



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 24 February 2025 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillors K. Duffy (Cathaoirleach), P. Balfe, V L Behan, A. Breen, A. Breslin, F. Brett, P. Brooks, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, S. Doyle, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, R. Heather, N. Heavey, C. Kelly, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, S. Moore, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, C. Pender, E. Sammon, D. Trost and P. Ward.

Online: Councillors N. Connolly, B. Dooley, I Keatley, P. Melrose, P. Mulroe, L. Panaite Fahey, D. Phelan and R. Power.

Apologies: Ms. S. Kavanagh, (Chief Executive), Councillor B. Wyse.

Also Present: Ms. A. Aspell (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr. A. Dunney, Ms. E. Hanlon, Ms. M. Higgins, Mr. E. Ryan, (Directors of Service), Ms. C. Barrett, Mr. D. Creighton (A/Directors of Service), Ms. G. Allen, (County Librarian), Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Ms. L. Morgan (Meetings Secretary), and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the February 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.

00/0225

Bereavements

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

- Ronan O'Dwyer, in-service staff member, mobile library driver, Library Services.
- Mary Moore, mother of Martina Gorey, school warden, Ardclough.
- Stephen Kelly, son of Pauline Kelly, school warden, Leixlip.
- Enda Linnane, mother of Ronan Linnane, Area Engineer, Celbridge, Leixlip.
- Annie Dunne, mother of Joe and Roy Dunne, Caretakers.
- Martin Cummins, father of Stephen Cummins, NRO.
- Martin O' Brien, brother of Margaret O' Brien – Building & Development Control.
- Professor Nick Heather, father of Councillor Rupert Heather.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a minute's silence be observed. A minute's silence was observed.

01/0225

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.

02/0225

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27 January 2025 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27 January 2025 be adopted.

The progress report was noted.



03/0225

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

04/0225

Filling of Audit Committee Vacancy

The members considered nominees to fill the vacancy in the Audit Committee following elections to Dáil Éireann.

Councillor Killeen proposed Councillor Pender. This was seconded by Councillor Balfe.

As there were no further nominations Councillor Pender fill the vacancy in the Audit Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by the members present that **Councillor Pender** was duly elected to fill the vacancy in the Audit Committee.

05/0225

Kildare Library Service Development Plan 2025-2029

The members considered the Kildare Library Service Development Plan 2025-2029. Ms. G. Allen, County Librarian, gave a detailed presentation of the five-year plan. She advised that the next step, following the members approval of the Plan is to have the Plan translated into Irish.

The members complimented Ms. Allen on the plan noting that they welcomed the inclusion of the youth panel, the provision of Celbridge community hub, and services in Athy for Ukrainian events.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Could the exact routes of mobile library units be confirmed?



- Could books in other languages be available in libraries?
- Could items with images and tables be fully accessible, with alternative text (ALT) on them?

Ms. Allen responded to the issues raised stating that the mobile library unit attends rural primary schools around the county and provides an outreach service to Naas Hospital. There will be a second mobile library vehicle in the future. Books in other languages are available, but that the requirement of many non-nationals is for English language books to learn English.

Deputy Chief Executive Annette Aspell acknowledged the work of the Library Service in preparing the Plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by the members present that the Kildare Library Service Development Plan 2025-2029 be approved.

06/0225

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised members that he attended a number of local events recently:

- St. Brigid's Day Festival Events
- The opening of Kerdiffstown Park.

He stated that Kerdiffstown Park is a wonderful facility for all the county and a great example of what can be achieved.

07/0225

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed fourteen items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. These included two circulars from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, LG 02/2025 – Domestic Subsistence Rates for Elected Members of Local Authorities and LG



03/2025 – Allowances and Expenses of Elected Members, ten resolutions from other County Councils, one acknowledgment from 'As I Am' and one reply from Iarnród Éireann re invitation to present to full council.

The correspondence and report were noted.

08/0225

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the conference and training report which had been circulated to the members and recommended by the Corporate Policy Group.

Retrospective approval was sought for Councillors O'Rourke and Clear's attendance at Module 1 - An overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential, provided by AILG at a cost of €90 per person, held in Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on 20 February 2025.

