



# Sligo.

## **Monthly Management Report**

**February 2026**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH  
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**To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council**

**Re: Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for February 2026**

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for February 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.**

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

The overdraft interest and fees applied from 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 was €202,998.

## 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 scheme opened to online applications on Monday 9 February 2026 and closed on **Friday 27 February 2026**. Applications will be assessed and the return submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. It is expected that the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht will announce details of successful applicants during Q2 2026.

### Community & Voluntary Grants 2026

Funding support for community and voluntary activity is incorporated into the Council's Annual Budget. A sum of €130,000 has been provided for the C&V Scheme 2026 to be allocated as follows.

| Category                             | 2026 Budget Breakdown |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Burial Grounds                       | €30,000               | Direct Allocation – based on groups in receipt of a C&V grant in 2025 |
| Estates & Area Up-Keep               | €32,500               | Open Call                                                             |
| Tidy Towns                           | €30,000               | Direct Allocation – based on groups in receipt of a C&V grant in 2025 |
| Community Events                     | €12,500               | Open Call                                                             |
| Community Heritage Projects & Events | €15,000               | Open Call                                                             |
| Seasonal Lights & Greening           | €10,000               | Direct Allocation – based on groups in receipt of a C&V grant in 2025 |
|                                      | <b>€130,000</b>       |                                                                       |

The assessment of applications received under the open call (12<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January) was completed by Community Department staff, and the resulting recommendations were circulated to members of the Festival and Events Oversight Committee for their consideration on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Following agreement by the Festival and Events Oversight Committee, the report will be presented to Council Members at the March plenary meeting. Notifications of decisions and allocations will issue to groups in mid to late March 2026.

## 2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As at 17 February 2026, 46 no. LEADER Projects have been approved by the LCDC / LAG to the value of €1,864,968.17.

LEADER claims approved in respect of 14 no. projects, in the amount of €744,050.50

Monthly Returns in the amount of €318,435.40 for the 2023 to 2027 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 €782,453.00
- Allocation for New Arrivals is €209,299.00.

KPI targets for 2026 will remain as per 2025.



## Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme

### Audit

The Period 1 audit, conducted by KPMG, has now been completed. Outstanding queries were issued and were due for return by 18 February. KPMG has commenced work on the Period 2 audit.

### Capital Projects

Progress continues across all four capital projects. The following competitions are currently advertised on eTenders:

- Design and Installation of an Interactive Immersive Experience – PAZMÁS: The Armada Across Seas and Borders, under Theme 1 – Local Community Regeneration and Transformation, as part of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Plan.
- Provision of Engineering/Architect-Lead Design Team Services for PEACEPLUS detailed design and construction works for *Land of Art's Desire* at The Nest, Quay Street, Sligo (F91 K79P).

## Project Partner Initiatives

Both Partner Projects are now at delivery stage, with participants actively engaged and activities underway:

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

## Programmes

Of the remaining nine programmes, two are yet to go to tender, one is already contracted and delivering, and the other seven are progressing through various stages of the contracting process.



## Sligo Age Friendly Alliance

The Acting Age Friendly Programme Manager and the Age Friendly Technical Advisor attended the Age Friendly Ireland Annual Residential Meeting at Johnstown Estate, Co. Meath, on 12<sup>th</sup> February. The event included thematic workshops, opportunities to share the programme's 2025 achievements, and discussions on priorities for 2026. Attendees also engaged in networking sessions aimed at strengthening collaboration and further developing the service.



## Healthy Sligo

The Programme of Work and budget for Healthy Sligo Round 4 (2026) has been agreed with all partners and approved at subcommittee stage. Healthy Sligo will continue to collaborate with established partners while also welcoming several new organisations to this year's programme.

Financial returns are currently being finalised and submitted, along with the activity report for the agreed outcomes, which focus on:

- Increasing the proportion of adults and children meeting recommended physical activity guidelines
- Improving individuals' levels of positive mental health as measured by the Energy and Vitality Index

The activity report follows an outcomes-focused approach, prioritising the measurement of impact rather than activity levels alone. It uses a behaviour-change framework to better understand the factors influencing outcomes and is aligned with the national Healthy Ireland outcomes framework.

