



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 27 January 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, F. Brett, P. Brooks, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, B. Dooley, S. Doyle, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, D. Fitzpatrick, N. Heavey, C. Kelly, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, P. Melrose, S. Moore, P. Mulroe, P. O'Dwyer, T. O'Dwyer, B. O'Loughlin, C. O'Rourke, C. Pender, D. Phelan, R. Power, E. Sammon, D. Trost, and B Wyse.

Online: Councillors A. Breslin, N. Connolly, A. Feeney, I. Keatley, L. Panaite Fahy, and P. Ward.

Apologies: Councillor R. Heather.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Ms A. Aspell, Mr. A. Dunney, Ms. E. Hanlon, Ms. M. Higgins, Mr. E. Ryan, (Directors of Service), Ms. C. Barrett, Mr. D. Creighton, (A/Director of Service), Ms. P. O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator, Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Ms. L. Morgan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the January 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.



00/0125

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised he had been informed of the following bereavements and requested that a minute's silence be observed.

Veronica (Ronnie) Kinane, former colleague

May Morrissey, Mother of Mary Morrissey, Climate Action Officer

Eamon O'Hara, Father of Eileen Gray, Environment

Marie Howard, Mother of Catherine Howard, Planning

Inés Ferreras, Mother of Ruth Ferreras, Integration Support Co-Ordinator

Margaret Hunt, mother of Mairead Hunt (former colleague)

Lillian Ann McKay, Mother of Colin McKay, Architects

Emergency Response to Recent Severe Weather Events

The Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders to facilitate briefing by Director of Service, Ms. C Barrett, on Kildare's County Councils Emergency Response to recent severe weather events, prolonged cold spell and Storm Éowyn.

This was seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by the members.

The meeting commenced at 3:45pm.

01/0125

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.



02/0125

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the revised draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 16 December 2024, the draft minutes of the special meeting held on 19 December 2024 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor M. Leigh and agreed by the members present that the revised draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 16 December 2024 and the special meeting held on 19 December 2024 be adopted.

The progress report was noted.

03/0125

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

04/0125

Filling of Casual Vacancy of Leas Cathaoirleach

The members considered nominees to fill the casual vacancy of Leas Cathaoirleach following the appointment of Councillor Kevin Duffy to Cathaoirleach.

Councillor E. Sammon proposed Councillor F. Brett. This was seconded by Councillor I. Keatley. As there were no further nominations Councillor F. Brett was deemed duly elected.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E. Sammon, seconded by Councillor I. Keatley and agreed by the members present that the appointment of Councillor F. Brett to the position of Leas Cathaoirleach be approved. Councillor F. Brett was deemed duly elected.



05/0125

Filling of Committee Vacancies

The members considered the nomination, election and appointment of members to committees and other bodies following the election of four members to Dáil Éireann.

Prior to nominations Councillor S. Doyle proposed that Councillor D. Fitzpatrick move from Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee to Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee and be replaced on the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee by Councillor D. Phelan. This was seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and agreed by all members present.

- (i) Appointment of two members to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee.

The following were proposed and seconded for appointment to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC.

Councillor Paul Brooks was proposed by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor E. Sammon.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor E. Sammon and agreed by members present that Councillor P. Brooks be elected to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC.

Councillor N. Connolly was proposed by Councillor P. Mc Evoy and seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Mc Evoy, seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that **Councillor N. Connolly** be elected to the Transportation, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC.



- (ii) Appointment of one member to the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor P. Mulroe was proposed by Councillor N. Killeen and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Killeen, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that **Councillor P. Mulroe** be elected to the Environment and Water Services SPC.

- (iii) Appointment of one member to the Local Community, Culture and Integration Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor S. Doyle was proposed by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by members present that **Councillor S. Doyle** be elected to the Local Community, Culture and Integration SPC, moving from the Climate Action SPC.

- (iv) Appointment of one member to the Audit Committee.

