



Sligo.

Monthly Management Report

July-August 2026



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



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To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

Re: Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for July-August 2026

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for July-August 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):

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

Following the official announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) of the successful Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) projects on 2nd July, grant approval letters were issued during the week commencing 6th July. The claims process is now underway and will continue over the coming months.

Community & Voluntary Grants 2026

The claim phase of the scheme is currently underway and will continue over the coming months.

Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)

The LEAF scheme closed for applications on 15th July, with a total of 12 applications received. The assessment process has now been completed, resulting in 11 applications being approved and 1 application deemed unsuccessful.

2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As of 25th August, a total of 57 LEADER projects have been approved by the LCDC/LAG, representing funding of €2,393,202.35.

Claims have been approved for 25 projects, amounting to €980,824.22.

Monthly return payments totalling €463,963.23 have been received under the 2023–2027 LEADER Programme.

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 against the Annual (KPI) targets for Goals 1 and 2 is outlined in the table below:

	Target	Actuals	%Achieved
KPI 1	50	43	86%
KPI 2	431	388	90%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	18.00	28.07%	



Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme

Capital Projects

Tendering is nearing completion for the four capital projects. The following elements remain outstanding:

- **Retractable Seating, Dromore West Digiversal:** Procurement of the retractable seating is currently being finalised.
- **PAZMAS Armada Trail Signage:** A response to the Request for Quotations (RFQ) has been received, and contract award and signing are expected shortly.

The SEUPB has decommitted funding for the Celtic Connections project. Notwithstanding this decision, the Council remains committed to delivering key elements of the project and will continue to explore alternative funding opportunities to support its implementation.

Project Partner Initiatives

Both partner projects are now in the delivery phase, 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 nine programme projects currently being progressed:

- Seven projects have been fully contracted and are advancing to delivery.
- Two projects, *We Can Fix It* and *Supporting Local*, have been decommitted by the SEUPB. The Council submitted an appeal against the decommitment decisions; however, the original determinations were subsequently upheld by the SEUPB.



Sligo Age Friendly Programme

A meeting of the Sligo Age Friendly Executive Committee was held on 9th July. Key matters discussed included the introduction of 30 km/h speed limits in urban and built-up areas, the Sligo Age Friendly Connecting with Care Homes initiative, and preparations for the forthcoming Age Friendly Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for 14th October 2026.

Members also received updates on a range of ongoing initiatives, including:

- The Markievicz Park Audit
- The EnergyCloud Pilot Project
- Seating provision on O'Connell Street
- The Over 55s Climate Course
- The Message in a Bottle Scheme
- ATU Intergenerational Day
- PPN Podcast Development
- Skills Mapping Initiatives

The Committee also confirmed and welcomed the appointment of a new Vice-Chair.

Healthy Sligo

Funding for Healthy Ireland Round 4 to support the delivery of the Healthy Sligo 2026 Programme was approved by the Department of Health in May 2026. Work is progressing across 15 project areas, involving close collaboration with a broad range of service providers and partner organisations.

This includes the development and refinement of 2026 Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to ensure alignment with national health and wellbeing objectives while maintaining a strong focus on local priorities and outcomes. Following confirmation from Pobal that funding has been received, project delivery is now underway.

Sligo PPN

- A draft of the PPN Annual Report has been completed and is currently with the Secretariat for final review and approval.
- The Sligo Community Voices Podcast continues to gain momentum, with the latest episode recorded during Tubbercurry Old Fair Day.
- Work is also progressing on the development of a PPN Representatives Booklet, which will introduce PPN representatives to the wider membership and committee members. The booklet will showcase the experience, skills and expertise that representatives bring to decision-making structures throughout the county.



Sligo Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) has continued to advance the development of Sligo's first Community Safety Plan (2026–2029). A countywide public consultation was launched in July 2026 and will remain open until 18th September 2026.



A comprehensive awareness and engagement campaign has been undertaken, including public meetings, media promotion, stakeholder engagement and participation at community events. These activities resulted in more than 300 survey responses being received by mid-August.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

The LAIT hosted 11 information and support clinics, engaging with 64 refugees across the county.



