



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

Monday 27 April 2026 in the Council Chamber

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Online: Councillors P. Balfe, P. Brooks, I. Keatley, P. Melrose and R. Power.

Apologies: Councillors K. Duffy and S. Moore.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Mr. J. Boland, Mr. A. Dunney and Ms. M. Higgins (Directors of Services), Ms. E. Hanlon (Head of Finance), Mr. D. Creighton and Ms. S. Scully (A/Director of Services), Ms. L. Hanratty (Meetings Administrator), Mr. B. O'Gorman (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

Councillor C. Kelly (Cathaoirleach) welcomed everyone to the April 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.



00/0426

Bereavements

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

- Joe Hickey, Father of Joseph Hickey, Transport Design
- Dominic Mulry, B.E, Former Colleague
- Sadie Dolan, Sister of Liam Dolan, Tenant Liaison Officer
- Philip Baxter, Former Colleague.

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

01/0426

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.

02/0426

Minutes and Progress Report

The Council considered the draft minutes of the special planning meetings held on 25 March 2026 and 14 April 2026, the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30 March 2026 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Breen, seconded by Councillor B.

Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the Special Planning Meetings held on 25 March and 14 April 2026 and the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30 March 2026 were confirmed.

The progress report was noted.



03/0426

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

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

04/0426

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 08 April 2026 circulated previously and attached) to finalise and complete historical land transfer to the Respond (Approved Housing Body).

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A. Breslin, seconded by Councillor Connolly and agreed by members present that the disposal of land to finalise and complete historical land transfer to Respond, as amended be approved.

05/0426

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 13 April 2026 circulated previously and attached) for disposal of 0.0582 hectares at Baybush, Straffan.

Councillor B. Clear queried the valuation process. Mr. D. Creighton advised that the valuation provided was appropriate and in accordance with the council's procedure. The piece of land was at a road junction and not required by the council for any future purpose.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E. Sammon, seconded by Councillor S. Doyle and agreed by members present that the disposal of 0.0582 hectares at Baybush, Straffan be approved.

06/0426

Fill Vacancy in membership of Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board

A vacancy arose following recent resignation of Councillor E. Sammon from the Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board.



Councillor Sammon, seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick proposed Councillor T. O'Dwyer be nominated. There was no other nomination. Councillor T. O'Dwyer accepted the nomination.

Councillor Fitzpatrick paid tribute to Councillor Sammon for her diligent work on the ETB.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E. Sammon, seconded by Councillor D. Fitzpatrick and agreed by members present that Councillor T. O'Dwyer be approved as the Council's nominee.

07/0426

Report from Members appointed to Other Bodies

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

- County Kildare Fáilte.

The report was noted.

08/0426

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised members on the following highlights:

- Launch of works to commence the new Clane Library.
- Launch of Kildare's Inclusivity Festival.
- Opening of the new fire station in Maynooth.
- Update on the Eastern Ring Road.
- Launch of new social housing units in Kill.
- Launch of National Bike Week in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, Kildare Sports Partnership and the NTA.
- Attendance at the Annual Meeting of Into Kildare/ County Kildare Fáilte.
- Launch of Ballymore Eustace as Ireland's first Age Friendly/ Climate Friendly village, including an upgraded River Walk project.



09/0426

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed three referrals to SPCs and Committees and three items of correspondence issued, relating to motions passed at the March meeting of full council. No items of correspondence were received.

Also included was the meeting calendar for May, which sets out the deadline for receipt of motions.

The correspondence and report were noted.

10/0426

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.

One member sought approval for third level education at Maynooth University in the area of Spatial Planning (part funded by AILG).

One retrospective approval for attendance at AILG conference was added.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Heavey, seconded by Councillor B. Clear and agreed by the members present that the Conference and Training report be approved.

11/0426

Update from Housing and Regeneration SPC

The members received a report from Councillor Aoife Breslin, Chairperson of the Housing and Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Breslin provided an update on the work programme of the SPC, outlining the principle policy areas under the Housing Department's remit, including Housing for All, social and affordable housing supply, addressing vacancy, Delivering Homes,



Building Communities 2025- 2030, the Housing Delivery Action Plan, homelessness, Traveller accommodation and housing provision for persons with a disability.

