



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 21 October 2024 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillors J. Neville,(Cathaoirleach), P. Balfe, V. Behan, A. Breen, A. Breslin, F. Brett, B. Clear, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Farrelly, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, R. Heather, I. Keatley, C. Kelly, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, P. Melrose, S. Moore, N. Ó Cearúil, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, C. Pender, E. Sammon, D. Trost and B. Wyse

Online: Councillors B. Dooley, B. Caldwell, L. Panaite Fahey, R. Power S. Ní Raghallaigh and P. Ward

Apologies: Councillors, N Heavey

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), MS A Apell, Ms M Higgins, Mr. A. Dunney and Mr. E. Ryan (Directors of Service) Ms. C. Barrett, (A/Director of Service), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr. A. Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Mr. J. Hannigan (Meetings Secretary), and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the October monthly meeting of the Council and asked the Meeting Administrator to read out a notice regarding the live streaming of the meeting to the Council's YouTube channel.



01/1024

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought from the members any declarations of conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. There were no declarations.

02/1024

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 September 2024 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil seconded by Councillor Sammon and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 23 September 2024 be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/1024

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.
The report was noted.

04/1024

Disposal of Lands Section 183

The members considered the the disposal of lands pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 10 October 2024 circulated previously and attached).

- a. Mariaville, Maynooth – dispose of 0.0012ha (12sq.m) to ESB Networks to provide a substation for the supply of electricity to Maynooth GAA.
- b. Passlands, Monasterevin – dispose of 0.8668ha to Monasterevin Tidy Towns for 5 years to use as a riverside park.
- c. Main Street, Monasterevin – dispose of 0.1006ha to Monasterevin Tidy Towns for 5 years to use as a wildflower garden.



Ms Barrett advised that item b and c were both leases.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 10 October 2024 circulated previously and attached) the disposal of 0.0012ha (12sq.m) of lands at Mariaville, Maynooth be approved.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 10 October 2024 circulated previously and attached) the disposal of 0.8668ha of lands at Passlands, Monasterevin be approved.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 10 October 2024 circulated previously and attached) the disposal of 0.1006ha of lands at Main Street, Monasterevin be approved.

05/1024

Appointment to Audit Committee

The members considered the nomination, election and appointment of one member to the Audit Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members that Councillor Doyle be appointed to the Audit Committee.

06/1024

Nominations to Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

The members considered the report circulated in relation to the appointment of five nominations to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the five nominations be accepted and that Ms. Petra Daly, Ms Brigid Connors, Ms Katie Doherty, Ms Ann O'Donnell and Mr James Carthy be appointed to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

07/1024

Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029

The members considered the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029. Mr Ryan informed the meeting that a draft scheme had been prepared and circulated to the members. He advised that a number of submissions had been received and summarised them as follows:

A number of pillars had requested extra representation.

There had been a request for an Irish Language SPC from Conradh na Gaelige.

Social Democrats had requested that two younger persons be invited to join the SPC Scheme on a pilot basis.

There had also been discussion at Protocol and Procedures Committee and Corporate Policy Group about splitting the Planning and Economic SPC into two separate SPCs, but the Executive were not in favour of this proposal.

Putting resources to service this and the additional bodies needed to form the committee would present a challenge to the council. This would put us out of step with similar sized Local Authorities.

The Draft Scheme put before the members was the same as the Scheme published for consultation, with minor amendments highlighted in the marked copy of the Draft Scheme circulated for this meeting to all members.

Councillor Farrelly asked the council to reflect on the participation by young people in the Scheme.

Ms Kavanagh, noting in her experience stated practical issues such as young people attending meetings during educational hours and child safety measures were relevant. She also pointed out that members sat on these committees as representatives for all people, and that balance had to be considered, for example why would young person's specifically be included but not older persons.



Councillor Dunne asked if there was no change in the proposed number and distribution of sectoral representatives and was advised that this was correct.

Councillor McEvoy suggested that the SPCs could find ways to interact with Comhairle na n Óg through other means, in developing their Work Programmes.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present , that the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2024-2029 be approved.

08/1024

Cathaoirleach's Business

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had attended the recent Pride of Place awards Councillor Calwell asked that the Council Staff be thanked for their work during the recent storm.

