilitation scheme on the N78 from Athy town to the M9 motorway. No response yet.

TII Active Travel Severance Seed Funding

Application made to TII for funding for Four active travel measures crossing the M7 (one) and the M4 (three), however there have been hundreds of applications from local authorities around the country and only a small number of projects will receive funding.

Open Spaces

De Burgh Woodland Gardens



Opened to the public on Saturday 13 July and will open every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am- 5.30pm.

Access is by ticket only. These are free and are available to book from <https://buytickets.at/kildarecountycouncilparkssection/1215519>.

Leixlip Playground

Work on the relocation of the existing playground is due to start on 09 July. This will be followed by upgrade works to the existing car park and later in the Autumn by the construction of a new playground.

Kilcock Playground

Tender for Kilcock Playground has closed for submissions. Assessment of the tenders will commence in the next few weeks.



Play Day 2024

Planning for the annual play day event has started. The event will take place on Saturday 14 September in Aras Chill Dara.

Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 28 January 2023. Several variations to the development plan are likely to be brought forward in 2024, including: An update to the *Core Strategy* in response to an update to the National Planning Framework; Car Parking Standards; new s28 GPA on Sustainable Residential development and Compact Settlements; Kilcullen Town Plan; Landscape Character Assessment; and Strategic Employment Locations Study. Kildare County Council SuDS Guidelines and Kildare County Council Permeability Guidelines are available

on the Council

website. <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/DevelopmentGuidelines/>

The CDP Annual Monitoring Report 2023 was published on the 15 May 2024.

Work is underway on implementing a series of objectives and actions, including the following:

- Allotments Strategy.
- Strategic Employment Locations Study
- County Kildare Urban and Regional Parks Strategy.
- Liffey Valley Park (Phase One) Feasibility Study.
- Corbally Canal / River Liffey enhancement (Kilcullen to Newbridge) Feasibility Study.
- Active Recreational Infrastructure Study.

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant masterplan:

Project commenced March 2024 and has an 18-month programme for preparation. Engagement strategy and baseline data and evaluation is under preparation.



Collinstown Masterplan, Leixlip:

Landowner consultation completed. Masterplan being finalised for publication.

Monasterevin LAP

The Report on Pre-Draft Public Consultation is being finalised and will be circulated to the Elected Members of the Municipal District in July.

Local Area Plans

Joint Maynooth and Environs LAP 2025-2031

The Draft Joint Local Area Plan was published on the 19 June 2024. A public ‘drop-in’ event took place at the TSI Building, Maynooth University on Wednesday the 10 July. Submissions from the public are welcome before 4.00pm on the 01 August 2024.

Sallins LAP

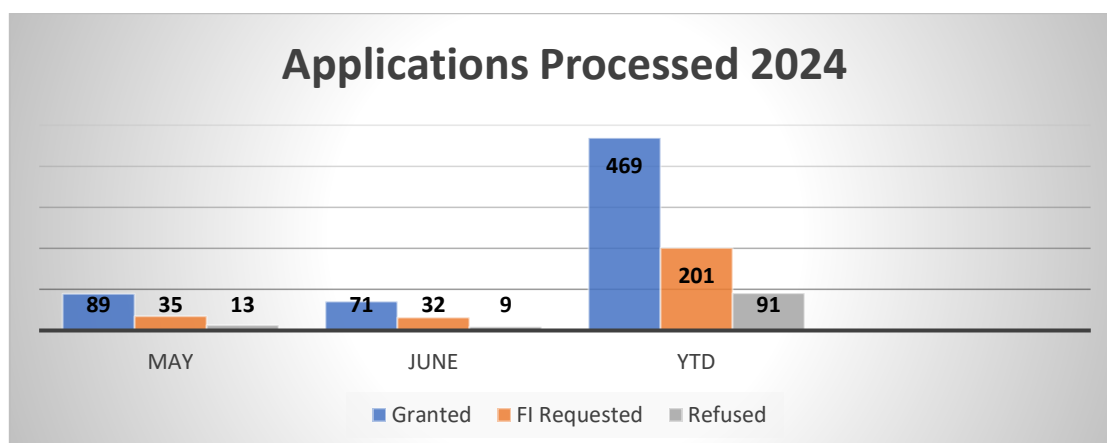
Work has commenced on the review of the Sallins Local Area, including consideration of pre-draft public consultation.

