



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

www.sligococo.ie



County Hall, Riverside, Sligo



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OUR MISSION



We work to build vibrant, inclusive communities, support a robust local economy, honour our heritage, and protect our environment.

INTRODUCTION BY CATHAOIRLEACH & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Sligo County Council for 2025, which outlines the scope of the Council's activities, performance and achievements during what has been a year of significant delivery, adaptation and strategic positioning for County Sligo.

Ireland continues to operate within a highly competitive global environment for foreign direct investment, and this competition is equally evident at local level. Sligo competes directly with neighbouring counties to attract Government investment, indigenous enterprise, start-ups and international opportunities. In this context, it is essential that Sligo County Council clearly demonstrates that our county is an outstanding place to Live, Visit and Invest. This requires sound local decision-making, prudent financial management, and a recognition that the Council cannot rely on Government funding alone, but must also contribute directly to projects and service delivery from its own resources that strengthen our county's attractiveness, resilience, and growth.

From 1 January 2025, a new Directorate structure was implemented to support more integrated service delivery across approximately 1,100 services. The four Directorates — Placemaking; Climate and Infrastructure; Live, Invest, Visit; and Corporate Governance — provide a clearer operational focus while strengthening collaboration across functions.

In February 2025, the Council adopted a new Corporate Plan, setting out a clear vision and strategic direction for the next four and a half years. This Plan provides the framework for the delivery of services up to 2029, informing Unit Annual Service Delivery Plans and the development of a new Strategic Workforce Plan. It also ensures flexibility to respond to evolving Government policy initiatives, while supporting the delivery of a substantial capital programme already in the pipeline.

In June 2025, the Local Democracy Taskforce was established by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to finalise a programme for the reform and strengthening of local government in Ireland—an important commitment within the Government's Programme for Government. The Taskforce builds on calls from the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG), the Seanad Public Consultation Committee, and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, all of which highlighted the need for reform of local authority functions, powers and accountability.

Tourism continues to be a tangible economic opportunity for Sligo, not only for visitors, but for local communities and enterprise. Major work progressed during 2025 including the Service Level Agreement in relation to events for Queen Maeve Square, the continued development of a network of walking trails, and early stages of our application for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Passage Tomb Landscape.

The year also saw continued progress across major projects that will shape Sligo's future: the Sligo Streets Project, the City Campus Project, the Sligo Harbour Masterplan, the Eastern Garavogue Bridge, the THRIVE Project – Sligo Gaol and Governor's House, and the Enniscrone Cliff Bath House and Promenade Project.

Sligo County Council received two awards at the LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards, reflecting outstanding contributions to enterprise development and tourism. We secured top accolades in the Best Enterprise & Start-Up Hub category for the AIM (Advancing Innovation in Manufacturing) Centre and Best Tourism Initiative for Queen Maeve Square. We also received a nomination for Best Irish Language Initiative for Stair Shráideanna Shligigh, highlighting our commitment to cultural and community enrichment.

Peace, inclusion and community cohesion were further strengthened through the launch of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plan, supported by €3.604 million in funding. Delivered by Sligo County Council, the plan will support a diverse range of projects with local and cross-border participation up to 2028.

The Council secured €7 million under the THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to deliver the Sligo Gaol Project, a landmark investment that will restore and repurpose a key historic asset in the heart of Sligo Town as a community and tourism resource.

Environmental sustainability remained a key focus in 2025, with the launch of the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030. The Plan provides a clear and practical framework to protect and restore biodiversity, address growing environmental pressures, and embed biodiversity considerations across all Council departments in alignment with national and international policy.

None of these achievements would be possible without the commitment, professionalism and dedication of the Sligo County Council staff, and the leadership and engagement of the Elected Members. We also wish to acknowledge our community, business and voluntary partners for their continued collaboration and trust.

This Annual Report reflects a year of progress and purpose. It demonstrates the Council's capacity to deliver, to innovate and to lead – positioning County Sligo strongly for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.



Cllr. Dónal Gilroy
Cathaoirleach
Sligo County Council



Martin Lydon
Chief Executive
Sligo County Council



MEMBERS OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

BALLYMOTE - TUBBERCURRY MUNICIPAL



Cllr. Liam Brennan, Fianna Fáil

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BOROUGH DISTRICT OF SLIGO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

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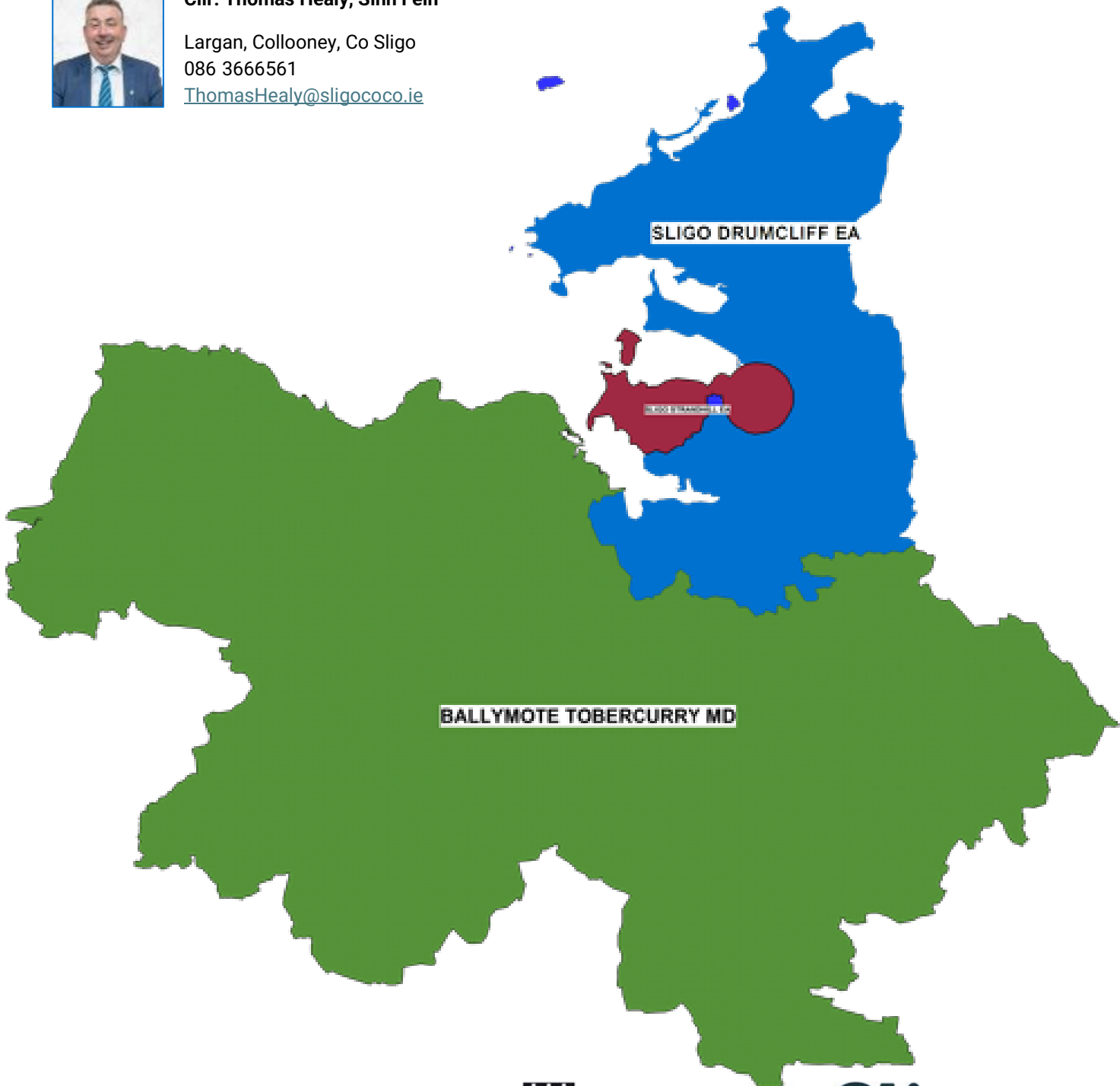
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COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

MANAGEMENT TEAM



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STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

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

- SPC 1 – Housing & Governance
- SPC 2 – Climate & Infrastructure
- SPC 3 – Live Invest Visit
- SPC 4 – Placemaking

SPC 1 – Housing & Governance

- Councillor Barry Gallagher, Chairperson
- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Arthur Gibbons
- Councillor Edel McSharry
- Councillor Dara Mulvey
- Councillor Gino O'Boyle
- Councillor Joe Queenan
- Pat Fallon, Trade Union
- Gene O'Carroll, Community/Voluntary
- Cheryl McGinley, Social Inclusion

Meetings Held

- 12th March 2025
- 11th June 2025
- 10th September 2025
- 10th December 2025

Issues Considered

- NOAC Performance Indicators Report
- Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029
- Procurement Procedures Manual
- Sligo Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026
- Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disability 2021-2025
- Derelict Grant Scheme Applications
- Defective Blocks Scheme
- Inspection of Quarries
- Differential Rent Scheme

SPC 2 – Climate & Infrastructure

- Councillor Michael Clarke, Chairperson
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Thomas Walsh
- Councillor Dónal Gilroy
- Councillor Thomas Healy
- Councillor Gerard Mullaney
- Michael O'Dowd, Agriculture/Farming
- Alan Spencer, Environmental/Conservation
- Kathryn Branley, Community/Voluntary

Meetings Held

- 31st March 2025
- 1st July 2025
- 2nd October 2025

Issues Considered

- Draft Road Safety Strategy for County Sligo 2025-2030
- Sligo County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028
- Speed Limit Review
- Abandoned Vehicles Policy
- Dog Control Policy

SPC 3 – Live Invest Visit

- Councillor Gerard Mullaney, Chairperson
- Councillor Fergal Nealon
- Councillor Declan Bree
- Councillor Liam Brennan
- Councillor Marie Casserly
- Councillor Arthur Gibbons
- Councillor Dara Mulvey
- Councillor Thomas Walsh
- Paula Scallon, Business/Commercial
- Denise Curran, Trade Union
- Stephen Barker, Community/Voluntary
- Ruth Flood, Social Inclusion

Meetings Held

- 25th February 2025
- 22nd May 2025
- 17th September 2025
- 12th November 2025

Issues Considered

- Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029
- Draft Festival & Events Strategy for County Sligo
- Sligo Food & Drinks Strategy 2026-2030
- Sligo PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan
- North West Regional Enterprise Plan
- Sligo Library Services Plan 2025 – 2030
- Public Art Commissions Plan
- Sligo County Council Disability Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024 – 2027
- Business Incentive Scheme

SPC 4 – Placemaking

- Councillor Paul Taylor, Chairperson
- Councillor Liam Brennan
- Councillor Ann Higgins
- Councillor Barry Gallagher
- Councillor Fergal Nealon
- Councillor Joe Queenan
- Joan Swift, Environmental/Conservation
- Conor McCarthy, Development/Construction
- Sheila Scanlon, Community Voluntary

Meetings Held

- 26th March 2025
- 17th June 2025
- 24th September 2025
- 3rd December 2025

Issues Considered

- Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026
- Dereliction and Vacancy
- Defective Blocks Scheme
- UNESCO World Heritage Bid
- Sligo County Council Development Contribution Scheme
- Draft County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030
- Urban Capital Projects Update
- Strategic National Roads & Greenways
- Harbour Master Plan
- NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements
- Town Centre First
- Sligo Urban Area Plan

Cast a cold Eye
On Life, on Death.
Horseman, pass by!

W. B. YEATS

June 13th 1865

January 28th 1939

TREASURED MEMORIES OF
ROBERT BOLTON
DIED 11 - JULY 1942.
HIS WIFE JANE
DIED 18 - DEC. 1943.
THEIR SON-IN-LAW
WALTER OLDFIELD
DIED 22 - OCT. 1971.
HIS WIFE LILY
DIED 2 - APRIL 1962.

SAFE IN THE

BOLTON
OLDFIELD

OUR PRINCIPAL SERVICES

We have four key thematic areas as follows:



Live | Invest | Visit

- Promote and develop economic activity
- Support and develop our communities
- Promote and grow tourism in the County
- Enrich community life through library, arts, & cultural services



Climate & Infrastructure

- Address climate change within Sligo County
- Develop Sligo's circular economy
- Improve transport links for our communities
- Protect and improve our coastal and inland waterways
- Safeguard our communities and public amenities



Placemaking

- Deliver housing in line with government targets
- Provide for proper planning and sustainable development
- Regenerate and renew town centres
- Preserve and promote Sligo's heritage and biodiversity
- Improve County infrastructure



Governance

- Support and develop staff to perform at their best and progress in their careers
- Ensure robust financial and organisational governance
- Promote organisational culture of collaboration and continuous improvement
- Use technology to improve service delivery

LIVE INVEST VISIT



BRÍAN FLYNN

Director of Services

Live Invest Visit & Borough District of Sligo Municipal District

HOUSING

Process Applications, Assessments and Allocations for Social Housing Support

- 1,587 households were on the housing list at 31/12/2025.
- 281 valid applications for social housing support were received during 2025.
- 123 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
123	104	19	0

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

- Sales completed on 14 properties under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme.
- Seven Local Authority Home loans approved.
- 322 Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People totalling €2,635,668 in 2025 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 648 active Housing Assistance Payment tenancies (including Enhanced HAP) in the County, together with 213 homes through the Rented Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

Implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025 - 2029

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was adopted by the Members of Sligo County Council on 4th November 2024, in accordance with Circular 46/2023. The table below outlines the Programme targets and the number achieved in 2025.

Accommodation Type	Target 2025-2029	Achieved 2025-2029
Group Housing	3	0
Specific Purchase	5	0
Upgrade of existing facilities	12	0
Council Tenancy	41	3
RAS/HAP	5	0
Voluntary Housing	18	2
TOTAL	81	5

Deliver and Manage Homeless Services

- Supported six new Housing First tenancies for individuals experiencing long-term homelessness.
- Initiated a procurement process for a second Homeless Family Hub, expanding accommodation capacity by 37 beds.

