



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

2025

ANNUAL BUDGET

for Year Ending 31 December 2025
Statutory Budget Meeting
25 November 2024

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Chief Executive's Report

Introduction

In November this year, the Elected Members adopted the Meath County Council Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029. The Corporate Plan serves as the Council's strategic framework for action over the duration of the current council term. It encompasses the vision to Make Meath Even Better. This budget has been prepared with that vision in mind, ensuring that our financial decisions align with the ambitious goals set out in the Plan.

In recent years, significant international, pricing, and demographic changes have emerged, including Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the ongoing war in Ukraine, which have all posed considerable challenges. Nevertheless, Meath County Council has navigated these macroeconomic conditions effectively. The outlook for 2024 anticipates a balanced year-end, with the Council expected to generate a modest net operating surplus. This Budget reflects the resilience of Meath County Council as it has successfully managed the impacts of the pandemic and adapted to an evolving economic landscape. Budget 2025 provides for the continuation of and the enhanced services of the Council without increasing commercial rates (ARV), parking charges or other service charges. However, in order to deliver on our strong ambition and vision for County Meath, we will explore further opportunities to increase revenue streams during this Council term.

It is with great pleasure that I, as Chief Executive, present my first budget to the members of Meath County Council. Our organisation takes pride in serving our communities with dedication and commitment, and by working together, we will Make Meath Even Better.

Evolution of Budget Expenditure 2020 to 2025

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
€139,092,906	€154,685,723	€162,310,332	€186,349,110	€208,717,215	€232,057,479

Uncertainty is constant, and there are a number of variables beyond our control. Therefore, we have had to make several assumptions about the ongoing situation in Ukraine, supply chain issues, and labour shortages.

In being statutorily required to produce a balanced budget, my key focus for Budget 2025 is:

- Putting a particular focus on our local county roads across all of our County.
- Ensuring Meath County Council continues to enhance our community and amenity infrastructure, particularly in our growing urban centres.
- Establish Meath as a leader in job creation and set a benchmark for economic development.
- Delivering the objectives of the Government's Housing for All Policy and the Meath County Housing Strategy, including age-friendly housing.
- Enhancing and maintaining our services, including significant additional resources in rural regeneration.
- Deliver the ambitious goals outlined in our Climate Action Plan and in our nine decarbonising zones.

Budget 2025 provides for expenditure of €232,057,479 an increase of over €23.3m (or 11.2%) on last year's budget. Given the context, this is a very positive position and has been possible through a

continued focus on maximising the use of resources at our disposal, strong budgetary management processes, and greater effort in securing higher levels of grant funding.

Since 2019 the annual Budget has increased by a staggering 87%, which has brought new services, enhanced service levels and provided additional human and financial resources in critical and emerging areas. Staffing levels within the Council have increased and the completion of the Work Force Plan in February next year will determine our workforce strategic alignment for the next five years. This review will include a review of the Area Office structures, to ensure we deliver effective services at the closest level to the community.

Budget Preparation

Budget 2025 has been prepared in the statutory format, in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group, for consideration by the Elected Members. The process of compiling the budget involves a number of key stages which include:

- A series of meetings with the Corporate Policy Group to consider Budget Strategy and the Local Property Tax variation.
- A public consultation process from July 3, 2024 to August 7, 2024 in relation to the variation of the Local Property Tax rate.
- The meeting of the Council on September 2, 2024 to consider and decide on the variation of the Local Property Tax rate.
- The submission of a preliminary estimate of current and capital income and expenditure to the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage by October 15, 2024, to comply with national budget and EU reporting requirements.
- Notification to the Revenue Commissioners and Department by October 15, 2024 of the decision of the Council in relation to the Local Property Tax rate.
- Agree overall General Municipal Allocations – the discretionary funding available at Municipal District (MD) level (six MD meetings in early November 2024).
- Detailed reviews of all aspects of the budget with Directors and Budget Holders, to develop the draft local authority budget.

The final stage in the budget process is consideration of the budget, as presented, by the Elected Members at the Annual Budget Meeting on November 25, 2024.

The Elected Members have a number of reserved functions in relation to the overall budget process as follows:

Local Property Tax - Members have the power to vary the Local Property Tax Rate (Local Adjustment Factor) by a factor of up to plus/minus 15%.

Adoption of Budget - Members may adopt the Budget with or without amendment and must approve the sums provided for transfer to the Capital account.

Determination of Rate - A separate motion in relation to the determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV) must be considered by the Members at the Budget Meeting.

Rates on Vacant Premises - In accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, Members have the power to determine the proportion of rates refunds applicable on vacant commercial premises.

In preparing the budget each year, the Council takes account of the context within which it operates, identifies particular areas where increased investment is required, and puts in place a targeted programme to address these needs. It also considers the costs of doing business and the potential

impacts that changes in the economy may have on future income. However, it should be noted that the significant majority of any local authority's budget is fixed and non-discretionary in nature.

Context – Economic Outlook

According to the OECD, global output growth has remained resilient, and inflation has continued to moderate. Recent activity indicators suggest ongoing momentum, especially in the services sector. Real wage growth is now supporting household incomes and spending, though purchasing power has yet to fully return to pre-pandemic levels in many countries. Global trade is recovering faster than expected, but shipping costs remain elevated and export orders have recently moderated.

In addition, recent evidence shows that the domestic economy is strong and has remained remarkably resilient in the face of a series of major external shocks. As a result, the labour market has experienced positive developments, with the employment rate reaching an all-time high. The Central Bank believes that the Irish economy is resilient and is expected to grow between 2% and 3% until 2026 and unemployment is anticipated to remain low.

We are in a strong position as inflation continues to moderate and employment and activity have further expanded. However, it is important to recognise that there are elevated levels of uncertainty, largely driven by persistent geopolitical tensions around the world. These factors create a complex environment, as they have the potential to impact economic progress and public confidence.

County Meath has also demonstrated significant economic growth, recording the highest population increase in the country between 2011 and 2022. In 2022, an impressive 59.3% of the County's working population engaged in the workforce, highlighting the skillsets and employability of its residents. The County's advantageous location and access to broadband infrastructure further enhance its economic performance, evidenced by the high proportion of households with broadband connectivity. Additionally, there has been a decline in the outbound commuting rate, suggesting improvements in local employment opportunities and liveability within the region.

Meath County Council's revenue budget and capital programme provide services and investment which aim to improve the county as a place in which to live, work, invest in and visit. It is also worth noting that the Council's spending brings an important stimulus impact to the local economy. Local authorities are hubs for local businesses, communities and other service providers, and they are co-investors in local regeneration and business and community development programmes.

As a Council, we are committed to striking the right balance among the diverse needs of our stakeholders, including businesses, community groups, residents, and visitors alike. This budget has been crafted with a clear focus on tackling our key challenges while aligning with the ambitious objectives of our Corporate Plan. Guided by both national policies and our local economic landscape, we aim to foster growth, support economic development, attract future investments, address housing challenges, nurture sustainable and resilient communities, and effectively respond to the impacts of climate change.

Sources of Funding

Budget 2025 provides for expenditure of €232,057,479 to fund our services. The main sources of income available to fund this expenditure are set out here:

Income	2025	2024	2025 v 2024	% of Income
	€	€	€	%
Grants & Subsidies	92,626,146	80,229,181	12,396,965	40%
Commercial Rates	55,942,022	50,760,510	5,181,512	24%
Goods & Services	66,301,620	60,782,678	5,518,942	29%
Local Property Tax	17,187,691	16,944,846	242,845	7%
	232,057,479	208,717,215	23,340,264	100%

In addition, the rate base has grown exponentially from €37,213,426 in 2019 to €55,942,022 an increase of over 50%. Multinational companies are transforming the industrial landscape of the County, bringing in a new generation of employers. Companies such as Primeline, PCI Pharma and MTM Engineering have created almost 1500 new, high-quality, jobs in Meath in 2024. Additionally, advocates of agriculture and food see the Boyne Valley as a hub for sustainable European food technology.

Grants and Subsidies

The Council has over previous years highlighted the legacy of low government grant funding to Meath. However, we acknowledge and welcome the recent supports given to local authorities. In addition, 2025 will see very significant increases in grant funding to offset the cost of increased activity in areas such as housing and roads. For example, our expected housing grant in 2025 will be €44,109,687 which is an increase of over €4,171,067 on the previous year. Similarly, the roads grant allocation continues to grow to €26,120,417 in 2025.

The Council will continue to maximise its drawdown from national competitive grant funding streams, as it has done in recent years.

Goods and Services

The projected income from Goods and Services has increased from last year, with positive growth in income from housing rents and recoupments. These growth areas will help to off-set staffing and service costs.

Budget 2025 has been prepared and balanced without raising commercial rates or local charges. However, we are encountering rising costs of doing business, increased demands for our services, and significant challenges to the Council's revenue streams. We will deliver on our strong ambition and vision for County Meath and explore further opportunities to increase revenue streams during this Council term.

Local Property Tax

The Members resolved at their meeting on September 2, 2024 not to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax. This followed consideration of a statutory report covering:

- the financial position of Meath County Council.
- an estimate of the income the Council will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect.
- the financial effect of a varied rate.
- feedback from the public consultation held.

This decision has had an impact on the preparation of the 2025 Budget. As Meath County Council has not varied the basic rate of Local Property Tax for 2025, the budget has been prepared on the basis of €17,187,691 of Local Property Tax in the revenue account.

The benefits of the Council's decision to continue to retain the Local Property Tax at its current rate has enabled the Council to maintain and enhance the financial provision in key service areas such as housing, roads, the environment and the community.

Commercial Rates

Commercial Rates continue to be a significant contributor to the Council's budget. In order to apply the burden of commercial rates in an equitable manner to business owners across the county, ensuring that all commercial properties in the county are included on the rates records and are properly rated, remains a focused objective of the Council.

The following table provides an overview of the Rates calculation for 2025 as set out in the statutory budget tables:

Calculation of Rates 2024	
Effective Valuation 2024	288,658,524
Annual Rate on Valuation	0.19382
Total Rates for 2025	55,942,022

Meath County Council currently has the second lowest rate of commercial rates (ARV) in the Country. It is also worth noting that Meath County Council is one of the top four local authorities in the country for the collection of rates, with a 96% collection level, up from 85% in 2015. This compares with an average across the 31 local authorities of an 88% collection rate. The Council will continue to support our rate payers through the Business Support Grant. This grant was first introduced in 2015 and

approximately 79% of our rate payers will avail of the scheme this year, the cost of which equates to only 1% of rates accrued. The Council will continue to liaise with rate payers and improve collection rates, where possible.

In addition, following a public consultation process, with no submissions received, I am recommending that the rate rebate policy on vacant commercial properties remains unchanged as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Rate demands less than €100,00 | 100% vacancy refund |
| • Rate demands between €100,000 and €250,000 | 10% vacancy refund |
| • Rate demands greater than €250,000 | 0% vacancy refund |

The purpose of this approach is to encourage business owners to take advantage of the numerous vacant building grants currently available. This will help mitigate the decline of our towns and villages and assist us in delivering our objectives to reduce vacancy and dereliction, which will further support economic growth.

Budget Objectives 2025

It is worth underlining that Meath County Council is an efficient local authority, in terms of the range and quality of the services it delivers with a very low, in fact the lowest, expenditure per capita of any local authority in the State.

Ideally, as Chief Executive, I would like to be in the position of make financial provision to meet the many and growing expectations of the elected members and citizens alike in terms of more and better services and enhanced delivery of a range of measures across the county and in all local communities.

The overall objectives of Budget 2025 are:

- Putting a particular focus on our local county roads across all of our County.
- Ensuring Meath County Council continues to enhance our community and amenity infrastructure, particularly in our growing urban centres.
- Establish Meath as a leader in job creation and set a benchmark for economic development.
- Delivering the objectives of the Government's Housing for All Policy and the Meath County Housing Strategy, including age-friendly housing.
- Enhancing and maintaining our services, including significant additional resources in rural regeneration.
- Deliver the ambitious goals outlined in our Climate Action Plan and in our nine decarbonising zones.

Additional financial provision is targeted in order to respond to growing demands and identified need.

Housing

Meath County Council is committed to realising the ambition of the Government's 'Housing for All' Plan, and continue to exceed the targets in the Meath County Housing Strategy and the Housing Delivery Action Plan, for the benefit of those in need of social housing support, and those impacted by the affordability constraints that exist for many in certain areas of the County. The Council was set a target of delivering 1,525 additional social housing units between 2022 and 2026, through a combination of construction, acquisition, leasing and through partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies working in the county. The Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) covering the period from 2022 to 2026, has a strong delivery pipeline with a projected delivery of 1664 units up to 2025, though challenges exist for the delivery of social and affordable units in 2026. To meet these ongoing challenges the Council will utilise several delivery mechanisms including advance purchase

arrangements of un-commenced developments, cost rental schemes with AHBs, Part V agreements and LIHAF funding. However, substantial land bank acquisition will be required in order to secure future delivery of social and affordable units. To this end, the Council has been actively pursuing land acquisition and has acquired a number of sites, including a number of derelict sites and further engagement with developers and landowners will continue. The Council will also examine the potential to partner with third party providers to maximise the provisions of social and affordable housing.

We have committed an additional €1.3m for the administration of the homeless service, with a total budget of €7,945,925. This funding will enhance the support and resources available for those experiencing homelessness, ensuring that essential services can be effectively managed and delivered.

The Council has approximately 4,300 social housing units and it is imperative that we maintain these assets to the highest standard and undertake upgrades and refurbishment works to promote energy efficiency within our housing stock. The Housing Authority has commenced a stock condition survey as part of our strategic objective to effectively manage our housing assets. This survey will provide crucial insights into the current state of our housing stock, allowing us to transition to a more proactive, planned maintenance approach.

So far in 2024 the Council has completed 30 energy retrofit works to existing council units, with 46 more in progress. In addition, 49 voids were brought back into use and work on a further 56 voids is ongoing. It is envisaged that in 2025 the transition from refurbishing voids to a new planned maintenance regime will continue. This will be facilitated by a new Asset Management System. The new system will result in a better planned approach in managing all assets, including vacant properties thus improving the turnaround time and reducing waiting times.

The 2025 budget for maintaining and improving local authority housing units is €10,318,861, representing a significant increase of €943,047 compared to 2024. This reflects our commitment to effectively managing and enhancing our housing stock.

The Council has improved the operation of many of its housing services and advanced a number of its strategic priorities for homeless services, traveller accommodation, adaptation grants, vacant homes, and rental inspections. Overall, an additional €5,852,782 has been provided for Housing and Building (Service Division A) in Budget 2025.

