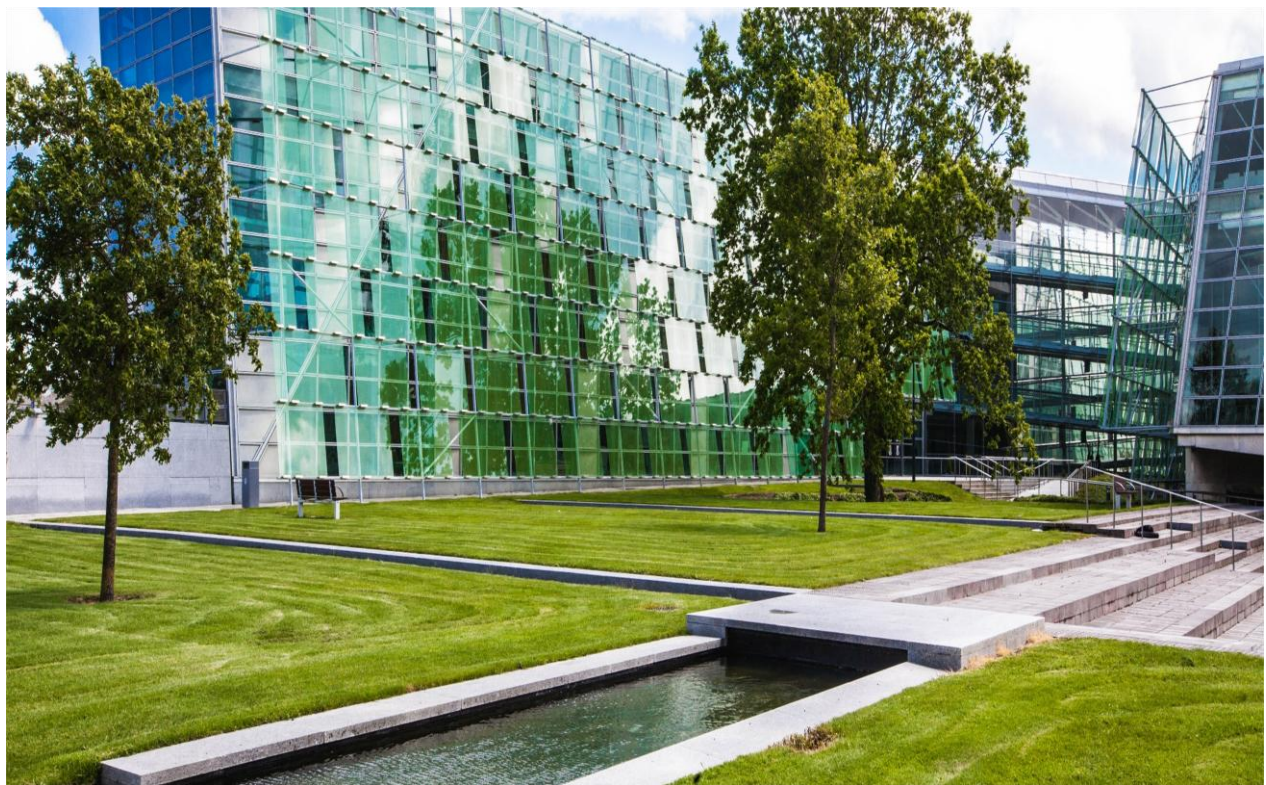




Kildare County Council

Chief Executive's Management Report – May 2025





News Items

Electoral Commission

The Commission has published their first Report on Ireland's Electoral Registers. It reviews the status of the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers, and of how they are managed and maintained by Ireland's 31 local authorities (see pages 11-12).

St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2025

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, recently invited Councillor Kevin Duffy, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, and Annette Aspell, Deputy Chief Executive, to New York for St Patrick's Day. Meetings were arranged with IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. There were also a number of official engagements with the Kildare Association of New York (see pages 12-16).

Kildare Arts Service - Evie Hone-stained glass artwork from Kildare's Municipal Art Collection on Loan to the National Gallery of Ireland

An artwork from Kildare's Municipal Art Collection was requested for inclusion in a hugely significant exhibition of two pioneering female artists regarded as among the most important Irish artists of the twentieth century, Mainie Jellett and Evie Hone (see page 18).

Affordable Housing Delivery

The Council is delivering eight affordable houses at Lattin Place, Rathasker Road, Naas; the scheme will deliver five number three bed units and three number two bed units (see page 25).

Integration - Clinics

Kildare LAIT organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on a one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services (see pages 37-38).



Transport - 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 (see page 62).

Kildare Failte

Ongoing sponsorship and planning meetings for Taste of Kildare are taking place and Into Kildare are delighted to announce that Kildare County Council and LEO have confirmed their sponsorship. Tickets for the festival have gone on sale with an Early Bird promotion (see page 74).

Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for one-to-one confidential advice for start-ups (see page 77).



Diary/Calendar

Launch of Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

The national launch of Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Friday 09 May. Members of the Councils Culture and Creativity Team organised a variety of free creative workshops, performances, and events across the county, all taking place or culminating on Saturday 07 June (see pages 17-18).

The Community Integration Forum (CIF)

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each alternative month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month with the next meeting scheduled for 04 June 2025 (see page 44).

Gum Litter Roadshow

A Gum Litter Roadshow will be held in Newbridge on 16 July. The roadshow is interactive and educational and aims to raise awareness about the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter (see page 56).

LCDC

The next meeting of the LCDC will be held on 28 May 2025 (see page 59).

Kilcock and Leixlip Playgrounds

Work on the installation of these new playgrounds are due to commence by the end of June (see page 65).

Local Enterprise Office

MERITS is thrilled to present a series of dynamic, hands-on digital workshops designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking in young minds. These fun and interactive two-hour sessions will challenge eight- to sixteen-year-olds to explore new skills, experiment with ideas, and think like future business leaders – all in a supportive, tech-forward environment. Workshops will take place in MERITS, Devoy Park, Naas on 07 June and include two sessions (see page 79).



June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Jun	3	4	5	6 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
9	10 15:30 Naas MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	11	12	13
16 10:00 Athy MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	17	18 10:00 Kildare-Newbridge MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	19	20 10:00 Celbridge-Leixlip MD Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar 15:00 Annual Meeting ; Council Chamber; Members Calendar
23 14:00 CPG Meeting; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	24	25	26	27
30 Full Council; Council Chamber; Members Calendar	1 Jul	2 10:00 LCDC 10AM	3 10:00 Community and culture SPC 10AM 11:30 County Twinning Committee 11:30am	4 10:00 Clane Maynooth Municipal District Meeting 10am; Council Chamber; Members Calendar



INDEX

News Items	2
Diary/Calendar	4
Corporate, People and Cultural Services	7
Corporate Services	7
Library and Arts Service.....	16
Health and Safety	21
Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance.....	21
Finance.....	21
Innovation	24
Digital Services	24
Housing and Regeneration.....	25
Housing	25
Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)	30
Integration.....	36
Climate, Community, Environment and Water	45
Climate	45
Environment	53
Water Services	58
Local Community Development Committee	59
Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces	60
Transport	60
Open Spaces.....	65
National Roads Office	66
Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services.....	67
Planning.....	67
Fire Service Operations:	72
Building and Development Control.....	73
Kildare Fáilte.....	74
Enterprise and Economic Development	76



Corporate, People and Cultural Services

Corporate Services

Communications

Public Participation: Identification of Bathing Waters



Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use. There are currently no Designated Bathing Areas in County Kildare. Kildare County Council are asking people who swim in lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should give official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming but are not currently identified.

Rannpháirtíocht Phoiblí: Uiscí Snámha a Shainaithint

Ní mór d'údaráis áitiúla na láithreacha oifigiúla snámha ina limistéar a shainaithint gach bliain ionas gur féidir

faireachán a dhéanamh ar na láithreacha sin maidir le sábháilteacht, cáilíocht uisce agus leibhéal úsáidte an láthair. Níl aon láthair snámha sainaithenata i gContae Chill Dara faoi láthair. Tá Comhairle Contae Chill Dara ag iarraidh ar dhaoine a bhíonn ag snámh i lochanna nó aibhneacha a chur in iúl má cheapann siad gur cheart ainmniúchán oifigiúil nua a thabhairt do láthair a úsáidtear chun críocha snámha go minic, ach nach bhfuil aitheanta mar láthair snámha.

Artwork from Kildare County Council's Municipal Art Collection Features in Major Exhibition at National Gallery of Ireland



Kildare County Council are pleased to announce that one of the artworks from their Municipal Art Collection has been selected to feature in a major exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland this summer. Evie Hone's stained glass "Three Fishes" was most recently displayed in the foyer of the



Riverbank Arts Centre in Newbridge. It has now been removed temporarily for this important exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland.

Tá saothar ealaíne ó Bhailiúchán Ealaíne Bardasach Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara mar chuid de mhórhaispeántas i nGailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann

Tá áthas ar Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a fhógairt gur roghnaíodh ceann de na saothair ealaíne óna mBailiúchán Ealaíne Bardasach le bheith mar chuid de thaispeántas mór i nGailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann i rith an tsamhraidh. Le déanaí, taispeánadh an ghloine dhaite ‘Three Fishes’ de chuid Evie Hone i bhforhalla Ionad Ealaíon Bhruach na hAbhann i nDroichead Nua. Níl an ghloine dhaite ann faoi láthair toisc go bhfuil sí mar chuid den taispeántas tábhachtach seo i nGailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

Kildare County Council Advises Farmers on the Application of Organic and Chemical Fertilisers on Farmland



Kildare County Council would like to remind farmers of their obligations regarding the application of organic and chemical fertilisers on farmland, in order to protect water quality and the environment.

Kildare County Council advises Farmers on Silage Effluent Management



Kildare County Council would like to remind farmers of their obligations regarding the management and storage of silage and silage effluent, in order to protect the environment and ensure water quality is not impacted.



Culture Night Kildare 2025

Unleash Your Creativity at Culture Night Kildare 2025!



Save the date: On Friday 19 September 2025, [Culture Night](#) is back, offering you the opportunity to showcase your work in this exciting national programme. Kildare County Council Arts Service is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from both artists and the wider community for this year's Culture Night.

Glaos oscailte le bheith páirteach in Oíche Chultúir Chill Dara 2025

Bímis cruthaitheach ag Oíche Chultúir Chill Dara 2025!

Cuir an dáta i do dhialann! Dé hAoine - 19 Meán Fómhair - 2025, a bheidh Oíche Chultúir www.culturenight.ie ar siúl, agus beidh deis agatsa do chuid oibre a chur ar taispeáint mar chuid den chlár náisiúnta spreagúil seo. Faoi láthair, tá Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara ag lorg léirithe spéise ó ealaíontóirí agus ón bpobal i

gcoitinne d'Oíche Chultúir na bliana seo.

Retrofitting our towns and villages with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Kildare County Council publishes its new SuDS Retrofit Design Note



Kildare County Council published its new Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Retrofit Design Note, to set out its ambition to integrate SuDS into the existing public realm and streets in Kildare's towns and villages. This design guide complements Kildare County Council's Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines published in 2024.

Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031





The Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031 came into effect on Tuesday 01 April 2025. This follows resolutions passed by the Elected Members of Clane-Maynooth Municipal District at their Special Planning Meeting on Monday, 17 February 2025 and the Elected Members of Meath County Council at their Special Planning Meeting on Wednesday, 19 February 2025.

Kildare County Council Unveils New Housing Development at Blackrath Ridge, Athgarvan



Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the completion of a new housing development at Blackrath Ridge, Athgarvan, Co Kildare.

Maynooth to Represent Ireland in Prestigious Entente Florale Europe Competition



Maynooth is set to shine on the European stage as it proudly represents Ireland in the Entente Florale Europe Competition. This prestigious competition, organised by the Association Européenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage (AEFP), has been celebrating the efforts of villages, towns, cities, communities and public bodies across Europe since 1975.

Kildare County Council Launches its DZ Climate Champions Award Programme



Kildare County Council's Climate Action Team is excited to announce the launch of the DZ Climate Champions Award Programme. The aim of the awards is to support and encourage climate and biodiversity action in the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone (DZ) and to celebrate those who are leading the way in this area and inspiring others to do the same.



Publication of Corporate Plan sets goals up to 2029 for Kildare County Council



Following the adoption of the Corporate Plan 2025-2029, by the Councillors for this County in December 2024, Kildare County Council is pleased to announce the publication of the Corporate Plan today.

Foilsítear Plean Corparáideach Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara ina leagtar amach spriocanna as seo go 2029

Tar éis do Chomhairleoirí an chontae seo Plean Corparáideach 2025-2029 a ghlacadh i mí na Nollag 2024, tá áthas ar Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara foilsíú an Phlean Chorporáidigh a fhógairt inniu.

Liffey Valley Park (Celbridge to Leixlip) Public Survey 2025 On-Line Public Consultation



Kildare County Council has published details of emerging proposals for a Liffey Valley Park (Celbridge to Leixlip) and is seeking input from the public on the suggested options.

