comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Monthly Management Report for Elected Members

February 2026

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

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Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council and is being provided for your information and consideration.

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, HR Management and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Directorate for Housing and Integration

Housing Services

Directorate for Transportation, Urban Regeneration & Asset Management

Transportation

Directorate for Planning & Strategic Projects

Planning and Development

Directorate for Financial Services and Information Systems

Finance Services

Directorate for Climate Action, Culture, Community & Gaeltacht Affairs

Climate Action and Environment

Library Services

Community Development

Directorate for Economic Development, Rural Regeneration & EU Affairs

Economic Development

Tourism

Rural Regeneration

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Corporate Affairs

Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla - Ailt 9A – 9D

Cuireadh uasdátú ar fáil ón Roinn go bhfuil dul chun cinn seasta á dhéanamh ag an Roinn maidir le cur i bhfeidhm Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, go háirithe maidir le treoirlínte ar Ailt 9A-9D, atá le tabhairt chun críche faoi láthair tar éis próiseas comhairliúcháin forleathan. Beidh an Roinn ag teacht ar ais le uasdátaithe níos mionsonraithe a roinnt leis na comhairlí contae ar na tionscadail seo agus ar thógraí eile go luath.

Baineann Alt 9A le cumas na gcóras teicneolaíochta faisnéise agus cumarsáide ainmneacha, seoltaí agus teidil Ghaeilge a láimhseáil i gceart, lena n-áirítear an síneadh fada. Clúdaíonn 9B leagan amach dátheangach foirmeacha oifigiúla. Déileálann 9C agus 9D le lógónna – beidh lógónna nua nó athdheartha i nGaeilge nó dátheangach agus ní mór ainmneacha Gaeilge a bheith ag comhlachtaí reachtúla nua.

Official Languages Act – Sections 9A – 9D

An update has been provided from the Department that consistent progress has been made by them regarding the implementation of the Official Languages Act, in particular regarding the guidelines of sections 9A – 9D, which are being completed at present after a lengthy consultative process. The Department will return soon with more detailed updates to share with county councils on these initiatives and new proposals.

Section 9A concerns the ability of the information and communications technology to handle names, addresses and Irish language titles correctly, including the síneadh fada. 9B relates to the layout of

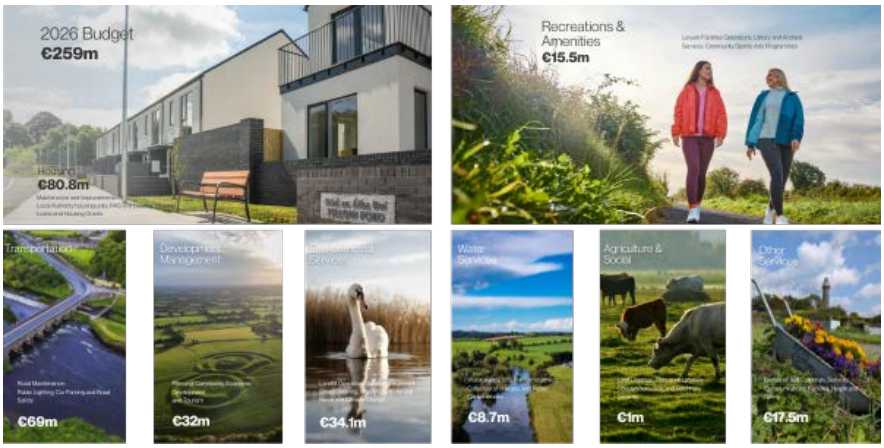
official bilingual forms. 9C and 9D deal with logo's – new logo's must be redesigned in Irish or bilingual and statutory companies must have their logo in Irish.

Council Adopts Largest Ever Budget of Over €258 million for 2026

On Monday, 24 November, Meath County Council Councillors voted to adopt the budget for 2026, with over €258 million dedicated to enhancing local public services.

This is an increase of €26 million (11.5%) compared to last year and sees the Council continuing to prioritise key areas like housing, road safety, and economic development, in order to enhance the quality of people's lives in Meath.

31% (over €80 million) of the 2026 budget has been allocated to Housing services, while over €69 million has been put forward for Road Safety and Transport. Following on from a transformative year that saw us open the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence to strengthen economic development in Meath, €4.8 million has been allocated to further economic development initiatives in 2026.



Council One of Just Four Local Authorities Shortlisted for Local Authority of the Year



The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards took place Thursday 27 November, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santry, with Meath County Council initiatives nominated for a massive 10 awards, with LEO Meath winning for Championing Diversity and Inclusion.

The Council were also one of only four local authorities shortlisted for Local Authority of the Year, an honour that could not be applied for but instead was picked by a panel of expert judges.

Providing a Wonderful New Outdoor Amenity for the People of Ashbourne



The Council was delighted to officially open Phase 2 of Ashbourne Linear Park on Tuesday 2 December 2025, a €1.2 million project that forms a vital part of the town's evolving green infrastructure while also providing a fantastic new amenity for local residents.

The development, which was funded by Meath County Council comprises a state-of-the-art skatepark, a 3x3 basketball court, and a pedestrian footbridge over the Broadmeadow River. Phase 1, completed in 2019, introduced a new play space, an amphitheatre, and a pedestrian footbridge that connected the park directly to Ashbourne's town centre.

12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety Campaign



As part of the Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service's 12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety campaign, the Council released a short video each evening with Meath Fire and Rescue's Barry Balfe talking people through a daily fire safety tip for around the home.

Barry and his colleagues across the county raised awareness among County Meath residents about common fire hazards and safety risks during the festive season, with the 12 videos being very well-received on social media.



Inaugural Meath Local Community Safety Partnership Meeting Heralds New Approach to Local Community Safety



In December, the Council was delighted to host the inaugural meeting of the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) at the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence in Navan, introducing a new, inter-agency effort aimed at identifying and prioritising community safety issues.

The new partnership is a collaboration between a range of stakeholders including Meath County Council, local councillors, An Garda Síochána, community representatives, business and education representative and statutory agencies including TUSLA and the HSE.

Revamped Dry Changing Rooms Unveiled at Navan Aura Leisure Centre



On Monday, 8 December 2025, newly refurbished Dry Changing Rooms were officially opened at Navan Aura Leisure Centre following works completed earlier in 2025.

The total cost of this project was €315,000 with €200,000 of this being funded under the Community Sport Facilities fund through the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Speaking about the works, Mayor of Navan Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons said: "This fantastic investment ensures the changing facilities meet the highest standards of comfort, safety, and accessibility for the many people who walk through the doors of this tremendous business."

Council Launches Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030



The Council was delighted to launch the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 with an event at Buvinda House shortly before Christmas.

The five-year plan aims to focus the efforts of Meath County Council and other local partners to provide a coordinated response to escalating environmental challenges such as the decline of biodiversity and a changing climate, while supporting sustainable development in the county.

A total of 55 actions organised under five broad strategic objectives in the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan, together with the County Meath Climate Action Plan, provide the local authority with a roadmap which enables it to play its part in addressing these challenges at the local level.

Fire at Meath Civil Defence Headquarters



The Council was dismayed by the reports of a large fire at Meath Civil Defence Headquarters on Sunday, 21 December 2025.

A quick response by the Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service along with the Meath Civil Defence meant the fire was contained and, thankfully, there were no injuries.

Despite the difficulties, Meath Civil Defence remained operational over the Christmas and New Year period.

Local Lens Season 2 Opener Released Tuesday 6 January 2026



The Council's flagship Podcast series Local Lens returned for a second season in early January.

Our wide-ranging Season 2 opener sees An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Wayne Harding discusses the importance of listening to the voters, why and where there is transparency and accountability for councillors and how communications, specifically social media use, have changed for councillors in recent years.

The ominous side of social media and how some people use it to target local politicians is also discussed. Cllr Sarah Reilly of Kells MD talks about feeling unsafe after her home address and phone number were shared on social media last year by people who did not agree with one of her posts.

Virgin Media political correspondent (and Meath native!) Gavan Reilly tells us how he used social media in a positive way to explain Ireland's electoral system. His children's liking for brightly coloured smarties inspired his viral videos explaining how the single transferable vote moves between candidates.

He also discusses why he feels local elections are important.

Corporate Governance

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

The following are the number of requests received in Q4 2025:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q4 - 2025	57	3	

The link to the Council's FOI Disclosure Log is: https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information

The following are the Q4 2025 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q4- 2025	10	1	

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q4 2025 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q4 - 2025	7

Housing Services



1.0 Social Housing Investment Programme

Meath County Council is committed to realising the ambition of Housing for All at County level, 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. 2025 is another record year for delivery in Meath with significant exceedance of our target. The Housing for All 2022-2026 summary of target and delivery is outlined in Table 1 below and social housing delivery is listed in Table 2 below.