Rural Regeneration

Meath County Council is committed to sustaining our towns and villages, to revitalise local economies and foster community resilience. To realise this vision, we have developed a Rural Regeneration Department that will spearhead innovative projects and initiatives across the County. The team is managed by the Town Regeneration Officer, responsible for working with Town Teams and preparing Town Plans. This department will oversee a diverse range of funding sources, including the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund, Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme, Clár, Fáilte Ireland schemes, Community Recognition Fund, and all other potential rural funding avenues.

The Council has reassigned existing staff and appointed new personnel, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, to achieve key objectives. These objectives include improving project delivery and increasing engagement with elected members and community groups. These staff possess the right skills to prepare feasibility studies, develop planning applications, secure funding, and successfully implement projects. The Department has begun a review of the objectives outlined in the County Development Plan to identify specific actions for towns and villages across the county. In addition, the team will engage with councillors and community groups to identify other potential projects. Appropriate projects will be selected to move forward through a feasibility phase and

funding application process. To support the team an additional €750,000 for Community and Amenity Regeneration has been provided in this budget.

To further enhance our communities, we will proactively manage vacancies and derelictions, including increasing the number of compulsory acquisitions, to create viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work, and visit.

Rural Roads

Rural communities need well-maintained roads to improve access to essential services and enhance safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. Over several years, the Council has made significant investments in county roads, supplementing funding received from the Department of Transport. This investment is guided by engineering data, and the strategy is clearly effective. The most recent NOAC annual statistical returns confirm the excellent standard of the majority of the roads in County Meath as set out in the table below.

% of total Regional Road with the lowest quality rating	1.77%
% of total Local Primary Road with the lowest quality rating	3.8%
% of total Local Secondary Road with the lowest quality rating	5.48%

In addition, the percentage of our Class 3 county roads with a low rating has decreased from 26.8% in 2020 to 12.59% in 2023.

Investing in rural roads is crucial for fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for residents in these areas. I am proposing an additional fund of €3,298,555 from the Council's own resources, which will be ringfenced for addressing our local tertiary roads, which are in need of rehabilitation. Following discussions with the Elected Members and listening to their concerns, I tasked our roads section to put together a high-level estimate to address this issue. The total cost would be in the order of €23.4m. Therefore, it will take almost ten years at this level of investment to address the rural roads issue. I have allocated a total of €11,822,969 for general local roads maintenance works. It is acknowledged that this network is vital for local communities in rural areas. Early investment in preventative maintenance will lead to a more resilient road network as we face the challenges posed by climate change. A total of €34,244,595 has been allocated for local roads maintenance and improvements.

Meath – 'The place and space to thrive'

Meath possesses the significant economic potential to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant commercial and residential location that is recognised locally, nationally and internationally as a highly attractive and distinctive place in which to live and conduct businesses. Meath County Council is committed to driving the economic development of the County and we have prepared a Strategic Action Plan for delivery, which has been informed by statistics and analysis available from Census 2022, the recently developed Skills Audit for the County and outlines the key focus for economic development of the County. I look forward to the opening of the Thrive Centre for Business Excellence in March next year, which will create a central location for supporting indigenous businesses and attracting new enterprises to the County.

The Local Enterprise Office is strategically charged with stimulating economic activity at county level to develop indigenous enterprise potential within the county. It is a 'First Stop Shop' for local businesses seeking information and support on starting or growing a business within the county. The LEO team in Meath provides a variety of training, advice and financial support services to small businesses within the county to encourage enterprise in the region. Its relocation to the Thrive Centre is critical for a consistent approach in all dealings with our business sector.

The Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy was launched in October this year. Based on comprehensive research, the strategy identifies 6 key transformative projects to pave the way for an ambitious target of becoming one of the leading Experiential Destinations in the world. With sustainability, inclusivity and rural spread at the heart of this strategy, it sets a target to increase dwell time from 29% to 50% staying at least one night in the destination. Outlining 16 recommendations, the strategy has a clear action plan to deliver golf, equine, music, walking and cycling experiences and position the Boyne Valley as the world's signature destination for the Celtic Festival Calendar, develop the coast and promote the Boyne Valley as a leading food and drink destination.

A total of €4,556,098 has been provided in Budget 2025 for economic development and promotion, which represents an increase of €1,069,333 on last year's budget. The Council will continue to capitalise on other Government supported schemes and EU funding initiatives.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Local authorities are best placed to work alongside communities and businesses to drive the change necessary to address climate change. We are community leaders, experienced in mobilising the multi-stakeholder partnerships and relationships required to tackle complex challenges. Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 was adopted in January 2024 and outlines ambitious strategies to create a low-carbon and climate resilient County by delivering and promoting best practices in climate action at the local level. Central to Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan is the concept of decarbonising zones with nine towns identified. These designated zones will serve as focal points for targeted measures to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and enhance environmental sustainability. Furthermore, they will provide opportunities for sharing experiences and learnings between communities.

The people of Meath have been no strangers to the devastating effects of climate change. Floods, storms, and other extreme weather events have caused significant disruption in many communities in the county. As such, the local council is committed to supporting the Office of Public Works (OPW) to deliver flood relief measures across the county.

The Council is committed to embedding decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into all aspects of our service delivery programmes. We have developed an Energy Management System to enable the organisation to follow a systematic approach in achieving continual improvement of energy performance and we are proud to have received ISO 50001:2018 accreditation in 2024.

The Environment Section is currently facilitating ten Sustainable Energy Communities throughout the county. With the support of the council, these communities have come together to improve how energy is used and to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of their community.

Other Service Enhancements

The Council will continue to support the Cathaoirleach and the elected members in fulfilling their reserved roles and will facilitate the range of statutory and other meetings throughout the year. The Council will enhance the training provided by the AILG with a bespoke training programme for the Elected Members.

Municipal Districts, which include towns and their hinterland are designed to oversee a large number of important citizen-focused services. To support the work of elected members in these districts, the Members' Discretionary Fund is being increased by €40,000, totaling €640,000 which is available to support local community groups. Additionally, to further support the municipal district model, the discretionary general municipal allocation has increased by €115,000. A total budget of €2,221,000 has been set aside for various general municipal allocation schemes in 2025. In addition, the Council will continue to maximise its drawdown for national funding programmes.

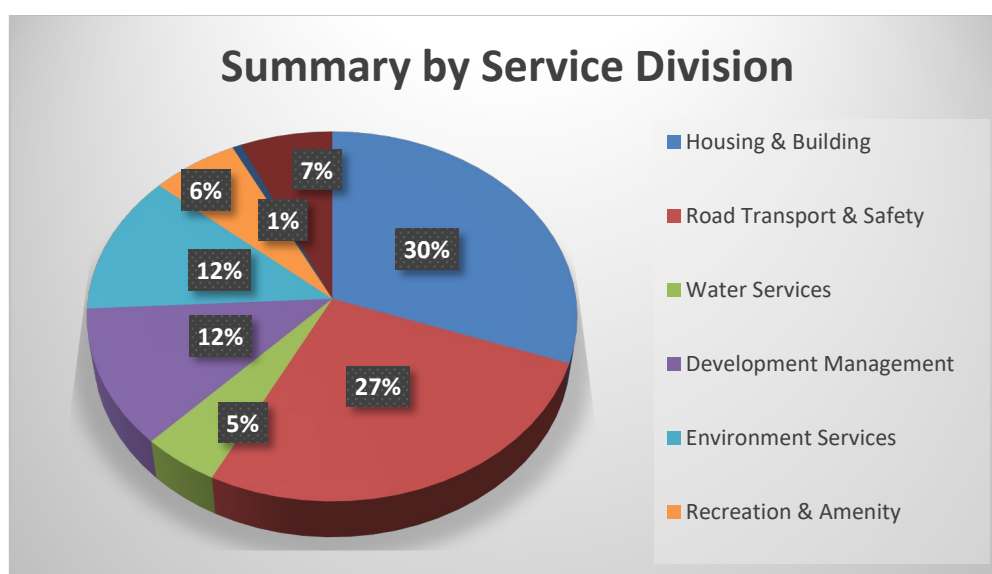
Our ability as an organisation to provide the services our citizens require, and also the way in which our citizens interact with us, is increasingly reliant on technology. The introduction of the new Sugar Serve CRM is not only a customer service tool, but also streamlines processes throughout departments and provide valuable information in a timely manner. Through the Elected Members CRM Portal, members are now in a position to interact with customer service teams and departments and receive timely updates on representations made to the Council.

The risk of cybercrime is on the increase, added to this is our reliance on cloud-based systems and the requirement for improved security measures. The Council is committed to mitigating against this risk.

The Libraries Service and the branch network play a crucial role in ensuring access to information, reading and learning material. They also provide a range of essential services in our communities. I am looking forward to the opening of the new landmark East Meath Civic Centre, which will have the first sensory room in the county and offer group study pods to students. 2025 provides an additional €620,125 for library service and archival operations.

As a public body, there is an obligation on us to engage, inform and communicate with all stakeholders and the Council recognises the value of effective communications both internally and externally. The Council has prepared a Communications Strategy to ensure efficient communications to our Elected Members, customers, staff and other stakeholders, which will further promote engagement with the public and highlight the work of the Council.

The table below sets out the summary expenditure by service division.



Acknowledgements

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sharon Tolan and her predecessor Cllr. Tommy Reilly and the Councillors of Meath County Council for their contribution and support over the past financial year. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Elected Members on the delivery of a high-quality public service for the people of Meath.

I would like to pay tribute to all the staff for their commitment and enthusiasm in the delivery of these services across the county and I am confident that together we can Make Meath Even Better.

The preparation of the Budget is a difficult and demanding task. It is co-ordinated by the Finance Team and involves all Departments. In this regard, I would like to thank all staff involved in the Budget process but in particular the Management Team for their on-going cooperation, with a special acknowledgement of Ms. Fiona Lawless, Director of Finance, Ms. Sheila Harkin, Financial Management Accountant, Ms. Michelle Rankin, Financial Management Accountant and their colleagues in the Finance Section for their tremendous work in relation to the detailed preparation of this Budget.

Finally, I formally recommend my first budget, Budget 2025, as presented, to the Council for adoption.



Kieran Kehoe, Chief Executive

Budget 2025

Expenditure €232m

Housing €70.8m

Maintenance & Improvements of LA Housing Units, RAS & Leasing, Housing Loans & Housing Grants



Transportation

Road Maintenance & Improvements, Public Lighting, Car Parking and Road Safety.

€62.4m



Development Mgt. €27.9m

Planning, Community, Economic Development & Tourism



Water Services €10.8m



Recreation & Amenity €14.5m

Miscellaneous Service €15.5m

Customer and Corporate Services, Communications, Facilities, Health and Safety.



Environmental Services €28.4m



Agriculture & Welfare €1.4m



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TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Summary by Service Division	Expenditure €	Income €	Budget Net Expenditure 2025 €	%	Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2024 €	%
Gross Revenue Expenditure & Income						
A Housing and Building	70,861,768	73,724,566	(2,862,798)	(3.9%)	(3,444,355)	(5.1%)
B Road Transport & Safety	62,428,900	31,826,631	30,602,269	41.8%	24,862,664	36.7%
C Water Services	10,837,452	9,097,243	1,740,209	2.4%	1,467,397	2.2%
D Development Management	27,959,776	15,420,478	12,539,298	17.1%	10,243,752	15.1%
E Environmental Services	28,438,995	12,281,549	16,157,446	22.1%	15,366,269	22.7%
F Recreation and Amenity	14,551,994	1,001,719	13,550,275	18.5%	11,639,124	17.2%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,462,261	833,497	628,764	0.9%	511,469	0.8%
H Miscellaneous Services	15,516,333	14,742,083	774,250	1.1%	7,013,035	10.4%
	232,057,479	158,927,766	73,129,713	100.0%	67,659,355	100.0%
Provision for Debit Balance	-		-			
ADJUSTED GROSS EXPENDITURE AND INCOME (A)	232,057,479	158,927,766	73,129,713		67,659,355	
Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances						
Provision for Credit Balance		-	-			
Local Property Tax		17,187,691	17,187,691			
SUB-TOTAL (B)			17,187,691			
AMOUNT OF RATES TO BE LEVIED C=(A-B)			55,942,022			
Net Effective Valuation (E)			288,658,524			
GENERAL ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION (C/E)			0.1938			

Service Division A

Housing & Building - Key priorities 2025

Continue
**exceeding the
targets set out for
Housing Delivery**
in the Government's
'Housing for All'
Plan.



1500

The target of just over **1,500** newly constructed dwellings, will be exceeded by the end of the plan in 2026. **75% of that target has already been delivered**, with a year still to run in the programme.

Implement and deliver the vision and objectives outlined in **Meath Housing Strategy** and the **Housing Delivery Plan**.



Deliver the **vision** and **ambitions** of the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan.

Upgrades and **refurbishment** works will be undertaken to promote energy efficiency within our **4000** plus social housing stock.



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Service Division A – Housing & Building

Introduction

Meath County Council's Housing Department is exceeding the targets set out for Housing Delivery in the Government's 'Housing for All' Plan. The target of just over 1,500 newly constructed dwellings will be exceeded by the end of the plan in 2026. 75% of that target has already been delivered, with a year still to run in the programme. A blueprint for the delivery of the Housing Departments Services is set out in a detailed Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP), covering the period from 2022 to 2026.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Meath County Council will facilitate and promote a robust and sustainable Housing Strategy that plans and provides for the housing needs of our citizens.
- Implement and deliver the vision and objectives outlined in the Meath Housing Strategy and the Housing Delivery Plan to effectively plan for and fulfil the housing needs of all of our citizens.
- Deliver the vision and ambitions of the Mid-East Region Homelessness Action Plan for the prevention and management of homeless services in the County.
- Meath County Council's Housing Department intends to engage further with our Council tenants through our tenant liaison officers. During 2024, MCC and Youth Work Ireland Meath ran a very successful public realm improvement project. We would like to continue building on this initiative and encouraging community spirit and volunteerism among the young people in our Estates.
- The Housing Department will continue to engage with all stakeholders to meet our Capital delivery target under Housing for All and progress a structured plan for providing a robust Assessment and Allocation Team to assess new applicants and allocate the houses being delivered.

The Council will utilise several delivery mechanisms, including advance purchase arrangements of uncommenced developments, cost rental schemes with AHBs and MCCs' own Schemes, Part V agreements, and LIHAF funding, to deliver these much-needed homes. The Council will also continue to work with all stakeholders to actively acquire suitable sites for future delivery.