She also referred to a number of current issues and initiatives, including homelessness, emergency accommodation supply, rising social housing application numbers, the Housing Adaptation Grant system, engagement with Approved Housing Bodies regarding pet policies, the Tenant Purchase Scheme and housing maintenance turnaround times.

Councillor Breslin thanked staff working across the Housing area and acknowledged their significant contribution in delivering a wide range of services and supports during what continues to be a challenging period for applicants.

The report was noted.

12/0426

Live Streaming of Municipal District Meetings

An update report regarding the live streaming of Municipal District Committee (MD) meetings was provided to members.

The full council had agreed that webcasting should be extended to either all Municipal Districts (MD) or none. Members agreed that a majority decision would be required to extend webcasting to MD meetings; accordingly, the agreement of three (or more) Municipal Districts was required.

The Meetings Administrator advised members regarding the result of the votes from the five Municipal Districts Committees (April 2026) as follows:

- Against: Athy; Celbridge-Leixlip; Clane-Maynooth; Naas.
- In favour: Kildare-Newbridge

In this case, as four municipal district committees have voted against the proposal, the livestream of MD meetings will not progress at this time.



13/0426

Meeting With NTA and TII

The following motion in the name of Councillors Evie Sammon, Ivan Keatley, Paul Brooks, Fintan Brett, Tim Durkan, Tracey O Dwyer, Peggy O Dwyer, Declan Ryan, Kevin Duffy and William Durkan was considered by the members:

That the council requests an urgent meeting with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to discuss the design and provision of cycle lanes, sustainable transport and bus shelters.

The motion was proposed by Councillor E. Sammon and seconded by Councillor T. Durkan.

A report from Ms S Scully, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that this is a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Sammon advised that it would be timely to facilitate a meeting with the NTA and TII so that members' concerns regarding schemes could be raised. A number of members spoke in support of the request.

A proposal to amend the motion to include park and ride facilities was considered. The amendment was proposed by Councillor S. Doyle, seconded by Councillor P. McEvoy and agreed by all members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor E. Sammon, seconded by Councillor T. Durkan and agreed by members present that the council writes to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the design and provision of cycle lanes, sustainable transport and bus shelters and park and ride facilities.

14/0426

Request for Additional Active Travel Funding

The following motion in the name of Councillors Pádraig McEvoy, Pat Balfe, Aoife Breslin, Angela Feeney, Anne Breen, Mark Leigh, Noel Heavey, David Trost, Noel Connolly and Ger Dunne was considered by members:



That the council recognises that Ireland's high dependence on imported oil/gas, particularly in the transport sector, exposes households, businesses and the wider economy to permanently higher prices and repeated fossil-fuel price shocks, as identified by the International Energy Agency and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; and that local authority investment in safe, connected walking and cycling infrastructure provides a permanent, low-cost means of reducing this economic vulnerability, while supporting local businesses, shops and facilities within our urban settlements, and reducing traffic congestion for those who remain car dependent; and that the Council therefore agrees to write to the Minister for Transport to seek additional resource allocations to Kildare and all local authorities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. McEvoy and seconded by Councillor N. Connolly.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council is committed to the delivery of measures for the promotion of walking and cycling, particularly in the context of the actions contained in the Kildare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the County Development Plan 2023-2029. The council recognises that investment in safe, connected walking and cycling infrastructure plays a central role in supporting town centre vitality and economic resilience. During the lifetime of the current Council, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has provided funding of more than €20 million for active travel measures with a further allocation of €9.5 million for 2026.

Urban Active Travel Schemes completed in recent years are:

- Kilcullen Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme
- Mill Street Maynooth Active Travel Scheme
- Craddockstown Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme
- Blessington Road Naas Active Travel Scheme

These schemes were complemented by other measures including low-cost cycle schemes in Newbridge and Sallins, cycle safety measures at existing signalised junctions, significant investment in pedestrian crossings, measures for vulnerable road users and permeability measures throughout the county.



