



Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.

Monday 25 May 2026 in the Council Chamber

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

Members Present: Councillors C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach), P. Balfe, A. Breen, A. Breslin, P. Brooks, F. Brett, N. Connolly, S. Doyle, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, A. Feeney, D. Fitzpatrick, R. Heather, N. Heavey, I. Keatley, P. McEvoy, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, D. Phelan, D. Ryan, D. Trost, P. Ward and B. Wyse.

Online: Councillors P. Brooks, B. Caldwell, B. Dooley, K. Duffy, W. Durkan, P. Melrose, P. Mulroe, C. Pender, R. Power and E. Sammon,

Apologies: Councillors V. Behan, B. Clear, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell and S. Moore.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Ms. A. Aspell, Mr. J. Boland, and Mr. A. Dunney (Directors of Services), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms. S. Scully and Mr. T. Shanahan (A/ Director of Services), Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Mr. B. O'Gorman (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Suspension of Standing Orders to allow presentation from the National Peatlands Park Group (in advance of Council meeting) to continue to 3.10pm.

Proposed by Councillor A. Breen, seconded by Councillor P. O'Dwyer and agreed by all present.



Welcome

Councillor C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach) welcomed everyone to the May monthly meeting of the Council. The Meeting Administrator read out a notice regarding the live streaming of the meeting to the Council's YouTube channel.

00/0526

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting that she had been informed of the following bereavements:

- Anthony Delaney, Former Colleague,
- Margaret Sweeney, Mother of Bernard Sweeney, Transport Support Office,
- Brigid Carton, Mother of Willie Carton, Athy MD.

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

01/0526

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.

02/0526

Minutes and Progress Report

The Council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27 April 2026 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Trost, seconded by Councillor N. Connolly and agreed by the members present the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27 April 2026 were confirmed.

The progress report was noted.



03/0526

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report.

04/0526

Section 183 Disposal of Land

The members considered the disposal of lands pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended (Statutory notice of 12 May 2026 circulated previously and attached) - 10-year Licence Agreement with Gas Networks Ireland on 8.6 square metres of land on the grass verge adjacent to Newbridge Retail Park, Newbridge.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor F. Brett and agreed by members present that the disposal of lands pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended - 10-year Licence Agreement with Gas Networks Ireland on 8.6 square metres of land on the grass verge adjacent to Newbridge Retail Park, Newbridge be approved.

05/0526

**Nominee for the Transport, Mobility and Emergency Services
Strategic Policy Committee**

It was agreed that this item be deferred

06/0526

Historical Monuments Advisory Committee

The members considered the report recommending the appointment of five external members to the Historical Monuments Advisory Committee as follows: Hugh Crawford, Sharon Greene, Paddy Behan, Liam Kenny and Noel Dunne

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Feeney, seconded by Councillor B. Caldwell and agreed by members present that Hugh Crawford, Sharon Greene, Paddy Behan, Liam Kenny and Noel Dunne be appointed to the Historical Monuments Advisory Committee.



07/0526

Draft Annual Report 2025 including ASDP and Corporate Plan progress reports

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the June monthly meeting.

08/0526

Report from Members appointed to Other Bodies

The members considered the following reports from member appointed to Other Body, pursuant to Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended):

- Kildare Sports and Leisure Facilities
- Leixlip Amenities Centre

The reports were noted.

09/0526

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised members on the following highlights:

- Attended Naas CBS Drama Group play in the Moat Theatre,
- Attended the final Just 1 Life presentation of the year at the Odeon Cinema and acknowledged the Rotary Club, Kildare County Council and the Road Safety Officer for their support in delivering the programme to Transition Year students across the county.
- Attended the Inclusivity Festival at the Curragh and congratulated CKAN, Kildare County Council, the Curragh Racecourse, volunteers and sponsors on a successful and inclusive family event.
- Attended the opening of the new Diageo manufacturing facility in Newbridge.
- Attended the Scott Medal Presentation in Dublin, where members of An Garda Síochána were honoured for acts of valour, including members involved in the Monasterevin siege in 1975.



10/0526

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed one referral to Local Community Safety Partnership and two items of correspondence issued relating to motions passed at the April of full council.

Nine items of correspondence were received this month. Also included was the meetings calendar for June and the Corporate Policy Committee minutes (April).

The correspondence and report were noted.

11/0526

Conferences and Training

The Meeting Administrator referred to the Conference and Training report which was circulated to the members and recommended by the Corporate Policy Group.

