



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.



• 2024 •

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## OUR MISSION

**“ To maximise economic, social, cultural and community development, to harness Sligo’s potential as smart city/community, deliver efficient and cost-effective services in a democratic, sustainable and transparent manner in partnership with local communities, voluntary and statutory agencies. ”**







# INTRODUCTION BY CATHAOIRLEACH & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As we reflect on 2024, we do so with a deep appreciation of the progress made and the challenges overcome in what has been a transformative year for Sligo County Council.

While the easing of inflationary pressures brought some relief, the legacy of increased costs over the preceding years has become more evident, particularly in contract tenders. These financial realities continue to shape the delivery of services to the people of Sligo. Yet, despite these pressures, our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity has remained steadfast.

In an increasingly competitive global and national environment, where the race to attract investment is intensifying, Sligo must continue to assert itself as a premier destination to Live, Visit, and Invest. This imperative underpins our strategic efforts across all functions of the Council, as we work to position Sligo as a county of opportunity, resilience, and creativity.

One of the most exciting initiatives undertaken in 2024 was our ongoing application for UNESCO World Heritage status for the Passage Tomb Landscape. This project holds enormous potential, not just in terms of heritage recognition, but also for tourism, education, and community pride.

Digital transformation remains at the heart of our mission to improve public service delivery. In 2024, we launched a new grants portal and introduced an online planning enforcement system, both designed to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency. These advancements reflect our alignment with Connecting Government 2030, Ireland's national digital and ICT strategy.

The official launch of the Disability Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024–2027 marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a more inclusive society. This strategy is a clear statement of our commitment to ensuring equal access and opportunity for all who live in and visit Sligo.

Our natural environment continues to be a source of pride and attraction. We are delighted that Rosses Point and Enniscrone have once again achieved Blue Flag status, while Dunmorán Strand and Streedagh Beach received Green Coast Awards. In total, Sligo was awarded two Blue Flags and four Green Coast Awards in 2024, affirming the high quality and environmental standards of our coastal amenities.

A notable achievement in 2024, was securing €200,000 in funding through the THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme, a significant step in our vision to transform Sligo Gaol into a vibrant tourism and community facility. This funding supports the development of a future application under Strand 2 in 2025, and represents an exciting opportunity to preserve and reimagine one of Sligo's most iconic heritage assets.

The official opening of Queen Maeve Square in May 2024 has proven transformative. Developed in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, this dynamic space has quickly become a hub of cultural and economic activity. Queen Maeve Square has boosted footfall, revitalised local businesses and reinforcing Sligo Town's reputation as a premier destination for tourism, social, and cultural engagement.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the Elected Members and the staff of Sligo County Council throughout 2024. We also wish to express our thanks and appreciation to all the voluntary and community organisations, which the Council interacts with on a daily basis, for their ongoing collaboration and support.

Together, we look forward to building on these achievements and continuing to make Sligo a county that people are proud to call home, to visit, and to invest in.



**CLLR DECLAN BREE**  
CATHAOIRLEACH



**MARTIN LYDON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Sunset in Strandhill

# MEMBERS OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

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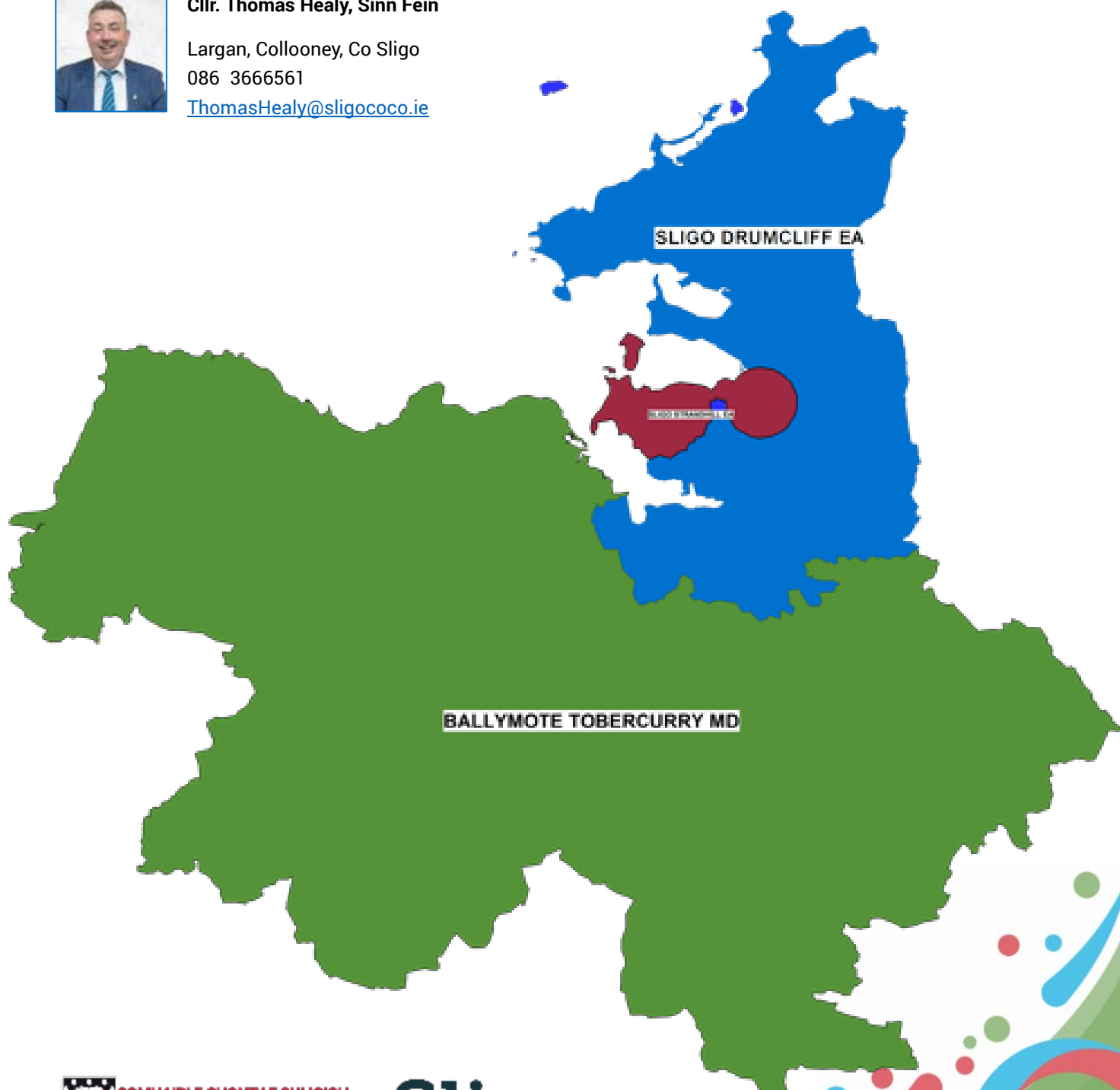
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# MANAGEMENT TEAM



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Queen Maeve Square



# STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

There are 4 Strategic Policy Committees operating in Sligo County Council, details of which are as follows:

- SPC 1 – Housing & Corporate
- SPC 2 – Environment & Infrastructure
- SPC 3 – Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture
- SPC 4 – Climate Change

## SPC 1 – Housing & Corporate

- Councillor Arthur Gibbons, Chairperson
- Councillor Martin Baker
- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Tom Fox
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Paul Taylor
- Alan McMenamin, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Pippa Black, PPN Social Inclusion
- Melinda Swann, PPN Environment
- Paschal Connolly, Trade Union Pillar
- Trevor McDaid, Business Pillar

### Meetings Held

- 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Issues Considered

- Draft Sligo County Council Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024-2027





## SPC 2 – Environment & Infrastructure

- Councillor Thomas Walsh, Chairperson
- Councillor Michael Clarke
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Dónal Gilroy
- Councillor Joe Queenan
- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady
- Sharon Eastwood, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Joan Swift, PPN Environment
- Conor McCarthy, Business Pillar
- Michael O'Dowd, IFA

### Meetings Held

- 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

### Issues Considered

- Transportation Grant Funding 2024
- Update on Major Infrastructure Projects
- Update on current Active Travel Programme
- National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
- Update on the Eastern Garvoge Bridge and Approach Roads
- Speed Limit Review
- The N59
- Review of Winter Maintenance Plan

## SPC 3 – Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture

- Councillor Rosaleen O'Grady, Chairperson
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Gerard Mullaney
- Councillor Arthur Gibbons
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Thomas Walsh
- Councillor Tom Fox
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Aoife O'Toole, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Sheila Scanlon, PPN Social Inclusion
- Emer Knowles, PPN Environment
- Karen O'Hara, Trade Union Pillar
- Aidan Doyle, Business Pillar
- Des Morrison, IFA

### Meetings Held

- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

### Issues Considered

- Tubbercurry Public Realm Enhancement Project
- Review of the County Development Plan 2024-2030
- Digital Innovation and Development
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030
- Community Recognition Fund 2024



## SPC 4 – Climate Change

- Councillor Sinéad Maguire, Chairperson
- Councillor Dara Mulvey
- Councillor Martin Connolly
- Councillor Dónal Gilroy
- Councillor Paul Taylor
- Councillor Tom MacSharry
- Lisa Moore, PPN Community & Voluntary
- Yvonne Lang, PPN Environment
- Laura Gaffney, Business Pillar
- Bernard Finan, IFA

### Meetings Held

- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Issues Considered

- Local Authority Climate Action Plan
- Climate Action Fund
- Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency





Who first flowered blossomed on this earth  
was an introduction to the unborn ones  
Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore  
1861-1941  
Erected on 20th June 2003  
by  
Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India,  
New Delhi, India  
in the presence of the 2003 State Anniversary of British India Vaisakhi  
Festival

Bust of Nobel laureate  
Rabindranath Tagore



# OUR PRINCIPAL SERVICES

We have 4 service areas as follows:

1

## Planning and Community and Economic Development



- Community Development and Supports, Inclusion, and Wellbeing
- Economic development, Enterprise and Digital development, Tourism development and promotion, Town Centre and Rural Regeneration
- Land Use Planning, Development Management, Forward Planning, Enforcement and Vacant Homes Office, Heritage, Conservation and Biodiversity
- Cultural Development and Creativity, Library and Arts Services

2

## Housing, Corporate and Human Resources



- Social Housing Services
- Homeless and Traveller Services
- Capital Housing Delivery
- Corporate Services and Human Resources

3

## Infrastructure, Environment and Fire Services



- Transportation Infrastructure maintenance and improvement
- Water Services provision under SLA with Irish Water
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Environmental Protection
- Recreational areas maintenance and improvement
- Water Safety, beach and coastal management
- Veterinary Service
- Major Emergency Management
- Emergency fire and rescue and fire prevention
- Building Control

4

## Finance



- Financial Management and Income Collection
- Use of Information and Communication Technology
- Procurement Compliance and Planning
- Internal Audit independent assurance



Enniscrone Beach





# PLANNING, ENFORCEMENT & HERITAGE

## Development Management

A total of 543 planning applications were received in 2024 which represents a 12% increase from 2023.

Since the introduction of the Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) process (i.e. 100+ dwellings), there has been an increase in the number of more complex applications which are being processed by the planning authority (as opposed to being submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP)). Following receipt of 1 LRD in 2023 for 127 units on Second Sea Road, an additional 2 LRDs were received in 2024 for 207 units on Oakfield Road and 118 units on Newtownholmes Road in Caltragh.