The Council has more than 4,000 social housing units that must be maintained to the highest standard. Upgrades and refurbishment works will be undertaken to promote energy efficiency within our housing stock.

It is envisaged that in 2025, the transition from refurbishing voids to a new planned maintenance regime will continue. This will be facilitated by a new Asset Management System, which is currently being piloted by other local authorities. The new system will result in a better-planned approach to managing all assets, including vacant properties, thus improving the turnaround time and reducing waiting times.

The Council has improved the operation of many of its housing services and advanced several strategic priorities for homeless services, traveller accommodation, adaptation grants, vacant homes, and rental inspections. Staff sanctions have been obtained for additional resources in the areas of social housing construction, provision of affordable housing, and private rented inspections, and these have been provided in the budget estimates.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
A Housing and Building								
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units	10,318,861	10,318,861	3,717,120	3,717,120	9,375,814	9,375,814	3,731,371	3,731,371
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	81,313	81,313	-	-	71,210	71,210	-	-
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	1,457,423	1,457,423	17,890,351	17,890,351	1,336,513	1,336,513	15,516,303	17,366,303
A04 Housing Community Development Support	327,780	327,780	10,387	10,387	292,524	292,524	8,972	8,972
A05 Administration of Homeless Service	7,945,925	7,945,925	6,921,033	6,921,033	6,666,929	6,666,929	5,744,884	5,744,884
A06 Support to Housing Capital Prog.	5,511,269	5,511,269	2,143,782	2,143,782	4,492,553	4,492,553	1,776,563	1,776,563
A07 RAS and Leasing Programme	37,262,677	37,262,677	37,819,283	37,819,283	35,766,664	35,766,664	35,665,444	35,665,444
A08 Housing Loans	3,312,363	3,312,363	1,839,566	1,839,566	3,145,486	3,145,486	1,812,792	1,812,792
A09 Housing Grants	4,326,721	4,326,721	3,225,486	3,225,486	3,552,789	4,066,789	2,801,984	2,801,984
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,166	1,166	-	-	1,043	1,043	-	-
A12 HAP Programme	316,270	316,270	157,558	157,558	307,461	307,461	59,028	59,028
Division A Total	70,861,768	70,861,768	73,724,566	73,724,566	65,008,986	65,522,986	67,117,341	68,967,341

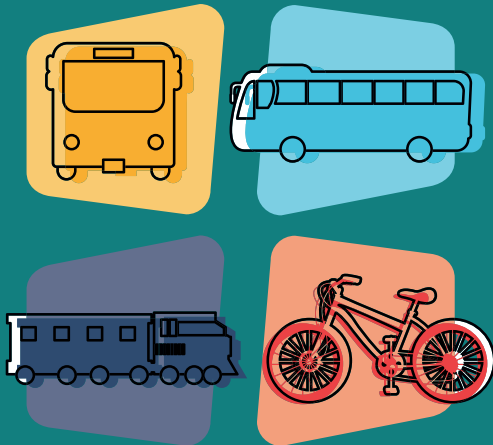
Table F - Expenditure				
Division A - Housing and Building				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
A0101 Maintenance of LA Housing Units	8,363,671	8,363,671	7,630,785	7,630,785
A0102 Maintenance of Traveller Accommodation Units	401,875	401,875	346,289	346,289
A0103 Traveller Accommodation Management	71,700	71,700	61,700	61,700
A0104 Estate Maintenance	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
A0199 Service Support Costs	1,431,615	1,431,615	1,287,040	1,287,040
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing Units	10,318,861	10,318,861	9,375,814	9,375,814
A0201 Assessment of Housing Needs, Allocs. & Trans.	80,813	80,813	70,763	70,763
A0299 Service Support Costs	500	500	447	447
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	81,313	81,313	71,210	71,210
A0301 Debt Management & Rent Assessment	1,166,338	1,166,338	1,084,239	1,084,239
A0399 Service Support Costs	291,085	291,085	252,274	252,274
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	1,457,423	1,457,423	1,336,513	1,336,513
A0401 Housing Estate Management	-	-	-	-
A0402 Tenancy Management	209,422	209,422	185,793	185,793
A0403 Social and Community Housing Service	-	-	-	-
A0499 Service Support Costs	118,358	118,358	106,731	106,731
A04 Housing Community Development Support	327,780	327,780	292,524	292,524
A0501 Homeless Grants Other Bodies	-	-	-	-
A0502 Homeless Service	7,839,399	7,839,399	6,570,845	6,570,845
A0599 Service Support Costs	106,526	106,526	96,084	96,084
A05 Administration of Homeless Service	7,945,925	7,945,925	6,666,929	6,666,929
A0601 Technical and Administrative Support	4,409,470	4,409,470	3,489,302	3,489,302
A0602 Loan Charges	214,414	214,414	204,535	204,535
A0699 Service Support Costs	887,385	887,385	798,716	798,716
A06 Support to Housing Capital Prog.	5,511,269	5,511,269	4,492,553	4,492,553
A0701 RAS Operations	4,094,892	4,094,892	3,925,608	3,925,608
A0702 Long Term Leasing	6,537,601	6,537,601	6,403,991	6,403,991
A0703 Payment & Availability	26,614,443	26,614,443	25,422,981	25,422,981
A0704 Affordable Leases	-	-	-	-
A0799 Service Support Costs	15,741	15,741	14,084	14,084
A07 RAS and Leasing Programme	37,262,677	37,262,677	35,766,664	35,766,664
A0801 Loan Interest and Other Charges	2,567,947	2,567,947	2,502,285	2,502,285
A0802 Debt Management Housing Loans	151,973	151,973	125,004	125,004
A0899 Service Support Costs	592,443	592,443	518,197	518,197
A08 Housing Loans	3,312,363	3,312,363	3,145,486	3,145,486

Table F - Expenditure				
Division A - Housing and Building				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
A0901 Housing Adaptation Scheme Grant	-	-	-	-
A0902 Loan Charges DPG/ERG	-	-	-	-
A0903 Essential Repair Grants	-	-	-	-
A0904 Other Housing Grant Payments	363,451	363,451	183,161	183,161
A0905 Mobility Aids Housing Grants	3,957,000	3,957,000	3,364,000	3,878,000
A0999 Service Support Costs	6,270	6,270	5,628	5,628
A09 Housing Grants	4,326,721	4,326,721	3,552,789	4,066,789
A1101 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
A1199 Service Support Costs	1,166	1,166	1,043	1,043
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	1,166	1,166	1,043	1,043
A1201 HAP	256,624	256,624	252,856	252,856
A1202 HAP Agency Services	-	-	-	-
A1299 HAP Service Support Costs	59,646	59,646	54,605	54,605
A12 HAP Programme	316,270	316,270	307,461	307,461
Division A Total	70,861,768	70,861,768	65,008,986	65,522,986

Table F - Income				
Division A - Housing and Building				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	44,109,687	44,109,687	39,938,620	39,938,620
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	44,109,687	44,109,687	39,938,620	39,938,620
Goods & Services				
Rents from Houses	18,792,508	18,792,508	16,309,324	18,159,324
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	1,989,213	1,989,213	2,036,313	2,036,313
Superannuation	215,558	215,558	186,189	186,189
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	5,913,300	5,913,300	6,108,864	6,108,864
Other income	2,704,300	2,704,300	2,538,031	2,538,031
Total Goods & Services	29,614,879	29,614,879	27,178,721	29,028,721
Division A Total	73,724,566	73,724,566	67,117,341	68,967,341

Service Division B

Transportation - Key priorities in 2025



To work with NWRA in progressing the **Thrive** (The Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme).

LDR4 to be completed by **Q4 2025**

To continue to progress the **N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement** scheme.



Showcase how partnership between the Council and Communities can deliver meaningful improvements on roads through the **CIS** and **LIS** schemes.



€3.2m

€3.2 Million of Council's own resources will be spent to improve Class 3 County Roads.



To deliver **cycling, walking** and **public transport** initiatives and infrastructure throughout County Meath.



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Service Division B – Transportation

Introduction:

The Transportation Department is responsible for optimising its existing infrastructure and ensuring the planning, design, and maintenance of the regional and local roads within County Meath. It is also responsible for making active travel and public transport an attractive choice that is accessible to all and for creating more liveable and sustainable urban communities.

Meath County Council receives funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Rural and Community Development. We also use our own funds and specific grants.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Delivery of the road works programme from the regional and local road grant allocation.
- Continue to deliver a broad range of services across the Six Municipal Districts. As the population grows, continued economic development, new public realm developments, and active travel spaces require an increased level of service from the Municipal District crews.
- Showcase how the partnership between the Council and Communities can deliver meaningful improvements on roads through the CIS and LIS schemes.
- Ensure the Climate Adaptation Strategy for Regional and Local Roads is implemented and to identify critical infrastructure and associated critical Infrastructure routes across the county by maintaining and protecting these routes and becoming resilient.
- To continue progressing the N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm improvement scheme.
- To work with NWRA to progress the Thrive (The Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme).
- LDR4 to be completed by Q4 2025.
- To deliver cycling, walking and public transport initiatives and infrastructure throughout County Meath.
- Manage the footpath improvement/risk mitigation programme, and Meath County Council funded works for minor traffic management works at schools and for vulnerable road users.

In preparing the Budget for 2025, the assumption is made that grant funding from Government Departments will be at a similar level to what was allocated in 2024. The continuing challenge for the Council in 2025 will be to deploy the resources available in the most effective way to maintain the network and provide the best level of service possible to the public. The key will be to deliver this service in a manner that is safe for the public, staff and contractors alike. Concerns will continue over the ongoing supply chain and delivery issues as well as the related cost implications, fuel price increases, etc.

Progression of all our major Capital Schemes will continue to be a priority in 2025, with a particular focus on progressing the Strategic Infrastructure Development application for N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Project with An Bord Pleanála and the LDR4 project

There is a continued focus on the infrastructure priorities for the growth areas in the County, particularly Navan, Drogheda and Dunboyne. The Council staff will support Irish Rail in bringing forward the scheme for Navan Rail Line.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
B Road Transport & Safety								
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement	1,280,097	1,280,097	502,508	502,508	881,862	881,862	265,462	265,462
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement	453,933	453,933	271,501	271,501	423,925	423,925	285,272	285,272
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	12,449,393	12,449,393	7,099,903	7,099,903	14,200,107	14,200,107	9,538,252	9,538,252
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	34,244,595	34,244,595	18,484,443	18,484,443	27,436,650	28,740,714	15,238,712	16,542,777
B05 Public Lighting	4,563,716	4,563,716	22	22	3,823,337	3,823,337	19	19
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	112,630	112,630	3,391	3,391	109,563	109,563	2,929	2,929
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	537,442	537,442	370,106	370,106	467,615	467,615	397,070	397,070
B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education	452,878	452,878	12,219	12,219	418,687	418,687	10,554	10,554
B09 Car Parking	1,467,431	1,467,431	1,539,000	1,539,000	1,362,064	1,362,064	1,529,000	1,529,000
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog	2,709,730	2,709,730	216,642	216,642	2,420,564	2,420,564	187,125	187,125
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	4,157,055	4,157,055	3,326,896	3,326,896	3,671,087	3,671,087	2,898,401	2,898,401
Division B Total	62,428,900	62,428,900	31,826,631	31,826,631	55,215,461	56,519,525	30,352,796	31,656,861

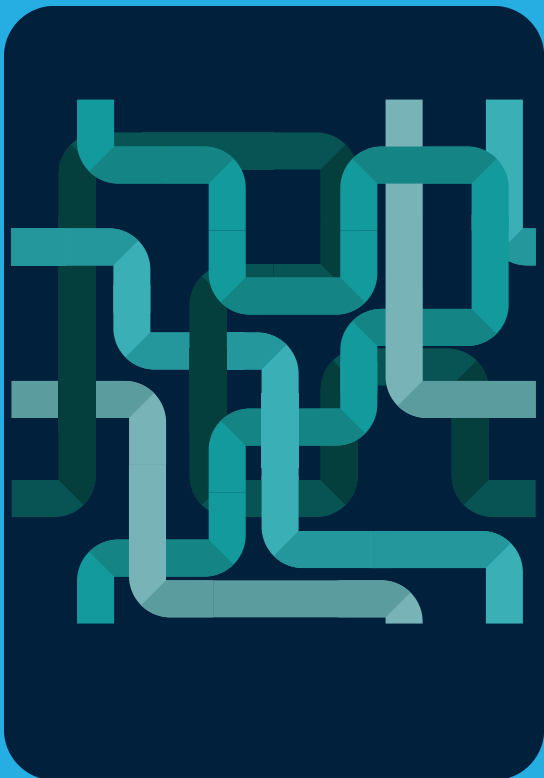
Table F - Expenditure				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
B0101 NP - Surface Dressing	-	-	-	-
B0102 NP - Pavement Overlay/Reconstruction	-	-	-	-
B0103 NP - Winter Maintenance	106,039	106,039	105,948	105,948
B0104 NP - Bridge Maintenance (Eirspan)	-	-	-	-
B0105 NP - General Maintenance	175,397	175,397	175,397	175,397
B0106 NP - General Improvements Works	284,875	284,875	-	-
B0199 Service Support Costs	713,786	713,786	600,517	600,517
B01 NP Road - Maintenance and Improvement	1,280,097	1,280,097	881,862	881,862
B0201 NS - Surface Dressing	-	-	-	-
B0202 NS - Overlay/Reconstruction	-	-	-	-
B0203 NS - Overlay/Reconstruction – Urban	-	-	-	-
B0204 NS - Winter Maintenance	125,375	125,375	125,229	125,229
B0205 NS - Bridge Maintenance (Eirspan)	-	-	-	-
B0206 NS - General Maintenance	221,258	221,258	196,575	196,575
B0207 NS - General Improvement Works	-	-	-	-
B0299 Service Support Costs	107,300	107,300	102,121	102,121
B02 NS Road - Maintenance and Improvement	453,933	453,933	423,925	423,925
B0301 Regional Roads Surface Dressing	489,734	489,734	955,339	955,339
B0302 Reg Rd Surface Rest/Road Reconstruction/Overlay	2,415,000	2,415,000	3,737,800	3,737,800
B0303 Regional Road Winter Maintenance	496,404	496,404	487,629	487,629
B0304 Regional Road Bridge Maintenance	-	-	-	-
B0305 Regional Road General Maintenance Works	4,950,298	4,950,298	5,340,828	5,340,828
B0306 Regional Road General Improvement Works	-	-	-	-
B0399 Service Support Costs	4,097,957	4,097,957	3,678,511	3,678,511
B03 Regional Road - Maintenance and Improvement	12,449,393	12,449,393	14,200,107	14,200,107
B0401 Local Road Surface Dressing	3,214,635	3,214,635	2,748,030	2,748,030
B0402 Local Rd Surface Rest/Road Reconstruction/Overlay	13,159,950	13,159,950	10,696,800	12,000,864
B0403 Local Roads Winter Maintenance	-	-	-	-
B0404 Local Roads Bridge Maintenance	892,500	892,500	895,000	895,000
B0405 Local Roads General Maintenance Works	11,822,969	11,822,969	8,524,414	8,524,414
B0406 Local Roads General Improvement Works	750,000	750,000	400,000	400,000
B0499 Service Support Costs	4,404,541	4,404,541	4,172,406	4,172,406
B04 Local Road - Maintenance and Improvement	34,244,595	34,244,595	27,436,650	28,740,714
B0501 Public Lighting Operating Costs	4,188,332	4,188,332	3,509,212	3,509,212
B0502 Public Lighting Improvement	-	-	-	-
B0599 Service Support Costs	375,384	375,384	314,125	314,125
B05 Public Lighting	4,563,716	4,563,716	3,823,337	3,823,337