A key learning from this outcomes-based model is the importance of strong partnership and stakeholder collaboration. Ongoing engagement with community groups and partner organisations remains central to promoting shared responsibility for health and wellbeing and will continue to underpin the 2026 programme.

## Sligo PPN

- Two new episodes of the PPN Podcast have been released, featuring Sligo Alzheimer's Association and Sligo Sudbury School.
- Under the Power to Change initiative with ATU Sligo, the 2026 newsletter has been published, bringing together key news, updates, and resources developed over the lifetime of the project.
- PPN staff are currently finalising the annual income and expenditure returns and are also updating the Memorandum of Understanding for 2026.
- The PPN launched its training initiative with the Carmichael Centre in February. All 75 places were booked within a few hours, demonstrating the strong demand for high-quality training and capacity-building supports.
- Sligo PPN continues to contribute to national work, participating in the national working groups developing a programme plan to implement the findings of the S3 Solutions research on addressing barriers to public participation in Ireland.



## Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Chair and Coordinator attended the National Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) Event at the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. The event brought together LCSP Chairs, Coordinators, and Administrators from across the country to share learning, strengthen collaboration, and support the continued national rollout of LCSPs.



Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan, addressed attendees and welcomed the strong nationwide progress to date in establishing LCSPs. The Minister launched the online [National Community Safety Survey](#), an important element in the development of the new National Strategy. Once the Strategy is agreed, the National Office will issue guidelines to Local Authorities to assist in drafting their LCSP Plans, with this work expected to commence in Q2 2026.

The next Plenary meeting is scheduled for 23 March 2026.

## Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

LAIT hosted 9 clinics, engaging with 85 refugees.



In conjunction with Sligo Library, LAIT supported a Welcome Event on Wednesday, 4 February, providing information and guidance to attendees while promoting library services within the community.

LAIT attended the first of two national integration events scheduled for 2026 on 26 February.

In addition, the LAIT Coordinator participated in the first meeting of the Local Authority National Integration Network (LANIN) for 2026 on 25 February.

## Offer a Home

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

- 46nr. properties allocated – housing 175 individuals
- 84nr. pledges withdrawn or not viable



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

### Training

The Local Enterprise Office provided Social Media Marketing, Taxation and Starting in business training to over 50 participants in February.

### Mentoring

The Local Enterprise Officer provided 36 one- to-one mentoring clinics in February. 8 assignments of 10 hours or more were made during the month.

### Productivity Supports

Two Green for business supports two energy Efficiency grants and a Digital for Business support were approved.

### Local Enterprise Week

Local Enterprise Week will take place from 2–6 March, with 13 local events confirmed to date. Several of these events are being delivered in partnership with key stakeholders, including Fáilte Ireland, Sligo Chamber of Commerce, and the AIM Centre.

The week offers valuable opportunities for both aspiring entrepreneurs with new business ideas and established business owners. Participants will have the chance to build their skills, gain insights to support business growth, and learn about the full range of supports available through the Local Enterprise Office and its partners.

### 10x Northwest Entrepreneurs Programme

The regional Local Enterprise Offices, together with their partners, hosted the second 10x Northwest event on 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February. Businesses from Sligo took part in dedicated networking sessions with 12 senior entrepreneurs across the two days, gaining insights and guidance to support and accelerate their scaling-up journey.



### Student Enterprise Programme

The Sligo Student Enterprise County Final will be held at the Sligo Park Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The event features three categories and a total of 18 awards. 13 Secondary Schools are participating.

## World of Work

Students from Mercy College visited County Hall as part of their World of Work Programme, facilitated by LEO staff. This visit forms part of the ongoing partnership between Sligo County Council and Mercy College.

The World of Work initiative, developed by Business in the Community Ireland, introduces 2nd-year students to the modern workplace by connecting them with corporate volunteers. It helps students learn about different career paths, ask questions, and explore the wide variety of roles that exist across an organisation. The programme aims to inspire young people to stay in education, make informed career choices, and build confidence and self-esteem.