Electoral Commission

The Commission has published their first report on Ireland's Electoral Registers.

It reviews the status of the accuracy and completeness of electoral registers, and of how they are managed and maintained by Ireland's 31 local authorities.

The Report's key recommendations set out the need for:

- accuracy audits of each register,
- a national awareness campaign focused on accurate voter registration,
- the setting of standards for accuracy,



- the increase of resources for local authority electoral register functions and;
- increased prioritisation of the registers and multi-annual plans in local authorities.

Kildare County Council has increased staffing and funding in this area in recent years, and is committed to doing so into 2026, with the assistance of grant funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This will support our ongoing and planned activities to increase registration and the accuracy of the register.

Commentary regarding the performance of Kildare County Council is contained on pages 106-110.

The report can be read here: [Oversight Report on the Electoral Registers_online_English_tagged](#)

Executive Suite:

St. Patrick's Day Visit to New York 2025

The President of the Kildare Association of New York, Mrs Carmel Mangan, recently invited Councillor Kevin Duffy, Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, and Annette Aspell,

Deputy Chief Executive, to New York for St Patrick's Day. Meetings were arranged with IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. There were also a number of official engagements with the Kildare Association of New York. It was wonderful to re-engage and continue to strengthen linkages between Kildare and New York.

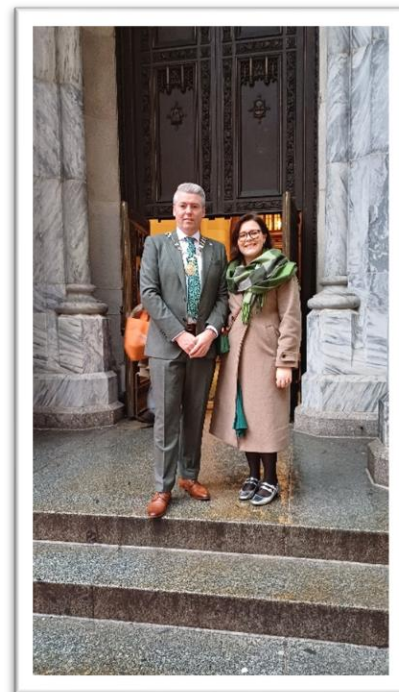
St. Patrick's Day Parade

It was a privilege and a pleasure to march with the County Kildare Association of New York in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade started at 11.00am and was truly a spectacle as 200,000 people marched, many behind their Home Counties banner! This year the Kildare Association received much sought after tickets for the viewing stand. It was great to get the opportunity to see other groups/organisations who were participating in the parade.





Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral



As with previous years, Kildare's unique relationship with St Brigid was highlighted during our trip. We wore St Brigid's crosses and brought "Brigid" themed gifts. It was lovely to see a number of the Kildare Association Committee wearing the cross during the parade on St Patrick's Day.

We appreciated the opportunity afforded to us by the Kildare Association of New York to attend mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on the morning of St Patrick's Day; this was a truly unique experience. It was great to see all counties of Ireland represented at mass in the Cathedral.



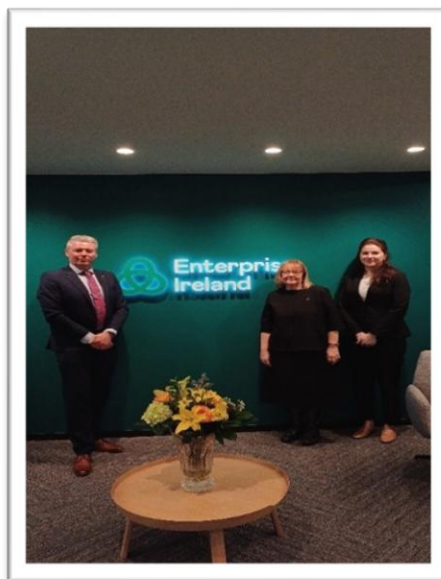
This year Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland delivered the homily.

Meetings with IDA and Enterprise Ireland

At the meeting with IDA Ireland, we outlined Kildare County Council's Economic Development Strategy. We had a good discussion about the needs of companies looking for a base, particularly in terms of infrastructural requirements, housing and transport links. We discussed advancement in technology, particularly AI, and the impacts both positive and negative on business. We also discussed the benefit of language skills in business.



Pictured with the Cathaoirleach and Deputy Chief Executive is Damien O'Brien, Vice President, Life Sciences and Joshua Healy, Vice President, Emerging Business, North America, IDA



Pictured with the Cathaoirleach and Deputy Chief Executive is Jane O'Sullivan, Vice President, Enterprise Ireland

The first thing Jane mentioned to us when we met is that she is from Johnstownbridge and was delighted to be meeting with representatives from Kildare County Council. Jane's key focus area in her role is Travel Tech and Sports Tech and, in this respect, she had a keen interest in the horse racing industry in Ireland. We had a very positive meeting where we discussed the important role LEOs play in assisting SMEs to move into new markets, in particular the US. Jane stressed the importance of having a presence on the ground in the US when launching a new business or a new product. She also



highlighted the support that EI can offer to businesses operating in the US market.

Kildare Association of New York Meet and Greet

Pictured below – the Cathaoirleach and Deputy Chief Executive with members of the Kildare Association Committee of New York.



It was a pleasure to meet with the Kildare Association, New York who hosted a dinner in Yonkers, New York. The dinner was an opportunity for the Committee and members of the Association to meet the deputation from Kildare. Each of the Committee officers were presented with a selection of gifts from “Gather” in Kildare Town, together with gifts relating to St Brigid.

It was also a huge honour to visit the graves of Jack Murray (1877-1932) and his brother Michael Murray (1882-

1957) Calvary Cemetery, New York this week. Calvary Cemetery is the final resting place of the legendary John “Jack” Murray, who captained Kildare to their first All-Ireland title in 1905.

Jack was knocked down by an autotruck and fatally injured August 16th, 1932 in Manhattan aged 55. He shares his final resting place with his brother Michael, who died in 1957 aged 75 and also played on the victorious 1905 Kildare team.

Captain Jack Murray was from the Rosberry Club (now Sarsfields), named after the townland in which once stood Sarsfield’s castle. The team included another eight players from Rosberry, among them Jack’s younger brother Michael Murray and his first cousin Thomas Keogh. Rosberry won their first championship in 1904 and would go on to complete seven-in-a-row up to 1910, though the county would have to wait until 1919 for a second appearance and victory in the 1919 All-Ireland.

We discussed the potential of commemorating these two amazing Kildare men and the achievement of all this 1905 County Team with the Kildare Association, New York.



Library and Arts Service

News and Highlights

"A library is a place where we all, whatever our situation, can feed our ideas and develop our dreams." - Doug Wilhelm

Energy Awareness Event

Staff from Kildare Library Services were invited to have a stand at the recent Energy Awareness Day in Áras Chill Dara. Codema, on the neighbouring table, were on hand to explain how to use their Home Energy Kits which we were able to issue out to council staff.

Our eye-catching display of books relating to energy and sustainability





sparked lots of interest and conversation. Links were strengthened between library climate programming staff and the SEAI as well as the Kildare County Council Climate team, which we look forward to building on in the future.

Library staff also brought along some seeds from our Kildare Seed Library: many packets of organic vegetable seeds were taken by council staff so we like to think they will be improving their health and wellbeing through the summer.

Citizen Science Fish Doorbell

At Clocha Rince Library, we are participating in the Visdeurbel (Fish Doorbell) citizen science initiative from March to June, inviting patrons to watch a live stream from a canal in Utrecht (NL) and ring a virtual doorbell when they spot migrating fish. This helps alert lockkeepers to open the sluice gates, supporting fish migration and biodiversity. In April, we were delighted to welcome Willemijn Koppelaars, a city ecologist from Utrecht, who visited the library to share the project's ecological importance and inspire local children to engage with environmental science. This project

supports the strategic goal in the Councils corporate plan of Climate Action, Resilience and Environmental Protection.

Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library held several community information sessions in April about the Entente Florale competition. Maynooth has been nominated (by the Department Rural and Community Development) to represent Ireland in the Large Town Category of the Entente Florale Competition 2025. Entente Florale Europe is an international non-profit association, and its overall aims are social and cultural development to enhance horticulture, tourism and environment. The information session was organised by Kildare County Council Community and Culture Department.

Launch of Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

The national launch of Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Friday 09 May. Members of the Councils Culture and Creativity Team organised a variety of free creative workshops, performances, and events across the county, all taking place or culminating



on Saturday 07 June. Multiple community and arts organisation are holding events as well, funded through our Cruinniú na nÓg Kildare open call. For a listing of all events and booking links, visit <https://cruinniu.gov.ie/>

Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025

Payment processing and reporting for the Kildare Creative Ireland Bursary Award 2025 were progressed this April. Twelve out of 40 proposals have been offered funding, to a total funding amount of €70,240.

Kildare County Archives and Local Studies

Kildare County Council Files (a physical file management system to deal with records from creation to destruction or archiving, including the application of relevant retention schedules) is currently in operation as a pilot project in the County Archives in advance of its roll out to other sections of Kildare County Council. (Project in conjunction with IS).

The ninth Irish Military Seminar is taking place in Riverbank Arts Centre on Friday and Saturday 16-17 May

2025. The programme features a stellar line-up of speakers exploring a wide range of topics relating to Irish military history.

Kildare Arts Service

Evie Hone-stained glass artwork from Kildare's Municipal Art Collection (MAC) on Loan to the National Gallery of Ireland

An artwork from Kildare's Municipal Art Collection was requested for inclusion in a hugely significant exhibition of two pioneering female artists regarded as among the most important Irish artists of the twentieth century, Mainie Jellett and Evie Hone. This is a recognition of the cultural and historical significance of our MAC and its part in a larger national archive reflecting the story of Irish culture and identity in all its facets. The exhibition opened on 10 April and runs until 10 August 2025.

First Music Contact and Kildare Arts Service delivering a Professional Development Programme for Musicians

First Music Contact are partnering with Kildare Arts Service, along with Galway City Arts Office, Galway County Arts Office, Louth Arts Office,



and Roscommon Arts Office to deliver a professional development programme for musicians in these counties. First Music Contact is the leading national music organisation for resourcing musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland. This new Regional Development project will also create an opportunity for musicians to give feedback on what local support is needed to develop a career as a professional musician. The first series of these workshops took place 14 – 17 April.

**Ar an Imeall - On The Edge
Exhibition by Pamela de Brí at
Kilcock Art Gallery, supported by
Kildare Arts Service**

Ar an Imeall - On The Edge, a solo exhibition by artist Pamela de Brí, runs at Kilcock Art Gallery from 26 April to 07 June. Having researched the history, landscape, demographics, and topography of the islands over a few years, the artist has painted them, as seen from the mainland, trying to capture their essence. The project seeks to record, celebrate, and remember the individual world that each island is, and was to those that lived and still live there. The project

has been supported by Kildare Arts Service.

**Writing for Joy Workshops at Acre
Project, Celbridge**

Krystal Sweedman, Writer in Residence at the Acre Project, Celbridge, is currently running a series of Writing for Joy workshops as part of her Residency. Krystal is a playwright and dramaturg originally hailing from Australia. These workshops are supported through the ACRE Artist in Residence programme 2024/2025, funded by Kildare County Council Arts Service and the Arts Council.

**Artist's Workspace Needs Survey
for Naas Municipal District**

Kildare Arts Service, in partnership with Kildare County Council's Planning service have now completed an Artist's Workspace Needs Survey for the Naas Municipal District. The survey seeks to understand the nature and needs of artists operating in the area, with a view to identifying gaps in provision. It will help to understand if there is a need for new artist's workspaces within the Naas Town Centre, Naas Canal Quarter and Naas North-West Quadrant areas.



Arts Grants

Kildare Arts Service have completed the assessment and approval of applications for a suite of 17 separate arts grants, commissions and bursary award opportunities. Out of almost 300 grant applications, 86 have been approved and have received letters of offer.

Corrina Askin and Manchán Magan exhibition at Riverbank Arts Centre

Cat Crainn agus Madraí Uisce / Treecats and Waterdogs an original exhibition by Corrina Askin and Manchán Magan opened at Riverbank Arts Centre's Children's Gallery this month. This exhibition, which explores words for nature and our connection with the natural world, was co-commissioned by Riverbank, Kildare County Council Library Service and Linenhall Arts Centre, and is accompanied by an engagement programme and publication. It will tour galleries and libraries throughout 2025 including Naas Library and Cultural Centre and Roola Boola Children's Arts Festival in Castlebar, supported by the Riverbank team.

Attendance at Arts + Health: Check Up Check In 2025

Organised by Réalta, the national resource organisation for Arts + Health in Ireland, this national event for the arts and health sector held at Esker Arts in Tullamore on 30 April was attended by the Arts Service and saw presentations from Kildare artists John Conway, current artist in residence at Naas General Hospital, funded through Creative Ireland's Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme, along with Kildare musicians Embrace Music who are funded through Kildare Arts Services Arts and Health Programme.