Social Housing Build Target 2022-2026						
Year	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**	**Total**
Target	340	243	249	268	273	**1,531**
Delivered to date	452	492	501	457		**1,902**
Affordable Target 2022-2026						
Target	10	28	41	36	36	**151**
Delivered to date	0	70	1	8*		**79**

Table 1: Housing For All Targets

**This is a provisional number.*

2025 Social Housing Delivery		
Scheme Type	**Nr. Units Delivered**	**€**
AHB CALF Acquisition	0	€0
AHB CALF Turnkey	95	€31,728,992
AHB Long-Term Leasing	0	€0
AHB Mortgage to Rent	17	€263,955
CALF Part V	7	€2,403,833
CAS Acquisitions	0	€0
LA Acquisitions	15	€4,518,905
LA Part V	113	€38,230,640
Part V Leasing	0	€0
Four Stage Traveller Specific	0	€0
MCC Direct SHIP Construction	66	€17,199,127
SHIP Construction Turnkey	169	€62,470,362
SHIP Construction Single Stage	2	€307,583
Grand Total	**484**	**€157,123,397**

Table 2: Summary of Housing for All 2025 Delivery for Meath

1.1 Social Housing – Direct Construction

Construction works were substantially completed in 2025

- Swan Lane, Navan – 6 units
- Connaught Grove, Athboy – 47 units
- Brews Hill, Navan – 12 units
- Newtown Drumconrath – 1 unit
- Woodview Heights, Dunboyne 2 units



Swan Lane, Navan



Connaught Grove, Athboy



Newtown, Drumconrath



Brews Hill, Navan



Woodview Heights, Dunboyne

Construction works are ongoing on the following sites:

- Pitcher Lane, Kells
- Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan
- Ratholdren Court, Navan

There were 33 potential sites and/or turnkey opportunities investigated during 2025 with a potential for over 900 units. A planning and engineering assessment to determine suitability for development or acquisition was carried out on all sites. A number of future pipeline development sites were acquired, and turnkey opportunities were identified and agreed upon with developers.

A summary of all Construction and Turnkey schemes is provided in Table 3.

Project Name	Nr. Units	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date
Preliminary Design Phase			
Robinstown	3	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Riverside, Carnaross	5	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Balreask, Navan	4	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Friars Park, Trim	4	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Church Street, Kells	3	Q4 2026	Q4 2027
Ratoath Age Friendly	14	Q3 2026	Q3 2027
Lough Crew Hills, Oldcastle	47	Q4/2026	Q4/2028
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q4/2026	Q1/2029
Total	**159**		
Part 8 Planning & Detailed Design			
Kells, Archdeaconry	22	Q4/2026	Q2/2028
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells	47	Q4/2026	Q4/2028
Planning & Design Total	**69**		
Tender for Construction			
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q3 2026	Q1 2028
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q3 2026	Q3 2027
Total Tender for Construction	**26**		
Construction Stage			
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Rathaldron Court, Navan	27	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Abbott Mews, Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q3 2025	Q4 2026
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q1 2026	Q4 2027
Construction Total	**40**		
Overall Total	**294**		

Table 3: Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

The RTE Show Super Garden – Baker Hall, Navan

5 budding designers wowed RTÉ audiences with their ambitious garden designs for the residents of Baker Hall, Navan a development built by Glenveigh Homes with affordable homes delivered in partnership with Meath County Council and the Land Development Agency.

Each designer had a budget of €15,000 and three weeks to build their garden and sponsored by Woodies and Dulux Interiors.

1.2 Part V & Turnkey Social Housing

A summary of Part V & Turnkey Schemes delivered is provided in Table 4.

Project Name	Project Type	No. of Units
Ashbourne	Part V	3
Ballivor	Part V	4
Bettystown	Part V	4
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Donacarney	Part V	2
Duleek	Part V	10
Drogheda	Part V	4
Dunshaughlin	Part V	16
Enfield	Part V	6
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	8
Navan	Part V	22
Ratoath	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Trim	Part V	17
Total Part V		**113**
Ballivor	Turnkey	8
Bettystown	Turnkey	20
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	16
Kells	Turnkey	28
Navan	Turnkey	26
Stamullen	Turnkey	5
Total Turnkey		**169**
Total		**282**

Table 4: Summary Profile of Part V & Turnkey Social Units

1.3 Approved Housing Bodies

A summary of Approved Housing Body schemes is provided in Table 5.

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Frederick Square, Ashbourne	29	Circle	Q2 2027
Rooske Road, Dunboyne	50	Iveagh Trust	Q2 2027
Bailey Hill, Navan	5	Cluid	Q3 2026
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul –CAS	Q3 2027
Oldcastle	1	Depaul Housing- CAS	Q3 2026
Slane	1	St John of Gods - CAS	Q4 2026
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge – CAS	Q1 2028
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q2 2027
Total Ongoing	**105**		
Colmcille Court, Gardenrath, Kells	45	Cluid CALF	Completed Q2/Q3 2025
Emmet Court, Emmet St, Trim	12	North & East CALF	Completed 11/6/25
Glen Boann, Donacarney	12	Cluid CALF	Completed 15/9/25
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	12	Respond CALF	Completed 15/5/25
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	21	Cluid CALF	Completed 3/10/25
Flowerhill Lodge, Navan	5	North & East CAS - Turnkey	Completed Q2 2025
Total Completed	**107**		
Total Number of Approved Units	**212**		

Table 5: Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects

1.4 Affordable Housing

Five affordable housing schemes were launched in 2025.

- Boyne Village Phase 2 – LIHAF – 5 units & 2 units from Phase 1 – 1 unit closed remainder at conveyancing stage

- Boyne Village Phase 3 – LIHAF - 9 units – currently in conveyancing process
- Effernock – Part V – 8 units – sales closed
- Wellfield – LIHAF -10 units – currently in conveyancing process
- Robinrath – Part V - 8 units – at assessment stage

34 properties allocated to successful applicants in 2025.



Affordable Purchase – Effernock



Affordable Purchase – Wellfield

1.5 Housing Capital Expenditure

A total of €154,175,892.00 was spent on capital schemes in 2025.

1.6 Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability –

In 2025, 577 Households received Grant aid under the various Grants schemes in 2025 to the value of €4,271,062.18 including VAT. Grant funding of €3,560,773.38 (80/85%) was received from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage towards these works.

1.7 Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

The Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme (LAAWS) is available to assist Local Authority tenants to address mobility problems, primarily associated with medical need. Works were completed on 55 units in 2025 throughout the County, with a total expenditure of €686,467.47, see Table 6 for breakdown per Municipal District.

MD	No. of LAAWS
Kells	18
Navan	8
Trim	12
Ashbourne	3
Laytown/Bettystown	5

Ratoath	9
TOTAL:	**55**

Table 6: LAAWS Completed in 2025 BY MD

1.8 Private Rental Inspections

4,335 Inspections were carried out on private rented properties in Meath for the period January - December 2025.

An inspection target of 1,973 was set by the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage.

81 properties passed after their first inspection. The pass rates were as follows: 1st inspections 6%, 2nd inspections 29%, 3rd inspections 32%, 4th inspections 32%.

173 Improvement Notices, 15 Prohibition Notices and 3136 improvement letters were issued in 2025.

2.0 Housing Maintenance

2.1 Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

91 Vacant units required works prior to being re-tenanted in 2025, see Table 7 below for details.

	Pre Lets Completed in 2025	Energy Retrofit Completed in 2025
Numbers	91	70 (of which 50 were part of pre let repairs)
Cost of Works	€1,769,558	€2,137,908
Recoupments from DHLGH	€770,000	€1,951,540

Table 7: 2025 Pre Let & Energy Retrofit Details

Table 8 is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 5th January 2026. For the period from 1st November 2025 to 5th January 2026 works were completed on 12 vacant units, while 6 units became vacant during this period.

UNITS / *MUNICIPAL DISTRICT*	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Kells	5	1	3	3	6
Navan	7	9	11	16	11
Ashbourne	0	0	2	2	0
Laytown/Bettystown	3	0	1	3	1
Ratoath	0	2	0	2	0
Trim	2	4	0	3	3
TOTALS	**17**	**16**	**17***	**29**	**21**

Table 8: Current Vacant Properties

**Note: These 17 pre-let properties are major refurbishment works which include energy upgrades to bring the property to a B2 BER rating or better*

2.2 Response Maintenance

9,316 response maintenance cases were logged in 2025 and subsequently dealt with by Housing Maintenance.

2.3 Planned Maintenance

1283 Stock Conditions Surveys were completed from 1st January to 31st December 2025.

RADON detectors were placed in 300 social houses. Collection of these detectors will commence in January 2026.

