comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Community Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

2pm on 29th April 2026 Hybrid Meeting

Attendees - Elected Representatives: Cllrs Ronan Moore (Chairperson), Helen Meyer, Yemi Adunuga and David Gilroy

Attendees – Sectoral Representatives: Ms. Lisa Rowntree

Officials Present: Mr. Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer Community, Ms. Maedhbh Rogan-McGann, County Librarian and Ms. Gerardette Bailey, County Arts Officer.

Apologies: Cllr Yvonne Everard, Cllr Maria White, Cllr Emer Tóibín, Ms. Paula McCabe, Ms. Ursula Ní Shionnain and Ms. Aishling Monaghan

Mr. Barry Lynch, Director of Services,

Clár / Agenda

1. To adopt minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Y Adenuga and Seconded by Cllr H Meyer.

Matters arising. No matters arising

2. To approve Arts Grants & Bursaries 2026.

A detailed report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee noted and considered a report from G. Bailey County Arts Officer outlining the Arts Grants, Bursaries and Awards Programme 2026 administered by Meath County Council. Five funding schemes were administered in 2026: Annual Arts Grants, Professional Artist Development Fund, Festival Grant Scheme, Creative Communities Award, and the Drama League of Ireland Residency Award. Applications opened in January 2026 and closed on 12 February 2026.117 applications were received, of which 76 were deemed eligible across the schemes. Non-qualifying applications were excluded due to eligibility, incompleteness, insufficient information, or multiple applications across schemes where only one award is permitted.

The total proposed allocation across all schemes is €65,515, funded through a combination of Meath County Council Arts Act funding, Creative Ireland Meath funding,

and Arts Council/MCC Framework Agreement funding. Recommended allocations include:

- Annual Arts Grants: €20,800
- Professional Artist Development Fund: €33,160
- Festival Grant Scheme: €5,500
- Creative Communities Award: €4,000
- Drama League of Ireland Residency Award: €2,055

The report also noted a number of partnership award schemes administered in collaboration with national and international bodies, and that additional schemes (including Culture Night Event Grants 2026) will open later in the year.

The SPC noted and supported the recommendations as presented in the report. It was proposed by Cllr Y Adenuga and Seconded by Cllr H Meyer. The recommendation will be submitted to the May Plenary Council meeting for final approval. Recommendations remain confidential until final approval.

3. To approve Community Grant Scheme 2026

A detailed report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee noted and considered a report delivered by B. Hora outlining the operation of the Community Grant Scheme and Burial Grants Scheme 2026. Grant categories under the Community Grant Scheme included Residents Associations, Tidy Towns, Equality & Social Inclusion, Recreation & Sport, and Festivals & Events, with a maximum grant of €1,000 per application (€750 for Burial Grants). Applications opened in January 2026 and closed on 13 March 2026. A total of 565 applications were received, of which 532 were deemed eligible. The total proposed allocation across both schemes is €315,608.65, Proposed allocations by category were noted as follows:

- Residents Associations: €110,305
- Tidy Towns: €23,885
- Equality & Social Inclusion: €52,145
- Recreation & Sport: €54,489
- Festivals & Events: €44,190
- Burial Grounds Grants: €30,594

The report also noted the allocations under each category per Municipal District.

B. Hora responded to questions from Cllr H Meyer, Cllr D Gilroy and R. Moore on the assessment process and scheme criteria.

The Committee noted and supported the proposed allocations and the assessment approach as outlined in the report.

It was proposed by Cllr H Meyer and Seconded by Cllr David Gilroy. The recommendation will be submitted to the May Plenary Council meeting for final approval. Recommendations remain confidential until final approval.

4. To approve Regional Festivals & Participative Events funding from Failte Ireland 2026.

A detailed report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee noted and considered a report presented by B. Hora on the Regional Festivals & Participative Events Scheme 2026, administered by Meath County Council in agreement with Fáilte Ireland. The scheme aims to support regional festivals and participative events that drive domestic tourism, increase visitor numbers and bed-nights, and deliver measurable benefits to the local economy. An allocation of €11,000 was provided for regional festivals, with a further €10,000 made available in 2026 to support food festivals.

Expressions of Interest opened on 23 January 2026 and closed on 20 March 2026, with 13 EOIs received. Following assessment, 8 applications were deemed eligible, with 5 applications deemed ineligible as they did not sufficiently meet the programme objectives. The total proposed allocation of €21,000 is recommended to be awarded across the eligible festivals.

The Committee noted and supported the proposed allocations and the assessment approach as outlined in the report.

It was proposed by Cllr H Meyer and Seconded by Ms. L Roantree. The recommendation will be submitted to the May Plenary Council meeting for final approval. Recommendations remain confidential until final approval.

5. Programme Updates

   a. Proposals to develop a Meath County Council Migration and Integration Plan.

A report on proposals to develop a Meath County Council Migration and Integration Plan was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Committee noted the report, including the context for progressing a Meath-specific plan, the proposed high-level approach to its development, and the intention to align with emerging national policy when published. B. Hora responded to question from Cllrs. Y Adenuga, G. Gilroy and H. Meyer. Members were invited to provide feedback on the proposed approach and priorities within the next two weeks, to inform the next stage of work.

b. Proposals to develop a Meath County Council Inclusion and Disability Plan.

A report on proposals to progress a Meath County Council Inclusion and Disability Plan was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Committee noted the report, including the rationale for developing a county-wide plan, the proposed high-level approach to its development, and the governance and consultation arrangements outlined. Members were invited to provide feedback on the proposed approach and priorities within the next two weeks, to inform the next stage of work.

c. Local Sports Plan

B. Hora informed the Committee that the process to develop the Meath County Council Local Sports Plan will commence shortly. Members will be invited to take part in the consultations.

6. Items referred from Full Council

No business.

7. AOB

- B. Hora informed the Committee the Meath Local Community Safety Partnership will commence consultations on the preparation of the Meath Local Community Safety Plan in May. Members will be invited to take part in the consultations.
- B. Hora responded to Cllr H Meyer who requested an update on Community Gardens.
- Cllr H Meyer requested details of Community Grant Drawdowns
- Cllr Gilroy requested the Community Amenity Scheme be considered at a future meeting.

a. Agenda Items for next meeting

- Progress reports on Local Sports Plan; Migration and Integration Plan; inclusion and Disability Plan; Local Community Safety Plan.

b. Proposed schedule of meetings 2026

- 23rd September 2026 at 2pm
- 9th December 2026 at 2pm

That concluded the business of the meeting,