Planning consents under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for the following schemes will be launched in 2026:

- Green Lane, Leixlip Active Travel Scheme
- Celbridge Road, Maynooth Active Travel Scheme
- Captain's Hill, Leixlip, Active Travel Scheme
- Monasterevin Active Travel Scheme

Further schemes being progressed include:

- Dublin Road, Naas Active Travel Scheme
- Celbridge Active Travel Scheme Bridge

TII have also funded the National Cycle Network Pilot Scheme at Moone-Timolin.

The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team have delivered the following projects through Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) funding:

- Grand Canal Greenway Phase 1, 13km from Sallins to Hazelhatch, with Phase 2 Sallins to Clonkeen (42km) at tender stage.
- Barrow Blueway (47km in Kildare, 16km in Laois) from Robertstown to Athy.

Of real significance is the success of the Safe Routes to School Programme (SRTS) which was launched in 2021 and is operated by An Taisce in partnership with the NTA and local authorities. To date, the following schemes have been implemented:

- Straffan National School
- St Brigid's Primary School, Kildare
- Holy Child National School, Ballycane, Naas
- Scoil Mochua, Celbridge.

The next project to be delivered is Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous.

Kildare County Council in partnership with the Parents Council of St. Laurence's National School, Sallins recently launched a Park and Stride Scheme, it is expected that further such schemes will be launched.



The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (BSEP) is delivering significant improvements to public transport users. Since late 2025, 23 bus stops have been improved along the TFI routes 880 and 821 with measures including line markings and boarding platforms

The bus shelter project will commence in May with new shelters to be installed at:

Phase 1: Athgarvan (2), Broadford (1), Maddenstown (2), Calverstown (2).

Phase 2: Narraghmore (2), Castledermot (1), Crookstown (2), Sallins (2), Brownstown (1).

The Transport Department in conjunction with the Municipal District offices is working on a comprehensive programme of footpath improvement works and other active travel measures funded through local property tax and the pay parking surplus and will continue to work closely with the elected members to ensure the prioritisation of appropriate measures in the five municipal districts. Furthermore, the continued investment in public realm improvements in the County is making our towns more welcoming places for both visitors and residents to do business.

The council recognises that investment in walking and cycling measures is of significant benefit to the public by improving safety for vulnerable road users, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, improving individual health and reducing greenhouse emissions.

With the agreement of the members, the council will write to the Department of Transport seeking additional resources for these measures.

Councillor McEvoy welcomed the report. He highlighted the importance of continued investment in walking and cycling infrastructure to support resilience, reduce reliance on car travel for short journeys and support local economic activity. He called for additional national funding to support delivery in the county at the required scale.

A number of members spoke in support of the motion and the benefits to the economy and community from increased investment.



Ms. S. Scully noted the comments and advised that more than €20 million had been allocated to Kildare during the lifetime of the current council, with a further allocation of €9.5 million for 2026. She added that additional staff resources would be required to support delivery of any increased allocation.

Resolved on the proposed by Councillor P. McEvoy, seconded by Councillor N. Connolly and agreed by members present that the council writes to the Minister for Transport to seek additional resources.

15/0426

Access to Council Services

The following motion in the name of Councillor Nuala Killeen, Paula Mulroe and Claire O'Rourke was considered by members:

That the council recognises that residents often face unnecessary difficulty accessing Council services due to fragmented systems and multiple points of contact; and acknowledges that improving access to existing services is a practical, low-cost reform that can be delivered within 2026:

1. Establish a Pilot One-Stop Shop

Launch a pilot in one municipal district providing a single point of access for Council services (including housing, environment, planning, and community supports) through a weekly in-person clinic, supported by a dedicated phone and online contact point.

2. Adopt a "No Wrong Door" Approach

Ensure staff assist residents regardless of query and coordinate directly with relevant departments, removing the need for multiple contacts and simplifying the user experience.

3. Evaluate and Scale

Monitor uptake, response times, and user experience, and report back within 12 months with recommendations for rollout across the county.



