



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 31 March 2025 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

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

Online: Councillors N. Connolly, B. Dooley, A. Feeney, M. Leigh, L. Panaite Fahey, R. Power, and B. Wyse.

Apologies: Councillor K. Duffy.

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

Iarnród Éireann Presentation

The Leas-Cathaoirleach proposed to suspend standing orders to facilitate presentation by Iarnród Éireann.

This was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly and agreed by the members present.

The meeting commenced at 3:20pm.



The Leas-Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the March monthly meeting of the Council and asked the Meeting Administrator to read out a notice regarding the live streaming of the meeting to the Council's YouTube channel.

00/0325

Bereavements

The Leas-Cathaoirleach advised he had been informed of the following bereavements:

Susan Dowling, mother of Martin Dowling, Planning Department and Kevin Dowling, Kildare Town Library.

Seamus O' Neill, father of Eimear O' Neill, Architects

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

01/0325

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.

02/0325

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the special meeting held on 27 January 2025, the monthly meeting held on 24 February 2025 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of the special meeting held on 27 January 2025 and the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 24 February 2025 be adopted.

The progress report was noted.



03/0325

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

Councillor Clear sought clarification regarding the International Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP).

Mr. D. Creighton, Acting Director of Service, Integration explained how the programme resettled refugees into Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) and Kildare County Council housing units during 2024 and will continue to resettle refugees through to 2026.

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

04/0325

Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025

The members considered the draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025.

Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services informed the members that Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires Council to prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan, for adoption by the Members by 31 March 2025.

He noted that the Plan sets out the priority objectives for service delivery and performance standards to be achieved by Kildare County Council in 2025; that the Plan contains extensive data on metrics and indicators of activity linked to both Corporate Plan goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and that CPG had agreed it go to Full Council for approval.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present that the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 be approved.



05/0325

**Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2024
and additional expenditure (Appendix 9 AFS)**

The members considered the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2024 and approval of the additional expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2024 (Appendix 9 AFS). A detailed report had previously been circulated to the members.

Ms. E. Hanlon, Director of Services, Finance, Digital Services, Innovation and Governance provided a detailed account of the previously circulated report. She informed the group that Kildare County Council Annual Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024 was presented to the Finance Committee on March 21, CPG on the 24 March and that CPG had agreed it go forward to Full Council for approval.

She noted that the Revenue Account for 2024 shows an overall surplus of €7.2k and a closing surplus of €20k. Revenue expenditure was €276m up from €219m in 2023. Capital expenditure was €218m. Total spend of €495m for 2024. Expenditure in each programme group increased and Housing had the biggest spending programme of €101m with €45m of this on social leasing up €11m on budget.

Fixed assets increased by €164m with the most notable additions being 287 houses at €93m and Athy Distributor Road at €44.8m.

Collection rates for 2024 increased. Rates up 4% to 92% (€67m collected), Rents up 2% to 95% (€21.9m collected) and Housing Loans up 3% to 78% (€4.2m collected).

She also noted that Appendix 9 of AFS shows the division where there was excess of expenditure to the budgeted figure, but these have been funded by additional income or savings. One additional expenditure of note is the ICOB and Power up grants of €16.9 m in Division D Development Management administered and paid out to business by KCC on behalf on Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment. Overall, a surplus was achieved in 2024 of €7.2k. Approval of this schedule is now being sought.



The local government auditor will commence his audit of the AFS 2024 in July 2025 and is expected to complete the audit by end of October 2025 so that his audit report can be presented to the **November** Full Council meeting.

She also noted that the Finance Committee asked that she notify the members that the decision in relation to the variation of the LPT needs to be made at the July council meeting as the Revenue Commissioners are carrying out their revaluation of the bands this year (this is done every 4 years) and Revenue needs to be notified of the decision to vary LPT **by the 31 August 2025**.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members that the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) for 2024 be noted and that the additional expenditure (Appendix 9 AFS) for the year ended 31 December 2024 be approved.

