



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

Monday 27 July 2026 in the Council Chamber

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare

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

Online: Councillors B. Dooley, K. Duffy, D. Fitzpatrick, I. Keatley, P. Melrose, P. Mulroe, R. Power and P. Ward.

Apologies: Councillors P. Brooks and B. Wyse.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive), Ms. A. Aspell, Mr. J. Boland, Mr. A. Dunney, 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.

Welcome

Councillor T. Durkan (Cathaoirleach) welcomed everyone to the July 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.



00/0726

Bereavements

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

- Marie Sinnott, Mother of Paul Sinnott, Tenant Liaison Officer
- John Murphy, Retired Colleague
- Marie O'Reilly, Mother of Roslynn O'Reilly, Planning
- Philomena (Phyllis) Kearns, Mother of Catherine Barry, Corporate Services
- Máire Uí Bheaglaoich, Mother of Muireann Ní Bheaglaoich, Irish Language Officer

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

01/0726

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.

02/0726

Minutes and Progress Report

The Council considered the draft minutes of the annual meeting held on 26 June 2026 and the monthly meeting held on 29 June 2026 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B. Caldwell, seconded by Councillor W. Durkan and agreed by the members present the draft minutes of the annual meeting held on 26 June 2026 and the monthly meeting held on 29 June 2026 were confirmed.

The progress report was noted.



03/0726

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

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

04/0726

Nominee for the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that a vacancy currently existed on the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces SPC. She confirmed that Irish Farmers' Association had nominated Mrs. Lily Donoghue to fill this vacancy and her bio had been circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor A. Feeney and agreed by the members present, the appointment of Mrs. Lily Donoghue to the vacancy currently on the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Strategic Policy Committee, was approved.

05/0726

Bi-annual update from Development Control Section

The members considered the bi-annual update from Development Control Section on the Taking in Charge of estates.

The report was noted.

06/0726

Bi-annual update on Climate Action

The members considered the bi-annual update on Climate Action.

Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, referred to the bi-annual Climate Action report which had been previously circulated.

Ms. Higgins advised that the 2025 Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators Report would be published in September. She commended the success of the Picnic in the Park event and highlighted a number of grant funding



opportunities with imminent closing dates. She encouraged members to promote these funding opportunities among community groups.

Ms. Higgins also acknowledged the progress being made on energy audits and decarbonisation projects across the organisation.

Councillor McEvoy referred to the Solar Meitheal initiative in another local authority area and noted the potential for discounted prices on solar panels and other related savings where a provider had a pipeline of work. He suggested that a briefing could be facilitated for members.

Councillor Melrose also referred to the Solar Meitheal initiative in Maynooth and indicated that he would share information with the Executive and other councillors.

Councillor Heavey queried the position regarding the proposed centre of excellence for climate action in Newbridge.

Ms. Higgins thanked Councillor Melrose and noted the benefit and importance of sharing local experience and learning with members. In relation to the proposed climate action centre of excellence, Ms Higgins advised that actions were being progressed across all municipal districts, with a focus on decarbonisation zones. She referred to the Maynooth Demonstration House, existing networks including libraries across the municipal districts, education programmes, the role of the Arts Service at local and countywide level, and the work of community climate action officers in supporting communities to access grant funding.

Councillor Clear referred to decarbonisation works in leisure centres and Áras Chill Dara and noted the challenges arising during periods of hot weather.

Ms. Higgins advised that work was ongoing in relation to building controls, air circulation and practical measures such as blinds.

The report was noted.



07/0726

Full Council Themed Presentation Meetings

The members considered the Corporate Policy Group recommendation on the proposed schedule for Full Council Themed Presentation Meetings and the proposed regulation of business and proceedings.

Ms. L. Hanratty referred to the report which had been previously circulated. She advised that it was proposed to hold one themed meeting each quarter, commencing in October 2026, with statutory business remaining as the first items on the agenda. Members would be requested to submit motions relevant to the theme of each meeting, with the existing timelines for submission of motions and questions continuing to apply, together with compliance with Standing Orders. Items of urgent business would continue to be facilitated.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the matter and had requested that the report be amended to include a number of suggestions, including the inclusion of community as a theme, consideration of the County Development Plan review, the timing of motion submissions, the treatment of motions not directly related to the meeting theme and the inclusion of additional themes. She confirmed that a two-thirds majority of the members present would be required to approve the proposal.

A discussion took place during which members generally welcomed the principle of themed meetings, noting that they could provide an opportunity for more focused discussion on strategic issues, including the budget, capital programme, climate action, transport, community and other countywide themes. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that statutory business continued to be dealt with each month and that themed meetings should remain flexible enough to respond to timely or emerging issues.

Members also raised issues regarding the relationship between themed meetings and the work of Strategic Policy Committees, the need to avoid duplication of SPC business, and the possible role of the Protocol and Procedures Committee and



Corporate Policy Group in overseeing the implementation of the proposal and in supporting the ongoing refinement and development of themes.

It was further suggested that the themed meeting format be introduced on a pilot basis, with a formal review undertaken following an initial period of implementation to assess its effectiveness and identify any necessary adjustments.

The Chief Executive outlined the context for the proposal and advised that it was intended to assist members by providing structured opportunities for discussion of particular countywide themes. She confirmed that statutory business would continue to be included on the agenda each month and that no change to Standing Orders was envisaged for the proposed quarterly themed meetings. She noted that any move to bi-monthly full council meetings would require separate consideration by the Protocol and Procedures Committee and Corporate Policy Group and would involve a change to Standing Orders. She suggested Climate Action as a possible first theme.