The Cathaoirleach advised he had been informed of the following bereavements.

John Redmond, father of Patrick Redmond (Transport Design Team).

Robert Deegan, former Kildare Fire Service firefighter.

Catherine (Ronnie) Coyne, Mother of Anna Coyne Sheridan, Human Resources.

Michael (Spike) Nolan, Former Councillor, and Cathaoirleach of Kildare

Patricia Bergin, Mother of Lorraine Bergin, Architects.

Breege Kelly, mother of Councillor Carmel Kelly

Mary Frances Wynne, Sister of David Byrne, NRO.

The Cathaoirleach requested the members to observe a moments silence.

A minute's silence was observed.

09/1024

Correspondence

The meetings administrator informed the members that eight items of correspondence were circulated to the members. These consisted of five resolutions from other County



Councils, Local Government Circular LG 13-2024 along with correspondence from Disability Federation of Ireland and annual local authority performance indicator report from NOAC.

10/1024

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator informed the members the council had not been informed of any new training or conference events since the report circulated the previous month but asked if any members had attended training events the previous month and required retrospective approval could they please inform the meeting. There were no requests for retrospective approval.

The report was noted.

11/1024

Voter Education Outreach Programme

The following motion in the names of councillors Chris Pender and Pat Balfe was considered by the members.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

That the council write to the Electoral Commission seeking the delivery of a voter education outreach programme in each Local Electoral Area in this County in 2025, in light of their statutory role in supporting electoral and democratic processes through education and information programmes, and to supplement the voter registration activities of Kildare County Council.

A report from Mr E Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that this is a matter for the Elected Members to agree.

Councillor Pender acknowledged the amount of work carried out by the Electoral Commission and by those working on the Electoral Register in the council in the last 18



months especially. He believed that the council had a role to play in educating voters on the electoral process.

Councillor Balfe supported the motion and advised that some members of the community would benefit from this education, and he looked forward to seeing a more information around this next year.

Members supported the motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Kileen and agreed by members that the letter should be sent to the Electoral Commission seeking the delivery of a voter education outreach programme in each Local Electoral Area in this County in 2025.

12/1024

Media Campaign for Halloween Bangers

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer was considered by the members.

That the council promote a media campaign in relation to Halloween Bangers and the risk to both human and animal welfare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor O'Dwyer.

A report from Mr A Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that on 26 September 2024, Minister of State at the Department of Justice, James Browne TD, launched a nationwide awareness raising campaign to warn against the serious danger posed by illegal fireworks and the strict penalties for their misuse.

This campaign was launched in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, Foróige, the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA), the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Dublin Fire Brigade.



Fireworks are illegal, and serious penalties can be imposed, with fines of up to €10,000 and 5 years' imprisonment applying for having fireworks in your possession with intent to sell or supply, or if convicted or throwing an ignited firework at a person or property.

gov.ie - Minister Browne launches 2024 awareness campaign to target misuse of illegal fireworks (www.gov.ie)

Kildare Fire Service will use its own social media page on Facebook to link to the above press release.

Councillor P O'Dwyer welcomed the report but advised that the use of illegal fireworks continues. This impacted negatively on people of all ages, domestic pets and animals.

Councillors raised the following:

Children using these fireworks were at risk of serious injury.

Some communities were living in fear in the Halloween period.

This was a serious issue for the equine industry.

They supported the motion and the campaign.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by all members present that the report be noted.

13/1024

Update of the County Development Plan LCA

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kevin Duffy was considered by the members.

Given the recent Government/EPA launch of a new Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) toolkit, which recommends the formation of a Steering Group to conduct the LCA; can the council provide an update on its commitment to update the County Development Plan LCA and if it will implement a Steering Group that comprises people with planning skills, architectural/conservation skills and natural heritage/ecology skills, landscape architect/landscape specialists and social inclusion/community leaders.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer.



A report from Mr A Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that LR A1 of Chapter 13 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out an action to “Review and update the County Landscape Character Assessment, within two years of the adoption of this Plan, having regard to the European Landscape Convention Florence 2000, in accordance with all relevant legislation and guidance documents and to ensure consistency with the forthcoming National and Regional Landscape Character Assessment”.