06/0325

Roads Programme 2025

The members considered the Roads Programme 2025, and the report circulated in advance of the meeting.

The report was noted.

07/0325

Cathaoirleach's Business

The Leas-Cathaoirleach noted that the Cathaoirleach provided a report detailing his attendance at events during the previous month. The report noted his attendance as follows:

- The official opening of the Council's energy-efficient "DemoHouse" in Maynooth on March 6, 2025, as part of its Decarbonising Zone initiative, showcasing sustainable living practices and demonstrating a commitment to national targets.
- Meeting with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland.



- Meeting with Kildare's twelve partners from ten European countries, under the Repower Regions project which was officially launched in Naas on 20th March 2025.

The report also gave the itinerary details of the official visit to New York.

- Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York.
- St Patrick's Day Parade in New York and participation in the parade walking with the Kildare Association through New York City.
- Meeting with the Kildare Association, an amazing chance to meet so many wonderful people living in New York for decades. There was a visit to the graves of Jack Murray (1877-1932) and his brother Michael Murray (1882-1957) Calvary Cemetery, New York; and a discussion on the potential of commemorating these two amazing Kildare men and the achievement of all this 1905 County Team.

08/0325

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed eighteen items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. These included six circulars from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, as follows:

- Circular letter: F.03/25 Re: 31 March 2025 deadline for the reporting of political donations by third parties
- Circular letter: F.10/13 Re: Revised forms and guidelines in connection with annual reporting requirements on political donations for elected members of local authorities.
- Circular letter: F.10/13 Re: Third Party Guidelines on political donations.



- Circular LG 05-2025 Re: Amendment to the Maternity Protection Act 1994 under the Maternity Protection, Employment Equality and Preservation of Certain Records Act 2024.
- Circular LG 06-2025 28 February 2025 Re: Increase to elected members' annual remuneration on 1 March 2025
- Circular LG 07-2025 Training Events for Elected Members.

Six resolutions were received from other County Councils, a reply from NTA to present to full council and acknowledgements from ESB and Iarnród Éireann re invitation to present to Full Council, two emails from Kildare PPN and one from Maynooth University.

The correspondence and report were noted.

09/0325

Conferences and Training

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

Retrospective training approval sought for Councillor Phelan's attendance at the AILG Webinar 2 An Effective Communication Tool to Enhance Engagement with Constituents at zero cost, on Friday 28 February 2025.

Retrospective training approval for Councillors Brett and Councillor Kelly attendance at AILG Module 2 Embracing Equality - Cultivating Inclusive Local Communities, held in the Clayton Hotel, Galway on Saturday 22 March 2025 at a cost of €90 per councillor.

Approval sought for Councillors Killeen, Phelan, Pender, Mulroe, O'Rourke, Clear, Trost, O'Loughlin and T. O'Dwyer to attend AILG – Póca Productions - New Video Content Creation at a cost of €450 per councillor.



Approval sought for Councillors Brett, Connolly, Kelly and O'Dwyer to attend the Annual Conference Training in Limerick Strand Hotel, Limerick on 2 and 3 April 2025 at a cost of € 175 per councillor

Approval sought for Councillor Wyse to continue his BA Local Studies in Maynooth NFQ Level 8 from January 2025 to January 2026 at a cost of €410 which represents 50% of the fees for the academic year.

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

10/0325

Reintroduction of Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The following motion in the names of Councillors T. O'Dwyer, P. O'Dwyer and Sammon was considered by the members:

That the council reintroduces Joint Policing Committee meetings until the Local Community Safety Partnerships are formally commenced and that the council writes to the Minister of Justice seeking clarity as to when that will be.

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

A report from Ms M Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the new Community Safety Strategy aims to ensure communities are safer by making community safety a priority for government, to be delivered through Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs). They will be supported by a national governance structure to support the aim of repositioning community safety as the provision of adequate and appropriate social services consistent with local needs.

Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) will bring all services and the community together at local authority level. The LCSP will build on the work



undertaken through the Joint Policing Committee, and importantly will add other critical stakeholders, enabling a more holistic approach to community safety.