The Arts Council's Annual Meeting for Local Authority Arts Officers

Arts Officer (Acting) Eláine Donnelly attended this meeting in Dublin on 29 April where policy reviews were discussed including new policies for Street Art and Spectacle and Circus Arts.



Health and Safety

1. Seven Site Inspections across directorates
2. Seven Blended Working Assessments completed
3. Review of general site visit RAMS for Strategic Projects and Public Realm
4. Scheduled Health and Safety Roadshows for all five Municipal District's and Machinery Yard- 05 - 09 May
5. Preparation of Cross-sectional toolbox talks – for general use to cover indoor and outdoor Local Authority activities.

Accessibility:

1. Kildare Inclusivity Festival Meeting Preparation and Planning
2. Local Disability Access Group Meetings:
 - a. CKAN
 - b. Maynooth Disability Access Group
 - c. Monasterevin
 - d. Celbridge

Finance, Digital Services and Innovation and Governance

Finance

Annual Financial Statement

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

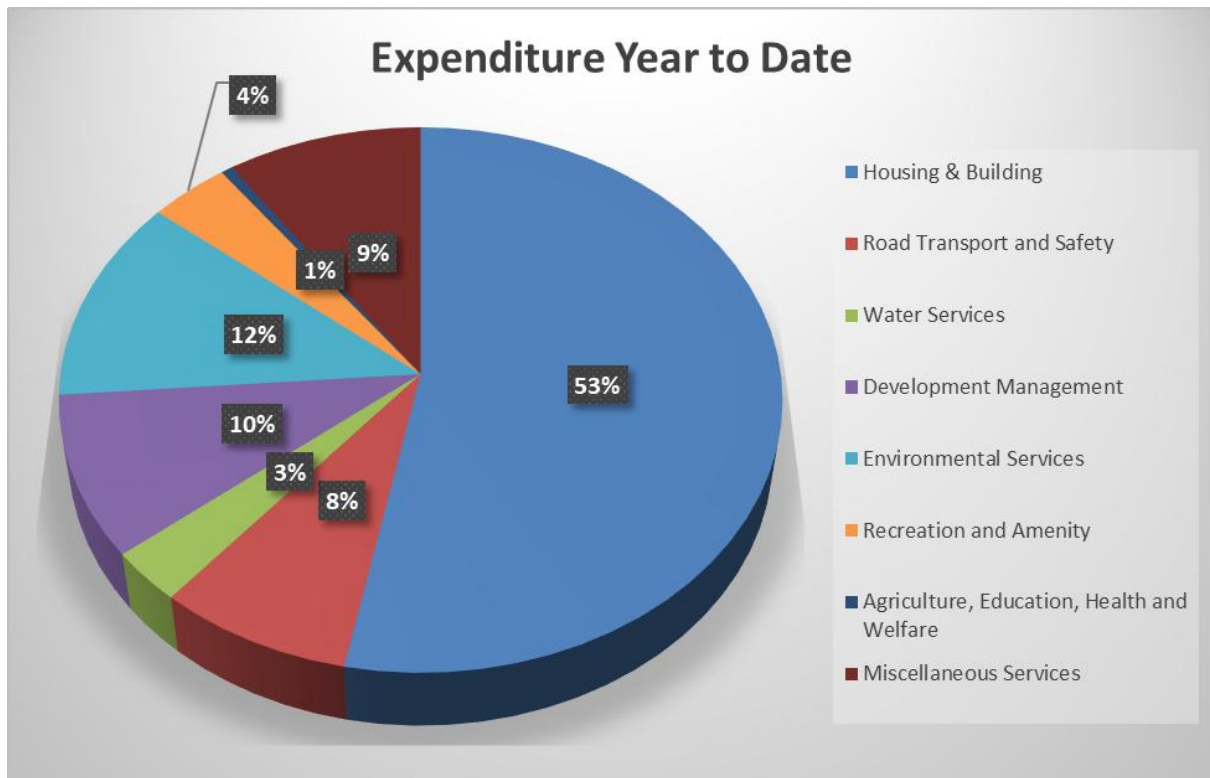


Revenue Account

Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2025

Division	Expenditure € ,000	Budget € ,000	% Budget Spend	Budget remaining € ,000
Housing & Building	40,063	101,730	39%	61,667
Road Transport and Safety	6,054	48,554	12%	42,500
Water Services	2,337	10,199	23%	7,862
Development Management	7,237	31,158	23%	23,921
Environmental Services	9,175	26,403	35%	17,228
Recreation and Amenity	2,951	19,596	15%	16,645
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	440	1,416	31%	976
Miscellaneous Services	7,213	21,315	34%	14,102
Local Property Tax Allocation Rates				-
	75,471	260,371	29%	184,900





Kildare County Council

Revenue Account Summary by Service Division to period to 30 April 2025

Division	Income			
	Income	Budget	% Budget collected	Budget to be collected
	€,000	€,000		€,000
Housing & Building	36,952	91,453	40%	54,501
Road Transport and Safety	2,430	25,619	9%	23,189
Water Services	1,879	9,640	19%	7,761
Development Management	4,978	11,468	43%	6,490
Environmental Services	2,841	7,830	36%	4,989
Recreation and Amenity	759	2,560	30%	1,801
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	175	305	57%	130
Miscellaneous Services	1,117	14,980	7%	13,863
Local Property Tax Allocation	7,385	22,155	33%	14,770
Rates	19,185	74,361	26%	55,176
	77,701	260,371	30%	182,670

Commercial Rates, Rents and Loans Collections

Kildare County Council							
Summary of Major Collections to 30 April 2025							
	Arrears 01/01/2025	Accrued	Write Off	Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Outstanding 31/04/2025
Commercial Rates	6,789,898	75,434,726	42,949		82,181,675	43,237,439	38,944,236
Rents & Annuities	1,172,913	7,724,742	390	-	8,897,265	7,767,014	1,130,251
Housing Loans	1,215,080	1,342,434	-	-	2,557,514	1,375,689	1,181,825

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 April 2025.

Risk Management

A review of the Corporate Risk Register took place in mid March 2025. The Head of Internal Audit, Risk and Governance is working with sections to complete and document the actions from the review.



Innovation

24 of our staff have recently completed a Design Thinking Innovation Programme. Design Thinking is an innovative problem solving methodology that uses a five stage framework of defining and framing the problem, ideating, prototyping and testing solutions. Four teams tackled four key challenges and developed well-defined and tested solutions that

can now move to the implementation phase. Teams were supported by a Senior Sponsor and the programme culminated in a Pitch Day where teams presented their solutions to the Senior Management Team, colleagues and key stakeholders. This programme demonstrates our continued commitment to Innovation and the Government's Design Action Plan.



Digital Services

Windows 11

Commenced update of council devices from Windows 10 to Windows 11 by October 2025.



Housing and Regeneration

Housing

Affordable Housing Delivery

The Council is delivering eight affordable houses at Lattin Place, Rathasker Road, Naas; the scheme will deliver five number three bed units and three number two bed units. An affordable subsidy of €100,000 is being provided. The statutory notice was published on 13 May and applications will open on 28 May. The minimum purchase prices are as follows:

Two Bed House €295,000

Three Bed House €365,000 to €376,000

Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2024

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment Report 2024 (SSHA) was recently published and provides information on households qualified for social housing, it does not take account of households availing of the Housing Assistance Payment or the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

Nationally the total number of qualified households in 2024 was 59,941, an increase of 1.9% from 2023. Kildare has the fourth highest number of qualified households at 3,687 and accounts for 6% of the national total. In the period 2023 to 2024 the number of qualified households in Kildare increased by 7%. The Mid-Eastern counties (Louth, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow) account for 14.5% of the national total. In the period from 2016 to 2024 the number of qualified households in Kildare decreased by 34%, however each year since 2022 there has been an increase in the number of qualified households.

Dormant Accounts Fund (Traveller Accommodation)

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has approved funding in the amount of €16,000. This will be used on various projects to support community engagement and cultural awareness training for Housing Department staff and members of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.



Capital Programme

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Approval Stage 4		
Ambassador Site, Kill	33 units	Works progressing on site; substantially in line with programme.
Old Greenfield, Maynooth	65 units	Works progressing on site.
St. Patrick's Park Rathangan Remedial Works (Phases 2 & 3)	Demolition of 15 units, refurb of 25 units, construction of 7 units.	Works progressing on site.
Approval Stage 2		
Ardclough Road, Celbridge	39 units	Approval received from An Bord Pleanála on 22.08.2024. Preparation of works tender commenced. Planning condition surveys complete. Includes 10 no. affordable units.
Dispensary Site Carbury	5 units	Part 8 accepted at the November meeting of the Clane-Maynooth MD. Preparation of works tender commenced.
Clane Road, Sallins	4 units	Site previously allocated to The Peter McVerry Trust will now be developed by KCC.
Andrew Halting Site, Athy	8 units (5 new units, 1 caretaker unit, Refurbishment and amalgamation of 4 units into 2)	Revised Stage 2 approval received 14.10.2024. Part 8 presented and approved at March meeting of Athy MD. Works to boundary wall ongoing and due to be completed in May.
Station Road, Kildare.	29 units	Site clearance completed. Part 8 launched January 2025 and will be listed on the agenda for the Kildare-Newbridge MD meeting on 21.05.2025.
St Evin's Park, Monasterevin	13 units	Tender being prepared for main works in parallel with Part 8. The Part 8 was approved by the members of the Kildare-Newbridge MD at their April MD meeting. There are no additional conditions.



Approval Stage 1		
Caragh Road, Naas	73 units	Development of 73 units [to include 15 no. affordable units]. Tendering assessment ongoing for consultant's tender.
Craddockstown, Naas	28 units	Stage 2 approval received. Part 8 has closed for submissions; Housing report being prepared.
Single Stage Approval		
Shamrock Stores, Athy	2 new unit + refurb of 3 existing units	Revision to Single Stage approval to be prepared and submitted to DHLGH.
Inniscarra, Athy	5 units	Architect Lead Design Team appointed. Feasibility reports to confirm best design solution progressing.
Ballitore Garda Station	6 (2 x refurb + 4 new)	Design team appointed. Part 8 to be launched in Q2 2025.
Maddenstown Terrace	1	Part 8 approved at February meeting of Kildare -Newbridge MD. Tender to be prepared.

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



Infill Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Newtown House, Leixlip	4 units	Stage 3 approval received 20.03.2025. Tender to be completed and issued May 2025.
Glandore, Athy	5 units + 1 refurb	Works progressing on site.
Patrician Ave, Naas	2 new + 1 refurb	Work progressing on site. Practical completion date expected June 2025.
Skenagun, Castledermot	1 major refurb & extension & 1 new build	Stage 3 approval received 18.03.2025.

PPP Schemes

Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
Adrew, Athy	73 Housing units + Community unit.	PPP Bundle 3: Preferred tenderer has submitted planning compliance documents which are being reviewed. Boundary wall works ongoing ahead of financial close and start of works in June.
Oldtown Mill, Celbridge	60 units	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. Target is to commence tender stage in mid-June 2025
Coolaghknock Glebe, Kildare	99 social units/ 32 affordable	PPP Bundle 4: Part 8 approved. Design Team finalising tender documents. Target is to commence tender stage in mid-June 2025
Rickardstown, Newbridge	96 social/ 40 affordable units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Site investigations ongoing on site. Part 8 application towards end of July 2025.
Rathasker Road, Naas	104 units	PPP Bundle 6: Design work ongoing. Site investigation complete. Stage 2 meeting with DHLGH in May. Part 8 application towards end of July 2025.



Approved Housing Body Build Programme

Type	Approved Housing Body	Location	No. of Units	Updated Status
CAS	Cluid	ESB site, Leixlip	36	Clarification requested on pre-planning submission.
CAS	Sofia Housing	St. John's Convent, Rathangan	24	Stage 3 approval received 20.03.2025. Tender package to be completed and issued.
CALF	Cluid	Dominican Lands Athy	34	Tender documents published. AHB liaising with DHLGH regarding CALF application.
CAS	Nas Na Riogh	Beaufort	45	Stage 1 approved. Pre-planning ongoing.
CAS	Tintean Housing Assoc.	McCauley Court, Athy	Refurb 10	CAS funding approved. Draft Terms of Heads of Agreement are currently under review by HSE regarding the transfer of these units.

Acquisitions

Type	2023	2024	2025
Housing Acquisitions	96	68	12
Housing Turnkeys	42	89	3
Part V Acquisitions	109	106	21
Total	247	263	36

Notices of Termination

Notices of Termination on hand	Number Overholding	Number Expiring 2025	Number Expiring 2026
52	9	42	1

Families in PEA including Supported Temporary Accommodations and Family Hubs as of 30 April 2025

Duration in months	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0-6	27	40	63



6-12	12	19	20
12-18	7	9	13
18-24	2	5	5
24-30	0	0	0
36 +	0	0	0
Total	48	73	101

Families in Own Front Door Accommodation as of 30 April 2025

Duration in months	No. of Households with Dependents	Adults	Dependents
0-6	1	3	3
6-12	0	0	0
12-18	5	10	11
18-24	2	4	5
24-30	1	2	1
36 +	4	10	8
Total	13	29	28

Strategic Projects and Public Realm (SPPR)

Countywide	Barrow Blueway	
	Project estimated value:	€11,683,034
	Funding source	RRDF €9,007,827
	Project Stage	Construction with completion date end Q3 2025
	Additional notes:	Bridge installation underway, expected completion date August 2025
	Barrow Blueway Trailhead	
	Project estimated value:	€80,000
	Funding source	€80,000 Community Recognition Fund
	Project Stage	Pre Part 8
	Additional notes:	Expect to publish Part 8 in the next 2-3 weeks.