Table F - Expenditure				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
B0601 Traffic Management	-	-	-	-
B0602 Traffic Maintenance	-	-	-	-
B0603 Traffic Improvement Measures	82,001	82,001	82,001	82,001
B0699 Service Support Costs	30,629	30,629	27,562	27,562
B06 Traffic Management Improvement	112,630	112,630	109,563	109,563
B0701 Low Cost Remedial Measures	453,144	453,144	390,500	390,500
B0702 Other Engineering Improvements	-	-	-	-
B0799 Service Support Costs	84,298	84,298	77,115	77,115
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	537,442	537,442	467,615	467,615
B0801 School Wardens	218,343	218,343	214,193	214,193
B0802 Publicity and Promotion Road Safety	73,464	73,464	58,279	58,279
B0899 Service Support Costs	161,071	161,071	146,215	146,215
B08 Road Safety Promotion & Education	452,878	452,878	418,687	418,687
B0901 Maintenance and Management of Car Parks	-	-	-	-
B0902 Operation of Street Parking	1,167,500	1,167,500	1,077,500	1,077,500
B0903 Parking Enforcement	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
B0999 Service Support Costs	214,931	214,931	199,564	199,564
B09 Car Parking	1,467,431	1,467,431	1,362,064	1,362,064
B1001 Administration of Roads Capital Programme	-	-	-	-
B1099 Service Support Costs	2,709,730	2,709,730	2,420,564	2,420,564
B10 Support to Roads Capital Prog	2,709,730	2,709,730	2,420,564	2,420,564
B1101 Agency & Recoupable Service	4,065,461	4,065,461	3,587,654	3,587,654
B1199 Service Support Costs	91,594	91,594	83,433	83,433
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	4,157,055	4,157,055	3,671,087	3,671,087
Division B Total	62,428,900	62,428,900	55,215,461	56,519,525

Table F - Income				
Division B - Road Transport & Safety				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	-	-	-	-
TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland	26,120,417	26,120,417	25,166,567	26,470,632
Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	-	-	-	-
National Transport Authority	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Rural & Community Development	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	26,120,417	26,120,417	25,166,567	26,470,632
Goods & Services				
Parking Fines & Charges	1,526,000	1,526,000	1,516,000	1,516,000
Superannuation	667,755	667,755	576,775	576,775
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	300,000	300,000	200,000	200,000
Other income	3,212,459	3,212,459	2,893,454	2,893,454
Total Goods & Services	5,706,214	5,706,214	5,186,229	5,186,229
Division B Total	31,826,631	31,826,631	30,352,796	31,656,861

Service Division C

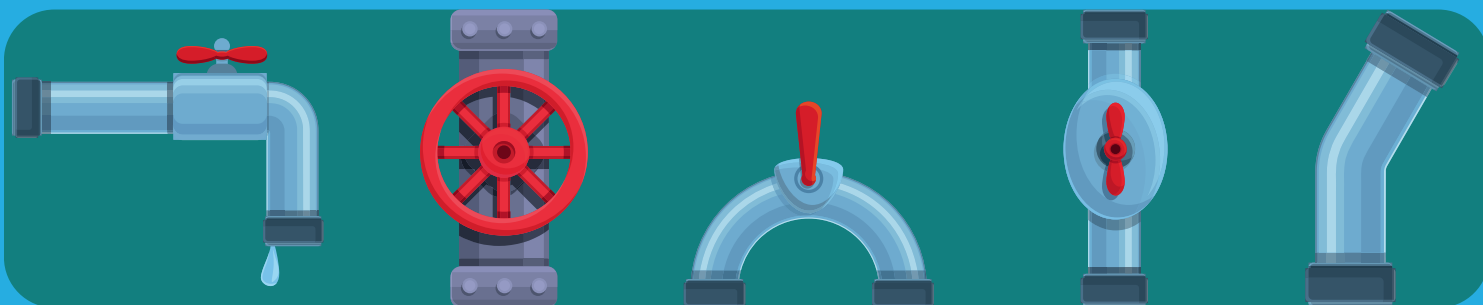
Water Services - Key priorities in 2025



Direct Responsibility

Storm Water Drainage
Storm Flooding
Group Schemes
Private Regulated Water Supplies
Well Grants
Lead Piping Replacement Grants

The council collaborates with LAWPRO and other stakeholders to implement provisions of the Water Action Plan 2024, aiming to protect and restore water bodies to good status by 2027.



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Service Division C – Water Services

Meath County Council will continue to operate under a Master Co-Operation agreement with Uisce Éireann in 2025. Under this agreement, Uisce Éireann assume full accountability for the delivery of water services and the management and direction of all eligible water services staff in Meath.

As part of this, Meath County Council will collaborate with Uisce Éireann under a Support Services Agreement to provide support, mainly in the form of staff, to help Uisce Éireann deliver its services in Meath during 2025.

The Council's 2025 Budget accounts for Water Services staff payroll and directly incurred costs, which will be recouped on a monthly basis from Uisce Éireann during 2025. Uisce Éireann has budgeted directly for the provision of the goods and services associated with the provision of Water Services.

Uisce Éireann is not responsible for stormwater drainage, storm flooding, group schemes, private regulated water supplies, well grants, or lead piping replacement grants. Meath County Council will continue to have direct responsibility for these matters and is making provision for them in the 2025 Budget.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
C Water Services								
C01 Water Supply	5,363,591	5,363,591	321,356	321,356	5,331,428	5,331,428	277,572	277,572
C02 Waste Water Treatment	3,606,015	3,606,015	175,639	175,639	4,119,026	4,119,026	151,708	151,708
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	73,331	73,331	6,687	6,687	66,010	66,010	5,776	5,776
C04 Public Conveniences	61,277	61,277	22,758	22,758	60,528	60,528	22,383	22,383
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations	446,356	446,356	313,445	313,445	431,425	431,425	312,294	312,294
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme	1,189,469	1,189,469	129	129	1,335,533	1,335,533	111	111
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services	11,541	11,541	6,381,429	6,381,429	10,393	10,393	9,119,602	9,119,602
C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	85,872	85,872	1,875,800	1,875,800	78,466	78,466	75,966	75,966
Division C Total	10,837,452	10,837,452	9,097,243	9,097,243	11,432,809	11,432,809	9,965,412	9,965,412

Table F - Expenditure				
Division C - Water Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
C0101 Water Plants & Networks	2,634,078	2,634,078	2,587,935	2,587,935
C0199 Service Support Costs	2,729,513	2,729,513	2,743,493	2,743,493
C01 Water Supply	5,363,591	5,363,591	5,331,428	5,331,428
C0201 Waste Plants and Networks	2,060,269	2,060,269	1,938,226	1,938,226
C0299 Service Support Costs	1,545,746	1,545,746	2,180,800	2,180,800
C02 Waste Water Treatment	3,606,015	3,606,015	4,119,026	4,119,026
C0301 Debt Management Water and Waste Water	-	-	-	-
C0399 Service Support Costs	73,331	73,331	66,010	66,010
C03 Collection of Water and Waste Water Charges	73,331	73,331	66,010	66,010
C0401 Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences	50,683	50,683	50,683	50,683
C0499 Service Support Costs	10,594	10,594	9,845	9,845
C04 Public Conveniences	61,277	61,277	60,528	60,528
C0501 Grants for Individual Installations	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
C0502 Grants for Water Group Schemes	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
C0503 Grants for Waste Water Group Schemes	-	-	-	-
C0504 Group Water Scheme Subsidies	60,483	60,483	56,102	56,102
C0599 Service Support Costs	110,873	110,873	100,323	100,323
C05 Admin of Group and Private Installations	446,356	446,356	431,425	431,425
C0601 Technical Design and Supervision	-	-	-	-
C0699 Service Support Costs	1,189,469	1,189,469	1,335,533	1,335,533
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme	1,189,469	1,189,469	1,335,533	1,335,533
C0701 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
C0799 Service Support Costs	11,541	11,541	10,393	10,393
C07 Agency & Recoupable Services	11,541	11,541	10,393	10,393
C0801 Local Authority Water Services	85,872	85,872	78,466	78,466
C0802 Local Authority Sanitary Services	-	-	-	-
C0899 Local Authority Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
C08 Local Authority Water and Sanitary Services	85,872	85,872	78,466	78,466
Division C Total	10,837,452	10,837,452	11,432,809	11,432,809

Table F - Income				
Division C - Water Services				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	2,180,800	2,180,800	380,966	380,966
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	2,180,800	2,180,800	380,966	380,966
Goods & Services				
Uisce Éireann	6,380,932	6,380,932	9,119,172	9,119,172
Superannuation	515,511	515,511	445,274	445,274
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	-	-	-	-
Other income	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Goods & Services	6,916,443	6,916,443	9,584,446	9,584,446
Division C Total	9,097,243	9,097,243	9,965,412	9,965,412

Service Division D

Development Management - Key priorities 2025

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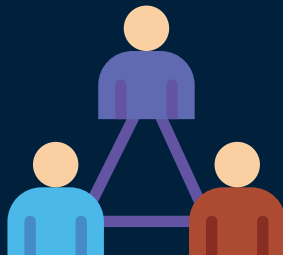


Preparation of a new **10** year Development Plan that will incorporate updates from National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

Implement and support **TCF initiatives** in Towns and Villages through the County.



Launch the **Meath Centre of Business Excellence** to provide supports to businesses to facilitate their growth and expansion both nationally & internationally.



Ensure effective planning, promoting sustainable and balanced development in both urban and rural areas.
Create a high-quality living and working environment.



Work on creating **compelling experiences** for tourists and becoming a **signature destination** for the Celtic festival calendar.



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Service Division D – Development Management

Planning and Development

Introduction:

Planning plays a fundamental role in the development of our County and the provision of services across all departments of the Local Authority. The Planning Department aims to ensure that the right development happens in the right place at the right time, benefitting communities and the economy while protecting our environment and heritage. Planning is also key to progressing the transition to a low-carbon future, including through adapting to and mitigating flood risk, developing indigenous and international businesses, accommodating sustainable levels of residential, commercial development and renewable energy resources, ensuring development supports, promoting more sustainable transport options and encouraging more effective use of brownfield sites over greenfield land.

The delivery of quality planning services across the department is managed by splitting the work into the following:

- Development Management
- Forward Planning
- Building Control & Enforcement
- Projects, Regeneration, Heritage, Conservation & Biodiversity

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Commence the review of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 and the preparation of a new 10-year Development Plan that will incorporate updates from the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
- Implementation of the new provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2024
- Complete and adopt the Joint Local Area Plan for Maynooth and continue the development of a Joint Local Area Plan for Drogheda
- Deliver the actions highlighted in the County Meath Heritage Strategy 2024 - 2030 and finalise the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030
- Prepare additional Master Plans and Public Realm Plans, advance Strategic Plans/Projects and support the work of TCF team

The Planning Department aims to provide an excellent experience by managing all planning applications and building control consent applications in a professional, consistent, fair, and transparent manner. Additionally, the focus is on delivering strong and robust Forward Planning statutory and non-statutory policy and guidance. This is done with leadership, clarity, and certainty, which ultimately enhances and supports future investment decisions in County Meath.

Another key objective is to ensure effective and proper planning, promoting sustainable and balanced development in both urban and rural areas. The goal is to create a high-quality living and working environment that meets the diverse needs of all residents. To further ensure compliance and safety, an effective Building Control inspection and market surveillance regime is implemented. This helps maintain standards and safeguards the community. Prompt and consistent responses to all planning enforcement issues and complaints are also prioritised.

Finally, there is a strong commitment to manage and protect our heritage and biodiversity. Efforts are made to promote understanding, conservation, and enjoyment of these vital aspects of our environment, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

Rural Regeneration

Introduction:

Meath County Council's Rural Regeneration Section envisages supporting the creation of Towns and Villages that are viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local communities. These aims will be delivered through the following sub-departments:

- Town Centre First (TCF)
- Rural Regeneration (ORIS, TVRS, CLAR, CCIF etc., etc.)
- Urban Regeneration (Call 3)
- Vacancy Homes (including Croí Cónaithe)
- Derelict Sites

The Rural Regeneration Section will concentrate on the sustainable growth of towns and villages by focusing on the reuse and repurposing of vacant and derelict buildings, which helps support local skills and fosters community-led initiatives and engagement. This includes the sustainable and adaptive reuse of existing assets alongside efforts to improve the energy efficiency of individual buildings. Additionally, the initiative aims to acquire vacant and derelict properties to restore them for their original residential purposes or to repurpose them to meet modern-day needs.

The policies/ objectives of the various Government Departments align seamlessly with the goals/objectives of Meath County Council's Rural Regeneration Section, as listed above.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Implement and support TCF initiatives in Towns and Village throughout the County
- Reduce Vacancy and Dereliction in the County
- Maximise the use of available funding streams

Through the various policies and appropriate funding support available to the Rural Regeneration Section, Meath County Council will endeavour to make "Meath Even Better" for everyone in terms of tackling vacancy and dereliction within our settlements whilst also improving and increasing the quantity, quality and availability of recreational amenities and facilities for our communities, through both Local Authority and Community driven/ led projects.

Economic Development and Tourism

Introduction:

The Economic Development and Tourism Department is dedicated to shaping the County's economic future. In doing so, it is imperative to recognise the unique assets that define our landscape here in Meath and the many advantages for businesses, residents, and tourists who choose to locate in or visit the county.