Update on State-Supported Accommodation for People Displaced from Ukraine

The Government has agreed to phase out accommodation supports that have been provided to people displaced from Ukraine since 2022. As part of this process, State-supported accommodation will no longer be automatically available to all beneficiaries of temporary protection who arrived in Ireland before March 2024. The changes commenced at the end of June 2026 and are being implemented on a phased basis.

On 1st September, residents in four State-supported accommodation centres in County Sligo were notified that accommodation at these locations will cease from 30th November 2026.

Individuals affected by these changes may apply for continued accommodation through a State-supported accommodation centre where specific needs can be demonstrated. Alternatively, they are being encouraged and supported to secure accommodation independently.

4. PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE:

Financial Supports



During the reporting period, €25,000 in financial supports was approved for local businesses. This included funding under the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme, which primarily supported hospitality businesses in upgrading equipment and improving energy performance within their premises.

Due to strong demand, additional funding capacity was secured for the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme, which is now funded through a national allocation model rather than fixed local budgets.

Funding was also approved under the Grow Digital Voucher Scheme, supporting businesses to enhance their digital systems and processes, and the Market Explorer Grant, which assists businesses in attending international trade fairs and exploring new export opportunities.



Productivity Supports

A total of €30,750 was approved under the Green for Business, Lean for Business, and Digital for Business programmes. These initiatives provide businesses with access to expert consultancy support to improve energy efficiency, increase productivity, streamline operations, and enhance the adoption of digital technologies.

Training Programmes

A total of 167 participants took part in a range of training programmes aimed at enhancing the skills and capabilities of business owners and their employees.

Programmes delivered during the period included:

- Mastering LinkedIn for Business
- Social Media Marketing for Start-Up Businesses
- Start Your Own Business Programme
- Pricing for Childcare Businesses
- Starting a Business: The Essentials



Mentoring

Mentoring support was approved for 48 businesses through a combination of one-to-one business clinics and targeted mentoring assignments of up to ten hours for businesses with more complex requirements.

Mentoring clinics delivered during the period included:

- Tax Management for Small Businesses
- Social Media for Business
- Generative AI for Digital Marketing
- Business Website Review

Sligo Women in Business Network (SWIBN)

The Sligo Women in Business Network Summer Networking Event took place on 25th August at the Glasshouse Hotel.

Outreach Clinics

Local Enterprise Office Business Advisors delivered outreach clinics in Strandhill and Ballymote during July and August, providing businesses with direct access to advice and support services. Additional clinics are planned for the coming months.

Student Enterprise Programme

Preparations are underway for the 2026/2027 Student Enterprise Programme. The procurement process has been completed, and engagement with schools across the county is scheduled to commence in September 2026.

Export Development

LEO Sligo continues to support businesses seeking to expand into international markets through a range of export-focused initiatives and supports designed to improve market readiness and facilitate business growth overseas.

North West Green Enterprise Pilot Scheme

LEO Sligo supported the launch of the Green Enterprise Pilot Scheme (GEPS), which opened for applications on 29th July 2026.

Delivered by Atlantic Technological University (ATU), the scheme provides grant aid ranging from €30,000 to €150,000 for SMEs developing low-carbon technologies, products, and services across the North West region. Participating businesses also have access to specialist training and business support programmes.

An information and advisory clinic was held in Sligo on 5th August to assist prospective applicants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AIM Centre

The AIM Centre Sligo opened applications and scheduled the next cohort of its AI Accelerator Programme at the National AI Studio.

The programme, running from 12 August to 16 September 2026, provides SMEs with practical guidance and implementation roadmaps to support the adoption of Artificial Intelligence within their businesses. The programme commenced with a hybrid training session and introductory webinar on 12 August.

Connexus Project – PEACEPLUS

The Connexus Project will work with six Connected Hubs across County Sligo to deliver digital programmes and strengthen their long-term capacity and sustainability.

The inaugural meeting of the Connexus Steering Group was held online on 3 July 2026, bringing together senior representatives from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (Lead Partner), Sligo County Council, Leitrim County Council, and the Project Management Team.