	Greenway – Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen including Phase 1 and 2 Tie in at Sallins	
	Project estimated value:	€25,621,938
	Funding source	DoT and Carbon Tax Fund
	Project Stage	Developed Preliminary Design
	Additional Notes	<p>Two additional pedestrian bridges are required on the Scheme and a Part 8 is expected to be published in the next 3-4 weeks.</p> <p>Tender 1 Package Sallins Q2 2025, currently meetings are underway with utility providers regarding diversions.</p> <p>Tender Package 2 Towpath Works undertaken by Waterways Ireland (sensitive Area)</p> <p>Tender Package 3 Consented Planning including 1 Bridge, Boardwalk, Towpath and crossings</p> <p>Tender Package 4 – 2 No. Additional Bridges</p>
Kildare- Newbridge MD	Newbridge Library	
	Project estimated value:	€17,000,000
	Funding source	KCC and Dept of Housing
	Project Stage	Detailed design and tender prep
	Additional Notes	Weekly client meetings continue to progress both the move to Liffey Lodge and the final design / tender documents.

	Rathangan Town Renewal Plan	
	Project estimated value:	€50,000
	Funding source	LPT
	Project stage	Pre-Draft Plan



	Additional Notes	Content and layout revisions, specific projects and visuals being assessed. Next steps: finalise draft for second round of public consultation
	Newbridge Town Renewal Plan	
	Project estimated value:	
	Funding source	LPT
	Project stage	Pre Draft Plan
	Additional Notes	Work is underway to complete a revised draft in preparation for public consultation.
	Monasterevin Masterplan – sub project Market Square Monasterevin	
	Project estimated value:	To be confirmed
	Funding source	€34,335.00 (grant aid awarded under T&V (TCF Measure 3)
	Project stage	Pre Part 8
	Additional Notes	RRDF Call 4 – Category 2 application lodged, waiting on decision
Athy	Emily Square	
	Project estimated value:	€3,026,177
	Funding source	RRDF €2,046,177 €980,000 KCC
	Project stage	Construction. Project completion date Q2 2025
	Additional Notes	Paving works well underway.
	Shackleton Museum	
	Project estimated value:	€7,265,037
	Funding source	€5,207,500 (RRDF) €2,000,000 KCC
	Project stage	Construction Project completion Q2 2025



	Additional Notes	Works continue internally in the extension with temporary measures in place until 4 new panels arrive. Works to commence externally on the week of the 19 th May.
--	------------------	--

Celbridge-Leixlip MD	Wonderful Barn	
	Project estimated value:	€3,488,370 (Conservation/Advance works)
	Funding source	KCC – LPT/BHIS/HSF
	Project stage	Conservation and advance works only to weatherproof
	Additional Notes	Enabling works continue on site to conserve and preserve the building, over the next 10 weeks. After these works are completed a funding stream needs to be identified to progress the development of the site.
Clane-Maynooth MD	Maynooth Town Centre Masterplan	
	Project estimated value:	€3,438,500
	Funding source	€2,574,375 URDF €858,125 KCC/LPT €1,908,750 URDF approved
	Project stage	Maynooth Masterplan at Pre Draft Stage with 12 months delivery programme (approx. Q1 2026) District Heating exploration project has commenced
	Additional Notes	Preliminary Business Case approved to prepare a Sub Project A: Maynooth Town Centre Renewal – Strengthening the Grid – Town Renewal Masterplan Project has commenced, with 12 month delivery programme. Sub Project B: District Heating Exploration project in the historic grid town centre – Feasibility study and report



		<p>on the potential for a scheme to serve the commercial and residential community.</p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report.</p> <p>Codema commenced feasibility study in Q1 2025, to be completed by Q4 2025.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Potential Pilot Project – participatory urban design with NUIM academics and students – may include development of an online platform.</p> <p>Approved to proceed with consultation with residents and building owners and to tender for the preparation of a feasibility study and report. Engaging with NUI Maynooth.</p> <p>Sub Project E: Development of Key Town Renewal projects.</p> <p>Subject to completion of the Masterplan process, KCC are requested to submit a copy of the Masterplan & a Prelim Business Case to the Dept on the priority projects identified through that process for further development.</p>

	Harbourfield Project	
	Project estimated value:	€182,000
	Funding source	URDF and LPT
	Project stage	Detailed design and tender package
	Additional Notes:	Consultant team finalising the detailed design & tender package.
Naas MD	Sallins TRMP	
	Project estimated value:	€70,000
	Funding source	€70,000 LPT
	Project stage	Draft Masterplan



	Additional Notes:	Final edits have been submitted to the design team for update and completion of a Final Draft which will be circulated to the SMT for approval.
	Naas Town Centre Masterplan & sub elements	
	Project estimated value:	€4,662,000
	Funding source:	€3,500,000 URDF €1,165,000 LPT/KCC
	Project stage	Naas Town Masterplan at Pre-Draft Stage with 12 months delivery programme (approx Q1 2026)
	Additional Notes	<p>Preliminary Business Case approved by URDF Team. Sub Project A: Naas Town Renewal Masterplan – approval granted to proceed to tender for the preparation of the Masterplan subject to the provision of updated costs and addressing points raised in the letter received.</p> <p>Project has commenced, with 12 month delivery programme.</p> <p>Sub Project B: Background Assessments. Conservation Management Plan complete. Tender for archaeological survey to issue.</p> <p>Sub Project C: Acquisition of key sites in the town centre.</p> <p>Sub Project D: Transportation Interventions. Proceed to tender for the design team and 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.</p>



	Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan	
	Project estimated value:	€320,000
	Funding Source	URDF and KCC/LPT
	Project Stage	Pre Draft
	Additional Notes	Traffic Impact Assessment to be carried out, surveys will take place in May – parking, pedestrian movement.

Integration

General

Numbers of New Arrivals

The number of people arriving in the State seeking temporary protection or international protection continues to decrease. More information will be provided when statistical information is available.

Accommodation Recognition

Payment (ARP)

The ARP was extended in March 2025 until March 2025. A second approval is needed to reduce the payment from €800 to €600. It is expected that this will now happen in July.

Recent Developments

Eyre Powell Hotel, Newbridge

Fire Safety remedial works at the Eyre Powell are complete and due to be inspected by Kildare Fire Service.

Ryevale House, Leixlip

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

International Protection Bill 2025

Minister Jim O'Callaghan has given approval for the publication of the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025. This follows the adoption of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact in 2024. The legislation will lead to the most significant reform of Irish asylum laws in the history of the state and will replace the current International Protection Act 2015. It is intended that the new legislation will be implemented by June 2026.



Move from DCEDIY to DoJHAM

The Integration Division moved from The Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCEDIY) to Department of Justice, Homeland Affairs and Migration on 01 May along with IPAS, and a new Minister of State for Migration is now in place.

Publication of National Counter Disinformation Strategy

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media published the National Counter Disinformation Strategy on 17 April 2025.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

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

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities to facilitate coordination of the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations. The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by

connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community. The LAIT is part of a national government policy - White Paper to end direct provision (February 2021) - and a new international protection service model grounded on supporting the principles of 'integration from day one'. The LAIT identifies needs through outreach work and clinics in accommodation centres and in the community, and provides the necessary information, advice and guidance so individuals and families can access services locally appropriate to needs.

Clinics

Kildare LAIT organises regular drop-in information clinics in IPAS and BOTP centres, that allow service users to access Integration Support Workers on a one to one basis. This has fostered strong relationships between service users, accommodation providers, and other services. From the beginning of the year, as of the 02 May 2025 the LAIT has organised 39 information clinics, eleven during the month of April, supporting a total of 229 people accommodated in State Funded Centres. These clinics allow people to



access support and information on a one to one basis. Regular clinics and outreach visits to the centres have fostered collaboration with accommodation providers and allow residents to access support and information on a one to one basis.

Queries

From the beginning of the year, to the 02 May 2025 the LAIT has received 512 queries and resolved 508. In April 2025, the LAIT received 148 queries and resolved 145. Out of those, 68 queries were raised by beneficiaries of temporary protection, 58 by international protection applicants and 22 by persons with status. Most queries were related to access to accommodation, language support, education, legal and civic rights, and financial support. Most of the queries are received in the information clinics. Others are received by email, drop-ins or outreach visits to the centres.

Networking

Kildare LAIT continues participating in the National Asylum Support Network and the National Ukraine Civil Society Forum connecting civil society and community responses into the State's

response structures supporting reception and integration.

Kildare LAIT hosted the Integration Support Coordinators Network in person meeting on the 29 April in Naas. 16 Integration Support Coordinator's attended. The meeting mainly focused on the role of the LAITs, and key activities.

The team furthermore met with the newly recruited Community Connections Link Worker, Niamh Conaghan, hosted by CKLP. This post is funded for an 18 month period. There are thirteen CCL workers nationwide and one national coordinator, supporting the establishment of 'Friends of New Communities' across the county.

Ongoing collaboration with Kildare Sport Partnership, Kildare County Council (KCC) Library Services, KCC Housing, KCC Community and other local services. Discussions with the Irish Refugee Council and the Irish Red Cross about possible collaborations. The Irish Red Cross has secured funding for activities supporting mental health, targeting



children and young people (aged 12 to 24) who are beneficiaries of temporary protection. Kildare LAIT met with the Irish Red Cross local branch volunteers to discuss potential psychosocial activities targeted at

beneficiaries of temporary protection (51%) and wider community with a focus on mental health.

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (Ukraine):

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in State provided accommodation in Kildare: 425 (327 adults/ 98 children)

Data source Central Statistic Office – 12 May 2025

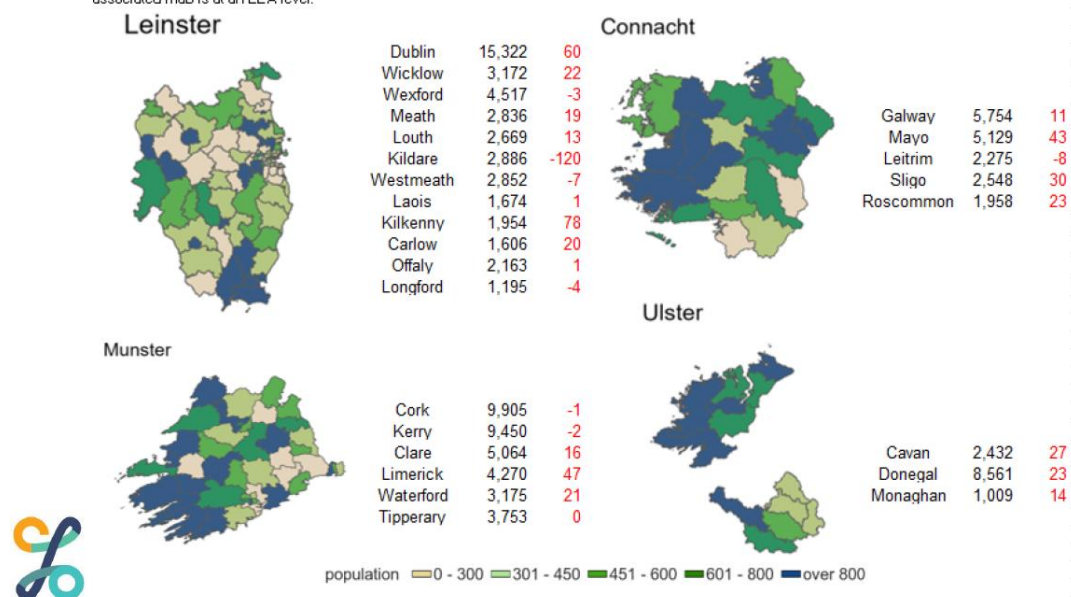
The current distribution of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection nationally is as follows:

Data source Central Statistics Office 11 April 2025

National overview of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

Summary - Location of Ukrainian Arrivals by County

The following data gives the number of arrivals from Ukraine at a county level based off the data provided on 06 May 2025, where 95% of individuals could be mapped to an ARP home address or Post Office. Also included is a comparison with data previously provided on the 07 April 2025. The associated map is at an LEA level.