The Vision is for Meath to be an economically vibrant and sustainable county that enables our people, businesses and tourist offerings to thrive. By launching both the Meath Economic Development

Strategic Action Plan and the Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy in 2024, the Economic Development and Tourism teams have established the roadmap for the short to medium term, aimed at fostering sustainable growth, attracting investment, enhancing the quality of life for all residents of County Meath and developing the County as one of the leading experiential destinations in the world, attracting high-value visitors who will leave feeling inspired.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Launch the Thrive Centre for Business Excellence in Navan to provide supports to businesses to facilitate their growth and expansion both nationally and internationally
- Work with PR and Marketing Consultants and experts to promote the economic development profile of the County on a national & international level and create an FDI Guide to Meath to be distributed to relevant stakeholders to promote the County to potential investors
- Complete an analysis of the County's business profile, including a full breakdown of the various business sectors and employment by occupation.
- Engage with the various agencies to assist with developing a Masterplan for the Brú na Bóinne National Park.
- Actively engage with accommodation operators/providers/developers to increase the number of beds available to tourists in Meath.
- Work on creating compelling tourist experiences and becoming a signature destination for the Celtic festival calendar.

The focus for 2025 will be on developing and successfully communicating Meath's strengths and unique selling points to increase the County's attractiveness for investment and as an experiential tourist destination. This will include developing a tourist site brochure aimed at encouraging visitors to prolong their stay in the county and incorporate more of what Meath has to offer into their visit.

The Economic Development and Tourism Department is looking forward to progressing the actions outlined in the recently launched strategies, working in partnership with a range of external organisations, education providers, state agencies and investors to create exciting opportunities for business growth and investment, as well as a vibrant and attractive place to live, work and visit. With regular and focused stakeholder engagement, the teams aim to collaborate with key state agencies to provide increased opportunities for employment creation in the County.

Local Enterprise Office

Introduction:

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Meath is part of a network of thirty-one such offices across the country and is an integral part of the Economic Development Team in Meath County Council. LEO Meath is fundamental to local economic development, providing accessible, high-quality support to local businesses.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Driving decarbonisation and exploiting the accompanying opportunities
- Enhancing competitiveness through digitalisation and innovation
- Driving and assisting new business start-ups and entrepreneurs
- Supporting the locally traded sector to thrive

The LEO aims to be the first stop shop for small business supports in the County. To accomplish this, the LEO has four key pillars of engagement with small businesses: Enabling entrepreneurship, offering

business advice, providing enterprise support and supporting local economic development. These pillars comprise financial grants and incentives, training, targeted mentoring and signposting to the various business supports available locally and nationally.

Community Development

Introduction

The Community Department provides community services and supports to assist community and voluntary groups across the County. Our services are inclusive of older people, children and young people, members of the LGBTI+ community, and members of ethnic minority communities, including International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The services are in collaboration with voluntary groups, statutory agencies and community stakeholders.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- To support local community groups through the provision of community grant schemes
- To develop the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- To support the establishment of the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership and develop a County Community Safety Strategy and implementation plan.
- Promote local community development through the Local Community Development Committee, maximising interagency collaboration and funding opportunities.
- Support social inclusion initiatives.

The overarching ambition of the Community Department for 2025 is to continue to collaborate with local partners, statutory agencies, and voluntary groups to support the needs of local communities and ensure local strategies and plans are implemented to achieve maximum impact. This will include supporting the Local Community Development Committee in monitoring the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027, the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), and the Healthy County Programme.

A priority will also be the ongoing implementation of the County Age Friendly Strategy and supporting the Meath Age Friendly Alliance and Meath Older People's Council.

Additionally, the department will support the Community Integration Forum in coordinating integration services for International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection who are accommodated in Meath and the communities in which they live.

Renewing the County Disability Forum and Migrant Integration Strategy will be essential components of the Department's work. We will also work through Comhairle na nÓg and the Meath Children's and Young People's Services Committee to address the needs of young people.

Finally, supporting the Meath Public Participation Network as it continues to grow in membership and the Pride of Place Scheme 2025 will be key initiatives in fostering community engagement and making our communities even better.

Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service

Introduction

Age Friendly Ireland is a local government-shared service hosted by Meath County Council. It was established in 2018 to continue the work of the national Age Friendly Programme, which had

previously been philanthropically funded. Meath County Council was awarded the bid to host the shared service, which functions as a national office supporting all 31 local authorities to deliver a local Age Friendly Programme and act as a link between local and national government to support policy development and implementation in relation to population ageing. Since it was established, the shared service has grown exponentially and now delivers many programmes and new services, such as the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, a support coordination service that has been mainstreamed nationally. There are 83 staff directly employed by Meath County Council and a further 66 assigned to work on the programme in local authorities. We have consulted with in excess of 35,000 older people through a variety of research studies, consultation opportunities and meetings.

Through the shared service office, all local authorities in Ireland are affiliated with the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The WHO provides technical resources across eight domains necessary for the development of Age-Friendly Communities. Age Friendly activity across Ireland addresses all eight domains: Housing, Transport, Outdoor Space and Buildings, Communication and Information, Civic Participation and Employment, Community Supports and Health, Social Participation and Social Inclusion. Through the team-based framework of 31 local Age Friendly Programmes, thousands of initiatives have rolled been out since it was established in 2009.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Continue to strengthen local Age-Friendly Programmes and embed age-friendly principles and objectives in local and national policy.
- Grow the human resource capacity of the national team-based framework by increasing the local Programme Manager roles to whole-time positions, subject to national funding.
- Develop stronger metrics around Age-Friendly Housing and Public Realm development.
- Draw on the Age Friendly Ambassador roles nationally to promote positive messaging about ageing, address ageism and grow the number of citizens engaged with Older People's Councils.
- Develop innovative new programmes, including volunteer-based supports, new training modules and funded services.

One of AFI's overarching aims for 2025 is to strengthen data systems within the shared service, particularly in relation to local programme activity, Age-Friendly Housing, and outcomes for older people. We will seek funding to develop a bespoke software package and enhance the use of programme indicators by exploring how they can be linked to national policy objectives. We will do this by restructuring our research unit, which is currently managed under a partnership agreement with Maynooth University. In addition to our Research Manager position, we plan to attract two PhD candidates who can provide research support to the shared service, particularly around programme metrics and digitizing data.

Age Friendly Ireland is developing a number of proposals to expand outputs from activity further. Having engaged with Northern Ireland local authorities in relation to Age Friendly Programming on an informal basis for a number of years, we have developed a proposal for how this collaborative work can be delivered in a more structured way. There is potential to develop a Shared Island approach to achieving Age Friendly ambitions. We will pursue this concept with the Department of An Taoiseach and local authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland. We are engaging in workforce planning to secure funding for 35 full-time Age Friendly Programme Manager roles (currently assigned on a half-time basis). We will engage with political leaders to ensure that the new Programme for Government has a strong emphasis on population ageing and supports for older people. We will continue to support the work of the Commission on Care which is charged with examining the provision of health and social care services and supports for older people and making recommendations to the government for their strategic development.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
D Development Management								
D01 Forward Planning	1,300,033	1,300,033	563,432	563,432	1,135,372	1,135,372	556,373	556,373
D02 Development Management	6,488,052	6,488,052	1,907,294	1,907,294	5,775,523	5,775,523	1,670,561	1,670,561
D03 Enforcement	619,028	619,028	-	-	596,187	596,187	-	-
D04 Industrial and Commercial Facilities	687,531	687,531	84,477	84,477	499,905	499,905	114,148	114,148
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	468,334	468,334	24,135	24,135	397,776	397,776	23,571	23,571
D06 Community and Enterprise Function	11,883,192	11,883,192	10,165,499	10,165,499	9,813,018	9,813,018	8,334,071	8,334,071
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates	326,744	326,744	150,000	150,000	191,968	191,968	100,000	100,000
D08 Building Control	262,396	262,396	60,000	60,000	223,321	223,321	60,000	60,000
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	4,556,098	4,556,098	1,829,769	1,829,769	3,486,765	10,960,483	1,695,143	9,178,861
D10 Property Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services	1,280,886	1,280,886	624,390	624,390	1,186,437	1,186,437	567,951	567,951
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services	87,482	87,482	11,482	11,482	79,215	79,215	9,917	9,917
Division D Total	27,959,776	27,959,776	15,420,478	15,420,478	23,385,487	30,859,205	13,131,735	20,615,453

Table F - Expenditure				
Division D - Development Management				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
D0101 Statutory Plans and Policy	1,295,686	1,295,686	1,131,425	1,131,425
D0199 Service Support Costs	4,347	4,347	3,947	3,947
D01 Forward Planning	1,300,033	1,300,033	1,135,372	1,135,372
D0201 Planning Control	3,768,103	3,768,103	3,338,154	3,338,154
D0299 Service Support Costs	2,719,949	2,719,949	2,437,369	2,437,369
D02 Development Management	6,488,052	6,488,052	5,775,523	5,775,523
D0301 Enforcement Costs	619,028	619,028	596,187	596,187
D0399 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
D03 Enforcement	619,028	619,028	596,187	596,187
D0401 Industrial Sites Operations	-	-	-	-
D0403 Management of & Contris to Other Commercial Facs	-	-	-	-
D0404 General Development Promotion Work	621,458	621,458	440,864	440,864
D0499 Service Support Costs	66,073	66,073	59,041	59,041
D04 Industrial and Commercial Facilities	687,531	687,531	499,905	499,905
D0501 Tourism Promotion	428,635	428,635	361,998	361,998
D0502 Tourist Facilities Operations	-	-	-	-
D0599 Service Support Costs	39,699	39,699	35,778	35,778
D05 Tourism Development and Promotion	468,334	468,334	397,776	397,776
D0601 General Community & Enterprise Expenses	9,611,901	9,611,901	8,316,172	8,316,172
D0602 RAPID Costs	-	-	-	-
D0603 Social Inclusion	1,576,121	1,576,121	882,247	882,247
D0699 Service Support Costs	695,170	695,170	614,599	614,599
D06 Community and Enterprise Function	11,883,192	11,883,192	9,813,018	9,813,018
D0701 Unfinished Housing Estates	326,744	326,744	191,968	191,968
D0799 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
D07 Unfinished Housing Estates	326,744	326,744	191,968	191,968
D0801 Building Control Inspection Costs	-	-	-	-
D0802 Building Control Enforcement Costs	-	-	-	-
D0899 Service Support Costs	262,396	262,396	223,321	223,321
D08 Building Control	262,396	262,396	223,321	223,321

Table F - Expenditure				
Division D - Development Management				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
D0901 Urban and Village Renewal	-	-	-	-
D0902 EU Projects	-	-	-	-
D0903 Town Twinning	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
D0904 European Office	-	-	-	-
D0905 Economic Development & Promotion	2,927,067	2,927,067	1,865,680	9,339,398
D0906 Local Enterprise Office	1,536,197	1,536,197	1,531,525	1,531,525
D0999 Service Support Costs	57,834	57,834	54,560	54,560
D09 Economic Development and Promotion	4,556,098	4,556,098	3,486,765	10,960,483
D1001 Property Management Costs	-	-	-	-
D1099 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
D10 Property Management	-	-	-	-
D1101 Heritage Services	804,963	804,963	728,701	728,701
D1102 Conservation Services	365,029	365,029	358,409	358,409
D1103 Conservation Grants	-	-	-	-
D1199 Service Support Costs	110,894	110,894	99,327	99,327
D11 Heritage and Conservation Services	1,280,886	1,280,886	1,186,437	1,186,437
D1201 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
D1299 Service Support Costs	87,482	87,482	79,215	79,215
D12 Agency & Recoupable Services	87,482	87,482	79,215	79,215
Division D Total	27,959,776	27,959,776	23,385,487	30,859,205

Table F - Income				
Division D - Development Management				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	2,049,619	2,049,619	1,955,620	1,955,620
Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	-	-	-	-
Enterprise, Trade & Employment	1,214,783	1,214,783	1,262,068	8,745,786
Rural & Community Development	-	-	-	-
Other	1,574,214	1,574,214	819,449	819,449
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	4,838,616	4,838,616	4,037,137	11,520,855
Goods & Services				
Planning Fees	1,627,000	1,627,000	1,417,000	1,417,000
Superannuation	248,346	248,346	214,508	214,508
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	7,736,363	7,736,363	5,583,673	5,583,673
Other income	970,153	970,153	1,879,417	1,879,417
Total Goods & Services	10,581,862	10,581,862	9,094,598	9,094,598
Division D Total	15,420,478	15,420,478	13,131,735	20,615,453

Service Division E

Environment, Fire & Emergency Service - Key priorities 2025

The Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 includes **71** actions aimed at reducing emissions and improving the resilience of Meath to the impacts of climate change.



The council conducted **250** visits, workshops, and seminars with primary and secondary schools in 2024, engaging students with tailored environmental projects. **These initiatives are set to continue into 2025.**



Retention of **Blue Flag** and **Green Coast Awards** for Bettystown and Mornington



Confirm funding and develop plans for the upgrade and extension of **Navan Fire Station HQ** and **Oldcastle Fire Station**



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Service Division E – Environment, Fire & Emergency Service

Environment

Introduction

The protection of the environment and the enhancement of the County's natural and built environment are of significant importance for the residents of, and visitors to, County Meath. Clean air and water, a litter free countryside, pristine beaches and sustainable waste management systems are fundamental to a sustainable and high-quality environment and improving the quality of life of our citizens.

Key Priorities for 2025:

The priorities for the Department in 2025 will be:

- Environmental Education and Awareness Activities
- Waste Prevention and Recycling Events
- Public Awareness Campaign
- Retention of Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards for Bettystown and Mornington
- Waste and Litter Management
- Water Quality
- Flooding and Coastal Protection
- Burial Grounds
- National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) for waste, water, air and noise in 2024

Meath County Council coordinates various school-focused initiatives aimed at promoting environmental awareness among students. These include programmes such as Green Schools, the Compost and Recycling for Schools Scheme, Pickerpals, the Rubbish Film Festival, ReLove Fashion, and the School Garden Support Scheme. In 2024, the council conducted 250 visits, workshops, and seminars with primary and secondary schools, engaging students throughout their educational journeys with tailored environmental projects. These initiatives are set to continue into 2025.

In addition to school programmes, individuals and communities can participate in environmental awareness and action projects throughout the year. Opportunities include the Green KM Scheme, Free Waste Recycling and Disposal Events, a Halloween Awareness and Recycling Event, the Leaf Mould Project for community groups, and Blue Flag and Green Flag Beach Activities. To further raise awareness, an ongoing Environmental Awareness Campaign employs radio, press, and social media to highlight key issues, such as Dog Fouling, Litter and Waste, Vape Litter, Dashboard Dining, Christmas Waste, and Food Waste Prevention.