Retrospective approval was sought Cllr O'Loughlin's attendance at Module 1 - An overview of Wind Energy: Contribution to Economy, Climate Action and Future Potential, provided by AILG at a cost of €90 per person, held in Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny on 22 February 2025.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members present that the above requests as set out in the training and conference report be approved.

Approval sought for Councillors Caldwell, Brett, Kelly, Clear, Mc Donnell, P. O'Dwyer and Councillor Heavy to attend the AILG Annual Training Conference 2025 in Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick on 2-3 April 2025 at a cost of €175 per person.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Mc Evoy, seconded by Councillor Brooks and agreed by members present that Councillors Caldwell, Brett, Kelly, Clear, Mc Donnell, P. O'Dwyer and Councillor Heavey be approved to attend the AILG Annual Training Conference 2025 in Limerick Strand Hotel on 2-3 April 2025.

09/0225

Bus Stops with Timetables

The following motion in the names of Councillors Wyse, Fahey, W. Durkan, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer and Keatley was considered by the members:

That the council prepares a plan of action, with target timelines for completion, to work in conjunction with the NTA and Local Link to install bus stops with timetables at all bus stop locations for all daily Local Link routes in the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor W. Durkan, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer.

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the Council has received notification of funding of €500,000 for 2025 from the National Transport Authority for a bus stop enhancement programme. The council has held an initial meeting with the NTA and are awaiting details of the programme, and particularly the recoupment process for claims, including expenditure from previous bus stop/shelter programmes. The council welcomes the streamlining of interaction and the clear line of communication with a nominated member of staff from the NTA. Regular progress meetings are scheduled with council staff so that agreement can be reached on a programme of works for 2025 and future years.

In parallel, the council currently holds regular update meetings with the TFI Local Link Kildare South Dublin Manager. Staff are working closely with this Transport Coordination Unit to develop a framework within which the provision of bus stop infrastructure can be most effectively delivered across the county. To that end, the proposed Route 888 is being used to test a new process and consultation which has improved the levels of coordination and cooperation between TFI Local Link and the Council.

Once work has been completed on this working procedure and clarity received from the NTA on procurement processes, then an update and timescale for a rolling programme of implementation can be developed and shared with members.



Councillor W. Durkan thanked the Director for the report noting that Local Link Stops needed to be accessible and reliable.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- That updated timetables (including local link service) is required at all bus stops.
- That a change in policy and procedures on unofficial bus stops/drop-off points is required to provide more flexibility for passengers.
- More supporting infrastructure required at bus stops, i.e., footpaths and shelters.

Ms. Barrett advised the members that an executive engineer is now in place to progress the programme further. Bus timetables for both TFI and local links services will be included at each bus stop. Members will be notified when the programme is available.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor W. Durkan, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and agreed by members present that that the report be noted and that a bus timetable for both TFI and local links services will be included at each bus stop.

10/0225

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act

The following motion in the names of Councillors Melrose and Pender was considered by the members:

That the council affirms its commitment to, and provides training for staff and elected members on, Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, which seeks to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity, and protect the human rights of its members, staff, and the persons to whom it provides services.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Melrose and seconded by Councillor Pender. A report from Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated Kildare County Council are committed to promoting equality of



opportunity, eliminating discrimination, and protecting the dignity and human rights of our staff, elected members, and everyone in Kildare, across all functions. Our Public Sector Duty Implementation Framework supports this objective, through a cross-departmental committee to oversee development and implementation of a Public Sector Duty Action Plan. This will support a workplace where everyone feels welcome, connected to their colleagues, and contributes their perspectives and talents. Through our Implementation Framework, Kildare County Council commits to strive for best practice across our range of services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population. Already this Council contributes to the Public Sector Duty through a range of programmes and activities, which are reflected in our Corporate Plan. Our implementation strategy commits us to forming a PSD Steering Committee within the Council, to:

- Assess human rights and equality issues to ensure that the policies and plans of the Council are responsive to the needs of service users and staff.
- Implement an Action Plan covering Awareness, Employment/Recruitment, Service Delivery, Policy Making, Implementation.
- Act as champions for the duty across the organisation, bringing it back into different sections, explaining the requirements and potential of the duty, and addressing concerns about the duty.
- Identify appropriate timelines across the organisation for implementing the duty in terms of the development or review of plans, programmes, or policies.
- Support an effective communication strategy in accessible language.
- Ensure actions are led within sections and incorporated in the Annual Service Delivery Plan.
- Endeavour to work on an evidence-basis and to engage with key stakeholders where necessary and/or appropriate.