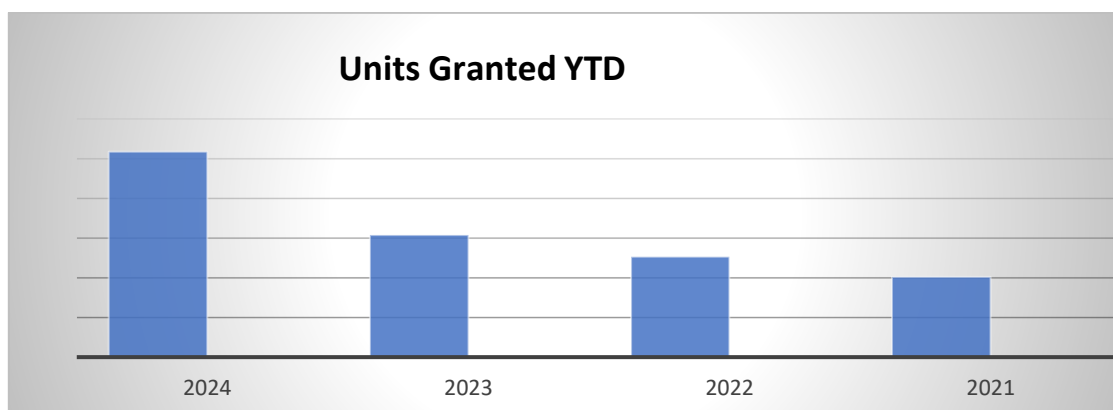
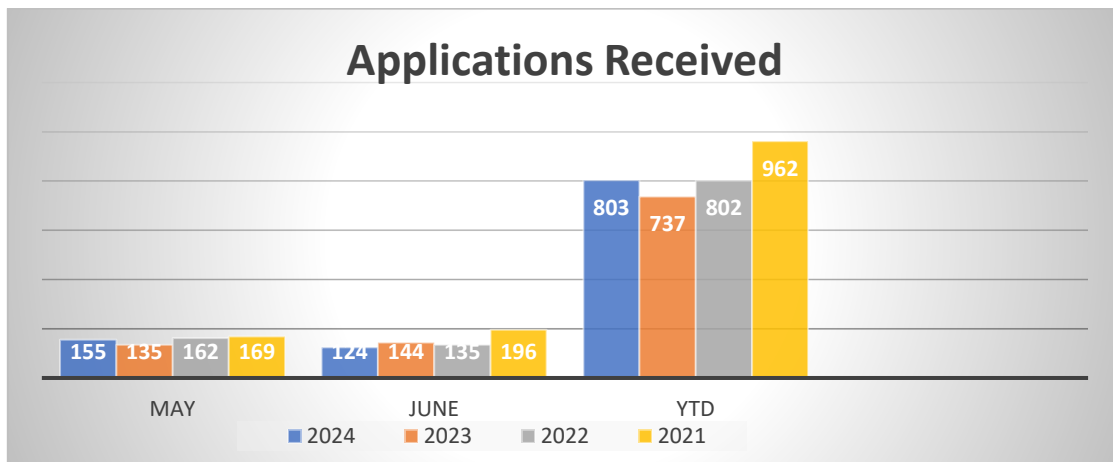
Newbridge LAP

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

Development Management ePlanning

In 2023, 60.8% of all applications received were submitted online. In 2024 to date, 74.2% of all applications received are via the online planning portal.





Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

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

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	South Green, Kildare Town	168	Appealed: Granted on Appeal
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Appealed & Appeal Withdrawn: Grant 04/07/2023
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknock, Kildare Town	295	Appealed: Refused on appeal
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Appealed: Granted on



					appeal.-Grant 04/08/2023
23/656	15/06/2023	ESJ Blackparks Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	132	Decision Date Appealed: Granted on appeal
23/972	31/10/2023	Debussy Properties Ltd	Prosperous Road & Crockaun commons Clane	190	Appealed: Appeal withdrawn 29/05/2024. KCC Granted 15/03/2024
24/60055	29/01/2024	Cairn Homes properties Ltd	Harpur Lane, Castledown	Amendment s to ABP- 307223-20	Granted 19/03/2024
24/60029	22/01/2024	Ballymore Land Ltd	Stonehaven, Blessington Road, Naas	Amendment s to 21/777 Phase 1B	Granted 12/03/2024
23/60485	14/12/2023	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Castledown	229	Appealed: KCC Granted 05/04/2024
24/60497	31/05/2024	Marshall Yards Development Company Ltd	Ballymakealy Upper, Celbridge	168	Decision Due 25/07/2024

Strategic Housing Development

Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Heritage, Biodiversity and Conservation

A. Biodiversity – Progress Updates

Work is progressing on the four projects that have been awarded funding under the ‘Heritage Council Biodiversity Action Plan Fund’ (€16,750)

Work is progressing on the ten projects that have been awarded funding (€100,000).

B. Heritage - Progress Updates

Work is progressing on four projects that have received funding (€359,500) under the ‘Community Monuments Fund’. A visit to Kildare Tower (one of the CMF projects) was undertaken by Minister Malcolm Noonan on 28 May. The Minister was very impressed with the work undertaken to date and would



like to visit the site again when all works are complete later this year. Work is progressing on the four Heritage Plan related projects that have, cumulatively, received funding of €37,500.

Bridget Loughlin, Kildare County Council Heritage Officer's is leaving, Bridget's last working day being 19 July.

Heritage Investment Scheme' projects for 2024 to review progress to date.

Miscellaneous

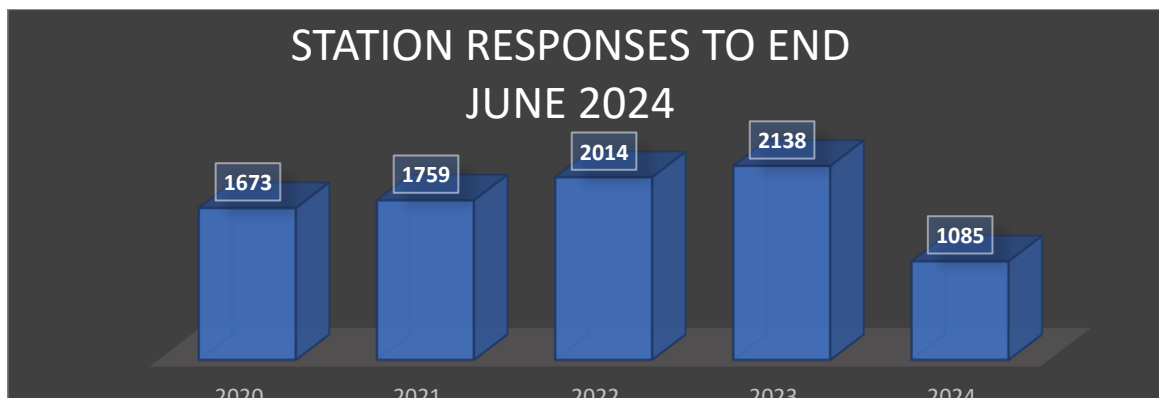
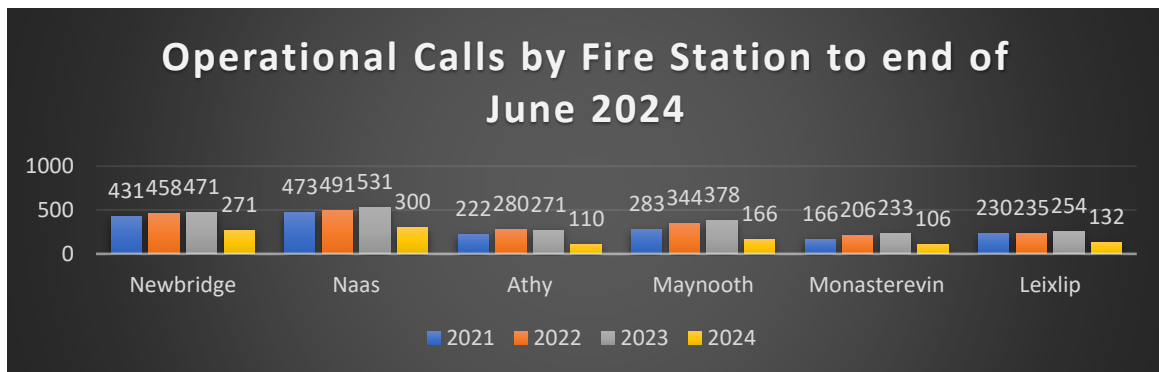
An internal audit with respect to the Heritage Team and the various funding streams associated with same is ongoing