Over 90% of applications in 2024 were received via E-Planning (up from 78% in 2023). The planning section will continue to increase its online services by moving all of the following applications to electronic format: pre-planning, exempted development, event licences, extensions of duration, extension of time and Section 254 licences.

The new Planning and Development Act was published towards the end of 2024. This will be followed by updates to the Planning and Development Regulations. These legislative changes will inevitably have a significant impact on the processes and procedures undertaken within the Development Management section.

Further progress was made on the implementation of the Residential Zone Land Tax (RZLT). This included the assessment of 16 submissions on the Draft Annual Map published in February 2024.

## Development Planning Unit (DPU)

The lengthy and arduous process of reviewing the Development Plan concluded on 30 September 2024, when the Elected Members formally made the new Sligo CDP 2024-2030. Extensive public consultation over the previous years resulted in over 300 amendments to the initial Draft Plan.

The new Plan became operational on 11 November 2024, except for certain provisions which were subject to a Draft Direction issued by the Minister for HLGH on 8 November 2024.

## Enforcement

92 Enforcement files were opened in 2024, and 102 no. were resolved and closed through negotiation or enforcement proceedings. The Enforcement process has been streamlined with the upgrading of the Enforcement database, an online complaint form, conversion to a paperless system and continual progression on the digital transformation front.

## Vacant Homes Unit

The Vacant Homes Unit (VHU) are currently managing two programmes under the Croí Cónaithe scheme i.e. Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG) and the URDF Call 3 programme.

A total of 424 VPRG applications have been received to date of which 169 were received in 2024. 349 have been approved to date with 132 been approved in 2024.

The vacant homes teams attended numerous information evenings throughout the County in 2024 giving advice and assistance to members of the public interested in applying.

Funding has been secured through the URDF Call 3 programme which allows local authorities to acquire long term vacant or derelict properties for onward sale or re-use. 33 properties are included in this programme. Two properties have been compulsory acquired to date with progress being made on the compulsory acquisition on an additional two properties. The Derelict Sites Team have identified the owners of all the other properties with at least 50% of them progressing either for sale on the open market, or refurbishment.

## Derelict Sites

There are 37 derelict properties currently on the Derelict Sites Register with an additional 84 being investigated. 5 properties were removed and brought back into use with an additional 6 properties added to the DS register in 2024. A total of €8,750 was collected in Derelict Site Levies with a further demand for payment of €75,250 issued in 2024.

The update of the derelict sites database is nearing completion following the vacant homes survey carried out at the end of 2023. The Derelict Sites Team will continue to review progress on derelict sites throughout the County and use powers through the Derelict Sites Act to encourage owners to bring properties back into use.

## Heritage

During 2024, the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030 was launched at City Hall, Sligo by Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of The Heritage Council. The Heritage Office continued to support and work with the County Sligo Heritage Forum to implement the County Sligo Heritage Strategy (2023-2030).

The Heritage Office continued to oversee the delivery of the following conservation grant programmes: Built Heritage Investment Scheme (€108,837 for 12 No. Projects), Historic Structures Fund (€441,000 for 7 No. Projects), Community Monuments Fund (€357,900 for 5 No. Projects).



At the launch of the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030 were  
L to R Dorothy Clarke DOS SCC, Martin Lydon CE SCC, Cathaoirleach SCC Cllr. Declan Bree, Virginia Teehan CEO The Heritage Council, Cllr Dónal Gilroy Chairperson Sligo Heritage Forum and Siobhán Ryan A/Senior Heritage Officer, SCC.



The thatched Cottage at Cashelgarron, Co. Sligo benefitted under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme -Thatching Stream in 2024 with a complete rethatch of rye straw. L to R Avril West (who's family own the building), Ivor Kilpatrick and his son James, both Thatcher's from Raphoe, Co. Donegal.



Hazelwood House, Co. Sligo benefitted under the Historic Structures Fund with a grant allocation of €171,000 for conservation works to the main roof.



Conservation works were completed at St. Feichin's Church, Ballysadare with the support of the Community Monuments Fund. The works were undertaken by Sligo County Council in partnership with the local community and will see the future of the medieval church safeguarded for future generations.

## Biodiversity

Implementation of biodiversity actions in 2024 were supported by the DHLGH through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, with additional funding support provided by Sligo County Council and The Heritage Council.

A key focus for 2024 was the preparation of the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan in partnership with the Biodiversity Working Group. Pre-Draft public consultation on the draft plan was undertaken from 26<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 and drafting of the plan progressed throughout the year.



The Biodiversity Working Group held its inaugural meeting in May 2024

Biodiversity projects undertaken with the support of the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) in 2024 included; the treatment of invasive alien species (Rhododendron, Cherry Laurel and Snowberry) at Cleveragh Demesne; a 24-hour BioBlitz at Hazelwood Forest during Biodiversity Week promoting citizen science, biodiversity recording and partnerships and the commissioning of a Sligo Biodiversity Audit, which will provide a detailed baseline for the forthcoming Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan.





Launch of Sligo Biodiversity Week Bioblitz at Hazelwood Forest with Ruth Hanniffy, Sligo Biodiversity Officer; Karen Woods, Coillte Nature; Brian McGarraghy, Coillte and Róisín NigFhloinn and colleagues from Woodrow Environmental Consultants.



Bird ringing in Hazelwood Forest with Micheál Casey from the BirdWatch Ireland Sligo Branch, at the Sligo Biodiversity Week Bioblitz.

## UNESCO World Heritage Site status

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland was announced and included 'The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo'. During 2024, Sligo County Council continued to work with the DHLGH and key stakeholders to put in place the structures and resources required to progress the World Heritage bid. With the support of the DHLGH a Project Coordinator for The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo World Heritage Tentative List site was appointed to Sligo County Council in November 2024.

# COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

In 2024 the LCDC continued to oversee a range of community programmes and activities including the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Community Grants, the Public Participation Network (PPN) Healthy Ireland, PEACE Plus and the new LEADER Programme.



## LECP 2030 – Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision

Monitoring of the 61 actions contained in the Sligo 2030 Implementation Plan continued to be monitored in 2024 with progress communicated via various means including a Newsletter and online campaign, #AnotherSligo2030Project.

## Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC SICAP Programme budget for 2024 was €967,405 made up of the general SICAP budget of €736,008 and New Arrivals allocation of €231,397 to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Funded by DRCD, the SICAP Programme also receives funding from the ES under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2024-2028.



## New LEADER Programme 2023-2027

The LEADER Programme 2023-2027 was launched in 2024 with an overall budget allocation of €6,054,309 overseen by Sligo LCDC (as the Local Action Group) with SLPCo as the Implementing Partner and Sligo County Council as Financial Partner. It supports community development activities under the following headings:

- Economic Development and Job Creation
- Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion
- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation/ Adaptation



Launch of LEADER Programme 2023-2027



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

## Community and Voluntary (C&V) Grants Scheme

A revenue budget of €130,000 was available in 2024 to support community and voluntary activity across the county including Burial Ground Maintenance, Estates and Area Upkeep, Tidy Towns Committees, Community Events, Community Heritage Projects and events and Rural Towns and Villages Seasonal Lights and Greening.

## Local Enhancement Programme

The allocation to Sligo LCDC by the DRCD for this Programme in 2024 was €141,992.62 and was distributed amongst 131 community groups for small scale equipment and capital works including a ringfenced allocation for women's groups.

## Social Inclusion

A number of Social Inclusion Programmes were coordinated in 2024 including, Comhairle na nÓg, Age Friendly and the development and launch of the Council's Disability Consultative Committee. Successful funding applications were made to various central Departments to deliver Africa Day along with securing LGBTI+ Dormant Accounts Funding.

## Age Friendly Programme

In 2024, work continued on the implementation of actions set out in the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026. The strategy is overseen by the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance which is fed into by Sligo Older People's Council.

The Sligo Older Persons Council AGM took place on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 in the Southern Hotel, Sligo with information on SEAI grants for the home, reducing energy, information of the Fair Deal Scheme and the Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme.



Sligo Older Persons Council AGM 2024 – May 2024

## Sligo Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg, the recognised national structure for young people aged 12-17 to participate in local decision-making at county level is overseen by the Council with development support by Foróige. In 2024 it was supported by DCEDIY's Development Fund of €25,000 to deliver the annual work plan. Sligo County Council won the best Mental Health Initiative at the 2024 LAMA Awards in February 2024 for the for the Comhairle na nÓg LGBTI+ animation "Here For You". The initiative is a collaboration between Sligo County Council, its Comhairle na nÓg and Foróige with creative animation provided by Studio Meala. The Initiative was funded by the Department of Rural Community Development under the 2021 Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI+ organisations.



Sligo Comhairle na nÓg celebrating the LAMA Award win with Cathaoirleach Cllr Gerard Mullaney along with staff of the Community Section and Foróige





Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree with Sligo Comhairle na nÓg members at the Sligo Annual Youth Conference in November 2024

## Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland Fund provides funding for the development of social and community activities to address wellbeing and promote physical activity amongst the Sligo population for the period 2022-2025. This is an LCDC Programme with an overall budget is €466,216, including Co-Ordination costs. The Programming budget for 2024 was €78,369.18 which saw the delivery of a range of programmes across the county in collaboration with organisations and local communities. These included, Junior Park Run, Outdoor Yoga, Stronger for Longer/Activator Poles and Play therapy for children aged between 3 and 12 years through the Ballymote Resource Centre.



Participants in Decider Skills Training Programme



Stronger for Longer Programme



Activator Poles Programme – Sligo Library

## Sligo County Council Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024-2027

The Councils' Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024- 2027 was developed under the auspices of Sligo County Council's Disability Consultative Committee (DCC) with input from SPC 1 Housing and Corporate. It is a cross Departmental Strategy which takes into account all relevant services of the Council. It was approved by Sligo County Council at its April 2024 meeting and represents the Council's commitment to making Sligo a more inclusive place in which disabled people can participate equally in all aspects of life.



Launch of the Sligo County Council Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024-2027 on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## PEACEPLUS

The Sligo LCDC's PEACEPLUS Programme was approved funding of €3,604M in November 2024 after a lengthy co design development process across communities in County Sligo. The approved plan provides funding commitment to 15 projects by the end of 2027 under the themes:

- Local Community Regeneration and Transformation
- Thriving and Peaceful Communities
- Celebrating Cultures and Diversity - (Social Inclusion)



Members of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership and Sligo County Council celebrating PEACEPLUS Funding Announcement of €3.604m



Participants at Celebrating our Waters Event, May 2024

## PPN (Public Participation Network)



Lionra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Shligigh  
Public Participation Network Sligo

In 2024, the PPN continued to support key networks and initiatives including Street Feast, Sligo Disabled Persons Organisation, Autism Friendly Sligo and Sligo Bay Catchment Area Rivers Trust, Celebrating our Waters Event. Following the Local Elections in May 2024 the PPN facilitated the nomination process of community and voluntary representation onto the Council's SPC's.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.



## Tourism and Festivals

### Queen Maeve Festival

The Tourism / Festival and Events team delivered a new landmark festival – Queen Maeve Festival to accompany the launch of the new space.

This free festival took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend in the newly redeveloped public space – Queen Maeve Square.