Deliver Estate Management Services, Tenancy Support and Tenancy Enforcement

- Provided ongoing management and maintenance of the Council's social housing stock of 2,444 units across the County.
- Spent €2,340,757 on maintenance of Council stock during the year.
- Spent €559,056 of Council resources on the refurbishment of 49 void/vacant properties to a suitable standard for re-letting.
- Received Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage funding in the sum of €286,000 for 26 houses (€11,000 per property) under the Voids Funding Programme. This Programme supports the refurbishment of void/vacant Council properties.
- Retrofitted 29 social houses under the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme supported by a Departmental grant of €742,623 and €75,698 from the Council's own resources.
- Spent €705,435 on adaptation works to 51 Council houses, including one extension, under the Housing Adaptation Works/Extensions/DPG'S Programme, funded 90% by the Department with 10% from the Council's own resources.

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

- Undertook 667 tenancy inspections (437 houses) of standards in private rented property.
- Issued 160 Improvement Notices to landlords.

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

- Provided accommodation for 23 households with medical needs under the Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability 2021–2025.
- Acquired 23 houses to include twenty Part V units and three Tenants in Situ units.
- Supported Approved Housing Bodies in the acquisition of one no. units under the Capital assistance Scheme (C.A.S.) for Tenants in Situ.

COMMUNITY & INTEGRATION

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)



In 2025, the LCDC continued to oversee a wide range of community programmes and initiatives, including the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Community Grants, the Public Participation Network (PPN), Healthy Ireland, PEACEPLUS, and the 2023–2027 LEADER Programme.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP budget for 2025 was €967,405, comprising of the general SICAP allocation of €736,008 and a New Arrivals allocation of €231,397 to support anti-poverty and social inclusion measures. Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), the programme also received support from the ESF+ Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2024–2028.



Progress under Goal 1 (supporting community groups) and Goal 2 (supporting individuals) exceeded annual targets.

- Goal 1 target: 50 groups supported → **59 groups supported**
- Goal 2 target: 431 individuals supported → **607 individuals supported**

2023-2027 LEADER Programme

The 2023–2027 LEADER Programme had an overall budget of €6,054,309. Sligo LCDC acts as the Local Action Group (LAG), with Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG as the Implementing Partner and Sligo County Council as the Financial Partner.

In 2025, 47 projects were approved to a value of €1,909,743.90, supporting a broad range of Local Development Strategy themes, including Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, and Basic Services for hard-to-reach communities.



Members of Sligo LCDC/ LAG and support staff



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

LECP 2030 – Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision

Monitoring of the 61 actions in the Sligo 2030 Implementation Plan continued during 2025. Progress was communicated through various channels, including a newsletter and an online campaign, #AnotherSligo2030Project.

Community and Voluntary Grants Scheme

A revenue allocation of €130,000 was available in 2025 to support community and voluntary activity.

The scheme comprised of six categories:

- Burial Ground Maintenance
- Housing Estates/Residents' Associations & Local Area Upkeep
- Tidy Towns Committees
- Small-Scale Community Events
- Small-Scale Community Heritage Projects/Events
- Rural Towns and Villages Seasonal Lights and Greening

Local Enhancement Programme

In 2025, Sligo LCDC received €144,393 under the Local Enhancement Programme. This funding was distributed to 135 community groups for current costs and capital projects, with a recommendation that 30% be ringfenced for small capital grants of €1,000 or less.

Social Inclusion

Age Friendly

In 2025, implementation of the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023–2026 progressed with several initiatives underway, including the Health & Wellbeing Festival, the development of Age Friendly Nursing Homes with St John's, a dementia-inclusive community initiative in Tubbercurry, and collaborative work between Sligo Age Friendly and Sligo GAA, who were awarded €25,000 to advance Markievicz Park as an Age Friendly Stadium.



LEO Sligo Age Friendly Programme Manager and residents of St John's Nursing Home



Over 250 older people attended the Age Friendly Health & Wellbeing Festival at ATU Sligo on 28th March 2025.

The Sligo Age Friendly Alliance met on 20th May and 3rd October 2025. Presentations covered services for older people, HSE-funded Home X-ray Services, the Fire Service Home Visit Programme, and Healthy Homes. Discussions included right-size housing and footpath obstructions.

Sligo Older People's Council hosted training sessions and its AGM, which featured guest speakers, entertainment, and refreshments.



Disability Consultative Committee (DCC)

The inaugural meeting of the re-established Disability Consultative Committee took place on 11th December 2025 at County Hall, following extensive engagement with the Disability Persons Organisation (DPO) and Public Participation Network (PPN) regarding membership.

Cllr Declan Bree was elected Chair. Standing Orders and Terms of Reference were adopted, and a presentation on the Committee's role and the Disability, Inclusion and Access Strategy 2024–2027 was delivered. The DCC term will align with the Council term (June 2024–May 2029).

Africa Day

Africa Day was celebrated on 25th May 2025 at The Model with an event titled "Voices of Home: A Celebration of African Culture and Community." The programme featured an exhibition of work by Sierra Leone-born artist Julianknxx and a collaborative choral performance involving members of Sligo's African community. The event concluded with food prepared by Sligo Global Kitchen featuring flavours from across Africa.

Comhairle na n'Óg

In 2025, Sligo Comhairle na n'Óg focused on school-related stress and anxiety, especially around exam periods. Members organised the "Mind Over Marks" festival at The CRIB on 24th October 2025, featuring speakers Luke Saunders, CEO of Studyclix, wellness educator Mary Bradley, and teacher and speaker John Sharpson. Members also consulted with Senior CAMHS psychologists and conducted their own research to inform the event.

Healthy Ireland Round 4

The Healthy Sligo Programme Round 4 (2023–2025) concluded in December 2025. Programmes supported young children, adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, the Traveller community, Aremoja Women's Group, and disadvantaged communities.

Examples included:

- Brief Intervention Mental Health Service for adolescents (Ballymote FRC)
- Stronger for Longer Programme
- Activator Poles (with Sligo Libraries)
- Cleveragh Junior Park Run
- Year in Nature Project – Caltragh

A budget of €75,000 was approved to extend Round 4 activities into 2026.



PEACEPLUS



2025 marked the first full year of activity under the Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme, following the award of €3,603,788 from the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Substantial progress was made in establishing the programme structures, launching initiatives, and promoting peacebuilding, community cohesion, and cross-community engagement. The Red Dress exhibition and launch event received a strong public response. The programme enters 2026 with clear priorities and strong partnerships.

The PEACEPLUS Programme aims to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the programme area.

Sligo PPN



Lionra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Shligigh
Public Participation Network Sligo



Sligo PPN Reps attending the national PPN Conference in Meath alongside Minister Jerry Buttimer

In 2025, 17 new representatives were nominated through the PPN, bringing total representation to 49 seats across local decision-making bodies. Training programmes supported 75 PPN members, including regional training on CSO data and political advocacy. Workshops were delivered for all PPN representatives elected to SPCs across the North West Region.

The PPN also supported community-led initiatives such as Uisce Álainn, Street Feast, and the launch of a Community Facilities Guide mapping available spaces across Sligo.

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Sligo County Council, in partnership with the Department of Justice, established a new LCSP in 2025, replacing Joint Policing Committees. The inaugural meeting took place on 8th December. The LCSP will develop interagency local safety plans and ensure community interests are reflected in priority-setting.



LEO Members of Sligo Community Safety Partnership pictured at the inaugural meeting

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)



In 2025, the LAIT delivered 144 clinics, supporting 563 individuals across 10 IPAS centres and 16 BOTP centres. The team supported numerous integration activities including:

- Integration Football Programme & Football Boot Library with Sligo Rovers FC
- Aremoja Women's Coffee Mornings
- Intensive swimming lessons for children in IPAS
- English language classes (Sligo FRC)
- Wheels in Motion cycling lessons (Sports Partnership)
- Art Without Borders (Ballymote FRC)
- Empowering Parents Workshops (Diversity Sligo)
- "Understanding Your Pay and Tax" clinic (Revenue)
- Summer and Easter camps delivered with Cúl Camps, Sligo Rovers FC and Swim Ireland

The Community Integration Forum (CIF) met four times in 2025, involving 19 stakeholders and welcoming 8 new members. The CIF coordinates collaboration between mainstream services, NGOs, and community groups supporting Ukrainian refugees, IP applicants, and those with status.

Since the commencement of the Offer A Home scheme, a total of 132 properties have been pledged. In 2025, 50 of these were actively occupied by 201 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP).



LIBRARIES

Sligo Libraries experienced strong growth across all core services in 2025, reflecting increased public engagement and continued investment in accessible, community-focused services.

Service Usage

- 12,911 registered library members
- 3% increase in visitors to Sligo Libraries
- 91% increase in items borrowed online
- 3% increase in citizens accessing public PCs
- 37% increase in WiFi use across library branches

Library Statistics – Overview				
Ballymote Issues	Sligo Central Issues	Enniscrone Issues	Mobile Issues	Tubbercurry Issues
24,039	103,833	9,690	1,082	23,662
Ballymote Registrations	Sligo Central Registrations	Enniscrone Registrations	Mobile Registrations	Tubbercurry Registrations
565	2,783	167	44	447

Right to Read Programme

Spring into Storytime (April 2025)

- 23 events
- 300 participants

Summer Stars (June–August 2025)

- Participation by 12.5% of children in County Sligo
 - (Census 2022: 13,373 children aged 0–15 years)
- 11% increase in children's events
- 45% increase in attendance at children's events
- 17,700 children's books borrowed during the programme

October Book Festival

- 60 events
- 1,125 participants

Family Time at Your Library (December 2025)

- 29 events
- 578 participants

My Little Library Book Bags

- 733 book bags distributed to support children starting school

Book Clubs

- 11 book clubs active across the county
- 90 book club meetings held in 2025
- 143 titles borrowed by book club groups supported by Sligo Libraries

Library Services to Schools

- 5% increase in books loaned to schools (10,391 physical books)
- 53% increase in Class Sets loaned:
 - 120 Class Sets (3,600 class novels)
- 72 Early Learning and Care class visits
- 290 Primary School visits
- 31 Post-Primary School visits
- 47 library staff presentations to Primary Schools
- 14 presentations to Post-Primary Schools or delivered online
- 22 Books in a Box delivered to schools
- 277 Active Teacher Cards
- 5 DEIS School Summer Camp visits



My Open Library (MOL)

- 3,831 individual MOL logins (15% increase on 2024)
- MOL accounted for 30% of all meeting room bookings
- In May 2025, RTÉ News: Six One featured Tubbercurry Community Library, highlighting Leaving Certificate students using the service to study.



Sense-Ability – Sensory Room, Ballymote Community Library

- 801 users
- 255 individual bookings



Creative Ireland – Creative Sligo Programme 2025

Delivered by Sligo Libraries on behalf of the Culture Team and supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Workshops included STEM circuits, upcycling clothes, stop-motion animation, green screen, crafts, drama, ukulele, and music composition.

Participants enjoyed free activities such as ceramics, badge-making, robotics, nature crafts, wood carving, circus skills, youth theatre, and teenage band performances.

Partnerships included:

Music Generation Sligo, Sligo Springboard, Hawk's Well Theatre, Sligo Youth Theatre, Foróige, Sligo Woodland School, Kid's Own.

Grants awarded:

- 28 Open Call grants (€84,000)
- 16 Implementation grants (€64,000+)

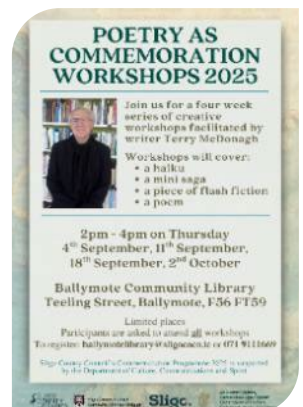


Commemorations Programme 2025

Delivered by Sligo Libraries on behalf of Sligo County Council.

Key activities included:

- Commemoration of the Unknown Soldier's Grave, Sligo Cemetery
- Poetry as Commemoration: four-week workshop series in Local Studies and Archives, Ballymote Community Library and Tubbercurry Community Library
- Commemorative Writing: six-week workshop series at Sligo Central Library
- Commissioned writing for Sligo and the Sense of Place anthology
- Brushstrokes and Ballads, a Jack B. Yeats commemoration by Comhaltas CCÉ Cnoc na Ré
- Sligo Field Club lecture series commemorating Jack B. Yeats and Countess Markievicz
- Expansion of the Commemorations Collection in Local Studies



Healthy Ireland at Your Library

- 119 events delivered in 2025
- Information stand at the Health and Wellbeing Festival
- Men's Health Week event
- Collection enhanced with new titles

Collaborations

Sligo Leader Partnership

- Delivery of Digital Skills Classes in libraries

Science Festival, ATU Sligo

- Primary School classes attended festival events in Sligo, Ballymote, and Tubbercurry Libraries

ATU Sligo

- Six editions of *The Word* author event series, in collaboration with the BA in Writing and Literature, ATU Sligo
- Special edition of *The Word* held in May 2025 in tribute to Tommie Gorman

MSLETB

- Storysac three-part workshop series
- Digital Skills classes
- Driver Theory Test programme

Down Syndrome Sligo

- Six Down Syndrome Library Club meetings in Sligo Central and Tubbercurry Libraries

Family Resource Centres

- My Baby and Me programme with Sligo FRC
- Ballymote FRC walking group availed of activator pole loans
- Tubbercurry FRC delivered seven children's workshops (robotics, bracelet-making, collage, mindfulness, painting)
 - 615 children attended

Kids' Own Partnership Company

- Paper craft workshops in the Kids' Own Library, Sligo Central Library

Climate Action

In line with Action No. 25 (raising public awareness), the following activities were delivered:

- Climate change and energy workshops (in partnership with SEAI and Europe Direct)
- Seed saving, plant propagation, and launch of seed swap library
- Organic gardening sessions
- Biodiversity Week "Tree of Ireland" talk
- Bat conservation workshop with local schools
- Six upcycling workshops culminating in a fashion exhibition for Cruinniú na nÓg
- Woodland School outdoor workshop
- Summer Story Trail at Enniscrone

Europe Direct Sligo

Events & Workshops

- Business support workshop with SWIBN and LEO
- Regional Soapbox competition, with finalists advancing to the national event
- 30-day Europe-wide opportunities campaign with Eurodesk

EU in Schools

- European Solidarity Corps presentations
- Seachtain na Gaeilge table quizzes
- Workshops on misinformation/disinformation
- Study abroad presentation by Guy Flouch (EUNiCAS)
- EU in a Nutshell introductory programme

Partner Events

- Ireland Reads campaign
- International Women's Day information event
- My Baby and Me early reading initiative
- Biodiversity workshop producing bookmarks for the Little Free Library project
- Participation in the Older People's Council AGM

Soapbox

- Regional competition held at North Connacht Youth Service
- Sligo represented at the National Final by students from Ursuline College and Summerhill College

Museum

- 8,513 visitors (January–August 2025)
- 21 Primary School class visits
- Donation of the first series of Irish Legal Tender "Lady Lavery" notes by Gerry Nicholson (Thomas Connolly's Bar)
- Museum closed in September 2025 for essential works: window restoration and lintel replacement



ARTS SERVICE



Arts Plan

In 2025, Sligo Arts Service continued to advance the strategic objectives of the Arts Plan Sustain, Renew, Collaborate 2020–2025. The Public Art Steering Group was re-established, enhancing governance and supporting the effective delivery of public art initiatives.