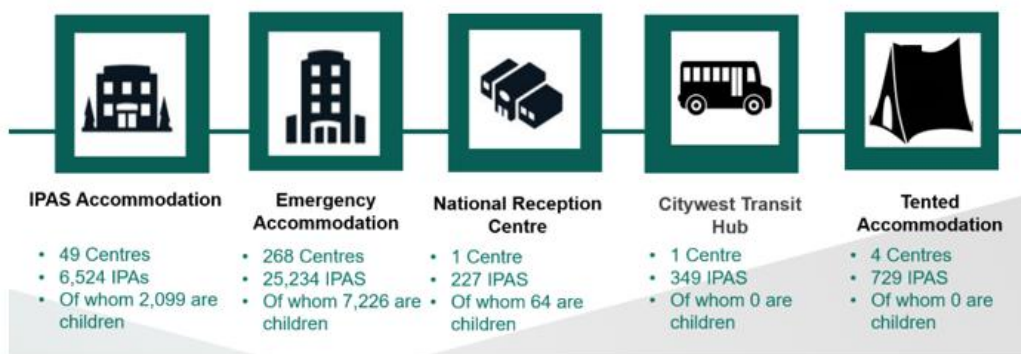


International Protection Applicants:

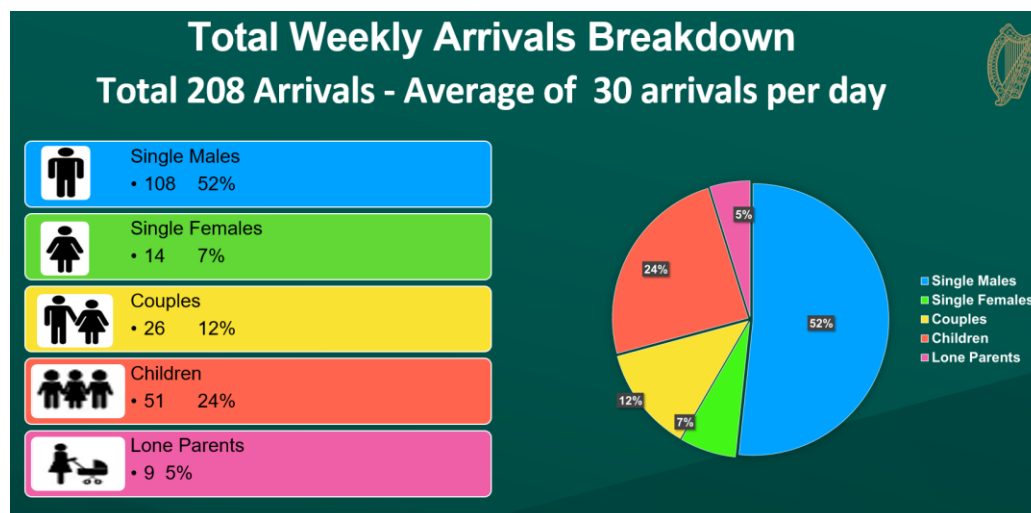
There are a total of 33,081 International Protection applicants in 323 State provided accommodation centres nationally of whom 9,389 are children. Source DECDIY 12 May 2025

Current IPAS Accommodation Overview

Total Centres 323 Total IPAS 33,081 Of whom Children 9,389



The current breakdown of new arrivals during the week up to week ending 30 March 2025 is as follows:



The number of International Protection Applicants accommodated in State provided accommodation in Kildare is 564 of whom 98 are children Source DECDIY 04 May 2025



Occupancy Breakdown by Local Authority Source DECDIY 16 April 2025

Occupancy Breakdown by County Local Authority



County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy	County	Occupancy
Carlow County Council	435	Kerry County	958	Offaly County	521
Cavan County	153	Kildare County	577	Roscommon County	226
Clare County	1006	Kilkenny County	193	Sligo County	743
Cork City	614	Laois County	486	South Dublin County	3959
Cork County	1500	Leitrim County	238	Tipperary County	886
Donegal County	2071	Limerick City & County	634	Waterford City and County	641
Dublin City	3499	Longford County	140	Westmeath County	1226
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	1329	Louth County	1118	Wexford County	581
Fingal County	2391	Mayo County	1708	Wicklow County	1468
Galway City Council	1748	Meath County	981	Grand Total	33081
Galway County Council	384	Monaghan County	667		

International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP)

On 10 September 2015, as part of Ireland's response to the migration crisis in central and southern Europe, the Government established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). Under this programme, the IRPP has seen the arrival of over 4,000 refugees under various resettlement strands, the largest of which is the UNHCR led programme. In December 2019, the second phase of the IRPP (IRPP II) was put in place to welcome up to 2,900 refugees through the UNHCR programme between 2020 and 2023 through a combination of resettlement and new community sponsorship initiatives. The new phase

planned for 650 UNHCR resettlements in 2020, 700 in 2021, 750 in 2022 and 800 in 2023. This commitment was to be made up of a majority of Syrian refugees' resident in Jordan and Lebanon. The numbers assisted over this period was impacted by Covid 19.

Ireland's pledge for resettlement and humanitarian admission under Article 19 AMIF for 2023, along with forecasted resettlement numbers for 2024-2025 was submitted to the European Commission on 07 October. Ireland pledged to support the arrival of 800 refugees under the UNHCR resettlement process from Lebanon and Jordan, with a further 100



humanitarian admissions from Afghanistan.

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

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

Through the model for distribution for IRPP Phase II, Kildare County Council has accepted the allocated quota of 66 refugees for 2024-26. The resettlement will be carried out in a combination of Approved Housing Bodies and Kildare County Council housing units through various tranches

planned for completion during the second and third quarter of 2025. The programme has resettled to date a total of 24 adults and children (five families) in two locations. These were completed in October 2024 and February 2025.

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

Families participating in the programme receive direct integration supports funded by AMIF (EU funds) through the DECDIY with a view to achieving the best possible outcome for each individual and family. County Kildare Leader Partnership (CKLP) was identified by Kildare County Council through a tender process as the implementing partner for the



provision of appropriate post-resettlement supports for a set period of 18 months. Integration supports are provided by an Integration Support Worker, and an Intercultural Support Worker, recruited at the end of July 2024. When the programme ends, Kildare LAIT will continue supporting these families. The overall programme is managed by the LAIT Coordinator.

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

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

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

Ukraine Services and Accommodation Team Offer a Home Scheme

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

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

The Ukraine Services and accommodation team liaise with other local authorities where surplus accommodation has been identified.



These offers are usually in rural locations.

Designated Accommodation Centres (DAC's)

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

The Integration Team hold Day-75 Clinics in the Punchestown DAC on a fortnightly basis to assist residents with the sourcing and matching of accommodation. Clinics were held on 23 April and 07 May 2025 with a further clinic scheduled for 21 May 2025.

Accommodation of International Protection Applicants:

The area of responsibility also extends to appraisal of properties referred to Kildare County Council by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) in DCEDIY for accommodation of IPA's.

A technical working group (TWG) has been established in Kildare County Council to access accommodation proposals referred to Kildare County Council by DCEDIY, IPAS/IPPS and

the LGMA and continues to deal with queries related to existing and proposed accommodation.

The Community Integration Forum (CIF)

Meetings are taking place the first Wednesday of each alternative month chaired by the Director of Services for Integration with targeted, thematic meetings to address specific items on each alternative month. The last CIF meeting took place on the Wednesday 02 April 2025 in Áras Chill Dara with the next meeting scheduled for 04 June 2025.

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

Membership includes Kildare County Council (LAIT, Accommodation Team, Community Services/Sport Kildare Partnership, Library Services/Creative Communities); Citizens Information Centre; An Garda Síochána; CKLP; Irish Red Cross; KCCC; Kildare Children and Youth People's Services Committee (CYPSC) hosted by Tusla; In Sync; KWETB Board; Regional



Education and Learning Team
Coordinator; INTREO, Department of
Social Protection; Tusla Prevention,
Partnership and Family Support
(PPFS) Kildare West Wicklow (KWW)
HSE Social Inclusion Team; Local
Link.

The role of the Community Integration
Forum is reflected in the LCDC (Action
1.7.7 KCC-LAIT). The migrant
integration strategy is much broader
and implemented through local
community strategies.

Kildare County Council completed a
survey prepared by the LGMA
gathering information on how the
Community Integration Forum (CIF) is
operating locally in Kildare (21 March).
This is to support the funding
requirements for 2025 and for the
DCEDIY to determine the reporting
requirements going forward.

Climate, Community, Environment and Water

Climate

Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)



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

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



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

Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



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

Executive Training Group for oversight of training delivery for 2025 convened its first meeting on 15 January 2025. The Group is chaired by Teresa Walsh, Director of Service with South Dublin County Council on behalf of

CCMA and group comprises representation from Climate Ireland, AILG, SEAI, Met Eireann, Heritage Council, LASNTG and CARO.

Planning for training delivery underway as follows:

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

In addition to the above, 2025 Training Programme targeting:

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



- Bespoke Green Public Procurement training

Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)

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

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



Sub-Regional Energy Projects

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

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

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

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

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



Reimagining Local Authority Fleet

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

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



Data collation for 2024 completed on 07 February 2025. This process collects data relating to ten KPIs. This data works to highlight the sectoral performance of the network of local authorities on climate action.

Report to be published mid-year.

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

GAA / CCMA Green Clubs Programme:



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



Kildare County Council Climate Action

Kildare Climate Action Office



Inspiring change, shaping tomorrow

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

Augmented Reality Image

Maynooth:

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

Energy Updates:

ISO 50001:

We are working toward ISO 50001 certification. SGS have been appointed as the Certification Body. Stage 1 Audit is scheduled for 19

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

Energy Management Team:

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

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

Staff Energy Awareness

Free one to one Energy Clinics were setup online with the Optimising Power at Work Campaign for 09 and 11 April 2025. All 20 appointments were booked up within a few hours. We hope to organise and offer further clinics later in the year.



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

Energy Performance Contract

The Energy Performance Contract (EPC), for Aras Chill Dara and K Leisure Naas and Athy has moved to the next stage. Outline Solution reports received from two Energy Service Companies (ESCo) on 12 May 2025. Thereafter, we will move to the Competitive Dialogue Stage, interviewing the ESCOs based on their reports and finalising our client requirements.

District Heating (DH)

Codema are presently finalising the DH feasibility study for Naas and have commenced the Maynooth feasibility study. The latter is in conjunction with the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team with funding from SEAI and URDF.

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

DISCO Project:

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

Kick off occurred in April. Meetings with ten stakeholders has been arranged for May 2025.

Energy Audits:

Review of the audits for Athy and Leixlip Libraries have been undertaken, and the documents are being finalised. The documents will help to inform the works to be undertaken. We are exploring options for decarbonising of Athy Library due to the conservation constraints.

An Energy Audit has been carried out on Athy Municipal District offices and we are awaiting the initial report.

SEAI Monitoring and Reporting



The requirement to update MPRN's for Council fuel usage is being finalised for the deadline of 16 May 2025.

SEAI Pathfinder Strategic Review:

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

Critical Success Factors Audit

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

Staff EV (Electric Vehicle) GoCar

The dedicated charge point has now been installed and commissioned. Sports Partnership will also have use of the charge point and are awaiting the arrival of their electrically powered van.

SMT presentation:

A further update on Kildare County Council's energy status will be given on 27 May ahead of the ISO 50001 external Audits.

Community Based Projects:

Our Shared Plate:



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

Community Climate Action Program Fund:

Twenty-four projects were approved by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the Community Climate Action Fund grant. Grantees have 18 months to complete the projects and in the



time since the grants were finalised in September, ten of the projects have been completed. The second recoupment application has been approved by DECC. The third recoupment application is due 14 June.

Climate Design Lab:

Co-creative events with the wider community undertaken in late February.

Both the Artist in Resident and the Creative Collaborator have been assigned to the project. A further workshop to inform the next items to be placed in the public realm is to be held on 15 May.

Climate Innovation Fund (CIF) 2025:

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

One of the projects funded in 2024 was a film written and produced by youth in the Kildare town area. The short film is called 'Dance of the

Cranes' and a special showing for all involved has been sponsored by the Odean Cinema, Newbridge.

Grass to Gas and Alternative Maintenance:

The launch of the 'Grass to Gas Dashboard' took place in the chamber on the 28 April from 2.00pm-3.00pm. Maynooth University's Terrain-AI team presented the dashboard and findings. A presentation will be made at the Climate Action SPC on 14 May. CARO are organising a national webinar based on the work to date for 16 May to inform all Climate Action Offices.

Climate Action Awareness Building Climate:

To act, we must first understand what climate change is and the causes. The 60+ programme in Maynooth is very well attended, using a cup of tea to explain the concepts.

Monica Hayes, Climate Graduate, with a background in education and communications, has worked closely with LEO to provide training to students in Athy and Monasterevin.



We are working with Libraries to assist them with outreach programme to increase awareness and action behavioural change.

The Public Participation Network (PPN) with the assistance of the county SEAI Mentor are utilising a visit to the DemoHouse during Climate Action Series 22 May to 24 May. Climate Champions has been launched in Maynooth. Nominations are due back in by 22 May and winners will be announced at Picnic in the Park on 15 June. Listen to our podcast with Marian Higgins, Director of Service and Paul Regan, Decarbonising Officer to learn more https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Ew2VNN_GEB8


DZ Climate Champions
Celebrate action. Be the change.