It had an exciting and varied programme of events and gigs with headline acts including Gavin James (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May), Moncrieff (Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May) and Téada & Niamh Farrell (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May).



Queen Maeve Square was officially opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD, in the company of Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Gerard Mullaney

### Festival Grant Scheme

The 2024 Festival Grant Scheme was approved by Council and saw €53.5k distributed across 16 festivals throughout the county.

Festivals that benefitted from support from Sligo County Council included:

- Tubbercurry Old Fair Day
- Sligo Summer Festival
- Black Pig
- Sligo Camino
- Ballygawley music festival
- Sligo Jazz Festival
- Sligo Fleadh
- Sligo Whiplash festival
- Tread Softly festival
- Cairde festival



Work commenced on the Festival and Events Strategy for Sligo, including extensive consultations to enable a framework to support festivals as key tourism drivers be put in place.



## DEDP launch

The Destination Experience and Development Plan was launched in April 2024 by Fáilte Ireland. This strategy was developed after significant contribution from Sligo County Council and will help drive and sustain tourism over the next five years. The plan provides a shared vision and clear direction towards improved development, strengthening the promotion of the area's unique features by growing the destination's market share through the delivery of priority projects and experiences that seek to maximise the key strengths of the area. It builds on the ambition of the Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy and will be key to growing the value of tourism in the northern half of the region.



Launch of Sligo Destination and Experience Development Plan April 2024

The plan builds on a number of existing destination development projects that will bring local experiences to life including the National Surf Centre Strandhill, the National Mountain Bike Centre in Coolaney, and new state-of-the-art facilities for outdoor water-based activities at Enniscrone and Rosses Point.

## Promotion of Sligo tourism in London

A delegation travelled to London to promote Sligo in conjunction with Sligo Chamber of Commerce and the Sligo London Business Network. A special event was held in the landmark Bloomsbury Hotel in the heart of central London. The delegation from Sligo County Council included Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree, Chief Executive Martin Lydon, Director of Services Dorothy Clarke, Senior Executive Officer Margaret McConnell and Tourism Officer Aidan McCormack.

Representatives from the Sligo tourism industry showcased the very best of the Sligo offering. Leading restaurateur Anthony Gray presented on the world class food and drink offering in Sligo, the landmark Sligo Food Trail and the new Taste of Sligo food festival that took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 in Queen Maeve Square.

Co-chair of the Destination Sligo Forum Gerry Moore represented the accommodation sector in the county and Aidan McCormack delivered a presentation on the recent achievements within the tourism landscape along with an overview of the visitor experience currently and information on the Sligo Destination & Experience Development Plan that was launched in April 2024. Chief Executive Martin Lydon detailed the significant projects currently progressing along with major future projects in the pipeline.

The event was very well attended and helped to further cement the relationship with our diaspora in a global city. Sligo producers benefitted from this showcase including Lough Gill Brewery and their limited-edition Sligo Rovers lager. Attendees also enjoyed a taste of Sligo music thanks to the performance and talents of All Ireland winner Paddy Gavin.

### Tourism trade events – Holiday World Show and Meitheal

Attendance at the Fáilte Ireland Meitheal trade event in Killarney was a welcome opportunity to showcase the best of Sligo and what we have to offer to international tour operators and travel buyers.

### Media articles and broadcast work

Further work was undertaken in traditional print media for the promotion of Sligo including content published in the Irish World newspaper based in London and the Go West Magazine which is produced in conjunction with Ireland West Airport Knock. Broadcast television preparation was completed for the *Moving West* TV show, which was broadcast on TG4 in November 2024. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase all that is good in Sligo and to present the county as an attractive place to visit and to live.

This content aligned with the vision and objectives of the Sligo DEDP and reinforces that Sligo is the adventure and activity capital of the North West and a place of immersion in wildness and natural beauty.

### Collaborations

The Tourism Officer worked with ATU Tourism Undergraduates to complete an audit of tourism experiences and attractions throughout the county. This work will contribute to the development of an innovative digital tool that provides visitors with a bespoke itinerary solely for their interests, dates of visit and direction of travel.

The tourism section has assisted Sligo Rovers in the development of a walking tour and visitor experience. A number of pilot walking tours were delivered and very well received.

The Sligo Rovers men's team enjoyed a surfing experience in Strandhill which acted as a fantastic showcase for our world class surfing offering along with being a tremendous team building exercise for this professional outfit. Local media coverage is a useful way of raising the profile of our tourism offering so that locals are aware of what is available and can recommend and advise visiting friends and relatives of what can be enjoyed.

### Conference

The Irish Golf Tour Operator Association (IGTOA) was hosted in Sligo in October, providing a platform for showcasing the very best of the county to visiting delegates. The Irish Golf Tour Operator Association (IGTOA) represents many of the inbound golf tour operators that help make Ireland a leading golf destination to the global market. Sligo is home to three world class links golf courses and these leading tour operators got to experience first hand the standard of courses and facilities available here along with enjoying the world-renowned Sligo hospitality.



Launch of the Irish Golf Tour Operator Association conference

# LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Offices are the first point of contact for business in County Sligo. Local Enterprise Offices are funded by Enterprise Ireland through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This SLA outlines the context for LEO operation, with Enterprise Ireland providing oversight and ensuring appropriate services. The Local Authority, in turn, provides the Local Enterprise Office services within their area.

The local Enterprise Office offers financial supports in the form of Feasibility/Innovation Grants, Priming Grants, Business Expansion Grants and Microfinance Ireland loan funding.

The office also provides a wide range of business mentoring and training supports. It also provides targeted consultancy supports designed to help local businesses improve their competitiveness and productivity and become more effective in their operations. For example, the LEO supports businesses in implementation LEAN Processes which results in costs savings and efficiencies.

The Local Enterprise Offices Policy Statement, which was launched in May 2024 which identified key policy priorities for LEOs. These included:

- Integrating decarbonisation and net zero commitments
- Placing digital at the heart of enterprise policy
- Enabling locally trading sectors to thrive
- Strengthening the Irish-owned exporting sector

To meet these objectives, the Local Enterprise Office was provided with a suite of additional supports which included Green for Business consultancy and the Energy Efficiency Grant, Digital for Business consultancy and the Digital Voucher. To help businesses export, two new supports were introduced; Get Exporting programme and the Market Explorer Grant.

The Local Enterprise Office also plays a key role in fostering an enterprise culture in the County with initiatives such as the Student Enterprise Programme and National Women's Enterprise Day in 2024 and facilitated client companies' participation at events such as Showcase 2024 and the National Ploughing Championships. Local Enterprise Week took place March 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> with a series of Seminars, workshops and training programmes for small businesses.

## Economic Development

The office has been instrumental in the establishment and promotion of the AIM Centre which officially launched in January 2024 and collaborated with the centre during the year to deliver a range of technology themed events and training programmes. The Economic section is collaborating with the AIM centre on 'Artic Edge', an EU programme to develop solutions to supply chain issues in small businesses. Support was also provided to Strand Campus Digital Creative Centre in Strandhill in its efforts to increase its engagement with the creative industry. The inaugural Screen Ireland Industry Networking Event, hosted by the Local Enterprise Office, took place in December in Strand Campus with almost 90 attendees from the Film and TV industry from the region.



The Local Enterprise Office participated in the Littus US programme which provides a range of support to business developing new markets in the US. An economic development visit to Philadelphia took place in February in association with the Sligo Chamber of Commerce. Meetings were held with various Economic Development agencies and business interests in the broader Philadelphia region. Several Sligo businesses have established a presence in the US in recent years as part of the programme.

The LEO collaborates with Sligo BID in supporting local businesses involved in the nighttime economy. The Night-Time Economy Programme is administered by Sligo County Council (LEO) and with funding from DTCAGSM, supported a range of initiatives in 2024 which helped animate the night-time economy.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provided funding for Christmas initiatives which was allocated to 14 projects across County Sligo. Markets, events, lights, and a specific support for the ice rink in Queen Maeve Square were supported with a view to increasing footfall and economic activity in towns and villages.

Sligo Economic Forum met three times in 2024. Meetings focussed on the themes of Tourism, Technology and Regional Development. The Sligo Economic Forum (SEF) has a high-level strategic remit to support and boost the ability of Sligo's economic partners to be the lead in all matters of economic development for the city and county. It consists of representatives from both private and public sectors and is tasked with the responsibility of strategically planning and directing the economic vision for Sligo and implementing actions Local Economic and Community Plan, Sligo 2030 'One Voice One Vision'



Students from Coláiste Iascaigh, represented Sligo in the Student Enterprise National Final



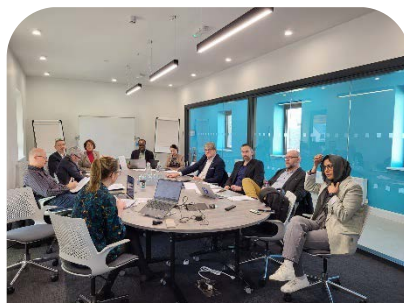
National Women's Enterprise Day event 2024



Sligo company Sleater Solutions wins Regional Enterprise Award



Minster Coveney meeting with members of Sligo Women in Business Network



Arctic Edge European Partners visit with Sligo County Council and AIM Centre Staff



NW Fusion event in partnership with AIM

# LIBRARIES

2024 Sligo Library visitor numbers and lending services increased on 2023:

- 18% increase in visitors to Sligo Libraries
- 19% increase in items borrowed throughout Sligo Library branch network
- 10% increase in items borrowed online
- 15% increase in citizens accessing PCs in Sligo Library branches
- 200% increase in citizens accessing tablet devices (Hublet) in Sligo Central Library

## Right to Read Programme

### Spring into Storytime, April 2024

- 26 events with 606 participants

### Summer Stars June, July, August 2024

- 9% increase on 2023 participation rates, with 1,917 children joining in 2024
- 14% of the population of children in County Sligo participated (Census 2022, 13,373 children aged 0-15 years in County Sligo)
- 1,027 children attended 62 children's events during Summer Stars
- 21,736 physical books issued to children during Summer Stars

### October Book Festival

- 46 events with 916 participants

### Family Time at Your Library, December 2024

- 24 events with 617 participants



### My Little Library Book Bags and My Little Library Bedtime Story Book initiatives

- 838 new library memberships in the 4-5 years category

### Book clubs

- 11 book clubs
- 90 book club meetings held in 2024
- 120+ book club titles borrowed by library and other book clubs in County Sligo

### Schools

- 236 Primary School classes visited Sligo Library branches in 2024
- 29 Post-Primary School classes visited Sligo Library branches in 2024
- 45 Library staff presentations to Primary Schools
- 11 Library staff presentations to Post-Primary Schools
- 78 Class Sets Loaned (2,340 class novels)
- 9,880 books loaned to schools
- 292 Teacher's Cards

## My Open Library

- 3,313 My Open Library (MOL) individual logins throughout 2024
- 743 logins in May 2024; busiest month since MOL relaunched
- 35% of meeting room bookings during MOL hours
- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MOL celebrated in Tubbercurry Community Library in November 2024

## Disability Supports

Equipment to support people with disabilities introduced in 2024 included mobility assistance trolleys, ergonomic height adjustable seating, and wheelchair friendly shelving. The purchase of this equipment was supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

## Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg, Creative Ireland's National Day of Creativity for children and young people, was celebrated in Sligo Library branches and other venues throughout County Sligo.