This item was deferred to February Full Council Meeting.

- (v) Appointment of three members to the Coiste Gaeilge that represent Celbridge / Leixlip MD, Clane Maynooth MD and Kildare / Newbridge MD.

The following members were proposed and seconded for appointment to Coiste Gaeilge.



Councillor D. Phelan of Clane / Maynooth MD was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by members present that **Councillor D. Phelan** be elected to Coiste Gaeilge.

Councillor N. Connolly of Kildare / Newbridge MD was proposed by Councillor P. McEvoy and seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Mc Evoy, seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that **Councillor N. Connolly** be elected to Coiste Gaeilge.

It was agreed that the third vacant position be referred to the next Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District Meeting.

- (vi) Appointment of one member to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Councillor P. Mulroe was proposed by Councillor N. Killeen and seconded by Councillor P. Balfe.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Killeen, seconded by Councillor P. Balfe and agreed by members present that **Councillor P. Mulroe** be elected to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

- (vii) Appointment of one member to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Committee



Councillor E. Sammon was proposed by Councillor T. O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor F. Brett.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor P. Balfe and agreed by members present that **Councillor E. Sammon** be elected to the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Committee.

- (viii) Appointment of one member to the Kildare Town Heritage Company CLG.

Councillor N. Connolly was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor P. Mc Evoy

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor P. Mc Evoy and agreed by members present that **Councillor N. Connolly** be elected to the Kildare Town Heritage Company CLG.

- (ix) Appointment of one member to the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA).

Councillor N. Heavey was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor A. Breen.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by A. Breen and agreed by members present that **Councillor N. Heavey** be elected to the Local Authority Members Association.

- (x) Appointment of one member to the Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade Community Forum.

Councillor D. Phelan was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor P. McEvoy.



Resolved on the proposal of S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor P. Mc Evoy and agreed by members present that **Councillor D. Phelan** be elected to the Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade Community Forum.

- (xi) Appointment to the Midlands Regional Transition Team (MRTT).

Representation by Cathaoirleach required. It was agreed by members present that Councillor K. Duffy (Cathaoirleach), represent Kildare.

Resolved on the agreement by the members present that **Councillor K. Duffy (Cathaoirleach)** represent County Kildare on the Midlands Regional Transition Team.

06/0125

Nomination to Local Community Safety Partnership

The members considered the nomination of a Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District member to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor E. Sammon and agreed by the members present that **Councillor P. Brooks** be nominated to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

07/0125

Implementation of 60 km/h default on Rural Local Roads

The members considered the report to rescind the special speed limits of 60 km/h on rural local roads as adopted by byelaw in accordance with the Local Government Act 2021, to comply with Section 10E of the Road Traffic Act 2004 (as amended) as per the reports schedule of maps.



A/Director of Service, Ms. C. Barrett advised that national legislation would be implemented on 7 February 2025 reducing the speed limit to 60km/h on rural local roads. A number of rural local roads currently had special speed limits of 60km/h and members were requested to approve the rescinding of special speed limits of 60km/h on rural local roads on the implementation date set by the Department of Transport so that there is consistency across the network covered by the default 60km/h.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Mc Evoy seconded by Councillor S. Moore and agreed by the members present that the special speed limits of 60km/h on rural local roads as adopted by byelaw in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, to comply with Section 10E of the Road Traffic Act 2004 (as amended) as per the reports schedule of maps be rescinded.

08/0125

Bi-annual Update from Development Control Section

The members considered the report previously circulated in relation to the taking in charge status of residential estates in the County.

The report was noted.

09/0125

Bi-annual Update on Climate Action

The members considered the report previously circulated in relation to Kildare County Councils Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Director of Service, Ms M. Higgins briefed the members on the report.

Ms. P. O'Rourke, Climate Action Co-ordinator, Climate Action Section, gave a presentation on the first years progress of Kildare County Councils Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.