The Cathaoirleach reiterated that Full Council meetings could only consider matters that were council functions.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposal proceed as set out in the report, with a follow-up review to be undertaken by Protocol and Procedures Committee and Corporate Policy Group following implementation.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Kelly, seconded by Councillor A. Breen and agreed by the members present that the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group on the proposed schedule for Full Council Themed Presentation Meetings and the proposed regulation of business and proceedings be approved, subject to a review by Protocol and Procedures Committee and Corporate Policy Group following implementation.



08/0726

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members of a number of engagements and events attended since the previous meeting, including:

- Celebrations marking 100 years of Naas Library.
- Attendance at 'From The Plains – The Story of John Devoy', a new two act production by Eoghan Burke at the Moat Theatre.
- The conferral of a Civic Honour on Mr. Desmond Egan and the presentation of the Council's Dara Bronze Award to the distinguished poet at the Gerard Manley Hopkins Festival in Newbridge.
- The raising of the Austrian National Flag in recognition of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and engagement with the Austrian Ambassador.
- Attendance at the National Day of Commemoration ceremony (Kilmainham)
- The signing of the contract for the Newbridge Library and Cultural Centre project.
- Community engagements with Intel regarding its continuing contribution to the county.
- Activities associated with the Lexington Student Exchange Programme.
- The launch of Taste of Kildare 2026, which takes place on 15 and 16 August at Naas Racecourse.
- Congratulations to the Mayo Senior Team and their supporters on their All-Ireland Senior Football Championship success.



09/0726

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed one referral to Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee and one item of correspondence issued relating to a motion passed at the June full council.

Eight items of correspondence were received this month. Also included was the meetings calendar for September and the Corporate Policy Group minutes (June).

The correspondence and report were noted.

10/0726

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.

Three members are seeking approval for training and one member sought approval to attend third level education.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor C. Pender, seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by the members present that the Conference and Training report be approved.

11/0726

Update from the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

Item deferred to September Monthly Meeting.

12/0726

Serviced Sites Scheme

The following motion in the name of Councillors William Durkan and Ivan Keatley was considered by the members:

That the council begins the readvertisement of the pilot Serviced Sites Scheme from September-December 2026, with a view to reactivate and progress the scheme as a matter of urgency.



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

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the serviced sites at Clogherinkoe will be advertised for two weeks starting on Tuesday, 28 July 2026. The application portal will open on Wednesday, 12 August for three weeks. The details of the scheme will be available on the Kildare County Council website.

Councillor W. Durkan welcomed the report and update and was of the view that the revised criteria would facilitate more applicants. He asked that an additional period for applications be made by the council.

Ms. Aspell noted the request and agreed to consider based on the interest and applications over the advertised period.

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

13/0726

Approved Housing Bodies

The following motion in the name of Councillors David Trost and Brian O'Loughlin was considered by the members:

That, as an incentive to housing supply, the council selects Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that are committed to building programmes to partner with in the management of turn-key opportunities in social housing.

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

A report from Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Council's Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) and Leasing Team maintain strong and collaborative relationships with Approved Housing Bodies operating throughout County Kildare. These relationships are supported through regular



engagement, ongoing communication, and participation in meetings and forums held throughout the year to discuss and promote housing delivery in the county, including projects funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CALF).

With the support of Kildare County Council, Approved Housing Bodies delivered 114 turnkey housing units in 2025. To date in 2026, 107 units have been delivered, with a further 270 units anticipated to be completed by year-end, reflecting a significant contribution to housing delivery across the county.

The Team will continue to work closely with Approved Housing Bodies, providing ongoing assistance and support to strengthen these partnerships and facilitate increased housing delivery in County Kildare.

Councillor Trost welcomed the report and expressed the view that some Approved Housing Bodies were operating more efficiently than others. He stated that a mix of direct build and turnkey developments was required and expressed concern at the pace of housing delivery.

Councillor O'Loughlin expressed the view that Approved Housing Bodies were not being fully utilised. He referred to an example for the delivery of 24 units by Sophia Housing in Rathangan and stated that he would welcome similar developments across the county.

Ms. Aspell advised that the council is actively engaged with Approved Housing Bodies, with a higher level of AHB activity in Kildare than in many other counties. She noted that AHBs had delivered housing on council-owned lands but cautioned that the council's landbank was limited and that future AHB delivery would require competition in the wider market.

Councillor Trost suggested that statistics comparing direct build and turnkey delivery would be useful for future reference.

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



14/0726

Affordable and Sustainable Recreation and Amenity Facilities

The following motion in the name of Councillors Donna Phelan and Suzanne Doyle was considered by members:

That the council develops a set of policies to guide the parameters for delivery of affordable and sustainable recreation and amenity facilities within the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Phelan and seconded by Councillor N. Heavey.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water and Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council has a range of policy documents in place in respect of affordable and sustainable recreation and amenities.