Workshops held in the lead up to the national day in T-shirt and Tote bag design, STEM circuits and robotics, comic book making, upcycling clothes, ukelele, and music composition and recording.

The full programme of events gave participants an opportunity to realise their creative potential with free activities which included badge-making, ceramics, nature art, nature craft, robotics, sock puppets, youth theatre workshops, and teenage bands live performances in collaboration with Music Generation Sligo.



## Commemorations Programme 2024

Sligo Libraries delivered Sligo County Council's Commemoration Programme 2024 supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media.

- Sligo and the Sense of Place, a six-week series of workshops held in Sligo Central Library.
- Poetry as Commemoration, a four-week series of workshops, held in Local Studies and Archives.
- Tailteann Games 1924 exhibition by staff of Sligo Libraries, detailed the important role sport played in the early years of the emerging state, and documented Paddy Colleran, the Sligo footballer who played in the 1924 games.
- *Bringing Them Home: Sligo's Great War Dead 1914 – 1918*, by local historian Simone Hickey, launched at a special edition of The Word at Sligo Central Library.
- *Taunagh Church, its Families and Clergy*, published by John Taylor and Riverstown Enterprise Development, with support from the Commemorations Programme 2024.



- Commemorations Collection, rare books pertaining to Sligo and the emerging state added to our Local Studies collection.

## Healthy Ireland at Your Library

- 17 Healthy Ireland at your Library events in 2024 with over 160 attending.
- Men's Health drop-in information event ran in collaboration with the HSE Health Promotion and Improvement officer.
- Connecting with Men, an ENGAGE National Men's Health Training initiative, Sligo Library stand.
- 24 new titles added to Healthy Ireland at Your Library collection.
- Healthy Sligo and Sligo Sports Partnership
  - Walking poles were launched in Sligo Central Library in 2024 and available to borrow from all Sligo Library branches.

## Collaborations

### Cáirde Sligo Arts Festival

Sligo Libraries in collaboration with Cáirde Sligo Arts Festival hosted events in Sligo Central Library and Ballymote Community Library.

### Science Festival, ATU Sligo

Primary School classes attended Science Festival events in Sligo Central Library, Ballymote Community Library, and Tubbercurry Community Library, run in collaboration with Science Festival, ATU Sligo.

### BA (Hons) Writing and Literature, ATU Sligo

7 editions of The Word, author event with Q&A and open mic, held in Sligo Central Library in collaboration with the BA in Writing and Literature, ATU Sligo.

### Sligo Leader Partnership

Digital Skills classes in Libraries.

### MSLETB

- Bealtaine Festival 4-week project
- 4-week art project in collaboration with Local Authority Integration Team
- Digital Skills Classes in Libraries
- My Baby and Me programme promoting library services to young parents.



## Down Syndrome Ireland and Down Syndrome Sligo

Sligo County Libraries and Down Syndrome Ireland commenced library clubs for Down Syndrome Sligo members.

- 16 members joined
- Monthly meetings in Sligo Central Library and Tubbercurry Community Library



## Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre

Tubbercurry Community Library and Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre delivered a series of workshops for children with funding Tubbercurry FRC received through the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal

- 36 workshops and events across robotics, drama, music and storytelling, art and crafts, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths)
- 615 children attended this workshop series in Tubbercurry Community Library.

## Climate Action Plan

Sligo County Libraries held 6 public events in 2024 to deliver Action No. 25: Raising public awareness of actions we need to take.

- “Trees in the Irish Landscape” a Native Tree Area Scheme exhibition by staff of Sligo Libraries, was displayed in Ballymote Community Library, Tubbercurry Community Library and County Hall foyer.
- Two events were held in Ballymote and Tubbercurry Community Libraries to support the exhibition.
- 6 Upcycling Workshops culminated with an exhibition of the finished fashion at Sligo Central Library for Cruinniú na nÓg, Saturday 15th June 2024.
- Wild Things nature collage workshop at Sligo Central Library.
- Woodland School outdoor workshop at Cleveragh forest.
- Summer Story trail at Enniscrone.
- SEAI Household Energy Clinic at Tubbercurry Community Library.



## Europe Direct

### Elections

- Europe Direct Sligo, Sligo Family Resource Centre and PPN network event on voting in Local, National and European Elections.
- Europe Direct Sligo and North Connaught Youth Service mock European Election.

- EU Parliament simulation with Bachelor of Business students ATU Sligo representing Environment and Health Ministers of the 27 member states.

### Sligo Women in Business

Europe Direct event with Sligo Women in Business Network highlighting

- EURES Job Mobility Portal
- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
- EU response to environmental, digital, socio-economic, and geopolitical challenges
- EU legislation that may impact business.

### Study Abroad

- 30 Years of EURES Open Day (EUROpean Employment Services)
- Study abroad workshops for young adults 18-30 years.

### Schools

- Awards Ceremony for Students who took part in the EPAS Programme (European Parliament Ambassador School Programme).

### Soapbox

- Regional Soapbox competition in Sligo Central Library
- National Soapbox Final, represented by two Sligo students from Mercy College Sligo and Sligo Grammar School.



### Museum

- Digitising records of Sligo Museum collection commenced in 2024.
- Donation by family of the late Paul Byrne of items presented to him during his tenure as County Manager.

### Archives

- Phase II Archives - records separated into broad functional categories.
- Phase II Sligo Gaol - records held in cells moved to 750+ boxes on ground floor ahead of irradiation and archiving.
- Work carried out in all departments on staff compliance with Records Retention Schedules.





Hazelwood National Forest



# HOUSING

## Process applications, assessments, and allocations for Social Housing Support.

- 1,599 households were on the housing list as at 31/12/2024.
- 240 valid applications for social housing support were received during the year 2024.
- 181 Offers of tenancies of properties from the Council, in accordance with the Councils Allocations Scheme, are outlined in the Table hereunder.

Offers of Tenancy	Accepted	Refused	Pending
181	154	25	2

## Manage Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme, Home Loans Scheme, and private housing adaptation grants


- Sales completed on fourteen properties under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme.
- Seven no. Local Authority Home loans approved.
- Implemented the amended Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Schemes with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024.
- Paid 219 Housing Adaptation Grants totalling over €1,73 million in 2024 to make existing private homes more suitable to live in for older people and for people with a physical, sensory, or intellectual disability or mental health difficulty.
- Supported a total of 722 active Housing Assistance Payment tenancies (including enhanced HAP) in the County, together with 235 homes through the Rented Accommodation Scheme.

## Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) July 2019-June 2024

During 2024, the programme was extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The Table below shows the Target, and the number achieved under this Programme.

Accommodation Type	Target July 2019 to June 2024	Achieved July 2019 to June 2024	Achieved July 2024 to December 2024
Group Housing/ Halting site	12	9	0
Specific Purchase	5	2	3
Upgrade of existing facilities	9	11	1
Council Tenancy	21	22	4
RAS/HAP	17	7	0
Voluntary Housing	2	15	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>10</b>



The new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was adopted by the Members of Sligo County Council on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **Deliver and manage the delivery of Homeless Services**

- Supported three new Housing First tenancies for long-term homeless people.
- Supported the provision of a family hub in a property in Sligo town which can accommodate up to thirty-two persons.

### **Deliver estate management services, tenancy support and tenancy enforcement**

- Provided ongoing management and maintenance of the Council's social housing stock of 2,434 units across the County.
- Spent €2,339,088 on Council stock during the year.
- Spent €907,166 of its own resources on the refurbishment of forty void/vacant properties to a suitable standard for re-letting.
- Received Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage funding in the sum of €297,000 (€11,000 per property) under the Refurbishment Programme. This Programme supports the refurbishment of void/vacant Council properties.
- Retrofitted forty-five social houses under the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme with the aid of a Grant allocation from the Department of €1,402.940 and funding from its own resources of €173,125.
- Spent €581,331 on adaptation works to 49 Council houses under the Housing Adaptation Works/Extensions/DPG'S Programme, with the help of 90% funding from the Department, and 10% funding from its own resources.

### **Implement Regulations for provision of Standards in Private Rented Accommodation in both Local Authority and Private Rented accommodation**

- Undertook 1,147 tenancy inspections (715 houses) inspections of standards in private rented dwellings – Government target set for the Council was 1,088 tenancy inspections,
- Issued 554 Improvement Notices to landlords.

### **Manage and deliver accommodation using the various schemes available to qualifying applicants**

- Provided accommodation for twenty households with medical needs under our Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability 2021 – 2025.
- Acquired twenty-five houses. This included twenty-four houses acquired for Tenants in Situ.
- Supported Approved Housing Bodies in the acquisition of seven no. units under the Capital assistance Scheme (C.A.S.) This included four houses acquired for Tenants in Situ.



## Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-26

### 2024 Delivery

Sligo County Council delivered 31 new social housing units (27% of 2023 HDAP target of 114).

#### Municipal District delivery:

- 16 no. in Sligo Borough / Strandhill MD
- 15 no. in Ballymote Tubbercurry MD

#### Forms of Delivery

##### SHIP: Social Housing Investment Programme: New Build

- 15 no. units Connolly Park, Tubbercurry, Phase 2

##### Turnkey: AHB delivery: Sligo County Council working in partnership with AHB's

- 10 no. units: Sofia Housing Association: Seaville Finisklin

#### Part V delivery

- 6 no. units: Silvercove (2), Darty (2) Ashbrook(1) Oakbrook (1), Ballisodare (1)

Contracts were signed in 2024 for 3 no. new build construction projects

- 126 units, Maugheraboy (63), Camross (39), and Carney (25)

## Sligo East City, Cranmore & Environs Regeneration Masterplan

### PHYSICAL PLAN

#### Phase 3 - Building & Environmental Upgrades

132 Houses (Yeats Drive, Collery Drive, Langan Drive, McNeill Drive and Devins Drive – East)

Works onsite continued, and all residents were contacted with regard to the decanting and recanting process. It is anticipated the works will be completed by September 2025.

#### Sligo East City Community Resource and Recreation Centre

Stage 1 approval has been granted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the new Sligo East City Community Resource and Recreation Centre. Consultation is ongoing with community stakeholders and an architect lead consultant team has been appointed to progress a Part VIII Planning submission in 2025.

# CORPORATE SERVICES

Local Elections were held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and the following 18 councillors were elected to Sligo County Council for the period 2024 to 2029:

## Ballymote / Tubbercurry Electoral Area

Cllr Liam Brennan	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Michael Clarke	Non Party
Cllr Barry Gallagher	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Gerard Mullaney	Fine Gael
Cllr Dara Mulvey	Fine Gael
Cllr Joseph Queenan	Non Party
Cllr Paul Taylor	Fianna Fáil

## Sligo / Drumcliff Electoral Area

Cllr Marie Casserly	Non Party
Cllr Dónal Gilroy	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Thomas Healy	Sinn Féin
Cllr Edel McSharry	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Thomas Walsh	Fine Gael

## Sligo / Strandhill Electoral Area

Cllr Declan Bree	Non Party
Cllr Nessa Cosgrove	Labour
Cllr Arthur Gibbons	Sinn Féin
Cllr Tom MacSharry	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Fergal Nealon	Fine Gael
Cllr Gino O'Boyle	People Before Profit

During 2024, meetings of the Council and Committee meetings were called and conducted in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements as enshrined in Standing Orders.