Environment

Water Action Plan 2024

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

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

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



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

The Plan has reviewed the current waste management situation in Ireland and used key drivers and policy proposals to project future trends to identify a range of challenges to be managed over the lifetime of the Plan. The Plan now sets out policy responses and actions to address the current and future challenges identified and provides a delivery roadmap to help navigate the Plan period

National Deposit Return Scheme

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

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

Larger retailers have installed Reverse Vending Machines (RVM's) at their premises to automate the deposit return process. Smaller retailers will

operate the scheme on a manual, over-the-counter basis.

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

Tidy Towns Event

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

Irish Business against Litter (IBAL)

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

This is the third time in four years that Naas has finished atop the rankings. Maynooth, a former top-ranking town in the IBAL litter league, also performed well achieving status "cleaner than European norms" and fifth place overall in the IBAL survey.



Entente Florale 2025

Kildare County Council is supporting the nomination of Maynooth in the Large Town Category for the Entente Florale Europe Competition in 2025. A public information meeting was held on 24 April in Maynooth public library and it was well attended. The judging will take place on 12 July.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025

Naas Tidy Towns have been nominated by the Department of Rural and Community Development to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2025 for the Best Kept Large Urban Centre Award. Adjudication takes place anonymously during the month of May with two Adjudicators, one from the SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition and one from the Best Kept Awards Competition.

Water Framework Directive

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

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

Enforcement Priorities 2025

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

Five Waste Enforcement Priorities
Four Water Enforcement Priorities
Four Air and Noise Enforcement Priorities
Two Governance Processes Priorities

Environmental Enforcement

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its report on the environmental enforcement performance of local authorities in 2023 on 03 December. The EPA's Local Authority Performance



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

Domestic/Commercial Refuse Collections

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

Veterinary Services

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

these services has moved to DAFM with effect from the 01 January 2025

Green Schools

Renewal visits to all the eligible schools have been completed for the 2025 Green Schools programme. All successful schools will receive their flags in the Green School award ceremony in May.

Mulch Collection Day

The Mulch Collection Day on Saturday the 26 April was very successful. On the day up to 100 cars collected mulch for both home and community projects. The mulch was generated from the Council's Christmas tree recycling initiative.



Gum Litter Roadshow

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



Flood Risk Management

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)

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

Morell Flood Management Scheme

Construction of this scheme is continuing.



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

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

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

Naas Flood Relief Scheme

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

Leixlip Flood Relief Scheme

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

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidelines.

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

Cemetery Capital Programme

This programme, which includes cemetery extensions, capital type internal improvements and proposals for columbarium walls is currently



being reviewed in line with funding availability.

Columbarium Walls

Columbarium walls have been completed in Athy, Leixlip Confey, and St. Conleth's Newbridge cemeteries.

Grant Funding

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

Legislation XL Bully Type dogs

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

The Department will soon be introducing some minor amendments to the regulations to address some concerns that have been raised. The new regulations will provide details of an appeals process, specifically in cases where a Dog Warden seizes a dog on the premise that it is an XL Bully type that has not obtained a Certificate of Exemption, and the owner then wishes to appeal the

determination of the Warden that the dog is an XL Bully type dog.

Water Services

Service to Elected Members -

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

By Phone: 0818 178 178

By Email: localrepsupport@water.ie

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

Notices of Motion:

councilmeetings@water.ie

Uisce Éireann Regional

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

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

Water Services Asset Transfer to Uisce Eireann –

A business case has been completed for additional funding to resource this project. The Director of Service has been in communication with the Department regarding resourcing this body of work and is awaiting feedback regarding same.



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

Local Community Development Committee

The last meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 26 March 2025. The next meeting of the LCDC will be held on 28 May 2025.

SICAP - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

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

Work continues with the most disadvantaged individuals and groups across the county.

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

LEADER Programme

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

implemented by CKLP, over the lifetime of the Programme.

The previous LEADER programme is at the final project claims stage with the final project Castlestone Holiday Homes recently approved for final payment.

Work is underway to promote the new programme across Kildare.

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

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Kildare County Council is progressing the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme 2025-2029. Work is progressing to establish a Kiosk in Athy. This will provide information on a range of services, supports and events. Work to complete the actions funded with €75,000 seed funding 2024/25 is underway with the plan for 2025/2026 seed funding being presented for approval at the upcoming LCDC meeting.

For further information contact Maria Healy, Local Development Officer
phone 087-9974155 or email mhealy@kildarecoco.ie



Healthy Ireland

Emma Meates commenced in the role of Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator on 24 February. The detailed progress report for 2024 and plan for 2025 to Pobal. This is awaiting approval. 2025 is the last year of the current programme, which will see continued focus on physical activity and mental health initiatives across the County.

Empowering Communities Programme Athy

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

Local Enhancement Programme

The LCDC approved grants for running costs and capital/equipment to community-voluntary organisations. The outcome cannot be announced until the Department release the outcome. The number of applications exceeded the funding available.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

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

Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces

Transport Capital Projects

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

The Stage 2 tender for the construction of the scheme has issued with a tender return date of the 16 May 2025 following several requests for extensions.

Celbridge Hazelhatch Mobility Corridor

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

Murtagh's Corner/ Corbans' Lane

The scope of work for site investigations has been confirmed and a tender process to appoint a contractor will commence shortly.



Newbridge Southern Orbital Relief Road.

The preliminary business case has been submitted to the Department of Transport for consideration.

R448 National Cycle Network Pilot

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

Road Safety

Speed Limit Review

Regional workshops for technical staff were held nationally in April 2025 by the Department of Transport to explain updates to the mandatory Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland document.

Kildare County Council is preparing consultation material for the proposed 30km/hr speed limits in housing estates that are taken in charge across the county.

The development of amendments to some urban speed limits will also be developed in 2025.

Junction Improvement Programme

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

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

Safe Routes to School Round 1 Schemes (NTA funded)

Straffan National School. Design has been agreed with the NTA. 2025 Allocation of €250,000. A public consultation process has commenced. **St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare Town:** SRTS construction element completed.

Safe Routes to School Round 2 Schemes (NTA funded)

Patrician Primary/St. Conleth's Schools, Newbridge: Discussions continuing with An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €100,000. **Scoil Bhride/Scoil Phadraig, Clane:** Discussions continuing with An Taisce



Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €100,000.

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

Safe Routes to School Round 3 Schemes (NTA funded)

Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous:

Survey being undertaken by An Taisce Green Schools. 2025 Allocation of €20,000.

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

Operations

Restoration Improvement (DOT Funded)

Allocation: €11,081,000

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

Restoration Maintenance

Allocation: €1,391,500

Supplementary: €1,217,500

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

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

Climate Change Adaptation Resilience (CCAR) /Former National Roads

Allocation - €500,000

Former National Roads - €550,000

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

Local Property Tax (LPT) Funded Schemes

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

General Maintenance

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



and the delivery of the Road Opening Licence system (ROL).

Public Lighting

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

www.deadsureapp.com

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

Machinery Yard and Regional Salt Barn

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

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

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

Winter Maintenance

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

Health and Safety

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

Sustainable Transport (2025 NTA Allocations)

Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth-Leixlip)

2025 Allocation: €3,000,000

Construction ongoing – Section from Pike's Bridge to Maynooth reopened in early May 2025. Completion due by July 2025.

Green Lane Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €250,000

Insufficient grant allocation to commence the construction works in 2025. Plans to proceed with accommodation works along the route are being implemented in anticipation



of an increased allocation in 2026 for the scheme.

Naas to Sallins Greenway (Naas Harbour to Sallins)

2025 Allocation: €100,000

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

Sallins Village Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €100,000

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

Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €125,000

Draft Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme is being discussed with the National Transport Authority in May 2025.

Craddockstown (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €1,300,000

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

Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €100,000

Work is complete and retention monies to be paid.

Celbridge Active Travel Bridge

2025 Allocation: €300,000

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

Monread Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €20,000

Preliminary design agreed with the NTA.

Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €50,000

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

Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €200,000

Draft Option Selection and Preliminary Design of the scheme is being



discussed with the National Transport Authority in May 2025.

Newbridge Road (Naas) Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €35,000

Preliminary design of the scheme is progressing.

Naas to Sallins Greenway (Newbridge Road to Naas Harbour)

2025 Allocation: €30,000

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

Poplar Square Naas – Interim Bus Stop

2025 Allocation: €10,000

Alternative location being considered.

Mill Street Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €2,500,000

Construction started in Q1 2025 and is progressing well.

Station Road, Newbridge Active Travel Scheme

2025 Allocation: €40,000

Part 8 drawings and report prepared for the Station Road Scheme from the

Railway Station to Main Street, subject to NTA approval.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

2025 Allocation: €500,000

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

The first phase of new bus shelter installations is included in the current public consultation process.

Open Spaces

Kilcock and Leixlip Playgrounds

Work on the installation of these new playgrounds are due to commence by the end of June.

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

S3 Solutions have been appointed to prepare this. A steering group consisting of representatives from Forward Planning, Public Realm, Sports Partnership, Into Kildare, Kildare Leader Partnership and Coillte will oversee the creation and implementation of the strategy.



Cherry Avenue

Consultants have commenced baseline works for the preparation of detail design for the park.

National Roads Office

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Eastbound Bus Priority Measures

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

The contractor is aiming to have all the pavement and civil works completed no later than the end of the summer.

The ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) works may be completed in tandem or will follow e.g. electronic gantry signage. However, the ITS works will be less intrusive and should not require the varioguard and/or speed limit order.

The contractor must wait until after the bird breeding and nesting season before commencing installation of noise barriers to safeguard nesting

birds and other wildlife. Legislative changes are required to allow buses travel in the hard shoulder and the preparation of the new legislation is with the Department of Transport and TII.

M4 Maynooth to Leixlip M4

Westbound Bus Priority Measures

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

M9 Park and Share Scheme

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

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



Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services

Planning

Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Several variations to the Development Plan are likely to be brought forward in 2025, including:

An update to the Core Strategy in response to the revised National Planning Framework and anticipated new housing targets, incorporating s28 GPA Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements.

Settlement Plans for Newbridge, Monasterevin, Sallins and Kilcock.

Development Management

ePlanning

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

In 2025 84.64% of all applications received up to 09 May 2025 are via the online planning portal.

County Development Plan Actions

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

Masterplans

Naas North-West Quadrant Framework Masterplan

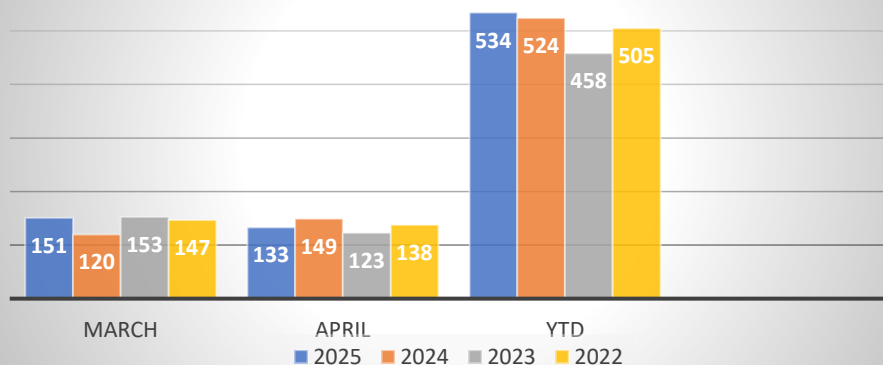
Preferred Masterplan Option is currently being refined.

Naas Canal Quarter Masterplan

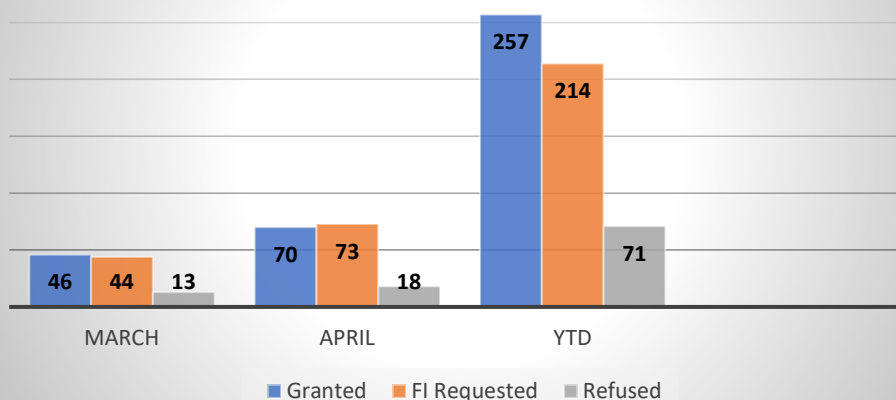
Preferred Masterplan Option is currently being refined.