- The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 is the key strategy document for proper planning and sustainable development in the county, including addressing the physical, economic, social, and environmental needs of the community in terms of supporting structured new development, protecting the environment, enhancing valued assets and amenities.
- The Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029) aims to protect and create a network of high-quality open spaces which will yield benefits for the people, communities, and environment of Kildare.
- The Kildare Outdoor Recreation Plan, currently in development, will guide the sustainable development of outdoor recreation in the county as well as supporting more residents and visitors to take part in outdoor activity. The plan will be finalised during 2026.
- The Kildare Play Strategy 2018-2028 guides the development and improvement of inclusive, safe, and engaging recreational spaces for children and young people aged 0-18 years.
- Building for Tomorrow, Kildare Library Services Development Plan 2025-2029, which is a blueprint for the development and enhancement of library services



- In Perpetual Motion- An Arts Strategy for County Kildare 2023-2027, which sets out the vision, priorities, and commitment for supporting and developing the arts across the county.
- Kildare Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, which aims to promote participation in sports and physical across the county.
- Kildare County Council Capital Programme 2026-2028, which provides funding for the development of a range of amenities.

In addition, the Active Recreation Infrastructure Audit is nearing completion, this audit will set out the actions to progress delivery of recreational amenities and identify the current and projected demands for amenities to meet the needs of a growing population.

It is the view of the Council that a new set of policies are not the key requirement to deliver infrastructure referenced in the motion, rather that the barriers or opportunities are:

- Capital funding.
- As referenced in the Sports Plan and previous reports, unlocking or expanding wider community use of existing infrastructure such as schools' recreation facilities.
- Progressing collaborations with other agencies and partners to co-locate new projects that bring forward recreation infrastructure in tandem with other development, in a planned process, e.g. masterplans, hubs.
- Enhancing the capacity and success of non-government sports bodies and clubs in the county, in terms of accessing large scale Government funding streams to develop or expand existing facilities to meet current and projected population demands.

Councillor Phelan welcomed the report and highlighted the importance of recreation and amenity provision being considered as part of the new County Development Plan, with appropriate standards reflecting the differing needs of towns across the county.



Councillor Doyle noted the existing policy framework and suggested that a clearer matrix be developed to identify appropriate levels of recreation and amenity provision. She also noted the role of the Local Community, Culture and Integration Strategic Policy Committee in this regard.

Members highlighted the need for recreation and amenity planning to reflect local sporting needs, accessibility and the geographic distribution of facilities, particularly in areas of growth or disadvantage.

Ms. Higgins advised that the council recognised the recreation and amenity needs arising from population growth and that relevant data, including deprivation data, informed decision-making and funding applications. She highlighted the need to support existing facilities, unlock wider community use where possible, and ensure councillor engagement through the SPC process.

Ms. Scully noted that policy documents were in place and that an Active Recreation Infrastructure Audit was underway. She advised that improvements to amenities were being delivered on a phased basis and highlighted the benefits of wider community use of parks and open spaces.

The Chief Executive agreed that additional recreation and amenity spaces were needed and highlighted the importance of better use of existing land and infrastructure, noting that delivery depended on land availability, funding and a phased strategic approach.

Councillor Doyle acknowledged the council's work and called for a population-based provision matrix in the County Development Plan, with recreation and amenity infrastructure delivered in tandem with housing.

Councillor Phelan welcomed the engagement and highlighted current work with teenagers on future youth facilities.

Resolved on the proposed by Councillor D. Phelan, seconded by Councillor N. Heavey and agreed by members present that the report be noted.



15/0726

Reduction of Speed Ramp Height

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

That the council reduces speed ramp height to a maximum of 100mm as soon as possible, as this is the proper height in guideline by the council and Road Safety Association.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McDonnell and seconded by Councillor S. Moore.

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that ramps constructed on public roads in Kildare are constructed in line with Kildare County Council's standard speed ramp layout at the recommended height of 75mm and in accordance with the "Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets". The lead in tapers of 1:15 is the standard transition which ensures a smooth transition. Where members are aware of any ramps that require inspection, these can be brought to the attention of the municipal district office, who will arrange to carry out an inspection and schedule any remedial works within the current budgets.

Councillor McDonnell acknowledged the report and raised concerns regarding the height of some ramps, particularly for electric vehicles. He requested that any ramps exceeding the appropriate height be inspected and reduced as a matter of urgency.

Ms. Scully advised that the standard maximum height for speed ramps used as traffic calming measures is 75mm. She asked that any specific problem locations be referred to the relevant Area Engineer's Office for review.

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



16/0726

Feasibility Study to Re-Opening of Corbally Canal

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

That the council now releases the results of the Feasibility Study to re-opening the Corbally Canal to boating traffic and to make a statement on why further bridge building works have been allowed to be constructed across the Corbally Canal.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor B. Clear.

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that the Corbally Canal and Liffey Corridor Enhancement Feasibility Study has been published and is available on the Kildare County Council website at:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/FeasibilityStudies/CorballyCanalLiffeyCorridorEnhancementFeasibilityStudy/>

In late 2020, the Planning Department dealt with a complaint of alleged unauthorised development adjacent to Mooney's Bridge on the Corbally Canal. Upon investigation, it transpired that the 'new' bridge had been in situ in excess of 20 years, and consequently the Council was statute barred from enforcement action as per Section 257(4)(a)(i) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Planning Department is unaware of any further bridge building works under way across the Corbally Canal.

Councillor Moore thanked the Director for the report.

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



17/0726

Kildare Development Contribution Scheme

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

That the council, in accordance with its powers under Part 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, reviews and amends the Kildare Development Contribution Scheme to provide that a minimum of 50% of development contributions received from residential developments be allocated towards the acquisition and delivery of community infrastructure and amenities, including public open spaces, parks, playgrounds, sports pitches, greenways and community facilities, thereby ensuring that the infrastructure funded under the Development Contribution Scheme keeps pace with residential growth and the needs of local communities.