Relevant advice on statutory requirements and corporate governance were provided to the Cathaoirleach and Municipal District Chairs and Committee chairs on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Statutory compliance and corporate governance compliance was monitored by the Corporate Services section throughout the year.

Meetings of the Corporate Policy Group took place on the following dates, at which advice on issues concerning statutory obligations and proper procedures and Corporate Governance were addressed:

<b>Corporate Policy Group Meetings</b>	15 January 2024
	4 March 2024
	13 May 2024
	8 July 2024
	6 August 2024
	9 September 2024
	7 October 2024
	4 November 2024

The following statutory meetings were held in 2024:

Meeting Type	Number of Meetings held in 2024
Plenary Meetings of Sligo County Council	13
Annual General Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
Sligo Borough Municipal District	8
Sligo/Drumcliffe Municipal District	8
Ballymote/Tubbercurry Municipal District	7
SPC 1: Housing and Corporate	1
SPC 2: Environment and Infrastructure	2
SPC 3: Planning, Community & Economic Development, Arts & Culture	2
SPC 4: Climate Change	3
Corporate Policy Group	8
Joint Policing Committee	1
Local Community Development Committee	7
Local Action Group	7
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	3



Over the course of the year, other non-statutory Committee meetings were also scheduled, as required, and attended by relevant members of the elected Council.

Plenary Meetings, including the AGM and the Budget Meeting, which were held during 2024, were live streamed via the Council's website and the recordings are available to review at [www.sligococo.ie](http://www.sligococo.ie). These meetings were held hybrid to allow councillors to attend either online or in person.

Updates on policy matters, and draft policies, were presented to Strategic Policy Committees during the first half of the year for their consideration and for recommendation to the Council.

Following the local elections in June 2024, work commenced on drafting a new Strategic Policy Scheme, which was adopted by the Council in November 2024; councillors and external representatives to be appointed to the SPCs early in 2025.

### International Contacts

While Sligo has signed three formal Twinning Agreements – with Crozon, Kempton and Tallahassee – it has developed a range of international contacts and regularly welcomes Ambassadors, dignitaries and other guests to County Hall and City Hall.

In 2024, Sligo County Council welcomed a deputation from Kempton, which included the Mayor of Kempton, Thomas Kiechle. The group was honoured with a civic reception held in City Hall.

Sligo County Council also hosted a student from Kempton for work experience under an Erasmus programme and welcomed a visiting group of students from Kempton to County Hall on 11 April 2024.

Also in 2024, Sligo County Council was honoured to receive a visit from the following foreign diplomats:



Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree with Mayor of Kempton, Thomas Kiechle



23 January 2024 – Her Excellency, Ambassador Kairi Küinka, Estonian Ambassador to Ireland



2 May 2024 – Her Excellency, Ambassador Nancy Smyth, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland



21 June 2024 – Delegation from Gansu, China



17 July 2024 – His Excellency, Mr Norio Maruyama, Japanese Ambassador to Ireland

Sligo County Council was delighted to honour the following with a Civic Reception during 2024:

- Ryan O'Sullivan, youngest Irish mountaineer to conquer the Seven Summits challenge – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024



- Sligo Olympians and Paralympian – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.



- Sligo Ladies U-18 Football Team, All-Ireland Champions 2024 – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Gerard Mullaney hosted a reception to honour the Sligo winners of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2023 on 26<sup>th</sup> January.



### National Day of Commemoration Ceremony

The National Day of Commemoration Ceremony was held at Sligo City Hall on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The ceremony commemorates Irishmen and Irishwomen who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations. The annual event is hosted on the Sunday nearest 11<sup>th</sup> July, the anniversary of the date in 1921 that a truce was signed ending the Irish War of Independence.





## Cathaoirleach's Awards

The annual Cathaoirleach's Awards Ceremony took place on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at County Hall, honouring outstanding contributions across eight diverse categories.

Category	Winner	Presented by
Arts, Culture and Literature	Kids Own Publishing Partnership	Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Community (Group)	Easkey Enhancement Association	Cllr Joe Queenan
Community (Individual)	Ann O'Dare	Cllr Donál Gilroy
Environment & Climate Action	Sligo Grammar School Green School Committee	Cllr Gerard Mullaney
Heritage And The Irish Language	Marion Dowd, Robert Mulroney, James Bonsall	Cllr Arthur Gibbons
Schools / Young Enterprise	St. Michael's N.S Student Council	Cllr Paul Taylor
Spirit Of Sligo	Michael Quirke	Cllr Declan Bree
Sports	Aidan Mullane	Cllr Michael Clarke

Joining the Cathaoirleach on the Awards Committee were Cllr. Michael Clarke, Cllr. Arthur Gibbons, Cllr. Dónal Gilroy, Cllr. Gerard Mullaney, Cllr. Gino O'Boyle, Cllr. Joseph Queenan, Cllr. Paul Taylor.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree with the Winners of the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024 and elected members of Sligo County Council

## Local Authority Integration Team

In May 2024, the Sligo Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) was established. LAIT provides support to international protection applicants, those with refugee status, subsidiary protection or permission to remain status and beneficiaries of temporary protection. Funding for the team is being provided by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Throughout 2024 the LAIT team completed 101 outreach clinics within International Protection Accommodation Centres and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection locations in Co. Sligo. The team offered support and advice in the areas of Health and wellbeing, Family, Community, Employment, Education, Day to day Living in Ireland and Accessing public services.

With a budgetary allowance of €10,000 funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to support the team in their function and to support bespoke integration initiatives in Co. Sligo. LAIT have worked closely with key stakeholders to identify the needs of cohorts through direct engagement and the establishment of a Sligo Intercultural Workers Network.

LAIT hosted and supported a range of integration events and initiatives including a Family Fun Day event, International Women's Day and an Empowering Migrant Parents workshop. In conjunction with Sligo Central Library LAIT supported with the provision of books in Ukrainian, Arabic, Farsi and Hebrew languages. LAIT have supported the cohort to access leisure, sports and community programmes to support integration and mental health.



**Family Fun Day at Merville Community Centre in conjunction with Sligo Rovers Community Football, Sligo Leader Partnership and Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership to target to those living in International Protection Accommodation Services Sligo 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## **Establishment of Clear Policies and Procedures**

- Develop / maintain comprehensive policies and procedures outlining the governance framework for the HR Department. These policies and procedures should cover recruitment, employment relations, performance management, training and development and other relevant areas.

## **Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

- Ensure that all HR practices adhere to relevant legislation and regulations in addition to appropriate guidelines from the LGMA.

## **Transparency and Accountability**

- Promote transparency in decision making processes and ensure accountability at all levels within the HR Department. This includes clear communication of roles, responsibilities and performance expectations.

## **Risk Management**

- Identify and assess potential risks related to HR activities such as legal liabilities, conflict of interests and data protection issues. Implement measures to mitigate these risks and regularly monitor compliance.

## **Ethical Standards**

- Uphold high ethical standards in all HR practices including fair treatment of employees, confidentiality of sensitive information and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

## **Training and Development**

- Provide ongoing training and development opportunities for HR staff to enhance their understanding of corporate governance principles. This will enable them to effectively implement and monitor compliance within the HR Department.

## **Internal Controls**

- Ensure accuracy and reliability of HR data and reports.

## **Stakeholders Engagement**

- Foster positive relationships with internal and external stakeholders including employees, management, unions, regulatory bodies and the wider community.

## **Continuous Improvement**

- Regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of HR governance practices and make necessary adjustments to address emerging issues and improve performance.

By implementing these measures, Sligo County Council can ensure that its HR Department operates in accordance with corporate governance norms thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and effectiveness in service delivery.





# LAND ASSET MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING SLIGO HARBOUR)

Focus on addressing essential structural and maintenance interventions needed at key public-facing Council buildings, including County Hall, City Hall, and Teach Laighne in Tubbercurry, and other Council-owned properties across the County.

Support new Building Management System towards securing ISO50001 Energy Management System Certification for County Hall, Teach Laighne and City Hall.

Directed and managed the decision-making process in relation to leasing and disposal of land assets with significant progress on First Registration of Sligo County Council owned lands at Cleveragh and Sligo Harbour and mapping of RZLT commitments.

Cunningham Civil & Marine Ltd. were contracted as Port operators in 2024 with responsibility for Management and Control of Harbour & Shipping Activities, Operation & Maintenance of Sligo Harbour

Work progressed on the development of the Sligo Harbour Masterplan due for publication in 2025.

## **THRIVE - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme – Strand 1/Strand 2**

“THRIVE” is a new EU funding scheme aimed at supporting local authorities and their citizens to re-imagine town centres and to transform publicly owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings within those town centres through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse. Strand 1 funding secured in Q4 2024 to develop a plan for Sligo Gaol Complex. Part 8 submitted in Q4 2024

## **URDF**

### **Public Realm Action Plan: (Implementation Sligo Public Realm)**

The aim of the Plan is to propose improvements to Sligo’s public spaces, including streets and car parks, and to enhance the town as an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

Public Spending Code (PBC) Stage 1 process of Preliminary Business Case (PBC) approval secured for the various sub projects.

Primary project is the Stephen Street/Holborn Street/Rockwood Parade/Water Lane/Tobergal Lane project which has already secured Part 8 Planning permission and is progressing to Public Spending Code (PSC) Stage 2 approval in 2025.

## **City Campus - Sligo’s Cultural and Learning Hub project**

This development of a multi-faceted cultural and learning hub including a new County Library and museum facilities, enterprise space, residential units and high-quality public realm will dramatically transform Sligo’s City Centre.

The Department has given approval to progress two key elements of the proposal:

- The acquisition of essential lands.
- The development of a Masterplan for the overall project.

Work progressed on delivering these elements throughout 2024.





Streedagh Beach



# INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2024 Regional and Local Roads Programme was spread strategically across Sligo's 2,650km network of Regional and Local Roads. The Roads Program involves expenditure of approximately €23 million per annum. The Total Funding received from the Department of Transport was €16.7m.

The following are the main categories of maintenance and improvement works included in the Roads Programme,

- **Restoration maintenance**  
Surface Dressing as preventative maintenance, approximately 101.7km at 81 locations.
- **Restoration Improvement**  
Multi-Annual Programme of substantial restoration of roads in very poor condition, approximately 59.1km at 61 locations.
- **Discretionary Grant**  
Maintenance and improvement across the network, including significant improvement works at approximately 11 locations in Sligo Town.
- **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works**  
Preventative and adaptation measures to build resilience into the roads network to mitigate against the effects of climate change at approximately 11 locations.
- **Drainage Programme**  
Improvements to road drainage systems to minimize and prevent flooding.
- **Bridge Rehabilitation Works**  
Refurbishment of approximately 12 bridges as part of Sligo County Council's ongoing programme to restore and maintain its stock of approximately 800 road bridges.
- **Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)**  
Improvement works, normally to class 3 cul-de-sacs, with part funding by the local community at approximately 11 locations totalling 11.5km.
- **Safety Improvement Works**  
Improvement works at approximately 12 locations.
- **Former National Roads**  
Improvement works R290, Ballisodare to Collooney, approximately 2km.

Further progress on the following Strategic and Specific Improvement Schemes:

- **Eastern Garvoe Bridge & Approach Roads**  
This scheme, which has been developed as a traffic calming urban distributor road consisting of a single carriageway with cycle ways and footpaths, progressed to detailed design in 2024. Significant progress has been made in relation to landowner agreements and accommodation works.