Ms. P. O'Rourke stated that the data and information contained within the report offer an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the first year of the plan's implementation against the ambition of the plan which is aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.

The members raised the following points

- that training and upskilling of members would be required
- that all aspects of Climate Action needed to permeate beyond the experts and queried the possibility of a forum that members could access for information.

Ms. M. Higgins advised that Kildare County Council had a service level agreement with the Department to run training courses with CARO and were currently working with the AILG to develop these courses.

The report was noted.

10/0125

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Kildare's two new Ministers, James Lawless and Martin Hayden on their recent appointments. He advised Members that he attended several local events recently:

- Launch of St Brigid's Festival
- Launch of St Brigid's Tapestry in Ummeras
- Launch of Monasterevin Drama Festival
- Athy – 'He for She – An evening for equality'
- Recent contract award for the redevelopment of St Patrick's Park

He reminded members that the closing date for the nominations for Seanad Elections was Thursday 30 January at 11:00a.m, that completed Political Donations Forms were



due back Friday 31 January and Annual Ethics Declaration Forms were available online and must be completed by 28 February 2025.

11/0125

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed four items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report.

A resolution from,

- Clare County Council requesting urgent contact with the Department of Housing regarding the exclusion of fossil flue boilers in housing aid grants,
- Clare County Council regarding the opposition to GAA admittance charges for children under the age of 16,
- Leitrim County Council regarding a referendum to allow the diaspora vote in the next presidential election.

and local government circular LG 01-2025 Annual Declarations.

The report was noted/

12/0125

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the conference and training report which had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. She advised that some members had expressed an interest in attending these conferences and training events and was seeking their approval.

Approval was sought for the LAMA Spring Success on 30 and 31 January 2025 in the Kilford Arms Hotel, Kilkenny for attendance by Councillor B. Caldwell, Councillor N Connolly, Councillor N. Heavey and Councillor T. Mc Donnell at a cost of €245 plus travel and subsistence.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by the members present that the above named members be approved to attend the LAMA Spring Success Training event.

Approval sought by Councillor C. O'Rourke to attend National Planning Framework training hosted by Planning Policy for Ireland on 5 February 2025 at a cost of €350 plus VAT.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Kelly, seconded by Councillor S. Moore and agreed by members present that Councillor C. O'Rourke be approved to attend the National Planning Framework Training

13/0125

Meeting with the ESB

The following motion in the names of Councillors T. O Dwyer, W. Durkan, B.Wyse, E. Sammon, P. O'Dwyer, K. Duffy, F. Brett, P. Brooks, L. Panaite Fahey and T. Durkan was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council meets with the ESB for the purpose of agreeing a streamlined internal reporting, tracking and payment system to include an agreed turnaround timeline for repairs to public lighting.

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

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the public lighting infrastructure consists of approximately 26,000 public lights. The maintenance of public lighting is contracted to Killaree Lighting Services who are required to address all faults within an agreed timescale. A significant portion of the public lighting infrastructure consists of direct fed lighting where there is no interface between the ESB infrastructure and the Local Authority infrastructure and in these cases the public lighting contractor requires the input of the ESB to repair. Kildare County



Council are in communication with the ESB to resolve the ongoing delays in the repair of public lighting faults and will arrange to meet with the ESB again in this regard.

Following discussion, a number of points were raised by the members:

- significant delays relating to ESB repairs and connections,
- ESB commitments not delivered,
- Need to identify why blockages were happening

Ms. C. Barrett acknowledged items raised noting that the items raised were outside the control of Kildare County Council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan and agreed by members present that Kildare County Council write to the ESB.

Motions 14, 15 and 16 were considered together by the members as they concerned similar issues.

14/0125

Review of Salting Policies

The following motion in the names of Councillors S.Doyle, R. Power, D. Fitzpatrick, P. Ward, D. Trost, B. Caldwell, C. Kelly and V. Behan was considered by the members.