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

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that the Planning and Development Act 2024 is being commenced on a phased basis. Statutory Instrument 633/2025 - the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Commencement) (No. 5) Order 2025, commenced additional sections of the Act with effect from 31 December 2025, including sections of Parts 3, 7, 12, 18, 19 and 20. Sections 580, 581 and 582 of Part 20 were among the provisions commenced at that time.

As of 16 July 2026, there is no commencement order bringing Part 20 "Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions" into operation generally. In particular, Section 584 which relates to development contributions, has not been commenced and is therefore not yet in force

An un-commenced section has no legal effect until brought into operation by a commencement order made under Section 1 of the Act. Accordingly, Section 584 does not currently provide a statutory basis on which to review or amend the Kildare County Council Development Contribution Scheme.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important that the Elected Members note that the current Development Contribution Scheme is effective from 1 January 2023 and is



therefore only three and a half years old. The Scheme, as adopted, is to run to 2029 and in general terms distributes development contributions by 60% transport, surface water and flood relief and 40% Open Space, Recreation, Environment, Public Realm, Community Facilities and Economic Development.

This Scheme and the associated distribution of development contributions are in accordance with the requirements of DHLGH Circulars PL3/2013, PL15/2013, PL18/2013 and PL03/2018 and was adopted by the Elected Members on 19 December 2022.

Any future Development Contribution Scheme will also have to comply with departmental guidelines, which are likely to issue after the commencement of the relevant sections of the Planning and Development Act, 2024 and as such any review at this stage is deemed premature.

Councillor Clear noted the report and queried the anticipated timeframe for commencement of the relevant regulations.

Mr. Dunney advised that the relevant provisions had not yet commenced and that guidelines were expected in due course.

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

18/0726

Code of Conduct for Councillors

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

That the council recognising its duty to uphold equality, dignity, respect and public confidence in local government, calls upon the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Standards in Public Office Commission to review and strengthen the Code of Conduct for Councillors to explicitly prohibit councillors from engaging in discriminatory conduct, harassment, intimidation or hate speech



directed at any individual or group on the basis of race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other protected characteristic.

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

A report from Mr. J. Boland, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services stated that the original Code of Conduct for Councillors (2004) was last updated in 2019 and a copy has been placed in the meeting folder for information. Section 2 sets out the standards of general conduct and behaviour which are required from elected members; specifically, to:

- Act with integrity to uphold public service values;
- Act in a way that enhances public trust and confidence;
- Serve their local authority and its citizens honestly, conscientiously and impartially;
- Prevent conflicts of interest arising and never seek to use improper influence;
- Promote equality and avoid bias;
- Treat their colleagues and local authority employees with courtesy, respect and dignity;
- Also observe courtesy and respect when using social media channels, messaging applications and written communications.

More generally, councillors should, in all matters, seek to ensure that their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or of local government into disrepute.

Section 9 of the Code sets out unacceptable misuse of social media in terms of, for example, profane or derogatory language, promoting/fostering discrimination on the basis of gender, civil status, race, religious beliefs, etc. This should be read in conjunction with Section 2.

Section 180(c) of the Local Government Act 2001 applies the Ethics Acts to Local Authorities, including the Commission's powers of investigation. Indeed, there are a number of such investigations published on the website of Standards in Public Office Commission which give a really good insight into the considerations which apply in this area.



Section 169 (1)(a) of the same Local Government Act provides that the Minister with responsibility for Local Government may, after consultation with the Commission and the Minister for Public Expenditure “issue codes of conduct for the guidance of members of local authorities and of employees of local authorities.” Section (2) also states that the Minister may at any time review a code of conduct and may amend the code of conduct or withdraw it and issue a new code.

While not specifically statutorily prescribed, it is considered that the members could request a review or amendment of the code of conduct though such would ultimately be entirely at the discretion of the Minister and such request would be a matter for the members.

However, in their consideration of the matter, the members are advised to have regard to the standards of conduct currently prescribed, as outlined above, which are considered to be quite forceful.

Councillor Heather welcomed the report and acknowledged that the vast majority of members comply with the Code of Conduct. Concerns were raised regarding derogatory comments on social media and whether the Code is being adequately applied, with clarification sought on how such matters are addressed.

Members sought clarity regarding the issues referenced and noted the importance of ensuring that the Code of Conduct is consistently understood and applied. Support was expressed for further guidance, training and refresher sessions for elected members, including workshops on dignity and respect, and consideration was given to strengthening the Code and providing greater clarity on its implementation and outcomes. It was also noted that councillors are elected to represent the entire community and that inappropriate conduct can have a negative impact, particularly on vulnerable individuals.

The Cathaoirleach clarified that no individual councillor was being identified in either the motion or the discussion.

Mr. J. Boland advised that the Code of Conduct applies to both councillors and staff in their respective roles and noted that both an Ethics Registrar as well as statutory complaints mechanisms are in place to provide advice and address concerns. He



stated that the Code was last reviewed nationally in 2019 and that any proposal to amend or strengthen it would be a matter for the Minister. He further advised that additional training or workshops for members could be facilitated, building on the training provided as part of councillor induction. He emphasised that the Code is comprehensive in scope and that a number of safeguards and oversight mechanisms already exist.

In response, Councillor Heather clarified that the intention was neither to identify nor target any individual, but rather to highlight an issue that is becoming more prevalent in society. He welcomed the advice provided and expressed support for exploring measures to strengthen the Code and provide further training and guidance for members.