The report outlined 2 requests for approval to attend online training in the areas of Housing by AILG and on Chairing skills by LGIU, together with one request for retrospective approval for attendance at a Women's Regional Caucus Network training event. The report also included training events previously approved by the Corporate Policy Group that are due to commence in the coming months.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor F. Brett, seconded by Councillor R. Heather and agreed by the members present that the Conference and Training report be approved.

12/0526

Update from Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC

The members received a report from Councillor Ivan Keatley, Chairperson of the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee.

He highlighted a range of key activities including planning variations, strategic planning studies, heritage and biodiversity initiatives, enterprise and tourism supports, capital hub projects and education and training initiatives including those at the new Athy Food Hub.



Councillor Keatley expressed his appreciation to staff working across the Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development teams for their significant contribution in delivering a wide range of services and supports. He also commended the members of the SPC for their engagement and support in progressing a detailed work programme.

The report was noted.

13/0526

Position on Social Housing Waiting List

The following motion in the name of Councillors William Durkan, Fintan Brett, Declan Ryan, Paul Brooks and Kevin Duffy was considered by the members:

That the council explores the introduction of a system which provides housing applicants with their current position on the social housing waiting list, in line with other local authorities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor F. Brett and seconded by Councillor W. Durkan.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that Kildare County Council's Allocation Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing Support was adopted by the elected members at the Council meeting of 27 February 2023. Under that scheme, the order of priority for allocations is determined by time on the list, subject to the priority categories set out in the scheme. In addition, each applicant's housing need and areas of choice are factors in how allocations are made. The full scheme is publicly available on the Council's website under Allocation Policy - Kildare County Council.

By way of context, Kildare County Council moved away from a points-based system in 2016 and now operates a time-on-list model. While some local authorities that continue to use points-based systems may be able to provide applicants with a points total, that is not directly comparable to Kildare's scheme. Like many local authorities, Kildare operates a scheme in which priority can be affected by a range of factors, including housing need and area choice, meaning that an applicant's relative



position can change depending on the property available and the cohort of eligible applicants at that time.

It is also important to note that, since 2019, Kildare County Council has operated a Choice Based Letting (CBL) system. This allows approved applicants to log in online, view advertised properties, and express interest in homes that meet their needs and preferences. Properties are then allocated in accordance with the adopted Allocation Scheme. This system provides applicants with a meaningful and practical level of transparency by showing them actual housing opportunities for which they may be considered.

In light of the above, the introduction of a system that would provide applicants with a current position on the housing waiting list is not considered feasible within the framework of the Council's adopted Allocation Scheme. Any such figure would risk creating a false impression of certainty in a process that must remain responsive to statutory priorities, housing need, area choice, and the properties available at any given time. The Council operates the Allocation Scheme as adopted by the elected members.

Councillor W. Durkan thanked the Director for the report and sought clarification on how housing applicants might be better assisted in understanding their position in the allocation process, noting that time on the list is a key factor while recognising that priority categories also apply.

Councillor A. Breslin, Chairperson of the Housing & Regeneration SPC, welcomed the report and noted that the current system is designed to respond to the needs of applicants across a range of circumstances.

Ms. Aspell outlined the practical difficulties in assigning a single position to applicants, as separate lists may apply depending on areas of choice. She added that the Allocations Team can advise members of the years of application currently being considered under the general needs list.

Councillor W. Durkan welcomed the clarification provided.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor F. Brett, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

14/0526

Income Limits for Social Housing List

The following motion in the name of Councillors Aoife Breslin, Mark Leigh, Rupert Heather and Anne Breen was considered by the members:

That the council recognises that the income limits for the social housing list in Kildare needs to be increased, given that the average house price for a 3-bedroom semidetached in the County is now over €420,000 The average cost of rent for a 3-bedroom semidetached is €2,382 per month, thus there is a large number of persons in the County being excluded from obtaining housing. They don't qualify for social housing, affordable housings schemes, mortgages or can't afford to meet rental costs.

Therefore, the Council agrees to write to the Minister for Housing seeking an immediate increase in the income limits.

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

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that income eligibility limits for social housing support in Kildare are set nationally and are provided for under the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 as amended, made under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

- Kildare County Council is in Band 1 with a base net income limit of €40,000, with eligibility with limits varying depending on household size and composition.

The most recent review and increase to these limits took effect from 1 January 2023, when the Band 1 base income limit increased from €35,000 to €40,000.

Any further revision of these limits would require an amendment to the national regulations. It is a matter for the Members to agree to write to the Minister for



Housing Local Government and Heritage seeking an immediate increase to the income limits.