Training and awareness is an important aspect of our implementation strategy and action plan and there is an online eLearning module available at www.ihrec.ie/elearning for staff and elected members. As part of the roll-out of the



Strategy, we will consider whether a mandatory Meta Compliance training module should be developed.

Councillor Melrose thanked the Director for the report and requested that the 'IHREC' Public Sector Duty eLearning link be circulated to members and included in the starter pack for new councillors.

Mr Ryan agreed to circulate the eLearning link.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Melrose, seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the 'IHREC' eLearning link be circulated to members and included in the starter pack for new councillors.

[Public Sector Duty eLearning - IHREC - Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#)

11/0225

3D Construction Printing Technology

The following motion in the names of Councillor Feeney and Councillor Heather was considered by the members:

That the council explores using 3D construction printing technology to automate the concrete laying process for its residential housing developments.

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

A report from Ms. Annette Aspell Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that Louth County Council has recently completed a pilot scheme of 3 houses using this construction method, and the sector is awaiting learnings from this project.

When tendering for projects we are always open to suggestions from contractors to use alternative methods of construction provided there is no cost increase or time delay, and that this method aligns with our quality specification, the building regulations, etc. Similarly, when tendering to design and build contractors, where the contractor completes the detailed design, there is an opportunity for the contractor to use various means of construction, including a 3D printed structure, provided it meets



our performance specification etc., and subject to approval of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- 3D construction could bring huge savings and speed when delivering housing.
- Could a pilot scheme be explored to replicate Louth?
- Innovation was needed for quicker housing delivery.
- The introduction of 3D printed structures will reduce the requirement for manpower, skilled tradesmen, and labourers on sites leading to trades and crafts dying out.
- Large companies can afford this technology, but smaller companies could not, leading to the smaller companies being squeezed out of the market.
- Scalability of projects required to make it cost-effective.
- That apprenticeship programmes in relation to this technology in conjunction with ETB are required.
- Evidence of efficiency and resilience to frost and very wet weather should be provided.

Ms Aspell advised that all contracts to construct houses must go through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approval process, noting that some projects are considered for delivery through innovation.

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

12/0225

Storm-related Tree Damage to Electricity Infrastructure

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



That the council outlines what actions it will take to mitigate the risk of future storm-related tree damage to electricity infrastructure and ensure a proactive approach to preventing further disruptions following the severe damage caused to the electricity supply by fallen trees during Storm Eowyn.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Phelan and seconded by Councillor Doyle.

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the electricity grid is not within the remit of local authority functions and is the responsibility of ESB Networks and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.

The Minister for Transport and Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications Darragh O'Brien has requested a number of actions be taken by the ESB once the initial storm response has been completed which includes an enhanced Winter Grid 2025 Resilience Plan; increased stock of spare parts for the electricity network; the creation of forestry corridors to protect overhead line corridors; and the enhancement of partnerships across Europe.

Kildare County Council will continue to manage trees on its own land and remind other landowners of their responsibilities in accordance with Section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993 to ensure that trees, shrubs, hedges and any other vegetation on their land are not a danger to people using or working on a public road. Restrictions on the cutting back of trees and hedgerows are in place from 1 March to 31 August annually in accordance with Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended).

Councillor Phelan thanked the Director for the report and sought clarification on the tree maintenance programme.

Ms Barrett stated that Kildare County Council maintain the trees on its land through the tree maintenance programme. She said the Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC are looking at developing a Tree Policy to address the life cycle of trees.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Phelan, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the Transportation Safety and Emergency Services SPC review Kildare County Council's Tree Policy to address the life cycle of trees.