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

19/0726

Funding Sources for Footpaths and Town and Village Main Streets

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

That the council prepares and publishes a clear summary of the funding sources available for the maintenance, renewal and enhancement of footpaths and town and village main streets, identifying, where appropriate, the respective roles of the Local Property Tax, the council's core budget and Government department or agency funding programmes, and that the council continues to maximise opportunities to secure external funding for such works, in order to enhance investment, improve transparency and support the delivery of high-quality public infrastructure across the county.

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



A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that there are several funding streams for footpath and street provision and maintenance:

Revenue Budget: The Council's revenue budget makes an annual provision for the maintenance of footpaths which is allocated equally between the five municipal districts. Information is available in Budget 2026 and the Annual Roads Programme.

The maintenance of public roads, including main streets, is also provided for in the revenue budget with a significant portion of this funding coming from the Department of Transport Annual Roads Grant for restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works.

Local Property Tax and Pay Parking Surplus: As part of municipal district budgetary process, the members determine the allocation of local property tax and pay parking surpluses. Most municipal districts allow an allocation for footpath and street improvements. Information is published on the Council's website and members receive an update on works undertaken at each municipal district meeting.

Special Development Contributions: In accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the council receives funding in respect of certain planning permissions where it is deemed that the infrastructure is appropriate to serve the development.

Insurance related: An allocation is made by Irish Public Bodies (IPB) for the repair and maintenance of footpaths to reduce the number of accidents occurring at these locations. This provision is not guaranteed. It is allocated directly to the municipal districts for appropriate works when funding becomes available.

URDF and RRDF funding: The Council avails of Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for various public realm projects, which may include an element relating to footpaths.

National Transport Authority (NTA): Elements of NTA funded projects will result in footpath and street improvements, examples include Safe Routes to School schemes and pedestrian crossings. Information is available in the Annual Roads Programme.



Councillor Killeen welcomed the report and highlighted the need to address ageing infrastructure in both older and newer estates. She queried whether additional funding sources, including EU and community investment programmes, could be explored to maximise investment in roads, footpaths and related infrastructure.

Ms. Scully noted that such funding options suggested were not directly applicable to road and footpath works and undertook to discuss other possible funding options with Councillor Killeen.

Councillor Killeen welcomed the further engagement on funding options.

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

20/0726

Introduction of 'What's On' App

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

Go n-oibreoidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara le geallsealbhóirí chun an fhéidearthacht a bhaineann le haip (feidhmchlár fón póca) a thabhairt isteach — a bheadh cosúil le “The Kilkenny App, What’s on?” a d’fhorbair Ultimate House Home — a fhiosrú.

That the council works with stakeholders to investigate the possibility of introducing an App similar to “The Kilkenny App, What’s on?”.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thekilkennyapp.flutter_dev

The motion was proposed by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that the Council has reviewed the contents of “The Kilkenny App, What’s on?” and will investigate how it has been developed, how it functions, its usage rate, how it might be applicable to Kildare and most importantly how it is updated and kept relevant on a daily and weekly basis. An important part of



this investigation will also be to ascertain who the relevant stakeholders are in Kilkenny and who their equivalent might be in Kildare as well as gaining an understanding of the funding and resources required to develop, operate and maintain the application.

It is important to note that any progression of this project beyond the initial examination phase may likely be dependent on funding and resources being available.

Councillor Connolly welcomed the report and highlighted the value of a dedicated app to promote community, cultural and sporting events across the county.

Members supported the proposal, including potential use of the existing MapAlerter system.

Mr. Dunney advised that the proposal could be considered by 'Into Kildare' as part of its strategy.

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

21/0726

Review of Parking Capacity in TIC Residential Estates

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

That the council carries out a review of parking capacity/ provision in taken in charge residential estates to identify locations where significant parking pressures exist and to examine whether practical measures could be introduced to improve parking and accessibility for residents.

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

A report from Ms. S. Scully, A/ Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that there are more than five hundred residential estates taken in charge in County Kildare. These housing estates have been granted planning permission under various county development plans and in pre-development plan



times, with different parking standards and different open space requirements applicable depending on the period of development or the period of the grant of planning permission.

Maximum car parking standards requirements in new residential developments are set out in Chapter 15 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the Plan provides for fewer parking spaces in locations within 800 metres of town centres and high-capacity public transport services having regard to the need to balance demand for parking against the need to promote quality of the public realm from the physical impact of parking.

The assessment of taken in charge estates is a significant body of work when our focus is on taking measures to reduce car dependency in accordance with the Climate Action Plan 2023. Any increase in parking spaces would most likely be at the expense of open space.

Councillor Balfe welcomed the report and highlighted ongoing parking pressures in residential estates, noting that residents continued to make representations regarding parking shortages. He accepted that a review of every taken-in-charge estate would not be practical but welcomed the investigation of specific issues raised by members.

Councillor McEvoy highlighted the potential benefits of car hire and car sharing provision and queried whether this was being supported, noting the finite amount of space available within residential estates for additional parking.

Ms. Scully acknowledged the challenges outlined and noted that over 500 estates had been taken in charge. She advised that the County Development Plan included objectives to reduce car dependency and that car hire and car sharing provision was available in some residential areas. She confirmed that specific estates identified by members could be examined.

Councillor Balfe thanked the Director and welcomed the confirmation that particular estates could be reviewed.