During their visit, students met staff from several Council departments, including the Local Enterprise Office, Capital Projects, Community, Arts, the Library Service, and Heritage, gaining insights into the broad range of work carried out by Sligo County Council.



## Sligo Women in Business Programme

The February networking meeting of the Sligo Women in Business Network (SWIBN) took place in The Model on 24<sup>th</sup> February, with 52 members in attendance. The session focused on productivity and was led by Allyson English of Mody, who delivered an engaging presentation on the theme: “Stop spending precious time on work that doesn’t make money!”

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### AIM Centre

The AIM Centre has launched its new membership programme for the National AI Studio for Manufacturing, offering structured access to applied AI expertise, tools, and infrastructure. The programme is centred on practical, real-world use cases—supporting businesses to move from curiosity to meaningful action at a pace that suits their organisation. Members receive priority access to AIM’s training portfolio, AI Studio, events, testbeds, and expert network. The programme is designed to help companies identify opportunities, test new ideas, and implement digital solutions that deliver measurable impact.

The AIM Centre hosted two high-profile visitor events in February:

**TRANSFORM, ERASMUS+ (10 February)**

Core partners from ESTIA (France) and IESE Business School (Spain) met with AIM representatives for a progress review of TRANSFORM, a European collaboration aimed at developing high-quality, flexible training resources to equip professionals, job seekers, and businesses with the skills needed for the future of manufacturing.

**Visit of Governor Gabriel Makhoulf (11 February)**

Governor Gabriel Makhoulf of the Central Bank of Ireland visited the AIM Centre, meeting with Board Members and staff and touring the facilities. The visit provided an important platform to present the AIM Centre as not only a technology hub, but a key driver of national economic resilience. Discussions focused on AIM's mission to accelerate AI and digital transformation across Ireland's indigenous manufacturing sector—an ambition central to supporting the country's long-term stability and competitiveness.



Gabriel Makhoulf, Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland, with AIM Centre Board Members and Staff

**Arctic Edge NPA Project**

The project is approaching the end of Period 3 on schedule, with the planned output successfully completed: a jointly developed solution for a skeleton digital architecture incorporating cloud-based brokers and gateway clients.

**Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)**

AEC Officers met on 12<sup>th</sup> February for their first meeting of 2026. The discussion included updates and potential areas for collaboration such as Diaspora engagement, Creative Mapping, the upcoming EU Presidency, Blue-Green Economy initiatives, and the Joining the Dots programme. These topics will form the basis for further exploration in support of regional economic development and the exchange of best practice.

**PEACEPLUS Funding – Investment Area 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages**

The project is awaiting a Letter of Offer from SEUPB, with a provisional start date of 1 April 2026.

## Night Time Economy

The Director of Service and the Head of Enterprise met with the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport to discuss the Department's plans for a new Service Level Agreement (SLA). This follows a recent review of the Night-Time Economy Advisors (NTEA) Pilot Programme and the accompanying recommendations for the future rollout of the project.

The review concluded that the continuation, extension, or expansion of the NTEA Pilot is warranted, recognising the value and impact of the initiative to date.

## Sligo Economic Forum

The first meeting of the Sligo Economic Forum in 2026 took place on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Members reviewed the Forum's Terms of Reference, followed by a facilitated discussion led by Dr Seán Ó Riordán of Seán Ó Riordán Associates and formerly Head of Local Government with the IPA. The session explored potential areas of focus and actions to guide the Forum's work for the year ahead.



## Tourism

### Sligo Tourism Industry Networking Event Launched

Sligo County Council, the Local Enterprise Office, and Fáilte Ireland have launched the 2026 Industry Networking Event, which will take place at the Clayton Hotel, Sligo, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Aligned with Local Enterprise Week, the event will provide an important opportunity for tourism businesses and stakeholders to come together to help shape the future tourism landscape in Sligo.

The programme will feature a keynote address, a panel discussion, and both structured and informal networking sessions.