Kildare County Council is aware that the implementation of the Local Safety Community Partnerships has been ongoing for a number of months, however, these delays have been outside of the Local Authorities control and the release of these regulations are expected imminently. There is ongoing communication between Kildare County Council and the Department of Justice.

Kildare County Council has been proactively working to ensure that once the regulations are available, the Local Community Safety Partnership will be able to move quickly to complete the membership and commence its work. In this regard, the political representation from the Elected Members of Kildare County Council have been appointed, the administrative requirements for the operation of the Local Community Safety Partnership have been appointed or are in the process of filling the appropriate position.

Kildare County Council is proactively engaging with An Garda Síochána to schedule meetings with elected members from each municipal district, while waiting for the implementation of the LCSP.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Members are dissatisfied with the delay in establishing the LGSP,
- Members are concerned about a lack of meetings with An Garda Síochána,
- That the members be kept informed of updates from the Department of Justice.
- That each MD is treated equally when the LCSP are being established.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor T. O'Dwyer, seconded by P. O'Dwyer and agreed by members present that that the report be noted and that members be kept up to date on progress with the Department of Justice.



11/0325

Social Housing Allocations

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

That Kildare County Council provides a detailed report on all social housing allocations over the past five years, specifically examining whether allocations have been made in accordance with the principle of 'time on the list' as outlined in the Councils Allocation Scheme for Social Housing Support. To include (a) a statistical breakdown of allocations (categorising them by the reason for allocation, order of priority, and the length of time applicants had been on the housing list before receiving an offer.), (b) An analysis of compliance with the Allocation Scheme, (including the percentage of allocations made strictly based on time on the list versus those made under priority categories).

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

A report from Ms S Scully, A/Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Allocation Scheme for Social Housing Support was adopted by Kildare County Council in February 2023. The purpose of this Allocation Scheme is to provide a means of determining the order of priority to be afforded in the allocation of social houses.

Applicants for social housing are considered having regard to the period of time which has elapsed since they were included on the social housing list, this is known as 'time on the list'. In certain circumstances, overall priority may be given to applicants who satisfy the criteria listed below; applicants afforded priority will be further prioritised based on 'time on the list' and subject to the availability of a suitable property.

- Age Friendly: Accommodation
- Dangerous Buildings
- Displacement



- Exceptional Medical Grounds: Where priority is being claimed on medical grounds, the HMD-Form 1 or any successor form must be completed.
- Homeless Priority: Individuals/Households rendered homeless through no fault of their own as defined under Section 2 of the Housing Act 1988 as amended.
- Members of the Travelling Community where the accommodation being provided is Traveller specific.

Notwithstanding the above, all households awarded overall priority are subject to the terms of the councils Anti-social Behaviour Strategy and Assessment of Bedroom Requirements. Applicants may be assessed for more than one of the above criteria e.g. where a family is assessed as Homeless with medical priority.

It is not possible to provide analysis of the length of time on the list from our housing system I-House, however this will be raised with our provider for possible inclusion in future reporting upgrades.

The following table gives a breakdown of allocations in the period 2020-2024:

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
KCC Units	420	472	494	600	399
AHB Units	337	315	328	650	271
TOTAL Allocations	757	787	822	1,250	670
Allocations via CBL/Time on the List	73	78	126	432	200
General Allocations/ Time on the list	508	590	493	415	184
Time on List Percentage	77%	85%	75%	68%	57%
Medical	110	52	75	110	87
Homeless	56	56	121	274	186
Travellers	10	11	7	19	13



Priority Categories Percentage	23%	15%	25%	32%	43%
No of Offers Refused	249	210	164	305	151

Councillor Pender thanked the Director for the report. During discussion. The members raised the following points:

- Clarification on the 'age-friendly' criteria on the housing waiting list.
- The refusal rate of 1 in 4 is extremely high; can we establish why?
- Can the SPC review the refusal rate and 'time on the list'.