13/0225

Response to Emergencies in Kildare

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

Notwithstanding the very helpful discussions and considerations at the January 2025 meeting following Storm Eowyn, that the Chief Executive on behalf of Kildare County Council, the leading Public Authority, present an outline of what proposals are in train, to bring other Kildare-based formal groupings, other authorities, service providers, emergency responders, key community leaderships and a non-energy-dependent communications system, into a pre-organised framework with leadership and timed responses to emergencies in Kildare, be they advanced Red Warning Weather Reports or unannounced life-threatening disasters and also how it is planned to interact with similar Central State or Regional Emergency Response Groups.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Balfe.

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces and Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that the document "A Framework for Major Emergency Management", as adopted by Government, provides national guidance on the structures that should be in place at local and regional level to respond to emergencies including severe weather events such as the red level warning recently experiences for Storm Eowyn.

The key principle of this document is inter-agency coordination and there are defined structures, at On-Site, Local and Regional Level, to deliver this coordination.

Kildare County Council has adopted and implemented this guidance, and it is detailed in our Major Emergency Plan [Major Emergency Management - Kildare County](#)



Council. The plan can be used whether a major emergency is declared or not. The structures of the plan have been used by Kildare County Council to coordinate a range of issues from the fire in Kerdiffstown to the recent severe weather events.

The document defines three key agencies, An Garda Síochána, the HSE and the local authority and refers to these agencies as Principal Response Agencies (PRAs). The PRAs can engage with any agency or group that they see as relevant as part of the planning or response phases to deal with any emergency as it arises.

The planning for emergencies is an iterative process and the lessons learned from the recent storms will be considered in future revisions of our Major Emergency Plan and this learning process is ongoing following Storm Eowyn with a particular focus on communication including use of Kildare County Council's Out of Hours service and other tools such as press releases, in person briefings at Municipal District level and <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=1340&r=show&u=www.mapalerter.ie&t=45a8dd8dbd00da3cc50e7c1a8a8a319300fe0f0d>.

Councillor Moore thanked both Directors for their reports.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- The Major Emergency Plan was too long, and could a user-friendly short document be provided?
- Are staff prepared and trained for emergency events?
- The assistance of the Defence Forces was acknowledged.
- Community hubs for recovery and service be identified throughout the County.
- Can we learn from other Local Authorities?

Mr. Dunney responded to the queries raised confirming that they will consider all the points raised in reviewing Kildare Major Emergency Plan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

14/0225

Communication System with Public Representatives

The following motion in the name of Councillor O'Loughlin was considered by the members:

That the council endeavours to put in place a better communication system with their public representatives in emergencies/severe weather events.

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that following the recent severe weather events, and immediately following the clean-up phase, the Council's SWAT (Severe Weather Alert Team) initiated a debrief process around all operational matters related to severe weather responses, including communications.

In addition, the January Council meeting presentation on the weather event also provided an opportunity for feedback from all elected members.

As members may be aware a significant range of communication tools are available and used, highlighted below are some features and information to assist members:

- All Councillors can register themselves for the MapAlerter system which generates weather alerts, planning weekly lists, and will soon be used also by Transport/MD Offices to communicate planned road closures/disruptions and hazards on roads during weather events. We are also exploring the potential for dynamic communications (using MapAlerter) in the aftermath of Storm related events, during the clear up phase – i.e., closure and opening of roads for removal of trees etc.

Members can register here: <https://www.mapalerter.ie/kildare> and are advised to download the MapAlerter App following registration.



However, during the recent event, information was published on the Council's existing Alerts feed on its website. This was referenced in the press release (see below) and shared by Gardai, local media. Link here: <https://kildarecoco.ie/EmergencyNews/wp/>

- Councillors can and do use the Council's Out of Hours phone number which is for reporting emergency related issues outside the normal working hours of the Council. This information along with a lot of other information about other key phone numbers and service information was provided in press releases emailed to all elected representatives prior to the recent Storm: <https://kildarecoco.ie/News/KildareCountyCouncilIssuesKeyPublicSafetyMessageSaferStormEowyn.html>

It is standard procedure that such press releases be sent to Councillors, Elected Representatives and then the press, before wider publication online etc.