That the council reviews salting policies for the County, having regard to the potential of providing salt at appropriate locations for voluntary groups supporting community and a needs analysis based on a growing County and that a system be devised that recognises new strategic developments that will impact selected routes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle and seconded by Councillor R. Power.



15/0125

Salt Bin Purchase and Fill Scheme

The following motion in the names of Councillors P. Melrose and P. Balfe was considered by the members.

That the council creates a salt bin purchase and fill scheme for residential housing including housing estates and urban/rural clusters of housing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. Melrose and seconded by Councillor P. Brooks.

16/0125

Salting During Freezing Weather

The following motion was proposed by Councillor B. O'Loughlin and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

That the council prioritises one main road in all small towns and villages in Co. Kildare for salting during freezing weather to allow access to emergency services, public transport and national roads.

A report from Mr Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the objective of the Kildare County Council (KCC) Winter Maintenance Plan is to keep all principal roads in the County open to traffic, free from ice and safe to travel on. Kildare Co Council treat our National Secondary, Regional and Local Roads. National Primary and Motorway routes are dealt with by contractors on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

The Kildare County Council Winter Maintenance Plan and map of routes are prepared annually and updated on our website.

Kildare County Council currently operate ten routes within its Winter Maintenance Programme, treating approximately 705km of the Local, Regional and National



Secondary Road network in the county. This equates to the treatment of approximately 26.5 % of Kildare's Road infrastructure. Including all Motorway and National Primary roads treated by TII, 30.3 % of all Public Roads within county Kildare are treated. This is higher than our neighbouring counties, who treat between 24-26 % of their road network. This requires a significant input of resources, including twenty-four drivers, vehicles, equipment, technical and administrative staff and operates at a considerable cost.

Kildare County Council's salting trucks on all routes are running at capacity at present, precluding the Council from adding new roads to the current salting routes without removing the service from another area of the County.

At times of severe weather conditions, Kildare County Council staff, during the working day, may give priority to other roads and junctions outside of our standard routes that need treatment. This may include snow clearing and salting on additional roads at critical locations.

During the recent severe weather event, which ran from the 2 to 8 January 2025, KCC spread 1,320 tonnes of rock salt on the road network (over 35% of all salt used during the entire 2023-2024 Winter Maintenance Season).

This work involved twenty-two salt spreading runs, with drivers and support staff working in rotation on day and night shifts, over eight days.

To minimise the impacts of the severe weather event and maintain traffic movement on Kildare's Road network, there was considerable effort put in by over 30 KCC drivers, Municipal District outdoor crews, fitter mechanics, Machinery Yard/Regional Salt Depot technical and administrative staff, Municipal District Engineers/staff, and Senior Management.

Given the prolonged nature of this event, all normal Municipal District activities were suspended, and all resources were redirected to support the Winter Maintenance Plan. The redirection of all staff to Winter Maintenance activities enabled the Municipal



Districts to undertake some additional salting activities including key footpaths, additional critical locations, and some local roads.

Due to the enormity of implementing a proposal to create a salt bin purchase and fill scheme for residential housing (including housing estates and urban/rural clusters of housing) KCC do not have the resources to provide such a facility without removing sections of the 705Km of Priority 1 treated Salt Routes.

The Kildare County Council Winter Maintenance Plan maximises the return from current resources. The only way to add a new route is to remove a route that is currently treated.

A number of Councillors thanked Ms. C. Barrett and the staff for all the hard work during the recent prolonged cold spell and severe weather.

Following discussion, a number of points were raised by the members:

- 14 Local Authorities provided a salt bin and fill scheme. That the Council explore the possibility of a salt bin purchase scheme for housing estates, urban / rural areas and schools.
- Unprecedented events were becoming more common.
- That the Council prioritise one main road out of each village.
- That the Council explore a salt bin purchase scheme.