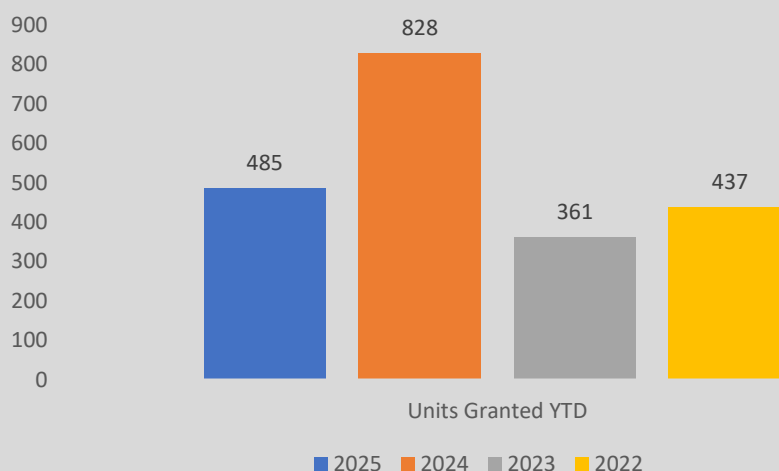
Applications Received



Applications Processed 2025



Residential Units Granted





Pre-Planning

32 new Pre-Planning Requests submitted in April, three to date in May. Total 111 Pre-planning meeting requests up to and including 09/05/2025.

Section 5s

Total 46 Section 5 Declarations requests received up to 23 April 2025.

Large-scale Residential Development (LRD)

LRD Applications Submitted					
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decision Due
25/60025	16/01/2025	Briargate Developments Ltd	Curragh Farm, Ballymany Newbridge	Amendments to previously permitted development Board Ref. ABP-312704-22	<u>Due Date</u> <u>29/05/2025</u>
25/60003	06/01/2025	Dunform Properties Ltd	Branganstown East Kilcock	133 Units	FI requested 27/02/2025
24/61327	11/12/2024	Oakway Homes Ltd	New Abbey Road, Nicholastown Kilcullen	180 Units	Due Date 20/05/2025
24/61319	10/12/2024	Beans Land Ltd	Ballymany, Newbridge	Alterations and Amendments to previously approved Strategic Housing Development (ABP-311040-21)	Conditional
24/61073	18/10/2024	Cairn Homes Ltd	Leixlip Gate, Kilmacredock Leixlip	Amendments to residential permission KCC Reg. Ref. 2360485/ ABP Reg. Ref.: 319625-24	Conditional



25/60297	21/03/2025	Westar Homes Ltd	Finlay Park, Naas	Amendments to 22/221502 and 23/942	Invalidated 07/05/2025
25/60337	02/04/2025	Cairn Homes Ltd	Blackparks, Athy	Amendments to KCC Reg 23/656 and APB-318365-23	Due Date 27/05/2025
25/60453	11/04/2025	Lagan Homes	Southgreen, Kildare	Amendment to APB-318401-23	Due Date 25/06/2025

Strategic Housing Development Applications to An Bord Pleanála (SHD)

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

Heritage and Nature Team Heritage / Biodiversity / Conservation Unit

A. Biodiversity / Ecology

Biodiversity Action Plan - Pre-draft public consultation stage is complete. Plan preparation underway.

Biodiversity Week 17 – 26 May 2025.

Press release and information material issued.

Invasive Species Week 10-18 May 2025

Two invasive species projects ongoing/underway – Himalayan

Balsam (Ballymore Eustace) and Giant Hogweed (Nurney).

Leixlip Spa (Carton/Rye Water SAC) – Habitat Surveys ongoing, Hydrology Surveys commenced.

Ongoing preparations for Biodiversity Week, Cruiniu na nOg, Amuigh Faoin Speir

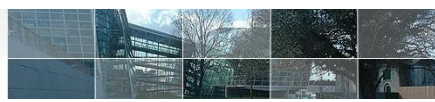
B. Heritage

Heritage Plan pre-draft consultation stage commenced in May 2025.

Kildare County Council Community Heritage Grants – 38 applications received. 35 applications deemed eligible.

LPT funding (€40,000) allocated to Wogan Browne Mausoleum, Mainham, Clane.

Community Monument Funds DHLGH awarded grant support to three projects. Laraghbryan Church, Moone



Abbey Tower, Kildare Round Tower-
Total €226,390.

Feighcullen Woodland Creation on
Public Land site –Planting specification
currently being prepared having regard
to results of archaeological testing.

C. Conservation– Architectural

Built Heritage Investment Scheme
conservation grant – Twelve grant
applications have been approved
under BHIS 2025. Applicants have
been notified, and work should
commence on twelve projects in the
coming weeks.

Historic Structures Fund Conservation
Grant, 2025 – Five structures were
nominated for consideration under the
Historic Structure Fund 2025. The
DHLGH issued their decision 2025 not

to fund any Kildare HSF funding
applications.

Framework for Conservation
Architectural and Engineering Services
is due to be published on eTenders on
16 May 2025.

D. Planning Referrals.

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

Staffing

Architectural Conservation Officer –
Despite significant efforts in 2024,
unfortunately, the position has not
been filled to date.

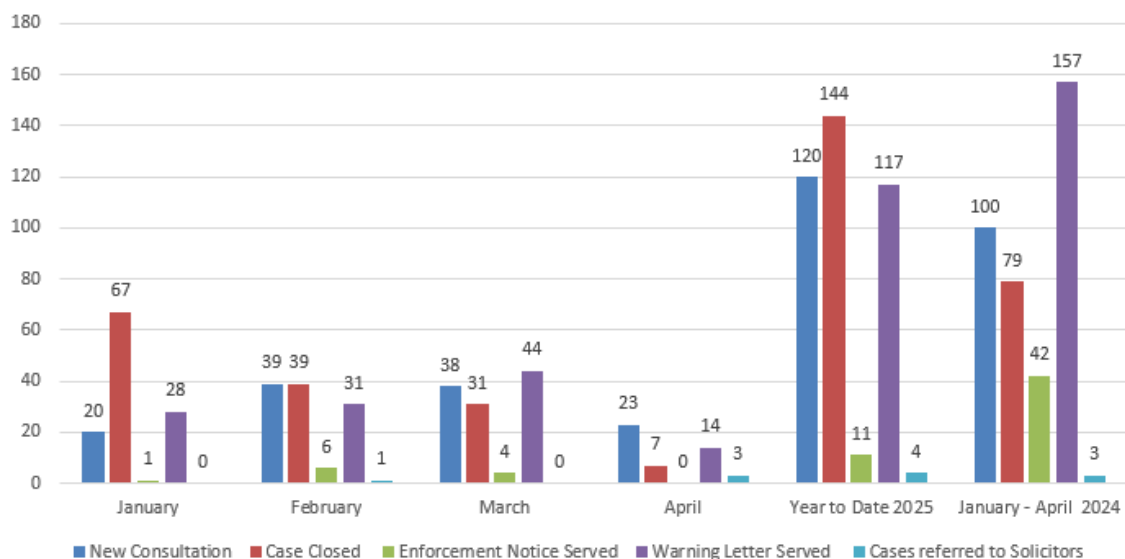
Planning Enforcement

For period April 2025:

23	New Consultations
7	Cases Closed
0	Enforcement Notices Served
14	Warning Letters Served
3	Cases referred to Solicitors



Enforcement Statistics January-April 2025

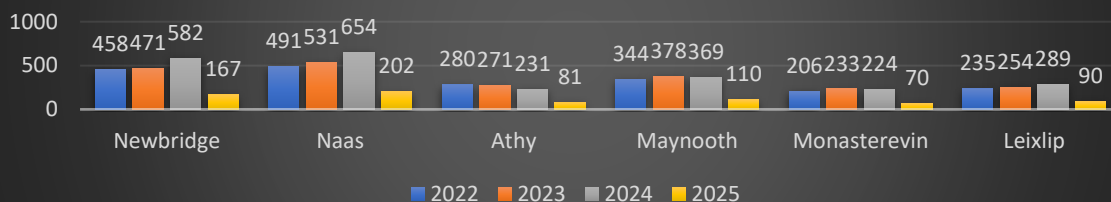


Fire Service Operations:

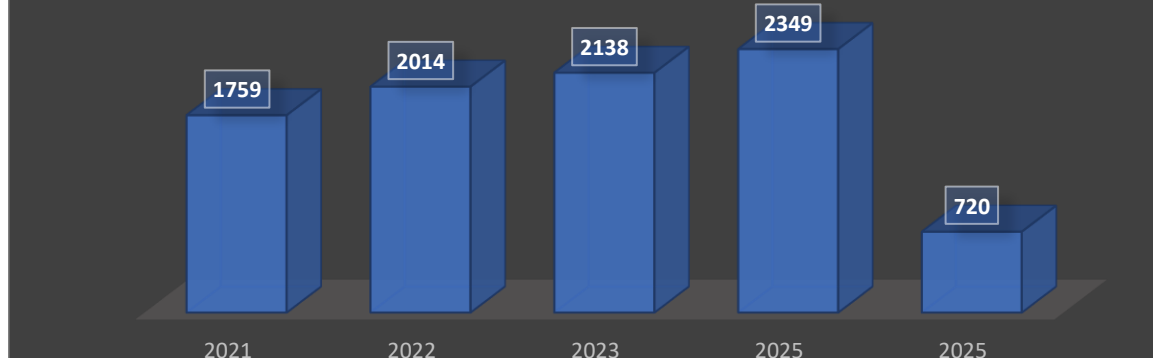
2025 Summary:

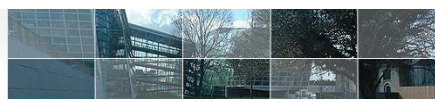
(Note: Figures for previous years indicate full year statistics)

Operational Calls by Fire Station to end of April '25



STATION RESPONSES TO END APRIL '25





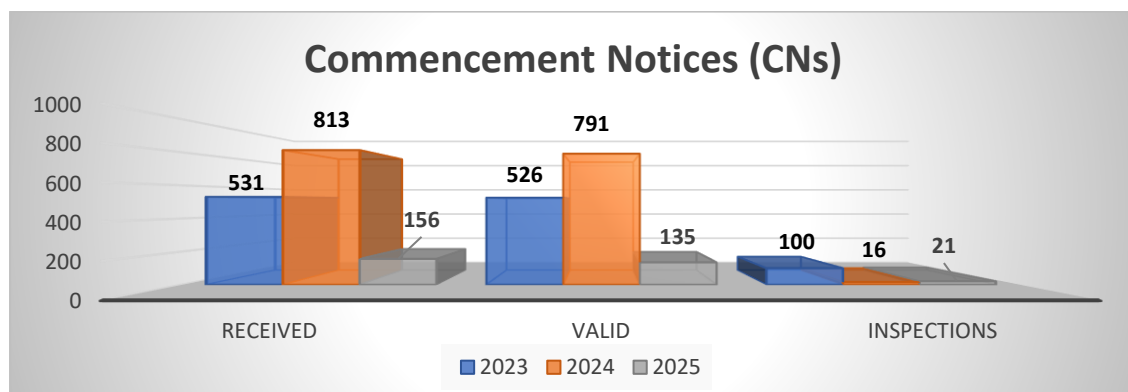
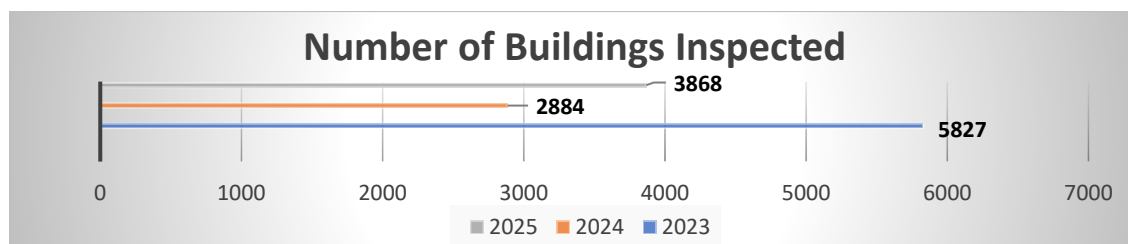
Fire Safety Certificates