In August 2024, a consultant was appointed to prepare a review and update of the Landscape Character Assessment for County Kildare.

Given that the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) toolkit was only published in September 2024 which was after the publication of the Kildare County Council tender and appointment of the consultant, details regarding establishing a Steering Group will be considered at a later stage.

Councillor Duffy informed the meeting that the current LCA was 10 years out of date, and this had been referenced in the County Development Plan two years ago. He welcomed the positive response and enquired when the sub-committee would be formed. Mr Dunney advised that they were considering the toolkit and once completed the sub-committee would be set up.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor P O’Dwyer and agreed by members that the report be noted.

14/1024

Master Plans and Part VIII Permissions

The following motion in the name of Councillor Suzanne Doyle was considered by the members.

That this Council receive a report on the number of master plans and part viii permissions prepared and passed by the council in the past 5 years and what the current status of these projects are.



Councillor Doyle informed the meeting that she was deferring this motion. She was advised that she would have to resubmit the motion.

15/1024

Council Led Large Scale Infrastructural Projects

The following motion in the name of Councillor Joe Neville was considered by the members.

That the council provide an update on Council led large-scale infrastructural projects currently ongoing in County Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Duffy. A report from Ms E Hanlon, Director of Services, Finance Digital Services, Innovation and Governance stated that the 3 year capital programme 2024-2026 available [here](#) on the Councils website provides details on the Capital Projects of Kildare County Council for the period 2024 to 2026. This capital programme includes a column titled “Current Phase” which classifies the current phase of the project under one of the following headings:

We are currently preparing the 3-year Capital Programme 2025 to 2027 which will provide the updated information with regard to the Capital Project Phase of each project. The 3-year Capital Programme 2025 to 2027 will be included with the Draft Revenue Budget for 2025 and for noting at the budget meeting on November 18.

The Draft Revenue Budget for 2025 and the 3-year Capital Programme 2025 to 2027 will be circulated to members in early November.

Councillor Neville informed the meeting that it was important to be able to check the status of Capital programmes.

Ms. Kavanagh advised the members that the Chief Executive’s monthly report gives updates on projects.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by members that the report be noted.



16/1024

Bus Stops Removed and Not Replaced

The following motion in the name of Councillor Bill Clear was considered by the members:

That the council provide members with a list of all bus stops that have been removed and not replaced in the last 12 months in County Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear and seconded by Councillor Wyse.

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the decision to approve or remove a bus stop is a matter for the National Transport Authority (NTA). While Kildare County Council will carry out any statutory procedures and physical works at locations agreed by the NTA, issues or problems associated with bus stops should be reported to the NTA at info@nationaltransport.ie.

Councillor Clear gave an example of a bus stop that was removed on the Old Bog Road and was not replaced. He asked if there was an Engineer assigned to the deal with replacing and removing bus stops.

Councillor Wyse advised that removing stops was a backward step.

Councillor Killeen advised that the members had been informed by the NTA that €500,000 had been allocated to Kildare to provide bus stops.

Ms Barrett informed the members that bus stops were the responsibility of the NTA, and any queries should be directed to them. She said it was important to understand the process. The NTA in consultation with the Municipal District Engineer, for example of matters of safety, would agree sites for bus stops. The funding referenced was to carry out works on behalf of the NTA. An Audit of bus stops needed to be carried out but due to staff shortages there was no one to assign to this at the moment. Once staff became available the vacancy would be filled, and the programme restarted.



Councillor Clear welcomed the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear seconded by Councillor Wyse and agreed by members that the report be noted.

17/1024

Public Meeting Places for Councillors

The following motion in the name of Councillor Rupert Heather was considered by the members.

That the council adopt measures to ensure that public meeting places exist for all councillors to conduct meetings with their constituents.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heather and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A report from Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that Members' rooms are available at Aras Chill Dara, Level 4 for Elected Members use.

In addition, Circular LG 11/2024 (Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members of Local Authorities), updated in June 2024, sets out the supports available to Elected Members for the purposes of carrying out their role.