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



22/0726

Presentation by Head of Finance Ahead of Budget 2027

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

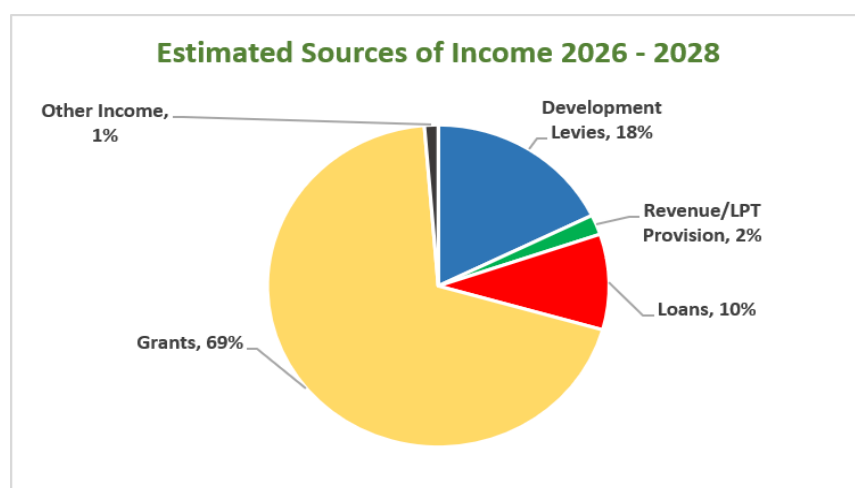
That the council requests the Head of Finance to present to members, ahead of the 2027 budget process, a report on the capital funding options available to the council, including borrowing, invest-to-save financing, development contributions, and blended national and EU supports, together with current borrowing headroom and contribution fund balances.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Power and seconded by Councillor C. Pender.

A report from Ms. E. Hanlon, Head of Finance stated that under Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001, each local authority is required to prepare and present a three-year Capital Programme for noting by the Council.

The Capital Programme is developed on the assumption that funding commitments from external sources, including Exchequer and EU funding streams, are secured prior to the commencement of projects. The programme is also dependent on the continued collection of development contributions and other funding sources. Variations in these income streams may impact the timing and delivery of projects.

The current Capital Programme 2026-2028, valued at approximately €880 million, is funded through a combination of the following sources.





Borrowing: Under Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, a local authority may borrow money only with the sanction of the appropriate Minister. The decision to borrow is also a reserved function of the Council.

In addition, annual local authority borrowing is subject to national expenditure controls. The total level of non-mortgage borrowing across the local government sector is managed to ensure compliance with General Government Balance (GGB) requirements.

Department of Housing Circular Fin 03/2009 introduced controls and monitoring arrangements for local authority borrowing, including the requirement to:

- Maintain a balanced revenue account with no annual deficit.
- Keep capital expenditure and capital income broadly aligned.
- Restrict non-mortgage borrowing to approved levels and exhaust alternative funding sources before seeking loan finance.
- Minimise the use of overdraft facilities and maintain prudent cash management practices.

As a result, all local authority borrowing proposals are subject to Departmental approval. Indicative loan financing repayments are; Borrow €10 million at 4% repay over 20 years, annual repayment is €735,000.

Invest-to-Save Financing: Invest-to-save initiatives are primarily focused on projects that generate operational savings over time.

Examples currently being progressed by the Council include:

- Energy efficiency upgrades to public buildings.
- The ongoing LED public lighting programme.

These investments are expected to reduce energy consumption, maintenance costs and carbon emissions while delivering long-term financial benefits.

Development Contributions: Development contributions represent a key funding source within the Capital Programme and are categorised as follows:



Existing Development Contribution Balances

Development contributions collected but not yet expended are allocated to eligible capital projects. This balance is reviewed and updated annually as part of the Capital Programme process.

The Capital Programme 2026-2028, shows development contributions on hand and assigned to capital projects of €126 million.

Future Development Contributions

Projected development contribution income is based on the adopted Development Contribution Scheme 2023-2029, which was approved by the Council on 19 December 2022. The scheme estimates annual income of approximately €14.4 million, generating an estimated €43.2 million over the three-year programme period.

Development contributions are frequently used to leverage additional funding from central government sources in support of capital investment.

National Funding Supports: The Council actively pursues all available Government funding opportunities across its service areas.

Significant success has been achieved in securing funding through programmes such as:

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)
- Department of Housing funding programmes
- Department of Transport, TII, NTA and Roads funding programmes
- Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

These funding streams play a critical role in enabling the delivery of major capital projects.

EU Funding Opportunities: The Council also actively seeks participation in relevant European funding programmes.



Successful applications have included support under:

- INTERREG Programmes
- Just Transition Fund

These funding opportunities continue to support strategic projects across a range of sectors.

Blended Funding Approaches: Each capital project is assessed individually to determine the most appropriate funding model. In many cases, projects are delivered through a combination of funding sources, including:

- Departmental grants (Housing, Transport, Rural and Community Development, etc.)
- URDF and RRDF funding
- Development contributions
- Local Property Tax (LPT) allocations
- Local authority own resources, including capital receipts and reserves
- Borrowings and loan finance
- EU funding programmes (e.g. INTERREG and Just Transition Fund)
- Private sector contributions and partnership funding arrangements

This blended funding approach enables the Council to maximise available investment and deliver a broader range of capital projects than would be possible from any single funding source.

Conclusion

The funding options outlined above represent the principal mechanisms available to the Executive when preparing and implementing the Council's Capital Programme.

The Council continues to actively pursue all appropriate funding opportunities to support strategic infrastructure and service investment across the county.