Ms C. Barrett responded to the items raised and advised that she would request Municipal District Engineers to speak to their counterparts in other Local Authorities and follow up with feedback.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Doyle seconded by Councillor R. Power and agreed by members present that the report be noted in relation to agenda item 14, 15 and 16.

17/0125



Making Kildare an Autism Friendly County

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

That the council outlines what progress has been made to make Kildare an Autism Friendly County following a motion passed by Kildare County Council in November 2023.

The motion was proposed by Councillor D. Phelan and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

A report from Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services informed the members that a huge body of work has been completed to date, working towards achieving the vision of making County Kildare inclusive and fully accessible to all. This approach looks at disabilities equally ensuring no section of our community is left behind and supports the delivery of an Autism Friendly County.

Some of the initiatives delivered include;

- purchase of two Cubbie Sensory Hubs
- purchase of two sensory Pods
- purchase of 15 sensory boxes with sensory toys for all 15 libraries
- purchase of a mobile Tovertafel
- Toys, Technology Training (TTT) Collection
- Working on a procedure and checklist to host inclusive events/meetings
- Installation of communication boards in playgrounds
- Fully inclusive playground under construction
- Kildare Inclusion Schools Project
- JAM friendly organisation

More recently we have made contact with both ASIAM and Dublin City Council for support on achieving our goals.



Councillor D. Phelan reported that it was estimated that 9,200 of Kildare's constituents had an official diagnosis of autism, demonstrating the need to implement tangible changes that would benefit our Neurodivergent Community.

Maynooth had made great strides as an autism-friendly town with the generous support of Kildare County Council through initiatives like the community grant. This funding enabled the purchase of sensory boxes for (SMEs) in the town, creating a more comfortable shopping experience for all members of the public with disability including autistic individuals. AsIAM Irelands National Charity provided an information link to committees, and businesses to educate and raise awareness about autism.

The Maynooth Autism Friendly Town in association with AsIAM run bi-weekly social clubs in Maynooth Community College that cater for children as young as 3 up until Autistic Adults over the age of 18. Over 50 families were supported across 5 social groups over 2 nights in those 2 weeks.

One of the standout successes had been the introduction of a quiet zone during the St. Patricks Day Parade, now entering its third year. Currently, 35 towns across Ireland are participating in the AsIAM Autism-Friendly Town Programme, and Kildare is represented by only 2 towns Maynooth and Clane. This highlights the potential for other towns in our county to follow suit and adopt similar initiatives.

A number of councillors expressed their supported for this motion. Following discussion, a number of points were raised by the members:

- That festival grants forms include a provision for the need for quiet spaces.
- JAM card (Just a minute) was acknowledged and that Kildare County Council invite a representative from As I Am to give a short presentation to the members to improve awareness of the members in this regard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor D. Phelan seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by members present that the report be noted, and a representative from As I Am



be invited to attend a full council meeting to give a short presentation on Autism to bring more awareness about this condition to the members.

18/0125

Invitation to CEO of Iarnród Éireann

The following motion in the name of Councillor B. Dooley was considered by the members:

That the council invites the Chief Executive Officer of Iarnród Éireann to a full council meeting to discuss future passenger and freight developments in the County.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Dooley and seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that this is a matter for the Elected Members to agree.

Councillor B. Dooley informed the members that he would like to hear from the CEO of Iarnród Éireann in relation to promises made and whether they would be achievable.

Councillor Mc Evoy noted that the National Rail Review will inform new infrastructure investment, and that rail is becoming the backbone of Kildare.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Dooley seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that an invitation would be sent to the CEO of Iarnród Éireann to attend a full council meeting to discuss future passenger and freight developments in the county.

19/0125

Housing List Breakdown

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



That the council provides details of the numbers on the housing list compared with the same time in 2024, broken down by the number on the medical priority list, details of whether they are Irish, EU or non-EU and how many on the list are in emergency accommodation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Clear and seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.