A retaining wall was built using a proprietary retaining block wall and a concrete post, single concrete plank and timber panel were installed at a property in Slane.

Two wastewater treatment systems were installed at detached residential units in Tara and Doolinstown. The existing wastewater systems were decommissioned.

3.0 Estate Management and Settlement

3.1 Homeless Service

	Single/Couple Households	Households with Children	Total Households
Placements on 1st January 2025	176	87 (141 Adults, 137 children)	263

Placements on 31st December 2025	185	86 (121 Adults, 152 Children)	271

Table 9: Homeless Service Placements

Summary of people in Emergency Accommodation 2025

Of the households with children, 74 families are placed in short-term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through the Settlement Team's intervention and 12 Families in Family Hubs. A fourth Family Hub came into operation this year, enabling five families to move from short-term private rented accommodation to a Family Hub.

Primary reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency:

- Notice to Quit
- Overcrowding |Couch Surfing | Unable to Afford Accommodation
- Family breakdown | Relationship breakdown
- Domestic violence | Barring Order
- Addiction | Treatment | Prison Release
- Rough sleeping

66 tenancies were secured through the support provided by the Homeless HAP Place finder Service in 2025; 30 as exits from Emergency Accommodation and a further 36 to prevent homelessness.

Presentations / Appointments

568 presented as homeless to Meath County Council in 2025

- 352 individuals/Couples
- 221 families

Summary of the overall EA movements for the year

On the 1st of January 2025, 263 households were accommodated in Emergency Accommodation (EA).

- There was a total of 478 singles/couple placements in EA over 2025 including repeat placements.
- There was a total of 166 family placements in EA over 2025 including repeat placements.

On the 31st of December 2025:

- There were a total of 295 singles/couple exits from EA over 2025.
- There were a total of 80 family exits from EA over 2025.

3.2 Tenant in Situ

5 Tenant in Situ acquisitions completed by the end of December 2025 with a further 2 properties sale agreed and going through the conveyance process.

2 Tenant in Situ acquisitions could not proceed as 1 did not pass the technical inspection and the other no agreement with the owner could made regarding the price.

3.3 Tenant Purchase Scheme

14 houses were sold to tenants of Meath County Council in 2025 under the Tenant Purchase Scheme, at a cumulative discount of €1,524,690.

3.4 Traveller Accommodation

A new 5 Year Traveller Accommodation Programme - 2025 to 2029 was adopted by the members on the 02nd December, 2024.

The following represents the Projected Delivery for 2025 to 2029, under the new programmes, based on availability of land and funding.

	Target for 4-year Programme	**2025 (Year 1) Delivery**
Standard L.A. Housing	45	15
Group Housing	3 Schemes – consisting of 10 units each	0
Halting Site Bays	10	0
L.A. Adaptation Works	15	4
H.A.P.	30	7
Housing First Tenancy	3	1

Table 10: Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029

The Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) met quarterly in 2025.

1 application was approved for the new National Preferential Caravan Loan Scheme for Travellers – Traveller Specific Accommodation in 2025.

The Annual Estimate of Accommodation of Traveller Families 2025 was carried out on the 28th November, 2025 and 496 Traveller Families were identified.

3.5 Tenant Liaison

Estate Management 1st January 2025 – 31st December 2025

Complaints	Totals
Complaints received	2270
Complaints received per MD	
Ashbourne	146
Kells	358
Laytown / Bettystown	207
Navan	590
Ratoath	551
Trim	418

Table 11: Complaints

Investigation Cases (One case can include multiple complaints)	Totals
Investigation on-going	80
Investigation completed	2190

Table 12: Investigations

Action Taken (one case can receive multiple actions)	Totals
No further action required – No ASB found (unfounded / malicious)	2
Advice / Instruction given	1878
Verbal warning issued	26
First breach of Tenancy Notice	13
Second breach of Tenancy Notice	3
Statutory warning issued	0
Notice to Quit served	0
Referrals to other agencies	195
Exclusion Orders Sought	0
House taken back into possession (No legal fees nor security fees were used in these cases)	73
Total Action Taken	2190

Tables 13: Actions Taken

Tenancy Outcomes	Totals
Repossession commenced (due to ASB & other reasons)	5
Repossession completed	5
Eviction (Following Repossession Order)	0
Exclusions Orders obtained and in place	0
Possession Orders obtained regarding Illegal Occupants	0
Number of pre-tenancies conducted	316

Rightsizing	2
No. of Tenants identified: 2	Achieved: 2

Table 14: Tenancy Outcomes

316 tenants completed pre-tenancy training during 2025, obtaining a variety of information concerning their tenancy with Meath County Council.

Estate Management Policy

The Tenant Liaison Team continue to support residents in Meath County Council's estates to promote and achieve better estate management outcomes.

During 2025, the team worked closely with residents from Yellow Ford Estate, Athboy, Co. Meath which is a new Age Friendly estate comprising of 28 units including bungalows, houses and apartments. The Tenant Liaison Team assisted residents in establishing a residents' association through information sessions provided at pre-tenancy training and home visits throughout the year. Every assistance was provided to the residents' association to ensure its success.

Funding was provided to the association to purchase garden equipment including a lawn mower, strimmer, bedding flowers and shrubs. The residents' association embraced the challenge of creating flower beds, maintaining the green areas and ensuring upkeep of the estate.

The projects arranged by the resident association encourage participation from all residents who meet on a regular basis creating a strong and inclusive community.



Images of Yellow Ford Estate, Athboy, Co. Meath.

Further assistance was provided to other estates such as Lynfield Estate, Kells, Co. Meath. The residents of Lynfield Estate applied and were granted funding for a new lawn mower, strimmer and storage shed. The Tenant Liaison Team continue to support residents of Lynfield Estate and other residents' associations who require support through funding and projects leading to improved estate management outcome.

3.6 Disability Strategy

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 sets out the Government's vision for delivering housing and related supports for disabled persons.

The vision for the Strategy is:
To facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.

To further enable equal access for disabled people to housing with integrated support services.

At a local level the Local Authorities established Disability Steering Group to be the main local forum that plans, coordinates and oversees delivery of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 at local authority level. Both the Steering Group and the sub-group met twice in 2025.

The Disability Housing Action Team which comprises of Meath County Council and HSE Healthcare officials met on 6 occasions in 2025.

Meath County Council met its target of 15% allocations to people with disabilities in 2025.

4.0 Social Housing Supports

1,764 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January 1st to 31st December 2025.

Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January to 31st December 2025.

Allocations/Housing Supports	**Number**
MCC Direct Allocations	525
Approved Housing Bodies	229
Transfers	49
RAS	0
HAP	222
Long Term Leasing	7
MTR (Private)	18
MTR (AHBS)	17
TOTAL	**1067**

Table 15: Housing Supports

Transportation Services



1.National Roads

Funding Source	**TII**
Grant Allocation	**To be confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
N51 Dunmoe Phase 2 - €2.7M	Snagging work remain in progress, with completion still anticipated in the coming weeks. The contractor has been reminded of the need to expedite the close out.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - €650K	High Court Hearing held on 15th and 16th January 2026. Awaiting the outcome of the judicial review.
N52 Grange to Clontail - €1.3M	Roughan O Donavan appointed Phase 5-7 consultant TII approved Gateway to Phase 5 to 7.
N52MH_034.0 Balrath Cross RSIS	Design report currently being progressed

2. Non - National Roads

Funding Source	**DoT**
Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**

2(a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

Grant Allocation	To Be Confirmed
Own Resources (Local tertiary roads)	Finalising allocation
Total	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing):	Programme selection underway
Community Involvement Scheme	Programme selection underway
Local Tertiaries	Programme selection underway
Own Resources Roads	Programme selection underway
Local Improvement Schemes	Programme selection underway

2(b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

Grant Allocation	To Be Confirmed
Scheme	**Update**
R156/R125 Mullagh Cross	Detail design and discussions re land acquisition progressing.
L6210 Newtownmoyaghy	NIS application lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) on 8th October 2025. Response to Submissions received issued to ACP 28th January 2026.
R132 Julianstown Traffic Relief Scheme	Consultants appointed for Phase 2 Option Selection. Ecological desk top study underway and public consultation relating to Constraints Study Area expected in Q1 2026.
R108 / L16111 Bey More Junction safety scheme	Option Selection process progressing.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
R-108 Bey More	Works ongoing
R-125 Grennoge	Works ongoing
R-125 Collinstown	Works ongoing
R-155 Curragha	Works ongoing
R-162 Nobber	Works ongoing
R-195 Fennor Oldcastle	Works ongoing
R-195 Springhall	Works ongoing
L-1603 Lobinstown	Works ongoing
L-4007 Clonmalevan	Works ongoing
L-5054 Kentstown	Works ongoing
L-5614 Bettystown	Works ongoing
L-5018 Ballybin	Proposals currently being finalised and landowner agreement being negotiated.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Works complete.