Ms. A. Aspell advised the members that age-friendly criteria represent the over 55's, that the housing refusal rate is high, and that this needs to be tackled at a national level. She also stated that a tenant can be suspended if they refuse two offers made in the same year.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Balfe and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that a request to review the refusal rate and 'time on list' be referred to the Housing and Regeneration SPC.

12/0325

Accessibility Initiatives

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

That the council sets out what additional resources it intends to use to progress accessibility initiatives, compliance with national and international disability legislation and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, including people with disabilities and advocacy groups.

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



A report from Mr. E. Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that a major challenge we are faced with is the lack of direct funding from central government to support local authorities in delivering accessible services, employing Access Officers, and providing disability awareness training. In Kildare County Council, the remit for Accessibility falls under our Health and Safety Team. That team has recently completed an action plan as part of the Strategic Workforce Plan, in which there is a request for additional staff to meet the growing needs being placed on the section and in particular Accessibility. This is currently at evaluation stage. Both staffing and other initiatives will be subject to funding.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Kildare is ahead of other counties in progressing accessibility initiatives and engaging with stakeholders.
- Are there alternative funding options available to recruit a Disability Officer.

Mr. E. Ryan said he would explore if alternative funding options were available to fund resources in this area and revert in due course.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Phelan, seconded by Councillor Mc Evoy and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that alternative funding options would be explored to fund resources in this area.

13/0325

Nominees to Approved Housing Bodies

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

That the council write to the Minister for the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that direction be given to all Approved Housing Bodies managing properties in excess of 500 units within any county to provide a seat on their Board for a nominee from each County Council where units in excess of 500 are located. These nominees shall be approved by the members and should be a member of a Housing SPC or be an agreed nominee with relevant experience.



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

A report from Ms S Scully, A/Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that two Approved Housing Bodies have 500 or more units in Kildare, they are Cluid (734) and Tuath (906 units). It is a matter for the Members if they wish to issue correspondence on this matter and you may wish to consider corresponding with the Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority, which is the body responsible for the regulation of Approved Housing Bodies.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- There are no tenants on AHB Boards and this should be considered?

Ms. A. Aspell, Director of Service, Housing and Regeneration advised the members that there is a Regulator in place for Approved Housing Bodies and being a board members carried responsibilities.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by members present that the report be noted and a letter be written to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

14/0325

Futureproofing of School Capacity

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

That Kildare County Council provides a detailed report on the extent to which its Planning Department collaborates with the Forward Planning Section of the Department of Education to ensure the futureproofing of school capacity across the county. This report should outline how Local Area Plans (LAPs) and other strategic planning documents account for the provision of educational infrastructure, including the identification of lands earmarked for schools and the assessment of projected population growth in determining future school place needs.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Mulroe and seconded by Councillor Pender. A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services advised the members that the Forward Planning Team engage with the Department of Education at regular intervals when information is required from the Department or vice versa under a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and County Managers Association [CCMA] (on behalf of Local Authorities) and the Department.

As advised at the Elected Members Briefing on 22 January 2025, the provision (design and construction) and progression of school delivery projects is a matter wholly for the Department of Education. Kildare County Council, or any local authority for that matter, has no role in the delivery of such projects save for ensuring sufficient lands are zoned in each settlement and the subsequent assessment of planning applications, including all technical submissions therein. The Department provide ongoing updates with respect to specific projects on their website <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/d73cb-building-works-for-the-construction-extension-and-refurbishment-of-schools/#school-building-projects-large-scale-additional-accommodation-scheme-current-status-lists>. All Local Area Plans and County Development Plan and Settlement Plans are informed by the preparation of a Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) (published alongside the plan) which outlines the existing and estimated future requirements for School, Childcare, Healthcare and other community facilities over the plan period. These SIAs are stress-tested through the Forward Planning Teams engagement with the Department and as a result, with specific reference to education provision, a series of locations are identified for Primary and Post-Primary Schools and are zoned for Community and Educational purposes.