A report from Ms A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that local authorities are required to conduct an annual Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA), which records the number of households included on the council's social housing list, HAP households are excluded (currently 1, 741). The results of the SSHA are published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, we are awaiting the publication of SSHA 2024, as a result figures are being provided for 2022 and 2023.

Year	Qualified Households	Irish	EEA	Non-EEA	UK
2022	3, 008	2, 214	584	201	9
2023	3, 450	2, 456	681	284	29

Each month the Chief Executive's Report to the Members provides summary homeless data, the most recent report indicates that on the 31 December thirty-seven households were availing of emergency accommodation.

Councillor B. Clear stated that he received many requests for clarification regarding house builds from residents at election time. He also queried a review of people on housing lists a long time whose income increased over time, pushing them over the income threshold.



Ms. A. Aspell said this was a national form and that the housing income limit would not be changed at present, but she said she supports this motion. She also stated house targets for 2024 noting that new targets for 2025 are anticipated.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Clear seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

20/0125

Guidelines for Strategic Policy Committee Schemes

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

That this council agree that a letter issue to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, requesting that they review their Guidelines regarding the Strategic Policy Committee Schemes, to include a provision that external representatives continue to occupy their positions on Strategic Policy Schemes until such time as newly appointed representatives take up their appointment, regardless of the process of making a new Strategic Policy Committee Scheme. This will ensure the continuity of the business of Strategic Policy Committee Scheme, immediately following a local election.

The motion was proposed by Councillor S. Moore and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

Director of Service, Mr E. Ryan stated that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S. Moore seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by members present that that a letter issue to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, requesting that they review their Guidelines on the Strategic Policy Committee Schemes in this regard.



21/0125

Short Term Rental Market Kildare

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

Go dtabharfaidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara tuairisc do na Comhaltaí ar an ngníomh atá á dhéanamh chun rialáil an mhargaidh cíosa ghearrthearma sa Chontae a fhiosrú agus a fhorghníomhú; líon na maoine i gCill Dara atá ar fáil faoi láthair ar cíos trí Airbnb agus/nó Booking.com a áireamh; líon na maoine sin atá á ligean ar cíos ar feadh níos lú ná 90 lá agus atá cláraithe le haghaidh díolúine; líon na réadmhaoine seo atá á ligean ar cíos ar feadh níos mó ná 90 lá agus a bhfuil iarratas déanta acu ar chead pleanála le haghaidh athrú úsáide; agus má tá aon áitribh i gCill Dara faoi láthair atá ar ligean gearrthéarmach ar feadh bliana.

That Kildare County Council reports to the Members on the action being taken to investigate and enforce the regulation of the short term rental market in the County; to include the number of properties in Kildare that are currently available to rent through Airbnb and/or Booking.com; the number of these properties that are being rented for less than 90 days and have registered for an exemption; the number of these properties that are being rented for more than 90 days and have applied for planning permission for a change of use; and if there are currently any properties in Kildare that are year-long short-term lets.

This motion fell as Councillor N. Connolly was not in attendance.

22/0125

Implementation of Jake's Law

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



That the council agrees to form a special committee to progress the implementation of Jake's Law in County Kildare to protect pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable walkers in built up areas and near schools.

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

A report received from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that as previously advised at Full Council, following the implementation of the revised default 60 km/h rural road speed limit in early February 2025, the Executive will 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.

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

23/0125

Speed Cameras Pilot Scheme

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

In the context of the impending national reduction of the speed limit on rural roads (from 80 to 60 km per hour) and the ever increasing volume of traffic on roads in our county, this council refers the matter of commissioning a pilot scheme of fixed and or variable positioned speed cameras and other technical advances used in other countries, to Transport SPC to interact with Road Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána a sustainable means of enforcing compliance to speed limits.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N. Heavey and seconded by Councillor S. Doyle.



A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that while Local Authorities have no functions in the setting of Special Speed Limits; the enforcement of Speed Limits is a matter for An Garda Síochana. Once established the Local Community Safety Partnership, which replaces the Joint Policing Committees, may be a vehicle for a strategic discussion of roads policing.

