



Sligo.

Monthly Management Report

April 2026



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



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ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

Re: Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for April 2026

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for April 2026, 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

Sligo.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

1. RECOURSE TO OVERDRAFT FACILITY (NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH AND INTEREST INCURRED):

2. EMERGENCY CAPITAL WORKS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET (INCLUDING ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LIABILITY):

3. OPERATION/PROGRESS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Local Enhancement Programme 2026

The list of 145 successful applications, as approved by the LCDC on 15 April 2026, was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht on 21 April 2026.

As previously advised by the Department, it is anticipated that the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht will announce the successful applicants during Quarter 2 of 2026.

Community & Voluntary Grants 2026

Notification of approved Community and Voluntary grants, along with invitations to successful groups to submit claims, issued in March. The claim phase of the scheme is currently underway and will continue over the coming months.

64 Burial Ground Maintenance grants have been paid in 2026.

Category	2026 Budget Breakdown	
Burial Grounds	€30,000	All grants paid for 2026
Estates & Area Up-Keep	€32,500	Groups invited to submit claims - ongoing
Tidy Towns	€30,000	Groups invited to submit claims - ongoing
Community Events	€12,500	Groups invited to submit claims - ongoing
Community Heritage Projects & Events	€15,000	Groups invited to submit claims - ongoing
Seasonal Lights & Greening	€10,000	Groups invited to submit claims - ongoing
	€130,000	

2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As of 28th April 2026, 52 no. LEADER Projects have been approved by the LCDC / LAG to the value of €2,164,138.40.

LEADER claims approved in respect of 20 no. projects, in the amount of €854,528.31

Monthly Return payments in the amount of €512,390.76 for the 2327 LEADER Programme have been received.



Arna chomhchistiú ag an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta | Co-funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht

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

The overall 2026 programme budget is €991,752.00 broken down as follows:

- 2026 general SICAP budget is €782,453
- Allocation for New Arrivals is €209,299

Progress under Annual KPI targets for Goals 1 & 2, is outlined in the table below:

	Target	Actuals	%Achieved
KPI 1	50	20	40%
KPI 2	431	158	37%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	18.00	9.98	



Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme

Capital Projects

Tendering is nearing completion for four capital projects. Outstanding elements include:

- Building works at the Spanish Armada Museum
- Design and installation of the Wellness Room, including the Sensory Pod and the acquisition of retractable seating for the Dromore West Digiversal
- PAZMAS Armada Trail signage

External fabric works to the Dispensary Building in Ballymote, under the Celtic Connections Project, have been completed. These works included roof repairs and upgrades to rainwater goods, which were necessary to render the building fit for purpose and to prevent further deterioration. Window repairs are at an advanced stage and are nearing completion:

Project Partner Initiatives

Both Partner Projects have now progressed to the delivery stage, with participants actively engaged and project activities underway:

- GFA for Gen Z – Project Lighthouse, Hawk's Well Theatre
- Tuning into Social Inclusion, Music Generation MSLETB.

Programmes

Of the remaining nine projects, six have been fully contracted and one project remains to be procured. Contracts for the remaining two projects have issued, and it is anticipated that both will be signed and returned within the next two weeks.



Sligo Age Friendly Programme

Sligo County Council's Age Friendly Programme carried out a walkability audit of Markievicz Park on 17th April 2026 in collaboration with Sligo GAA. The audit examined the visitor experience across a range of abilities, identifying barriers from an Age Friendly and Universal Design perspective. Creating inclusive outdoor spaces and buildings is central to the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly framework, supporting social participation and inclusion for ageing populations.



The Sligo Age Friendly Alliance met on 22nd April 2026, where Declan Gaffney, National Technical Programme Manager with Age Friendly Ireland, presented on Age Friendly Housing Rightsizing – National Best Practice.

The meeting also included a presentation by Transition Year students Hannah Milanzie and Izabella Lehany McGoldrick of St Mary's College, Ballysadare, on Farmlink 65+, a proposed pilot programme to support farmers aged 65+ in adapting to the increasing digitalisation of farming and Department of Agriculture services.

Interdepartmental Team

The Sligo County Council Interdepartmental Team met on 9th April 2026, bringing together representatives from all departments to collaboratively progress actions under the Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy that span organisational boundaries. Members reviewed each action and provided updates on relevant departmental developments.

Healthy Sligo

Q2 2026 shows strong progress across programme planning, the agreement of Service Level Agreements, partnership development with new stakeholders, and the design of new projects.

Key priorities—including mental health supports, physical activity, and community inclusion—continue to be progressed through both established and newly developed initiatives.