Councillor Mulroe thanked the Director for the report. During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- The increase in houses being built increases the demand on school place.
- There is a disconnect between Forward Planning and the Department of Education.



- Local Authorities need to capture information to inform the future school places demand for the Department of Education.
- That sufficient land is zoned in the right locations for schools.

Mr. A. Dunney advised members that school delivery is not within the council's remit. Kildare County Council is responsible for ensuring sufficient land is zoned. He advised that Kildare County Council meet the Department of Education quarterly and more frequent for Local Settlement Plans (previously known as Local Area Plans). At present, there is a substantial amount of land in Kildare zoned for future school development.

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

15/0325

External Security Lighting

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

That the council extends the eligible works under the Housing Aid for Older People Grant to include the provision of external security lighting.

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

A report from Ms S Scully, A/Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out to their homes. It provides financial assistance to households to carry out essential repairs.

On receipt of this motion, the Housing Department contacted the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to enquire if security lighting can be funded; they were advised that security lighting is not eligible for funding.

Councillor Durkan and T. O. Dwyer thanked the Director for the report.



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

16/0325

Art Competition to Redesign "No Dog Fouling" Signs

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

That the council establishes an art competition to redesign "No Dog Fouling" signs. This would serve as an opportunity to engage communities, bring attention to the problem and foster community engagement on the issue in residential estates and public open spaces.

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

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that Kildare County Council is keen to promote responsible dog ownership and to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog, bag the waste and safely bin it.

One of the measures aimed at raising awareness of the issue, the council ran a schools poster competition (in 2023) encouraging pupils in Kildare primary schools to design a new sign reminding dog owners to clean up after their pet.





The winning design (from a pupil in Rathmore National School) pictured above was subsequently turned into signs that are available free-of-charge to all community groups to install at key locations to raise awareness at local level.

The council will investigate running a fresh competition during the next 12/18 months, or earlier, if possible, subject to work programme considerations and funding availability.

Councillor Killeen thanked the Director for the report.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- dog fouling was an environmental hazard and could cause serious infections.
- signage was needed in open spaces.
- mobility scooters, wheelchair users and buggies are affected by dog fouling.
- Another issue was the dumping of used dog waste bags in open spaces.

Ms. M. Higgins advised the members that dog fouling is the responsibility of the owner, and that Kildare County Council are committed to bringing education and awareness of the issue to the community. Competitions are run on a 2-year basis for dog-fouling signage.

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

17/0325

Sites Zoned for Residential Development

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

That the council provides the members with a report outlining all sites zoned for residential development across County Kildare under Local Area Plans (LAPs) and the County Development Plan, specifically for developments of over 10 units.

The report should detail the status of each site in relation to its development progress, categorised as follows:



- No progress
- Planning commenced
- Planning complete
- Appealed to An Bord Pleanála
- Construction commenced
- Construction completes

Additionally, please include the number of units proposed for each site as per the relevant development plans.

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

A report from Mr. A. Dunney, Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that the Land Use Zonings pertaining to the various settlements across County Kildare are contained within the respective Local Area Plan or Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

The associated Core Strategy tables identify an estimated housing unit yield for both the residentially zoned lands and other zonings with the capacity to delivery housing units. The number of units proposed for each specific site are calculated on the basis of an average density range. The actual units permitted/delivered are dependent on a series of site specific technical and other planning considerations including but not limited to visual impact, transport considerations, active travel, SUDs, environmental issues etc. There is no readily available dataset or information portal which can provide dynamic information on the performance of any specific site.

Information with respect to “planning commenced”, “planning complete” and “appealed to An Bord Pleanála” is available through the Kildare County Council Planning Register (Planning Enquiry System). Details of Commencement Notices can be obtained from the Building Control Management System (BCMS) website, completion data is also available through this system. Kildare County Council Planning Team rely on verified Central Statistics Office (CSO) data with respect to housing completions, which are publicly available by quarter. The Members are



advised that the CSO information, while independently verified is settlement-based and does not address individual sites.