The Council is also dedicated to ensuring that waste and litter generated by households, businesses, and the general public are managed safely and sustainably. This is done in compliance with National and European legislation, including the National Waste Plan for a Circular Economy. Additionally, the Council collaborates with LAWPRO and other stakeholders to implement provisions of the Water Action Plan 2024, aiming to protect and restore water bodies to good status by 2027. Efforts are underway to work with the OPW on studies concerning areas vulnerable to erosion and flooding.

The Council is also committed to implementing the National Enforcement Priorities for waste, water, air, and noise, as identified by the EPA and the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications.

Finally, Meath County Council is focused on improving the provision, management, regulation, and control of burial grounds under its jurisdiction.

Climate Action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Introduction

Translate national climate policy to local circumstances actively, prioritising and accelerating evidence-based measures while taking on a broader role of enabling and influencing others to meet the climate objective.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Development of Meath's nine decarbonising zones and Navan's URBACT iN4Green Project.
- Lead and co-ordinate on mitigation and adaptation measures within the Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.
- Deliver energy projects under pathfinder.
- Support and encourage Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs).
- Support communities under the Community Climate Action Programme.

Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 was adopted on the January 29, 2024, and outlines ambitious strategies to create a low-carbon and climate resilient County by delivering and promoting best practices in climate action at the local level. Central to Meath County Council's Climate Action Plan is the concept of decarbonising zones with nine towns identified. These designated zones will serve as focal points for targeted measures to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and enhance environmental sustainability. Furthermore, they will provide opportunities for sharing experiences and learnings between communities. The Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 includes a range of actions aimed at reducing emissions and improving the resilience of Meath to the impacts of climate change. These actions are interconnected and require a collaborative approach. The plan sets out 71 actions across five thematic themes - Governance and Leadership, Built Environment and Transport, Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure, Communities: Resilience and Transition and Sustainability and Resource Management

A wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) education and awareness activities and supports will run during 2025. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being implemented across all service divisions' strategies and plans.

Groups and individuals can continue to promote their contribution to the SDGs by completing the survey on www.meath.ie just search for 'Sustainable Development Goals'. All surveys completed are displayed on the SDG Map which provides a visual demonstration of the work being done in County Meath to deliver on the goals.

Fire Service

Introduction

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service covers a range of functions ranging from operational response to fire prevention, including:

- Firefighting and rescue services
- Community fire safety and education
- Technical fire prevention for buildings
- Emergency preparedness, including Major Emergency Planning

Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service/MCCFRS is ready to respond to a range of incidents and emergencies as requested by the Eastern Regional Communications Centre through the 999/112 system. A contribution is paid annually to the Eastern Regional Control Centre for emergency call handling and mobilisation of fire service resources. The seven stations in the County have a minimum crewing level of 12 retained firefighting staff.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Recruit and retain the staff required to operate under new terms and conditions of the national WRC Retained Firefighters Agreement.
- Confirm funding and develop plans for the upgrade and extension of Navan Fire Station HQ and Oldcastle Fire Station.
- Enhance Community Fire Safety and Road Safety through education and community engagement in line with MCCFRS Community Fire Safety Strategy.
- Review and update the County's Major Emergency Plan and provide effective training for staff in emergency response and emergency management.
- Review the weight and speed of response to emergencies across Meath townlands and progress towards the nearest available resource response in all areas.

The recruitment and retention of suitable staff is a significant challenge across the Irish fire service, and Meath is no exception. The approach to recruitment must be continuously resourced and reviewed to ensure crewing levels are maintained in all stations. Staff retention also requires continuous improvement of the service from the staff perspective and for staff levels to be maintained at a level that allows for the operation of rosters and effective leave arrangements. Regarding recruitment and retention, MCCFRS works closely with its staff, the MCC HR Department, other fire services and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management/NDFEM in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

MCCFRS building assets are in need of significant upgrades and extensions to ensure sustainable, modern, comfortable work environments for staff. With increased numbers in stations and increased diversity of staff (going from one female firefighter in 2023 to four currently), resources will be used to extend and upgrade stations in terms of welfare, changing, training and storage facilities. Provisions have been included in the 2025 budget to reflect the building upgrade and remodeling required.

Civil Defence

Introduction

The Civil Defence Service in Meath continues to provide assistance to the principal response agencies as well as community groups and sporting organisations in line with the requirements for the Civil Defence Towards 2030 document. Service provided by Civil Defence is categorised under the following headings.

- Emergency Response
- Search and Rescue
- Medical Response
- Community Assistance
- Radiation Monitoring Services

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Recruitment of volunteers to maintain a resilient Civil Defence framework.
- Continuous training to prepare volunteers for the range of services provided, including scenarios they may face during emergency and search and recovery operations.
- Ongoing support for Community Groups and Sporting Organisations.
- Efficient Fleet Management.

The continued development of the organisation is essential for enhancing our Civil Defence capabilities. By focusing on strengthening our structures, enhancing training programmes, and fostering community involvement, we can ensure a more resilient response to emergencies, search and recovery operations, and support for community and sporting events. This ongoing evolution not only prepares us to handle potential threats more effectively but also builds a stronger connection with the community we serve, ultimately leading to a safer environment for everyone.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
E Environmental Services								
E01 Landfill Operation and Aftercare	876,165	876,165	7,168	7,168	622,987	622,987	6,191	6,191
E02 Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	766,053	766,053	29,358	29,358	763,794	763,794	28,764	28,764
E03 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services	268,731	268,731	3,462	3,462	265,743	265,743	2,990	2,990
E05 Litter Management	653,276	653,276	33,960	33,960	625,569	625,569	32,876	32,876
E06 Street Cleaning	2,465,066	2,465,066	36,976	36,976	2,226,489	2,226,489	31,938	31,938
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	10,309,731	10,309,731	7,619,295	7,619,295	7,002,608	7,002,608	4,565,378	4,565,378
E08 Waste Management Planning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds	535,479	535,479	92,159	92,159	478,293	478,293	91,524	91,524
E10 Safety of Structures and Places	1,014,208	1,014,208	239,334	239,334	975,649	975,649	230,790	230,790
E11 Operation of Fire Service	8,193,308	8,193,308	3,089,187	3,089,187	8,019,338	8,019,338	2,652,495	2,652,495
E12 Fire Prevention	947,727	947,727	636,297	636,297	558,792	558,792	417,963	417,963
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	1,055,746	1,055,746	277,519	277,519	849,214	849,214	84,175	84,175
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services	350	350	-	-	313	313	-	-
E15 Climate Change and Flooding	1,353,155	1,353,155	216,834	216,834	1,297,478	1,297,478	174,914	174,914
Division E Total	28,438,995	28,438,995	12,281,549	12,281,549	23,686,267	23,686,267	8,319,998	8,319,998

Table F - Expenditure				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
E0101 Landfill Operations	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
E0102 Contribution to other LAs - Landfill Facilities	-	-	-	-
E0103 Landfill Aftercare Costs.	711,000	711,000	461,000	461,000
E0199 Service Support Costs	40,165	40,165	36,987	36,987
E01 Landfill Operation and Aftercare	876,165	876,165	622,987	622,987
E0201 Recycling Facilities Operations	674,026	674,026	674,026	674,026
E0202 Bring Centres Operations	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
E0204 Other Recycling Services	-	-	-	-
E0299 Service Support Costs	27,027	27,027	24,768	24,768
E02 Recovery & Recycling Facilities Operations	766,053	766,053	763,794	763,794
E0301 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	-	-	-	-
E0399 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
E03 Waste to Energy Facilities Operations	-	-	-	-
E0401 Recycling Waste Collection Services	-	-	-	-
E0402 Organic Waste Collection Services	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
E0403 Residual Waste Collection Services	-	-	-	-
E0404 Commercial Waste Collection Services	-	-	-	-
E0406 Contribution to Waste Collection Services	-	-	-	-
E0407 Other Costs Waste Collection	220,575	220,575	220,547	220,547
E0499 Service Support Costs	34,156	34,156	31,196	31,196
E04 Provision of Waste to Collection Services	268,731	268,731	265,743	265,743
E0501 Litter Warden Service	180,110	180,110	159,466	159,466
E0502 Litter Control Initiatives	367,500	367,500	367,500	367,500
E0503 Environmental Awareness Services	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
E0599 Service Support Costs	75,666	75,666	68,603	68,603
E05 Litter Management	653,276	653,276	625,569	625,569
E0601 Operation of Street Cleaning Service	2,215,151	2,215,151	1,997,310	1,997,310
E0602 Provision and Improvement of Litter Bins	-	-	-	-
E0699 Service Support Costs	249,915	249,915	229,179	229,179
E06 Street Cleaning	2,465,066	2,465,066	2,226,489	2,226,489
E0701 Monitoring of Waste Regs (incl Private Landfills)	7,317,640	7,317,640	4,297,640	4,297,640
E0702 Enforcement of Waste Regulations	445,599	445,599	402,232	402,232
E0799 Service Support Costs	2,546,492	2,546,492	2,302,736	2,302,736
E07 Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement	10,309,731	10,309,731	7,002,608	7,002,608

Table F - Expenditure				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
E0801 Waste Management Plan	-	-	-	-
E0802 Contrib to Other Bodies Waste Management Planning	-	-	-	-
E0899 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
E08 Waste Management Planning	-	-	-	-
E0901 Maintenance of Burial Grounds	429,218	429,218	382,815	382,815
E0999 Service Support Costs	106,261	106,261	95,478	95,478
E09 Maintenance of Burial Grounds	535,479	535,479	478,293	478,293
E1001 Operation Costs Civil Defence	377,257	377,257	360,865	360,865
E1002 Dangerous Buildings	-	-	-	-
E1003 Emergency Planning	-	-	-	-
E1004 Derelict Sites	306,426	306,426	301,581	301,581
E1005 Water Safety Operation	172,751	172,751	167,777	167,777
E1099 Service Support Costs	157,774	157,774	145,426	145,426
E10 Safety of Structures and Places	1,014,208	1,014,208	975,649	975,649
E1101 Operation of Fire Brigade Service	7,922,419	7,922,419	7,773,294	7,773,294
E1103 Fire Services Training	-	-	-	-
E1104 Operation of Ambulance Service	-	-	-	-
E1199 Service Support Costs	270,889	270,889	246,044	246,044
E11 Operation of Fire Service	8,193,308	8,193,308	8,019,338	8,019,338
E1201 Fire Safety Control Cert Costs	-	-	-	-
E1202 Fire Prevention and Education	805,174	805,174	425,385	425,385
E1203 Inspection & Monitoring of Commercial Facilities	-	-	-	-
E1299 Service Support Costs	142,553	142,553	133,407	133,407
E12 Fire Prevention	947,727	947,727	558,792	558,792
E1301 Water Quality Management	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
E1302 Licensing and Monitoring of Air and Noise Quality	-	-	-	-
E1399 Service Support Costs	1,015,746	1,015,746	809,214	809,214
E13 Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution	1,055,746	1,055,746	849,214	849,214
E1401 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
E1499 Service Support Costs	350	350	313	313
E14 Agency & Recoupable Services	350	350	313	313
E1501 Climate Change and Flooding	1,318,280	1,318,280	1,266,139	1,266,139
E1599 Service Support Costs	34,875	34,875	31,339	31,339
E15 Climate Change and Flooding	1,353,155	1,353,155	1,297,478	1,297,478
Division E Total	28,438,995	28,438,995	23,686,267	23,686,267

Table F - Income				
Division E - Environmental Services				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	3,121,524	3,121,524	2,475,926	2,475,926
Social Protection	-	-	-	-
Defence	132,000	132,000	125,000	125,000
Environment, Climate & Communications	448,278	448,278	260,010	260,010
Other	-	-	2,500	2,500
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	3,701,802	3,701,802	2,863,436	2,863,436
Goods & Services				
Domestic Refuse Charges	-	-	-	-
Commercial Refuse Charges	-	-	-	-
Landfill Charges	-	-	-	-
Fire Charges	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Superannuation	239,897	239,897	207,212	207,212
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	-	-	-	-
Other income	8,039,850	8,039,850	4,949,350	4,949,350
Total Goods & Services	8,579,747	8,579,747	5,456,562	5,456,562
Division E Total	12,281,549	12,281,549	8,319,998	8,319,998

Service Division F

Recreation & Amenity - Key priorities 2025

Develop and promote a remote working hub at **Enfield Library** and Community Hub.



66

The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration Strategy

outlines **66** actions designed to transform public libraries into multi-purpose social and educational hubs.

Implement programmes under **Healthy Ireland** and **Right to Read** and introduce and implement Skills for Life programme in accordance with national strategies.



500



Continue to produce over **500** activities annually onsite and at locations throughout the county, working with local cultural and EDI groups to **encourage access and creative opportunities for the public in Meath.**



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Service Division F – Recreation and Amenity

Library Services

Introduction

- a) **The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration Strategy**, published in July 2023 by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), the County and City Management Association, and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), outlines 66 actions designed to transform public libraries into multi-purpose social and educational hubs. Centred around the themes of People, Spaces, and Connections, the strategy is implemented by local authorities with support from the LGMA and DRCD.
- b) **County Meath's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023– 2027**

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Develop service in accordance with priorities set out in the national public library strategy, 'The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration 2023-2027'.
- Implement programmes under Healthy Ireland and Right to Read and introduce and implement the Skills for Life programme in accordance with national strategies.
- Promote the new My Open Library facilities at Enfield, Slane and Trim libraries and launch this service in Ashbourne, Kells, Nobber and Bettystown libraries.
- Further progress in the development of the new County Archive.
- Further promote normal lending services and introduce programming at the newly opened Ballivor and Bettystown Libraries.
- Develop and promote a remote working hub at Enfield Library and Community Hub.
- Develop and deliver an appropriate programme of events for the county under the Creative Ireland initiative in partnership with national, local and community stakeholders.
- Provide minor upgrades to Duleek and Dunshaughlin libraries and commence plans to design, re-configure and extend Navan branch library to integrate the former HQ space in accordance with schedules and priorities as advised by facilities management.

Throughout 2025, library staff will continue to deliver the core public lending, reference, IT, study, local studies, archives, and school services across the branch network. A comprehensive programme of events will be implemented under initiatives like Healthy Ireland At Your Library, Right to Read, and Skills for Life.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, programming will proceed through Meath County Council's Culture and Creativity team. This includes the annual Cruinniú na nÓg programme, featuring events at various locations, including East Meath. The initiative will be developed in partnership with national, local, and community stakeholders and represents a joint effort by Meath and Louth County Councils under the Drogheda Implementation Board.