Councillor A. Breslin stated that the income thresholds require review and referred to examples of households whose income levels placed them above eligibility for social housing support, while also limiting access to affordable housing options. She noted the impact of current house prices and rental costs on working individuals and families in the county.

Councillor C. Pender supported the motion and agreed that the thresholds should be increased to assist applicants.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Breslin, seconded by Councillor R. Heather and agreed by members present that the Council writes to the Minister for Housing seeking an increase in income thresholds for social housing support in the county.

15/0526

Improper Disposal of Chewing Gum

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

That the council initiates a social media public awareness and educational campaign against the improper disposal of chewing gum "Wrap It and Bin It".

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

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that The National Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) is responsible for developing and implementing an awareness campaign to reduce littered gum in the most sustainable way - changing irresponsible disposal behaviour, the root cause of the issue - by encouraging the public to dispose of their gum responsibly. The GLT campaign includes a set of integrated education and



awareness initiatives including a mass media advertising campaign, a schools education campaign and local authority involvement.

The Gum Litter Taskforce reports that:

- 92% of people now report properly disposing of their chewing gum.
- 85% of 16–34-year-olds now view littering as socially unacceptable.
- Men remain more likely than women to improperly dispose of chewed gum.

GLT has seen gum litter reduce by almost 70% since 2007, via a sustained public engagement and education campaign. According to the latest National Litter Pollution Monitoring System data, gum now accounts for just 8.6% of all litter, continuing a downward trend in gum as a component of litter from 26.4% in 2006.

As part of its Summer Roadshow campaign, the GLT collaborated with Kildare County Council in 2025 to promote the importance of proper litter disposal through education and awareness initiatives that highlight the negative environmental impacts of gum litter and draw awareness to the €150 gum litter fine.

The campaign also included a school roadshow ('Bin It!') which travelled to primary and secondary schools across the country.

The GLT Roadshow will return to County Kildare this summer, with the location yet to be finalised. As part of this roadshow, the council will promote the gum awareness campaign via its social media channels. To accompany the national roadshows the GLT will also undertake an extensive media campaign across all platforms including outdoor, digital, TV, and radio advertising.

The members may also wish to note that, in the national Tidy Towns Competition, there is a special award category, sponsored by the GLT, aimed at towns and villages that are working to eliminate gum litter, enabling best practices and successful approaches which can be shared with other communities.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer welcomed the report and noted that the motion had arisen from a request made by a local secondary school student. She stated that the issue persists across the county and emphasised the need for continued public education,



including among adults. She asked that Newbridge be considered as one of the selected locations. A number of members spoke in support of the motion.

Mr. T. Shanahan, A/ Director of Services, advised that the schools programme will commence in September with multi-agency support. He noted that Newbridge had been included in previous years and that, while high footfall is one of the criteria used in selecting locations, he could not confirm that the town would be included this year.

Councillor T. O'Dwyer thanked the A/Director and requested that members be kept updated on the rollout of the initiative.

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

16/0526

Parking Permits to Public Health Nurses

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

That the council puts in place a system to issue parking permits to Public Health Nurses who are required to complete home visits to patients who do not have access to private parking, and where public parking is the only available option for the nurse to use.

The motion was proposed by Councillor D. Phelan and seconded by Councillor D. Trost.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that in accordance with Section 87 of the Road Traffic Act 2010, as amended, emergency services in the performance of their duties (i.e. An Garda Síochána, fire service and ambulance service vehicles) are exempt from certain provisions of the road traffic laws including those related to parking. There are no provisions for other service providers such as medical professionals or the use of private vehicles by emergency service personnel.



Kildare County Council operates a permit system (where no specific parking is available) for residential parking, householders may also apply for a visitor permit. The Pay Parking Team has not been made aware of any parking issues being experienced by Public Health Nurses who are visiting clients/patients, however if details are provided, we are satisfied to engage with the HSE on the matter.

Any changes to parking permits may require an amendment of all parking byelaws in the county.

Councillor D. Phelan thanked the Director for the report and asked that the Council examine a practical and compassionate response, noting that many clients in urban areas do not have access to private parking for nurses attending home visits.

Councillor D. Phelan requested that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC for consideration as part of the review of parking bye-laws.

Ms. S. Scully agreed that the matter could be considered by the SPC. She noted that she was not aware of any specific cases to date and asked that details of any such cases be provided.

Councillor D. Phelan welcomed the engagement and indicated that she would also raise the matter at the HSE Regional Health Forum, of which she is a member.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Phelan and seconded by Councillor D. Trost and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC for consideration as part of parking bye-laws review.