Contributions to the Arts

Following an open call, funding of €262,000 was awarded to 29 arts organisations under the 2025 Arts Grants Scheme. This investment reflects Sligo County Council's sustained commitment to a strong and vibrant arts ecosystem and directly supported the delivery of festivals, creative programmes, and community-focused arts activity across the county.

Public Art

- A full review and update of Tírdheachta Beo / Living Landscapes 2022–2028, ensuring all active and planned projects were accurately represented.
- Agreement on a provisional timeline for three upcoming rounds of public art commissioning.
- Planning for the recruitment of a Public Art Manager in 2026 to oversee and support delivery of the Public Art Programme.

These actions have strengthened the framework for commissioning and delivering impactful public art across the county.

Programming

Sligo Arts Service continued to deliver on its commitments under the Arts Council Framework Agreement 2020–2027, expanding programming across the shared strategic priorities of Supports for Artists, Children and Young People, Arts Participation, and Culture Night.

Key achievements for 2025 included:

- 41 individual artists supported through awards and bursaries
- Over 530 children engaged in arts-in-education initiatives
- 35 events delivered as part of the Bealtaine and Bríd festivals
- Sligo's largest-ever Culture Night, featuring 42 events countywide and attracting an estimated 4,260 attendees

This diverse programme contributed to increased public participation, creative expression, and artistic development throughout the year.

Visibility and Promotion

In 2025, Sligo Arts Service implemented a strengthened communications and visibility strategy designed to improve audience reach, enhance brand recognition, and support wider engagement with the arts.

Key actions included:

- Launch of a dedicated Arts Service Instagram channel
- Development of a suite of branded social media templates for consistent visual presentation
- Increased engagement with local media outlets
- Updates to existing website content
- Preparatory work for the launch of a new Arts Service website

These measures resulted in notable growth in online engagement, with the Arts Service now reaching over 1,500 active followers and delivering consistent, high-quality content across its social platforms.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Sligo is the first point of contact for businesses in County Sligo. Local Enterprise Offices are funded by Enterprise Ireland under a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This SLA outlines the operational framework for LEOs, with Enterprise Ireland providing oversight to ensure the delivery of appropriate services. Local Authorities, in turn, are responsible for providing LEO services within their administrative areas. The most recent SLA was signed in October 2025.

LEO Sligo provides a range of financial supports, including Feasibility/Innovation Grants, Priming Grants, Business Expansion Grants, and Microfinance Ireland loan funding.

The office also delivers a comprehensive suite of non-financial supports, including business mentoring, training programmes, and targeted consultancy initiatives designed to help local businesses improve competitiveness, productivity, and operational effectiveness. This includes support for the implementation of LEAN processes, which help businesses achieve cost savings and efficiencies.

The Local Enterprise Offices Policy Statement 2024-2030 identifies key strategic priorities for LEOs.

These are as follows:

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

To support these objectives, LEOs now offer an expanded range of supports, including Green for Business consultancy, the Energy Efficiency Grant, Digital for Business consultancy, and the Grow Digital Voucher. LEO Sligo also works closely with Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers programme to support innovative start-ups in the county.

To enhance export readiness, two new supports were introduced in 2025: the Get Exporting programme and the Market Explorer Grant.

LEO Sligo continues to support the development of food businesses through the Food Start and Food Academy programmes.

LEO Sligo continues to support the development of food businesses through the Food Start and Food Academy programmes. The office also plays a central role in fostering an enterprise culture in the county, supporting initiatives such as the Student Enterprise Programme and National Women's Enterprise Day. In addition, it facilitates client participation in major national events, including Showcase at the RDS and the Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships.



LEO client Slick+ win the Regional Awards at the National Enterprise Awards



2025 Senior Category winners 'Duffmeister' of Ballinode College

Local Enterprise Week took place from 3rd -7th March 2025 and featured a series of seminars, workshops, and training events for small businesses. LEO Sligo also participates annually in the National Enterprise Awards, and for the second consecutive year, a LEO Sligo client—Slick+—won the North Western Regional Award.

LEO Sligo plays an active role in shaping and collaborating across the county's enterprise ecosystem. It works closely with a wide range of key stakeholders including MicroFinance Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, SOLAS and the ETB, Sligo LEADER, Sligo Chamber of Commerce, Sligo BID, and many others.



National Women's Enterprise Day 2025

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development activity in 2025 focused on strengthening Sligo's innovation ecosystem, deepening international partnerships, and supporting enterprise across the county. The AIM Centre continued to act as a central driver of technological development, building on its growing national and European profile. Throughout the year, it delivered a broad programme of events, training initiatives, and leadership sessions in partnership with the Local Enterprise Office, while advancing collaborative EU projects such as Nordic Bridge and Arctic Edge. The centre's achievements were recognised nationally and internationally, culminating in its success at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards. It also expanded its role in regional innovation networks by contributing to EU engagements, hosting the regional AI Challenge, and developing accelerator programmes for local authority staff.



AIM Centre wins the 'Best Enterprise & Start-Up Hub' at LAMA Awards



Launch of MSLETB XR Hub podcast at SocoLab

SocoLab in Strandhill, recently rebranded, and continued its transition into a modern digital hub, strengthened by the attraction of additional clients and the establishment of the MSLETB XRHub at SocoLab to support immersive technology training.

Progress continued on the Sligo Food and Drinks Strategy, with consultation and research consolidated into a draft framework

for approval. The emerging strategy aims to position the food sector as a central pillar of Sligo's economic identity.

Sligo's international outreach advanced through a series of economic missions and visiting delegations. A joint delegation from Sligo County Council and Sligo Chamber visited Mentor, Cleveland, and Philadelphia early in 2025, engaging with economic development agencies, manufacturing firms, and port authorities. Reciprocal visits from Mentor and, later, Mankato, Minnesota, provided opportunities for local companies to showcase innovation, build business connections, and explore transatlantic market potential. Sligo's participation in the Western Development Commission's European Engagement Programme further strengthened EU networks and funding pathways.

The Night Time Economy Pilot achieved significant progress, with its programme extended to September 2026. A wide range of events took place throughout the year, supported through strong collaboration between the Local Enterprise Office, Fáilte Ireland, Sligo BID, and cultural partners. Seasonal programming, youth-led performances, arts and heritage events, and community initiatives all contributed to increased evening activity. The Purple Pulse safety initiative continued to expand, and engagement with national agencies advanced discussions on the potential introduction of a late-night bus service. Sligo secured renewal of its Purple Flag accreditation. Engagement with the business community continued through the renewal process for Sligo BID, with votes counted on 9th January 2026.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy speaking at the Sligo Business Network Meeting in London

Regional economic planning remained a core focus. Work advanced on the Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan, including the development of a joint regional vision by the Chief Executives of Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. Engagement with national agencies continued on renewable energy, enterprise infrastructure, and regional marketing. Sligo County Council became a partner in the €2.5 million PEACEPLUS-funded Connexus Project, supporting innovation and connectivity across rural and coastal hubs.

The Sligo Economic Forum met throughout the year to consider themes including skills, capital development, mobility planning, and strategic investment. In parallel, progress monitoring and evaluation of the Local Economic & Community Plan - Sligo 2030 One Voice One Vision took place in Q3.

TOURISM AND FESTIVALS

Holiday World Show Dublin 2025

The Tourism Section exhibited at the Holiday World Show in Dublin, which welcomed over 25,000 visitors across three days. As the largest event of its kind in Ireland, it provided an important platform to showcase the very best of Sligo to audiences actively planning future holidays and short breaks.

A new Visit Sligo exhibition stand was designed and installed for the event. The light-box vinyl stand created a bright, contemporary visual presence and was designed for reuse and adaptation at future promotional events.



Digital Marketing Training for Tourism Businesses

A six-week dedicated digital marketing training programme for tourism businesses and organisations commenced in January 2025. Demand for this specialised training was strong, and participant numbers doubled during the course.

Fáilte Ireland Meitheal

The Tourism Officer attended Meitheal, Fáilte Ireland's flagship tourism trade event, in Killarney. This annual forum brought together international travel buyers and Irish tourism providers, offering valuable opportunities to contract business and strengthen relationships with tour operators.

Social Media Agency Invitation

Visit Sligo invited social media agencies in Ireland and abroad to submit proposals to manage paid social media campaigns. This marked a significant development in Sligo's digital marketing strategy, with paid campaigns commencing in May 2025.

Website Refresh

The Visit section of www.sligo.ie underwent a major redesign to improve layout, navigation, and overall functionality. More than 70 new pages were added showcasing Sligo's attractions, experiences, and accommodation. The refreshed site provided a modern, high-performing digital platform to support Sligo's promotion as a visitor destination.



Sales Showcase in Italy

In May 2025, Sligo was promoted to the Italian tourism market during a dedicated sales showcase in Milan, delivered in partnership with Tourism Ireland and Ireland West Airport. Representatives from Sligo's walking, golf, and water-based experience providers met with tour operators, outbound agents, and travel journalists, generating strong interest in immersive experiences and renewed demand for travel to Sligo via the Milan Bergamo route.



While in Milan, the Tourism Officer addressed the NECSTouR Annual General Meeting and participated in a round-table discussion on digital communications and marketing for sustainable tourism regions.

RTÉ Radio 1 – Oliver Callan Broadcast from Strandhill

RTÉ Radio 1's outside broadcast team visited Strandhill on Tuesday, 15th July, where the Oliver Callan Show was broadcast live from the shorefront. Local tourism businesses and attractions—including Sligo Oyster Farm, Carrowmore & OPW, the Coleman Centre for Irish Traditional Music, VOYA Seaweed Baths, and Hawks Rock Distillery, featured on the programme, providing nationwide exposure for Sligo.



Support for Travel Writers and Content Creators

A number of travel writers and social media content creators visited Sligo in August, including leading Irish-language influencers with audiences exceeding 100,000 followers. Bespoke itineraries were developed in alignment with the Sligo Destination and Experience Development Plan. The resulting content supported ongoing digital promotion and will continue to be used throughout 2026.

Digital Innovation and National Recognition

Sligo County Council received a national eGovernment Award for the Tourism Section's "Ideas Engine," a digital tool that generates bespoke visitor itineraries. The initiative won in the *Promoting Ireland Overseas* category at a ceremony attended by Minister Jack Chambers TD.

The same project was also shortlisted in the *AI Innovation of the Year* category at the Sunday Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards. Although not selected as the overall winner, being shortlisted alongside leading national organisations—including the Central Bank, Revenue Commissioners, Smart Docklands, and St James's Hospital—provided excellent visibility and further validated the Council's innovative digital approach.



International Sales Programme for Tourism Businesses

The Tourism Officer worked closely with Fáilte Ireland and The Innovate Room on the development of a bespoke international sales strategy for Sligo. This process included workshops with tourism businesses and direct engagement with consultants to design and deliver a tailored plan. The objective was to strengthen Sligo's position in international markets by increasing overseas visitor numbers and reducing reliance on the domestic tourism sector.

CLIMATE & INFRASTRUCTURE



JIM MOLLOY

Director of Services

Climate & Infrastructure & Sligo-Drumcliff Municipal District

ROADS

€23 million was spent on the 2025 Regional and Local Roads Programme, of which €18.8 million was received from the Department of Transport. The following are the main categories of maintenance and improvement works included in the Roads Programme:

- **Restoration Maintenance**

Surface Dressing as preventative maintenance, approximately 102km at 79 locations.

- **Restoration Improvement**

Multi-Annual Programme of substantial restoration of roads in very poor condition, approximately 63km at 84 locations.

- **Discretionary Grant**

Maintenance and improvement across the network, including significant improvement works at approximately 12 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 12 locations.

- **Drainage Programme**

Drainage improvement works were completed at 43 locations throughout the county in 2025

- **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 a funding contribution by the local community at approximately 13 locations.

- **Safety Improvement Works**

Improvement works at approximately 9 locations throughout the County.

- **Former National Roads**

Improvement works L-3608 Carrowroe to Ballydrehid, approximately 1km.

The following Strategic and Specific Improvement Schemes were also progressed:

Eastern Garvoge 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, completed phase 1 of the contractor procurement process in 2025. Detailed design entered the final stages in 2025. Significant progress has been made in relation to landowner agreements and accommodation works.

Mail Coach Road (MCR) to Burton Street Link Road

Contractor commenced works on site in Q3 2025.

Oakfield Road (Maugheraboy roundabout WDR to Ballydoogan Road) Realignment

Preliminary design and option selection were completed in 2024. Significant work was completed in 2025 on the preparation of Part 8 planning reports and design drawings. It is anticipated that statutory approval will be completed in 2026.

Miscellaneous Schemes

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

A procurement process for consultancy services to deliver the BSEP was completed in 2025.

- **Road Safety Strategy**

Road Safety Strategy was published and adopted in 2025, along with the establishment of the Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG).

Active Travel Programme

The Active Travel Programme continues to be rolled out across the county with funding from the NTA of €3 million. 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 2026.

- **Pedestrian Linkages**

The planning and detailed design of linkages at Ballygawley, Clarion Road, Carraroe, Rosses Point, Strandhill Village and Oakfield Road. A tender process for Coolaney Rockfield was concluded in 2025. It is anticipated that the scheme will commence construction in 2026.