C. Conservation– Progress Updates

Site visits to take place in July on all 'Historic Structures Fund' and 'Built

Fire Service Operations

2024 Summary





Fire Safety Certificates

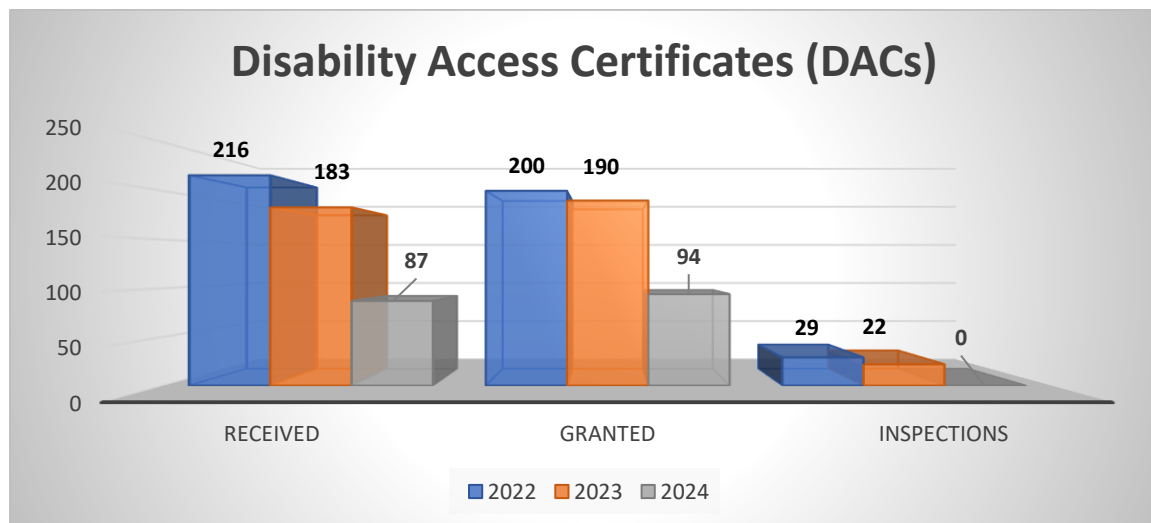
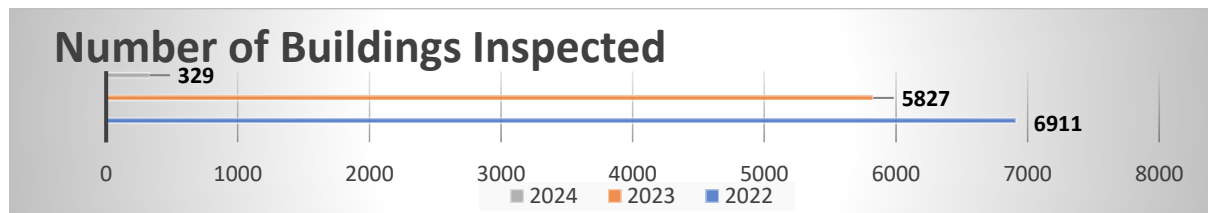
Applications received to the end of June 2024 compared with the totals received in previous years.