The Local Representative Allowance (LRA) (a maximum of €5,160 annually), is available to elected members in accordance with this Circular and includes provision for a range of costs.

The following is not an exhaustive list of all costs that may be included, in line with this Circular, but costs, subject to certain qualifications, include rent, rates and other such charges allowable on an office premises, including a temporary/mobile office, costs of rent on constituency offices, rental related to storage space for an office, conversion, upgrade, repair, refurbishment, certain utilities costs, and home-office furniture.

In addition, the LRA allows for the costs of hiring of rooms for clinics or other meetings.



Councillor Heather thanked the council for the report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heather seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by members that the report be noted.

18/1024

Suitability of Housing Stock for mobility/accessibility issues

The following motion in the name of Councillor William Durkan was considered by the members.

That the council outlines the proportion of existing housing stock that is suitable for tenants with mobility/accessibility issues, how this relates to the proportion of those on Kildare County Council's housing list that have documented mobility/accessibility concerns, and comment on suitable provision plans moving forward.

The motion was proposed by Councillor W Durkan and seconded by Councillor T Durkan.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that:

In terms of the proportion of existing Kildare County Council housing stock that is adapted for mobility issues, only figures from 2014 are available. Adaptations to Kildare County Council owned properties are carried out through the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme (DPG). Works eligible under the DPG scheme include bathroom adaptations, stairlifts, ramps and the provision of extensions for ground floor living.

Below is the number of DPGs completed per year:

Year	DPG's completed
2014	14
2015	14



Kildare County Council

2016	31
2017	46
2018	43
2019	56
2020	21
2021	28
2022	48
2023	68
2024 to date	42
Total	411

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 sets out the framework for the delivery of housing for people with a disability through mainstream housing policy. This reflects Government policy that all public services should meet the needs of people with disabilities as an integral part of their function, i.e. mainstreaming of services to people with disabilities. An action of this Strategy required the establishment of Housing Disability Steering Groups and membership in Kildare has senior housing staff, senior staff from the HSE, representatives from local disability advocacy groups and people with lived experience. The Kildare Housing and Disability Strategy 2022-2027 has been prepared and agreed by the Housing Disability Steering Group in accordance with national policy and the vision is to facilitate access for disabled persons to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.

Kildare County Council's County Development Plan 2023-2029 is committed to implementing the frameworks for the delivery of housing for disabled people as set out under the 'National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027' and identifies



actions to ensure all Kildare County Council's new build housing stock is in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations, that 10% of acquired housing stock meets the needs of those with a disability and 12% of Kildare County Council new builds are universally designed and to monitor the number of housing acquisitions and new builds and ensure that they meet the needs of those with a disability.

In County Kildare there are currently 3,450* (excluding those in receipt of HAP/RAS) people assessed as needing social housing support. Of the total number, currently 342 applicants have been assessed based on disability needs. Analysis of these applications would further inform the requirements in terms of unit size, location, design and any other specific needs. The table below details the categories of identified need based on information provided at the time of receipt of the housing application. Applications from individuals residing in congregated settings have been discounted from the 342 as they are accounted for separately under Congregated Settings.

Table 1: Category of Identified Need

Category	Total
Physical	88
Sensory	20
Mental Health	79
Intellectual	155
Total	342

Of the 342 identified above, 85 of these are council tenant transfer requests. In the event of a person's accommodation becoming unsuitable due to disability, priority is given for transfer to a suitable property if available.

Councillor W Durkan welcomed the report, noting there had been huge work done in this area and given the additional challenges faced by some persons seeking housing, it was vital that mobility and access remain at the forefront of housing policies.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor W Durkan seconded by Councillor T Durkan and agreed by members that the report be noted.



19/1024

Addressing Homelessness

The following motion in the name of Councillor Robert Power was considered by the members:

That the council provide a report on the key factors contributing to the positive response to addressing homelessness across the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated the The Housing Section, supported by the elected members, aims to provide solutions for individuals and families experiencing homelessness across the county through the 2024-2026 Regional Homelessness Action Plan which was adopted in March 2024.

