



Sligo.

Monthly Management Report

January 2026



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
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 January 2026

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for January 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 16th February 2025 to 22nd 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 Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2026 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DHLGH) on 3 December 2025. The LEP is administered by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in each Local Authority area with funding targeted towards addressing disadvantage in the areas where most needed.

The allocation to Sligo LCDC under the scheme is **€144,392.98** across the following categories:

- Category 1: - Small Capital grants of up to €1,000 or less
- Category 2: - Capital/Equipment grants in excess of €1,001

The scheme will open to online applications **Monday 9 February 2026** and close on **Friday 27 February 2026**. 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
	€130,000	



The scheme closed to applications Wednesday, 28th January 2026 for three categories (Open Call): **Estate and Area Upkeep, (Small Scale) Community Events and (Small Scale) Community Heritage Project**. Notification of decisions and allocations will issue to groups in mid to late March 2026 after the report is presented to Members at the March Plenary meeting

2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As at 26 January 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 23 to 27 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

KPMG have been appointed as the Financial Controller and are working through the retrospective claims on the JEMS System.

There are three projects actively running and recruiting participants. The Calico Cloak project has been awarded as a promotional piece following from the Red Dress exhibition as part of the launch. The four capital projects are advancing and are on schedule to be tendered in Q1 2026. All other projects are at various stages in the contracting process and will be commencing shortly.



Sligo Age Friendly Alliance

The Age Friendly Regional Manager visited Sligo to meet with the local Acting Programme Manager to develop and agree a work plan for 2026. Work is ongoing to coordinate the walkability audit of Markievicz Park, which is scheduled to take place later in Q1.



New Interdepartmental Team

The inaugural meeting of this cross-directorate team, comprising staff from Sligo County Council, took place on 22 January 2026. The group will support the Council in delivering on its obligations across inclusion and disability.

Presentations outlining the role of the Disability Consultative Committee (DCC), the Disability Inclusion & Access Strategy 2024–2027 (DIA), and the purpose of the Interdepartmental Team were delivered on the day. Terms of Reference were formally adopted, and indicative actions were assigned to the relevant Council sections.

To support ongoing collaboration, different members of the team will attend quarterly DCC meetings on a rotating basis to provide updates on progress within their respective areas.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg represents young voices in decision-making at local and national level in Ireland. Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation, is Sligo County Council's facilitating partner for delivery of the Sligo Comhairle na nÓg programme in 2026.

The Annual Youth Conference was held at the end of 2025 to identify and prioritise issues for 2026. These have been determined as: Facilities, Cost of Living, and Transport.

President Catherine Connolly visited The CRIB, a Foróige youth project in Sligo, on 16 January 2026. During her visit, the President met with Foróige young people and youth workers, and spent time listening to young people speak about their experiences, what matters to them, and the role youth work plays in their lives and communities.



Healthy Sligo

A budget of €75,000 has been agreed with Pobal and the LCDC to extend Healthy Sligo Round 4 into 2026. Agreed outcomes include:

- An increase in the percentage of adults and children meeting recommended physical activity guidelines
- An increase in individuals' levels of positive mental health, as measured by the Energy and Vitality Index

The financial return and reporting on the programme of activities for the 2025 programme is currently being prepared. In parallel, the Healthy Sligo Coordinator is establishing both new and existing programmes, with a continued focus on improving wellbeing across the county.

Sligo PPN

The first episode of the Sligo PPN podcast launched on 20 January 2026 with Craig DuBose from Sligo Chess. You can listen to the podcast at <https://www.sligoppn.com/podcast/>



Sligo PPN are part of the national working groups putting together a programme plan to implement the findings from the S3 Solutions national research around addressing barriers to public participation in Ireland.

Sligo PPN is also represented on the Cross Sectoral Working Group to develop the new Strategy for the [Community & Voluntary Sector](#) and is currently contributing to the initial draft.