- **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 2025 – statutory process is ongoing.

- **Other Works**

Continued 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 95% of the public lighting changed to LED, and it is planned to replace the remaining 5% 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

Energy efficiencies and decarbonisation measures will 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 2026, Sligo County Council will develop a County EV Infrastructure Strategy as part of a regional collaboration with counties Donegal, as Lead Authority, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

Climate Action Plan

Progress continued on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan in 2025. The Decarbonising Zone project secured funding through the Interreg Europe SMARTFORM project and the European Urban Initiative NaturW project, supporting enhanced community engagement on climate action, including nature-based solutions.

Reducing Carbon Emissions Across Council Operations

Work progressed on the Pathfinder Programme for the retrofit of County Hall and Sligo Fire Station. The works tender process commenced in 2025, with works expected to begin in mid-2026.

The Sligo Regional Sports Centre project team advanced retrofit proposals through the SEAI Pathfinder Programme and the SEUPB PEACEPLUS-funded GEMINI Geothermal Project. An Investment Grade Audit commenced in late 2025.

Energy Efficiency

Following a Surveillance Audit in late 2025, certification of the Council's ISO 50001 Energy Management System was renewed. The Council continued participation in the OPW Optimising Power @ Work Scheme, targeting further energy savings in County Hall in line with Public Sector targets.

Supporting Low-Carbon Communities

€445,000 was distributed to 21 projects (Strand 1 – Sligo) and 2 projects (Strand 1a – Shared Island) under the Community Climate Action Programme. Applications were received for a second funding round of €405,000 (Strand 1 only) with recommendations due to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in Q1 2026.

Water Quality

Discharge Licences

- 17 No. Section 4 discharge licences monitored,
- 52 No. inspections completed
- 10 No. spot check samples undertaken.

Planning Application Assessment Inspections

- 65 No. Planning Compliance inspections
- 418 No. In advance of planning permission
- 12 No. Quarry related planning inspections
- 11 No. Other planning inspections relating to environmental issues

Agricultural Inspections

- 148 No. Agricultural inspections, exceeding the EPA NAIP annual target.
- 2 No. public notices issued on land-spreading practices.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

- 34 No. inspections relating to initial, follow up, and verification inspections.
- €25,742 paid to homeowners under the National Inspection Plan and the High-Status Objective Catchment Areas grant schemes.
- 67 No. inspections relating to public engagement and grant queries.
- 1 No. notice published on website and local media regarding maintenance and desludging.

Water Framework Directive Monitoring

- 256 No. River water samples taken and delivered to EPA regional laboratories and 114 No. Lake samples taken, representing a 100% compliance rate with the National Water Framework Directive programme requirements.

Investigative Catchment Monitoring

- Additional sampling undertaken in the Douglas, Buncrowey, Carney, Feorish and Unshin catchments

Source Inspections at Public Water Supply Schemes

- 17 No. source inspections undertaken within the catchment areas of public water supplies.
- Regulation of public water supplies in accordance with the Service Level Agreement with Uisce Éireann.

Private Water Supplies

- 17 No. Group Water Schemes and 10 No. Small Private Supplies registered.
- 94 No. compliance samples and 53 No. operational and investigative samples taken.
- Annual return for GWS and Small Private Supplies submitted to Environmental Protection Agency.

Water Pollution Complaints

- 67 No. water pollution complaints/incidents were received and investigated, involving 196 inspections taking into consideration initial and follow-up inspections.

Bathing Water Monitoring

- Rosses Point, Enniscrone, Mullaghmore, Streedagh and Dunmorán monitored.
- Additional monitoring at Strandhill Beach, Dorrin's Strand and Gibraltar Point.
- 43 No. samples taken at designated sites with water quality classified as excellent.
- Rosses Point Beach and Enniscrone beaches were awarded Blue Flag Status.
- Streedagh, Dunmorán, Rosses Point and Enniscrone beaches were awarded Green Flag status.

Rural Water and Wastewater Programme

- €1.934m subsidy payments to Group Water Schemes.
- €0.325m improvements in Tawnagh, Keash, Corrick, Castlebaldwin Group Water Schemes.
- Ballygawley Village included in programme for villages without access to wastewater services.
- 4 No. private well grants processed.
- 3 No. private water lead remediation grants processed.

Litter Management

- 1,249 No. litter patrols (including Inspections of LA Cert of Registration sites e.g., bring centres and bottle banks).
- 132 No. litter pollution monitoring surveys.
- 37 No. support provided to community clean-ups.
- 71 no. fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act.

Recovery and Recycling Facilities

There are 25 No. bring bank facilities situated throughout the county with a total of 57.26 tonnes of recyclables collected during 2025 and there are 44 Bottle Banks situated throughout the county with a total of 1495.24 tonnes of recyclables collected during 2025

Tubbercurry Civic Amenity Site processed 822 tonnes and Ballisodare Composting Facility processed 790 tonnes.

Waste Regulations, Monitoring, and Enforcement

- 37 No. multi-agency inspections.
- 11 No. Construction and Demolition inspections.
- 13 No. End of Life Vehicle and Metal inspections.
- 67 No. Household and Commercial Waste inspections.
- 89 No. Producer Responsibility Initiative and additional local priority inspections.
- 25 No. Hazardous waste inspections.
- 79 No. inspections of Waste Permitted Facilities, Certificate of Registration sites and Waste Collection Permit Holders.
- 14 No. other routine waste inspections including Waste Bye Law Surveys, Annual Returns.
- 306 non-routine inspections including illegal dumping, unauthorised waste sites, unauthorised waste collectors.

Environmental Awareness

Sligo Town was named Ireland's Cleanest Town in the 2025 Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) rankings. This achievement reflects the Council's ongoing collaboration with initiatives such as National Spring Clean, Green-Schools, and the Gum Litter Taskforce, as well as the effective administration of environmental grant programmes, including the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme and the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

Key initiatives included:

- €6,890.41 allocated to six community anti-litter/anti-graffiti projects
- €1,341.44 allocated for community litter-picking equipment
- 27 National Spring Clean events supported
- 16 Green-Schools flag renewals
- 2 bulky waste/ mattress amnesty events: 81 tonnes waste and 578 mattresses collected
- Clean-up projects at nine sites: 43 tonnes of waste removed
- Installation of illegal-dumping deterrent devices at 10 locations to combat illegal dumping and dog-fouling
- Garavogue River clean-up in partnership with Sligo Kayak Club
- Comprehensive dog fouling campaign
- Circular economy workshops in three communities and five schools on the topic of fast fashion.
- Delivery of the Picker Pals Programme in three schools

Air Quality

- 30 No. retail premises were inspected under solid fuel regulations
- 2 No. multi-agency inspections.
- 10 No. fuel samples were taken and analysed under solid fuel regulations.
- 39 No. air quality complaints investigated.

Parks and Open Spaces

Cleveragh Regional Park

Part 8 Masterplan approved in September 2025. Funding applications and tender documentation progressed for the Learn to Cycle Facility.



Cleveragh Regional Park Masterplan – September 2025

Other works

- Sports infrastructure rehabilitation works and Biodiversity planting works were completed at O'Boyle Park, Forthill and Doorly Park, Cleveragh.
- Expansion of sensory musical play equipment at Doorly Park was completed in 2025 using Capital Grant Funding scheme for Play and Recreation supported by the Department of Children, Equality and Disability.
- Tender documentation was prepared and issued to specialist playground contractors for playground rehabilitation works and the installation of an outdoor calisthenics' gym area at Mitchell Curley Park, Sligo.
- In January to March 2025 staff undertook a range of emergency response actions for storm damage caused by Storm Éowyn including repairs to damaged walls, debris removal, removal and / or remedial tree surgery on a range of impacted trees at multiple locations.

Grant Funding Secured in 2025

- €112,500 – Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to support project delivery for the Cleveragh Learn to Cycle Facility.
- €60,000 – Community Recognition Fund 2025 to progress rehabilitation works for Mitchell Curley Park playground.
- €15,626 – Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the provision of sensory playground equipment for Doorly Park.
- €90,000 – 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.
- €26,444 – Housing Investment Fund 2025 to progress rehabilitation works for an outdoor gym at Mitchell Curley Park.
- €25,000 – in conjunction with Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership, under Sports Ireland, for the provision of outdoor swimming infrastructure to include beach shelter and shower unit at Dunmoran strand, and a beach shelter unit at Mullaghmore.
- €361,790 – Department of Environment Climate and Communications to support landfill remediation including topsoiling and seeding works for Finisklin landfill.

Sligo Town Cemetery

Construction works were completed in May 2025 with the creation of 900 new cemetery spaces

Finisklin Park

In October 2025, Sligo County Council completed major landscape works at Finisklin Park, including the importation of 2,500 tonnes of topsoil and grass seeding as part of the wider landfill remediation scheme. The project was grant-funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Additional works completed in 2025 included the installation of a gas-venting system, comprising six bio-windows and a 200m bio-trench, along with a 1km walkway, car parking area and public lighting. The landfill remediation scheme is designed to effectively manage landfill emissions, minimise environmental impact, and ensure long-term site stability.



Aerial view of Finisklin Park after landscape works
– August 2025

Veterinary Service and Animal Welfare

The Veterinary Service transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in January 2025. The Department now has responsibility for implementing the relevant food safety legislation for two abattoirs and two small meat-manufacturing plants, operating under a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Control of Dogs continued to be delivered in 2025 through the Dog Warden Service. The current contract for the provision of dog control services commenced in 2024.

- 11 No. dog incidents reported interfering with livestock.
- 90 No. dogs surrendered.

- 5 No. dogs seized.
- 10 No. dogs euthanised.
- 162 No. dogs housed in pound in 2025.
- 12 No. dogs rehomed – 108 dogs went to animal welfares/ charities and 32 reclaimed by owners.
- 67 No. stray dogs reported.

Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028

Sligo County Council liaised with the Environmental Protection Agency on the implementation of the Noise Action Plan.

The 2025 Progress Report was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Coastal Protection

Work progressed on advancing coastal protection measures in Strandhill, with works proposed for 2026, subject to planning approval.

EMERGENCY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Sligo Fire Service delivers emergency fire and rescue operations across four Fire Brigade Units located in Sligo, Ballymote, Tubbercurry and Enniscrone.

The highest number of Special Service incidents attended in 2025 related to Road Traffic Collisions, with 99 such incidents recorded.

A Status Red Severe Weather Event—Storm Éowyn—occurred in January 2025, causing widespread damage across the county. The Fire Service responded extensively, removing more than 180 fallen trees, keeping main road routes open, and making structurally damaged buildings safe.



Incidents from Storm Éowyn 2025

The number of incidents attended in 2025 is as follows:

Fire Operations activity in numbers 2025	Number
No. of fires attended:	204
No. of Special Services:	230
No. of False Alarms	201
Total incidents responded to:	694

Note: This is an increase across all categories from 2024.

Operational Training Programme

The following in-house training was undertaken by Sligo Fire Personnel in 2025:

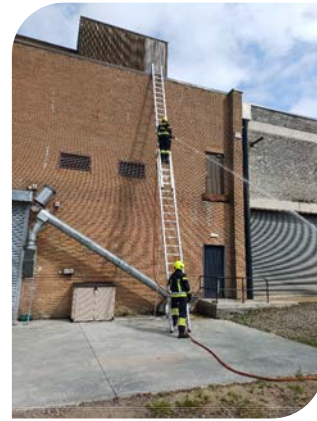
- Programmed on-station drill training programme
- Swift Water Rescue & Flood Technician Training
- Cardiac First Responder & Emergency First Responder Medical Training
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Refresher Training
- Confined Space Training
- Emergency Traffic Management Training
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training
- Hazardous Materials Training
- Road Traffic Collision Training
- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Driver Training
- Joint Training Exercises with the RNLI



Training with the RNLI



Hazardous Materials Training



Working at Height Training

Fire Prevention and Building Control

The number of Fire Safety Certificates, Disability Access Certificates, Commencement Notices, and Certificates of Compliance on Completion processed in 2025 is detailed in the table hereunder.

Fire Prevention Activities (2025)	Number
No of Fire Safety Certificates (FSC) received:	76
No. of Disability Access Certificates (DAC) received:	71
No. of Commencement Notices (CN) received:	203
No. of Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) received:	66

In addition, the Sligo Fire Service carried out 49 No. inspections of licensed premises under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and associated Licensing Acts, providing advice to the Courts on the fire safety suitability of premises for licensed use.

Community Fire Safety

National Fire Safety Week took place from 13th –19th October 2025, with the theme “Together Against Fire”, focusing on improving fire safety in the home.

People were encouraged to increase their awareness of home fire safety by regularly doing routine Fire Safety Checks.

Sligo County Council delivered a comprehensive social media campaign throughout the week to raise awareness, encouraging the public to carry out regular home Fire Safety Checks.

Sligo Fire Service also attended community events throughout the year, promoting fire safety and prevention.



Home Fire Safety Visits

In 2025, Sligo County Council and Age Friendly Ireland entered into a new partnership to enhance the safety and well-being of older residents.

A Protocol of Cooperation was signed on 5th August 2025 by Chief Executive Martin Lydon and Eimear McCormack, Acting National Manager of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.

Under this initiative, firefighters from the four stations in County Sligo conduct free Home Fire Safety Checks for older people referred through the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. Each visit is carried out by two firefighters, with the person accompanied by a friend or neighbour.

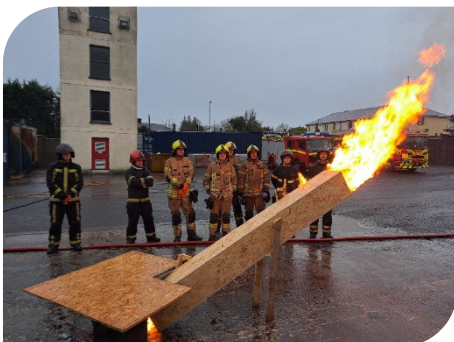


Regional Training Centre

2025 was an exceptionally active year for Fire Service training nationally, with significant recruitment continuing across all Fire Services in line with the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) agreement. This agreement provides guaranteed minimum earnings and requires each station to maintain a minimum crew of 12 No. retained firefighters.

Sligo Fire Service Training Centre delivered and facilitated the following courses during 2025 at its training venues in Sligo and Tubbercurry Fire Stations:

- Cardiac First Responder/First Aid Responder (FAR) & Emergency First Responder (EFR). Sligo Fire Service is an Approved Training Institute by Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council and trains a number of Brigades throughout Ireland.
- 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 Courses
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Breathing Apparatus Courses
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Compartment Fire Behaviour Courses
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Transportation Incidents Courses
- LASNTG QQI Level 6 Hazardous Materials Courses



Major Emergency Management

As part of ongoing preparedness, Sligo Fire Service / Sligo County Council participated in regional training with partner agencies in the Northwest Major Emergency Management Region, including An Garda Síochána, the HSE, and the National Ambulance Service.

Sligo Fire Service also works closely with other statutory response agencies—An Garda Síochána, the HSE, National Ambulance Service, Civil Defence and others—in pre-planning and assessing Outdoor Event Licence applications for large-scale events.



CIVIL DEFENCE

In 2025, Civil Defence marked its 75th anniversary, with a large group of Sligo volunteers attending the national celebration in Maynooth, where they were presented with commemorative medals to mark this significant milestone.

Sligo Civil Defence operates under the direction of the Chief Fire Officer and has over 70 active volunteer members. Volunteers continue to receive ongoing training across a wide range of skills to ensure they can effectively support the Principal Response Agencies when required.



Throughout 2025, Sligo Civil Defence provided assistance at over 100 events across the county. This included the provision of first aid cover at all home fixtures for both the Sligo Rovers senior men's and women's teams.

During 2025, Civil Defence units placed an increased emphasis on preparedness for mass-evacuation procedures and the establishment of rest centres in response to emergency situations such as Storm Éowyn. As part of this work, Sligo Civil Defence assessed a number of buildings as potential Emergency Hubs and procured additional equipment, including camp beds, privacy screens and shelters.

Sligo Civil Defence participated in regional training exercises in Roscommon and Monaghan, with further development and enhanced training planned for 2026.



PLACEMAKING



EMER CONCANNON

Director of Services

Placemaking & Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District

PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

Development Management

A total of 575 planning applications were received in 2025, representing a 6% increase on 2024 and an 18% increase on 2023. There was also a continued rise in other planning-related activity, reflecting increased development interest and customer engagement.

In 2025:

- 331 pre-planning applications were received (a 25% increase since 2022)
- 160 planning searches were processed (a 125% increase since 2022)

The implementation of E-Planning was further advanced in 2025 and is now fully embedded as an integral part of the development management function. 97.6% of all planning applications were submitted online during the year, compared to 90% in 2024 and 78% in 2023. This represents the highest online submission rate in the country, exceeding the national county average of 84% by 13.6%.

In addition, the Pre-Planning Application Form was moved fully online, improving accessibility and customer experience.

Development Planning Unit (DPU)

County Development Plan 2024–2030

The Draft Ministerial Direction issued in November 2024 was not finalised during 2025, and certain elements of the County Development Plan (CDP) continued to be affected by the Draft Direction during the year.

Separately, on 29 July 2025, the Minister issued *NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, requiring all local authorities to reassess the quantum of land zoned for housing in their Development Plans.

Following a review of the Sligo County Development Plan 2024–2030, the DPU prepared a Chief Executive's Report for the Elected Members, setting out the development capacity of existing zoned lands and recommending a variation of the Plan in order to meet the objectives of the Guidelines. The variation process formally commenced on 18 December 2025.

Proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan

Part 3, Chapter 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, which commenced on 31 December 2025, introduced provisions for the preparation of Urban Area Plans (UAPs) in place of Local Area Plans.

During summer 2025, the Development Planning Unit undertook non-statutory pre-draft consultation on a proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan. A total of 49 submissions were received, and a number of stakeholder consultation meetings were held during Quarter 4 2025. Preparation of a Draft Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan commenced.

ENFORCEMENT

A total of 70 Enforcement files were opened in 2025. During the same period, 83 cases were resolved and closed through negotiation or enforcement proceedings.

Vacant Homes Unit

The Vacant Homes Unit (VHU) continued to administer the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG). To date, 564 applications have been received, with 137 applications submitted in 2025.

Overall, 429 applications have been approved, including 113 approvals during 2025.

Throughout the year, the Vacant Homes Team attended numerous public information evenings across the county, providing advice and assistance to prospective applicants.

Derelict Sites

At the end of 2025, 45 properties were recorded on the Derelict Sites Register, with a further 203 properties under investigation. During the year:

- 15 properties were added to the Register
- 1 property was removed following remediation and re-use

A total of €14,350 was collected in Derelict Sites Levies in 2025, with a further €111,499 issued in levy demands.

An update of the Derelict Sites database was completed in 2025, incorporating 155 additional properties identified through the Vacant Homes Survey. The Derelict Sites Team continued to actively monitor progress and use statutory powers to encourage the return of vacant and derelict properties to productive use.

URDF Call 3

Funding secured under URDF Call 3 enabled the acquisition of long-term vacant and derelict properties for onward sale or re-use. In Sligo, 41 properties were included in the programme.

By the end of 2025:

- 2 properties had been compulsorily acquired and placed on the open market
- The compulsory acquisition process had commenced for a further 11 properties
- Ownership details had been confirmed for all remaining properties, with at least 50% progressing either towards sale or refurbishment

Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme

Sligo County Council joined the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) Scheme on 23 October 2024. The scheme provides 100% remediation funding, up to a maximum of €462,000, for eligible homeowners affected by defective concrete blocks containing excessive levels of mica or pyrite.

The online application system went live on 1 April 2025. To date, 10 applications have been received, all of which met the damage threshold as assessed by the Housing Agency.

Information evenings were held in each Municipal District during 2025.

HERITAGE

The Heritage Office continued to support the County Sligo Heritage Forum in the delivery of the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023–2030.

During the year, the following conservation grant programmes were administered:

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme: €183,295 awarded across 15 projects
- Community Monuments Fund: €370,935 awarded across 5 projects



Biodiversity

The County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 was approved by Sligo County Council in October 2025 and formally launched on 8 December 2025.



Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan with the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of Sligo County Council, and members of the County Sligo Biodiversity Working Group at the launch of the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

The Plan comprises of 52 actions across five themes, focusing on monitoring, training, partnerships, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity across Council activities. Implementation and monitoring will be overseen by the County Sligo Biodiversity Working Group.

Funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service Local Biodiversity Action Fund supported a broad range of projects, including:

- A regional workshop on artificial lighting
- Invasive species management at Cleveragh Regional Park
- Habitat creation initiatives under the Hare's Corner programme
- County-wide Barn Owl and Woodland Bat surveys
- A Dune Management Plan for Killaspugbrone, Strandhill
- Community biodiversity training and events

UNESCO World Heritage Site Status

During 2025, Sligo County Council continued to work with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and key stakeholders to advance the World Heritage nomination.

In June 2025, a World Heritage Expert was appointed to guide the preparation of the bid, and a World Heritage Nomination Team was established to provide strategic oversight. The team met for the first time on 2 July 2025.

Over 80 engagement meetings were held throughout the year with a wide range of stakeholders, including farming organisations. Successful public events were delivered during Heritage Week and EU Archaeology Days, alongside lectures and site visits involving third-level institutions, statutory agencies, community groups, and national conferences.



UNESCO Nomination Team meeting

HOUSING CAPITAL

Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) 2022-2026

Housing Delivery 2025

In 2025, a total of 42 new social housing units were delivered or substantially completed under the Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) 2022–2026.

Southern Place, Knappagh Road	4
Camross, Ballymote	15
Part V, various locations	23
TOTAL	42

During 2025:

- 7 No. Sligo County Council social housing contracts were on site
- 4 No. additional contracts were awarded in December 2025
- Tender assessment was underway for one further scheme
- 5 No. schemes were progressing through design and development stages

Developments on Site in 2025

Camross Ballymote	39
Carney	25
Southern Place, Knappagh Road	4
Robbers' Lane, Maugheraboy	62
Geldof Drive & Benson Court, Cranmore	30
Finisklin Sligo - Phase 1	47
Grange	16
TOTAL	223

Camross, Ballymote

Phase 1 (15 units) of this 39-unit scheme, delivered using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) with steel frame construction, reached substantial completion by the end of 2025. Phase 2, comprising the remaining units, is scheduled for completion in Quarter 2 2026.

Carney

Works progressed during 2025 on this 25-unit traditional build scheme, with delivery expected in 2026.

Southern Place, Knappagh Road, Sligo

This four-unit traditional build scheme was substantially complete by the end of 2025.

Robbers Lane, Maugheraboy

Construction continued throughout 2025 on this 62-unit traditional build scheme, with completion scheduled for 2026. The project encountered significant delays, including challenges in sourcing and retaining skilled labour.



Works ongoing at Robbers Lane, Maugheraboy

Geldof Drive and Benson Court, Cranmore

Works progressed during 2025 on this 30-unit traditional build scheme, with delivery expected in 2026.



Works ongoing at Geldof Drive and Benson Court, Cranmore

Finisklin, Sligo

Following a competitive tender process, the Design and Build contract for this 47-unit MMC timber-frame scheme was awarded in June 2025. Works commenced on site in August 2025, with completion anticipated in 2026.



Works underway at Finisklin Sligo

Grange

The Design and Build contract for this 16-unit MMC scheme using Insulated Concrete Formwork (ICF) was awarded in August 2025, with works commencing in December 2025. Delivery is scheduled for 2026.



Works commenced on 16-unit scheme at Grange

Contracts Awarded and Tenders Returned – December 2025

Dromore West (<i>Contract Awarded</i>)	18
Easkey (<i>Contract Awarded</i>)	8
Owenmore Crescent, Collooney (<i>Contract Awarded</i>)	31
Glenview Park - Ash Lane (<i>Contract Awarded</i>)	3
Pirn Mill Road (<i>Tender Returned</i>)	20
TOTAL	80

Dromore West and Easkey

Following Part VIII planning approval in February 2025, these two schemes were procured as a single 26-unit Design and Build MMC timber-frame contract, awarded in December 2025. Delivery is planned for 2027.

Owenmore Crescent, Collooney

Following Part VIII planning approval in July 2025, this 31-unit Design and Build MMC steel-frame scheme was procured and awarded in December 2025, with a projected delivery in 2027.

Glenview Park – Ash Lane

Following Part VIII planning approval in October 2025, the contract for this three-unit traditional build scheme was awarded in December 2025, with delivery expected in 2027.

Pirn Mill Road

Following Part VIII planning approval in July 2025, this 20-unit scheme was procured through the Regional Contractor Framework, with tenders received in December 2025. Subject to Department of Housing approval, contract award is anticipated in Quarter 2 2026, with delivery in 2027.

Projects in Development

Rathellen, Finisklin – Phase 2 (63 units)

In June 2025, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) decided not to proceed with the award of the Social Housing Bundle 3 Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract due to overall cost considerations. This PPP bundle comprised six schemes nationally, including the Rathellen, Finisklin scheme. Following engagement with the DHLGH, Sligo County Council decided to advance the scheme through a Design and Build (D&B) procurement process, to be delivered directly by the Council. The procurement of consultants commenced in Q4 2025

Cairnsfoot, Cranmore Road – 70 units

A procurement process for a mixed-tenure housing development at Cairnsfoot Field, Cranmore Road, Sligo, commenced in 2025. The development will provide 60 social housing units and approximately 10 affordable housing units, with the remaining units to be delivered as private housing.

Carrowbunnaun, Strandhill – 51 units

During Quarter 4 2025, work commenced on updating documentation to progress this social and affordable housing scheme to Part VIII planning in 2026.

High Street, Sligo – 5 units

Stage 2 approval was sought from the DHLGH in December 2025 to advance this scheme to planning stage.

Grange – Phase 2 - 12 units)

In 2025, Stage 1 Capital Appraisal and Stage 2 planning approval were secured from the DHLGH for this scheme.

Sligo East City, Cranmore and Environs Regeneration Masterplan Physical Plan

Building and Environmental Upgrades – Phase 3

A total of 132 houses at Yeats Drive, Collery Drive, Langan Drive, McNeill Drive and Devins Drive (East) reached substantial completion in September 2025, comprising:

- 79 Local Authority houses
- 53 private houses

This phase marked the completion of the Regeneration Housing Refurbishment Programme, which delivered upgrades and retrofits to 332 houses overall, including 157 Local Authority homes. The majority of properties achieved a BER rating of A3 post-refurbishment.

Left to right: Dave Morey, Kilcawley Construction, Frank Quinn, CRP, Conal Sexton, Housing Section SCC



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

Sligo East City Community Resource and Recreation Centre and Environmental Improvements

Community consultation continued throughout 2025 to inform the scope, requirements and viability of the proposed Sligo East City Community Resource and Recreation Centre. Stakeholders also engaged with a business consultant, who prepared a draft Business Case to guide the Centre's development.

Subject to Departmental approval, the project is intended to advance through the Part VIII planning process in 2026.

In parallel, design work progressed on associated environmental improvements, including:

- A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) adjacent to the proposed Centre
- A cycle path along Devins Drive

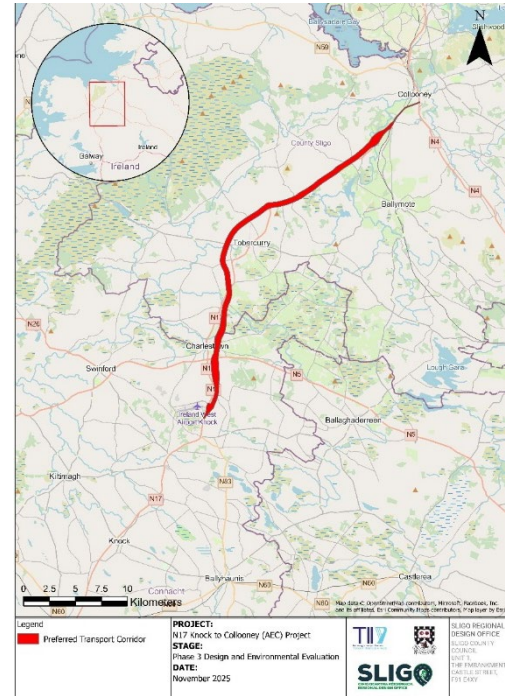
REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

National Road Improvement Works

N17 Knock to Collooney (Atlantic Economic Corridor)

The N17 Knock to Collooney (Atlantic Economic Corridor) Project continued to progress during 2025, advancing through Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines. Transport Infrastructure Ireland funding allocations, released in March 2025 without restrictions, enabled the Sligo Regional Design Office to advance the full preferred corridor from Ireland West Airport Knock to Collooney.

Topographical and hydrographical surveys were completed on the Tubbercurry and Charlestown sections of the preferred corridor. A further procurement process was initiated for additional topographical and hydrographical surveys, as well as Archaeological LiDAR surveys, to cover the remaining sections that were not advanced in 2024 due to Ministerial funding constraints. By year-end, the Regional Design Office had also commenced preparing procurement documentation for the appointment of a multidisciplinary consultancy to support the delivery of Phases 3 and 4.



N17 Knock Collooney (AEC) Project – Preferred Transport Corridor

N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Project

The N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Project reached substantial completion in Q4 2024, with the new road and associated active travel facilities fully opened to the public. Throughout 2025, remaining seasonal works, snagging items, and safety-related improvements (following the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit) were progressed. These actions ensured that the scheme met the required operational and safety standards before moving toward Phase 7 - Close Out and Review.



N16 Lugatober Castlegal Td.



N16 Lugatober – Additional Fencing at Collinsford Td.



N16 Lugatober – Additional Signage at L-47311

N16 Sligo – Drumkilsellagh

The project is currently advancing through Phase 2 (Option Selection) in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines. A range of environmental and engineering specialists were engaged to undertake assessments that will inform the identification of the preferred route. Initial option selection activities, such as environmental walkover surveys were completed, with more in-depth assessment and appraisal work to be advanced in 2026.

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Road Project

Tender documentation for the procurement of a contractor to complete the remaining civil, fencing, remedial, and landscaping works was prepared and published on eTenders. Following the assessment of tender submissions, Sligo County Council sought approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the necessary funding to progress the works in 2026.



N4 Looking North at Drumfin Td.

National Road Pavement Asset Repair and Renewal (PARR) Schemes

N16 Lugatober to County Boundary

A procurement process for the appointment of a pavement contractor was advanced in late 2024 and early 2025. Sligo County Council subsequently sought approval from Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the funding required to progress the works in 2025. Unfortunately, this funding request was not approved.



Existing N16 Pavement in Poor Condition



N4 Inner Relief Road

In-house design work for the Project was completed during the year, and a procurement process was progressed for the appointment of a pavement contractor. Funding was approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, allowing the works to be carried out in Q3/Q4 2025.

Close out reports were completed for N15 Creevykeel to Bunduff Bridge Scheme, N59 Owenbeg Phase 3 and the N15 Rathcormack South and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Newly surfaced N4 Inner Relief Road looking north

National Road Safety Improvement Schemes

N59 Ballisodare Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme

The Design Report and accompanying drawings, incorporating the Stage 1 Road Safety Audit, were prepared and approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. A Section 38 Public Consultation for the scheme was subsequently carried out in December 2025.

N17 - L 8319 Curry Road Safety Improvement

The Design Report, drawings, and combined Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit were completed during 2025. Construction works were delivered in Quarter 4 of 2025, followed by completion of the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit.

N15 Shannon Eigher Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme

The Feasibility and Options Report was approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in early 2025. This was followed by the preparation of the Design Report, drawings, and the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Road Safety Audits. The scheme was constructed in Quarter 4 of 2025, and the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit was subsequently completed.

N17 Tubbercurry Pedestrian Crossings Road Safety Improvement Scheme

The Feasibility and Options Report was completed and approved by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in early 2025. The Design Report, drawings, and Stage 1 and Stage 2 Road Safety Audits were then progressed during 2025. Construction took place in Quarter 4 of 2025, followed by completion of the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit.



N15 Shannon Eigher Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme



N17 Tubbercurry Pedestrian Crossings Road Safety Improvement Scheme



N17 - L 8319 Curry Road Safety Improvement



N17 Tubbercurry Pedestrian Crossings Road Safety Improvement Scheme

Greenways and National Road Active Travel

Sligo Greenway – Collooney to Bellaghy Scheme

During the public consultation held in late 2024, Iarnród Éireann advised that it could not support the use of the disused railway alignment for the greenway at that time but indicated a willingness to explore an alternative “alongside” option running parallel to the railway.

Sligo Regional Design Office subsequently undertook a high-level review of the alongside option. While the review confirmed that such an option is technically feasible, it identified significant additional constraints, costs, and risks when compared with the Emerging Preferred Corridor centred on the disused railway alignment. Based on these findings, the Council concluded that the alongside option is not a viable or recommended alternative.

Following consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and considering these outcomes, Sligo County Council suspended further work on the project.

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel

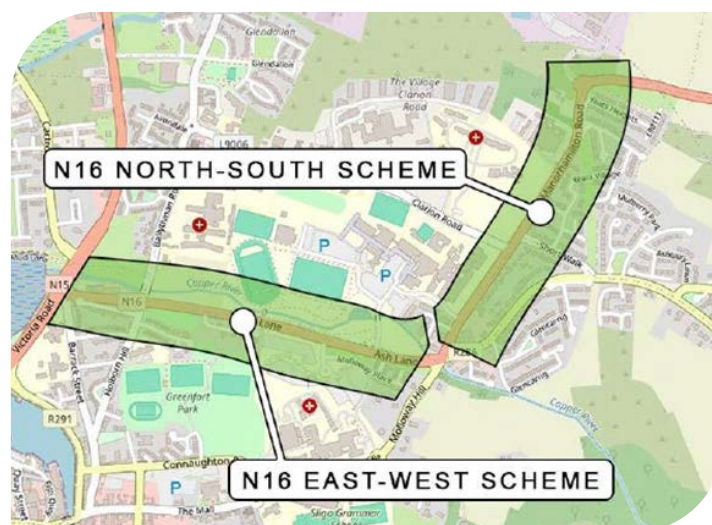
The project continued to progress during 2025, advancing through Phase 2 (Option Selection) in line with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines. Public Consultation No. 3, presenting the Emerging Preferred Route, was undertaken in July/August 2025.

N4 Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel

Progress continued throughout 2025 with the project advancing through Phase 2 (Option Selection) under the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Management Guidelines. A range of surveys were undertaken to support the development of the Emerging Preferred Corridor and to assist in the progression of the scheme through Phase 2.

N4 / N16 Urban Active Travel

A report was completed outlining potential Active Travel interventions along the N4 and N16 within the Sligo urban area. Sligo County Council sought a 2026 funding allocation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland to progress a scheme along the N16 East–West from the N4/N15 Junction to the R286/Mollway Hill/N16 Junction, and along the N16 North–South from the R286/Mollway Hill/N16 Junction to the N16 Abbvie Roundabout.



Location of Proposed Schemes

N15 Grange/N59 Ballysadare & N17 Curry Active Travel Schemes

Tobin Consulting Engineers was appointed to assist with the delivery of the N15 Grange and N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Schemes from Phase 0 to Phase 5. Work commenced on both projects and a public consultation for the N59 Ballysadare Scheme was undertaken in Q4 2025. The N17 Curry Scheme is being progressed internally by the Sligo Regional Design Office.

Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railways Greenway (SLNCR)

The project is led by Leitrim County Council, with Arup appointed to support delivery from Phase 1 to Phase 4 and elements of Phase 5. Sligo County Council continues to support the scheme through a Project Liaison Officer for the Sligo section. Transport Infrastructure Ireland approved the Phase 2 deliverables, and the project progressed to Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation, which is underway.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

RURAL CAPITAL DELIVERY

Town Centre First

Following the successful implementation of the Town Centre First initiative in Tubbercurry, the Capital Delivery Team expanded the programme in November 2025 with launch events in Ballymote, Ballisodare, Enniscrone and Collooney. The purpose of each launch was to establish Town Teams to guide future regeneration activity.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) (DRCDG funding)

Enniscrone Cliff Bath Project

Enabling works were completed in Quarter 1 2025, including the demolition of the former pavilion building. The overall project will deliver a new pavilion building, public realm upgrades and the re-use of the historic Cliff Bath House.

During 2025, a tender process was completed for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary consultant team, which was appointed in November 2025. Stakeholder engagement continued throughout the year regarding the future use of both the Bath House and Pavilion. It is anticipated that construction works will be tendered in Quarter 3 2026.



Enniscrone Pavilion Building
– view at beach level

Ballisodare Regeneration Project

Following the appointment of a design team in July 2025, an initial public consultation was held on 7 October 2025. Feedback received informed early design concepts for the Dún Maeve site and adjoining riverside spaces.

Concept designs were developed through stakeholder and community engagement and will inform the preparation of a Part VIII planning design, scheduled for publication in 2026.

Rosses Point Community Boat Park

In 2025, Sligo County Council secured €558,000 in Category 2 RRDF funding to progress the Rosses Point Community Boat Park project. This funding supports Phase 1 of the four-phase project and will bring it forward to the Part VIII planning stage.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVR)

Delivery of Town and Village Renewal projects continued across County Sligo during 2025, including:

- **Tubbercurry** – site acquisitions to support priorities identified in the Town Centre First Plan

- **Templeboy** – development of remote working infrastructure
- **Ballymote** – public realm enhancements, heritage trail signage and exhibition space

Just under €1 million was secured under the TVR Scheme in 2025 for five local projects, including three projects each receiving €300,000:

- **Ballygawley** – Community Hub building
- **Cliffoney** – Multipurpose community space
- **Easkey** – Playground and sensory garden

Two additional projects received Project Development Measure (PDM) funding of €49,875 each:

- **Riverstown** – Public realm improvements
- **Strandhill** – Tidal pool project

Ballymote Courthouse Development

Historic Towns Initiative 2025

Conservation works commenced in 2025 at the former Ballymote Courthouse under the Historic Towns Initiative. Works include replacement of the roof, windows and rainwater goods, contributing to the preservation of this significant architectural heritage asset.

Libraries Capital Programme

Design development continued during 2025 following approval under the Libraries Capital Programme to deliver a Community Library within the Courthouse building. Progress towards a Part VIII planning submission is ongoing, with publication anticipated in Quarter 2 2026.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Investment in outdoor recreational facilities across County Sligo continued during 2025 with ORIS funding, including additional allocations secured during the year to advance new projects. The Capital Delivery Team worked closely with local communities to develop and deliver improvements at:

- Curry Swimming Pool
- Muckelty Hill
- Queen Maeve's Trail
- Yeats Trail
- Sligo Walks
- Glenwood Footbridge
- Warren Way



Announcement of ORIS funding by Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD at the Warren Way trail

Project Development Measure funding was also secured for feasibility assessment of two projects:

- Gibraltar Tidal Swimming Pool
- Lough Gara Amenity Area

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)

Round 3 CRF funding was secured in Quarter 1 2025 for five additional projects, bringing the total number of live CRF projects in County Sligo to 15, with combined funding of approximately €1.6 million.

The fund is targeted at towns and villages hosting Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants. Capital projects delivering medium to long-term community benefits were advanced during 2025, with delivery programmed for 2026.

Fáilte Ireland Watersports Enhancement Facilities

Design development progressed during 2025 on the Watersports Enhancement Facilities in Enniscrone and Rosses Point. Tenders were issued in October 2025 and returned in early December 2025. Due to significantly higher than anticipated tender costs, the designs are currently under review, with a view to retendering.



Pride of Place Competition 2025

County Sligo was represented in the 2025 Pride of Place Competition by:

- Rosses Point (Population Category 300–1,000)
- Tubbercurry (Population Category 2,000–5,000)

Judging visits were held in both towns in August 2025. Tubbercurry was announced as the national winner in its settlement category at the Pride of Place Awards Gala. Judges described the town's regeneration programme, including the planned redevelopment of Wolfe Tone Square, as "highly ambitious" and praised the strength and capacity of the Town Team as being "as strong as either judge had ever observed".



Pride of Place 2025

Tubbercurry - Winners Population Category 2,000 – 5,000

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

Implementation of the Sligo Public Realm Plan

Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Rockwood Parade / Water Lane / Tobergal Lane

Detailed design for the public realm enhancement project was completed in early 2025, enabling advancement to the procurement stage. A preferred construction contractor was identified in December 2025, with works scheduled to commence on site in Quarter 1 2026.

Abbey Street / Castle Street / Grattan Street / Market Cross

During Quarter 4 2025, documentation was prepared for the procurement of a multi-disciplinary design team to progress this public realm enhancement project to Part VIII planning in 2026.

City Campus – Sligo’s Cultural and Learning Hub

(Connaughton Road / Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Lake Isle Road)

Consultants were appointed in Quarter 3 2025 to prepare a Masterplan for the City Campus area. The Masterplan will incorporate a new County Library and Museum, enterprise space, residential development and high-quality public realm.

A public consultation event was held in November 2025 to inform the preparation of the Masterplan, which is expected to be completed in Quarter 3 2026.

The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process for essential lands within the Masterplan footprint was advanced during 2025. Sligo County Council is awaiting a determination from An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the CPO.

Sligo Harbour

Sligo Harbour Masterplan

Progress on the Sligo Harbour Masterplan continued during 2025, with public consultation workshops held in Quarter 2 2025 to inform its development. The draft Masterplan was completed in Quarter 4 2025 and will be published as part of the Draft Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan for public consultation in 2026.

Harbour Management and Maintenance

In 2025, Triur Construction Ltd. was appointed as Port Operator for Sligo Harbour. The company is responsible for the management and control of harbour and shipping activities, as well as the operation and maintenance of Sligo Harbour.

Property Management

THRIVE – Sligo Gaol Project

Following a competitive call for applications, Sligo County Council was awarded €7 million in 2025 under the THRIVE – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to deliver the Sligo Gaol Project. This transformative initiative will restore and repurpose the historic Sligo Gaol as a publicly accessible community and tourism asset in the heart of Sligo Town.

The THRIVE scheme is managed by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly and is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union. Initial survey works took place during 2025, with procurement of a design team planned for 2026.

Sligo Museum Building

Essential fabric maintenance works were completed in 2025 at the Protected Structure housing the Sligo County Museum. These works were supported by funding from the Historic Structures Fund (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage).

Land and Building Management and Maintenance

During 2025, the primary focus of the Property Management function was on addressing essential structural and maintenance works at key public-facing Council buildings, including County Hall, City Hall, Teach Laighne (Tubbercurry), and other Council-owned properties across the County.

The Property Team also managed the leasing and disposal of land assets and made significant progress on the First Registration of Sligo County Council lands, including holdings at Cleveragh and Sligo Harbour.

GOVERNANCE



MARIE WHELAN

Director of Services

Finance and Corporate Governance

FINANCE, PROCUREMENT AND INTERNAL AUDIT

Provide Robust Financial Management and Risk Management Systems

- The consultation process for the 2025 Budget Strategy was completed, resulting in the adoption of the 2026 Budget by the Members of Sligo County Council.
- The three-year Capital Budget 2026–2028 was prepared and included in the 2026 Budget Book.
- The 2024 Annual Financial Statement was completed and presented to the Members of Sligo County Council. The Local Government Audit of the 2024 annual financial statement was also finalised and presented to both the Audit Committee and the Members of Sligo County Council.
- Quarterly Management Reports detailing actual revenue income and expenditure, and variances from the adopted 2025 Budget, were circulated to Members and submitted to the Department each quarter.
- A Commercial Rates Incentive Scheme, effective since 1st January 2023, was reviewed and approved by the Members in 2025 to continue into 2026.
- The Rates Vacancy Scheme, introduced in 2022 with increased vacancy charges introduced from 1st January 2023, continued to operate throughout 2023–2025.
- Revenue Collectors continued the ongoing monitoring of rateable properties and engagement with customers regarding collections and arrears.
- In July 2025, an Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Reclassification Scheme was announced, with €90,000 in grants paid to qualifying businesses and recouped from the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment.
- Ongoing review of parking charge income continued throughout the year.
- Continuous review and customer engagement took place regarding Housing Loan arrears, including supports under the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process and the Local Authority Mortgage to Rent Scheme.
- Debtor balances were monitored on an ongoing basis, with quarterly reviews to ensure that all recoupable revenue and capital expenditure was recouped.
- Every effort was made to ensure prompt supplier payment and effective cash-flow management.
- Daily bank monitoring was carried out, and all large recoupments were actively followed up.
- Work continued to further enhance the capital project monitoring system.
- Progress continued on the identification and reconciliation of fixed assets.
- The Corporate Risk Register was reviewed by the Management Team, and an annual insurance review was held with the Director of Finance, CEO, and Insurers (IPB).

Ensure Compliance with Procurement Legislation, Policies and Green Procurement

- Work is ongoing on the development of a new Procurement Plan.
- The Procurement Manual for Sligo County Council was completed in 2024.
- Delivery of Green Public Procurement Training to budget holders and Council buyers commenced, supporting the integration of green principles across purchasing activities.
- Staff across the organisation are now using the new eTenders platform, with training provided to ensure effective implementation.

Provide Independent Assurance on the Effectiveness of Internal Controls

- The 2024 Annual Work Plan for Internal Audit was fully delivered.
- The Quality Assurance Statement on the Public Spending Code for the year ended 31st December 2024 was completed and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC).
- Motor Tax stock counts were completed at mid-year and year-end.
- Five meetings of the Audit Committee were held during 2025.
- The Report of the Audit Committee on the Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st December 2024 was presented to the December Council meeting.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Cllr Ann Higgins was co-opted at the Plenary Meeting of the Council held on 3rd March 2025 to replace Nessa Cosgrove, who resigned following her election to Seanad Éireann.



Back Row: Cllr Thomas Healy, Cllr Michael Clarke, Cllr Marie Casserly, Cllr Gerard Mullaney
Middle Row: Cllr Liam Brennan, Cllr Paul Taylor, Cllr Gino O'Boyle, Cllr Tom MacSharry, Cllr Thomas Walsh, Cllr Joseph Queenan, Cllr Barry Gallagher
Fron Row: Cllr Dónal Gilroy, Cllr Dara Mulvey, Cllr Edel McSharry, Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree, Cllr Ann Higgins (Co-opted), Cllr Arthur Gibbons, Cllr Fergal Nealon

Meetings of the Council and its Committees were convened and conducted throughout 2025 in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements, as set out in the Council's Standing Orders. Ongoing advice on statutory obligations and corporate governance was provided to the Cathaoirleach, Municipal District Chairs, and Committee Chairs as required. Compliance with statutory and corporate governance requirements was monitored by the Corporate Services Section throughout the year.

Corporate Policy Group

Meetings of the Corporate Policy Group were held on the following dates. At these meetings, advice was provided on matters relating to statutory obligations, proper procedures, and corporate governance:

Corporate Policy Group Meetings

13 January 2025

3 March 2025

7 April 2025

30 April 2025

12 May 2025

7 July 2025

8 September 2025

6 October 2025

3 November 2025

The following statutory meetings were held in 2025:



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

Meeting Type	Number of Meetings held in 2025
Plenary Meetings of Sligo County Council	13
Annual General Meeting	1
Budget Meeting	1
Sligo Borough Municipal District	10
Sligo/Drumcliffe Municipal District	8
Ballymote/Tubbercurry Municipal District	7
SPC 1: Housing and Governance	3
SPC 2: Climate and Infrastructure	3
SPC 3: Live Invest Visit	4
SPC 4: Placemaking	4
Corporate Policy Group	9
Local Community Development Committee	7
Local Action Group	7
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	4

Plenary Meetings, including the AGM and the Budget Meeting, held during 2025 were live-streamed via the Council's website, and recordings are available at www.sligococo.ie. These meetings took place in a hybrid format, allowing councillors to participate either online or in person. Throughout the year, additional non-statutory Committee meetings were also convened as required and attended by the relevant elected members.

Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's)

Following the adoption of a new Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme by the Council in November 2024, councillors and external representatives were appointed to the SPCs in January 2025. Sligo County Council operates four Strategic Policy Committees, as outlined below:

- **SPC 1: Housing & Governance:** Focuses on housing policy and corporate governance.
- **SPC 2: Climate & Infrastructure:** Deals with environmental, climate action, and infrastructure policies.
- **SPC 3: Live, Invest, Visit:** Focuses on economic development, tourism, enterprise and community initiatives.
- **SPC 4: Placemaking:** Focuses on town planning, regeneration, and cultural spaces

Corporate Plan 2025-2029

Sligo County Council's Corporate Plan provides the strategic framework for action and sets out the Council's vision for County Sligo over the lifetime of the Council. The Plan is guided by the Council's mission: **"We work to build vibrant, inclusive communities, support a robust local economy, honour our heritage and protect our environment."**

The Corporate Plan was adopted by the Elected Members on 10th February 2025 at the Plenary Council meeting.

International Contacts

Sligo has formal Twinning Agreements with Crozon, Kempton, and Tallahassee, and is currently exploring a potential twinning arrangement with a town in Italy.

In June 2025, a delegation from Sligo travelled to Crozon to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the town twinning agreement between the two towns.

Sligo County Council hosted a student from Kempton for work experience under the Erasmus Programme. On 1st May 2025, Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree welcomed a group of Kempton Secondary School students and Kempton University students to County Hall.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree making a presentation to Mayor of Crozon, Patrick Berthelot, accompanied by members of the Crozon and Sligo Town Twinning Committees



Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree with Kempton Students as well as members of the Kempton and Sligo Town Twinning Committees

In addition to these established partnerships, Sligo continues to maintain and develop a broad network of international connections. The Council regularly welcomes ambassadors, dignitaries, and other distinguished visitors to County Hall and City Hall. In 2025, we welcomed the following dignitaries:



23rd January 2025 – Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree, welcomed the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, Her Excellency Ambassador Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, to County Hall



22nd February 2025 – His Excellency Lautențiu Ștefan, the Romanian Ambassador to Ireland, was warmly welcomed to City Hall, Sligo by Mayor Cllr Tom MacSharry



9th October 2025 – Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy, welcomed a distinguished delegation of ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland to County Hall



2nd December 2025 – Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy, welcomed His Excellency Mr. Yong-kil Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Ireland, to County Hall

Civic Receptions

In 2025, Sligo County Council held Civic Receptions for the following people:



16 May 2025

- **Coolera/Strandhill Junior Ladies Football Team**, All-Ireland Junior Club Football Championship Semi-Finalists and Connacht Club Junior Football Championship Winners 2024

- **Coolera/Strandhill Senior Men's Football Team** All-Ireland Senior Club Football Championship Semi-Finalists and Connacht Club Senior Football Championship Winners 2024.



26th May 2025

- **Dr. Úna Mannion**

Winner of the CWA Gold Dagger Award in July 2024 for her novel, Tell Me What I Am.



10th September 2025

- **Drumcliffe Rosses Point GAA & LGFA club**

All-Ireland Champions in the Instrumental Music category of Scór Sinsear 2025.



20th September 2025

- **Tubbercurry–Viarnes Town Twinning**

To mark the 25th Anniversary of their agreement.



28th November 2025

- **Gurteen Celtic FC Ladies Team**

Winners of the Connacht Cup

- **Arrow Harps FC Ladies Team**

Winners of the Connacht Women's Shield.



16th December 2025

- **Gearóid McDaid**

The first Irish surfer to win gold in the Men's Shortboard at the European Surfing Championships.

- **Cian McMunn**

Individual Gold at the FEI European Jumping Championships for Ponies.

- **Paddy Reape**

U18 European Gold Medal at the FEI Championships.

Cathaoirleach's Receptions



16th June 2025

Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree hosted a reception in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Sligo Town Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ).



19th August 2025

Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy hosted a reception at County Hall, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Sligo branch of the Samaritans.

Freedom of County Sligo



In a historic first for County Sligo, the Freedom of the County—the highest civic honour conferred by the local authority—was awarded to double Olympian and European champion Christopher O'Donnell.

The honour was presented at a ceremonial event held in County Hall on Wednesday, 12 November 2025.

Cathaoirleach's Awards

The annual Cathaoirleach's Awards celebrate the remarkable individuals, groups, schools, and volunteers whose contributions continue to enrich and strengthen communities across County Sligo.

Category	Winner	Presented by
Arts, Culture and Literature	Karen Gordon	Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Community Group	Sligo Hospital Musical Society	Cllr Michael Clarke
Community Individual	Maura McManus	Cllr Gerard Mullaney
Environment, Biodiversity & Climate Action	Corran College Green School Committee	Cllr Paul Taylor
Outstanding Contribution to the Irish Language	Mícheál Ó Broin	Cllr Joe Queenan
Schools / Young Enterprise	6 th Class Scoil Naomh Molaise	Cllr Declan Bree
Sport	Sean Brown	Cllr Arthur Gibbons
Spirit of Sligo	Relay for Life Committee	Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy



Cathaoirleach Cllr Dónal Gilroy with the Winners of the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025 and elected members of Sligo County Council

National Day of Commemoration Ceremony

Each July, the Communications Section organises the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony held outdoors at Sligo City Hall, honouring Irish men and women who died in past wars or while serving with the United Nations. The 2025 ceremony took place on Sunday 14th July and brought together serving Defence Forces personnel, veterans, and representatives of Sligo's Christian churches.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Each March, the Communications Section, in collaboration with Sligo Libraries, delivers a packed programme of events for Seachtain na Gaeilge, highlighting the Council's commitment to the Irish language. Highlights include the presentation of Gaeltacht scholarships, table quizzes for adults and schoolchildren, author visits, and Lá Mór na Gaeilge in the Council Chamber.



Major Weather Events Response

In the aftermath of Storm Éowyn, Sligo County Council established a Community Response Support Helpline to assist those affected, with the service primarily managed by the Communications Team. The team coordinated cross-departmental efforts and acted as the main point of contact for ESB, Uisce Éireann, Elected Members, and local community groups. In addition, the Communications Team played a central role in setting up Emergency Response Hubs and community support resources at several locations across the county, ensuring clear communication, timely updates, and coordinated supports during the response effort.



Register of Electors

A new national electoral registration system is currently being developed and is expected to become operational by the end of 2026. Throughout 2025, Corporate Services staff undertook extensive data-cleansing and reformatting of entries on the Register in preparation for the migration to the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS) in 2026. Significant work was also carried out in processing new applications, particularly in the lead-up to the Presidential Election in October 2025 and in addressing issues highlighted in the Electoral Commission Oversight Report issued in May 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Recruitment

Throughout 2025, the Human Resources Department managed a sustained and high-volume recruitment programme to fill a broad range of positions across the Local Authority. In addition, a number of senior-level recruitment competitions were administered on the Council's behalf by the Public Appointments Service (PAS).

Staff Well-Being

The Council continued to prioritise employee well-being, with ongoing access provided to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). This free and confidential counselling service was utilised by a number of staff during the year.

Significant progress was made in advancing staff well-being initiatives in 2025, most notably through the organisation-wide rollout of the McNulty Wellness Programme. A series of wellbeing workshops were also delivered, exploring a range of themes relevant to staff health and wellness. Furthermore, a Staff Wellness Group was established, with representation from across the organisation, to support and drive the implementation of additional wellness initiatives.

Policies and Procedures

Comprehensive policies and procedures were developed and maintained to support a robust governance framework within the HR Department. These encompass all key functional areas, including recruitment, employment relations, performance management, training and development, and other relevant HR activities.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

All HR practices continued to operate in compliance with relevant legislation, regulatory requirements and applicable guidance issued by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

Transparency and Accountability

A strong emphasis was placed on transparency in decision-making and accountability at all levels within the HR Department. This included clear communication of roles, responsibilities and performance expectations.

Risk Management

Potential risks associated with HR activities—such as legal, ethical, conflict of interest and data protection risks—were identified, assessed and managed through appropriate mitigation measures. Compliance is subject to ongoing monitoring and review.

Ethical Standards

The HR Department upheld high ethical standards across all practices, ensuring fair treatment of employees, protection of confidential information and the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

Training and Development

Ongoing training and development opportunities were provided to HR staff to strengthen their understanding of corporate governance principles and to support effective implementation and monitoring of compliance obligations.

Internal Controls

Measures were maintained to ensure the accuracy, integrity and reliability of HR data and reporting systems.

Stakeholders Engagement & Industrial Relations

Positive and constructive relationships were fostered with internal and external stakeholders, including employees, senior management, trade unions and regulatory bodies, supporting stable industrial relations throughout the year.

Continuous Improvement

HR governance practices were regularly reviewed and evaluated to ensure continued effectiveness, with adjustments introduced as required to address emerging issues and improve performance.

By implementing these measures, Sligo County Council continues to ensure that the Human Resources function operates in line with best practice corporate governance standards, thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and the effective delivery of services.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Information Systems (IS) section is responsible for managing the Council's IT and digital infrastructure, supporting a wide range of systems across the county-wide network. In 2025, the team continued to advance the Council's digital agenda, delivering progress in cybersecurity, system modernisation, and infrastructure enhancements while navigating ongoing operational challenges.

Digital Transformation

Throughout 2025, the IS section continued to drive the Council's digital transformation programme. A wide range of new online services was introduced, including digital applications for the Defective Blocks Scheme, Festival and Events Grants, Community and Voluntary Grants, and the Climate Action Fund. An online application process was also developed for the VAI Get Together Bursary.

Further improvements included the rollout of online submission processes for Planning Enforcement Complaints and Pre-Planning Enquiries.

Internally, several major staff-focused projects replaced manual, paper-driven workflows in Finance, Human Resources, Planning Enforcement, Environment, and Corporate Services with streamlined digital processes such as blended working.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

GIS continued to play a fundamental role across all business areas in 2025. Key achievements included the ongoing development of new GIS-based applications for inspections and enforcement such as Agricultural/Farm Inspection, Playground Inspections, Beach Inspections, and Enforcement Complaints Inspections.

Considerable amounts of mapping data were also added to the GIS platforms, including the Derelict Sites Register, Vacant Homes Grant Applications, Pre-Planning Applications, Annual Roadworks Programmes, Road Schedule, Invasive Species Treatment Programmes, and the Sligo County Council Polling Scheme.

Significant additions were made to the Council's GIS platforms, including the Derelict Sites Register, Vacant Homes Grant Applications, Pre-Planning Applications, Annual Roadworks Programmes, Road Schedule, Invasive Species Treatment Programmes, and the Sligo County Council Polling Scheme.

Cyber Security

Cybersecurity remained a key priority throughout 2025. The IS section implemented a range of strengthened security measures across Council systems, and a full independent security assessment was carried out by external experts. This assessment led to several improvements to the Council's network. The team also worked with the LGMA Cyber Security Department to progress the national SOC/SIEM project.

ICT Infrastructure and Support Services

In November 2025, the IS section rolled out a new organisation-wide communications system for all staff. This upgrade delivered significant improvements in communication, service efficiency, and staff connectivity. The integrated platform allows staff to make and receive calls from any location, supporting flexible and remote working while maintaining high service standards.

APPENDICES

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 2025, 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 2025.

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	17,959,909	18,735,938
Grants & Subsidies	43,291,016	41,273,921
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	453,243	204,681
Rates	15,847,417	14,733,932
Local Property Tax	12,438,066	12,419,708

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2025 is as follows:

Significant lump sum payments were incurred in 2025; an increase of €1m on 2024 which is reflected in Service Support costs. Under operational expenses a 29% increase on 2024 of over €412k was recorded in relation to Energy and Utility costs. Planning Receipts Income was under budget by €82,867. The Residential Zoned Land Tax of €167,235 was paid to the Revenue Commissioners and is included D0101 along with a corresponding Debtor amount, which is expected to be funded. Uisce Éireann activity continued to reduce in 2025 with reduced staff costs and related recoupments down to €1.95m.

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Income	89,989,652	87,368,180
Expenditure	87,594,605	84,685,553
Transfers to Capital	-1,989,556	-2,295,146
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for	405,491	387,482
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	-9,251,455	-9,638,937
Closing Revenue Reserve	-8,845,964	-9,251,455

The annual surplus for 2025 included in the 2025 Annual Financial Statement was €405,491. The Council has generated a surplus each year since 2015 reducing the cumulative deficit by €11.8m; €5.25m which was received as part of the financial plan from the Department between 2014 and 2021, as well as €6.6m 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 2025 the cumulative deficit is €8.8m.

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 2025 total €1,937,103,123 and are as follows:

	Current Year €	Previous Year €
Fixed Assets	1,739,735,793	1,726,880,201
Works in Progress	240,537,461	334,831,173
Long Term debtors	15,573,766	16,794,121
Current Asset	22,961,761	19,507,089
Current Liabilities	20,200,352	18,767,097
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	2,761,409	739,992
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	61,505,306	61,714,195
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,937,103,123	2,017,531,291

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:

30th April 2026

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL (SIC)

Acknowledgement of Responsibility of the Chief Executive or Director General

As Chief Executive of Sligo County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for the system of internal control in Sligo County Council, including putting in place processes and procedures for the purpose of ensuring that the internal control system is operating, maintained and effective.

The system can provide reasonable and not absolute assurance to Sligo County Council that assets are safeguarded, all risks are managed, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely period.

Below, I confirm the key structures and elements of the control environment at Sligo County Council.

Risk Management

Sligo County Council has put in place a risk management framework which provides the basis for effective and embedded risk management processes and reporting. A risk management process is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

The Senior Management Team undertakes regular reviews of the Corporate Risk Register as part of the Council's system of internal control. The Audit Committee reviews and provides oversight of the Council's risk management arrangements, including consideration of key risks as reported from directorate or service-level registers, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities and annual work plan.

The organisation has a risk appetite statement. Our key risks and appetite are considered in the context of the annual service plan and corporate plan. A staff member at an appropriate level has been delegated responsibility to oversee Risk Management.

The risk management framework supports Sligo County Council in managing risk. It does not eliminate risk but supports the organisation in identifying and managing risk within tolerable levels.

Internal Control Environment

Financial Control Environment

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability
- Regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against budget forecasts
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action
- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management at service division level.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

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 there are:

- control procedures for key business processes across the organisation
- systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems and data
- systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority
- appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation to ensure compliance with the Public Spending Code
- agreements in place with shared service providers, and
- subsidiary companies have been established in line with company law with Boards of Directors and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate accountability to the local authority.

Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Control Systems

I can confirm that the Annual Review of the effectiveness of the Internal Control System will be carried out for 2026 in accordance with Code of Corporate Governance for Local Authorities (2024) and accompanying guidance as issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and supported by an Assurance Map that will be developed for Sligo County Council.

Procurement Compliance

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

Procurement compliance is monitored in accordance with procurement requirements and guidelines and where instances of non-compliance were noted, corrective procedures were put in place to ensure non-recurrence.

Senior Management Team

I confirm that a Senior Management Team (SMT) is in place, which supports me in operating and maintaining the system of internal control. Appropriate governance and assurance structures support the system of internal controls and the SMT monitors Risk Management, the organisation's budget, key procurement activity and the close-out of external and internal audit recommendations.

Audit Committee

I confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), and that the Committee operates in accordance with the Guidance for Audit Committees in Local Authorities (2014).

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's independent role in advising the elected 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 Sligo County Council.

Internal Audit

I confirm that Sligo County Council has an internal audit function which operates in accordance with a written charter and in line with internal audit standards. Its work is informed by analysis of the key risks to which Sligo County Council is exposed, and its annual internal audit plan is based on this analysis, with the plan approved by the Audit Committee (following SMT input).

The Unit also carries out an annual quality assurance of the Council's compliance with the Public Spending Code including an in-depth review of a sample of projects.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports and recommendations of the internal audit function are followed up in a timely manner. The Audit Committee keeps under review the effectiveness of the Internal Audit function and provides advice to me on matters of internal audit effectiveness and capacity.

The Head of Internal Audit has a reporting line to myself as Chief Executive, or Director General, and to the Chair of the Audit Committee.

External Audit

I confirm that, in line with our statutory obligations under Section 108(6) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the draft annual financial statement for 2025 was provided to the Director of Audit. My organisation supports the assigned Local Government Auditor in conducting their work by providing timely access to information and responses to any queries arising.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the Local Government Auditor's work will be followed-up in a timely manner.

National Oversight and Audit Commission

I confirm that Sligo County Council engages fully with the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and that there are procedures in place to implement actions arising from NOAC's reports as they relate to the organisation and furthermore to examine recommendations which have sectoral application.

Other Third Party Assurances

I can confirm, additionally, in the context of the system of internal control and assurances, that Sligo County Council engaged as required with third party reviewers and assurance providers which further complemented other elements of the control environment.

I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that any findings and recommendations arising from the third parties are followed-up in a timely manner.

Disclosures

There were no material weaknesses or breaches in internal controls which arose during the period of this statement.

Signed by Chief Executive:

Dated:


5th May 2026

Governance Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's 'compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 – Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 – Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 – Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 – Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 – Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6 – Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 – Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.


Cathaoirleach/ Mayor

Date: 30th April 2026


Chief Executive

Date: 30th April 2026

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 2024 was published by NOAC in September 2025. Sligo County Council's performance in each service area in 2024 compared to other local authorities is included in this report in each of the relevant sections. This report is available for viewing at [Report 77: NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2024 - National Oversight & Audit Commission](#)

APPENDIX 3:

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Committee	Members
Arts Assessment Panel	Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Paul Taylor Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Ann Higgin
Association of Irish Local Government (A.I.L.G)	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Tom MacSharry
ATU Sligo Drug & Alcohol Task Force Committee (REACT)	Cllr Ann Higgins
Coleman Heritage Centre Limited	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Paul Taylor
Community & Voluntary /Festivals and Events Grants Assessment Committee	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Paul Taylor Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Gino O'Boyle
County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society	Cllr Gino O'Boyle
County Sligo Heritage Forum	Cllr Dónal Gilroy
County Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd.	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Barry Gallagher
County Sligo Placenames Committee	Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Culture Team	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Ann Higgins
Disability Consultative Committee	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Michael Clarke

	Cllr Ann Higgins Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Enniscrone Leisure Ltd.	Cllr Joe Queenan Cllr Michael Clarke
Hawk's Well Theatre	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Ann Higgins
Housing & Governance Climate & Infrastructure Live Invest Visit Placemaking	Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Paul Taylor
I.P.B. Insurance	Cllr Liam Brennan
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Dara Mulvey
Local Authorities Members Association (LAMA)	Cllr Paul Taylor
Local Community Development Committee – LCDC	Cllr Ann Higgins Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Fergal Nealon
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Gino O'Boyle Cllr Ann Higgins
Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Joe Queenan
North West Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum	Cllr Ann Higgins
North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	Cllr Ann Higgins
Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)	Cllr Michael Clarke Cllr Dónal Gilroy
Procedures Committee	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
Public Art Steering Group	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Dónal Gilroy

Regional Health Forum West	Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Edel McSharry
Sligo Age Friendly	Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Joe Queenan
Sligo BID	Cllr Arthur Gibbons
Sligo County Council Peace Plus Partnership Committee	Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Gerard Mullaney Cllr Ann Higgins
Sligo Harbour Advisory Committee	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Sligo Music Fest Co. (trading as Sligo Live)	Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Thomas Healy
Sligo North West Airport Co. Ltd.	Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Fergal Nealon
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Co.	Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Fergal Nealon
Sligo Town Twinning Committee	Cllr Thomas Healy Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Sligo Volunteer Bureau	Cllr Dónal Gilroy
Sligo Youth Theatre	Cllr Thomas Healy
SLNCR Greenway Community Liaison Group	Cllr Thomas Walsh Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Thomas Healy
SPC 1 - Housing & Governance	Cllr Barry Gallagher (Chair) Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Edel McSharry Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Gino O'Boyle Cllr Joe Queenan
SPC 2 - Climate & Infrastructure	Cllr Michael Clarke (Chair) Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Thomas Walsh Cllr Dónal Gilroy Cllr Thomas Healy

	Cllr Gerard Mullaney
SPC 3 - Live Invest Visit	Cllr Gerard Mullaney (Chair) Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Declan Bree Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Marie Casserly Cllr Arthur Gibbons Cllr Dara Mulvey Cllr Thomas Walsh
SPC 4 - Placemaking	Cllr Paul Taylor (Chair) Cllr Liam Brennan Cllr Ann Higgins Cllr Barry Gallagher Cllr Fergal Nealon Cllr Joe Queenan
The Model	Cllr Arthur Gibbons
Western Inter County Railway Committee	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

APPENDIX 4:

TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2025

Conference/Seminar Title	Location	Date(s)
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	22 nd January 2025
LAMA Spring Seminar	Co. Kilkenny	30 th & 31 st January 2025
ICBAN Capacity Building Co-Operation Ireland	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	4 th February 2025
AILG Training	Dundalk, Co. Louth	20 th February 2025
Health Services Entitlements	Co. Louth	7 th - 9 th March 2025
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Craigavon	19 th March 2025
AILG Training	Co. Galway	22 nd March 2025
ICBAN Capacity Building - Peace Plus	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	2 nd April 2025
AILG Annual Training Conference	Co. Limerick	2 nd - 3 rd April 2025
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Carrick-on Shannon, Co. Leitrim	16 th – 17 th April 2025
AILG Training	Co. Sligo	22 nd May 2025
AILG Training	Tralee, Co. Kerry	24 th May 2025
AILG Elected Member Induction Training	Athlone, Co. Westmeath	29 th May 2025
ICBAN Capacity Building Programme	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	5 th June 2025
ICBAN Board Meeting	Co. Cavan	18 th June 2025
AILG Training	Co. Monaghan	21 st June 2025
SPC Chair Training	Portlaoise, Co. Laois	2 nd September 2025
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	17 th September, 2025
AILG Annual Autumn Training Seminar	Westport, Co. Mayo	17 th - 18 th Sept. 2025
AILG Training	Arklow, Co. Wicklow	9 th October 2025
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	15 th October 2025

IPI Autumn Planning Conference	Co. Dublin	2 nd October 2025
LAMA Seminar	Gorey, Co. Wexford	16 th - 17 th October 2025
Western Inter County Rail Committee	Co. Galway	30 th October 2025
AILG Training	Athlone, Co. Westmeath	15 th November 2025
ICBAN Management Board Meeting	Lifford, Co. Donegal	19 th November 2025
ICBAN Capacity Building Programme	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	27 th November 2025

* LAMA: Local Authority Members Association

*AILG: Association of Irish Local Government

* ICBAN: Irish Central Border Area Network

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 2025.

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.

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

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