Councillor Power welcomed the report and noted that it was a useful contribution in advance of the Budget 2027 process. He stated that it was helpful for members to have a clearer understanding of the national and local constraints affecting capital



funding, including borrowing requirements, development contributions and other available funding streams.

Councillor Power highlighted the potential value of invest-to-save projects, such as solar energy capital projects, where upfront capital investment could reduce future energy costs and ongoing revenue expenditure for the council.

Ms Hanlon advised the Members that the CCMA Finance Subcommittee is working on a submission to the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage in regard to the General Government Balance (GGB) controls and requirements.

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

23/0726

Accessible Toilets in Council Owned Buildings

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

That the council prepares an implementation plan for the roll out of a low cost, high impact, retrofit of the accessible toilets in council owned buildings to include stoma friendly facilities, creating a county wide model of best practice and identifies funding and suitable locations.

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

A report from Mr. D. Creighton, A/ Director of Services, Integration and Strategic Property Management and Ms. G. Allen, County Librarian stated that Kildare County Council acknowledges the importance of providing stoma-friendly facilities within accessible toilets in Council-owned buildings and work has already been carried out in Library Buildings.

A gap analysis will be undertaken to assess existing accessible toilet facilities in remaining public buildings starting with Áras Chill Dara. This analysis will identify



what measures are currently in place and determine what additional low-cost provisions can be made to meet recognised stoma-friendly standards.

Following completion of this assessment, an implementation plan will be developed identifying retrofit works, prioritising the buildings most visited by members of the public, and quantify any associated funding requirements.

Kildare Library Service is pleased to inform that our eight full-time library branches have toilets which are stoma-friendly along with five of our seven part-time branches. The additions implemented will make a significant difference to comfort, safety and independence for many people and will allow daily needs to be managed with dignity.

Additionally, there is a Changing Places toilet in Naas Library and Cultural Centre and plans for one in each of our new capital projects, Clane Library and Newbridge Library, Kildare County Archives and Local Studies.

Councillor Feeney welcomed the report and highlighted the importance of providing stoma-friendly facilities in accessible toilets across council-owned buildings. She noted that these low-cost measures would support dignity, comfort and independence for users and suggested that local access groups be engaged as part of the assessment and implementation process.

Mr. Creighton noted the progress already made by the library service in providing stoma-friendly facilities and outlined that particular requirements had been identified. He advised that an assessment of council facilities had commenced and that further progress would be pursued.

Councillor Feeney welcomed the update and looked forward to continued progress on the matter.

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



25/0726

Enforcement of the Planning and Development Act 2024

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

That the council prepares and submits a report on its organisational capacity to implement and enforce the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024 and associated Regulations, including expanded exempted development provisions and other changes introduced under the new legislative framework.

The report could include:

1. Current planning compliance and enforcement workload.
2. The Council's organisational capacity to meet its obligations under the new legislation.
3. Measures introduced or planned to support implementation.
4. Key risks or challenges affecting effective enforcement.
5. Any additional supports required to ensure effective implementation of the Act.

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

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development stated that The Council notes the sentiment of the motion and acknowledges that the Planning and Development Act 2024 represents the most significant reform of planning legislation in approximately 25 years.

The objective of the new legislative framework is to modernise and streamline the planning system, improve certainty and decision-making, support housing delivery and economic development, and provide a more integrated and efficient planning process. While implementation will require significant organisational effort across the local government sector, the introduction of the Act has been anticipated for a number of years and is being implemented on a phased basis.

The County and City Management Association (CCMA), local authorities and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have been working collaboratively on implementation planning for several years. Accordingly, the



transition to the new legislative framework is not unexpected and substantial preparatory work has already been undertaken throughout the sector.

Part 11 of the Act, which deals with planning enforcement, has been partially commenced, with further provisions due to be introduced during 2026 in accordance with the Government's commencement programme. The full operational implications of the Act will become clearer as the remaining provisions, regulations, ministerial guidelines and supporting practice guidance are introduced.

1. Current Planning Compliance and Enforcement Workload

The Planning Enforcement Section is responsible for investigating complaints relating to alleged unauthorised development, monitoring compliance with planning permissions and conditions, carrying out site inspections, taking enforcement action where necessary and responding to planning enforcement queries.

Kildare continues to experience significant levels of development activity as one of the fastest growing counties in the State. This growth generates substantial demands across all planning functions, including planning compliance and enforcement.

Current workloads include:

- Assessment and investigation of unauthorised development complaints.
- Site inspections and follow-up investigations.
- Enforcement proceedings where voluntary compliance cannot be secured.
- Responses to public representations and requests for enforcement information.

In addition to enforcement activity, the Planning Department continues to manage significant volumes of planning applications, commencement notices and development-related activity across the county. Members will appreciate that the scale of planning activity within Kildare places additional demands on all planning services, including enforcement.

2. Organisational Capacity to Meet Obligations Under the New Legislation

The Council currently operates a dedicated Planning Enforcement Section within the Planning Department and continues to undertake its statutory planning enforcement



responsibilities while preparing for the implementation of the new legislative framework.

The Council has been actively preparing for the implementation of the Act through workforce planning, training, service improvements and participation in national implementation initiatives.

Staff from the Planning Enforcement Section attended training programmes delivered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the County and City Management Association and the Office of the Planning Regulator during Q1 2026. Training is continuing across the Planning Department and will be expanded further as additional provisions of the Act are commenced.