BAMS Bridge Inventory and Maintenance Inspection (2025)	Inspections complete. 2026 inspections to commence Q1 2026
Verdons Bridge	Contractor appointed. Works scheduled to commence in February 2026
Aclare Bridge	Design stage ongoing
Graultys Bridge	Design stage ongoing
Piercetown Bridge	Consultants appointed.

2 (e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**
R160 Clongowan €200,000	Site investigation has been completed awaiting site investigation report and consultants design proposals due by end of February 2026.
L-80045-5 Church Road, Athboy €25,000	Drain clearing completed.

2 (f) Former National Road Rehabilitation Works

Grant Allocation	**To Be Confirmed**
Scheme	**Update**

3. Active Travel Grants

Funding Source	**NTA**
Grant Allocation	€10,000,000
Scheme	Update
NA1: R147 Martha's Bridge to Circular Road	Works continued this month on the R147, including installation of new footpaths along the River Boyne side of the Dublin Road from the Maxol Station towards St.

	Martha's Bridge. Footpath works also continued from the railway viaduct towards the Circular Road/R147 junction. Site clearance was completed between the Maxol Fuel Station and the Academy Street/R147 junction on the western side of the road. Temporary traffic management was in place on the R147, and two-way traffic flow was maintained.
NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout	Preliminary design work continued this month.
Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme	Preliminary design work continued this month.
Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	The Consultant Team is continuing to work on finalising the Preliminary Business Case and final Gateway 3 documents for submission to the National Transport Authority (NTA), which are anticipated to be submitted in Q1.
Navan Contract 5: Fairgreen, Church Hill, Bakery Lane, Old Cornmarket, Preston Place and Fairgreen carpark.	Works reached substantial completion in Fairgreen car park, Church Hill, and Old Cornmarket laneway. Paving works continued this month in Bakery Lane, with the construction of the base slab for the new granite paving at its junction with Fairgreen. The Contractor continued to address snag items and the close out of outstanding works items during the period. Paving works in Kennedy Plaza area commenced and continued this month.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road: Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	A proposal from the consultant for a potential further concept option (relying on a shared space) has been received and is under review.
Trim Road Phase 3 - Beachmount to Balreask Manor	Tender assessment has been conducted, and the tender assessment report has finalised. Letters to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers have been issued.
Trim Road Phase 4 Balreask Manor to Borallion Junction	Design work (Preliminary Design) continued this month. A meeting was held with the design team representing a Developer with lands on the Trim Road (relating to LDR2A) to discuss potential integration with planned Part 8 cycle scheme on the Trim Road.

Dunboyne and Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme	Part 8 CE Report for the Dunboyne to Clonee Active Travel Links was presented to the December Ratoath MD meeting. Delivery Plan for the remaining Active Travel routes in Dunboyne now complete, NTA approval sought for the Delivery Plan.
Castle Street Ashbourne	Consultant appointed to develop an Active Travel Scheme along Castle Street Ashbourne, route selection process now commenced. Scheme has been extended to include Castle Way, St. Declan's NS and Alderbrook Road.
Johnstown Village Active Travel Scheme	The scheme will now be progressed through the Part 8 planning process with plans to enhance the public realm of the village core and plans to redevelop the Mrs. Butterly's site. The option selection process is currently ongoing.
BusIt2School	The BusIt2School scheme is funded by the DOT and aims to encourage primary school pupils to travel to and from school by bus. Scoil Naomh Eoin Clonmaggaden and St. Stephens Johnstown have completed the implementation phase and we awaiting the close-out report with the findings.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities	Appointment of consultant in for Phase 5 -7 ongoing. Continuing engagement with landowners and Valuers for necessary land acquisition as well as with ESB for the necessary major overhead line alteration.
Newtown Road, Trim footpath	Works progressing.
Bus Stop Improvement Programme	The list of bus stops upgrades has been agreed with the NTA (who are the funder and responsible authority for bus stops) Designs have now been completed for 38 new or upgraded bus stops at Gormanstown, Stamullen, Athboy, Crossakeel, Kells, Donacarney, Donore, Mornington, Navan, Dunderry, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne Clonee, Kilsmessan, Clonard, Kildalkey, Longwood, and Summerhill. It is anticipated these will go to tender for construction soon for delivery in 2026.

Safe Routes to School	
St. Stephen's NS, Navan (Round 1 school)	Civil works on road complete with new paths to new pedestrian only entrance in construction. Upgrades to public lighting to commence soon.
Beaufort College, Navan (Round 2 school)	Civil works complete. Currently engaging with Lidl to finalise designs for the permeability link.
St, Anne's Loreto Fairgreen, Navan (Round 3 School)	Front of School works completed as part of the Navan 2030 project, Contract 5.
Round 3 Schools Duleek Boys' National School, Scoil Naomh Seachnall, St Oliver Plunkett's National School Navan and St Paul's National School, Navan	An Taisce have now completed their Delivery Plans for the schools which identify the issues. Meath County Council will commence developing designs on the necessary improvements and interventions.
Round 4 Schools Gilson NS Oldcastle, Navan Educate Together NS, St. Ultans NS Bohermeen and Scoil Naomh Bríde Kilbride Trim.	The Round 4 schools were announced in December 2025 by the Minister for Transport and the NTA with four schools in County Meath listed. An Taisce to now engage with the schools, complete their surveys and audits to identify the necessary interventions.

4.Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes

Funding Source	Primarily DoT & NTA
Grant Allocation	(covered under TII)
Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway	
Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibbstown Car Park	Works progressing on the footpath from the Gibbstown Greenway crossing to Kilberry. Works due to be completed in early February.
Poles Car Park and Footpath, Kilmainhamwood	The new car park at Poles Greenway crossing Kilmainhamwood and the 500m footpath along the

	R162 from Poles cross to the Ballinaclose junction is now complete.
Greenway Resurfacing	TII funding has been secured to apply a bituminous surface to the Gibbstown to Wilkinstown section of the Greenway. Works are scheduled to take place in February.
Boyne Greenway	
Navan to Oldbridge	Ecological and environmental surveys continuing. Initial Preliminary design of the horizontal and vertical alignment as well as structures of the Boyne Greenway route progressing.

5.Other/Projects

Scheme	**Update**
Broadmeadow Riverwalk Ratoath	Tender documents currently being developed for the delivery of the riverwalk.
Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	Tobin Consultant Engineers Ltd. actively progressing the detailed design. MCC exploring options to acquire land for new car park to serve the town centre.
Athboy Main Street Public Realm Scheme	Tobin Consultant Engineers appointed for the Athboy Main Street Public Realm scheme. Feasibility and Route Options Selection report being developed. Workshop held with the TII after which it was agreed to extend the scheme further along the N51 to address known safety issues.
LDR4 Navan	Traffic and pedestrian movements being monitored.
Trim Pedestrian Bridge	Construction contract tenders reviewed and appointment of contractor being progressed. Liaising with the Army re removal of the temporary Bailey Bridge currently in place.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme	Works progressing in St John's Trim and in Ratoath MD.
New footpaths to Community Centres	Design commenced on new footpath to Skyrne GFC

New footpaths to Schools	Designs commenced on new footpath to Newtown-Creevagh NS and SN Ultan Naofa Baile Ghib. Finalising design at Ughtyneill NS.

6.URDF

Scheme	**Update**
Former Spicers Bakery, Rampart Carpark & Andy Brennan Park	No further updates since last report
Frontage Improvement Works Flowerhill	MCC are continuing consultations with the property owners for the implementation of the works

7.THRIVE

Scheme	**Update**
County Archive and Community Hub	Works stage 2 tender documents have been published on eTender

8. Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF)

Scheme	Update
Upgrade & Development of the existing Seafield Sports Facility at Corballis, Laytown, Co. Meath	No further updates since last report

9. Meath County Council Projects

Scheme	**Update**
New Library/Community Building, Amenity Area, and Age Friendly Housing, Ratoath	Part 8 submission closing date 12th January 2026
Solstice – Frontage	No further updates since last report

10. National Speed Limit Review

Scheme	Update
National Speed Limit Review	Currently attending all 6 MD's with update

Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism



Business Supports

Since the official launch of Thrive Centre of Business Excellence at the end of September, the Economic Development unit has welcomed over 360 visitors through the doors. From partnership events, training workshops, one-to-one business meetings, launch events and ministerial visits – the focus has been on collaboration and joined-up thinking, with an emphasis on fostering innovation and growth within our business sectors.