Ms C Barrett reiterated that Kildare County Council had no jurisdiction in enforcing speed limits in the County and that the matter could possibly be referred to the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor N. Heavey advised that he would raise the issue with the Local Community Safety Partnership.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Heavey seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

24/0125

Pilot High Street Rental Auctions

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

That the council establishes a pilot to trial the High Street Rental Auctions in one commercial building which has been vacant for more than two years or up to 5 years, with the agreement of a landlord, and use the pilot to meet a 'Local Benefit Condition,' which would demonstrate an economic, social or environmental benefit to the area.

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

A report from Mr A Dunney, Director of Service, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that The Head of Enterprise will undertake to research the various retail and high street enhancement initiatives currently been deployed both Nationally and internationally, taking best practice she will prepare



a discussion paper for the Enterprise and planning SPC for their observations and approval ,If the proposals are accepted favourable we can then pilot such an initiative with a view to deploying county wide pending success.

Councillor N. Killeen noted the high vacancy rates on main streets and queried advised a pilot scheme during 2025. Noting that if one vacant property was removed from the Main Street it would make a difference.

Mr. A. Dunney stated that 2025 would be ambitious but the scheme could be looked at through the SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Killeen seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that a scheme could be piloted throughout the county pending further research and accepted proposals.

25/0125

Homeless HAP

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

That Kildare County Council acknowledges the critical role of Homeless HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) in addressing and preventing homelessness and recognises that its application in Kildare appears to differ significantly from other local authorities, where it is often used as a preventive tool. To address this, the council is requested to provide a comprehensive report detailing the current criteria and processes for awarding Homeless HAP, the rationale behind these criteria, and how they compare to other counties, alongside relevant statistics on its use and outcomes. Furthermore, the council is urged to immediately review the existing criteria with a view to expanding its use as a homelessness prevention measure, supporting individuals and families at risk of losing their homes, and aligning with national best practices.



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

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment (HHAP) scheme plays a pivotal role in addressing homelessness by providing financial support to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk to homelessness. The existing criteria to qualify for Homeless HAP on the Kildare County Council Website erroneously included a condition that applicants were required to be engaging with the Homeless team for a minimum period of 6 months. This condition was not being enforced, and the website has now been amended to reflect this.

Other criteria as detailed below is consistent with best national practice and Kildare's Homeless HAP Placefinder is part of the National Placefinder network who are in regular contact and meet in person on a bi-monthly basis to ensure consistency of practice.

To qualify for Homeless HAP, the Council must decide that the applicant:

- is homeless or at risk of homelessness and have no other accommodation choices
- need extra support to get a suitable rental home

HHAP bridges the gap between what tenants can afford to pay in rent and the actual cost of renting a property. The scheme provides additional supports which includes deposits and upfront rent payments to help homeless households find a suitable HAP tenancy.

The Place Finder Service includes:

- help the applicant to find a suitable property to rent
- pay the deposit for a property to the landlord or agent
- pay rent in advance to the landlord or agent
- pay enhanced HAP rent limits (depending on circumstances).



Applicants are individually contacted and advised regarding the additional supports available, including arrangements for property viewings.

The HHAP Placefinder actively engages with property owners and agents to identify suitable properties for those availing of HHAP. To expand the scheme in Kildare, the Council is launching a local media campaign in February to highlight the benefits of HHAP for landlords.

Within County Kildare, the following tenancies are currently supported under the two HAP schemes:

- HAP 1,741
- Homeless HAP 242

The Homeless Team, when engaging with clients, provide information on the HHAP Place Finder Service to applicants. Details are also available from the Housing Department (Tel: 045 980230) or online <https://www.hap.ie/>

Councillor C. Pender acknowledged the report thanked all for the opportunity to highlight this.

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

The meeting concluded.