Rural Community Reconnection

Sligo PPN

- Ten episodes of the PPN Podcast are now live, showcasing the work of member groups and exploring what makes the community and voluntary sector in Sligo unique. All episodes are available at: <https://www.sligoppn.com/podcast/>
- The Hope and Courage Collective event took place on 15th April in the Sligo Park Hotel. The event explored themes including the role of social media in amplifying hate and discrimination, the dynamics of the far right, and developing an inclusive narrative for Sligo. Participant feedback is now being developed to inform a longer-term partnership with the Collective.
- Nominations for vacant seats on the PPN Secretariat, SPC3, and Sligo Leader Partnership closed at the end of April.



Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan TD, opened the Community Safety Fund (CSF) for applications on 13th April 2026. The CSF enables proceeds of crime seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána to be reinvested in local projects that enhance community safety. A total of €4.75 million is available nationally in 2026. The fund is administered by the National Office for Community Safety (NOCS), with grants ranging from €20,000 to €150,000. Applications are open to community safety initiatives and partnerships involving local authorities, NGOs, and community organisations working in areas such as community safety and youth justice. Completed applications must be received by 5pm on 18th May 2026.



During April, one meeting was held with the NOCS office and National Coordinators, and two meetings were held with Regional Coordinators.

The LCSP members' survey was reopened until 15th April. The survey results, together with a facilitated one-to-one introduction and group discussion on community safety, will inform the agenda of the next LCSP meeting, scheduled for 28th May 2026.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT hosted 11 clinics, engaging with 79 refugees.



The second of four Library Welcome Events was held on 8th April, providing information, guidance, and access to local supports, while promoting the full range of library services available. A total of 34 new library memberships have been registered across the first two events.

The LAIT is inviting members of Sligo's migrant community to participate in an online consultation for Refugee Week 2026. This year's theme, Courage, encourages participants to share ideas on how the community would like to mark and celebrate the week.

Offer a Home

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

- 45nr. properties allocated – housing 175 individuals
- 85nr. pledges withdrawn or not viable

4. PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICES BASED ON REPORTS TO ENTERPRISE IRELAND:

Financial Supports

Funding of €85,962 was approved at the most recent Evaluation and Approvals Committee meeting through Business Expansion, Priming, Feasibility, and Market Explorer Grants, supporting enterprises at various stages of development across County Sligo.

Training

The Local Enterprise Office delivered a Start Your Own Business Programme alongside targeted training in social media marketing and taxation. Over 60 participants engaged in training during the period, supporting both early-stage and established businesses.

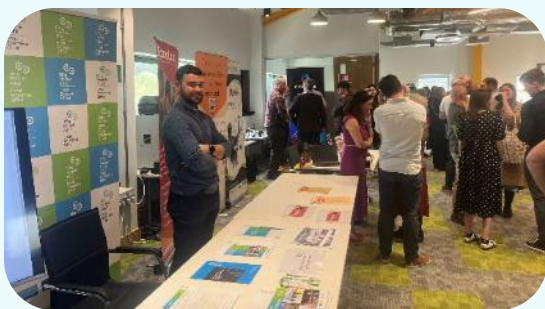
Mentoring

A total of 21 one-to-one mentoring clinics were delivered in April. In addition, two extended mentoring assignments (six hours or more) were approved to support businesses with more complex strategic needs.

Productivity Supports

Productivity and sustainability initiatives continued, with six Green for Business and one Digital for Business support approved, assisting businesses to improve efficiency, environmental performance, and digital capability.





Socolab

The Local Enterprise Office participated in the MSLETB XRHub Sligo Open Day at Socolab, Strandhill on 23rd April, marking the official opening of the new XRHub. The event included sessions for Transition Year students, the wider community, and local businesses showcasing immersive technologies.

Sligo Women in Business Network

The SWIBN April networking meeting took place on 28th April at The Yeats Building, with 36 members in attendance. The theme focused on Wisdom – Life Lessons from Business, with speakers Odilon Hunt (AVA Systems) and Eileen Forrestal (Get Up and Go Publications), alongside a digital marketing spotlight by Marketing with Mamta.



County Enterprise Awards

GerTEK Project Management & Technical Services, based in SocoLab, Strandhill, has been selected as a finalist for the National Enterprise Awards and will represent LEO Sligo. The company delivers services to global leaders in the life sciences, data centres, and semiconductor sectors.



Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Fergal Nealon, Gerry McGowan, founder of GerTEK, and Liam Kiely, Head of Enterprise

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AIM Centre

During April 2026, the AIM Centre in Sligo expanded its national profile, opening its first external base in Galway, a move aimed at deepening engagement with medtech and life-science companies while retaining its headquarters and core operations in Sligo. At the start of April, AIM Centre and Eyedea presented a MedTech and Engineering workshop in Sligo for manufacturing and medtech professionals.