This measure delivers a focused, achievable improvement in how residents interact with their Council, strengthening accessibility, efficiency and public trust in local services.

The motion was proposed by Councillor N. Killeen and seconded by Councillor P. Mulroe.

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services stated that the Council is fully committed to improving access to current services and a number of important initiatives are ongoing in this regard, including:

The Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) is currently undergoing a fundamental review with a particular focus on:

- Ensuring queries are directed to the correct department at first contact,
- Improving the timeliness and quality of responses, and
- Enhancing data analytics to better identify trends and inform service improvements.

New software has been introduced at the main telephone switchboard, accompanied by staff training, to support:

- Increased staff presence in manning the switch;
- More effective call routing to relevant departments; and
- Improved performance metrics, including detailed data on call volumes and instances where calls are not answered.

In parallel, and as part of a broader national local government reform agenda, considerable progress has been made over recent years in expanding the range and quality of online services available to the public.

With regard to the proposed pilot one-stop shop, Members are referred to previous reports considered by the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District in September 2024, May 2025 and February 2026, as well as the report to Full Council in February 2026 concerning “micro-hubs”. In particular, the report to the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal



District in May 2025 examined in detail the feasibility of a local customer service point.

Key elements of that response included:

- Engagement with library staff to make the most frequently requested forms available locally, accompanied by simplified user checklists.
- Provision of additional funding through the library service for adult literacy and ICT skills courses; and
- the minimum estimated cost (as of 2024) for a broader, dedicated customer service point was approximately €400,000, with no corresponding provision in either the Revenue or Capital Budgets. Members are reminded of the requirements of the Standing Orders in relation to Notices of Motion and the need to consider financial implications.

More fundamentally, the underlying rationale for the proposed initiative requires careful consideration. For example:

- The customer service point in Athy has closed due to increased uptake of online services; and
- External housing clinics were previously trialled but experienced limited demand.

Historically, Town Councils (abolished in 2014) provided only a relatively limited range of services. This reflects the significant breadth and complexity of modern local authority functions, particularly in areas such as housing and planning. The Council currently delivers approximately 1,000 distinct services.

Even if sufficient resources were available, it is not considered realistic to expect locally based customer service teams to maintain the necessary depth of expertise across such a wide and complex service range. Inevitably, this would result in extensive follow-up with parent departments, potentially undermining customer service outcomes.

Accordingly, local government reform over the past decade has increasingly focused on consolidating service delivery at county level, supported by parallel investments in



ICT, customer service training, communications and CRM systems. While a new national reform programme is awaited, it is anticipated that the county model will remain the primary focus for customer service delivery, with existing outreach facilities such as libraries continuing to act as information and signposting points.

Councillor Killeen highlighted that the purpose of the motion was to improve public access to council services. Councillor Mulroe emphasised the importance of capturing the user experience of the public accessing council services.

Mr. J. Boland noted that significant progress had been made in improving access to services in recent years. He referred to specific initiatives in local libraries, together with further enhancements to the council's CRM and telephone systems. He added that a continued focus on the user experience would inform the council's ongoing work in this area.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N. Killeen and seconded by Councillor P. Mulroe and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

16/0426

Alcohol Byelaws to include 0.0% Alcohol Products.

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

That the council, in line with the spirit and intent of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018, recognises the need to protect minors from exposure to alcohol branding, including indirect promotion through shared branding of 0.0% alcohol products. And further, that the council extends existing alcohol byelaws in council-operated spaces — including parks, car parks, housing estates, community festivals, and community buildings — to include 0.0% alcohol products.

The motion was proposed by Councillor R. Heather and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.



A report from Mr J Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services stated that the Kildare County Council (Control of Consumption & Possession of Alcohol in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020 were adopted by the Council on 30 November 2020. These bye-laws are enforced by An Garda Síochána (AGS) with fines administered through Corporate Services. This applied particularly during the Covid-19 period when there was a marked increase in the incidence of offences.

The Bye-laws apply to the unlawful consumption of alcohol in public places including public roads and areas taken in charge by Kildare County Council. They do not apply to non-alcoholic beverages including products marketed as 0.0% or 0.00% alcohol.