The team is striving to increase stakeholder engagement, create positive relationships with businesses and promote economic development within the county to ensure that Thrive is the one stop shop for all business needs and supports in Co Meath.





Business Networks

The 2026 meeting dates have now been established for the new business networks, with a very enthusiastic response from the businesses involved.

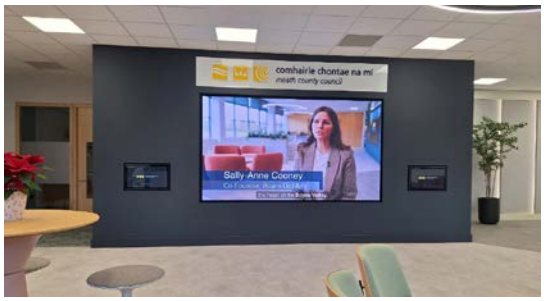
- Manufacturing and Engineering
- Agricultural, Food and Beverage
- Professional services, Finance and IT

The newly formed networks have had their first meetings of the year in January, to agree and finalise a programme of actions and events for the coming months, aimed at addressing common business challenges identified and allowing opportunities for collaboration.

FDI initiative

In 2025, the Economic Development team, with support from our Communications team, created a Foreign Direct Investment brochure "Meath – Europe's Business Ready Region" highlighting all the key strategic advantages and economic investment opportunities available in the county. As a result of increased stakeholder engagement and commitment to developing positive working relationships, a number of very successful Meath businesses agreed to work with the team to promote the excellent business eco system within the county. They gave their time to provide video testimonials, conveying the advantages of locating a business in Co Meath. The participants highlighted key success elements such as connectivity & infrastructure, world class workforce, a pro-business eco system and excellent quality of life.

These testimonials are being used in conjunction with the FDI document on our website to promote Meath as the ideal investment location.





Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Office Training Grants and Productivity Supports for December

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	
Mentoring Assignments Approved	26
Attended Online Training Courses	24
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	2
Attended AI for Business Clinics	1
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	3
Attended Finance Advice Clinics	1
GREEN for Micro Applications	1
Energy Efficiency Grant	4
LEO Grants	6

By the end of 2025, Meath LEO had delivered impact and innovation across all programmes with over 220 visitors to the Thrive Centre of Business Excellence accessing Local Enterprise Office training and supports.

Grant Aid

A total of 6 small to medium enterprise grants applicants were supported in the December EVAC. A total amount of €213,000 in funding was distributed across Priming, Expansion grants and feasibility studies. This funding results directly in the creation of jobs and allows business to scale and expand.

Management Development Programmes – 4 MDP's designed to equip local businesses with the skills to lead and grow.

1. **Accelerator Export Management Development Programme** – supported and equipped over 20 participants with the skills necessary to explore potential international markets with the unique opportunity to network and access supports



2. The Entrepreneurship programme for persons with a Disability launched during Local Enterprise Week 2025 was awarded with an *Excellence in Local Government Awards* in the Diversity and Inclusion category for this initiative promoting inclusive entrepreneurship.
The programme is nearing its completion and has been a wonderful success for its participants.



2. **Thrive Beyond the Voucher MDP** – helping businesses move beyond supports and thrive sustainably.

Previous participant Carol's testimonial:
"The Digital marketing & AI courses that I did recently through the LEO have been absolutely brilliant. After a dismal Sept & Oct where I reached out for guidance - we have just nailed our most successful December to date. I've been putting the learnings from the course into practice on our website and the difference has been huge."

3. **First National Pilot of an In-Person Canva Course** – a huge success, empowering SMEs to elevate their digital presence

Women in Business and Tech Network

Meath LEO closed out the year of collaboration with County Meath Chamber with the Women in Business and Tech network event, which was centred around showcasing crafters and Meath Made members.



Local Enterprise Development Plan 2026 - 2028

Work has commenced on the new Local Enterprise Development Plan for 2026 – 2028 as delivered to the members of the Economic SPC in December. This is an opportunity for the LEO to align this plan with the Mid East Regional Plan and the Economic Development Chapter within the County Development Plan to ensure it is an actionable working document.

Farewell to Joe English

Joe English retired his position as Head of Enterprise on the 19th of December. Meath LEO wished Joe well in his retirement and thanked him for his contribution over the years. Recruitment of the new Head of Enterprise will take place during Quarter 1 of 2026.

Tourism

Destination Promotion and Trade

Boyne Valley Tourism is participating in the Holiday World Show in the RDS, Dublin from 23th –25th January as part of ongoing domestic destination promotion. Representation has also been secured at Fáilte Ireland's Experience Ireland Roadshow 2026, taking place in March in Milan, Paris and Madrid. This activity will focus on raising international awareness of the destination and strengthening engagement with trade and media.

Press and Communications

The final press trip under the Plunkett 2025 contract will take place in January. A new 12-month public relations contract has been awarded to Crotty Communications, who will deliver a coordinated press programme for 2026 linked to the annual events calendar.

Publications and Visitor Information

The Boyne Valley Tourism brochure has been updated to reflect recent destination content and is now available at over 260 key tourism locations in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath. Work is ongoing on the Business Tourism brochure, with completion scheduled for the end of January. A two-page destination leave-behind sales tool is also nearing completion.

Industry Engagement and Capacity Building

A programme of industry engagement is being delivered across Q1 2026 to support collaboration, skills development, and stronger sector links. Activity will begin with an AI training session for tourism businesses on 20 January, with further engagement planned throughout February and March, including a member familiarisation visit and a speed networking event. A schedule of sector-specific meetings will also take place during the quarter, covering accommodation, attractions, food, heritage, and activity tourism.

Centre of Food Culture

The Centre of Food Culture Ireland is currently in the process of planning and confirming its 2026 schedule of events and programmes, whilst reviewing 2025 activity:

- In March 2025, The Centre of Food Culture Ireland strengthened its relationship with leading international gastronomy university; UNISG, Pollenzo, in coordinating a 7-day visit to 20+ Irish food producers and hospitality providers across Meath and Louth.

- The Centre of Food Culture developed and delivered a national events programme throughout the year; "Meet the Maker" and "Farm Walk" style events aimed at platforming and safeguarding Irish food culture and heritage, in partnership with producers in Meath, Louth, Dublin, Wicklow, Leitrim and Galway. This events series welcomed 200+ attendees and received significant press coverage in The Irish Examiner, Irish Country Magazine, The Kitchen Press and Georgina's Campbells Ireland.

- The annual flagship festival for the Centre of Food Culture Ireland, Samhain Festival of Food and Culture saw record numbers for its 2025 edition; welcoming 7,500+ attendees to Kells for the festival weekend in November (+50% on 2024 attendance), featuring a programme of 40+ events and a producers' market of 70+ artisan producers. As part of Samhain Festival 2025, The Centre of Food Culture Ireland also delivered the annual "Samhain Symposium" welcoming 100+ representatives from the food industry to Kells to discuss an integrated and cohesive national food policy for Ireland. The festival was delighted to be named "Best Tourism Experience or Event" in the 2025 Meath Business and Tourism Awards.

- In November 2025, The Centre of Food Culture Ireland was delighted to launch Ireland's first island wide directory of Irish food and drink producers; aimed at platforming artisan and farmhouse food producers, growers, craft breweries and distilleries across the island of Ireland to consumers, chefs, retailers, distributors and state agencies, now already home to 100+ producers from across Ireland and growing rapidly.

Boyne Valley Flavours

Membership Structure & Network Development

As part of the ongoing work to strengthen and grow the Boyne Valley Flavours network, updated membership rates have been agreed by the Board of Management for 2026. These revisions ensure the organisation can continue to deliver meaningful supports for members, including networking opportunities, targeted training, showcase events, and coordinated marketing and promotional activity across the region.

Producer Members

- 1–10 employees: €50 + VAT
- 10+ employees: €200 + VAT

Food Service Members

(including cafés, restaurants, markets, festivals, accommodation providers, and food tourism experiences)

- 1–10 employees: €100 + VAT
- 10+ employees: €200 + VAT

Affiliate Members

A new membership category introduced for 2026, Affiliate Membership is designed for businesses that support or supply the Boyne Valley food network. This includes wine importers, designers, trainers, food safety consultants, service providers, wholesalers and food brand owners who do not manufacture their own produce.

- 1–10 employees: €100 + VAT
- 10+ employees: €200 + VAT

Boyne Valley Flavours is also working with Fáilte Ireland to develop an Industry Engagement Toolkit. This resource will assist in building awareness among businesses of the Boyne Valley Food

Development Strategy and will outline the food and food tourism supports available to enterprises operating within the region.