17/0526

Review of Road Safety in Rural Residential Areas

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



That the council reviews road safety in rural residential areas, particularly older estates and villages where increased traffic is creating safety concerns for families and pedestrians.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. Balfe and seconded by Councillor A. Breslin.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council continues to review and improve road safety throughout the County including rural areas.

The Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) is being established, and will provide a collaborative forum through which key stakeholders including An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority, Kildare Fire Service and the Local Authority can share information on road safety issues. This group will play an important role in identifying local risk areas and trends, as well as coordinating campaigns and initiatives to address issues, subject to available resources.

A meeting of the RSWTG will be convened in the near future, at which the issue of road safety in rural residential areas can be raised for further discussion and consideration.

In addition, Kildare County Council has already taken significant steps to improve road safety through the implementation of national speed limit reforms. The Council passed new byelaws in December 2025 to implement 'Jake's Law' which sets a mandatory 30km/h speed limit in residential housing estates taken in charge by Kildare County Council which will come into effect in July 2026. The Council also implemented Phase One of the national speed limit changes and reduced the default speed limit on rural local roads from 80 Km/h to 60 km/h. Currently the Council is preparing Phase 2 of the proposed speed limit changes, the introduction of a 30km/h default speed limit in built-up and urban areas for implementation before 31 March 2027.

These measures, combined with ongoing works by the Council, will continue to enhance road safety for all road users across the county.



Councillor P. Balfe welcomed the report and welcomed the establishment of the RSWTG. He raised concerns regarding road safety in older residential estates and rural areas, which were originally designed to accommodate lower traffic levels and fewer cars.

Ms. S. Scully advised that a significant amount of the Directorate's annual budget is allocated to road improvements and safety each year. She advised that issues locally should be brought to the attention of Area Engineers.

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

18/0526

Local Enterprise Office Grants

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

That the council requests a report from the Local Enterprise Office on all grants, primary grants, feasibility grants or other financial supports awarded to vape shops, e-cigarette retailers or businesses whose primary activity is the sale of nicotine inhaling products in the last five years, and directs the LEO to adopt a formal policy of not awarding any such funding to these businesses in the future.

The motion fell as Councillor McDonnell was not in attendance.

19/0526

Low-level, motion sensor public lighting along pedestrian routes

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

That the council examines the feasibility of introducing low-level, motion-sensor public lighting in appropriate semi-urban areas, particularly along pedestrian routes, laneways, greenways, residential link roads and areas with limited existing lighting.



The motion was proposed by Councillor B. O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor D. Trost.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council's current public lighting specification requires that lighting installations provide appropriate and consistent lighting levels to ensure safe movement for pedestrians and road users.

In this regard, low-level lighting is generally discouraged, as it is more prone to vandalism and damage, and can present ongoing maintenance challenges. For this reason, it is typically only considered in locations where there is strong passive surveillance.

While newer technologies, such as adaptive or motion-responsive lighting, may offer some benefits; any such solution must still meet the required lighting standards and ensure that minimum lighting levels are maintained in the interest of public safety.

High level motion sensor lighting has been installed on the Royal Canal Greenway, following appropriate environmental assessment.

All requests for new or enhanced public lighting, including proposals for low-level or motion-sensor lighting, should be submitted through the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Scheme (KLIPS). Each location should be submitted separately, with a location map clearly identifying the specific area (e.g. laneway, pedestrian route, greenway or link road) to allow for proper assessment.

Once received, the Public Lighting Team will assess each request and include it on the KLIPS register. Requests are prioritised based on the KLIPS Ranking and progressed subject to available resources.

Councillor B. O'Loughlin thanked the Director for the report, highlighting the need to prioritise access to well-lit pedestrian routes during winter due to public health benefits. Members supported the motion, noting the importance of safe, adequately lit walking routes.

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



20/0526

MD-level Operational Briefings with An Garda Síochána

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

Noting the establishment of Kildare's Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), and acknowledging its statutory basis, and the strategic and county-wide focus of the LCSP, that, without prejudice to the functioning of the LCSP, it is now appropriate to consider the introduction of in-camera, MD-level operational briefings between elected members and An Garda Síochána, to discuss policing matters in their localities, and that a letter issue to An Garda Síochána in that regard.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A. Feeney and seconded by Councillor N. Connolly.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that it is the case that the now established Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), which comprises 27 representatives, from a range of agencies and interests, is the formal statutory forum, at County level to plan and progress strategic community safety initiatives.