The existing byelaws have no remit in respect of alcohol advertising or branding, and Kildare County Council does not have a statutory role or enforcement function in this area.

During 2021 and 2022, the Council, through the Joint Policing Committees, engaged with the elected members and AGS to identify known “black-spots” for offences under the alcohol bye-laws. As a result, targeted signage was commissioned and installed at these locations by the relevant Municipal District Office. This collaborative and targeted approach to enforcement continues through ongoing liaison with AGS.

The signage was designed to incorporate messaging relating to both alcohol bye-laws and litter legislation, reflecting evidence that offences under both legislative frameworks were occurring at the same locations.

While the Council does not currently have a legal basis to give effect to the motion as proposed, it could commit to engaging with An Garda Síochána to review the identification of black-spot locations, particularly given that approximately five years have elapsed since the signage was erected. This review could also include an assessment of the condition, visibility and effectiveness of existing signage.

Subject to the agreement of Members, a further possible action would be to refer the matter to the newly established Local Community Safety Partnership for consideration as a potential project. This Partnership has access to a range of relevant local agencies, placing it in a strong position to provide guidance, support and a coordinated multi-agency response to the issues raised.



Councillor Heather thanked the Director for the report. He asked that the matter be referred to the Local Community Safety Partnership for consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor R. Heather, seconded by Councillor C. Pender and agreed by members present that the matter be referred to the Local Community Safety Partnership for consideration.

17/0426

Order of Priority System for Social Housing Allocations

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

That the council provides a detailed report on the operation of the “Order of Priority” system for social housing allocations, and that this report expand on each priority heading to clearly identify the types of applicants or groups that fall within each category in practice, including where specific groups such as people with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable applicants are considered within the current allocation scheme.

The report should include a full breakdown of the following headings:

- Age Friendly
- Dangerous Buildings
- Displacement resulting from an act of the Council
- Exceptional Medical Grounds
- Homeless Priority
- Members of the Traveller Community

To provide greater clarity and transparency on how each priority category is interpreted and applied in practice, and to assist elected members in understanding how housing applicants are assessed and prioritised under the current scheme.



The motion was proposed by Councillor B. Clear and seconded by Councillor G. Dunne.

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing, Regeneration and People stated that the Allocation Scheme for the Provision of Social Housing Support is a reserved function and the council's current scheme was adopted by the elected members in February 2023, in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. The scheme sets out that, applicants for social housing will be considered based on "time on the list", with further consideration given to the priority categories mentioned in the scheme, as referenced in this motion. The allocation of a property is also subject to the applicant's housing need, their area of choice and the availability of a suitable property.

Properties become available through a number of different sources e.g.: vacancies arising in existing stock, own build, Part V, Approved Housing Bodies, traveller specific accommodation.

The allocation of a social housing property is an executive function and is completed in line with the Allocation Scheme approved by the elected members.

For clarity, please note the following in relation to priorities listed in the Allocation Scheme, with an example of an allocation under each category.

- Age Friendly: Accommodation under this category will be provided specifically for persons aged 55 and over, where the accommodation being provided is age friendly or is suitable for the needs of older people. Example of such accommodation is McAuley Place, Naas
- Dangerous Buildings: An example would be a fire damaged property which would leave the property uninhabitable. Damage could include structural to walls/roof/floors, smoke damage, water, electrical or heat damage to fixtures, plumbing or appliances.
- Displacement resulting from an act of the Council: An example of this this would be a regeneration housing project. This would involve the renovation, replacement or redevelopment of housing and surrounding infrastructure to improve living conditions, revitalise communities and promote long-term social,



economic and environmental sustainability. An example would be St Patrick's Park, Rathangan.