At local level, BABLE GmbH undertook visits to digital hubs in Sligo and Leitrim to complete baseline assessments of existing facilities and activities.

The official project launch is scheduled to take place in Ballymena, Co. Antrim, on 1st October 2026.



Night Time Economy

The Night-Time Economy Pilot Programme continues to support initiatives aimed at improving accessibility, safety, and the overall visitor experience in Sligo.

The *Ask for Angela* initiative is being expanded in collaboration with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force, while the NTE Advisor continues to contribute to the work of the Local Community Safety Partnership Subgroup, ensuring alignment between community safety and night-time economy objectives.

Additional strategic initiatives currently underway include:

- Analysis of local spending patterns
- Development of Sligo's Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) offering
- Delivery of the Care in the Square initiative this autumn
- Exploration of a mobility data project to better understand visitor movement patterns and inform future planning and investment decisions

In August, Sligo received confirmation that the Night-Time Economy Pilot Programme has been extended until June 2027, providing continued opportunities to advance key initiatives and support sustainable growth in the sector.

Geo-Insights

Engagement has commenced with Mastercard Geo Insights regarding the provision of customised economic analysis for County Sligo.

The initiative will support the Economic Development and Tourism Sections, as well as Sligo BID, by providing more detailed economic intelligence for Sligo Town.

TOURISM

Visit of El Galeón Andalucía

In July, El Galeón Andalucía, a replica Spanish Armada galleon, visited Sligo for a two-week period, attracting an estimated 40,000 visitors to both the vessel and Sligo Port.

The visit aligned closely with the objectives of the Destination and Economic Development Plan (DEDP) and was delivered in partnership with the Remembering the Armada Festival Committee, Grange.

The event delivered a substantial economic and tourism benefit for the county.



Be the Mountain – A Tribute to Benbulbin by Niall Breslin

The Tourism Section engaged with Irish recording artist and mental health advocate Niall Breslin (Bressie) in the production and promotion of *Be the Mountain*, a short film tribute to Benbulbin.

The film premiered to a sold-out audience at the Art Deco Theatre, Ballymote, and has since been released on YouTube and submitted to a number of international film festivals.

Entente Florale Judging Day, Riverstown

The Tourism Section supported the Riverstown Tidy Towns Committee in preparation for judging under the prestigious Entente Florale Awards.

Festivals and Events

Festival Capacity Building

Training and capacity-building supports continue to be provided to festival and event organisers through a programme of tailored courses developed in response to identified sectoral needs.

Tubbercurry Old Fair Day

The Tourism Section maintained a presence at Tubbercurry Old Fair Day, providing tourism businesses with an opportunity to promote their offerings to an estimated 25,000 visitors attending this landmark annual event.



Taste of Sligo Food Festival

A promotional tourism stand was provided at the Taste of Sligo Food Festival, held in Queen Maeve Square, enabling tourism-related businesses to showcase their products and services.

Festival and Event Support

During July and August 2026, Sligo County Council supported 13 festivals and major events across County Sligo.

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

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday 7th September

4.00pm Sligo LCSP Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

Wednesday 9th September

10.00am PEACEPLUS Partnership Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

Thursday 10th September

11.00am Disability Consultative Committee, Council Chamber, County Hall

Friday 11th September

11.00am Sligo Economic Forum Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

1.00pm September 11th 25th Anniversary Commemoration, Ballymote

Saturday 12th September

8.00pm Paddy Killoran CCÉ Fleadh Cheoil winners Homecoming Concert, Coach House, Ballymote

Monday 14th September

9.00am CPG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10.00am September Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

3.00pm Arts Assessment Panel Meeting, Members Room, County Hall

4.00pm Town Twinning Meeting, Management Suite, County Hall

Friday 18th September

5.00pm Civic Reception for Crozon delegation, City Hall

Monday 21st September

9.30am Sligo Drumcliff MD Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10.00am Borough District of Sligo MD Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

2.30pm SPC 1 Housing & Governance Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall



Tuesday 22nd September

11.30am Audit Committee Meeting, Members Room, County Hall

Wednesday 23rd September

11.00am SPC 4 – Placemaking Meeting, Chamber, City Hall

Thursday 24th September

11.00am SPC 2 Climate & Infrastructure Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