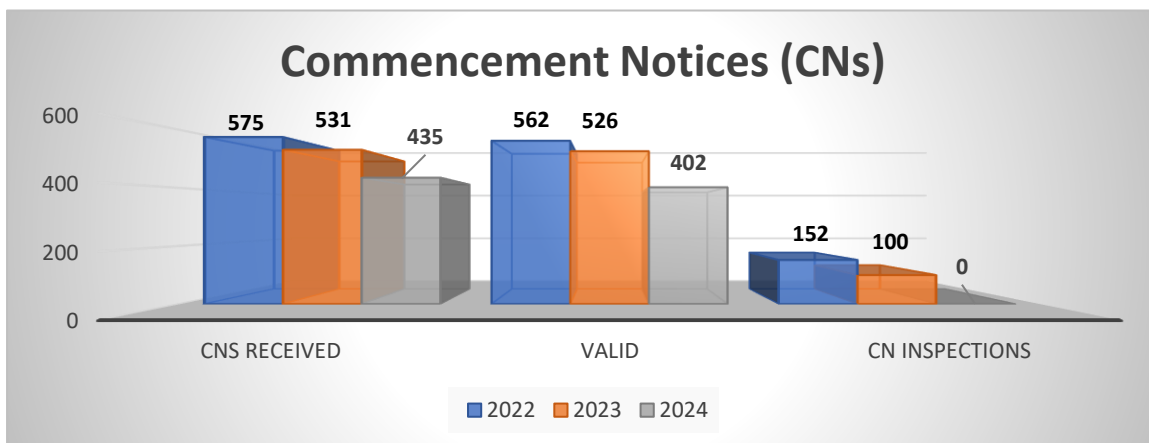
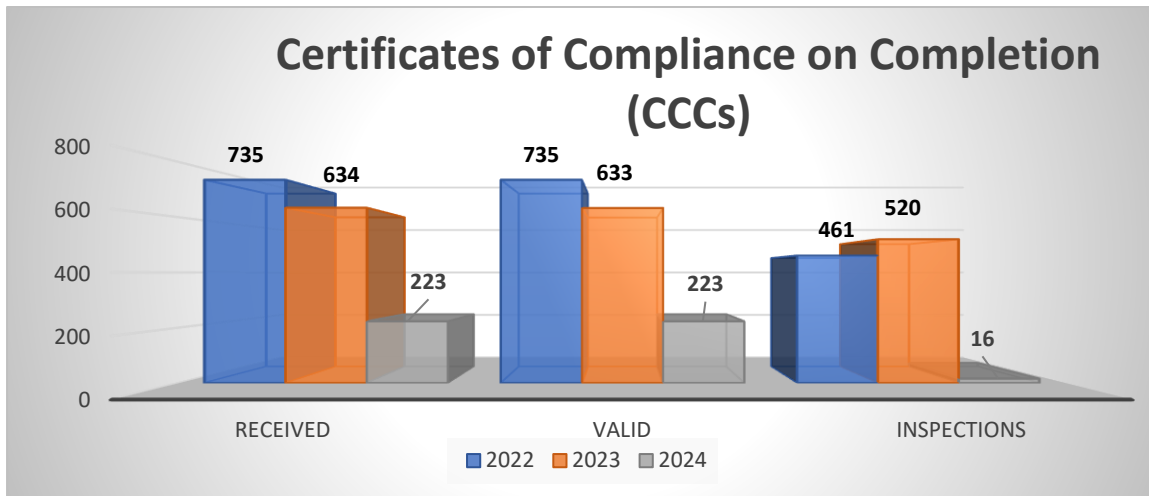


Building and Development Control

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

Building Control





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

Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Into Kildare represented County Kildare this month at Ireland's largest garden festival, Bord Bia Bloom and the Kildare Derby Festival.

Over the Bank Holiday weekend, Into Kildare's (IK) exhibition stand at Bloom was well received by the those who visited. The festival had a bumper year

with over 100,000 attendees over the five days.



Aine Mangan with Barberstown Castle representative



County Kildare companies from the tourism and hospitality trade exhibited on the stand, supported by the Into Kildare team. These companies also sponsored prizes to encourage footfall to the County.