- **Mail Coach Road (MCR) to Burton Street Link Road**

Detailed design and tender publication were completed for the construction of the project in 2024. It is anticipated that a contractor shall be appointed in Q1 2025.

- **Oakfield Road (Maugheraboy roundabout WDR to Ballydoogan Road) Realignment**

Preliminary design and option selection were completed in 2024. It is anticipated that statutory approval will be completed in 2025.

## **Other Works**

- **Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (BSEP)**

BSEP continued in 2024. Bus shelters were provided in Collooney. Significant progress was made in the design and implementation of agreed locations.

- **Road Safety Strategy**

Work progressed on the development of the County Road Safety Strategy, along with the establishment of the Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG).

## **Active Travel Programme**

The 5-Year Active Travel Programme, designed to facilitate and encourage modal shift away from the private car, progressed in 2024.

The following projects are prioritised for advancement:

- **Pathfinder Projects: Carraroe to Sligo City Centre and Sligo City Centre to Sligo ATU**

Detailed design ongoing, significant discussion completed with the National Transport Agency. It is anticipated that the statutory process for project implementation will take place in early 2025.

- **Pedestrian Linkages**

The planning and detailed design of linkages at Ballygawley, Clarion Road, Coolaney/Rockfield, Carraroe, Rosses Point, Strandhill Village and Oakfield Road.

- **Safe Routes to School Programme**

The detailed design for schemes at St. John's and Scoil Ursula National Schools in Sligo Town, was completed in 2024

- **Other Works:**

Continue to develop Sligo's overall Active Programme including the development of cycle parking facilities, e-bike enabling works, permeability projects, junction tightening and improved pedestrian routes, and provision of facilities for public transport including bus shelters.

## **Public Lighting**

The public lighting portfolio for Sligo County Council contains 9,500 lights. Sligo County Council have specific target dates to replace all lamps to LED lighting. The Council currently has 65% of the public lighting changed to LED, and it is planned to replace the remaining 35% in a strategic fashion over the next three years. This will be a significant capital cost to Sligo County Council, but necessary to meet our mandatory 50% reduction in carbon emissions and energy use by 2030.

## Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation

In addition to the energy efficiencies and carbon reductions planned in public lighting in 2025 and beyond, energy efficiencies and decarbonisation measures will also be rolled out for the Council fleet in a phased basis over the next few years. This will be necessary to meet our mandatory 50% reduction in carbon emissions and energy use by 2030.

In 2025, Sligo County Council will also be developing a County EV Infrastructure Strategy as part of a regional collaboration with counties Donegal, as Lead Authority, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

## National Road Improvement Works

- **N17 Knock to Collooney (Atlantic Economic Corridor)**

The Gate Review Statement together with all TII Project Management Guidelines Phase 2 Options Selection deliverables were submitted to the TII in the first quarter of 2024. Following TII approval, work commenced on Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) subject to the following condition set by the Minister for Transport in 2024, under Section 24 of the Roads Act (1993) – “Funding is allocated to progress the Tobercurry and Charlestown Bypass elements of scheme”.

- **N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Project**

Construction works were advanced, and the road was opened to the public in Q4 2024 with some defective works remaining to be undertaken in 2025.



Cycle Track and Improved Junction at Glencar (N16 Lugatober Project)

- **N16 Sligo – Drumkilsellagh**

The TII Project Management Guidelines Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility deliverables were prepared and submitted to TII in Q3 2024 and works commenced on Phase 2 Options Selection.

- **N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Project**

Tender documents for the procurement of Contractors to complete outstanding civil, remedial and landscaping works were completed in the period and advertised on eTenders.

## National Road Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal (PARR) Schemes

- **N16 Lugatober to County Boundary**

In-house design work was completed for the Project and contract documents were compiled. The scheme was tendered in December 2024, with delivery planned for 2025, subject to TII funding and resources.



Existing N16 Pavement in Poor Condition



- **N4 Inner Relief Road**

In-house design work was completed for the Project and contract documents were compiled. The scheme was tendered but not advanced to construction due to lack of TII funding.

- **N59 Tullylin to Fiddaun**

Design work was advanced for the N59 Tullylin to Fiddaun pavement scheme.

- **N15 Cashelgarron and N15 Creevykeel to Bunduff**

Stage 3 Road Safety Audit improvement works were undertaken on both schemes.

## **National Road Safety Schemes**

- **N59 Ballisodare Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Feasibility and Options Report was prepared and approved by TII. The Design and Environmental Phase commenced.

- **N15 Cliffoney Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Feasibility and Options Report was prepared and issued to TII.

- **N17 Ballinacarrow Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Design Report was prepared, issued and approved by the TII. Tender documents were prepared. The works were completed following a successful procurement process and receipt of TII approval of funding.

- **N17 Gilmartin Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Design Report was prepared, issued and approved by the TII. Tender documents were prepared. The works were completed following a successful procurement process and receipt of TII approval of funding.

- **N17 Curry Junction (South) Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Initial draft of the Feasibility and Options Report was submitted to TII for consideration.

- **N15 Shannon Eigher Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Initial draft of the Feasibility and Options Report was submitted to TII for consideration.

- **N17 Tubbercurry Road Safety Improvement Scheme**

Preparation of the Feasibility & Options Drawings and Report commenced.

## **Greenways and National Road Active Travel**

- **Sligo Greenway – Collooney to Bellaghy Scheme**

This project was being progressed through TII Project Management Guidelines Phase 2, Options Selection. The second Public Consultation was carried out from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to the 16<sup>th</sup> February where the route options were published for public viewing and comment. An Emerging Preferred Corridor was identified and a third Public Consultation to inform stakeholders and the Public of the Emerging Preferred Corridor was held from 18<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

- **N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel**

This project was being progressed through TII Project Management Guidelines Phase 2, Options Selection. The second Public Consultation took place from the 26th of February to the 22nd of March where the route options for the project were published for public viewing. One in-person public consultation event was held in Taylors Art gallery where a total of 40 people attended.

- **N4 Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel**

This project was being progressed through TII Project Management Guidelines Phase 2 Options Selection.

- **N4 / N16 Urban Active Travel**

Tender documents were prepared and the tender process for the procurement of a Consultancy firm who specialise in Multi Modal Transportation Planning and Engineering was completed. Following this tender process, a Technical Advisor was appointed and commenced works to identify and propose various Active Travel interventions for vulnerable road users along the N4 and N16 in the Sligo Urban Area.

- **N15 Grange/N17 Curry & N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Schemes**

Topographical and traffic surveys were carried out for these schemes.



# ENVIRONMENT

## Climate Change

### Climate Action Plan

Sligo County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was adopted in February 2024.

#### Reduce carbon emissions across Sligo County Council operations

Sligo County Council selected County Hall and Sligo Fire Station to participate in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Pathfinder Programme. The Design Team was appointed in Q3 2024 to review pathways to complete energy retrofits of both buildings.

The Council continue to participate in the OPW Optimising Power @ Work Scheme to achieve energy savings in County Hall in 2024 of 33% versus 2017 baseline.

#### Energy Efficiencies in Sligo County Council operations

Sligo County Council was audited as part of the ISO 50001 Energy Management System certification process.

#### Support communities to become low carbon communities

Sligo County Council continued to work with the Atlantic Technology University contract research unit as part of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities programme in the development of a community owned solar farm.

In September 2024, as part of Community Climate Action Programme, the Council awarded €445,000 funding to twenty-three community groups for climate action measures.

#### Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency

Sligo County Council continued to support the Sligo Leitrim Energy Agency as part of the EU Life funded Local Energy Agencies in Peripheral Regions.

## Water Quality

### Discharge Licences

- 17 No. Section 4 discharge licences monitored, 84 No. inspections and 15 No. spot check samples undertaken.

### Planning Application Assessment

- 30 No. Agricultural applications.
- 131 No. Commercial applications.
- 313 No. Domestic applications.
- 90 No. Preplanning/compliance reports.

### Agricultural Inspections

- 28 No. Agricultural inspections.
- 1 No. Notice for local media on land spreading.



## Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

- 87 No. inspections relating to initial, follow up, and verification inspections.
- €121,000 paid to homeowners under the National Inspection Plan and the High-Status Objective Catchment Areas grant schemes.
- Notice published on website.

## WFD Monitoring:

- 252 No. River water samples taken and delivered to EPA regional laboratories.
- 114 No. Lake samples taken representing a 100% compliance rate with the national Water Framework Directive River and lake programme requirements.
- Assisted with a national project being run by Trinity College Dublin 'Age of Water Project'.

## Investigative Catchment Monitoring

- Douglas River Catchment, Buncrowey River Catchment and the Unshin River Catchment.

## Source Inspections at Public Water Supply Schemes

- 29 No. source inspections undertaken within the catchment areas of public water supplies.
- Leaflet drop to 30 No. agricultural stakeholders within the catchment area of North Sligo Public Water Supply Scheme Source Catchment.
- Public water supplies were regulated during 2024 in accordance with the Service Level Agreement with Uisce Éireann.

## Private Water Supplies

- 17 No. Group Water Schemes and 8 No. Small Private Supplies registered.
- 93 No. Compliance samples and 34 No. final water samples taken.

## Water Pollution Complaints

67 No. water pollution complaints/incidents were received and investigated, involving 109 inspections taking into consideration initial and follow up inspections.

Complaint handling system updated to allow inspections to be logged under the relevant RMCEI inspection code.

## Bathing Water Monitoring

- Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Mullaghmore, Streedagh and Dunmorán and designated bathing waters.
- 43 No. samples taken with water quality classified as excellent.
- Rosses Point Beach and Enniscrone beaches were awarded Blue Flag and Green Flag Status.
- Streedagh, Dunmorán, Rosses Point and Enniscrone beaches were awarded Green Flag status.

## Rural Water and Wastewater Programme

- €2m subsidy payments to Group Water Schemes
- €1.3m improvements in Keash, Geevagh Highwood, Kelloggyboy, Tawnagh, Strandhill Upper, Woodfield Marlow and Ougham Group Water Schemes.
- €1.3 million capital funding for 9 No. group water schemes.

- 11 No. Design Build Operate Group Water Scheme upgrade of €171,000.
- Ballygawley Village included in programme for villages without access to wastewater services.
- 7 No. Private well grants.
- 1 No. private water lead remediation grant.

## Litter Management

Waste Enforcement and Litter Warden staff continued to have a county wide presence monitoring streets, beaches and amenity areas to ensure that Sligo continues to be an attractive place to live.

50 No. fines were issued under the Litter pollution Act in 2024.

## Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations

There are 45 No. bring bank facilities situated throughout the county with a total of 1,427 tonnes of recyclables collected during 2024.

Tubbercurry Civic Amenity Site processed 700 tonnes and Ballisodare Composting Facility processed 722 tonnes.

## Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement

- 18 No. multi-agency inspections.
- 24 No. Construction and Demolition inspections.
- 4 No. End of Life Vehicle and Metal inspections.
- 121 No. Household and Commercial Waste inspections.
- 14 No. Producer Responsibility Initiative and additional local priority inspections.