Rural Regeneration



Vacant Homes	2025 total
Vacant Homes Identified	45
CPO - Housing Act - Completed in 2025	4
CPO - Housing Act - Commenced in 2025	7

Derelict Sites	2025 total
Derelict Sites Register (no. of properties)	40
No. of statutory orders issued	35
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Completed in 2025	3
CA - Derelict Sites Act - Commenced in 2025	1

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant	2025 total
Approved Applications	66
Approved in Principle Applications (not commenced)	75
Applications In Progress/Info Requested	18
Rejected Applications	3
Withdrawn Applications	55
Completed / Paid Applications	80
Total Applications Received	131
Total Approved Grant Funding	€6,536,865
Total Paid Grant Funding	€4,359,871

Rural Regeneration Project Progress	Funding
Part 8 Process (Dec 2025)	
Works Commenced (Dec 25)	
Tenders issued for Part 8 / Feasibility report and associated surveys for Kilmessan Church	PDM TVRS / MCC
Works Completed (Dec 25)	
Fire Doors & certifiaction for Mornington House Trim	MCC

Fire Doors & certification for Kells Civic Office	MCC
Temp Heating Pump installation in Solistice	MCC
Bowling Green Replacement works - Aura Trim	MCC

Community Development



Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Meath Local Community Safety Partnership inaugural meeting took place on the 8th of December 2025. Ciaran Flynn 9 was elected as Chairperson and Mary Weir was elected as Vice Chairperson by the members of the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership. The new partnership is a collaboration between a range of stakeholders including Meath County Council, local councillors, An Garda Síochána, community representatives, business and education representative and statutory agencies including TUSLA and the HSE.
The objective of the LCSP is to bring the relevant bodies together with communities in a collaborative manner, by focusing on the concerns identified and prioritised by local people. The LCSP will be required to develop and implement its own tailored community safety plan and will take a strategic approach to their work so that issues arising can be dealt with in a coordinated manner; addressed collectively by relevant service providers in partnership with the community



We hosted a Well Being workshop in conjunction with the LCDC with funding from the Dormant Account fund. The workshop explored mental health, resilience, identity, and the power of community, offering a safe and inclusive space for participants to reflect, recharge, and connect with presentations from David Gough, Mark Donnelly and Dil Wickremasinghe.

After the workshop, each participant received a voucher to hire a bike and cycle the greenway together.



The Property Marking Machine is available to groups who are fully trained. Groups can contact communitysafety@meathcoco.ie if they are interested in borrowing the machine or interested in arranging an event in their area.

Community Development

Meath Age Friendly

The Meath Age Friendly Alliance Christmas Gifting Project was a great success with older people in residential care homes receiving Christmas Packages. An appeal went out to MCC staff in November, seeking any donations of items that would be useful for older people living in residential care homes in Meath. The response was wonderful, and the items were packed up and delivered with the help of the Facilities Team to the care homes across the county.





Public Participation Network

Meath PPN continued its support to Meath DPO and attended the Wheel's Shared Island event in Dublin looking at ways of strengthening collaboration between communities North and South of the border.
New proposed for 2026 include the Civic Dollar app and developing an emergency response toolkit for communities.
Work will also begin on the development of a multi-year strategic plan.
Meath PPN membership currently stands at 824.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme
The Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme opened for receipt of applications on 1st December, with a closing date scheduled for Friday 23rd January 2026**.**

Community Amenity Project Scheme 2024
The Community Amenity Project Scheme 2024 was shortlisted for the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2025 in the category of *Municipal Districts Initiative.*

Meath Local Community Development Committee

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
The final LCDC meeting of 2025 took place on Friday 12th December, 2025.

LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027 – Local Action Group (LAG)
The December meeting of the LAG took place on Friday, 12th December, 2025.
The next LAG meeting will take place on Friday, 23rd January, 2026.

Local Enhancement Programme
Applications are now invited from Community and Voluntary groups in County Meath for capital funding from the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. The total allocation of funding for capital projects is €222,535.73. Closing date for receipt of applications is 27th February, 2026.

Healthy Meath
In December, The Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator attended the Healthy Ireland Local Government planning and review session in Wexford. Work is underway on a new Healthy Ireland National Strategy and Outcomes Framework and an associated Healthy Ireland Local Government Plan.

In 2025, 1598 people participated in a Healthy Meath funded programme. Total HIF spend for 2025 was €58,837.

The HIF 2026 workplan was presented to the Meath LCDC H&W subgroup on January 20th and the LCDC on January 22nd. Partnerships with Meath Travellers Workshop, Foroige, Meath Local Sports Partnership, Meath Pharmacies, Meath GAA, The Feel Good Project and Kells Family Resource Centre will continue in 2026. New initiatives proposed include the Civic Dollars app and a health and wellbeing programme for Enfield.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- The LAIT continue to proactively hold drop-in clinics in all centres with populations of more than **15** people. We also carry out impromptu visits to centres to address issues as they arise. The focus will switch to holding clinics in only centres with new arrivals in the new year.
- Cumulative Yearly total of Clinics Held: **166**

Customer Service Cases Logged 2025:

Number of Customer cases assigned/in progress/still active	**8**
Number of Customer cases closed	**462**

Figures

UKR	**566**
IP	**1029**

Events

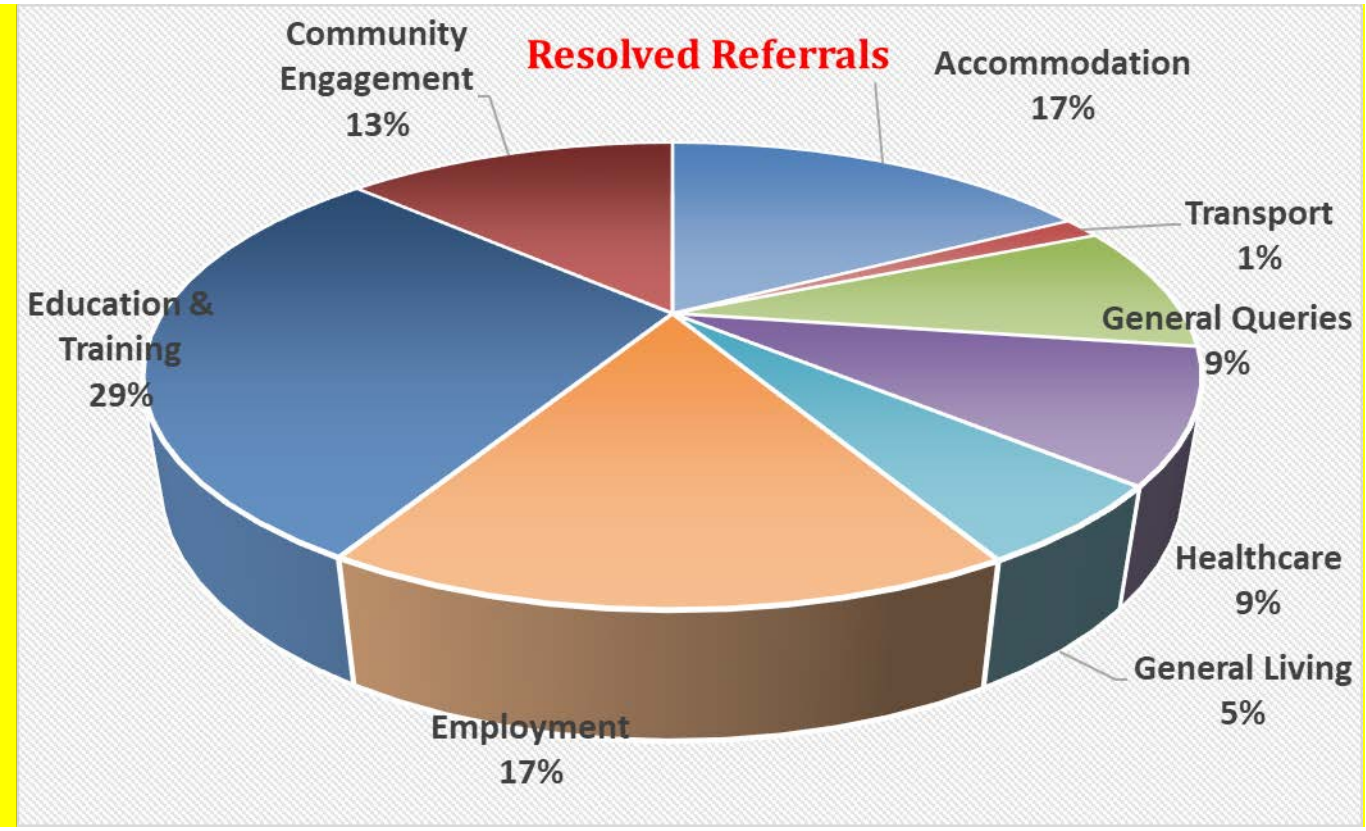
Trip to EPIC

The Local Authority Integration Team along with colleagues from Meath Partnership facilitated a visit by community groups, volunteers and migrants to EPIC, The Irish Emigration Museum to celebrate International Migrant's Day 2025.