- **Exceptional Medical Grounds:** Where priority is being requested by housing applicants on medical grounds, the HDM1 Form must be completed. The Council must make reasonable efforts to offer accommodation to applicants awarded medical priority status that meets the specific and functional need identified. Under Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the Council may acquire a property that requires universal design compliance to include accessible, adaptable and wheelchair-liveable accommodation.
- **Homeless Priority:** Individual/Households rendered homeless through no fault of their own, as defined under Section 2 of the Housing Act 1988, as amended. Homeless households are given priority for social housing and related supports for legal, humanitarian, financial and policy reasons.
- **Members of the Traveller Community:** Accommodation provided for Travellers under the Traveller Action Plan includes both Traveller-specific accommodation and general needs housing options. Examples of Traveller-specific are Andrew and Blacklion Halting Sites.

Notwithstanding the above, all households awarded overall priority are subject to the terms of the council's Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and Assessment of Bedroom Requirements.

Applicants may be assessed for more than one of the above criteria e.g. where is family is assessed as Homeless with medical priority.

The Council also operates the Choice Based Letting Scheme, which is an important option allowing Kildare County Council to allocate social housing to eligible applicants to choose and apply for advertised properties. This is a fair and transparent system designed to give applicants more choice, improve matching of households to available properties and assist with refusal rates.

The following is the current process for an offer of housing:



- Allocations Team contact Applicant, details assessed over the phone to confirm the information held on file is correct and up to date. If acceptable, an allocation offer is made. General allocations applicant has 3 days to decide. For CBL offers applicant must decide immediately.
- If accepted the following checks are carried out:
 - i. Garda check
 - ii. Property ownership check
 - iii. Income check
 - iv. Residency check
 - v. Arrears check (HAP, RAS or Transfer Tenant)
 - vi. Property inspection and TLO check if Transfer Tenant
 - vii. Request rent pack set up from Finance (new KCC tenants)
- For KCC Properties: When all checks in order, applicant invited into office by appointment to sign tenancy agreement and complete rent assessment form. This includes information session on tenant obligations, maintenance and paying rent.
- For AHB properties: Nomination is sent to the AHB who will arrange tenancy signing and induction.
- Once KCC tenancy agreement is signed, Clerk of Works arranges to meet the new tenant at the property for induction and key handover.
- Estate Management Team are notified of all new tenancies and a TLO arranges to call to the property in ensure tenant has moved in.

Councillor Clear welcomed the report. He queried how applicants are assessed under the various priority categories.



Ms. A. Aspell explained that the council's allocation scheme takes account of both time on the list and the relevant priority categories, and that it is not a points-based system. She noted that the allocation of housing is an executive function and applies to both council-owned (including managed units) and housing provided by Approved Housing Bodies for eligible applicants.

Ms. Aspell further clarified that applicants classified as homeless are considered for a range of supports, including emergency accommodation, family hubs and transitional units, and are not automatically allocated social housing. She added that applicants may apply for specific housing units through Choice Based Lettings (CBL), which is updated every two weeks.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Clear, seconded by Councillor G. Dunne and agreed by members present that the report be noted.

18/0426

Staff vacancies in Kildare County Council

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

That the council provides, by department, the current number of vacancies that exists in its organisation, including vacancies arising from long-term leave or secondment where the subsequent fixed-term or temporary post has yet to be filled.

The motion was proposed by Councillor P. Melrose and seconded by Councillor N. Killeen.

A report from Ms A Aspell, Director of Services, Housing, Regeneration and People stated that staffing matters are an Executive function and are, in accordance with the legislative framework governing local authorities, entirely a matter for the Chief Executive.

Notwithstanding the above, the Executive welcomes the opportunity to provide general information to the elected members in relation to staffing, recruitment and retention within Kildare County Council, and acknowledges the ongoing interest of



members in ensuring the organisation is adequately resourced to meet service demands.

Kildare County Council continues to be recognised as an employer of choice, with sustained efforts by the Executive to attract and retain staff across all disciplines. When assessed on a per capita basis, Kildare County Council remains among the lowest-ranked local authorities nationally in terms of population served relative to staff resources.

Staffing levels at all times reflect the approved budgetary provision available to the organisation. Currently, approximately 1,100 staff are employed across the Council's services. As is typical in an organisation of this scale, there is an ongoing level of vacancies, which generally averages in the region of 10% of total staffing.