The systems identified above are not integrated and to develop a system to provide the information requested would involve unestablished links between systems such as IPlan, Eplan, Myplan, BCMS and the CSO, none of which are capable of integration. In addition to foregoing, such data collation would require the commitment of extensive on-site human resources.

It is to be noted however, that the Local Government Sector, through the offices of the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), are in the process of developing a new National Planning System. While this new system may not provide all of the information listed above on a site-by-site basis, it will ensure consistency of data amongst the various planning authorities, including An Bord Pleanála, and will allow for the digitalisation of all the various statutory functions of planning and development at a site-by-site level, from pre-planning right through to taking in charge including consent, compliance, enforcement and monitoring / core strategy / housing targets. The Business Case for this project has been completed by the LGMA and the project is moving forward.

Following on from the above, County Wide and Settlement based information on housing delivery is readily available. This was provided in the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report for the KCDP (published May 2024) and the 2 Year Progress Report on the Implementation of the KCDP (published February 2025), both of which have been circulated to the Elected Members and are available on the Kildare County Council website.

Councillor Clear thanked the Director for the report.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- The ability to extract data should be simplified, and available,
- Information should be available on a site-specific basis,
- LAP's that identify sites that cannot be developed ahead of other sites do not assist in the delivery of houses.



Mr. A. Dunney advised the members that presently we can provide statistical information on a county level easily but was time consuming at a site-specific level. An IT solution is being reviewed at National level.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the matter be referred to the Housing and Regeneration SPC.

18/0325

Food Production Schemes for Students

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

That the council identify scheme opportunities to support second-level students/communities to learn how to produce food by growing food plants in schools, home gardens and allotments throughout our county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Behan.

A report from Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the Green-Schools Programme operated by An Taisce has a Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity theme.

By working on this theme, students, teachers, and the wider school community produce, prepare and eat their own food, whilst also investigating the impacts that the world's current food production system has on the natural world. Participants learn how to reduce the environmental impact of their food choices and have the opportunity to enhance their personal well-being, through increased time spent outdoors, eating freshly harvested food, and developing life-skills and resilience associated with being able to grow, prepare and cook their own food.

Schools often require support such as guidance, supply of seeds, equipment, and funding for places to sow the seeds. This is a new theme/flag on the Green-School's Programme so few schools are at this stage.



Kildare has three schools working on this theme now based in Leixlip, Clane, and Celbridge.

Councillor Heavey thanked the Director for the report. A number of councillors expressed their support for this motion. During discussion, the members raised the following points.

- The cost of living and cost of food is accelerating rapidly.
- Meath County Council have been operating a scheme that could be mirrored.
- Can the Climate Action SPC support scheme opportunities.
- Educated communities in horticulture is important.
- Members referred to the Leixlip Allotment Site and its success.
- Can the council provide more allotments and support a self-sufficient society.
- Small agricultural holdings are in decline.

Ms. M. Higgins acknowledged the concerns raised and the benefits of communities growing food. She referred to the existing food growing schemes in schools, Kildare Seed Library Scheme and Kildare Allotment and Community Garden Strategy currently under review.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the Climate Action SPC explore scheme opportunities.

19/0325

Uisce Éireann Infrastructure Projects

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

That Kildare County Council formally calls on Uisce Éireann to prioritise the infrastructure projects it has committed to commence in Q1, and to provide a clear timeline for the replacement of water pipes in Co Kildare.

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



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

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Timeline for replacement infrastructure should be put in place.
- Ongoing issues in Celbridge.
- Pipes are old and need replacing.
- Newbridge water pressure could be extremely low.
- Uisce Éireann were not mandated to grow infrastructure in line with additional houses being constructed.

Ms. M. Higgins, Director of Service, Climate, Community, Environment and Water Services advised the members that water and wastewater are no longer a function of Local Authorities; this is in the remit of Uisce Éireann.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by members present that a letter is issued to Uisce Éireann regarding the timelines of infrastructure projects and replacement of pipes.