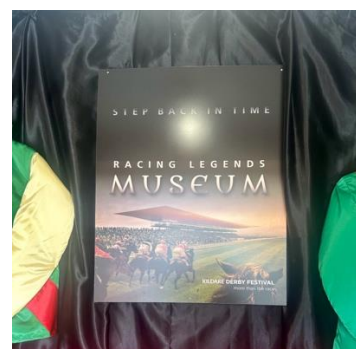
Representatives from IK, Clonfert Farm, Kildare Farm Foods and Springfield Hotel

Bloom provided a great opportunity to promote the Kildare Derby Festival, KPMG Womans Irish Open and Taste of Kildare festival.

The 46th Kildare Derby Festival took place in Kildare town at the end of June and was supported by Into Kildare through website content creation. The festival and individual events were also promoted on Into Kildare social media channels and in press.



Itineraries promoting Kildare town and its environs were shared to drive visitor numbers to the towns and villages ahead of and during the racing festival. Into Kildare CEO, Aine Mangan attended and met with a number of guests of Dubai Duty Free and media. Into Kildare also featured the Racing Legends Museum a free attraction opened for a number of weeks around the Derby Festival.



Kildare County Council, in collaboration with Into Kildare, are official host sponsors for the Women's Irish Open (WIO) taking place in Carton House, 28 August – 01 September this year. CEO, Aine



Mangan, represented County Kildare at the WIO Media and Partners Day.



Aine Mangan with Pro Golfer Leona Maguire and Forefront Director Roddy Carr

Into Kildare and Barberstown Castle will once again welcome The National Rose Tour to Kildare in August. The schedule and itinerary is currently being arranged. The Roses will visit Kildare providing opportunities for PR coverage for local and national print media, radio and online social campaigns.



Into Kildare attended an executive meeting with the Tourism Officers Network in preparation for the meeting next month. Several tourism and hospitality meetings took place supporting local trade.

The Into Kildare team, in collaboration with the Dublin Convention Bureau,

are actively planning and preparing a UK Familiarisation trip to County Kildare in September.

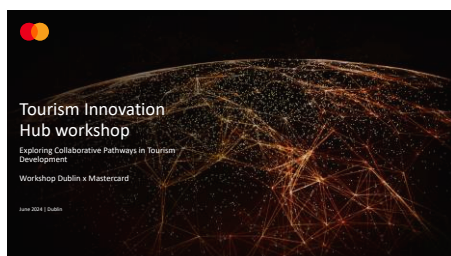
A comprehensive itinerary is currently being developed with industry partners to highlight the attractions and offerings of the county as a premier travel destination. The trip will commence with the Taste of Kildare festival, providing an exciting platform to promote local offers and support the tourism and hospitality sectors.

With less than three months to the Taste of Kildare festival, a targeted media campaign to promote the event and drive ticket sales continues with online and offline messaging to purchase tickets and find out more information on www.tasteofkildare.ie.





Communications and messaging in June also included promoting things to do for Father’s Day and summer family trips, highlighting businesses and locations throughout County Kildare. The Into Kildare team attended the Barberstown Lunch at the K Club as guests of K Village and met several local business people.



Into Kildare CEO Aine Mangan participated in the Tourism Innovation Hub Workshop as a guest of Dublin City Council in her role as Chairperson of the Local Government Tourism Officers Network of Ireland. This explored collaborative pathways in Tourism Development and challenges in the Tourism sector. Meeting and educational tour also took place with EPIC Museum.

Enterprise and Economic Development

Total LEO Financial Supports direct to Clients at 09.7.2024	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant.	40	€87,117
Business Expansion Grant	6	€23,709
Priming Grant	1	€29,910
Feasibility Study Grant	3	€36,953
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	10	€21,453
IP Start grant	4	€8,640
Energy Efficiency Grant	2	€8,410
Total	66	€216,192

Business Expansion Grants approved in June:
Joanna Sammons and Lorna Frawley t/a Siog Botanicals (Kildare / Newbridge Municipal District)
approved €37,900 to support the



recruitment of two new employees and capital expenditure. The business manufactures personalized flower preservation.

Mamas Hospital Bag Limited (Athy Municipal District) approved €11,060 to support marketing, web optimization and consultancy costs. The business manufactures its own baby clothing line and luxury packaging.