The link between Irish history and migration from Ireland is similar in a lot of ways to what is happening in other parts of the world today. The Irish diaspora has thrived in a variety of fields worldwide and has contributed greatly to the multicultural patchwork of their host countries.



The graph below represents the cumulative breakdown of interactions (429 logged [406 closed]) year to date 2025. The Support Workers have met with these guests. This illustrates the main categories of queries for newly arrived and more established refugees of any status.



Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service



The Age Friendly Ireland Shared Service is collating end-of-year data from all 31 local Age Friendly Programmes for 2025. This will be presented to Chief Executives from all local authorities and to the AFI National Advisory Group and management of Meath County Council. This data shows an increase in membership of Older People's Councils nationwide.

The HSE launched a blueprint for an Age Friendly Health System on 2nd December 2025.

Members of the National Network of Older People's Councils fed into a HIQA public consultation on a Health Technology Assessment (Immunisation) for the RSV Virus in January 2026.

Westmeath and Fingal Age Friendly Programmes have launched new Age Friendly Strategies recently.

Planning is underway for Westmeath's hosting of the National Convention of Older People's Councils in May 2026.

AFI made a submission to the National Community Safety Strategy, informed by a focus group with members of Older People's Councils.

Under the National Technical Programme, audits of assistive technologies will take place in February at The Swift Theatre in Trim and The Solstice Theatre in Navan to assess hearing devices/hearing loop technology. This work is being undertaken in collaboration with Chime, the national charity for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Walkability audits are planned for GAA Stadia and train stations nationally.

The Age Friendly National Technical Programme is short listed for the 2026 LAMA National Impact Award.

Age Friendly Ireland collaborated with Irish Wheelchair Association, Irish Council for Social Housing and the National Disability Authority to deliver a conference on universal design homes on 1st December 2025 in Dublin.

This year's National Age Friendly Ambassadors Day is on the 4th March and will be hosted by Kerry County Council in the Rose Hotel, Tralee.

Planning



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

1697 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2025 to 31.12.2025. This is compared to **1636** in the same period in 2024.

80.9% of the applications received in 2025 have been lodged via the online portal – ePlan.

Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application submitted with An Coimisiún Pleanála for an extension of the current landfill site **at Knockharley** under **ref: ACP-323977-25.**

Full details about the application can be viewed via the following link:
https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/323977

The Planning Authority is required to prepare and submit a Chief Executive's report to ACP by the **5th March 2026**. This report will be presented to the elected members at the March Council Meeting and any comments the members have will be appended to same under 37E (4) of the Planning & Development Act 200- 2023 which states:

" The planning authority for the area (or, as the case may be, each planning authority for the areas) in which the proposed development would be situated shall, within 10 weeks from the making of the application to the Board under this section (or such longer period as may be specified by the Board), prepare and submit to the Board a report setting out the views of the authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the authority, having regard in particular to the matters specified in section 34(2)."

The last date for public submissions to An Coimisiún Pleanála is the 12th February 2026.

2. Commencement Notices

443 Valid Commencement Notices were received in the period 01/01/2025 to 30/11/2025. This is compared to 852 in the same period in the previous year.

The Commencement Notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	153
Multi-Units	280** Units
Extensions	120
Other*	72

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice for which the initial valid commencement notice has since been withered.

One commencement notice has been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2025 to 30.11.2025

3. Development Contributions (Section 48)

The collection figures for development contributions for the period Jan – Dec 2025 are as follows:

Receipt Period:	**Jan - Dec 2025**
Total Receipts	€ 5,191,047
Recoupments less Refunds to Dept	€10,498,263

Total Received	**€** 15,689,310

The collection figures shown above are **inclusive** of:

- Uisce Eireann receipts €91,021 and
- Irish Rail receipts for S49 Clonsilla to Dunboyne Rail €377,614.

The total collected (receipts plus recoupments received) in the same period in 2024 was €15,564,627.

Target Collection Jan - Dec 2025: € 8,000,000

Actual Collected Jan – Dec 2025: €15,689,310

% collected: 196%

Circular PL04 2023: Temporary Time Limited Waiver Scheme 25/4/2023 to 31/12/2024. Final recoupment submitted 31/7/2025.

The total units recouped under the Waiver Scheme are as follows:

Number of Units: 4,789

Amount: €31,200,889

Total recoupments outstanding from the Department at present is €4,826,736.

4. Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

276 Planning Enforcement complaints received since 01/01/2025

140 new planning enforcement cases were opened from 1.01.2025 to 30/11/2025

New Cases to be Investigated	4
Warning Letters	261
Enforcement Notices	27
Referred for Legal Proceedings	6
Closed	119
Court Attendances* This number does not include cases for Judicial Review or Meath County Council as Notice party	52*

*please note these figures relate to actions taken on files in the year 2025 only

4.Heritage & Biodiversity

Community Monuments Fund 2026

The grant scheme offers funding for the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. Further information is available at the following link: https://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/heritage-biodiversity-and-architectural-conservation/heritage/heritage-projects-and-grants/community-monuments-fund-2026

Closing date: Friday 30th January 2026 at 5.00pm

Meath Biodiversity Plan: The Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 was launched on the 16th December 2025 by Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of The Heritage Council. Ms.Teehan described the Action Plan as a milestone initiative, representing a vital step in bringing national biodiversity policy to life at the local level, reflecting Meath's unique landscapes, rich natural and cultural heritage and engaged communities. The Biodiversity Working Group of the County Meath Heritage Forum will guide the implementation of the plan by providing key expertise and oversight.



Climate Action and Environment



Climate Action

District Heating Feasibility Study Project – Duleek – Drogheda

- Data collection and key stakeholder engagement in progress – report due in December / Early January.

URBACT – In4Green

Meath County Council continues to participate in the URBACT In4Green Project. The In4Green Project is a collaborative network of industrial cities across Europe, aiming to drive transformative change towards greener, more sustainable industrial practices. Navan is one of 9 partner cities under the URBACT In4Green Project.

The aim of the project is to create an integrated action plan (IAP) in partnership with an URBACT Local Group (ULG), comprised of local businesses, community groups, elected representatives and MCC Departments.

At present, the draft IAP is in document design with a final draft to be presented to the ULG group on the 16th December. has been submitted for expert review and comment.

Community Climate Action Programme Fund

Update on the progress and next steps of the Community Climate Action Programme Fund, which aims to foster low-carbon, sustainable communities within the County are detailed below.

The fund totals €811,000 for various project scales under the theme 'Building Low Carbon Communities'.



Phase 1 Summary

Phase 1 of the programme has seen significant progress, with 15 projects completed and 11 currently in progress. An additional project for Bettystown Tidy Towns was approved from the reserve list and is now also in progress.

A summary of the financial status is provided in the table below:

Total Fund Amount	Total Amount Paid Out to Date	Remaining Funds for Pay-out
€811,000	€619,163.89	€191,836.11

Phase 2 Key Dates and Milestones

Phase 2 applications are open, and promotional information sessions are ongoing, with over 90 groups having already expressed interest. Application period is now closed and applications are being prepared for the evaluation period.

Key dates for the application, evaluation, and implementation stages are detailed in the following table:

Milestone	Date
Applications Open	13th October 2025
Applications Close	12 noon on Tuesday, 9th December 2025
Evaluation Period (MCC and DCEE)	15th December 2025 – 31st March 2026
Applicant Notification (Successful/Unsuccessful)	April 2026
Signed MOU's, Deliverables, and Milestones in Place	By 26th April 2026
Project Start Date	27th April 2026
Project Completion Deadline	27th October 2027 (18-month period)

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

Meath's SEC Mentors held energy clinics in the 9 Decarbonzing Zones over the last 3 months with over 46 people in attendance. attended and there was great interest with a new SEC forming in Brownstown Residents Association, Kilcloon and 4 more interested in forming.