20/0325

Keep-Cup Initiative

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

Go lorgóidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara léirithe spéise ó ghnólachtaí sa chontae d'fhonn tionscnamh cupán coinneála a bhunú i gceann amháin dár mbailte ar a laghad, cosúil leis an tionscnamh a fheidhmítear i mbaile Chill Áirne, Co. Chiarraí.

That Kildare County Council seeks expressions of interest from businesses in the county with a view to setting up a keep cup initiative in at least one of our towns, similar to that which operates in the town of Killarney, Co. Kerry.

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



A report from Ms. M. Higgins, A/Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water Services stated that the initiative in Killarney was community driven with support from other agencies. The overall aim in Killarney is to eliminate single-use plastics cups. Kildare's Climate Action Plan (CAP) shares the ambition to eliminate waste and encourage the circular economy. The 2GoCup is a business model which provides keep-cups to local eateries and other establishments who offer beverages. The business model requires a financial input from the businesses to avail of the scheme and the branded cups are procured by the customer through a deposit scheme.

The topic was raised recently with the Climate Action Office regarding a 2GoCup scheme for a location in Kildare. Based on various research gleaned it appears a keep-cup needs to be used circa 1,000 times to make it sustainable (the use of keep-cups is sustainably superior to single-use plastic cups).

The majority of homes have keep-cups and many have a supply surplus to their needs. By utilising the circular economy, patrons could be given a reduction in the cost for their chosen beverage by presenting their own keep-cup. Secondly, given the surplus of keep-cups in circulation a collection locally could provide cups for those who forget to bring a keep-cup or have no keep-cup at a very low charge to help fund the promotion of the local initiative. The washing and care of the keep-cups in establishments would be in accordance with the food safety standards that already exist.

Councillor Connolly thanked the Director for the report. During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Kilcullen did a pilot scheme recently and found that many cups were not returned.
- Some of the cups offered in the scheme were not to everyone's taste.
- Businesses have concerns related to branding.
- Cost of 'to-go cups' expensive.
- Suggest that the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) assist
- Large amounts of waste generated by cups.



- The importance of education and awareness.
- Request that the Climate Action SPC review.

Ms. M. Higgins stated that education, and awareness is needed to change people's behaviour in relation to this issue. The 'grab and go' culture needs to change its approach. The Climate Action Team will follow up with Kilcullen on their scheme. The role of the Local Authority is in educating the community to bring awareness of reduce, re-use and recycle.

The CE noted concerns regarding the number of items being referred to SPC's.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Killeen and agreed by members present that the report be noted and that the Climate Action SPC review possible initiatives for actioning.

21/0325

Delisting of Projects from Capital Plans

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

That the council clarify that information provided and presented to members in relation to project status in Capital Plans is accurate at the time of approval and that any delisting of projects from Capital Plans would involve consultation with members.

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

A report from Ms. C. Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that the Capital Programme is a three-year rolling programme prepared during the annual budget process and presented to the members for noting in October. As part of the process, members are given an opportunity in May each year at municipal district meetings to identify projects of importance in the various directorates and municipal districts for consideration. The delivery of projects under the Capital Programme is contingent on a number of factors including:



- the availability of funding sources such as grants or the anticipated collection of development contributions during the lifetime of the Programme.
- the successful completion of statutory processes such as compulsory purchase orders and planning consent.
- changing priorities.
- the business case for the project.
- the achievement of value for money in all decisions made by the Council

All Directorates will continue to work with the elected members on the delivery of the Capital Programme 2025-2027 and will endeavour to provide relevant updates on changes of the programme as they occur.

During discussion, the members raised the following points:

- Information received by the members needed to be accurate.
- Members needed to be consulted when changes were made to the Capital Programmes.
- Concern was expressed regarding the distribution of funds where a project was not proceeding.

Ms. C. Barrett advised the members that the Capital Programme was noted at the Full Council Meeting in May 2024. The availability of funding and resources can affect a Capital Programme. She also stated that information presented to members was accurate.

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

The meeting concluded.