In recent years, significant efforts have been undertaken by the Recruitment Team to address vacancies as they arise. These efforts include actively promoting Kildare County Council as an employer of choice, engaging with third-level institutions and graduate programmes, and employing students during the summer period, all of which support both immediate resourcing needs and longer-term workforce planning.

Corporately, Kildare County Council's commitment to attracting and retaining staff is demonstrated through the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan, the Strategic Workforce Plan, the Wellbeing Strategy, and the Training and Development Strategy. Collectively this strategic approach positively contributes to attracting employees and sustaining long-term retention across the organisation.

Councillor Melrose thanked the Director for the report and suggested that the council seek increased central government funding to support the organisation, noting that Kildare County Council has one of the lowest staffing levels nationally relative to the population served. He highlighted that this impacts the Council's capacity to progress projects.

Ms. A. Aspell noted the comments.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor P. Melrose, seconded by Councillor N. Killeen and agreed by members present that the report be noted.



19/0426

Establishment of an Irish Language Unit

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

That the council establishes an Irish Language Unit to further promote Irish language community development across the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor T. McDonnell and seconded by Councillor N. Connolly.

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate and Cultural Services, stated that the Council has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for the promotion of the Irish Language, both internally among staff and externally through its wider community remit.

The Council employs a full-time Oifigeach Gaeilge | Irish Language Officer whose role includes building staff proficiency and competency to engage with customers as *Gaeilge*, working to ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act and supporting a broader promotional role in collaboration with the Council's Coiste Gaeilge (Irish Language Committee).

In addition, Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chill Dara | Kildare Library Service operates its own Coiste Gaeilge with a particular focus on Irish language and bilingual programming. Kildare Library and Arts Service also supports the joint 'Scríbhneoir Cónaithe' programme (Irish language writer in residence) with Maynooth University which benefits both university students and the wider community in Maigh Nuad.

Members will recall the comprehensive presentation delivered by An Coiste Gaeilge at the January monthly meeting, during which the Cathaoirleach (Chair) of Coiste Gaeilge set out a range of ongoing community initiatives, including,

- language planning supports to a range of local organisations particularly in localities where census figures indicate a critical mass of Irish Language speakers (Nás na Ríogh – Na Solláin, Maigh Nuad)



- establishing an 'Irish Language Local Action Fund' (e.g. to fund Dráma agus Spórt as Gaeilge, Gaeilge Family Fun Days, Cupán Tae sa GAA education supports) etc.
- other initiatives such as Scéim na bhFáinní (encouraging increased use of Irish in sixth class), Seachtain na Gaeilge etc.

Other broader organisational actions already in place include:

- the publication of draft consultation documents in both Irish and English,
- the placement of at least 20% of adverts and 5% of advertising spend in Irish Language media,
- the delivery of Irish language programming and services across departments e.g. Libraries, Arts, Community, Heritage, Sport etc

Of particular importance is the developing relationship between the Council and 'Cill Dara le Gaeilge', a local community-based organisation, affiliated to Foras na Gaeilge, and the lead local organisation engaged in language planning in County Kildare. A key objective in its 'Plean don Ghaeilge i gContae Chill Dara 2024-2030' | 'Irish Language Plan for County Kildare 2024-2030' is the establishment of a 'Cultúrlann' (Irish Language Cultural Centre) in the County. The Council is actively supporting this objective through the provision of assistance and guidance.

It is therefore readily apparent, that the Council is already very active in the promotion of our native language. In this context, it is not considered necessary to establish an 'Irish Language Unit' as existing structures and initiatives are more than effective in meeting current requirements and objectives of the Council. Furthermore, the cost implications associated with establishing such a unit would be prohibitive at this time.

Councillor McDonnell thanked the Director for the report. He noted the Council's work in promoting the use of the Irish language within the organisation and in communities across the county and emphasised the importance of maintaining and growing this progress into the future.



Mr. J. Boland thanked the members for their ongoing support. He acknowledged the great work of Coiste Gaeilge and Cill Dara le Gaeilge noting that the Council will continue to progress initiatives to improve staff proficiency in Irish, while supporting ongoing community initiatives.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.