Noting however that the LCSP is intended to be strategic in nature and focussed on upstream preventative measures, it is acknowledged that a local-level, appropriate forum for elected members to engage and represent on localised policing matters with Garda management may be beneficial.

It was also important to emphasise that the suggestion, for briefings, would, if implemented, not confer decision-making power, or any supporting budget and would operate as an information sharing opportunity, in an appropriate setting.

The strong engagement and attendance of the elected member representatives on the LCSP to date is very welcome, especially as we now in the next 6 months enter the consultation and plan-making phase, and in that context, it is of note that the suggested briefings are not an alternative to attendance at the LCSP.

It is important however for members to note that this cannot be agreed without further engagement with An Garda Síochána, given this will have resource



implications, and it is agreed that, as set out in the motion, it is appropriate that a letter in that regard be issued.

Should An Garda Síochána agree to the proposed briefings, the briefings will be outside the parameters of the LCSP and would not form part of its formal governance or decision-making structures.

Councillor A. Feeney noted that similar meetings had taken place previously, as part of the former Joint Policing Committees, and asked that a letter issue to An Garda Síochána in that regard, notwithstanding the separate strategic role of the new LCSP.

A number of members spoke in support of the motion and referred to the benefits of the former JPC structure, which facilitated engagement between An Garda Síochána and elected members at a local level.

Mr. T. Shanahan, A/ Director of Services, agreed that the Council would write to An Garda Síochána regarding the request.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Feeney, seconded by Councillor N. Connolly and agreed by members present that the Council writes to An Garda Síochána regarding the matter.

21/0526

AI Public Services Strategy

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

That the council investigates the implementation of an AI in Public Services Strategy and possible pilot projects. The strategy and pilot projects should ensure that AI is used to improve, not replace, the human services the public receive from the Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor R. Power and seconded by Councillor D. Trost.



A report from Ms. E. Hanlon, Head of Finance stated that the Council welcomes the motion and recognises the significant opportunities presented by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance service delivery for citizens and improve operational efficiency.

The Council also strongly supports the principle set out in the motion that AI should be used to improve, not replace services provided to the public.

Policy Framework and Approach:

The Council's approach to AI is guided by a developing national policy framework which provides strong direction for the responsible adoption of AI across the public service.

This includes the Government's Digital and AI Strategy (2026) and the Guidelines for the Responsible Use of AI in the Public Service, supported by the Digital Public Services Plan 2030 and the Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030.

For Kildare County Council, these frameworks provide clear direction by:

- Establishing strong governance, oversight and accountability requirements
- Emphasising public trust, transparency, data protection and fairness
- Supporting pilot-based, evidence-led adoption of AI
- Promoting coordinated, sector-wide solutions, particularly for major public-facing services (e.g. Housing, Planning).

Given the strength of the national framework, the Council's current approach is to align with and implement these measures rather than develop a separate local AI strategy at this time.

Current AI Activity:

Kildare County Council is already actively exploring and progressing the use of AI in a structured and responsible manner, consistent with national guidance:

- A mandatory AI Policy is in place for all staff, ensuring appropriate and compliant use.



- The Council is building organisational capability including a Microsoft Copilot trial involving over 150 staff, enabling practical, day-to-day application of AI tools.
 - Microsoft AI products are currently the only approved AI platforms within the Local Government sector.
- The Council is also supporting wider AI adoption and awareness through:
 - AI for Good initiatives to build digital literacy among citizens through our Digital Programme Office and Library Network.
 - Local Enterprise Office supports to assist SMEs in understanding and adopting AI.
- In parallel, the Council is progressing a number of AI pilot initiatives, focused on improving internal processes and service efficiency, including:
 - Enhancements to onboarding and data capture processes.
 - Development of AI-supported functionality within file and records management systems.

Conclusion:

In summary, Kildare County Council is actively engaging with AI in a proactive and responsible manner by:

- Operating within clear national governance frameworks and keeping the evolving national policy and regulatory landscape under review.
- Building staff capability and organisational readiness ensuring staff are equipped to use AI effectively and responsibly.
- Actively progressing AI initiatives in a number of sectors.
- Progressing pilot initiatives, using learning from these to inform future AI use cases.
- Engaging with national and sectoral developments, particularly in relation to shared solutions for major public services.

Councillor R. Power welcomed the report and supported the approach outlined, noting the importance of alignment with national guidance and the AI-related actions already underway across the Council.



Ms. E. Hanlon thanked the members for their engagement and agreed to provide a further update on progress by year-end.

Councillor Power welcomed this and looked forward to the update on AI adoption and usage across the Council's functions.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R. Power, seconded by Councillor D. Trost and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.