Family hubs operate in Athy and Prosperous providing supported accommodation for 11 families. Supported temporary accommodation facilities are in operation for 40 individuals in Kerdiffstown, 20 in Newbridge, 13 in Athy and 12 in Naas, and the providers and the Housing Section support occupants to achieve progressions and to secure tenancies. The Housing Section also provide 14 transitional units and 4 shared accommodation options across the county to support families and individuals exiting homelessness.

Factors that have assisted in providing a positive response in this area are identified below:

Key Contributing Factors

- Kildare represent the Mid-East Region on the National Homeless Leads Forum which shares learnings and informs policy in this area.
- Multi-agency work through the Regional Homelessness Forum to provide supports in this area.
- Representation on the National Homeless Practitioners Forum.



- Restructure of the Homeless Team to include qualified Tenancy Sustainment Officers, Outreach Officers and Homeless Support Officers.
- Exit Strategies agreed with individuals and families in advance of entering emergency accommodation.
- Greater focus on the area of tenancy sustainment and homeless prevention.
- Close co-operation between the homeless and allocations teams to identify tenants for allocation including the Homeless HAP Placefinder service.
 - Tenant in situ acquisitions – 82 last year and 31 to date in 2024 with 42 in progress

The Homeless Team also meet with clients in Resource Centres in 4 Municipal District areas and this service is of benefit to those who may not otherwise be able to attend the Council Offices.

Unfortunately, there is a persistent high level of homeless presentations in the county, despite the significant interventions undertaken to prevent homelessness in the first instance.

Councillor Power informed the meeting that this improvement stood out for him when reading the report. Kildare were bucking the trend. He hoped the good work that Kildare was doing could be replicated by other Local Authorities. He noted that Mr. Brady sat on the National Homeless forum and the council's use of the Tenant in Situ toolkit. This helped tackle the threat of homelessness before it happened.

Councillor Breslin described the report as an eye-opener and thanked Mr Brady and the team for the work that they carried out. She noted however that there was a need for accommodation for single women.

Members raised the following:

People cannot access the cost rental market.

Single people provision was still lacking in parts of the county and also addiction services from the HSE were essential.



There were lots of Social Housing Bodies and their roles needed to be clarified.

Mr Brady thanked the councillors for their comments and support and advised that there was lots of work going on, but it was challenging. He advised they worked with their partners to provide solutions, including the HSE. He advised that he hoped to have an accommodation option for single women available in the coming months in the Naas area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by all members present that the report be noted

20/1024

30 kmh Speed Limits at Schools in Kildare

The following motion in the name of Councillor Claire O'Rourke was considered by the members.

That the council implement 30 kmh speed limits at schools in the county to improve road safety in school zones.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Rourke and seconded by Councillor Killeen.

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that a 2023 Speed Limit Review was completed by the Department of Transport. Based on a direction (RS01/2024) received from the Department of Transport the following default speed limits are to be implemented:

- 30km/h (Urban Areas)
- 60 km/h (Rural Local Roads)
- 80km/h (National Secondary Roads)

The default speed limits are to take effect on a staggered basis with provisional commencement dates as follows:

- End of November 2024 for Rural Local Roads.
- First part of 2025 for National Secondary Road and Urban Speed Limits



30km speed limits are not being examined as part of the current phase of works (rural local roads). We need to work through the delivery defined by the national processes in the first instance and then assess what remains to be addressed once the work related to the introduction of the default limits is complete.

Councillor O'Rourke asked why the council had to work through the national scheme. It was a matter for the elected members to decide. This gave the members the power to set speed limits. Can the members challenge the 60kph rate?

She gave an example of a school in Celbridge.

Councillor Killeen supported Councillor O'Rourke and advised school zones required this limit and asked if the councillors had the discretion to implement a speed change in Quarter 1 2025 to implement this.

Ms Barrett explained that Bye Laws would be required to implement this change. This involved consultation with An Garda Síochána. Maps would have to be drawn and a public consultation process entered into. Resources would be required to do this and it would delay overall implementation. She proposed to continue with the programme in the sequence set out.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by members that the report be noted.

21/1024

Local Property Tax Review

The following motion in the name of Councillor Aidan Farrelly was considered by the members.