Representatives

The first Secretariat meeting of 2026 took place on 27 January to sign off on the 2026 annual workplan. In Q1 the following elections will be opened for nomination:

- SPC1 Community Seat,
- Secretariat Community Seat.

Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Sligo LCSP will develop a Community Safety Plan which will outline actions to improve community safety locally. This process will begin during Q2 2026, once the National Safety Strategy—currently being drafted by the National Office for Community Safety (NOCS)—is in place.



The next Plenary meeting is scheduled for 23 March 2026.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

LAIT hosted 12 clinics with 79 individuals.



LAIT currently await guidelines on the budgetary supports from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration which will inform future work activities of the team.

LAIT continue to facilitate the Sligo Intercultural Workers Network meetings; a joint meeting was held on 14 January 2026 with Leitrim Workers. On 26 January LAIT attended Friends of the Centre Open Day in Globe House along with 20 other agencies providing supports to refugees.

LAIT and MSLETB hosted an Apprenticeship Information session targeted to those with status, on 29 January.

Offer a Home

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

- 47nr. properties allocated – housing 178 individuals
- 83nr. pledges withdrawn or not viable

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

Financial Supports

€47,917 was approved in financial supports to businesses consisting of Market Explorer, Energy Efficiency grant and Lean for Micro supports in January.

Training & Events

- Start Your Own Business Programme
- Social Media Clinics
- Using Generative AI for Marketing Clinics
- Business Website Review Clinics

Group Training activities had 32 participants during January.

Mentoring

44 individuals participated in one-to-one mentoring in January.

Sligo Women in Business

Sligo Women in Business Network met twice in January. The first meeting was held on Oíche Nollaig na mBan, and was a celebration of supporting all things local. There were over 50 members in attendance in Rosses Point.

Consultancy – Productivity Supports

- 3 Green for Business and 1 Digital for Business support was approved.

10x Northwest

The 10X NORTHWEST 2026 Entrepreneurship Exchange is an exclusive programme designed for Northwest SMEs to engage with senior business leaders to accelerate their scaling journey. Twelve senior entrepreneurs and business leaders provide advisory and mentoring support to smaller companies in the region.

LEO Sligo, as part of a collaboration of enterprise agencies, hosted a Strategic Needs Workshop on 23 January in Lough Rynn Castle as part of the 10xNW 2026 Entrepreneurship Exchange programme.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AIM Centre

The AIM Centre launched its services at The Landing Studio in CREW, Galway, expanding its presence beyond Sligo and strengthening its role in supporting creative and innovation-led enterprises. AIM also delivered its second ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) for SMEs international webinar on 28 January, as part of the Sustainable SMEs Interreg NPA project, with further regional and transnational activities to follow.

Arctic Edge

The Arctic Edge Interreg NPA Project completed its first pilot, successfully testing low-cost tools for tracking a simulated supply chain—a key Period 2 milestone that will support SME engagement and the promotion of project services.

Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)

The July–December 2025 six-month AEC Report has been submitted to the Western Development Commission for issue to the DCRDG.

PEACEPLUS – Smart Towns and Villages (IA 2.4)

The project is awaiting a Letter of Offer from SEUPB, with a provisional start date of 1 April 2026. All Connected Hubs in Sligo have been assessed for participation, with positive responses received.

Sligo Economic Forum

The first meeting of the Sligo Economic Forum for 2026 will take place in February.

Tourism

Holiday World

The Tourism Officer attended the Holiday World Show in the RDS Dublin from 23–25 January. The Visit Sligo stand, aligned to the Sligo DEDP, showcased imagery and content representing all strategic pillars.

Tourism businesses and organisations from Sligo engaged with more than 25,000 visitors planning trips for 2026. Festivals and events were the main theme, with strong promotion of local food and drink through tastings of Lough Gill and White Hag beers and seaweed pesto.

A dedicated brochure featuring time-limited offers was produced, and a competition generated over 500 contacts for future marketing. The new Visit Sligo brochure was also launched, and the Tourism Officer participated in panel discussions, podcast interviews, and meetings with tour operators and travel media.