- In terms of any information that is of interest related to Winter Maintenance Salting Routes, these are published on our website: <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Transport/WinterMaintenancePlan/>

Transport Operations are happy to give a briefing on the delivery of Winter Maintenance services and the operational response to emergency/severe weather events, if requested.

Debrief meetings following the Storm have taken place internally with the SWAT team and a number of specific enhancements to processes and communications are being explored, and to that end meetings with relevant vendors are ongoing.

The Council are committed to continuous review and improvement around all aspects of our Emergency Planning and Response, especially in the context of likely future Red Weather Warning events, given climate change.

Councillor O'Loughlin thanked the Director for his report.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Long delays in power returning to some areas.

- Difficulties in having no water for long periods.
- Can Kildare County Council assist private homeowners with pumps?
- Difficulties in accessing information from Uisce Éireann and Electricity Supply Board.

Mr Dunney responded to the queries raised stating that Uisce Éireann are looking into battery power back-up options; that ESB worked systematically through repairs and in relation to private pumps, he advised that this was not a matter for Kildare County Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Loughlin, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

15/0225

Digital Information Screens

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

That the council delivers a digital information screen in appropriate locations in towns throughout the County with the purpose of providing a comprehensive communication hub for communities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Kelly.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that Kildare Community Stories social media platforms provide a communication hub for communities around the county. This is an invaluable resource for sharing community news and events. In addition, the library service has digital displays in their buildings with various programme information.

The provision and maintenance of a digital information screen in towns throughout the county will require significant investigation including sourcing site location, planning, procurement, identification of funding, ongoing resource for management of a digital system, and criteria on the type of information to be displayed. Given the considerable

logistics required to advance this project and because it is not included in the workplan for 2025, this matter may be referred to the Local Community, Cultural and Integration SPC for further consideration.

Councillor Doyle welcomed the report and asked the members if they agreed for the motion to be referred to the Local Community, Cultural and Integration SPC for further consideration. The members confirmed their support.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the motion be referred to the Local Community, Cultural and Integration SPC for further consideration.

16/0225

Tenant In-Situ scheme

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

That the council provides an update on the purchases of houses under the Tenant In-Situ scheme and if still paused, that the council writes to the Minister to seek confirmation that Kildare can recommence purchases.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Programme for Government 2025 Securing Ireland's Future contains a commitment to the continuation of the Tenant in Situ Scheme and the assignment of targets and budgets to local authorities. In response to a Parliamentary Question relating to the continued operation of the scheme in Kildare, Minister Brown advised that a decision on a Tenant in Situ Programme for 2025 is expected to be made by Government shortly and will be notified to local authorities thereafter. We await further direction from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on this scheme and, until then, the council cannot purchase any tenant in situ properties. Last year the council purchased 55 properties under this scheme and view it as an essential homeless prevention measure. Currently 66 HAP households have a Notice to Quit, 53 of which are due to sale by the landlord. It is a matter for the Members if they wish to write to the Minister. We await further direction from the Department of Housing,



Local Government and Heritage on this scheme and, until then, the council cannot purchase any tenant in situ properties.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the report and asked the members if they agreed for a letter to be issued to the Minister. The members confirmed their support.

During discussion the following points were raised by the members:

- That we should not be penalised in our allocation from last year.
- That cost-based rentals should be pursued also.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and agreed by members present that the report be noted and a letter be issued to the Minister to seek confirmation that Kildare can recommence the Tenant in Situ Scheme.

17/0225

Funding for Small Community Groups

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

That the council seeks community or other funding resolution to assist with the issue of small community groups that provide essential services to cover basic statutory running costs where no funding stream permits the cover of essential running costs e.g. insurance.

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

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that running costs are not currently permitted as an eligible expense under the current Kildare County Council Community Grant Scheme. The inclusion of funding to support running costs of community groups is not included in the current revenue budget of Kildare County Council. The focus of funding arising from Kildare County Council grant schemes is targeted towards programmes, community development and small capital works. Each year all community grant schemes are oversubscribed and require extensive evaluation.