## Environmental Awareness

Sligo County Council supports National Spring Clean, Green-Schools, Gum Litter Taskforce and the administration of environmental grants, including the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme and the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

- Allocated €14,333 from the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant to support 11 community projects throughout the county.
- Sligo Town secured a shared 7<sup>th</sup> place in survey by Irish Business Against Litter.
- Coordinated the National Spring Clean with 53 groups registered.
- Supported the Green-Schools Programme with 16 schools renewing their flags.
- Facilitated a compost caddy giveaway during Food Waste Recycling Week.
- Managed the environmental education of Ocean Safety Awareness in Strandhill.
- Supported the Gum Litter roadshow in Queen Meave Square.
- Celebrated Sustainable Development Goals Week with an open day family event at Sligo Children's Community Garden.
- Participated in a climate change event during the Armada Festival at Streedagh.
- Three bulky waste and mattress amnesty events, collecting 39 tonnes of waste and 601 mattresses.

- Cleanup projects at four sites in County Sligo removing 8.8 tonnes of waste.
- Installation of audio warning devices and variable message display boards at ten locations to combat illegal dumping and dog-fouling.
- The Bikes for Africa initiative, partially funded through ADI, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Ireland, collected 50 bikes.
- A cinema advert campaign to raise awareness about illegal dumping and relevant byelaws, reaching over 53,000 cinemagoers in Sligo over a four-month period.
- Garavogue River cleanup in partnership with Sligo Kayak Club.
- Dog Fouling Campaign featuring local radio and print media adverts, social media campaign, signage, stencils, spray, printed dog vests, and compostable dog fouling bags distributed by litter wardens.
- Circular economy workshops in three communities and online sessions for five schools on the topic of fast fashion.
- Delivery of the Picker Pals programme in three schools.

## Air Quality

- 31 No. retail premises were inspected under solid fuel regulations
- 10 No. No. fuel samples were taken and analysed

## Parks and Open Spaces

- Under the Community Recognition Fund 2023 improvement works were carried out at O'Boyle Park Forthill (drainage), Doorly Park (playground upgrades), Sligo Regional Sports Centre (viewing deck area).
- Installation of sensory musical play equipment at Doorly Park.
- Parks staff continued to improve the quality and attractiveness of parks and public areas such as Rockwood Parade, Kennedy Parade through seasonal planting, floral displays, weed control, grass cutting and tree maintenance.
- Concept design prepared for Cleveragh Regional Park for the provision of additional recreational amenities.
- SCC commenced development of an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Sligo, working with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, Sligo Leader Partnership, Fáilte Ireland and Coillte.
- The following funding was secured:
  - €199,720 from Community Recognition Fund 2024 to progress additional improvements to Sligo Regional Sports Centre
  - €378,488 funding allocation from Sports Capital for Sligo Regional Sports Centre
  - €15,626 from Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the provision of sensory playground equipment for Doorly Park
  - €90,000 funding in conjunction with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, under Participation Nation Outdoor Fund, for the provision of low-cost sports infrastructure and biodiversity measures at O'Boyle Park Forthill, Doorly Park and Mitchell Curley Park

## Burial Grounds

- Construction works for Sligo Town cemetery extension commenced in Q4 2024 for the creation of 900 new cemetery spaces



## Remediation and Restoration Works at Finisklin

- The landfill remediation is designed to manage landfill emissions effectively, minimise environmental impact, and ensure long term stability.
- Works involved the installation of a gas venting system with the construction of 6 No. bio-windows and a 200m long bio-trench, 1km walkway, car parking area and public lighting.
- The scheme was grant funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and was substantially completed in 2024.



Aerial view of Park remediation at  
Finisklin

## Veterinary Service and Animal Welfare

Sligo County Council was responsible for implementing relevant food safety legislation for two abattoirs and two small meat manufacturing plants under a service contract with Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Animal welfare (control of horses and dogs) was carried out in 2024 by the veterinary surgeon and the dog warden service. The current contract for the Dog Warden Service commenced in 2024.

- 10 No. dog incidents reported interfering with livestock.
- 77 No. dogs surrendered.
- 15 No. dogs seized.
- 25 No. dogs euthanised.
- 135 No. dogs housed in pound.
- 109 No. dogs rehomed.
- 42 No. stray dogs reported.

## Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028

The draft Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Environmental Noise Directive (END) for the purpose of managing noise issues and its effects

The draft Noise Action Plan covers areas affected by environmental noise emitted by means of transport and road traffic, as shown on strategic noise mapping prepared by Transport Infrastructure Ireland

The draft Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 was put on public display during 2024 and no submissions were received

## Coastal Protection

Additional information requested by OPW on Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study of Strandhill coastline

# EMERGENCY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Sligo Fire Service delivers operational emergency fire and rescue services across 4 Fire Brigade Units located in Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry, and Enniscrone.
- False Alarms saw a further increase of over 50% in 2024. This is a matter of ongoing concern for Fire Service Management and steps are being introduced to counteract this, as False Alarms tie up considerable fire brigade resources
- In terms of the Special Services attended the biggest portion of these (114) were for attendance at Road Traffic Collisions
- The number of fire brigade incidents attended for 2024 are as follows: Note there is an increase across all categories from 2023.
- 2024 also seen a number of Severe Weather Events which required the Fire Service to attend, Sorm related incident including flooding and trees down etc
  - Storm Isha, January 2024
  - Storm Ashley, October 2024
  - Storm Bert, November 2024

Fire Operations activity in numbers 2024	Number
No. of fires attended:	190
No. of Special Services:	149
No. of False Alarms	215
Total incidents responded to:	554



Incidents from 2024

## Implement Operational Training Programme

The following in-house training was undertaken by Sligo Fire Personnel in 2024:

- Regular on-station drill training programme
- Swift Water Rescue & Flood Technician Training
- Cardiac First Responder & Emergency First Responder Medical Training
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Refresher Training
- Confined Space Training
- Emergency Traffic Management Training
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Training
- Casualty Rescue from Height
- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Driver Training



Confined Space Training – All Stations



Breathing Apparatus Training

## Progress fire prevention activities including the management and implementation of responsibilities under Fire Safety and Building Control legislation

- Sligo Fire Service saw a significant uptake in the number of Fire Safety Certificates and Building Control Certificates for 2024 which reflects the strong activity levels within the construction sector in County Sligo.
- The number of Fire Safety Certificates, Disability Access Certificates, Commencement Notices and Certificates of Compliance on Completion for 2024 are set out in the following table:



Fire Prevention Activities (2024)	Number
No of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) received:	96
No. of Disability Access Certificates (DAC) received:	52
No. of Commencement Notices (CN) received:	234
No. of Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) received:	55



- In addition to the above, Sligo Fire Service carried out 38 No. inspections of Licensed Premises under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts, 1981, and associated Licensing Acts, and advised the Court on the suitability of the premises, with respect to fire safety, for the proposed licensed use.

### Promote community fire safety and deliver fire safety awareness campaigns.



- National Fire Safety Week took place from the 30<sup>th</sup> September to the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This year the theme for Fire Safety Week was *We didn't start the Fire – But what did?* with the focus being on fire safety, particularly in the home.
- People were encouraged to increase their awareness of home fire safety by regularly doing routine Fire Safety Checks.
- Sligo County Council ran a comprehensive social media campaign to promote fire safety awareness throughout Fire Safety Week.
- Sligo Fire Service held open days at each of the Fire Stations on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 which seen large numbers of members of the public of all ages attending each station
- Sligo Fire Service attended events through the year as part of Community Fire Safety, promoting Fire Safety in the home.



### Support the Regional Training Centre in delivering expert training to external fire authorities and to the National Directorate for fire brigade training courses

2024 was an extremely busy year for Fire Service training nationally following an extensive recruitment campaign to increase the number of Retained Firefighters across all Fire Services in accordance with the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) agreement. The agreement included guaranteed minimum earnings and also mandated that there be a minimum crew of 12 No. in every fire station.

The following courses were delivered and facilitated by Sligo Fire Service Training Centre during 2024:

- Cardiac First Responder/First Aid Responder (FAR) & Emergency First Responder (EFR) to Sligo Fire Service
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Training
- Emergency Response Team Training (Private Sector)
- NDFEM Module 1 & Module 2 Managing Fire Service Incidents
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Firefighting Skills Course
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Breathing Apparatus Course
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Compartment Fire Behaviour Course



### Manage, update and communicate Major Emergency Plan

- As part of our ongoing Major Emergency Management (MEM) preparedness, Sligo Fire Service / Sligo County Council participated in regional MEM training in conjunction with our partner agencies; An Garda Síochána and the HSE / National Ambulance Service in the Northwest MEM Region.
- Representatives from Sligo Fire Service attended the MEM exercise, *Exercise Kestrel*, which was run by our partner agency Donegal County Council in Ballybofey on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This was a tabletop exercise concentrating on a collaborative response from multiple agencies to a significant emergency resulting from a transportation incident involving an aircraft, and designed to test the systems and procedures that are to be used in the event of a major emergency being declared.
- Sligo Fire Service works with other statutory response agencies (Sligo County Council, An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, National Ambulance Service, Civil Defence etc.) in pre-planning and assessing Outdoor Event Licence applications for large crowd events.







View across Garavogue River



# FINANCE, IT, PROCUREMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT

## Provide robust Financial Management and Risk Management Systems

- Adoption of 2025 Budget Strategy consultation process is now complete resulting in the adoption of 2025 Budget by the Members of Sligo County Council.
- The three-year Capital Budget for 2025 – 2027 has been prepared and included in the 2025 Budget Book.
- The 2023 annual financial statement was completed and presented to the Members of Sligo County Council. The Local Government Audit of the 2023 annual financial statement was completed and presented to the Audit Committee and Members of the Council.
- Information on the Council's actual revenue income/expenditure and variations with the adopted budget for 2024 was included in Management Reports circulated to the Members of Sligo County Council and submitted to the Department at the end of each quarter.
- A commercial rates incentive scheme was adopted by the Members and became effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- A rates vacancy scheme was introduced in 2022. This scheme continued in operation during 2023 and 2024 with increased vacancy charges introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- There is ongoing monitoring by Revenue Collectors of rateable properties and ongoing engagement with customers regarding collection and arrears.
- During 2024 Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) and Power up Grants were paid to qualifying businesses to the overall value of €5.3m. This money was recouped from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment.
- There is ongoing review of income from parking charges.
- There is ongoing review of Housing Loan arrears and engagement with customers regarding Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process and Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Scheme.
- There is ongoing monitoring of debtor balances outstanding. There is a review carried out at the end of each quarter to ensure that all recoupable revenue and capital expenditure has been recouped.
- Every effort is made to pay Suppliers efficiently and promptly and manage cash flow accordingly.
- The bank is monitored on a daily and all large recoupments are followed up.
- Work is ongoing to continue to enhance the capital project monitoring system.
- Work is ongoing on the identification and reconciliation of fixed assets.
- The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by the Management Team on an annual basis, with an Insurance review meeting held with the Director of Finance, CEO and Insurers IPB on an annual basis.

## **Ensure Compliance with Procurement Legislation, Policies and Green Procurement**

- Procurement Plan – Work is ongoing to develop a new Procurement Plan.
- Procurement Manual for Sligo County Council was completed in 2024.
- Embed Green Procurement – Delivering Green Public Procurement Training to budget holders and Sligo County Council buyers has commenced.
- Staff in Sligo County Council are using the new e-tenders platform, with training provided to users.

## **Provide independent assurance that the organisations Internal Controls are working effectively through the existence of the Internal Audit Function**

- The Annual Work Plan 2024 was delivered.
- The Quality Assurance Statement on the Public Spending Code for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 was completed and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC).
- The mid-year and end of year Motor Tax stock counts were completed.
- The annual review of Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for 2023 was completed.
- Reviews of the organisation policies and procedures are on-going.
- A new Audit Committee was formed following the Local Elections (June 2024) and held its first meeting in November 2024.

## **Information Systems (IS) Overview**

The Information Systems (IS) section oversees the Council's ICT and digital infrastructure, managing multiple systems across the county's Wide area network. In 2024, the section made significant strides in digital transformation, cybersecurity, and infrastructure development despite various challenges.

### **Digital Transformation**

The IS section continues to advance the Council's digital transformation agenda. In 2024, numerous projects were successfully delivered, including online applications for public grants such as Festival and Events Grants, and Community and Voluntary Grants. Additionally, the IS section contributed to a national team that launched the Increased Cost of Business Grant online service.

Other digital transformation initiatives included online forms for public permissions to film in public areas and the ability to submit enforcement complaints online. Internally, several staff-focused projects were implemented, transforming paper-based procedures in Finance, Human Resources, and Corporate Services into digital processes. Furthermore, digital dashboards were developed to automate data delivery to senior management.



## Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

GIS continued to play a fundamental role across all business areas in 2024. Key achievements included the rollout of ARC GIS in the Planning Enforcement section, integration of mapping into the new Enforcements case management Application, and updates to mapping within our Assets System. The section also developed new apps for weekly playground inspections and enforcement inspections.

Additional GIS projects included:

- Planning application data capture now exclusively done in the PACE system that integrates with National planning.
- Data processing and mapping for the Noise Action Plan 2024-2029.
- Management of the existing Road Schedule on PMS, including annual restoration and maintenance work zones and speed limits.
- Capture of estates taken-in-charge on PMS.
- Management of invasive species for Roads, TII, and other departments (Environment & Water Services).
- GIS assistance with the current County Development Plan, providing data and statistical analysis for project terms.
- Collaboration with the Heritage Office on the UNESCO application at Carrowmore Tombs.

## Cyber Security

In the increasingly important area of cybersecurity, IS section staff implemented enhanced security measures around email delivery, completed a corporate firewall upgrade, established new security setups for blended workers, developed a new acceptable use policy, introduced a new system for software patching of devices, completed several security applications, and enforced multi-factor authentication for all staff when accessing the council network.

## ICT Infrastructure and Support Services

In 2024, IS section staff completed the Irish Water data transition process, supported staff with over 1,800 support cases, completed a printer refresh in all buildings, upgraded the Wi-Fi offerings in the Town Hall and Riverside, and completed several corporate network upgrades to maintain business continuity backups.

Other significant projects included the successful delivery of local elections, improvements to the Sligo library websites, the implementation of a new traffic management system for the Finance section and traffic wardens, and support for various other initiatives.





Sligo Abbey, Sligo town





# APPENDICIES

**Appendix 1: Statement of Internal Financial Control**

**Appendix 2: Performance Indicators**

**Appendix 3: Membership of Committees**

**Appendix 4: Training and Conferences attended by Councillors in 2024**

**Appendix 5: Protected Disclosures**

# APPENDIX 1:

## STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

### Introduction

I, Martin Lydon, Chief Executive (CE) of Sligo County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Sligo County Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Sligo County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Sligo County Council's overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of Sligo County Council.

The key sources of income for Sligo County Council are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Goods & Services	18,735,938	19,402,367
Grants & Subsidies	41,273,921	35,088,988
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	204,681	176,886
Rates	14,733,932	14,730,331
Local Property Tax	12,419,708	10,875,829



Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2024 is as follows:

Total expenditure increased by €7m in 2024 when compared with expenditure in 2023. Payment of grants to businesses under the Increased Cost of Business Scheme and Power Up Grant Schemes accounted for 73% of the increased expenditure. The grants paid under these schemes were recouped from the Department of Trade, Enterprise and Employment. Public Sector pay agreements agreed nationally led to an increase in expenditure across all support services, with 80% of the costs incurred recouped from the Department. Income from planning fees and fire charges exceeded the 2024 income budget and assisted with the generation of a surplus at the end of 2024.

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
<b>Income</b>	87,368,180	80,274,402
<b>Expenditure</b>	84,685,553	77,392,741
<b>Transfers to Capital</b>	-2,295,146	-2,419,788
<b>Exceptional Item</b>	0	0
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for</b>	387,482	461,873
<b>Prior Year Adjustment</b>	0	0
<b>Opening Revenue Reserve</b>	-9,638,937	-10,100,810
<b>Closing Revenue Reserve</b>	-9,251,455	-9,638,937

The annual surplus for 2024 included in the 2024 Annual Financial Statement was €387,482. The Council has generated a surplus each year since 2015 reducing the cumulative deficit by €11.4m; €5.25m which was received as part of the financial plan from the Department from 2014 to 2021 and €6.2m has been generated in savings by Sligo County Council. The revenue loan (from 2012) balance of €5.9m at the end of 2023 was applied to the cumulative deficit and at the end of 2024 the cumulative deficit is €9.3m.

The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Sligo County Council, at the end of 2024 total €2,017,531,291 and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	1,726,880,201	1,717,713,510
<b>Works in Progress</b>	334,831,173	300,996,358
<b>Long Term debtors</b>	16,794,121	18,152,766
<b>Current Asset</b>	19,507,089	16,328,233
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	18,767,097	20,707,917
<b>Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)</b>	739,992	-4,379,684
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)</b>	61,714,195	64,067,435
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	2,017,531,291	1,968,415,516

A Statement of Funds Flow was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

### System of Internal Financial Controls

As Chief Executive of Sligo County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Sligo County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Sligo County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

### Financial control environment

As Chief Executive of Sligo County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.

- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

### **Administrative Controls and Management Reporting**

As Chief Executive of Sligo County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented.
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems.
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

### **Procurement compliance**

Sligo County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

### **Internal audit and Audit Committee**

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Sligo County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Sligo County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Sligo County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it.
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.



I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Sligo County Council.

### **Risk and control framework.**

Sligo County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk registers which detail the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

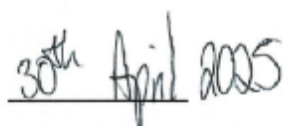
As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April each year and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June each year.

Signed by:

  
Chief Executive

Dated:





## APPENDIX 2: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Section 126(c) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 sets out the functions of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) which includes examination of the performance of local government bodies against forty-two indicators. The Local Authorities Performance Indicators report in respect of 2023 was published by NOAC in September 2024. Sligo County Council's performance in each service area in 2023 compared to other local authorities is included in this report in each of the relevant sections. This report is available for viewing at [Report 71: NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2023 - National Oversight & Audit Commission](#)

# APPENDIX 3

## MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

<b>County Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd.</b>	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Barry Gallagher
<b>Enniscrone Leisure Ltd.</b>	Cllr Joe Queenan Cllr Michael Clarke
<b>Sligo North West Airport Co. Ltd.</b>	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Fergal Nealon
<b>The Model</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Arthur Gibbons
<b>Hawk's Well Theatre</b>	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Nessa Cosgrove
<b>County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society</b>	Cllr Gino O'Boyle
<b>Sligo Volunteer Bureau</b>	Cllr Dónal Gilroy
<b>Sligo BID</b>	Cllr Arthur Gibbons
<b>Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Co.</b>	Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Fergal Nealon
<b>Michael Coleman Heritage Centre Co Ltd</b>	Cllr Paul Taylor Cllr Martin Connolly Cllr Michael Clarke
<b>Sligo Music Fest Co. (trading as Sligo Live)</b>	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Thomas Healy
<b>Coleman Heritage Centre Limited</b>	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Paul Taylor
<b>Association of Irish Local Government (A.I.L.G)</b>	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Tom MacSharry
<b>County Sligo Heritage Forum</b>	Cllr Dónal Gilroy
<b>Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB</b>	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Joe Queenan



<b>Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)</b>	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Dónal Gilroy
<b>Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)</b>	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Dara Mulvey
<b>I.P.B. Insurance</b>	Cllr Liam Brennan
<b>Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA)</b>	Cllr Paul Taylor
<b>Local Community Development Committee – LCDC</b>	Cllr Joe Queenan Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Tom Fox
<b>Regional Health Forum West</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Edel McSharry
<b>Disability Consultative Committee</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Nessa Cosgrove Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Gino O'Boyle
<b>Sligo Harbour Advisory Committee</b>	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Gino O'Boyle
<b>Chair Designate for SPC's</b>  <b>Housing &amp; Governance</b>  <b>Climate &amp; Infrastructure</b>  <b>Live Invest Visit</b>  <b>Placemaking</b>	Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Paul Taylor
<b>Procedures Committee</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Gino O'Boyle Cllr Joe Queenan Cllr Paul Taylor

<b>Community &amp; Voluntary /Festivals and Events Grants Assessment Committee</b>	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Edel McSharry
<b>Arts Assessment Panel</b>	Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Marie Casserly
<b>Public Art Steering Group</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Dónal Gilroy
<b>Sligo Youth Theatre</b>	Cllr Thomas Healy
<b>Western Inter County Railway Committee</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Gino O'Boyle
<b>Sligo Town Twinning Committee</b>	Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Edel McSharry
<b>County Sligo Placenames Committee</b>	Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Thomas Healy
<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Gino O'Boyle
<b>North West Regional Drug &amp; Alcohol Task Force</b>	Cllr Nessa Cosgrove
<b>Lifestart Childcare Board of Directors</b>	Cllr Martin Baker
<b>North West Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum</b>	Cllr Nessa Cosgrove
<b>ATU Sligo Drug &amp; Alcohol Task Force Committee (REACT)</b>	Cllr Nessa Cosgrove
<b>Culture Team</b>	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Nessa Cosgrove
<b>Sligo Age Friendly</b>	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Joe Queenan
<b>Local Community Development Committee (L.C.D.C.)</b>	Cllr Nessa Cosgrove Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Fergal Nealon

# APPENDIX 4:

## TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

### ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2024

Conference/Seminar Title	Location	Date(s)
LAMA Training	Donegal	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
ICBAN Meeting 22/01/24 -	Enniskillen	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024
AILG Training	Greenhills, Limerick	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
AILG Training	Arklow, Wicklow	14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Celtic Conference	Carlingford, Co Louth	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Suck Valley Conference	Roscommon	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March
AILG Training	Hodson Bay – Athlone	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024
AILG Training	Mullingar	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
AILG Autumn Training Conference	Monaghan	11 <sup>th</sup> , – 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
LAMA Training Seminar	Navan, Co Meath	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
AILG – A Guide to Upgrade Grants	Claregalway, Galway	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

\*LAMA: Local Authority Members Association

\*AILG: Association of Irish Local Government



# APPENDIX 5:

## PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report relative to Protected Disclosures received.

Pursuant to this requirement, Sligo County Council hereby confirms that no reports were received in 2024.

Details of Sligo County Council's Protected Disclosures Annual Reports can be found on the Council's website: [Protected Disclosures - Annual Reports](#)



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

## **SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**COUNTY HALL  
RIVERSIDE  
SLIGO  
F91 Y763**



**@sligocountycouncil**



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# **Sligo.**