In 2024, a national review of the Local Property Tax was published. Can the council report to members on the outcomes of this review regarding how Kildare compares to



other local authorities and provide a copy of this review to members. Can the council detail the correspondence and submissions it made regarding this LPT review.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Pender

A report from Ms E Hanlon, Director of Services, Finance Digital Services, Innovation and Governance stated that The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage carried out a review in 2023 of the amounts of funding each local authority would receive as a minimum ('baseline') amount of funding from the Local Property Tax, supplemented by funding from the exchequer where a local authority's LPT income is lower than its baseline.

Details of this review was issued in September 2023 as it formed part of the LPT 2024 budget allocation, and this review was discussed by members at the September 2023 full council meeting. The document was published in April 2024 on the Departments website.

The link to the full review is available on the Departments website as follows

[Summary Report of the 2023 Baseline Review](#)

Every local authority and council member had the opportunity to send in a submission to the Department as part of this review. Enclosed is the submission that was submitted by the executive of Kildare County Council, we do not have details of any submissions submitted by members.

The outcome of the review for Kildare from the review was that Kildare was allocated an increase in baseline funding of €1.5 million, which was the minimum increase for all local authorities.

The working group recommended a model for funding distribution according to 5-key indicators with prescribed weightings.

The calculations were done on the basis of the €353m that already existed under the 2023 Baseline model. In these Kildare's allocations were as follows:



Kildare County Council

Indicator	Percentage of funding (prescribed weighting)	Basis	Kildare's Allocation (based on 2023 baseline/new model)	Total Allocation	Rank
Population	10%	Population Census 2022	€1,701,410	€35,295,729	5
Area	35%	Land Area	€2,977,965	€123,535,053	20
Deprivation	20%	Pobal Deprivation Index for MDs	€1,643,694	€70,591,459	20
Income	27.5%	Proportionate to distance from the highest income per capita	€4,445,721	€97,063,256	5
National Policy Priorities	7.5%	Housing (based on NOAC KPIs) and Climate (based on emissions targets from SEAI)	€773,455	€26,471,797	23
	100%		€11,542,245	€352,957,294	13

In 2023 Kildare’s actual baseline was €11,755,790 – so this distribution model would have reduced Kildare County Council’s baseline. Government agreed a ‘no reductions plus €1.5m minimum increase to the baseline’ for 2024, which resulted in Kildare County Council’s baseline increasing to **€13,255,790** – which positions Kildare at 11th out of 31 for baseline funding.

It should be noted that the LPT allocations for Budget 2025 have been set in line with the baseline distribution model as agreed by Government.

Councillor Farrelly informed the meeting that while Kildare had the 7th highest LPT paid but was at the bottom of the table for funding and top of the table for demands. Kildare needed to get its fair share.

Councillor Melrose advised that Kildare had the 5th highest population with the subsequent demands on services. The level of funding for services and staff needed to reflect this.

Members made the following points:



They agreed there was a need for extra funding, but suggested lobbying was the way to proceed.

Councillor Farrelly responded that this was an opportunity to look at the facts and for members put pressure on the government to fund the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by members that the report be noted.

22/1024

Housing Estate Management Framework Plan

The following motion in the name of Councillor Nuala Killeen was considered by the members.

That the council give an update in respect of the proposed Housing Estate management framework plan and implement an interim policy for example in respect of dealing with issues like anti-social behaviour, maintenance, community work and specific parking space issues within mixed ownership estates.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that following consultation with the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, the Council adopted the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy in April of this year. Complimentary to this is an in-house Estate Management Strategy which is used as a guide in relation to all areas of good estate management. The Estate Management Section of the Housing Department work closely with the Housing Maintenance Section and the Council's Community Section in a proactive way to ensure issues are dealt with in a cohesive and positive way. The members may wish to refer this motion to the Housing SPC for further consideration.

Councillor Killeen advised that when Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) were approved, it resulted in a mixed ownership within the development and shared spaces.



There was no system in place to help manage the estate and resolve issues that arose. This needed to be addressed.

Councillor Pender said he had previously raised the issue of fees being paid to Management Companies.

It was agreed that this would be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by members that the report be noted and that this be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

The meeting concluded.