**Entrepreneurship Support
Achievement Of Kpis:**

	TARGET	ACTUAL
Training	1200	1042
SYOB	160	164
MDP	72	72
Mentoring	468	338
Digital	7	7
Lean	20	31
Green	20	52

Focus On Start-Ups:

Business Advice Clinics run weekly for 1-1 confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made [HERE](#). To date 174 clients have received 1-1 start-up business advice.

Focus On Digital:

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme is expected to end as of September. Businesses are encouraged to ensure that they do not miss out on this opportunity.

LEO Kildare will host bi-weekly online briefings until the scheme closes, to ensure all businesses seeking this opportunity have the chance to make an application.

Focus On Women In Business:

LEO Kildare sponsored the Emerging Businesswoman category at the Network Ireland Kildare Branch awards.

In the biggest and most competitive category of the night our winners included Mrs. Smart Money as commended, Edel Walsh Coaching as highly commended and Shine Through Supports named the winner.

Susanne will represent Kildare in the national finals later this year.

Focus On Craft And Creative:

GATHER at Southwells opened 20 June and a launch event on 26 with the planned Derby activity in the Square.



Gather opening hours will be Thursday to Saturday, 10.00am-5.00pm and Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm.

This opportunity is for creative business owners in Kildare, both established and emerging, and the Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development Team will support each successful applicant to maximise the opportunity. Expressions of interest continue to be for individual brands, or groups who wish to operate from this unit as a pop-up for a two-month period. Proposals are welcomed from business owners whose product is made in Kildare, or whose brand originates from Kildare.

Focus On Food:

In collaboration with Into Kildare, LEO will host up to 20 food businesses in a dedicated LEO area at the upcoming Taste of Kildare. Applications can be made [HERE](#)

Focus On Manufacturing:

LEO Kildare recently led a research mission to Smart Manufacturing and Engineering Week in the UK. 17 participants from businesses across the country travelled together to learn about world leading technology-driven manufacturing techniques and

approaches that utilise Internet-connected machinery to measure production process.

Focus On Innovation:

LEO Kildare sponsored the Innovation Value Institute Digital Summit 2024 at Maynooth University. In addition, we hosted a pop-up advisory clinic and formally addressed attendees on the theme of Funding Innovation and Digital Transformation.

Focus On Tech:

We hosted a Tech Cluster evening in MERITS on Wednesday 10 July 6:30-7.00pm, with an insightful, beyond the hype, discussion on AI Governance.

Focus On Lean:

LEO will host the Midlands Lean Network in MERITS this September. This Meet-Up is for businesses at all stages of their Lean journey and of all sizes. Book [HERE](#).

Focus On Sustainability:

Businesses in all sectors with up to 50 employees are encouraged to apply for the Energy Efficiency Grant.



The aim is to support businesses investment in technologies and equipment and to support their sustainability journey.

This scheme priorities reducing the impact of enterprises on the environment and in turn increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#) or contact localenterprise@kildarecoco.ie

Economic Support Services

MD Applications to Retail Support Grants	No. of Apps Approved	Value of App Approved
ATHY	4	€4,201
CBLX	2	€1,916
CLMN	4	€6,861
KDNB	16	€20,009
NAAS	17	€34,501

The Shopfront Improvement Scheme and Retail Window Merchandising Grants for 2024 remain open for applications for Athy, Celbridge/Leixlip and Kildare/Newbridge; Naas has been very popular in H1 and is now expended for 2024.

Retail Engagement

The Economic Development team continues to engage retailers across the county providing them with information on all the supports available.

Members of the Economic Development and Local Enterprise Office Teams delivered a presentation and question and answers session in Kilcullen; the event was attended by 25 people.



Skills Audit –

As part of our comprehensive skills audit of the County, KPMG has concluded the stakeholder engagement element of the project



and is analysing this data at present to inform our understanding of the current critical skills gaps and find what skills are required by businesses across the county.

Age Friendly Ireland (AFI) Business Recognition Programme

Economic Development will deliver the AF Recognition Programme to businesses in Ballymore Eustace on 23 July. Upon its completion, Ballymore Eustace will become Ireland's first Age Friendly and Climate Friendly Village.