5.30pm Civic Reception, EU Presidency – Lithuanian Ambassador, City Hall

Saturday 26th September

1.45pm Buildings of Ireland Charitable Trust (BOICT) – Sligo Symposium, City Hall
(*Cathaoirleach Cllr Mulvey attending*)

Monday 28th September

2.00pm Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD Meeting, Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry

Wednesday 30th September

9.00am World Heritage Nomination Team, Sligo Park Hotel

11.00am Creative Ireland Culture Team Meeting, Chamber, City Hall



LATEST NEWS

Enterprise 2035 Public Consultation - Sligo Submission



ENTERPRISE 2035 PUBLIC CONSULTATION - SLIGO SUBMISSION

County Sligo stakeholders are being invited to help shape Ireland's next national enterprise strategy.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL WELCOMES THE GUM LITTER TASKFORCE ROADSHOW PROMOTING CLEANER COMMUNITIES, GUM DISPOSAL AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT), in partnership with Sligo County Council, made a stop in Sligo as part of its 2026 Summer Roadshow, promoting responsible gum disposal, cleaner communities, and greater awareness of Ireland's transition to a circular economy.

[View full story](#)



DRIVERS, PARENTS AND SCHOOLS URGED TO PRIORITISE ROAD SAFETY AS CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

With children across Ireland preparing to return to school this week, drivers, parents and children are being encouraged to take extra care on the roads.

[View full story](#)

STOCK CONDITION SURVEYS & PRIVATE RENTED TENANCY INSPECTIONS



STOCK CONDITION SURVEYS & PRIVATE RENTED TENANCY INSPECTIONS

Sligo County Council have engaged Assess Ireland to carry out condition surveys of the Council's social housing stock over the coming months. The survey forms part of the Council's work to maintain up-to-date records of the condition of its housing stock and to support effective maintenance and management planning.

[View full story](#)



CONTRACT SIGNED FOR 20 NEW SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS AT PIRN MILL ROAD

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the formal signing of a contract for the construction of 20 new social housing units at Pirn Mill Road, Sligo.

[View full story](#)



HERITAGE WEEK EVENT - SLIGO FIELD CLUB AND AIDAN MANNION

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thomas Walsh welcomed President of the Sligo Field Club, Wendy Lyons, Dymphna Mannion, Ross Mannion, Dr Fíona Gallagher, and members of the public to Sligo Central Library for a Heritage Week event celebrating the Sligo Field Club Journal and the life and work of local historian Aidan Mannion.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL LAUNCHES PILOT AGE FRIENDLY RIGHTSIZING SCHEME IN CRANMORE

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the launch of a new Pilot Age Friendly Rightsizing Scheme, which will provide new housing opportunities for older residents within the Cranmore Regeneration Area.

[View full story](#)



LOVE SLIGO BEACHES DAY PROMOTES CLEANER, SAFER BEACHES IN ROSSES POINT AND ENNISCRONE

Sligo County Council's Love Sligo Beaches Day saw teams visiting both Rosses Point and Enniscrone Blue Flag beaches.

[View full story](#)



RIVERSTOWN WELCOMES ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE INTERNATIONAL JURY

Riverstown proudly welcomed the Entente Florale Europe international judging committee as part of the village's participation in the prestigious European horticultural and community improvement competition.

[View full story](#)



CONTRACT SIGNING FOR HOUSING AT GLENVIEW PARK

Sligo County Council is pleased to announce the formal signing of a contract for the construction of three housing units at Glenview Park, Ash Lane, Sligo.

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NATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2026

The National Day of Commemoration Ceremony took place on Sunday, 12 July 2026, at Sligo City Hall, honouring the memory of Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or while serving in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO AND LITHUANIA CELEBRATED AT YEATS EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Sligo County Council was honoured to welcome His Excellency Jonas Grinevičius, Ambassador of Lithuania to Ireland, and Her Excellency Séadhna MacHugh, Ambassador of Ireland to Lithuania, to County Hall on Monday, 6 July, for the launch of the exhibition Yeats: The Life and Works of W.B. Yeats.

[View full story](#)