## DOT.Rural Digital Bite Webinar

The Tourism Officer was invited to speak at the inaugural DOT.Rural Digital Bite Webinar, delivering a presentation on how AI can meaningfully support rural tourism when applied with purpose and restraint.



DOT.Rural is an EU Erasmus+ project that aims to empower rural tourism through digital transformation, innovation, and enhanced skills in the digitalisation of tourism services in rural areas.

The webinar attracted professionals from across the EU, and Sligo was highlighted as an example of best practice in this field.

## Conferences in Sligo

Support was provided to the organisers of three prominent conferences taking place in Sligo during February and March. These events offer a significant opportunity to showcase Sligo's strengths and demonstrate the region's capacity to host high-profile gatherings.

The conferences include:

- European Students' Unions Presidents Conference
- 2026 Fire Chiefs Conference
- LGFA National Congress

## Festivals & Events

Applications for Category 2 Festivals closed on 12 December, followed by the closing of the Commercial, Tourism & Regional Festivals & Events Open Call on 23 January.

The Festival & Events Oversight Committee met on 18 February and agreed funding recommendations, which will be brought to Sligo County Council for endorsement at the March Plenary Meeting.

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

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

- 9:00am CPG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall  
10:00am March Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall  
3:00pm Meeting of the Twinning Committee, Management Suite Meeting Room

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

- 11:00am PEACEPLUS Partnership Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

- 9:30am Sligo-Drumcliff MD Meeting, Spanish Armada Centre, Grange

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

- 12:00pm Lá Mór na Gaeilge – Seachtain na Gaeilge, Áras on Chontae, Cois Abhann

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

- 9:00am Audit Committee Meeting, Members Room, County Hall  
11:30am SPC1 Housing & Corporate Governance Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

- 10:30am SPC3 Live Invest Visit Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

- 11:00am World Heritage Nomination Team Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

- 10:00am Borough District of Sligo MD Meeting, Chamber, City Hall  
3:00pm Sligo LCSP Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

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



## LATEST NEWS



### LOVE OUR PLACE – TIDY TOWNS NETWORKING EVENT CELEBRATES COMMUNITY SPIRIT ACROSS COUNTY SLIGO

Sligo County Council welcomed Tidy Towns volunteers to the Love Our Place – Tidy Towns Networking Event on Saturday, 14 February at the Clayton Hotel, Sligo.

[View full story](#)



### CONTRACT SIGNED FOR 31 NEW SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT OWENMORE CRESCENT, COLLOONEY

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the formal signing of a contract for the construction of 31 new social housing units at Owenmore Crescent, Collooney, Co. Sligo.

[View full story](#)


**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**





*Imeachtaí*  
*Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026*

### IMEACHTAÍ SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2026

Imeachtaí Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026 ag Comhairle Chontae Shligigh.

[View full story](#)


**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**





**SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2026**  
**Scoláireachtaí chuig an Ghaeltacht**  
**Scéim do Dhaltaí Meánscoile Shligigh**

Tá áthas ar Chomhairle Chontae Shligigh a Scéim Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta do 2026 a fhógairt

**SCOLÁIREACHTAÍ CHUIG AN GHAELTACHT SCÉIM DO DHALTAÍ MEÁNSCOILE SHLIGIGH**  
Tá áthas ar Chomhairle Chontae Shligigh a Scéim Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta do 2026 a fhógairt.

[View full story](#)



### **CONTRACT SIGNING FOR NEW SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN DROMORE WEST AND EASKY**

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the formal signing of contracts for the construction of 18 new housing units at St. Farnan's Drive, Knockaculleen Townland, Dromore West, and a further 8 units at Woodland Crescent, Aderavoher Townland, Easky, Co. Sligo.

[View full story](#)



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

Sligo County Council welcomes the continued national progress of the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) model, a key commitment under the Programme for Government.

[View full story](#)

# RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

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BEACH LIFEGUARD  
&  
TEMPORARY  
BEACH WARDEN**

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Via Email Only:  
[jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto: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](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

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