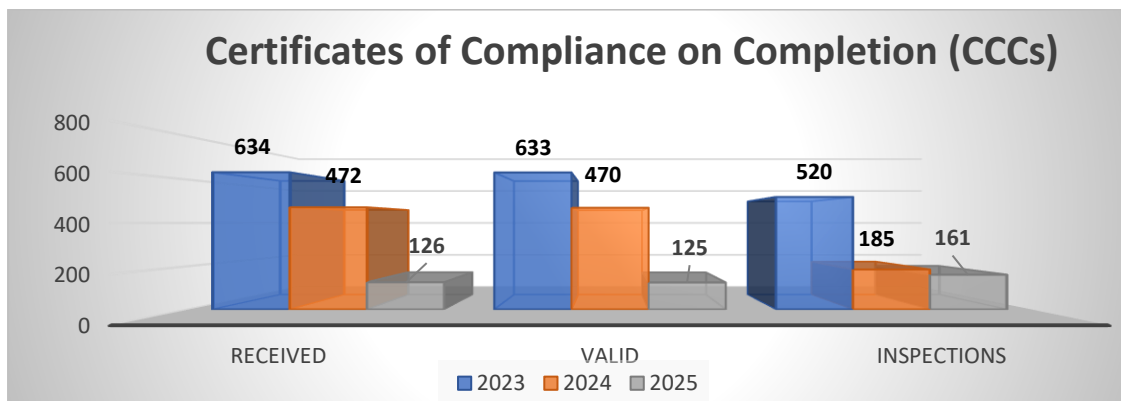
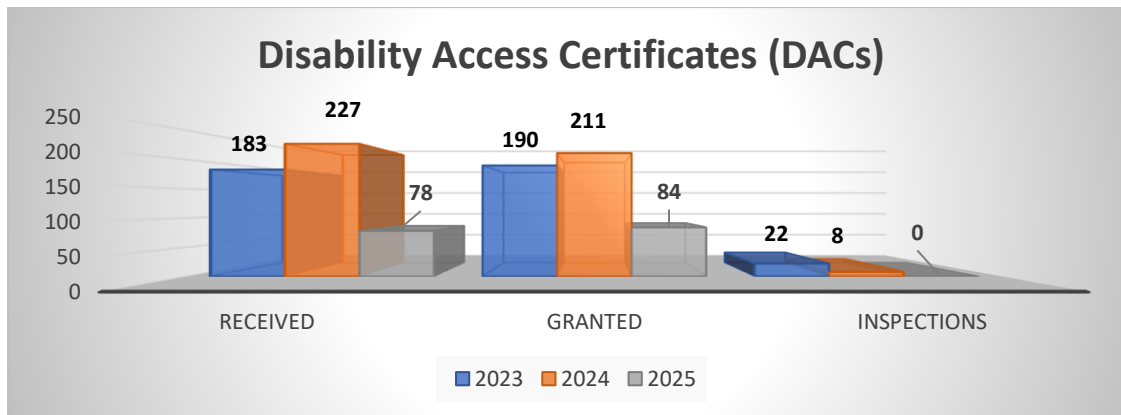
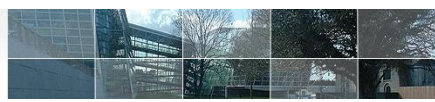
Applications received to the end of April 2025 compared with the totals received in previous years.



Building and Development Control

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





Kildare Fáilte

Key Activities

Into Kildare's marketing activities in April centred around Easter and upcoming events in the county including Punchestown Racing Festival.

Campaigns promoting Easter staycations were launched, featuring curated itineraries and a range of local activities to encourage short-break bookings and day visits across the county. In addition, we supported the promotion of Punchstown Racing

Festival which contributed to the footfall of both local attendees and visitors from further afield.

Ongoing sponsorship and planning meetings for Taste of Kildare are taking place and Into Kildare are delighted to announce that Kildare County Council and LEO have confirmed their sponsorship. Tickets for the festival have gone on sale with an Early Bird promotion.



Taste of Kildare working group

Into Kildare was pleased to welcome the prize winners from the Irish Embassy in Abu Dhabi, who visited County Kildare as part of a familiarisation trip organised in collaboration with Tourism Ireland. The itinerary highlighted several of the county's most notable attractions, reinforcing Kildare's position as a welcoming and vibrant destination for international visitors.

In collaboration with Tourism Ireland Into Kildare was also invited to attend a high-profile event marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Ireland.



Ambassador Milton with Deputy John Forde – UAE Embassy

The celebration, held under the patronage of the UAE Embassy, was attended by over 450 guests, including Ambassador Milton and Deputy John Forde. Into Kildare used this platform to promote the county's tourism potential and to showcase a range of local providers to an international audience.



Aine Mangan with prize winner

To support ongoing marketing efforts, Into Kildare sponsored a promotional prize trip to County Kildare, which resulted in valuable media coverage.



Enterprise and Economic Development

2025 Financial Supports

Total LEO Financial Supports At 07.05.2025	No. Businesses	Amount Approved (€)
Web Development Grant. (Product no longer available, replaced by Grow Digital Voucher)	1	€2,500
Grow Digital Voucher	6	€24,170
Business Expansion Grant	3	€64,703
Priming Grant	4	€140,109
Feasibility Study Grant	1	€15,000
Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (Product no longer available – replaced by	1	€525

Market Explorer Grant as outlined below)		
IP Start Grant	2	€4,320
Energy Efficiency Grant	19	€166,357
Total	37	€417,684

Priming Grants Approved in April:

Garmur Engineering Limited of Athy Municipal District was approved €31,190 to support the recruitment of two new employees plus capital equipment. The business designs and manufactures control panels for various industries.

Hollow Leg Limited of Clane / Maynooth Municipal District was approved €45,094 to support recruitment of a new employee plus capital equipment. The business produces and sells non-alcoholic wine.

Prospect Music Limited t/a Anthem Vinyl of Clane / Maynooth Municipal District was approved €48,825 to support recruitment of three new employees plus capital equipment.



The business operates a vinyl pressing manufacturing facility.

Business Expansion Grants

Approved in April

Equi-Ed Limited of Kildare Municipal District was approved €40,125 to support the recruitment of two new employees plus capital equipment. The business provides international and domestic Equine training programs.

Focus On Innovation:

Intellectual Grants Approved in

April:

IP Start Grant Approved

Curly Crowns Limited of Naas Municipal District was approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection by undertaking patent research and filing.

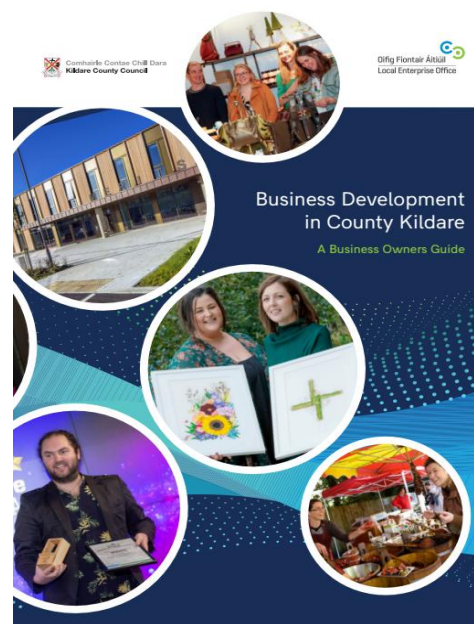
Skillshop Limited of Celbridge Municipal District was approved €2,160 to assist the company advance their Intellectual Property protection by undertaking patent research and filing.

Entrepreneurship Support

Business Owner's Guide

The aim of this publication is to assist entrepreneurs in Kildare to navigate the range of financial and non-financial

supports available at the various stages of business development.



This publication can be accessed online

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Publications-Resources/Business-Downloads/>

Focus On Start-Ups

Start-Up Business Advice Clinics run weekly for one-to-one confidential advice for start-ups. Appointment requests can be made <https://leokildare.submit.com/>

The LEO Team joined a panel discussion at Maynooth University on 16 April, discussing business trends and supports with the business students on campus.



LEO host generic Start Your Own Business Programmes monthly. Two sector-specific programmes will run across May and June:

- [Start Your Own Retail Business](#)
- [Start Your Own Social Enterprise.](#)

Focus On Women In Business

Conscious luxury label Aoife Lifestyle, lead an impactful talk with She Succeeds female entrepreneurs in MERITS on 15 April.

"Sustainable brands lead with empathy and purposeful productivity."

Aoife shared her story of circularity, global sustainability partners, craft and her breathtaking commitment to our future generations. The next She Succeeds event takes place on 20 May and focuses on digital transformation

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/SHE%20SUCCEEDS%20-%20Take%20the%20Digital%20Leap%20-%202020th%20May.html>.

What does it truly mean to 'go digital'?

Join this informative workshop on May 20th to learn how to take the next digital leap for your business, and the supports that exist to help you do it.

TUESDAY
20TH MAY

TIME
10AM TO 12PM

Focus On Tech

Naas-based Nursing Mama will represent Kildare at a Google's 'You're the Business' event at the Foundry in Dublin later this month!



Nursing Mama's Katie Mugan is one of Ireland's best known and most trusted breastfeeding experts and certified lactation consultants.



MERITS is thrilled to present a series of dynamic, hands-on digital workshops designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking in young minds.

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



Workshops will take place in MERITS, Devoy Park, Naas on 07 June and include two sessions:

- Entrepreneurship and Podcasting
- Mini CEOs

Spaces are limited – book early:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/T raining-Events/Online->

[Bookings/Start%20Your%20Own%20Retail%20Business%20-](#)

[%20Begins%2013th%20May.html](#) to

secure your place in these exciting workshops that could shape tomorrow's tech trailblazers! Presented as part of Cruinniú na nÓg.

Economic Support Services

Retail Supports

Grants

MD	Number. Approved	€ Value Approved
ATHY	4	€7,664.00
CBLX	8	€5,621.11
CLMN	4	€10,698.00
KDNB	9	€29,595.23
NAAS	7	€19,962.10
	32	€73,540.44

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

Athy Building Enhancement Financial Support Scheme

Kildare County Council hosted an information evening in the Clanard Court on Tuesday, 29 April to outline the scheme. Business owners, residents and landlords/ building owners (including those comprising the Kildare County Council Vacant



Property Register) were invited to the evening.

A strong pipeline of potential applicants has been established through expressions of interest; Economic Development will administer applications, and continue to communicate Phase One (Leinster St, Emily Square and Duke St (bridge to Post Office)) of the scheme throughout May.

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

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

Erasmus+ Repower Regions

Kildare County Council, in collaboration with 12 European partners, continues to progress the Erasmus+ Repower Regions project, which aims to strengthen regional cooperation and skills development in the heating and cooling (HVAC) sector. Partners have since advanced the project through the development of a dedicated website

(<https://repowerregions.eu/>), which will be populated with additional content over the course of the project. Monthly

Management Committee meetings are underway, and the project remains on track as it moves forward with its work package deliverables.

Erasmus+ Young Equine Innovators

This two-year project (comprising five partners) is completing its work packages in accordance with the project objectives to enhance pathways for innovation in the equine sector, especially in younger generations.

County Kildare Skills Strategy 2024-2030

Hard copies of the Strategy have been received; Economic Development will distribute to key stakeholders and interviewees and continue to align its outputs with key Kildare County Council strategies, LECP and stakeholders.

The Strategy is available to download:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Kildare/Enterprise-Development/County%20Kildare%20Skills%20Strategy/>



**County Kildare
Skills Strategy 2024-2030**



**Fashion, Textiles and Design Hub,
Monasterevin**

Bat and Swift Survey commences early May. Draft construction tender documents currently under review prior to publication mid Q2. Fire Safety Certificate submitted and awaiting approval.

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

Construction works have entered the fifty-third week of the programme. 75.5% of construction programme has been completed. Front courtyard/carpark on Dublin Road formation ground works complete. Ornate wrought iron railing to commence refurbishment and repairs works. Kitchen specialist equipment tender submissions closing 14 May.

Installation of flagstones to new patio area to front of building nearing completion.

**Circular Economy Hub and Green
Training Centre, Athy**

Topographical survey of site and building complete. Surface water inspection and repair works to commence second week of May. Window replacement tender documents under review prior to publication mid-May. Mechanical and Electrical Survey tenders currently under review prior to publication. FSC and DAC strategies ongoing.

Tourism

EU JTF Tourism Activation

Fáilte Ireland has issued a press release with updates on recent grant awards. The following applicants supported by the Tourism Activator for County Kildare have been approved for funding under the EU JTF (Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme) Further announcements will be made by Fáilte Ireland on successful grantees as they are approved and grant agreements completed.



Cycling Trails and Tours in Irelands Midlands	Category 1 Enhanced visitor experience with cycling and walking tours in Kildare, Laois, and Offaly, complete with bicycles and equipment.	€43,000.00
Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park Ltd	Category 1 Addition of an electric train along with 2 enclosed passenger carriages to facilitate guided tours.	€300,000.00

Unsuccessful applicants receive one-to-one guidance from the tourism activator to put a business progression plan in place.

Food and Beverage Trail

Kildare County Council in its role as an economic driver is exploring a food and beverage trail to enhance the destination and visitor experience in County Kildare and ultimately support more businesses to create more jobs in their local area. It aims to complement the development of the Barrow Blueway, Grand Canal Greenway, and Arthur's Way Trail

which form a connected route for walking, cycling and boat trips of 177KMs from Athy toward Celbridge/Leixlip through rural areas and towns.

As part of this process, exploratory workshops with tourism and hospitality providers will take place as follows:

Tuesday, 20 May

09.30am-11.00am | Cliff at Lyons, Lyons Rd, Lyons, Celbridge, County Kildare

2.00pm-3.30pm | Robertstown Barge, Canal View, Robertstown, County Kildare.

Tuesday, 27 May

09.30am-11.00am | Clanard Court Hotel, Dublin Rd, Gallowshill, Athy, County Kildare

2.00pm-3.30pm | Church of Oak Distillery Ballykelly Mills, Ballykelly, Monasterevin, County Kildare

An invitation and booking link will be circulated directly to all Members. If you require further information on this project, please email Helen Mulhall hmulhall@kildarecoco.ie

Sonya Kavanagh
Chief Executive