34 Sustainable Energy Communities have been formed within County Meath.

10 Sustainable Energy Communities have completed Energy Management Plans, these are now available on Meath County Councils website at the following link **Sustainable Energy Communities | Meath.ie**

EMPs complete:	SEC Forming	EMP approved for progressing EMP
1. Batterstown **2.** Bettystown **3.** Gormanston **4.** Kilbride **5.** Kilmainhamwood **6.** Laytown **7.** Louth East Meath **8.** Trim **9.** Athboy **10.** Ashbourne	1. Meath GAA 2. Navan 3. Duleek 4. Kells 5. Gael Colmcille GAA 6. Kilbeg/Carlanstown Deerpark 7. Dunsany Community Group 8. Brownstown Residents Association, Kilcloon	1. Slane SEC 2. Ratoath SEC

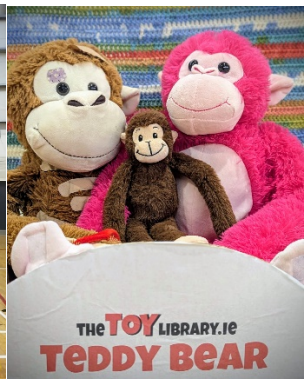
THE TOY LIBRARY

Our Final Toy Library event took place in Simonstown GAA on Saturday 6th December. Thanks to the community coming together, this was another successful event with a Circular Christmas Theme. Here are the highlights from the day:

- 108 attendees took part
- 299 toys recirculated, given a new life
- 177.57kg of toys diverted from waste
- 220.8kg of plastic saved
- 1,065.42 kg of CO_2 saved, equal to 4,439.25 km of driving emissions avoided
- 3,811.98 EUR worth of toys recirculated back into the community

The Toy Library is a free event designed to promote toy reuse, reduce waste, and encourage Circular Economy principles in communities.





IKC3 Project

Over 50 participants from a variety of organisations and community groups within County Meath are taking part in a short course, which is designed to equip communities with the skills necessary to address climate change challenges. The Final Event took place in Trinity College Dublin on Monday 8th December with a great turnout from Meath Representatives.

A final Summit was held in Trinity College on December the 8th where all 5 counties gathered to discuss the learnings from the course and received their certificates. There was great enthusiasm, shared ideas and networking throughout the course and is a great base for outreach as part of our development of the Decarbonizing Zones plans in 2026.

Energy

EV Chargers

Following a tender for the supply and install of chargers for 7 transportation depots, installation works have now been completed. The below locations had charge points installed in early December to facilitate the use of electric vehicles for council operations.

1. Kells Depot (x2)
2. Mullaghboy Depot, Navan (x4)
3. Blackwater Park Depot, Navan (x2)
4. Loman Street Depot, Trim (x2)
5. Dunshaughlin Depot (x2)
6. Ashbourne Cemetery (x1)





A final dual port will be installed in Duleek Depot in the new year. The charge points will be accessible (via fob) to all Meath County Council owned and leased electric vehicles. Each fob will be allocated to a vehicle and a back of office platform used to quantify energy use and charging patterns. This data will help identify suitability for other vehicles to make the switch from diesel to electric. A new Electric Vehicle has been purchased for Housing Maintenance, while another is arriving in January for Environment. Separately, an electric van is being procured for Facilities Management.



Energy Performance Contract – Navan and Trim Leisure Centres

A tender evaluation has taken place on December 9th for the Energy Performance Contract for the Navan & Trim leisure centres. The evaluation was completed by Codema, the MEEU and Meath County Council. The contractor will be confirmed before Christmas, with a contract to be awarded in January. The measures proposed will be completed in 2026, and include:

- Heat Pumps
- Solar PV
- Upgrades to Air Handling Units
- Lighting, BMS and pool pump upgrades

The contract will be in place for the ongoing management of the facilities' energy use for 8 years. An approx. 75% energy reduction is associated with the proposed measures, with CO2 reductions estimated between 65% - 74%. The project will make considerable inroads to our 2030 public sector targets for Energy Efficiency and Fossil Fuel Emissions.

Environment Awareness

Halloween Bulky Waste Collection



In the lead-up to Halloween, 130 tons of bulky household waste were collected at recycling centres as part of a dedicated initiative to reduce bonfire-related risks.
This scheme is designed to divert combustible materials from bonfires, helping to protect the environment and safeguard public health. Householders are reminded of the danger's bonfires pose—both to the environment and to the safety of children who may attend—and are encouraged to bring bulky waste items to recycling centres for proper recycling and safe disposal.

Toy Week



In advance of Christmas, householders deposited over 13 tons of old and broken toys at local recycling centres during the annual toy collection event.

This initiative provides families with an opportunity to clear out unwanted toys responsibly, ensuring they are either recycled or disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. By participating, householders help reduce waste going to landfill, support the circular economy, and promote sustainable practices during the festive season. The scheme also raises awareness about the importance of recycling and encourages communities to think about the environmental impact of holiday celebrations.

Libraries Services



Libraries-Laureate for Fiction event

The Laureate for Irish Fiction Laureate, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, will visit Trim Library & Swift Cultural Centre on January 20th as part of 'The Island of Imagination – a literary tour of Ireland'. Éilís will be in conversation with authors Oisín Fagan and Roisín O'Donnell.

During her three-year term as Laureate, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, will delve into contemporary Irish fiction on a journey of exploration to highlight literature emanating from every county in Ireland. The Laureate for Irish Fiction is an initiative of the Arts Council. It acknowledges the contribution of literary fiction writers to Irish artistic and cultural life by honouring an established Irish writer of literary fiction, encouraging a new generation of writers, promoting Irish literature nationally and internationally, and encouraging the public to engage with high quality Irish fiction.



Libraries-My Open Library

Meath Library Service had a busy year in 2025 expanding the My Open Library Service (MOL) further across the library network.

It was a busy year with 9819 visits to MOLs during 2025. 805 members are registered for MOL and the service is now available in 5 libraries, 3 of which launched during 2025.

Available to the communities in Enfield, Trim, Slane, Nobber and Kells MOL users are made up of students, shift workers, families, some authors and retirees. All are attracted to the flexibility of MOL; not only to access reading material, but a space to visit with children, a place to write and to study at times that suits. Feedback is extremely positive:

> 'Having My Open Library service gives me so much flexibility when I can visit the library with my children. It works around our schedule instead of the other way around. It's a fantastic addition to the community in Nobber.'
>
> 'I just love having the place to myself in the early morning'
>
> 'Now I can visit the library when it suits me. Shift work has always interfered with library visits.'
> 'One of Kells' little treasures.'

165 visits took place during the Christmas holiday period (23.12.25-01.01.26) with 3 of those visits taking place on Christmas Day and 11 on St. Stephen's Day. This highlights the importance of MOL; a unique service offering welcoming, safe and accessible services to all individuals in the community 365 days a year.

Meath Library Service looks forward to the further expansion of the MOL service in Ashbourne Library by Summer 2026.



Libraries-Skills for Life

It was an inspiring few months for Meath Library Service users after the launch of the Skills for Life national initiative during 2025.

Skills for Life aims to help individuals build essential life skills across key themes. Meath library service delivered over 60 events across the library network with the aim of helping people to navigate financial, health, digital and media literacy, sustainability and job skills. Over 2600 people attended a wide variety of talks, workshops, drop-in sessions and exhibitions.

Highlights included very popular and engaging talks with experts Dr. David Coleman, Dr. Harry Barry and John Lonergan. Other events included classes, workshops and exhibitions on sewing, biodiversity, seed saving, financial literacy, volunteering opportunities, budgeting advice, media literacy and healthy aging. The events did not disappoint with audiences gaining invaluable insight, skills and inspiring advice from a wide variety of experts.

Skills for Life will continue in 2026 with plans for media, financial, health and digital literacy projects already underway which will benefit individuals and groups in our communities.

Libraries-Local Studies

On 27 November 2025, Meath County Council Library Service was delighted to host the launch of volume 8 of Navan & District Historical Society's *Navan Its People and Its Past* in Navan Library. This has been, since the Society's first journal in 2011, a big night in both the Library Service's and the Society's calendar, and a large crowd of Society members and members of the public were in attendance.

Paschal Marry, chairman of the Society, welcomed the gathering and Dr Peter Connell (editor) spoke on the importance of history as a discipline and of publishing. Tom French launched the journal and singled out, for special mention among the contributors, the library and archives contributions from Geraldine Fanning (Library Assistant, Navan Library) on the Cottage Industry Movement in Navan and Lady Everard's involvement, Patricia Fallon (former Meath Archivist) on recent acquisitions by Meath County Archive, and Clare Ryan (N&DHS and contract archivist with Meath County Council) on the Clayton's Woollen Mills archival collection.



Finance



Finance

Housing Loans:

LAHL Data 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025		
Applications Received	42	2025 applications
Fully Completed Applications	33	2025 applications
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	0	
Invalid Applications	9	2025 applications
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	26	25 relate to 2025, 1 relates to 2024
Refused by Credit Committee	7	2025 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	0	
Active Approvals	9.57	7.83 relate to 2025, 0.7 relate to 2024, 1.04 relate to 2023
Expired	25	10 relate to 2025, 15 relate to 2024
Drawdown by Customer	15.26	8.17 relate to 2025, 5.3 relate to 2024, 1.79 relate to 2023

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023 and 2024. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.