To further support community groups, Kildare LCDC has contracted 'The Wheel' to issue a publication for Kildare which includes all EU, national, philanthropic and local funding information for community and voluntary groups in the county. This is circulated via the PPN, LCDC, KCC and other social media platforms. This provides other potential funding sources which may benefit community organisations.

Councillor Killeen welcomed the report but acknowledged that it did not address the financial support for small community groups.

During discussion the following points were raised by the members:

- Local groups have installed defibrillators around the county, but HSE did not provide support for them.
- Can a link to 'The Wheel' be issued to members?
- Through LCDC the Local Enhancement Programme provided two separate application processes for funding.
- Libraries provide meeting space for small community groups free of charge.

Director of Service, Ms. Higgins, advised members of funding opportunities under the Local Enhancement Programme. The closing date for LEP funding applications is 28 February 2025. Information about these funding opportunities had been circulated on social media platforms and sent to registered charity groups. She also stated that a link to 'The Wheel' would be circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the link to 'The Wheel' be circulated to all the members.

[Supporting & Representing Charities | The Wheel](#)

18/0225

Introduction of 30km Speed Limit in Housing Estates

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



That, following the implementation of the revised national default 60 km/h rural road speed limit on 7th February last, the Executive outline its proposals to introduce a 30 km speed limit in all residential housing estates in County Kildare that are taken in charge and when it is proposed to introduce safe speed limits around schools and other estates (not taken in charge).

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 following the implementation of the revised default 60 km/h rural road speed limit in early February 2025, the Executive is preparing to bring forward proposals to introduce a 30 km/h speed limit in all residential housing estates in County Kildare that are taken in charge. The elected members will be provided with information about the estates in their Municipal District and a public consultation process will commence after elected members are briefed later in Quarter 1 2025.

The council has no role in the setting of speed limits on private roads and therefore estates not yet taken in charge cannot be included. However, a process to incorporate these estates periodically, if and when they are taken in charge, will be developed so that this can be done in an appropriate and timely manner.

Finally, the council is awaiting revised mandatory guidance on the setting of speed limits which is being prepared by the Department of Transport before revising speed limits around schools and other areas of interest.

Councillor O'Rourke thanked the Director for the report.

During discussion, the following points were raised by the members:

- When in Q1 will they be briefed about the proposals to introduce a 30km/h speed in all residential housing estates?
- When is the introduction of safe speed limits around schools (Jakes Law) to be implemented?
- Are estates not taken in charge included?



Ms Barrett responded to the issues raised confirming they will be guided by the Department of Transport in bringing the proposals forward and in rolling it out into estates and around schools. She also stated that presently they had no remit in estates not taken in charge.

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

19/0225

Purchase of Products in the County

The following motion in the name of Councillor Mc Donnell was considered by the members.

That the council purchases sand, gravel and concrete products produced in the county of Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Mc Donnell and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that it is the responsibility of local authority management to ensure that value for money is achieved by establishing and maintaining sound arrangements including procedures for planning, appraisal, authorisation and control of resources. In respect of procurement, the Council are required to ensure that the decisions it makes are the most economically advantageous to get the best value in both goods and services. The purchase of materials as proposed by Councillor McDonnell could be considered only in the context of proper procurement, value for money for Kildare County Council and in compliance with national funding and procurement rules.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that under Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) procurement rules the council is precluded from being so prescriptive regarding the origin of building materials. We are striving, as part of our Building Information Modelling Implementation and measurement of embodied carbon, to include suitable green



procurement quality criteria in our tender assessment process. A significant part of the scoring of tenders is based on quality. This should encourage the use of local building materials.

Councillor McDonnell thanked both Directors for their reports and said that there are many concrete businesses in Kildare that products were being purchased cheaper in Northern Ireland as the 5% micro-levy did not apply there. He asked if Kildare County Council could provide figures on concrete purchases for Kildare County Council.

Ms Barrett stated that in general, Kildare County Council purchase a small amount of concrete products. That all work contracts were tendered and therefore the Contractor bought the materials.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McDonnell, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.