Solstice Arts Centre and Swift Cultural Centre

Introduction

Meath Arts Centre DAC Ltd operates the Council's art facilities, Solstice Arts Centre Navan and Swift Cultural Centre, Trim. Producing over 500 activities annually onsite and at locations throughout the County, we work with local cultural and EDI groups to encourage access and creative opportunities for

the public in Meath while promoting the art we produce nationally and internationally. To augment its existing public activities, we have identified the following key priorities in the next 12 months.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Development of cultural activities at the new site of Swift Cultural Centre.
- Scope and equip Swift Cultural Centre Trim with DCP film projection capabilities.
- Continue the process of achieving climate and sustainability objectives.
- To continue public programme awareness and participation in creative climate action activities.
- Ensure that the required staffing is met by MAC DAC Ltd. to fulfil activities successfully at both cultural facilities, providing excellent service to audiences and community groups using the facilities.

Solstice Arts Centre and Swift Cultural Centre is one of the most significant cultural arts centre in Ireland. In 2024, we welcomed over 130,000 people to both facilities for creative learning, visual arts, café and events in its theatre spaces. The provision of cultural and entertainment activities enables community well-being and integration, as well as community exchange within our café space at Solstice in Navan and meeting facilities at both facilities.

In 2025, Meath MAC Ltd. will continue developing operations and cultural activities at Swift Cultural Centre. As Trim has no cinema, MAC Ltd. will provide Digital Content Projection capability at Swift Cultural Centre to create a breadth of cultural film screenings. This new equipment will also provide programme support for local community groups, such as Trim Autism Friendly Town, to provide regular autism-friendly sensory screenings.

To positively contribute to the Meath County Council Climate Action Plan, Meath Arts Centre DAC will retrofit energy-efficient theatre lighting (LED) at Solstice, scope solar power provision, and further sustainability modifications within its facilities. It will continue to develop awareness and active citizenship within a climate and sustainability public engagement programme.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024

Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
F Recreation and Amenity								
F01 Leisure Facilities Operations	1,885,742	1,885,742	649,665	649,665	1,803,610	1,803,610	693,579	693,579
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	6,528,824	6,528,824	125,745	125,745	5,908,699	5,908,699	111,743	111,743
F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	2,370,001	2,370,001	5,902	5,902	2,364,967	2,364,967	5,507	5,507
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	1,932,668	1,932,668	44,129	44,129	912,435	912,435	12,204	12,204
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	1,830,591	1,830,591	175,035	175,035	1,594,316	1,594,316	124,690	124,690
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services	4,168	4,168	1,243	1,243	3,894	3,894	1,074	1,074
Division F Total	14,551,994	14,551,994	1,001,719	1,001,719	12,587,921	12,587,921	948,797	948,797

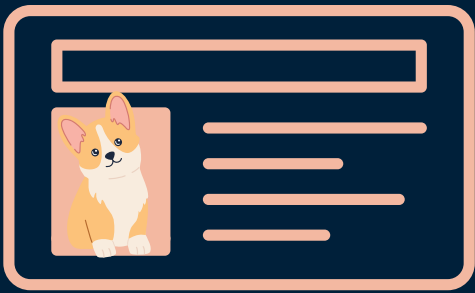
Table F - Expenditure				
Division F - Recreation and Amenity				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
F0101 Leisure Facilities Operations	1,162,350	1,162,350	1,108,643	1,108,643
F0103 Contribution to External Bodies Leisure Facilities	374,000	374,000	374,000	374,000
F0199 Service Support Costs	349,392	349,392	320,967	320,967
F01 Leisure Facilities Operations	1,885,742	1,885,742	1,803,610	1,803,610
F0201 Library Service Operations	4,241,810	4,241,810	3,820,979	3,820,979
F0202 Archive Service	-	-	-	-
F0204 Purchase of Books, CD's etc.	500,000	500,000	475,000	475,000
F0205 Contributions to Library Organisations	-	-	-	-
F0299 Service Support Costs	1,787,014	1,787,014	1,612,720	1,612,720
F02 Operation of Library and Archival Service	6,528,824	6,528,824	5,908,699	5,908,699
F0301 Parks, Pitches & Open Spaces	2,149,220	2,149,220	2,145,462	2,145,462
F0302 Playgrounds	-	-	-	-
F0303 Beaches	205,000	205,000	205,000	205,000
F0399 Service Support Costs	15,781	15,781	14,505	14,505
F03 Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	2,370,001	2,370,001	2,364,967	2,364,967
F0401 Community Grants	255,000	255,000	185,000	185,000
F0402 Operation of Sports Hall/Stadium	-	-	-	-
F0403 Community Facilities	1,025,000	1,025,000	220,000	220,000
F0404 Recreational Development	445,000	445,000	320,000	320,000
F0499 Service Support Costs	207,668	207,668	187,435	187,435
F04 Community Sport and Recreational Development	1,932,668	1,932,668	912,435	912,435
F0501 Administration of the Arts Programme	509,387	509,387	508,531	508,531
F0502 Contributions to other Bodies Arts Programme	1,045,788	1,045,788	950,188	950,188
F0503 Museums Operations	125,000	125,000	-	-
F0504 Heritage/Interpretive Facilities Operations	-	-	-	-
F0505 Festivals & Concerts	-	-	-	-
F0599 Service Support Costs	150,416	150,416	135,597	135,597
F05 Operation of Arts Programme	1,830,591	1,830,591	1,594,316	1,594,316
F0601 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
F0699 Service Support Costs	4,168	4,168	3,894	3,894
F06 Agency & Recoupable Services	4,168	4,168	3,894	3,894
Division F Total	14,551,994	14,551,994	12,587,921	12,587,921

Table F - Income				
Division F - Recreation and Amenity				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	-	-	-	-
Education	-	-	-	-
Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	-	-	-	-
Social Protection	-	-	-	-
Library Council	-	-	-	-
Arts Council	155,900	155,900	116,800	116,800
Transport	-	-	-	-
Rural & Community Development	30,000	30,000	-	-
Other	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	215,900	215,900	146,800	146,800
Goods & Services				
Recreation/Amenity/Culture	575,000	575,000	625,000	625,000
Superannuation	189,519	189,519	163,697	163,697
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	-	-	2,000	2,000
Other income	21,300	21,300	11,300	11,300
Total Goods & Services	785,819	785,819	801,997	801,997
Division F Total	1,001,719	1,001,719	948,797	948,797

Service Division G

Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare - Key priorities 2025

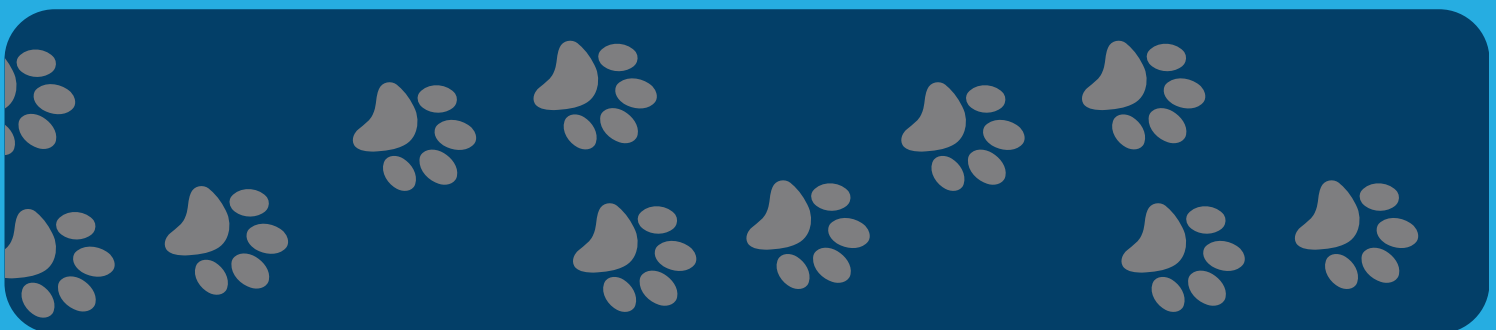
The National Dog Licence System continues to result in increased payment of licences fees.



The Council continues to operate under a Service Level Agreement with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).



Meath County Council continues to provide veterinary inspection services for the enforcement of food legislation and protection of consumer health and interest.



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Service Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare

Meath County Council continues to provide veterinary inspection services for the enforcement of food legislation and protection of consumer health and interest.

The Council continues to operate under a Service Level Agreement with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).

- The Council also provides services under the Control of Dogs and Control of Horses Act.
- The new National Dog Licence System continues to result in increased payment of licences fees.
- The Council continues to provide a Dog Shelter facility at the Riggins, Dunshaughlin.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024								
Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare								
G01 Land Drainage Costs	253,402	253,402	205,413	205,413	206,481	206,481	205,390	205,390
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G03 Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G04 Veterinary Service	1,063,462	1,063,462	622,584	622,584	1,005,397	1,005,397	620,769	620,769
G05 Educational Support Services	141,897	141,897	5,500	5,500	128,118	128,118	5,500	5,500
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services	3,500	3,500	-	-	3,132	3,132	-	-
Division G Total	1,462,261	1,462,261	833,497	833,497	1,343,128	1,343,128	831,659	831,659

Table F - Expenditure				
Division G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
G0101 Maintenance of Land Drainage Areas	252,719	252,719	205,848	205,848
G0102 Contributions to Joint Drainage Bodies	-	-	-	-
G0103 Payment of Agricultural Pensions	-	-	-	-
G0199 Service Support Costs	683	683	633	633
G01 Land Drainage Costs	253,402	253,402	206,481	206,481
G0201 Operation of Piers	-	-	-	-
G0203 Operation of Harbours	-	-	-	-
G0299 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
G02 Operation and Maintenance of Piers and Harbours	-	-	-	-
G0301 General Maintenance - Coastal Regions	-	-	-	-
G0302 Planned Protection of Coastal Regions	-	-	-	-
G0399 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
G03 Coastal Protection	-	-	-	-
G0401 Provision of Veterinary Service	419	419	418	418
G0402 Inspection of Abattoirs etc	529,872	529,872	521,078	521,078
G0403 Food Safety	2,562	2,562	2,560	2,560
G0404 Operation of Dog Warden Service	343,079	343,079	313,268	313,268
G0405 Other Animal Welfare Services (incl Horse Control)	-	-	-	-
G0499 Service Support Costs	187,530	187,530	168,073	168,073
G04 Veterinary Service	1,063,462	1,063,462	1,005,397	1,005,397
G0501 Payment of Higher Education Grants	-	-	-	-
G0502 Administration Higher Education Grants	-	-	-	-
G0503 Payment of VEC Pensions	-	-	-	-
G0504 Administration VEC Pension	-	-	-	-
G0505 Contribution to Education & Training Board	-	-	-	-
G0506 Other Educational Services	-	-	-	-
G0507 School Meals	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
G0599 Service Support Costs	130,897	130,897	117,118	117,118
G05 Educational Support Services	141,897	141,897	128,118	128,118
G0601 Agency & Recoupable Service	-	-	-	-
G0699 Service Support Costs	3,500	3,500	3,132	3,132
G06 Agency & Recoupable Services	3,500	3,500	3,132	3,132
Division G Total	1,462,261	1,462,261	1,343,128	1,343,128

Table F - Income				
Division G - Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	-	-	-	-
Education	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	-	-	-
Food Safety Authority of Ireland	245,860	245,860	245,860	245,860
Agriculture, Food, & Marine	-	-	-	-
Other	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	259,360	259,360	259,360	259,360
Goods & Services				
Superannuation	13,489	13,489	11,651	11,651
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	-	-	-	-
Other income	560,648	560,648	560,648	560,648
Total Goods & Services	574,137	574,137	572,299	572,299
Division G Total	833,497	833,497	831,659	831,659

Service Division H

Miscellaneous - Key priorities 2025

The Council continues to support Meath Women's Caucus which was launched in 2022.



The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department includes:



- Providing services to the Elected Members
- Management of Meetings
- Preparation of the Register of Electors
- Delivery of Services to the Public
- Safety and Health Procedures

A **web chat function** will be introduced for the Sugar Serve CRM in 2025



Deliver the objectives of the **Communications Strategy** to heighten awareness of the activities and services that the council provides.



Ongoing efforts to maintain the **ISO 45001:2018 certification** in 2025 and to enhance the Flex Safety Management System for continuous improvement.



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Service Division H - Miscellaneous

Introduction

The Corporate Affairs and Governance Department works within a framework of democratic principles and ethics, providing services to the Elected Members, the management of meetings and the preparation of the Register of Electors. It plays a role in facilitating other organisational activities, including business planning, risk management, and compliance with certain legislative requirements such as data protection, freedom of information and ethics. The department provides communications and media services and promotes and manages a strong health and safety culture throughout the organisation. It also facilitates the delivery of services to the public through our customer services team and manages communications and media relations, corporate events and relations with a number of relevant bodies.

Key Priorities for 2025:

The priorities for the Department in 2025 will be:

- Provide ongoing support to councillors in their role as democratically elected representatives, including support for the Women's Caucus.
- Deliver the objectives of the Communications Strategy to heighten awareness of the activities and services that the council provides.
- Review the Customer Charter and Customer Services Action Plan to ensure we deliver the best service to our customers.
- Build on existing accreditation successes and further embed a culture of excellent Health and Safety Management throughout the organisation.

The Corporate Affairs and Governance Section will continue to support the Cathaoirleach and elected members in their reserve roles while facilitating statutory meetings throughout the year. Additionally, the modernisation of the electoral registration process will advance as outlined in the Electoral Reform Act 2022.

Good governance is essential for achieving the Council's vision and objectives, which are guided by corporate governance policies. A robust risk management framework has been implemented, ensuring compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Council will continue to support the Audit Committee's oversight and engage with the Data Protection Officer to maintain compliance with FOI and GDPR regulations, enhancing overall corporate governance.

Meath County Council is dedicated to providing excellent customer service, as outlined in the Customer Service Action Plan. The rollout of the Sugar Serve CRM in early 2023 has improved public services, with a web chat function to be introduced in 2025 for better communication. The Council will deliver on the objectives of the Communications Strategy and develop a Digital Communications Strategy to enhance engagement with our citizens and stakeholders.

Finally, achieving ISO 45001:2018 accreditation in 2022 highlights the Council's commitment to health and safety, with ongoing efforts to maintain this certification in 2025 and to enhance the Flex Safety Management System for continuous improvement.