The Council also continues to avail of national initiatives under the Ministerial Action Plan for Planning Resources, which is intended to strengthen planning capacity across the local government sector through phased recruitment and workforce development measures.

Elected Members supported the provision of two additional Planning Enforcement posts through the 2026 Budget process and recruitment to these positions is ongoing.

3. Measures Introduced or Planned to Support Implementation

A wide range of measures have already been introduced, or are planned, to support implementation of the Act.

Digital Transformation and Innovation

The Council continues to expand the use of ePlanning, with the substantial majority of planning applications now being submitted digitally, reducing administrative overheads and improving efficiency.

The Local Government Management Agency is advancing the National Digital Planning System, which will provide a fully integrated digital planning platform capable of managing planning processes from application stage through to enforcement and long-term records management.



Ongoing improvements to digital systems are aimed at providing more efficient tracking and management of planning activity.

Workforce Development and Training

Ongoing training programmes are being delivered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Office of the Planning Regulator and the CCMA.

Continuous professional development is being provided to planning and administrative staff as provisions of the new Act are commenced.

The Council continues to engage with national initiatives designed to strengthen planning resources across local government. These initiatives include:

- Additional planning posts being funded nationally under the Ministerial Action Plan for Planning Resources.
- The National Graduate Planner Recruitment Programme.
- The National Planning Internship Programme.
- Review of planning qualifications and recruitment pathways for local authorities.
- Development of a National Planning Apprenticeship Programme.
- Development of leadership and professional development programmes for senior planning staff.
- Measures to facilitate overseas recruitment and broaden the pool of qualified planning professionals available to local authorities.

Service Delivery Initiatives

The Council has also introduced a number of organisational measures which strengthen the Planning Department's capacity to deliver planning functions and support implementation of the Act, including:

- Establishment of a Housing Activation Office to support the delivery of housing and associated infrastructure at strategic development locations.
- Expansion of the Heritage, Biodiversity and Ecology Team to provide specialist expertise on increasingly complex environmental and ecological matters.



- Recruitment of specialist non-planning professionals, including urban design expertise, allowing qualified planning staff to focus on statutory planning functions and implementation of the new legislation.

4. Key Risks and Challenges Affecting Effective Enforcement

While significant preparation has occurred, a number of challenges remain.

Growth Pressures

Kildare is one of Ireland's fastest-growing counties and continues to experience significant planning and development activity. This is reflected in the 906 planning applications received, the 68 housing developments currently under construction and under monitoring, and the 4,390 building inspections carried out to date in 2026.

This places sustained pressure on planning resources, including compliance monitoring and enforcement functions.

Transition to the New Legislative Framework

The Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2024 will operate concurrently during the transitional period. This means that planning authorities will be required to administer and assess cases under two separate legislative codes for a period of time, creating additional administrative and procedural complexity.

Development Plan Responsibilities

The preparation of the next County Development Plan will include the integration of former Local Area Plan settlements into the Development Plan framework, representing a significant additional workload for planning staff.

Recruitment Challenges

Although a range of national recruitment measures have been introduced, the planning profession continues to experience recruitment pressures. Competition for qualified planning staff exists across local authorities, State agencies, other public bodies, and the private sector.

Judicial Capacity

An effective enforcement system requires not only a well-resourced planning



authority but also access to a timely and effective court system. The Council has made representations seeking additional planning-related court capacity in recognition of the growing volume and complexity of planning matters arising within the county.

5. Additional Supports Required

The Council will continue to monitor the operational and resource implications of the Planning and Development Act 2024 as additional provisions are commenced.

Priority support requirements include:

- Ongoing training and professional development.
- Continued implementation support from the Department and sectoral bodies.
- Delivery of the National Digital Planning System.
- Continued national investment in planning resources and recruitment initiatives.
- Provision of clear guidance and regulations to support implementation.
- Appropriate judicial resources to facilitate timely enforcement outcomes where court proceedings are required.

Exempted Development Provisions

Members should note that a number of the legislative changes and associated regulations seek to expand or clarify exempted development provisions. While these changes may generate an initial requirement for guidance and public awareness, they are also expected to remove certain minor categories of development from both the planning application and planning enforcement systems.

By reducing the need for planning applications and enforcement investigations in respect of minor development works, the revised exempted development provisions should assist in focusing resources on more significant planning matters and unauthorised developments with greater planning impacts.

The Council has undertaken substantial preparation for the implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 through workforce planning, training, digital transformation initiatives and organisational restructuring. While implementation of



the Act will continue to present challenges, particularly in the context of a rapidly growing county, the Council is actively engaging with national implementation programmes and resource initiatives to ensure that it is well positioned to fulfil its statutory obligations under the new legislative framework. The Council will continue to assess resource requirements and operational impacts as further provisions of the Act and associated regulations are commenced.

Councillor O'Rourke welcomed the report and noted that the motion reflected the volume of public representations received on planning enforcement. She highlighted the need for adequate legal and court capacity to support timely enforcement action where unauthorised development is confirmed.

Mr. A. Dunney noted the matters raised and further advised that the council continued to prepare for implementation of the new planning legislation, including through training and digital supports. He also noted representations made seeking additional planning-related court capacity to support timely enforcement action.

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

25/0726

Permeability Links within Residential Areas

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

That the council commits to reviewing its approach to permeability links within residential areas in the county as part of the planning process, having regard to community safety considerations.

Councillor Behan requested that this motion be withdrawn in advance of the meeting. The item was not considered at the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.