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

AEC Officers met on 2nd April, sharing updates from across the AEC, focused on the upcoming EU presidency and local innovation and development. Arising from this meeting, staff from the Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development, and Arts sections engaged with WDC on a Creative Mapping project which aims to strengthen the economic potential and skill of the creative industries in the region. This process is ongoing with other local authorities in the AEC. The publication of results expected later in 2026.

PEACEPLUS Connexus Project– Investment Area 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages

Connexus officially started on 1st April with tenders for Programme development and facilitation being issued by Sligo and Leitrim County Councils before the end of the month.

Night Time Economy

Nine projects were approved under the NTE Pilot Activity Grant Call, with events running from April to September on Sunday–Thursday evenings. Sligo's NTE Advisor joined the NTE National Implementation Sub-Group and presented on Sligo BID and the NTE Pilot to the French Ambassador during her visit to Sligo on 22nd April.

The One@One Late Night Bus Pilot launched on 20th April, with positive early feedback ahead of its first rollout over the May Bank Holiday weekend. This was followed by the announcement of the "Good Evening & Good Night Sligo" event on 7th May, featuring over 40 activities across the town.

International Collaboration

In mid-April, members of the Enterprise and Economic Development team and senior management met with a delegation of peers from Mentor, Ohio. Mentor is a regional economic hub just 20 minutes east of Cleveland, and home to two hundred plus manufacturing firms, specialising in biotech/medtech, aerospace, advanced and precision manufacturing, and automotive supply chain, among other industry clusters. The delegation was hosted at Socolab, Strandhill where they met with Enterprise Ireland and Voya Seaweed Products.



Interregional Learning



The Economic Development Officer attended an Interregional Learning Event in Valmiera, Latvia as a guest stakeholder of EU Interreg project, Digital Rural. Aimed at local authorities in rural regions, Partners from Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Estonia, the Netherlands, Greece, and Hungary explored and shared how they are using digital solutions to enhance rural communities and ensure competitiveness and growth for businesses. Innovative projects presented included digital twinning of the river Ogre to support flood information and the use of smart scales and tech in commercial kitchens to reduce food waste.



TOURISM

Carrowmore Visitor Centre reopens

April saw the reopening of the newly refurbished Carrowmore Visitor Centre. This OPW site is a key part of the Neolithic story of Sligo and represented a €1.5 million investment from OPW, Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The opening was attended by Minister Boxer Moran and Minister Christopher O'Sullivan. The new visitor centre includes improved interpretation, new visitor amenities, upgraded toilet facilities, an all-weather shelter and improved internal and external layouts to optimise visitor flow and comfort.

New WC Strandhill Initiative

Supported by Sligo County Council, the WC Sligo initiative has been extended to Strandhill with six businesses participating in the scheme. This collaboration sees an improved visitor experience and permits members of the public to use restrooms in participating businesses. The scheme is inspired by the European "Nice Toilet" model, which encourages businesses to open their facilities to the public as part of a wider effort to create more welcoming, visitor-friendly towns and villages.



By adopting this approach, Strandhill joins a growing network of European destinations that prioritise comfort, accessibility, and positive visitor engagement.

Facilitation of Fáilte Ireland support for food tourism

Fáilte Ireland provided a specific support measure for food and culinary tourism to support delivery of the recent National Tourism Policy Statement. Bespoke support for the development of food festivals was the primary aim nationally. Engagement took place with the Taste of Sligo Food Festival to use this support to develop a USP for the festival going forward and to fund enabling and development work to ensure its growth and sustainability.

Sligo Picnic

Collaboration has taken place with Sligo Food Trail for the roll out of the Sligo Picnic project. This sees Sligo Food Trail members providing premium picnics to visitors in bespoke branded packaging that is biodegradable and reusable.

Visitors can take their picnic on their hike or walk, out on the golf course or on the beach and enjoy the best of Sligo food on the go in beautiful landscapes.



5. PROGRESS IN PREPARING REPORTS/MATERIAL REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL.

Chief Executive's Diary attached.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday 6th May

11:00am NWRA Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Wednesday 7th May

11:00am World Heritage Nomination Team Meeting, Sligo Park Hotel

3:30pm Cathaoirleach Cllr Gilroy meeting with Ambassador of Ireland to Croatia Wendy Dorman- Smith

Friday 8th May

5:30om Launch of Sligo Relay for Life, Chamber, City Hall

Monday 11th May

9:00am CGP Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10:00am May Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Thursday 14th May

7:00pm Launch of Sligo County Fleadh, Barrell House (White Hag Brewery pub), Ballymote

Monday 18th May

10:00am Borough District of Sligo MD Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

2:00pm Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD Meeting, Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry

Thursday 21st May

11:00am SPC2 Climate and Infrastructure, Council Chamber, County Hall

Tuesday 26th May

9:30am LCDC / LAG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Thursday 28th May

11:00am LCSP Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Friday 29th May

11:00am Sligo Economic Forum Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

11:30am Creating Connection, Through Story and Creative Writing, 11 Devins Drive, Cranmore



LATEST NEWS



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL CELEBRATES NATIONAL WORKPLACE WELLBEING DAY & LAUNCHES THRIVE APP

Sligo County Council marked National Workplace Wellbeing Day 2026, themed Belonging, with a series of activities highlighting the importance of wellbeing, connection and inclusion across the organisation.