TABLE B: Expenditure and Income for 2025 and Estimated Outturn for 2024								
Division & Services	2025				2024			
	Expenditure		Income		Expenditure		Income	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
H Miscellaneous Services								
H01 Profit & Loss Machinery Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H02 Profit & Loss Stores Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H03 Adminstration of Rates	7,744,358	7,744,358	705,067	705,067	8,823,583	10,123,583	131,022	131,022
H04 Franchise Costs	310,809	310,809	2,465	2,465	290,825	290,825	2,129	2,129
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	327,915	327,915	1,405	1,405	296,788	296,788	1,213	1,213
H06 Weighbridges	1,850	1,850	-	-	1,387	1,387	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	-	-	4,000	4,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
H08 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H09 Local Representation & Civic Leadership	4,040,173	4,040,173	36,851	36,851	3,727,478	3,727,478	31,830	31,830
H10 Motor Taxation	2,116,424	2,116,424	117,816	117,816	1,945,482	1,945,482	109,258	109,258
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	974,804	974,804	13,874,479	13,874,479	971,613	971,613	10,065,669	10,065,669
Division H Total	15,516,333	15,516,333	14,742,083	14,742,083	16,057,156	17,357,156	10,344,121	10,344,121
OVERALL TOTAL	232,057,479	232,057,479	158,927,766	158,927,766	208,717,215	219,308,997	141,011,859	151,649,642

Table F - Expenditure				
Division H - Miscellaneous Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
H0101 Maintenance of Machinery Service	-	-	-	-
H0102 Plant and Machinery Operations	-	-	-	-
H0199 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
H01 Profit & Loss Machinery Account	-	-	-	-
H0201 Purchase of Materials, Stores	-	-	-	-
H0202 Administrative Costs Stores	-	-	-	-
H0203 Upkeep of Buildings, stores	-	-	-	-
H0299 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
H02 Profit & Loss Stores Account	-	-	-	-
H0301 Administration of Rates Office	753,619	753,619	692,753	692,753
H0302 Debt Management Service Rates	654,847	654,847	606,738	606,738
H0303 Refunds and Irrecoverable Rates	6,177,980	6,177,980	7,383,808	8,683,808
H0399 Service Support Costs	157,912	157,912	140,284	140,284
H03 Adminstration of Rates	7,744,358	7,744,358	8,823,583	10,123,583
H0401 Register of Elector Costs	51,765	51,765	49,186	49,186
H0402 Local Election Costs	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
H0499 Service Support Costs	159,044	159,044	141,639	141,639
H04 Franchise Costs	310,809	310,809	290,825	290,825
H0501 Coroner Fees and Expenses	320,774	320,774	290,212	290,212
H0502 Operation of Morgue	-	-	-	-
H0599 Service Support Costs	7,141	7,141	6,576	6,576
H05 Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	327,915	327,915	296,788	296,788
H0601 Weighbridge Operations	300	300	-	-
H0699 Service Support Costs	1,550	1,550	1,387	1,387
H06 Weighbridges	1,850	1,850	1,387	1,387
H0701 Operation of Markets	-	-	-	-
H0702 Casual Trading Areas	-	-	-	-
H0799 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
H07 Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	-	-	-	-
H0801 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-
H0899 Service Support Costs	-	-	-	-
H08 Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-

Table F - Expenditure				
Division H - Miscellaneous Services				
Expenditure by Service and Sub-Service	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive /Mayor €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
H0901 Representational Payments	1,254,076	1,254,076	1,155,796	1,155,796
H0902 Chair/Vice Chair Allowances	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000
H0903 Annual Allowances LA Members	360,000	360,000	360,000	360,000
H0904 Expenses LA Members	83,862	83,862	83,862	83,862
H0905 Other Expenses	38,000	38,000	24,000	24,000
H0906 Conferences Abroad	25,000	25,000	20,000	20,000
H0907 Retirement Gratuities	232,216	232,216	232,216	232,216
H0908 Contribution to Members Associations	27,000	27,000	23,000	23,000
H0909 General Municipal Allocation	640,000	640,000	600,000	600,000
H0999 Service Support Costs	1,302,019	1,302,019	1,150,604	1,150,604
H09 Local Representation & Civic Leadership	4,040,173	4,040,173	3,727,478	3,727,478
H1001 Motor Taxation Operation	766,482	766,482	748,024	748,024
H1099 Service Support Costs	1,349,942	1,349,942	1,197,458	1,197,458
H10 Motor Taxation	2,116,424	2,116,424	1,945,482	1,945,482
H1101 Agency & Recoupable Service	53,600	53,600	53,600	53,600
H1102 NPPR	20,062	20,062	111,139	111,139
H1199 Service Support Costs	901,142	901,142	806,874	806,874
H11 Agency & Recoupable Services	974,804	974,804	971,613	971,613
Division H Total	15,516,333	15,516,333	16,057,156	17,357,156
OVERALL TOTAL	232,057,479	232,057,479	208,717,215	219,308,997

Table F - Income				
Division H - Miscellaneous Services				
Income by Source	2025		2024	
	Adopted by Council €	Estimated by Chief Executive €	Adopted by Council €	Estimated Outturn €
Government Grants & Subsidies				
Housing, Local Government & Heritage	11,174,804	11,174,804	7,436,295	7,436,295
Agriculture, Food, & Marine	-	-	-	-
Social Protection	-	-	-	-
Justice	-	-	-	-
Other	24,760	24,760	-	-
Total Government Grants & Subsidies	11,199,564	11,199,564	7,436,295	7,436,295
Goods & Services				
Superannuation	181,229	181,229	156,536	156,536
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	-	-	-	-
NPPR	36,000	36,000	200,000	200,000
Other income	3,325,290	3,325,290	2,551,290	2,551,290
Total Goods & Services	3,542,519	3,542,519	2,907,826	2,907,826
Division H Total	14,742,083	14,742,083	10,344,121	10,344,121
OVERALL TOTAL	158,927,766	158,927,766	141,011,859	151,649,642

Service Division J

Finance - Key priorities 2025

Continued implementation of measures under the sector's **People Strategy**.



ISO 27001



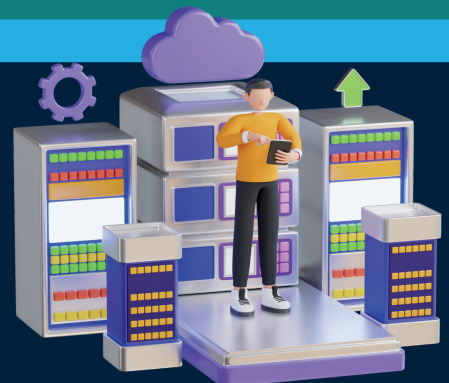
Commence process to achieve ISO 27001 Accreditation for IT Security Management and continued IT security awareness and training



Adoption of the multi-annual **Strategic Workforce Plan (SWFP)** for the Council.



Efficient application of the national pay agreements for all Council staff and pensioners.



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Service Division J – Finance

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for oversight and management of the Council's finances, including monitoring and control of income and expenditure. A broad range of services are provided by the Finance Department, including procurement, payment processing, income collection, banking/treasury management, housing loans, insurance administration, budgeting/financial reporting and tax compliance. The Finance Department oversees effective expenditure controls and debt collection, with the overall objective of ensuring that the Council operates within its allocated budget. Obtaining value for money, efficient delivery of services, optimising revenue streams and ensuring tax compliance continues to be the main focus of the department.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Accounts Payable will continue to process supplier payments in a timely and efficient manner with regular monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with Prompt Payment legislation. System development and enhancements will continue in 2025 to ensure compliance with all taxation legislation.
- The Procurement Department continues to promote, guide and support the Corporate body in all aspects relating to Procurement. Procurement actively manages many central contracts and provides administration support for systems such as SupplyGov and e-Tenders, as well as the LVPC Lighthouse card management system. Procurement is an integral part of the purchase-to-pay cycle, providing a management overview and governance function for all procurement-related acquisitions.
- The Annual Financial Statements for 2024 will be produced during Q1 of 2025. This will be followed by the half-year accounts in July and the Three-Year Capital Investment Programme. The Local Property Tax reports will be brought to the September council meeting for members' consideration. The Annual Budget for 2026 will be prepared and presented to the members for adoption in November 2025.
- The review of business processes will continue in 2025, and where appropriate, business and information management solutions will be implemented to enhance our service delivery.

The emphasis for 2025 will be to maintain collection rates for all sources of income (Rents, Rates, Housing Loans, and NPPR). Budgetary control will continue to be the focus for the Finance Department during 2025 as we strive to effectively manage the County's resources and achieve efficiencies and value for money while delivering a wide range of services.

Human Resources

Introduction

The HR Department will implement a programme of measures to support the organisation's corporate priorities in line with the sector's People Strategy. These will include: (a) continued focus on recruitment, selection and retention of staff with a particular focus on promoting Meath County Council as an employer of choice; (b) renewed focus on staff learning and development, the promotion of a culture of Continuous Professional Development; and enhanced and tailored support to line managers and team leaders; and (c) continued focus on staff wellbeing and engagement.

Key Priorities for 2025:

- Adoption of the multi-annual Strategic Workforce Plan (SWFP) for the Council.
- Continued implementation of measures under the sector's People Strategy.
- Maintaining good industrial relations and managing relations with the Trade Unions.
- Manage the implementation of national agreements on Water Services and the Fire Service.
- Efficient application of the national pay agreements for all Council staff and pensioners.

The HR Department will implement the multi-annual Strategic Workforce Plan (SWFP) that will support the development of a well-structured workforce to meet the changing needs of the Council efficiently and effectively. The SWFP will support the proactive management of human resources with regard to access to the right skills and experience, the changing needs of the organisation, the evolving environment within which we operate, and available financial and other resources.

Effective recruitment practices will remain a key priority in 2025, and the HR Department will continue to use a mix of recruitment practices in order to attract particular skill sets. These will be supplemented by the use of apprenticeships and graduate and student placements to further address skills needs. The training and learning opportunities that the Department offers, as well as the Council's Coaching Programme, will also help retain skills, experience, and corporate knowledge.

The HR Department will continue to support staff and enhance the Council's offering in terms of health, wellness and wellbeing.

Information Systems

Key Priorities for 2025:

- IT Operations
- IT Security
- Business Solutions and Information Management
- Geographical Information Systems

The key focus for 2025 will be to continue to modernise our IT operations and to commence the ISO27001 accreditation process for Information Security Management.

Statutory Tables

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TABLE C - CALCULATION OF BASE YEAR ADJUSTMENT					
Rating Authority	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
	Annual Rate on Valuation 2025 €	Effective ARV (Net of BYA) 2025 €	Base Year Adjustment 2025 €	Net Effective Valuation €	Value of Base Year Adjustment €
<u>Meath County Council</u>	<u>0.1938</u>				
Meath County Council	0.1938	-	-	-	-
TOTAL				-	-

Table D		
ANALYSIS OF BUDGET INCOME 2025 FROM GOODS AND SERVICES		
Source of Income	2025 €	2024 €
Rents from Houses	18,792,508	16,309,324
Housing Loans Interest & Charges	1,989,213	2,036,313
Parking Fines & Charges	1,526,000	1,516,000
Uisce Éireann	6,380,932	9,119,172
Planning Fees	1,627,000	1,417,000
Domestic Refuse Charges	-	-
Commercial Refuse Charges	-	-
Landfill Charges	-	-
Fire Charges	300,000	300,000
Recreation/Amenity/Culture	575,000	625,000
Agency Services & Repayable Works	-	-
Local Authority Contributions	13,949,663	11,894,537
Superannuation	2,271,304	1,961,842
NPPR	36,000	200,000
Other income	18,854,000	15,403,490
Total Goods & Services	66,301,620	60,782,678

Table E		
ANALYSIS OF BUDGET INCOME 2025 FROM GRANTS & SUBSIDIES		
	2025 €	2024 €
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
Housing and Building	44,109,687	39,938,620
Road Transport & Safety	-	-
Water Services	2,180,800	380,966
Development Management	2,049,619	1,955,620
Environmental Services	3,121,524	2,475,926
Recreation and Amenity	-	-
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous Services	11,174,804	7,436,295
Sub-total	62,644,434	52,195,427
Other Departments and Bodies		
TII Transport Infrastructure Ireland	26,120,417	25,166,567
Media, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sport & the Gaeltacht	-	-
National Transport Authority	-	-
Social Protection	-	-
Defence	132,000	125,000
Education	-	-
Library Council	-	-
Arts Council	155,900	116,800
Transport	-	-
Justice	-	-
Agriculture, Food, & Marine	-	-
Enterprise, Trade & Employment	1,214,783	1,262,068
Rural & Community Development	30,000	-
Environment, Climate & Communications	448,278	260,010
Food Safety Authority of Ireland	245,860	245,860
Other	1,634,474	857,449
Sub-total	29,981,712	28,033,754
Total Grants & Subsidies	92,626,146	80,229,181

APPENDIX 1		
SUMMARY OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT CHARGES FOR YEAR 2025		
Description	2025 €	2024 €
Corporate Affairs Overhead	3,792,071	3,553,926
Corporate Buildings Overhead	4,582,667	3,982,620
Finance Function Overhead	1,487,927	1,324,601
Human Resource Function Overhead	3,094,746	2,832,450
IT Services	5,153,043	4,258,236
Print/Post Room Service Overhead Allocation	498,000	498,000
Pension & Lump Sum Overhead	8,331,546	7,796,640
Total Expenditure Allocated to Services	26,940,000	24,246,473

APPENDIX 2		
SUMMARY OF LOCAL PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION FOR YEAR 2025		
Description	2025 €	2025 €
Discretionary		
** Discretionary Local Property Tax (Table A)	<u>17,187,691</u>	17,187,691
Self Funding - Revenue Budget		
Housing & Building	815,229	
Roads, Transport & Safety	<u>-</u>	815,229
Total Local Property Tax - Revenue Budget		18,002,920
Self Funding - Capital Budget		
Housing & Building	3,400,000	
Roads, Transport & Safety	<u>-</u>	3,400,000
Total Local Property Tax - Capital Budget		3,400,000
Total Local Property Tax Allocation (Post Variation)		21,402,920

**This amount includes an equalisation contribution of €0 from the Exchequer/Local Government Fund.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I hereby certify that at the budget meeting of Meath County Council held this 25th day of November 2024 the Council by Resolution adopted for the financial year ending on the 31st day of December, 2025. the budget set out in Tables (A -F) and by Resolution determined in accordance with the said budget the Rates set out in Tables A to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in those Tables.

Signed


Cathaoirleach

Countersigned


Chief Executive

Dated this 25th day of November, 2024



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