New Visit Sligo Industry Brochure

A new 40-page Visit Sligo brochure was produced, aligned to the Sligo DEDP and brand guidelines. It highlights local visitor experiences, includes a map, QR codes, and accommodation contacts, and will be distributed nationwide in airports, visitor centres, hotels, and other locations.

Ideas Engine Recognition

The Tourism Section's itinerary planning tool, the Ideas Engine, was featured in the Irish Independent *Travel Insiders Top 100 Hints for 2026*. The Managing Director of Ashford Castle and Lodge praised it as a "forward-thinking approach to local tourism" and an example of smart, collaborative innovation.

Festivals & Events

Applications opened for funding under the Commercial, Tourism and Regional Festivals & Events Open Call. Work continues on delivering the Sligo Festival & Events Strategy, with an exciting programme planned for 2026.

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

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday 4th February

3.30pm Contract signing for Dromore West & Easkey,
Council Chamber, County Hall

Thursday 5th February

12.30pm Western Inter-County Rail Committee Meeting,
Council Chamber, County Hall

Monday 9th February

10.00am January Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall
3.30pm Meeting with ESB Networks, Council Chamber, County Hall

Tuesday 10th February

10.00am Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC)
Meeting, Members Room, County Hall

Wednesday 25th February

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

Thursday 26th February

12.00pm Public Art Steering Group Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Saturday 28th February

LAMA Awards 2026, Dublin Royal Convention Centre



LATEST NEWS

CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS CEREMONY HONOURS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS



The annual Cathaoirleach's Awards Ceremony took place at County Hall on Wednesday, 28th January 2026, celebrating the remarkable individuals, groups, schools, and volunteers whose contributions continue to enrich and strengthen communities across County Sligo.

[View full story](#)

ST BRIGID'S BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND WATER SAFETY APPEAL FROM IRISH COAST GUARD, RNLI AND WATER SAFETY IRELAND

St Brigid's Bank Holiday weekend water safety appeal from Irish Coast Guard, RNLI and Water Safety Ireland



Following a period of poor weather, storms and heavy rainfall, the Irish Coast Guard, Water Safety Ireland and the RNLI are reminding the public that checking weather and sea conditions is a critical first step before any coastal or water-based activity.

[View full story](#)

CIVIC RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PRESIDENT CATHERINE CONNOLLY HELD BY SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL



Sligo County Council hosted a historic and heartfelt Civic Reception on Thursday evening, 15 January 2026, in honour of President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, at County Hall, Sligo.

[View full story](#)

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SLIGO'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS



Sligo County Council is inviting applications under the Community Monuments Fund 2026 (CMF 2026) for the conservation of archaeological monuments.

[View full story](#)

SLIGO CROWNED IRELAND'S CLEANEST TOWN IN IBAL 2025 RANKINGS



Sligo has been named Ireland's Cleanest Town in the 2025 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) rankings, marking a historic first for the town.

[View full story](#)

TUBBERCURRY WINS AT ALL ISLAND IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS



THE HARE'S CORNER 2026

Applications are open for The Hare's Corner, an innovative biodiversity project developed by the nonprofit Burrenbeo Trust, which is returning to Sligo for its second year in partnership with Sligo County Council.

[View full story](#)

RECRUITMENT

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

RETAINED FIREFIGHTER
SLIGO - BALLYMOTE - ENNISCRONE - TUBBERCURRY

APPLY NOW

CLOSING DATE:
4.30 pm Thursday 19th February 2026

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY:
jobs@sligococo.ie

Retained Firefighter

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

Closing date: 4.30pm Thursday 19th February, 2026

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INTERNAL AUDITOR
(TEMPORARY CONTRACT – 1 YEAR DURATION)

APPLY NOW

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VIA EMAIL ONLY:
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Internal Auditor

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Sligo.

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.