[View full story](#)



NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Sligo County Council held a voter registration drive in The Canopy, O'Connell Street, Sligo, on Thursday, 30 April 2026 as part of National Voter Registration Day.

[View full story](#)



STRANDHILL BUSINESSES UNITE TO ENHANCE VISITOR EXPERIENCE THROUGH PUBLIC TOILET ACCESS INITIATIVE

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the expansion of the WC Sligo public convenience scheme to Strandhill, enabling members of the public to access toilet facilities in participating local businesses.

[View full story](#)



COUNTY SLIGO GEARS UP FOR THE NATIONAL BIKE WEEK 2026

The National Transport Authority (NTA), Sligo County Council and Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, are delighted to announce a programme of free events and activities taking place across County Sligo to celebrate Bike Week 2026, which runs from 9th – 17th May.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO 2030 – TWO YEARS ON

We invite you to take a moment to stay informed about our progress: Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision – Two Years On.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (LCSP) ENGAGES NATIONALLY AS PUBLIC SURVEY OPENS

Sligo's vibrant night-time economy will take centre stage at a special celebratory event, Good Evening and Good Night Sligo, on Thursday, 7th May, from 6:00pm until late..

[View full story](#)



STRENGTHENING FRANCO IRISH LINKS: FRENCH AMBASSADOR VISITS COUNTY HALL

Her Excellency Céline Place, Ambassador of France to Ireland, paid an official visit to Sligo County Council, County Hall on Wednesday 22 April, where she was formally welcomed by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Dónal Gilroy.

[View full story](#)



KEMPTEN MECHATRONIC ENGINEERING STUDENTS WELCOMED TO COUNTY HALL

Sligo County Council hosted a reception at County Hall on 21 April to welcome Mechatronic Engineering students from Kempten University of Applied Sciences, who are currently attending ATU Sligo as part of the long standing Sligo–Kempten Town Twinning programme.

[View full story](#)



MINISTER PATRICK O'DONOVAN ANNOUNCES 'THE ONE @ ONE' - A NIGHT- TIME ECONOMY LATE-NIGHT PILOT BUS SERVICE IN SLIGO, BUNCRANA AND LONGFORD

New late-night services will operate at 1am over the May, June, August & October Bank Holiday weekends and on Culture Night.

[View full story](#)



RARE GREENLAND SHARK RECOVERED FROM SLIGO COAST IN COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

A rare 3-metre-long Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*) has been successfully recovered from the shoreline in County Sligo, marking the first recorded stranding of this species on the Irish coast.

[View full story](#)



MONA MCSHARRY AWARDED FREEDOM OF COUNTY SLIGO

Olympic bronze medallist Mona McSharry has been awarded the Freedom of County Sligo, the county's highest civic honour, at a special ceremony held at County Hall on Tuesday, 14 April 2026.

[View full story](#)

THE GREEN FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO TAKE PART IN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN SLIGO TOWN IN JUNE 2026



CLOSING DATE:
6pm Friday 8th May 2026



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.



THE GREEN FORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Community volunteers sought to take part in an archaeological excavation in Sligo Town in June 2026.

[View full story](#)



Sligo.

€350,000

**HISTORIC TOWNS
INITIATIVE 2026–2027
FUNDING FOR
SLIGO**



SLIGO TOWN AWARDED €350,000 UNDER HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE 2026–2027

Sligo County Council has been awarded €350,000 in funding under the Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2026–2027 to support essential conservation works on two nationally significant public buildings in Sligo town – Sligo City Hall and the Yeats Memorial Building.

[View full story](#)



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

RECRUITMENT

Sligo. COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

APPLY NOW

CLOSING DATE:
4:30pm Thursday 14th May 2026

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY:
jobs@sligococo.ie

Biodiversity Officer

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

Closing date for applications is
4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14th May 2026

Sligo. COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

TEMPORARY BEACH LIFEGUARD & TEMPORARY BEACH WARDEN

APPLY NOW

Applications:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

Via Email Only:
jobs@sligococo.ie

ROLLING COMPETITION

Temporary Beach Lifeguard

&

Temporary Beach Warden

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Section **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.