



Sligo.

Management Report

**For Quarter Ending
30th September 2025**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



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To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

**Re: Chief Executive's Quarterly Management Report for
July – September 2025**

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Quarterly Management Report for July – September 2025, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Martin Lydon
Chief Executive

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LIVE INVEST VISIT



BRÍAN FLYNN

Director of Services

Live Invest Visit & Borough District of Sligo Municipal District

HOUSING

Housing Assistance Payment Programme

There are 674 active tenancies, with 23 tenancies set up in 2025 to date.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

There are 223 active RAS tenancies in the Council.

Acquisitions, including Part V acquisitions

14 Units were delivered including 3 Tenant in Situ and 11 Part V units. Purchases due to be completed on 3 Part V units in October.

Tenant in Situ Scheme

The Department has informed the Council that we may now proceed with additional acquisitions, up to 30% of our original 2025 budget of €3 million. This allocation of €0.9 million enables priority purchases to continue through the final months of 2025, while ensuring funding certainty for 2026 should these acquisitions not be completed within this year.

C.A.S. and C.A.L.F. Acquisitions (Approved Housing Bodies)

C.A.S. – 1 no. units (Tenant in situ) delivered / 1 unit at sale agreed/ongoing discussion stage.

C.A.L.F. – No units have been delivered.

Voids Funding Programme 2025

This Programme supports the refurbishment of void/vacant Council properties. The Department have allocated €319,000 (€11,000 per property) to the Council. The net cost to the Council in 2025 is likely to exceed €1 million i.e. difference between Department funding and Council expenditure. The sum spent to date is €689,120.

Private House Grants

The grant allocation from the Department for 2025 was €2,102,325 with an extra €283,729 allocated in July 2025, increasing the allocation to €2,386,054. A minimum of €357,908 (15%) will be provided from the Council's own resources, with the balance of €2,028,146 (85%) to be paid by Department allocation.

The scheme is currently paused for new applications until early 2026 with only Medical Priority 1 applications to be considered.

€1,962,744.68 has been paid out to applicants up to 31/08/2025.

Housing Adaptation Works/Extensions/DPG'S 2025

The grant allocation for adaptations from the Department for 2025 was €703,497. One no. extension has been completed in the year to date, with the closing date of 02/10/2025 for receipt of tenders for an extension to another house.

90% of the spend is by way of Department contribution with 10% funded by way of local authority contribution from its own resources. The sum spent on adaptations to date is €389,507.

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme 2025

The grant allocation from the Department was €1,258,000 in respect of 37 units. The Council has provided €173,125 from its own resources towards the Programme. The current position in relation to the 2025 Programme is as follows,

- Tranche 1 (7 No. Houses) works have been completed.
- Tranche 2 (12 No. houses) contract has been awarded to Contractor. Works are ongoing.
- Tranche 3 & Tranche 4 (11 No. houses). The Tender was approved on 24th September 2025, with works to commence shortly.
- The preparation of a Tender on another Tranche of houses is progressing.

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was adopted by members of Sligo County Council on 4th November 2024, in accordance with Circular 46/2023. The targets/achieved to date for the programme are set out below:

Accommodation Type	Target 2025-2029	Achieved 2025-2029
Group Housing	3	0
Specific Purchase	5	0
Upgrade of existing facilities	12	0
Council Tenancy	41	2
RAS/HAP	5	0
Voluntary Housing	18	2
TOTAL	81	4

Group Housing Traveller Accommodation Scheme at Glenview, Sligo

- 3 no. new Dwellings

Part 8 advertised on 23rd July 2025. A Report is being prepared for the October Meeting of Sligo County Council.

Ballyfree/Cloonamahon upgrades

A Stage 2 application was submitted to the Department on 22nd July 2025, and a response is awaited.

North-West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2023-2028

Work is ongoing implementing the Plan based upon annual priorities that are agreed by the North-West Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum.

There are 4 Shared Tenancy units operating in Sligo Town, governed by a licence agreement. This accommodates up to 13 single persons registered as homeless in furnished Council properties. A further property will be made available for shared tenancy later this year.

The Housing First programme continues to be implemented in Sligo with a target of 8 no. one bed properties to be met in 2025. Five new tenancies have already commenced in 2025 with a number of others in train. It continues to be difficult to source or acquire additional one bed units.

There are two properties accommodating homeless singles who have low/no support needs in Collooney (up to 17 beds) and Sligo Town (19 beds). A family hub has also been provided in a property in Sligo town, and this accommodates up to 32 persons.

There are also a number of families accommodated in temporary placements due to the family hub being full at present. The Council has also recently tendered for the ongoing provision and management of Properties for Homeless Accommodation.

Sligo County Council is developing an Assertive Street Outreach Service to support and signpost those rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping. The proposed service has been tendered, and discussions are ongoing with a view to commencing the new service in the coming months.

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People

The Sligo Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG), meets quarterly to ensure implementation of the local Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2025.

A Communications Subgroup is being developed to compile a Communication Plan. The Disability Action Team is also a sub-group of this Steering Group and involves HSE, the Council and other advocates of those disability households who need either urgent support or housing.

Allocations

SCC allocates properties in accordance with its Allocations Scheme. See Table below for details of offers of tenancy in the year to date.

Offers of Tenancy	Accepted	Refused	Pending
62	51	11	0

Housing Assessment

There are 1,618 households on the housing list – see table below.

No. of households approved for Social Housing Support	1,618
No. of households availing of HAP and approved for a transfer	610
No. of Council/RAS/AHB Tenants approved for a transfer	272
No. of remaining households i.e. Net Housing Need	736

179 valid applications for social housing support have been received in the current year.

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

A target of 1,183 tenancy inspections was set by the Department for 2025. This includes student properties. 560 tenancy inspections have been carried out as at 31/08/2025. The Council have also issued 101 Improvement Notices to landlords this year.

Breakdown of Inspections

- 92 no. HAP
- 28 no. RAS
- 110 no. AHB
- 7 no Complaints
- 312 no. Student accommodation
- 11 no Other
- 560 Total**

COMMUNITY

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

A total of 134 grant offers have been issued to successful applicants, representing an overall allocation of €144,393. To date, claims amounting to €29,384 have been processed.

Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme 2025

A total of 232 grant offers have issued to successful applicants, representing an overall allocation of €130,000. To date, claims amounting to €37,455 have been processed.

As in previous years it is intended to allocate the Seasonal Lights & Greening Category in Quarter 4 when groups are more focused on making seasonal applications.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2023-2027

As at 22nd September 2025, 39 no. LEADER Projects have been approved by the LCDC / LAG to the value of €1,628,849.95.

LEADER claims approved in respect of 3 no. projects, in the amount of €162,766.89.

Monthly Returns amounting to €271,264.51 for the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme have been received.



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028

The 2025 SICAP Budget is €759,192. The 2025 allocation for New Arrivals is €209,299. As of 31st August 2025, 50% of the overall budget of €968,491.00 was spent (€484,245.50).

Progress under Annual KPI targets, as of 31st August for both Goal 1 and Goal 2 is outlined in the table overleaf:

Key Performance Indicators

Annual Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target	Actuals	% Achieved
KPI 1	50	29	58%
KPI 2	431	394	91%



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

PEACE PLUS

Sligo County Council has reached contracted status with the SEUPB and the Preparatory Lump Sum of €100,000 was received on Friday 12th September 2025.

The lump sum is intended to cover all costs which relate to the preparation phase of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan incurred between the 1st January 2021 and the application submission date of the 28th March 2024.

Review of Participant Numbers and Contact Time

At the request of the SEUPB a comprehensive review of participant numbers and project contact time on each project took place in July. Projects target numbers have not been altered and remain 4457.

The first PEACEPLUS Tender evaluation committee sat on 27th August to evaluate two projects. There was one submission deemed successful. This project is now at contract stage. The other projects will be readvertised via extenders.

Latest launch

The launch of GFA 4 Gen Z Project Lighthouse took place in the Hawk's Well Theatre on Sunday 21st September 2025 at 5pm. Members of the PEACEPLUS Partnership and the LCDC attended.



The Programme is a funding partnership between the European Union, the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Executive and will be administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Sligo Age Friendly Programme

The Sligo Age Friendly Fire Referral service launched on the 5th August 2025. The new partnership will see fire-fighters from County Sligo conducting free home fire safety checks for older people, referred by the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.

St John's Nursing Home Sligo - Age Friendly Status

On 3rd September, Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manager and residents of St John's Nursing Home Sligo completed a walkability Audit of St John's Nursing Home. This is one of the requirements needed to achieve WHO Age Friendly Nursing Home Status.

Healthy Sligo

Stronger for Longer Programme

The “Stronger for Longer” programme completed three sessions in July at St. Molaise Gaels GAA Centre in Grange, with 45 participants. This initiative is laying a strong foundation for increased physical activity and better mental health across the county.

Activator Poles Training in Ballymote

Ballymote Library hosted Activator Poles Training for the Ballymote hinterland. The programme was well received, providing not only physical benefits but also crucial social connection which is particularly valuable in rural communities.

Creative Programmes for Down Syndrome Sligo

Down Syndrome Sligo successfully completed its first drama and music programme for young adolescents. This initiative offers a safe, inclusive space for creative self-expression.

Play Therapy Services

The Play Therapy programme has supported over 55 children and their families who are facing mental health challenges. The service is continually evaluated via the Care Opinion platform, which has returned positive feedback.

Community Engagement in Caltragh

Efforts to engage the community in Caltragh have led to meaningful improvements in the area for children and adults including the following:

- Installation of a rainwater play area and picnic bench
- Seasonal climbing plants and new flower beds, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the area.



Yoga in the outdoors with Sligo Co Co Tourism section

In collaboration with the Tourism section 4 outdoor Yoga classes have taken place in various locations across the county with an average of 44 people at each class. These classes were provided free for tourists and local residents in each locality.

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN)

- The community outreach programme began in August with the first promotional event at Tubbercurry Old Fair Day where the PPN had a stand alongside the Sligo DPO.
- In July the call went out for PPN members to feature in the Sligo PPN podcast programme. The 14 spaces were filled within the first few days and Sligo Food and Furniture Bank have been working through the EOIs and making contact with groups to schedule recordings for Q3.



- The Half Year Report for the PPN went out on the 1st July and can be found at <https://www.sligoppn.com/half-year-report-2025/>
- The Annual Report for return to DRDG was submitted by Sligo PPN and Sligo County Council in August.

Representatives

- Sligo PPN Representatives attended a national meeting 'Building Community Resilience in Times of Emergency' with other PPNs and DRCD on the 19th July.
- Sligo PPN representatives attended a cross-border event with PPNs from across the border counties on 20th September to explore the option of the development of a PPN style network in the north and to create stronger links between civic society groups north and south of the border
- The call has been issued for PPN representatives to take up seats on the Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership.

Power to change

- On 29th September a celebration event took place in the Clayton Hotel highlighting the work achieved under the programme over the last 2 years and raising with decision makers the supports that need to be in place to enable the community sector to more fully engage with climate action.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

LAIT hosted 30 clinics with 108 attendees within International Protection Accommodation Services since the 1st July 2025. LAIT have funded a number of different programs including:



Empower Parents

LAIT have supported Diversity Sligo in the facilitation of two 'Empowering Parents' information sessions for parents within International Protection Centres. Each session is designed to empower IPA parents and give them the skills and education in relation to raising children in Ireland.

Revenue Commissioners: Understanding Your Pay and Tax

Sligo LAIT in conjunction with Sligo LEADER partnership arranged for a representative from Revenue to facilitate a course in the Irish pay and tax system. This event was open to all cohorts and had a total of 22 attendees. The course explained all the tax credits available and how to understand your payslip and the Revenue My Account website.

Offer a Home

The current ARP scheme payment is €600 per month.

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

47	Properties Allocated – accommodating 184 individuals
73	Pledges withdrawn
3	Contracts terminated in Q3
1	New property allocated in Q3

Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership



The process has commenced, to put in place the new Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership which is a government initiative aimed at improving safety and wellbeing in communities across Ireland to identify and address community safety concerns at a local level.

Key features include:

- Up to a maximum of 30 members
 - Elected Members
 - Public sector reps (Local Authority, Gardaí, HSE, Tusla)
 - Education,
 - Business,
 - Residents Associations,
 - Community reps (including youth, new and minority communities, social inclusion/C&V sector)
 - Other areas of expertise
- Public consultation to identify local priorities
- Development of a Local Community Safety Plan
- Members will attend at least six meetings per year
- Participation in working groups to implement strategies

Sligo LCSP will be led by an independent Chairperson and supported by a dedicated Community Safety Co-Ordinator and a Community Safety Administrator.

Tourism

TBEX Travel Writers in Sligo

A delegation of travel writers and content creators from around the world were facilitated for a four-day trip to Sligo. Their busy itinerary showcased all that is best about the visitor experience throughout all of Sligo.

The group enjoyed diverse experiences and activities including guided hikes, sheepdog demonstrations, Oyster farming, live traditional music, brewery tours, outdoor yoga and delicious food.

The delegation has a combined following online exceeding 700,000 people globally – who all so the remarkable beauty of Sligo. They stayed at Temple House Estate throughout their stay.

Support for festivals and events

September was a particularly busy month for festivals and events. Visitors and locals enjoyed the Taste of Sligo Food Festival, Remembering the Armada Festival, Culture Night along with traditional music festivals such as the Paddy Killoran Festival in Ballymote.

Specific festival training was delivered to festival managers and organising committees in partnership with ATU Sligo.

eGovernment Award for Sligo County Council win!

The 'Ideas Engine' tool developed by Tourism section that generates bespoke itineraries won a prestigious national eGovernment Award. It was selected as the winner in the category 'Promoting Ireland Overseas' during a ceremony attended by Minister Jack Chambers TD.



Declain Tuite, Programme Chair, MSC Emerging Media DCU presenting the eGovernment award to Aidan McCormack, Tourism Officer, Sligo County Council

ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)



Financial Supports to businesses

€52,792 in financial supports approved

- 4 Green for Business supports, and 2 Energy Efficiency Grants were approved, amounting to €26,642.
- 4 Digital for Business supports, and 1 Grow Digital Vouchers were approved, amounting to €13,085.
- 1 Market Explorer Grant was approved for €9,744.
- 1 Lean for business for €3,321

Training, Events and Mentoring Supports

76 businesses participated in Training and Events initiatives during the quarter which included:

- 2 x Start your Own Business Programmes
- 2 x Social Media Marketing for Startups Seminars
- Mastering LinkedIn for Business Seminar
- 1 x Information Session in association with MSLETB - 'Shaping Retail's Future - Developing Leadership and Management Excellence'
- 1 x Information Session in assoc. with MSLETB- 'Developing Leaders for the Hospitality and Tourism Sectors'

137 mentoring assignments were progressed through both Mentoring Clinics and Mentor assignment approvals during the quarter. Assignments included support provided as follows:

- Business Advice Clinics
- Social Media Clinics
- Business Website Review Clinics
- Using Generative AI for Digital Marketing Clinics

Schools Enterprise Programme

Delivery of the 2025-2026 Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) commenced in the County in early September. Early registrations from schools indicate a recurring strong level of interest in the SEP with LEO Sligo seeking to match last year's high participation numbers.

Key events during the quarter included:

Sligo Women in Business

SWIBN's August event was focussed on making new connections. 63 members attended, 9 of whom were new to the Network and had businesses ranging from a Legal Practice to Handbag design. September's event was held in ATU in conjunction with the TU Rise programme and themed "The Entrepreneurial Mindset". Over 60 members were in attendance.

Sligo Festival Management & Development Programme

LEO Sligo and Sligo County Council's Tourism section collaborated on the delivery of a Management Development Training Programme, tailored to the needs of County Sligo's festival and event management community. The Programme syllabus was developed by Professor Gary Kerr, Head of Department of Marketing, Tourism & Sport, ATU Sligo.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AIM Centre

AIM Centre has been named the National Winner in the 'Supporting the Digital Transition' category at the **European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPA) 2025**.

The centre hosted the regional round of the National AI Challenge 2025 on 9th September where five teams travelled to AIM Centre to pitch their innovative projects.

In partnership with the AIM centre, the LEO supported a Lunch and Learn on 11th September with keynote speaker economist David McWilliams.



AIM centre Lunch and Learn - Leading Digital Transformation

The AIM Centre has commenced the delivery of an AI Accelerator programme for departments within Sligo County Council.

Mankato, Ohio Economic Development Delegation

The Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Councillor Dónal Gilroy, welcomed an economic development mission from Mankato, Minnesota to the Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing (AIM) Centre. The visit was organised as part of the Sligo County Council/Sligo Chamber Littus programme.

The delegation toured the AIM Centre, where they were officially greeted by the Cathaoirleach. The group then visited the MSLETB Training Centre in Sligo to explore the apprenticeship programmes currently being delivered. Their final stop was the ATU Innovation Centre, where they received a briefing on the university's offerings and innovation initiatives.



Delegation from Mankato Minnesota visiting AIM

Sligo Food & Drinks Strategy

A presentation on Sligo Food Strategy was made at the Quarterly meeting of SPC 3 – Live Invest Visit where members were provided with a summary of the draft document and considerations for discussion.

SocoLAB

Minister Harkin visited Socolab on 5th September for a tour of the facility and to launch the MSLETB 'Get Lit' podcast.



Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan Implementation Update

- Regional Enterprise Plan review and development – The REP are currently undergoing an external review with the intention of making them a more effective initiative going forward. Once this is completed by DETE there will be a regional consultation period (most likely Q1 2026) to create the Northwest REP managed within the regional by the Programme Manager.
- Northwest Vision – The Chief Executives of Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal are collaborating to develop a Northwest Vision for the region to both communicate clearly to public stakeholders what the future is for our region.
- Energy Constraints update – 5 counties in the Western/NW region and Udaras (including Sligo) are co-funding a study entitled "The economic opportunities arising from Energy Constraints in the Western region".

Sligo Night-Time Economy Pilot Update

Successful August events included, carnival games, trad music, a zine fair, and a Glow Walk, all funded by the NTE pilot. CREATE youth workshops concluded with strong feedback and potential for future collaboration. Talks began with the NTA on a potential late-night bus pilot for Sligo. Purple Pulse app now has 85+ groups registered; conflict management training is planned with MSLETB.

Culture Night Late took place on 19th September in partnership with the Arts Office.

Atlantic Area Corridor/WDC

Economic Development Officer participated with AEC counterparts in the Western Development Commission (WDC) European Engagement Programme 2025 which took place in Brussels in September. The purpose of the visit was to support the capacity of local organisations to engage in EU funding, to better understand the opportunities that exist to access EU funding streams, and to build a network in Europe that can support their application processes.



Economic Forum

Sligo Economic Forum held its 3rd meeting of 2025 in the IDA office in Finisklin. Members were provided with a tour of the IDA Ireland Advanced Office Building in Oakfield. Michelle Conaghan, Regional Manager gave an update on IDA Ireland Strategy and Regional activities. David Kenny, Site Director of Beyond (Overstock) provided a company overview and update on recent R&D Investments in Sligo.

CULTURE

LIBRARY SERVICE

Right to Read

Summer Stars

Summer Stars ran in all Library branches attracting a membership of 1,684 children aged 0-13 throughout the County.



Book Clubs

Eight book clubs met in Q3 throughout Sligo Library branches.

Down Syndrome Storytime Special

Sligo Central Library was delighted to host storyteller Maria Ward for a Storytime Special in collaboration with Down Syndrome Sligo. Library staff were on hand to provide information on See and Learn packs, designed to support the additional learning needs of children with Down Syndrome and educational learning needs.

Heritage Week Events

“Neglected Reputations: The Yeats Sisters, Lily and Elizabeth” a lecture by Eunan McKinney, Yeats Sisters Project Director, with an accompanying exhibition was delivered to a packed audience in Sligo Central Library, highlighting the sisters’ impact in Irish arts, crafts and publishing.



Harvest Knot workshops ran in Sligo Central Library, Ballymote Community Library and Tubbercurry Community Library.

“The Gentleman that Paid the Rent: The Pig in Irish Mythology, Folklore and Farm Life” a lecture by Joe McGowan, historian and author, was enjoyed by a full audience in the Local Studies Library.

Climate Action

Seed Saving Talk

Sligo Central Library hosted a Seed Saving Talk with Áine Bell, Organic Garden Supervisor North Mayo Heritage Centre.



Sligo Library Programming

The Word

September 2025 edition, Seamus O'Rourke in conversation with Brian Leyden at Sligo Central Library, ran in collaboration with the BA in Writing & Literature ATU Sligo.



Creative Writing Classes

Sligo Central Library, Ballymote Community Library and Tubbercurry Community Library ran creative writing classes in collaboration with MSLETB.

Sligo Central Library ran a series of creative writing classes in collaboration with Sligo Women's Shed.

Skills for Life

Digital Skills Classes

Digital Skills classes ran in Sligo Central Library and Tubbercurry Community Library in collaboration with Sligo Leader Partnership. The classes were in high demand and booked out.

Adult Educational Guidance

A drop-in information session was held in Tubbercurry Community Library in collaboration with MSLETB Adult Educational Guidance Officer. The session provided the opportunity to get information required for the next steps in an educational journey.

SLIGO ARTS SERVICE

Artist Supports & Awards

INCU \SPACE Award

A new award, valued at €5,000, was launched to support professional artists and collectives in the performing arts sector and whose practice is primarily based in Sligo. Twelve applications were received, with artist Bob Kelly selected for his Dance/Theatre project *Barbarian*.

LIVE/WORK/PLAY Artist Bursaries

The Arts Assessment Panel awarded a total of €4,632 to seven artists, out of a possible fifteen, working in visual art and film in Round 2 of the new Live/Work/Play Artist Bursary Scheme.

Seventeen applications were received for the September deadline from artists working in visual art, music, and performance. These are currently being assessed, with recipients to be announced in mid-October.

Public Art

The Public Arts Steering Group re-convened in July after a break of over four years. Sligo's Public Art Strategy "Landscapes/Tírdheacha (Working Title) has now been updated to reflection developments since then. The revised budget for Per Cent for Art is now confirmed at circa €1.9 million (September 2025). A new round of Public Art commissioning will commence in early 2026, in line with Sligo County Council's Public Art strategy.

Culture Night 2025

For the first time, Sligo Arts Service co-ordinated the Culture Night programme (19th September), following consultation with local arts organisations. The event was re-imagined, to showcase and celebrate the richness and diversity of Sligo's growing cultural community. A key focus was to ensure that the programme was more inclusive and multi-disciplinary, extending its reach across the entire county rather than being concentrated primarily in Sligo town.

As part of this new approach, an open call was launched featuring three distinct funding strands: *Flagship*, *Featured*, and *Culture-wide*. Across all strands, a central requirement was that events be inclusive, accessible (where possible), and specifically created for Culture Night. In total:

- Funding of €20,000 was awarded to professional, local and community organisations
- Over forty events took place on Culture Night
- Nine events took place in towns and villages across the county.
- Six Culture Night Late events were also presented in partnership with Sligo's NTE Advisor and Sligo BID,



CLlr Dónal Gilroy, Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, pictured with Elected Members, members of Sligo BID, staff of Sligo County Council and Culture Night participants at the launch of Sligo's Culture Night 2025 programme at County Hall

Annual Arts Calendar

Sligo Arts Service provided support through the Arts Grant Scheme to several major highlights of the annual arts calendar, including:

- Cairde Arts Festival (July)
- Sligo Jazz Festival (July)
- International Yeats Summer School (August)

Additionally, in July, The Model was awarded full Museum Accreditation by the Heritage Council under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

CLIMATE & INFRASTRUCTURE



JIM MOLLOY

Director of Services

Climate & Infrastructure & Sligo-Drumcliff Municipal District

ROADS OPERATIONS

NON-NATIONAL SCHEMES ACTIVE TRAVEL

Footpath Schemes

Planning and Design works continue for improved Active Travel Footpath Schemes at several locations throughout the county including the following:

- **Ballygawley to Castledargan** – Detailed design ongoing.
- **Caltragh / Newtown Holmes** – Preliminary design ongoing – NTA Approval requested to progress to Stage 4.
- **Carrarow to Cuilbeg (GAA Pitch)** – Part 8 process ongoing.
- **Clarion Road** – Preliminary design ongoing.
- **Coolaney to Rockfield** – Detailed design and draft tender documents ongoing.
- **Top Road Rosses Point** – Awaiting photomontages before meeting with community.

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School Schemes are ongoing and are at various stages of feasibility and preliminary design for:

- **Scoil Ursula, Knappagh Road, Sligo** – Statutory Process. Part 8 publication in November 2025.
- **St Johns N.S., Temple Street, Sligo** – Section 38 process shall commence in November 2025.
- **Scoil Náisiúnta Réalt na Mara, Rosses Point** – Awaiting photomontages before meeting with community

Round 3 School works will be tendered in October 2025.

Pathfinder Schemes

Carraroe to City Centre Active Travel Corridor

Now at stage 4 - public consultation and engagement with stakeholders. Detailed discussions with the NTA have been completed.

Sligo City to ATU Sligo (Active Travel Corridor incorporating contraflow cycle lanes at Bridge Street / Stephen Street / The Mall)

Preliminary Design is with NTA for review.

Regional & Local Roads Programme

The 2025 programme includes works at approximately 250 locations across the county. Planning, procurement, and commencement of works has been ongoing during Q1 & Q2, Q3 and Q4 of 2025. The programme includes the following works:

Programme	Description	2025 allocation €	Progress
Restoration Maintenance & Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	Surface Restoration	2,187,000	95% complete.
Restoration Improvement	Road Strengthening	9,290,000	90% complete.
Discretionary Grant	Maintenance & Improvement	2,298,000	2,650km RLR Countywide network including road surface repairs and general maintenance works, advance preparatory works for road strengthening at a number of locations in Sligo Borough MD. Surface and bridge repairs, drainage, signage works, winter maintenance and surveys etc. Works Ongoing – 80% complete.

Climate Adaptation Grants	Road improvement Works to mitigate the impact of Climate Change	463,000	12 schemes will be progressed in 2025. Works ongoing – 60% complete.
Drainage Grants	Improvement of road drainage systems in response to severe weather events	516,000	This fund will tackle a number of drainage initiatives throughout the county. 62% complete.
Community Involvement Schemes	Improvement works on mostly Class 3 Roads, part funded by community		Allocation confirmed. 70% of works complete.
Local Improvement Schemes	Improvement works on non-public roads serving public amenities and/or agriculture.		Allocation confirmed. 60% of works complete.
Clár Schemes	Investment programme which provides funding for small-scale – infrastructural projects in rural areas		Applications received – 50% completed.

Eastern Garvoge Bridge and Approach Roads

- Advance Works to assist in the completion of the detailed design is ongoing.
- The detailed design of the project will be completed in Q4 2025.
- The initial step in the procurement process has been initiated. The Prequalification questionnaire (PQQ) was published on etenders on Wednesday 4th June, an assessment panel has carried out the initial assessment of the submissions
- Preparation of Contract documents has started and will be completed by end of Q4 this year.
- Construction tender documents to be issued in early Q1 2026.
- Construction Stage planned to start in early Q3 2026
- The closeout of Landowner Agreements and Accommodation Works is progressing.

MCR to Burton Street Link Road

A contractor has been appointed, and works are now underway on site, with a 12-month programme scheduled for completion.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund

€280,000 has been allocated to community groups out of a total of €445,000.00 at end of Q3 2025.

SEAI Pathfinder 1.0 and 2.0

Re Pathfinder 1.0 Rhatigan Architects are working on Suitability Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) documents for Stage 1 procurement process.

Energy upgrade works at County Hall and the Fire Station are scheduled to take place from March to September 2026. Disruption is expected during this period, and the phasing of works is currently under consideration.

Re Pathfinder 2.0 and GEMINI project, tender has issued for Architect Led Design Team for Energy Upgrades to Sligo Regional Sports Centre. Tender responses were due in September 2025.

Decarbonisation Zone

Two number EU funded projects underway, EUI-NatUR-W (Lorca) project (Nature Based Solutions) and Interreg Europe SmartForm project (Engaging DZ Stakeholders). A proposed Nature Based Solution scheme at Sligo Gaol is under review.

The Mount Luca Retrofit Rig visited Sligo in August 2025, where County Council staff participated in NZEB Fundamentals Awareness training, and members of the public attended Home Energy Retrofit courses.

PARKS

Cleveragh Regional Park

Following completion of statutory process, a Part 8 report for Cleveragh Regional Park was approved at Council meeting on Monday 8th September 2025.

Parks are awaiting the outcome of a submitted funding application to the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) seeking €112,000 support funding for the delivery of the Learn to Cycle Facility at Cleveragh. Work has commenced on the preparation of tender documentation for the project.

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The launch of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy was delayed pending additional support funding discussions with DRCDG (Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht) regarding emerging environmental assessment requirements for the final report. On 10th September 2025 DRCDG have confirmed that they will provide additional grant funding of up to €8,000 (including VAT) as a contribution towards the environmental screening costs of Sligo outdoor Recreation Plan and up to €2,000 (including VAT) as a contribution towards the cost of translating the plan into Irish.

Procurement is now underway to progress finalisation of all elements of the Sligo Outdoor Recreation Strategy documents.

DCEDIY playground funding

Installation of sensory musical playground equipment was completed in September 2025 at Doorly Park, partially supported by a grant of €15,835 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) under their Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2025.

Sligo Cemetery

Vegetation removal works including strimming, mowing, tree removal, footpath clearance, were undertaken in the old and middle cemetery in Q3 resulting in improvements in the presentation of footpaths and graves. Construction works for Sligo cemetery extension are fully complete.

Participation Nation Funding

Refurbishment of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Doorly Park was finalised in September 2025, including the replacement of basketball hoops, replacement of all MUGA timber surrounds, installation of new sand carpet synthetic surfacing, repairs to goalmouths. Biodiversity improvement works were also completed at Doorly Park including the installation of mounded planting zones and a wetland zone.

All Participation Nation works at O'Boyle Park were finalised in September 2025, including the installation of new native planting zones and footpaths.

Mitchell Curley Park

In mid-September 2025, a specialist playground contractor was appointed to progress the rehabilitation of the children's playground area and other play zones at Mitchell Curley Park. The project has been supported by grant funding of €60,000 from the Community Recognition Fund 2024 and match funding from Council.

In early September 2025, Sligo County Council were advised of a successful grant application outcome with notification of a successful grant allocation of €26,444 under the Housing Finance Agency's Social investment fund. Supported with match funding from Council a playground contractor has been appointed to provide a replacement outdoor calisthenics gym area at Mitchell Curley Park.

Finisklin Park / Waste Management

Landscape rehabilitation works of Finisklin park was undertaken in Q3 2025. Works included the importation of 3,500 tonnes of topsoil following by extensive ground shaping and grass seeding works. Significant areas of rehabilitated parkland have now been developed on site and many areas within the parkland are now suited for recreational activities. It is intended, subject to future funding opportunity and availability, to develop a range of play and recreational facilities on site and to establish Finisklin Park as another high quality additional recreational facility for Sligo.

Environmental monitoring at Finisklin landfill site, including groundwater, leachate and gas emissions were undertaken in Q3 2025.

WATER QUALITY

RMCEI Plan

Implementation of the RMCEI inspection programme for 2025 is ongoing. NEMIS returns for Q3 2025 are being compiled for return to the EPA.

Drinking Water

Implementation of the drinking water monitoring programme for public water supplies, group water supplies (GWS), and small private supplies (SPS) continued in Q3 2025, in accordance with the annual monitoring programme and Uisce Éireann (UE) requirements. The Environment Section continue to liaise with the HSE, GWSS and SPS in relation to the provision of drinking water in GWS and SPS and drinking water non-compliances.

The EPA carried out an audit of drinking water programme on 16th July 2025 and recommendations arising are being implemented. Correspondence has been issued to fifty-five high risk premises in the healthcare, creche, childcare sector, as advised from audit, with follow up to be carried out by Environment Section.

Bathing Water

The Bathing Water Monitoring Programme is complete for the 2025 Bathing Water Season. The programme was carried out in accordance with the schedule approved by the EPA. There were no exceedances recorded over the course of the season with no requirement to issue advisory or prohibition notices. No public submissions relating to the identification of additional bathing water areas were received, with the closing on 26th September 2025.

Surface Water Monitoring

Implementation of the annual river and lake monitoring plans prepared in accordance with the national WFD monitoring programme continued during Q3 2025 and the programme is on schedule. Feedback has been received from the EPA on an audit of the sampling programme. The EPA is satisfied with the implementation of 2025 sampling programme in terms of both private laboratory TMS and internal river sampling procedures.

Investigative River Sampling

Additional investigative monitoring was carried out in the Douglas and Buncrowey River Catchments during the Q3 2025.

Group Water Supply Schemes

Notification was received in July 2025 of funding of €48,000 under Measure A6 – Taking in Charge for Strandhill Upper, Tullynagracken, Cummeen, Oakfield, Caltragh, Knoxpark, Ballydrehid, Carrenrush, Kintogher No 1, Marlow-Woodfield, Corsallagh-Doomore, Clooneen, Tullycusheen Beg, Curraghboy, Carrickbanagher, Belclare-Oughaval, Lacken, Buncrowey, Ballymeeney, Ballygrehan, Patch, Upper-Rathlee, Lissadell No 3 GWSs.

Funding of €157,028 allocated to Castelbaldwin GWS under Measure A4 – Water Conservation, leakage reduction and prevention.

Payments made to eleven GWS in Design Build Operate bundle for second quarter 2025. Subsidy A 2024 payments submitted to Department in September 2025 for seventeen GWS.

Quarterly meeting of GWS Liaison Monitoring Committee was held on 17th September 2025.

Agriculture

Implementation of the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) was ongoing during Q3 2025 with 60 of the programmed 79 inspections completed at end of September 2025. The Douglas and Buncrowey River catchments are completed, and inspections are being carried out in Grange and Upper Owenmore River Catchments.

All agricultural complaints are being investigated, and all agricultural planning files are being reported on. As part of the inspection programme, staff are continuing to provide advice leaflets regarding requirements of the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. An Advice Notice was placed in the Sligo Champion in early September 2025 relating to closure of the land spreading period for the winter months. Correspondence has been prepared for issue to slurry contractors operating in Sligo and advice leaflet issued relating to land spreading requirements to be issued.

Planning Application Assessment

The Environment Section has dealt with 333 applications to date in 2025.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Work is ongoing to close off existing open files under the national Domestic Wastewater Treatment Regulations. 94% of all files opened have been closed off in the EPA inspection system. Six number files remain open as of Q3 2025. Queries received to date in 2025 relating to the HSOCA grant scheme are being addressed and grant applications received are being processed.

Developer Provided Infrastructure

Fencing and civil works have been completed at the wastewater treatment plant serving Ríocht Na Sí Housing Estate, Ballygawley with the Environment Section carrying out routine inspections. No further issues have arisen following desludging and mechanical and electrical repairs carried out at the plant.

Repairs and pump replacement has been approved for the Aylesbury Park wastewater pumping station following a site inspection/meeting with EPS. This pumping station is currently a high risk in terms of discharges to a designated site and popular bathing area at Gibraltar Point.

Water Pollution Complaint/Aghamore Oil Spill Complaint

All water pollution complaints received are being investigated with action taken as appropriate. Progress is ongoing regarding site inspections and follow up with statutory notices issued to address any high impact activities in the commercial properties concerned.

RBMP/LAWPRO Engagement

LAWPRO are currently focussing on the Owenmore River/Templehouse Lake Catchment Area during 2025 and any queries or referrals received are being addressed.

MARINE AND COASTAL

Piers and Harbours

Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM) awarded 75% grant funding in Q2 2025. Works are ongoing and will be completed by 30th October.

- **Enniscrone Pier €247,500** – project involving installation of seasonal pontoon, masonry repairs and new navigation light
- **Mullaghmore Harbour €68,000** – project involving masonry wall repairs and installation of replacement pedestrian lighting
- **Raghly Harbour €18,500** – project primarily involving masonry wall repairs

Strandhill Coastal Erosion

The OPW requested additional investigation outside the scope of the original study. This report was forwarded to OPW in early July for their review. Discussions ongoing with OPW and RPS Consultants to prepare an agreed scheme for Strandhill. A Workshop is to be held with Councillors when review completed.

PLACEMAKING



EMER CONCANNON

Director of Services

Placemaking & Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District

SLIGO REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Project

The new N16 Lugatober scheme, including its active travel facilities, is now open to the public. The works are substantially complete, with snagging and final remedial items to be addressed in the coming months. Upon full completion, the scheme will progress to Phase 7 - Close Out and Review, in line with the Project Management Guidelines for National Roads.



N16 Mainline at Lugatober



New Active Travel Facilities at Drum Road Roundabout

N17 Knock to Collooney Project

This project is currently at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

Tender competitions were progressed for the procurement of topographic and hydrographic surveys, along with LiDAR assessments, for sections of the preferred route—specifically from Ireland West Airport Knock to Charlestown, and from north of Tobercurry to Collooney. These works are expected to commence in Q4 2025.

In addition to these works, the Regional Design Office is preparing tender documents to run a procurement process for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary consultancy to assist with the delivery of the project through:

- Phase 3: Design and Environmental Evaluation
- Phase 4: Statutory Processes (Planning Application)

Further details are available at the project website address provided below.

N17 Knock to Collooney Project website

<https://n17knockcollooney.ie/>

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Project

Tender documents for procurement of a contractor to complete (1) outstanding civil, fencing and remedial works and (2) landscaping works were prepared and advertised on eTenders. Tender Assessment is expected to be completed in Q4, 2025 with the works expected to commence in Q1, 2026.

N16 Sligo to Drumkilsellagh Project

The project is progressing through Phase 2: Option Selection. Tender processes for the appointment of a suite of Specialists to assist with the completion of Phase 2 were completed with contracts awarded. The Specialists have commenced work on the project.

Greenway and Active Travel Schemes

Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy

This project is following the TII's Project Management Guidelines process. Technical advisors (ARUP) are assisting the Regional Design Office to take the project to the end of Phase 4 as outlined in blue in the figure overleaf. The project is being progressed through Phase 2, Options Selection.

In response to Irish Rail’s submission, dated 20th December 2024 and the subsequent correspondence received on 6th June 2025, Sligo County Council, in partnership with its appointed consultants ARUP, are currently carrying out a high-level review of an alongside alignment option. This review has been informed by Irish Rail’s recommendation that “*any structure be at least 4,500mm from the nearest rail,*” and aims to evaluate the feasibility of integrating this guidance into the proposed greenway design.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy Project website

www.sligogreenway.ie

SLNCR Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway

The project is being delivered in line with TII’s Project Management Guidelines and is led by Leitrim County Council. Arup, appointed as the Technical Advisor, is contracted by Leitrim County Council to support delivery from Phase 1 through to the end of Phase 4, as well as elements of Phase 5.

Sligo County Council is also supporting the project by providing the services of a Project Liaison Officer for the Sligo section.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) approved all Phase 2 (Option Selection) deliverables submitted and has granted approval to progress to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation). Phase 3 is now underway.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Completed
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Ongoing
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

SLNCR Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway Project website

www.sln-cr-greenway.com

Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel

This project is being delivered in accordance with TII's Project Management Guidelines. It is currently progressing through Phase 2 Options Selection. Various surveys are ongoing which will assist with the progression of this project through Phase 2 and with the identification of the Emerging Preferred Corridor. Technical advisors (DBFL Consulting Engs) are contracted to assist with bringing the project from Phase 2 to the end of Phase 4.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin

This project is being delivered in accordance with TII's Project Management Guidelines. It is currently in Phase 2 (Option Selection), during which an Emerging Preferred Corridor has been identified. Public Consultation No. 3 on the Emerging Preferred Corridor was held in July/August 2025. Technical advisors (DBFL Consulting Engs) are contracted to assist with bringing the project from Phase 2 to the end of Phase 4.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

N4/N16 Sligo Urban Active Travel Scheme

A report has been prepared proposing various Active Travel interventions which could be advanced along the N4 and N16 in the Sligo Urban Area. TII reviewed this report and has indicated their preference for Sligo County Council to seek a 2026 funding allocation to progress schemes along the N16 East West from the N4/N15 Junction to the R286/Molloway Hill/N16 Junction and along the N16 North South from the R286/Molloway Hill/N16 Junction to the N16 Abbie Roundabout.

Further Active Travel Schemes

The following Active Travel schemes are in the early stages of project development:

- N15 Grange Active Travel Scheme
- N17 Curry Active Travel Scheme
- N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Scheme

Tenders were sought for the procurement of technical advisors to assist with the progression of both the N15 Grange and the N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Schemes. The letter of acceptance issued to Tobin Consulting Engineers on 15th September 2025 for Multi-disciplinary Engineering and other Specialist Consultancy Services for Phases 0-5.

The N17 Curry Active Travel Scheme is being progressed internally by the Sligo Regional Design Office.

National Road Pavement (PARR) Schemes

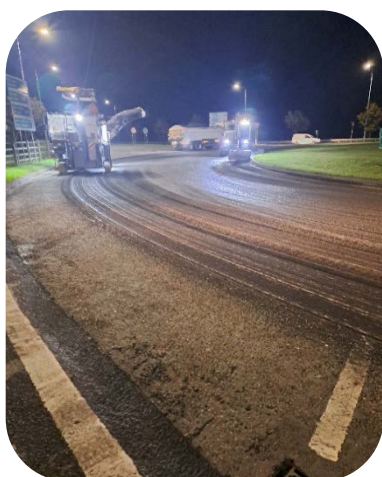
N16 Lugatober to County Boundary Pavement Resurfacing Scheme

The tender process and assessment report for the construction contract were completed, followed by a formal funding request submitted to TII. However, approval was not granted, and the tender validity period expired on 30th July 2025. Funding for the scheme has not yet been confirmed.

The N4 Inner Relief Road Pavement Resurfacing Project

The construction contract was awarded on 3rd July 2025 to Breedon Surfacing Solutions Ireland Ltd. The contractor completed approximately 1.2 km of resurfacing works along the N4 Inner Relief Road, extending from around 250 metres east of the N4 Summerhill Roundabout to the N4/Custom House Quay junction. All traffic loops within the resurfaced section were reinstated, and the UTC SCOOT system was successfully commissioned.

Site works commenced on Monday 11th August, with substantial completion achieved by Monday 8th September. To minimise disruption to road users during peak hours, all works were carried out at night. Coordination was maintained throughout with emergency services and Bus Éireann.



Cold Milling works at night on the
N4 Inner Relief Road – Summerhill
Roundabout



Completed resurfacing works
on the N4 looking northbound

National Road Safety Improvement Schemes

Design and planning work is ongoing for the following 4 No. National Road Safety Improvement Schemes:

- **N15 Shannon Eighter (HD15) Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
The Design Report has been approved by TII, and the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit is complete. Tender requests for the construction contract have been issued, with a return date of 29th September 2025.

- **N17 Tubbercurry (HD15) Pedestrian Crossings Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
The Design Report has been approved by TII, and the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit is complete. Tender requests for the construction contract have been issued, with a return date of 29th September 2025.
- **N59 Ballisodare Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
The Design Report has been approved by TII, and construction tender documents are currently being prepared.
- **N17 - L 8319 Curry Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
The Design Report has been approved by TII, and the Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit is complete. Tender requests for the construction contract have been issued, with a return date of 29th September 2025.

PLANNING & HERITAGE

PLANNING

Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

The Draft Direction issued to Sligo County Council on 8 November 2024 by the Minister for Local Government and Planning has not been finalised.

Unrelated to the Draft Direction, on 29th July 2025 the Minister issued “NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements” Guidelines for Planning Authorities, under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. These Guidelines provide updated housing growth requirements to planning authorities, to facilitate “the revision and update of development plans in accordance with the National Planning Framework – First Revision (2025)”.

The Development Planning Unit is currently considering the manner in which it must comply with the obligation to have regard to the new Guidelines.

Proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan

The Planning and Development Act 2024, not yet commenced, contains provisions for the preparation of Urban Area Plans instead of Local Area Plans.

On 9th July 2025, the Development Planning Unit published an Issues Paper to inform non-statutory, pre-draft consultation on a proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan. A total of 49 submissions were received by the closing date, 22nd August 2025. A non-statutory Report on Consultation, currently under preparation, will be circulated to the Elected Members and published online by the end of September 2025.

E-Planning update

97.5% of applications received so far this year are E-Planning applications compared to 91% for the same period in 2024.

Land Activation Measures

Derelict Sites

There are 45 properties presently on the Derelict Sites Register.

Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund (Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant)

There is a significant uptake of this scheme in Sligo with 484 applications received to date. The table below gives the breakdown of applications received in each MD and details of progress in each stage of the process.

Municipal District	Received	Initial Site Inspections Completed	Grants Approved	Grants Rejected	Final Inspection	Applicant paid
Borough District of Sligo	139	113	113	6	58	48
Sligo / Drumcliff	131	97	97	6	50	44
Tubbercurry / Ballymote	214	159	159	8	63	52
Total	484	369	369	20	171	144

An example of before and after photographs of a derelict site that was brought back in to use with the aid of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant are shown below.



Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme

Six Applications have been received to date and 5 have met the damage threshold. Further investigations will be conducted by the Housing Agency on the 5 properties, which will take place in Q4 2025. One application is at further information stage. Information clinics have taken place in Tubbercurry, Enniscrone, Ballymote and Grange.

HERITAGE, CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY, WORLD HERITAGE

County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030

Implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030 is underway. Delivery of the strategy is led by the Heritage Office, with oversight from Sligo Heritage Forum which meets quarterly. Sligo Heritage Forum held its third meeting of the year on the 16th September 2025.

Funding of €57,500 was granted by The Heritage Council in early 2025 to support implementation of the Heritage Strategy.

Heritage Week 2025

Heritage Week 2025 was celebrated in Sligo from 16th – 24th August 2025. A fantastic array of over 60 community led Heritage Week events were held over nine days in glorious sunshine! The theme for Heritage Week 2025 was 'Exploring Our Foundations' and the large attendance at many of the events was noteworthy.



Built Heritage Investment Scheme and BHIS Thatch Scheme 2025

Under BHIS 2025 and BHIS Thatch 2025, a total funding award of €183,295 has been allocated to Sligo projects as follows: €165,743 for 15 projects (BHIS 2025) and €17,552 for 2 projects (BHIS Thatch 2025). BHIS 2026 opened for grant applications in July with a closing date of the 26th September 2025.

Preparation of Biodiversity Action Plan

The draft County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan was made available for public consultation from 21 July to 25 August 2025. During this period, drop-in sessions including presentations, were held at each of the four county libraries to facilitate public engagement. A total of twelve submissions were received. The Plan is currently being finalised.

Nature during National Heritage Week

Biodiversity highlights included a bat walk in Union Wood led by Sligo Biodiversity Officer, Ruth Hanniffy, which attracted 51 participants, and a guided a Nature Photography Walk in Hazelwood.

UNESCO World Heritage Bid – The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo

Sligo County Council continues to liaise with the World Heritage Unit, at the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to progress the World Heritage bid.

Sligo County Council has been notified of funding under the Pilot World Heritage Strategic Investment Fund as follows: branding support (€20,325.20) and signage (€1,480).

HOUSING CAPITAL

Work progressed on Sligo's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 as follows:

Social Housing Construction Contracts

Camross, Ballymote

Work is Progressing on the construction of 39 Social Housing units using Modern methods of construction (steel frame construction). Expected first phase of delivery: 18 units end of Q4 2025.



Southern Place, Knappagh Road, Sligo

Work is progressing on the construction of 4 Social Housing units. Expected delivery end of Q4 2025.



Carney

Work is progressing on the construction of 25 Social Housing units. Expected delivery Q1 2026.



Geldof Drive & Benson Court Cranmore

Work is progressing on the construction of 30 Social Housing units. Expected delivery Q2 2025.



Robbers Lane Maugheraboy

Work is progressing on the construction of 62 Social Housing units. Expected delivery Q1-Q2 2026.



New Contract awards and contracts underway

Finisklin: 47 housing units

Work has commenced on the construction of 47 Social Housing units using modern methods of construction (timber frame). Expected delivery Q4 2026.



Grange

Contract for construction of 16 Social Housing units via Design and Build Contract signed on 15th August, with design phase now underway. Expected on site Q4 2025 with delivery Q4 2026.



Social Housing Projects in Procurement Stage

Dromore West & Easkey (18 + 8 units (26 total))

Design & Build Contractor Contract Award and appointment in October 2025

Collooney (31 units)

Tenders have been received and are in process of tender assessment.

Glenview Park Ash Lane (3 no units)

Project currently advertised on e-tenders, with tender return in October 2025.

Pirn Mill Road (20 units)

Tender via Regional Contractor Framework to be advertised in October 2025.

Cairnsfoot Field

A procurement process for a mixed tenure housing scheme for Cairnsfoot Field, Cranmore Road, Sligo is underway.

Projects in Development

Carrowbunnaun (51 units)

High Street, Sligo (5 units)

Grange Phase 2 (12 units)

Assessment of options for the progress of the scheme at Rathellen, Finisklin, following the Government decision in June 2025 to cancel the PPP (public private partnership) process are also underway.

SLIGO EAST CITY, CRANMORE & ENVIRONS REGENERATION PROJECT



PHYSICAL REGENERATION

Building & Environmental Upgrades – Phase 3, - 132 Houses, Final Phase (Yeats Drive, Collery Drive, Langan Drive, Mc Neill Drive and Devins Drive – East)

On the 29th August 2025, Kilcawley Construction handed back the key to the final refurbished house, marking an end to the Building & Environmental upgrade works in the Cranmore Regeneration Project. A Defects Liability phase will run for a period of 12 months until 8th September 2026.



Dave Morey, Kilcawley
Construction, Frank Quinn,
CRP, Conal Sexton,
Housing Section SCC

In total, 332 houses were part of the Building & Environmental upgrade works:

Phase	Council Stock	Private Houses	Total
Phase 1	43	45	88
Phase 2	47	71	118
Phase 3	67	59	126
Total	157	175	332

Council houses received a full retrofit with air to water heat pumps fitted. They were also replumbed and rewired, insulation upgraded and redecorated internally with new kitchens and bathrooms installed. The majority of houses post refurbishment, have an A3 BER rating.

For privately owned dwellings, all roofs were cleaned, fascia, gutters and down pipes were replaced and cavity walls pumped with insulation. Private dwellings were offered external painting and for those with existing oil boilers, 10 years or older, a replacement oil boiler was offered as replacement.

These works represent a major milestone in improving energy efficiency, comfort, and overall living conditions for residents across the Cranmore area. The project has not only modernised homes but also delivered long-term environmental and financial benefits for households.

Sligo East City Community and Recreation Centre

A consultant has been procured to develop a Business Plan for the new centre, in consultation with the 3 stakeholder groups, The Cranmore Co-operative Society Ltd, Abbeyquarter Community Centre and Sligo Springboard Family Support Service.

Kilkenny & Tipperary Regeneration Visit

On 17th September 2025, the Cranmore Regeneration Project hosted a visit from staff at Kilkenny and Tipperary County Councils who are embarking on similar regeneration projects. The visit enabled sharing of experiences, showcasing Cranmore's progress, exchanging insights to guide new efforts, and reflecting on the achievements of the Cranmore Regeneration Project to date

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Education and Enterprise Co-ordinator

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has committed to funding this position for a period of 2 years from appointment.

An Cosán's WorkAbility Programme – Cranmore Hub

The WorkAbility Programme recommenced in September 2025 for year 2 of the 2 year programme. This year the students are studying Reception and Frontline Skills, Spreadsheet Methods, Marketing Practice, Bookkeeping and Computerised Accounts.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

RURAL CAPITAL DELIVERY TEAM

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Schemes (ORIS) Funding for 2024/2025

Sligo County Council secured a total of €258,931 in funding for seven local projects under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The Capital Delivery Team (CDT) are working closely with local Communities to develop and deliver these projects, including enhancements to popular routes like The Warren Way.



ORIS Funding for 2024/2025 announcement at the Warren Way Trail

Historic Towns Initiative 2025 – Former Ballymote Courthouse Project

Conservation works commenced under the Historic Towns Initiative 2025 of the former Ballymote Courthouse. Works include the replacement of the existing roof, windows and rainwater goods, preserving an important piece of our architectural heritage.

Enniscrone RRDF – Cliff Bath Project

Tenders have been returned for a multi-disciplinary consultant team. An appointment will be made in October 2025 which will initiate the production of tender documents for the works to be tendered in Q2 2026.



Ballisodare RRDF – Regeneration Project

The CDT have appointed a consultant team to progress the development of key riverside sites in Ballisodare village. Community/ stakeholder consultation will commence in Q3 2025.

Watersports Enhancement Facilities

The CDT continued to progress the development of Water based Facility Centres at Enniscrone and Rosses Point. The Fire Certification and Disability Access Certificate have been received, and the consultant team are currently preparing tender documents to submit to Fáilte Ireland for approval in October 2025.



URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS

Thrive – Sligo Gaol Project

Sligo County Council has been awarded €7 million under the THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to deliver the Sligo Gaol Project, a transformative initiative that will restore and repurpose the historic Sligo Gaol into a publicly accessible community and tourism asset in the heart of Sligo Town.

This significant investment will enable the refurbishment of key 19th century structures on the site, including the Governor’s House, the three-storey asylum building, and the two-storey cell blocks, along with the link corridor connecting these buildings. A new single-storey reception building with an ancillary coffee kiosk will be constructed, and the site will benefit from enhanced landscaping, public lighting, signage, and parking facilities.

Sligo Museum Building

The contract for essential maintenance works to the fabric of the building at Sligo County Museum is underway with funding awarded from the Historic Structures Fund. This work is expected to be completed in Q4 2025.

Implementation of Sligo Public Realm

Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Rockwood Parade / Water Lane / Tobergal Lane

The Tender Assessment is ongoing for the public realm enhancement works for the Sligo Streets project. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in Q4 2025, with a view to works commencing in Q1 2026.

“City Campus - Sligo’s Cultural and Learning Hub” project (Connaughton Road / Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Lake Isle Road)

Reddy Architecture and Urbanism have been awarded the contract to provide Urban Design and Planning Consultancy Services to prepare a Masterplan for the Sligo City Campus Project. This work will be ongoing for 9 months.

The Compulsory Purchase process for land required has been initiated.

GOVERNANCE



MARIE WHELAN

Director of Services

Finance and Corporate Governance

FINANCE

MAJOR EXPENDITURE AND INCOME LINES FOR EACH SERVICE DIVISION (INCLUDING PERFORMANCE AGAINST FIGURES PROVIDED IN THE ADOPTED ANNUAL BUDGET AND AGAINST EXPECTED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PROFILES);

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/06/2025

	EXPENDITURE					INCOME					NET	
	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Remaining 2025	% Spent 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Not Rec'd 2025	% Rec'd 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Variance 2025
	€	€	€		€	€	€	€		€	€	€
A Housing & Building	8,466,247	17,369,641	8,903,394	23%	15,580,504	7,494,506	14,872,455	7,377,948	50%	13,936,847	(971,741)	2,054,869
B Road Transport & Safet	13,735,634	24,620,129	10,884,495	17%	28,038,582	9,424,973	17,500,871	8,075,897	54%	21,147,099	(4,310,661)	5,115,523
C Water Services	2,003,294	4,147,434	2,144,139	25%	4,467,384	1,805,878	3,996,309	2,190,431	45%	4,391,898	(197,417)	55,859
D Development Manager	4,941,275	8,968,853	4,027,578	27%	12,831,186	1,556,801	2,738,694	1,181,893	57%	8,313,674	(3,384,474)	4,572,561
E Environmental Services	5,204,525	10,149,579	4,945,054	25%	8,945,241	1,484,462	2,809,876	1,325,414	53%	1,643,399	(3,720,063)	5,642,830
F Recreation & Amenity	3,027,476	6,375,508	3,348,032	25%	6,486,192	187,449	791,725	604,275	24%	738,635	(2,840,026)	4,123,942
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	375,435	906,822	531,387	24%	876,077	211,608	372,243	160,635	57%	435,541	(163,827)	442,220
H Miscellaneous Services	4,160,180	8,227,473	4,067,292	23%	9,775,533	4,832,758	9,488,332	4,655,573	51%	9,627,449	672,578	(939,837)
LG Local Property Tax	-	-	-	-%	-	6,219,033	12,438,066	6,219,033	50%	12,419,708	6,219,033	(9,328,550)
RA Rates	-	-	-	-%	-	7,923,872	15,756,861	7,832,989	50%	14,733,932	7,923,872	(11,795,072)
	41,914,067	80,765,438	38,851,371	52%	87,000,698	41,141,341	80,765,430	39,624,089	51%	87,388,181	(772,726)	(772,718)

Capital Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/06/2025

	Opening Balance	Expenditure	Income				Transfers			Balance at 30/06/2025
	Balance at 01/01/2025	Expenditure YTD	Grants	Loans	Other	Total Income YTD	Transfer from Revenue	Transfer to Revenue	Internal Transfers	
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
01 Housing & Building	217,037	22,122,586	(20,437,794)	-	(610,190)	(21,047,984)	-	-	-	1,291,639
02 Road Transport & Safety	(648,163)	4,373,631	(4,019,872)	-	(2,565,567)	(6,585,438)	-	-	-	(2,859,970)
03 Water Services	23,521	1,380,243	(1,210,248)	-	(161,940)	(1,372,188)	-	-	-	31,577
04 Development Management	(6,154,321)	7,765,511	(5,800,643)	-	(1,162,275)	(6,962,918)	-	-	-	(5,351,727)
05 Environmental Services	(63,506)	404,260	(253,294)	-	(67,374)	(320,668)	-	-	-	20,086
06 Recreation & Amenity	(1,487,641)	189,497	(43,668)	-	(27,532)	(71,200)	-	-	-	(1,369,344)
07 Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(152,115)	69,188	(50,000)	-	-	(50,000)	-	-	-	(132,928)
08 Miscellaneous Services	(1,283,965)	652,056	(220,077)	-	(418,498)	(638,575)	-	-	-	(1,270,484)
Total	(9,549,153)	36,956,972	(32,035,596)	-	(5,013,375)	(37,048,971)	-	-	-	(9,641,152)

PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REVENUE COLLECTION LEVELS (INCLUDING AGED DEBT ANALYSIS);

Analysis of Debtors - Period 01/01/2025 to 30/06/2025

	Opening Balance 01/01/2025 €	Current Debtors Movement					Gross Closing Balance €	Bad Debt Provision €	Net Closing Balance 30/06/2025 €
		Invoices €	Receipts €	Refunds €	Write Offs €	Waivers €			
Trade Debtors									
Government Debtors	9,132,874	55,520,482	44,975,599	-	-	-	19,677,757	-	19,677,757
Commercial Debtors - Rates	6,747,180	15,847,392	8,769,339	-	124,823	8,739	13,691,672	4,640,668	9,051,004
Commercial Debtors Other (including PEL & IW)	(155,300)	1,322,426	1,344,992	-	-	-	(177,866)	-	(177,866)
Non-Commercial Debtors	1,460,200	4,089,880	3,986,042	-	(483)	-	1,564,522	1,311,029	253,493
Other Services	662,317	1,230,888	1,287,058	-	76,106	11,231	518,809	290,626	228,184
Other Local Authorities	29,305	230,941	206,135	-	-	-	54,111	-	54,111
Sub-Total	17,876,577	78,242,008	60,569,163	-	200,445	19,970	35,329,006	6,242,323	29,086,683

Other Debtors									
Development Levy Debtors (Current Only)	320,997						470,432	128,456	341,976
Other	-						-	-	-
Current Portion of Long Term Debtors	1,457,239						1,457,239	-	1,457,239
Prepayments	605,588						811,291	-	811,291
Sub-Total	2,383,824						2,738,962	128,456	2,610,507

TOTAL DEBTORS	20,260,401	38,067,968	6,370,779	31,697,190
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APPENDIX 7

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2025

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustment	Write Offs	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection = (B+C-D-E-F)	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/09/2024 = (G-H)	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collec = (H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	6,747,180	15,847,392	72,210	52,612	8,739	22,461,010	8,769,339	13,691,672	3,031,454	* 45%
Rents & Annuities	1,222,318	3,517,814	-	(558)	-	4,740,690	3,419,231	1,321,459	-	72%
Housing Loans	451,804	499,843	-	-	-	951,646	483,440	468,206	-	51%

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication

RECOURSE TO OVERDRAFT FACILITY (NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH AND INTEREST INCURRED);

The overdraft interest and fees applied from 16th February 2025 to 27th June 2025 was €110,400.19.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Thursday 2nd October

- 9.30am Procedures Committee Meeting, Members Room, County Hall
- 11.00am SPC 2 – Climate & Infrastructure Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall
- 3.30pm Mayor's reception for Sligo Flower & Garden Club, The Mayor's Parlour, City Hall

Friday 3rd October

- 10.00am Age Friendly Alliance Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Monday 6th October

- 9.00am CPG Budget Meeting, Members Room, County Hall
- 10.00am October Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall
- 3.00pm Arts Assessment Meeting, Members Room, County Hall

Thursday 9th October

- 10.30am SICAP annual engagement meeting with Pobal
- 3.30pm Ambassadors from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia and Ukraine, Council Chamber, County Hall

Wednesday 15th October

- 11.00am PEACEPLUS Steering Group meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Monday 20th October

- 9.30am Sligo – Drumcliffe MD Budget Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall
- 11.30am Borough District of Sligo MD Budget Meeting, Council Chamber, City Hall
- 2.30pm Ballymote – Tubbercurry MD Budget Meeting, Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry

Wednesday 29th October

- 9.30am LCDC / LAG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall



LATEST NEWS

REFURBISHMENT AND EXTENSION OF FORMER COURTHOUSE IN BALLYMOTE



Sligo County Council is delighted to announce that Approval in Principle has been granted by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for the refurbishment and extension of the former Courthouse in Ballymote to house a new public library.

[View full story](#)

THE SLIGO PICNIC LAUNCHES: A TASTE OF SLIGO TO TAKE OUTDOORS



Sligo's stunning landscapes and vibrant food culture come together this autumn with the launch of The Sligo Picnic – a brand-new collaboration between Sligo Food Trail and Visit Sligo.

[View full story](#)

SLIGO WELCOMES CROÍ HEARTFEST 2025: HUNDREDS ATTEND FREE HEART HEALTH CHECKS AHEAD OF WORLD HEART DAY



Croí, the Heart & Stroke Charity, successfully hosted Croí HeartFest 2025 in Queen Maeve's Square, Sligo, on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th September, drawing hundreds of attendees for two impactful days of free heart health checks and education in the lead-up to World Heart Day on Monday, 29th September.

[View full story](#)

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP: TUBBERCURRY–VIARMES TOWN TWINNING MARKS MILESTONE WITH CIVIC RECEPTION



A Civic Reception was held at City Hall, Sligo, on Saturday 20 September to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Tubbercurry–Viarmes Town Twinning, celebrating a quarter-century of cultural exchange, friendship, and European unity.

[View full story](#)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF REDEVELOPED BALLYMOTE PLAYGROUND



The Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr. Dónal Gilroy officially opened the newly developed Community Playground in Ballymote recently.

[View full story](#)

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL'S "IDEAS ENGINE" WINS PRESTIGIOUS EGOVERNMENT AWARD



Sligo County Council is celebrating national recognition after its innovative tourism platform, the Ideas Engine, won a top honour at the Ireland eGovernment Awards held in O'Reilly Hall, Belfield on the 18th September and attended by Minister Jack Chambers.

[View full story](#)

€7 MILLION AWARDED TO SLIGO GAOL PROJECT UNDER THRIVE SCHEME



Sligo County Council is delighted to announce that it has been awarded €7 million under the THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to deliver the Sligo Gaol Project, a transformative initiative that will restore and repurpose the historic Sligo Gaol into a publicly accessible community and tourism asset in the heart of Sligo Town

[View full story](#)

MINISTER KEVIN "BOXER" MORAN VISIT TO SLIGO



Minister Kevin "Boxer" Moran, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform with responsibility for the Office of Public Works visited Sligo on Monday 15 September

[View full story](#)

CIVIC RECEPTION HONOURS DRUMCLIFFE ROSSES POINT GAA & LGFA – ALL-IRELAND SCÓR SINSEAR CHAMPIONS



Sligo County Council hosted a Civic Reception on Wednesday, 10th September 2025, at County Hall, Riverside, to honour the outstanding achievements of the Drumcliffe Rosses Point GAA & LGFA club, who were recently crowned All-Ireland Champions in the Instrumental Music category of Scór Sinsear 2025.

[View full story](#)

RECRUITMENT



Sligo. COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

APPLY NOW

VIA EMAIL ONLY:  jobs@sligococo.ie

Assistant Project Manager

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

Please note there is *no closing date* for these competitions and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.



Sligo. COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL WARDEN (PART-TIME)

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

APPLY NOW

VIA EMAIL ONLY:  jobs@sligococo.ie

School Warden (Part-Time)

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

Please note there is *no closing date* for these competitions and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.



Sligo. COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

APPLY NOW

VIA EMAIL ONLY:  jobs@sligococo.ie

Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

Please note there is *no closing date* for these competitions and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY HALL
RIVERSIDE
SLIGO
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@sligocountycouncil



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Sligo.