Athy Food, Beverage and Skills Innovation Hub

Construction works have entered the ninth week of the programme. Site setup, protection, and internal unbuild phases have been 100% completed. External site boundary wall has been demolished and the new foundations fully completed on Geraldine Road. Sample boundary wall provided and approved. Internal foundations 95% complete and joint racking and repointing 45% complete. New tassel walls currently under construction. 46 stakeholders (consultancy project team, construction team, food and

hospitality businesses, elected members, etc.) attended our presentation - Sharing the Vision for the Model School in Athy on Friday 28 June in Clanard Court Hotel. Welcoming introductions were provided by Kildare County Council's Chief Executive, Sonya Kavanagh, and three presentations were provided by Jacqui McNabb (Head of Enterprise), Niall Murphy (Hospitality Subject Matter Expert: KWETB), and James O'Donoghue (Director Bluett and O'Donoghue).



Kildare Craft, Creativity and Design Hub, Courthouse Kildare and Southwell's Unit

A suite of contract documents to be developed to procure an architect-led detail design contract for the development. Subject to planning and development regulations, the tender package will be published to align with



an appropriate funding mechanism once identified.

Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub (former BOI Monasterevin)

Capital funding for the proposed development of the former BOI building has been secured.

Architectural consultancy led services to be procured to provide provision for preliminary design, statutory process, and tender action, evaluation, and award of construction services.

Kilcock Green and Sustainable Enterprise Park Feasibility Study

Kildare County Council applied to the EU Just Transition Fund: Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, as managed by Pobal in late January.

The application seeks to commission a master plan and technical support to achieve full planning, procurement, and a strategic business plan for the proposed development of the site as a 'Sustainable Growth Business Park'. The Council is awaiting the outcome of Pobal's evaluation of the application.

Kildare County Council Industrial Estate Enhancement

Signage infrastructure for three of the industrial sites have been manufactured and are to be supplied and erected by the procured contractor. Works will be undertaken to provide planted hedging, installation of bollards and line marking, and the design of new industrial signage at Newbridge.

Tourism

Just Transition Tourism Activation Update

The SME scheme closed for Expressions of Interest 01 July 2024. During the initial phase, 55 entities engaged with the scheme in County Kildare (42 businesses and 13 not for profit organisations/groups) through information sessions, webinars and face-to-face meetings.

Key Figures:

- 30 entities have submitted 38 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to Failte Ireland.
- 16 have been deemed eligible and are now working on the application process with mentoring support.



- 14 are awaiting assessment of their expression of interest from Fáilte Ireland.

Applicants have until 13 January 2025 to submit their applications to Fáilte Ireland.

Eligible applicants are now being supported to develop their business plan and prepare an application.

Capital projects are either pursuing planning permission or preparing a funding application to assist with design and planning costs.

Ineligible Expressions Of Interests are being supported to access alternative support through the Local Enterprise Office, and referrals to other funding programs.



Figure 1 Just Transition Information stand at Picnic in the Park, Harbour Fields, Maynooth.

K-Hub Activity

MERITS

MERITS recently hosted a pilot CreaTech School in collaboration with the Arts Department where a group of sixth class students recorded a short film on a green-screen background and also took time to learn more about SDGs, record podcasts and complete a virtual and augmented reality experience.

The most recent cohort of MERITS and LEO pre-accelerator clients completed the programme and presented their business ideas in a pitch day session with the winner being announced as Karen Kelly of PanaceaFlo. Karen won operating space in MERITS and a specific mentoring programme from the LEO as the prize.

MERITS clients continue to grow and expand with four new recruits being added to MERITS businesses last month and an FDI company expanding their office space footprint as they grow their EU market share.

MERITS will shortly be announced as the latest Gigabit Hub in partnership with SIRO and Vodafone with SIRO



providing 1GB DIA fiber connectivity as part of a five year agreement.

NEIC

Activity in the Equine Hub continues to grow with two new clients added to the hub in recent weeks. A French equine tech business has based themselves in the hub as part of their Irish expansion and an Irish equine tech training company has also taken an office in the hub commencing in July.

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive