

Annual Report 2024



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Mission Statement

Through strong leadership we will promote the wellbeing of our people, quality of life in our communities and enhance the attractiveness of Carlow as a place in which to live, work, visit and invest, whilst upholding the highest standards of honesty, integrity and accountability.

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Joint Foreword Note

Carlow is a progressive, vibrant County which is attractive, inclusive and accessible. Carlow County Council (CCC) is committed to providing the highest quality public services for local residents, visitors and for new and existing companies. Creating an environment for economic growth and excellent quality of life for all is a priority for this Council.

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2024, which outlines the work of the Council in delivering important public services during the year, all of which contribute to making County Carlow an attractive place in which to work, live, visit and do business.

As we move from 2024 into 2025, we look forward to continuing to deliver the Council's Services, efficiently and effectively to all our customers. 2025 will also see an accelerated focus on climate change, active travel, heritage and biodiversity initiatives in addition to the Council's regular services and supports to individuals, businesses and communities.



Fergal Browne
Cathaoirleach



Coilín O'Reilly
Chief Executive

About Our Council

The County of Carlow (Contae Cheatharlach) is located inland within the South East of Ireland in the province of Leinster covering an area of 896 square kilometers. The County is strategically located and has excellent access to transport infrastructure through its location on the M9 Dublin Waterford motorway, the Dublin Waterford main rail line and the N80 national road linking Rosslare Europort to the Midlands.

The population of County Carlow recorded in the 2022 census was 61,931. The county town of Carlow is located in the northwest of the County along the border with County Laois. The Council is made up of 18 elected members within 3 municipal districts (Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag). With the Cathaoirleach elected by the members annually.

Along with the Corporate Policy Group, 4 Strategic Policy Committees develop and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of elected members and representatives designated external sectoral interests.

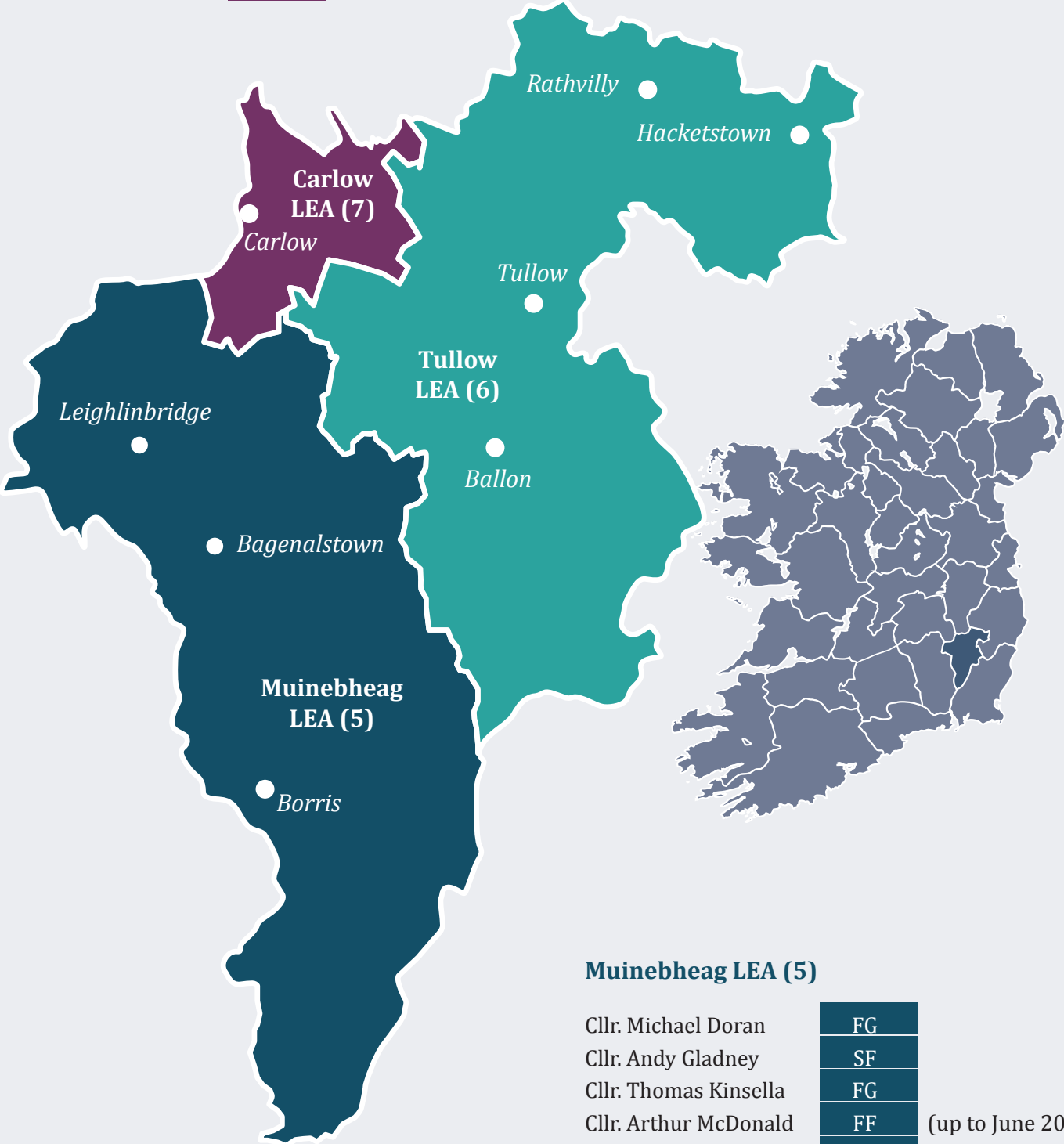


Carlow LEA (7)

Cllr. Fergal Browne	FG	
Cllr. John Cassin	No Party	
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	FF	
Cllr. Ken Murnane	FF	
Cllr. Paul Doogue	FG	(from June 2024)
Cllr. Tom O'Neill	FG	(up to June 2024)
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	FF	
Cllr. Adrienne Wallace	SPBP	

Tullow LEA (6)

Cllr. John McDonald	FF	(up to June 2024)
Cllr. Ben Ward	FG	(from June 2024)
Cllr. Charlie Murphy	No Party	
Cllr. John Murphy	FG	(up to June 2024)
Cllr. Jim Deane	SF	(from June 2024)
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	FG	
Cllr. William Paton	L	
Cllr. John Pender	FF	



Muinebheag LEA (5)

Cllr. Michael Doran	FG	
Cllr. Andy Gladney	SF	
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	FG	
Cllr. Arthur McDonald	FF	(up to June 2024)
Cllr. Daniel Pender	FF	(from June 2024)
Cllr. William Quinn	L	

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW



Cllr. Fergal Browne



Cllr. John Cassin



Cllr. Andrea Dalton



Cllr. Ken Murnane



Cllr. Paul Doogue
(from June 2024)



Cllr. Tom O'Neill
(up to June 2024)



Cllr. Fintan Phelan



Cllr. Adrienne Wallace



Cllr. John McDonald
(up to June 2024)



Cllr. Charlie Murphy



Cllr. John Murphy
(up to June 2024)



Cllr. Ben Ward
(from June 2024)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLOW



Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue



Cllr. William Paton



Cllr. John Pender



Cllr. Jim Deane
(from June 2024)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG



Cllr. Michael Doran



Cllr. Andy Gladney



Cllr. Daniel Pender
(from June 2024)



Cllr. Thomas Kinsella



Cllr. Arthur McDonald
(up to June 2024)



Cllr. William Quinn



Council Meetings 2024



13 Plenary
Council



6 SPC
Meetings



1 JPC



12 Carlow
Municipal
District



11 Tullow
Municipal
District



7 Muinebheag
Municipal
District



6 Audit
Committee
Meetings



9 Corporate
Policy
Group

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The purpose of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) is to formulate, develop, monitor, and review policies which relate to the functions of Carlow County Council and to advise the Council accordingly.

Carlow County Council operates 4 SPCs, each served by a Director of Service. The Chairs of the SPCs are selected by the Council at the AGM.

Planning, Environment, Climate and Bio-Diversity Action, Energy and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee

Chaired by:

Cllr. Thomas Kinsella

Council Members:

Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr. William Paton, Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Cllr. Adrienne Wallace.

External Members:

Liam Kelly, Brian O'Farrell, Liam O'Brien (PPN) Matthew English-Hayden (PPN) George Collier (Agriculture Farming IFA)

The SPC met 1 time in 2024, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Repay to Build Scheme
- ePlanning Presentation
- Statutory Plans Update
- Review of work completed over term

Housing, Community and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee

Chaired by:

Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Council Members:

Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Andy Gladney, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. William Quinn.

External Members:

Joe Butler (PPN), Ahmed Adam (PPN Social Inclusion) Eileen Brophy Development/Construction/Chambers Ireland, John McHugh PPN Environment

The SPC met 2 times in 2024, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Room for a Student – Local Authority Tenancies
- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029
- Changes to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme
- Draft Community Gardens Policy
- Review of the Assessment and Allocation Grants
- Review of Housing Allocations
- Housing Disability Strategy 2022-2027 – Implementation Plan
- Provision of Sensory Rooms

Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee



Chaired by:

Cllr. Michael Doran

Council Members:

Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. John Murphy, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. John Pender.

External Members:

Brian O'Farrell, Business/Commercial/Chambers Ireland, Eileen O'Rourke, PPN Community/Voluntary, Jolly O'Rock, PPN Social Inclusion

Transportation & Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee



Chaired by:

Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

Council Members:

Cllr. Michael Doran, Cllr. Andy Gladney, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue.

External Members:

John Brophy, Business/Commercial/Chambers Ireland, Jackie Meally (PPN Community/Voluntary) Rowena Dooley, Development/Construction/Chambers Ireland, John Tully, PPN Environment/Conservation

The SPC met 1 time in 2024, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Local Economic & Community Plan Monitoring Process
- Economic Development & Business Support Strategy – Action Update Review
- InnoCom – Regional Analysis
- County Carlow Draft Heritage Plan 2024 – 2029
- Progress Update on the Library Development Plan 2024 – 2028

The SPC met 2 times in 2024, the following is a summary of the issues discussed:

- Update from Carlow PPN
- SPC Work Programme 2023
- SPC Work Programme 2024 – Carlow Fire & Rescue Service Communications Plan
- SPC Work Programme 2024 – Procedure for Section 38 of Roads Traffic Act 1994
- Active Travel Programme 2024
- PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) Update
- County Carlow Bus link Timetable Update
- Carlow URDF Update
- Carlow Southern Relief Road Update



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.

Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024, builds on the role of local government in Ireland and incorporates specific actions to do so which include:

- i. Showcasing, sharing, and building on existing initiatives
- ii. Capacity building and awareness raising
- iii. Embedding the SDGs in Governance and reporting frameworks
- iv. Incorporating the SDGs within local planning frameworks
- v. Community Engagement

Furthermore, local authorities are recognised as one of Agenda 2030's nine "Major Groups", which play a crucial role in sustainable development and Agenda 2030 also highlights the role of local authorities and communities in sustainable urban development.

Carlow County Council were appointed as one of the first Local Authority SDG Champions in 2019 and currently holds the role of SDG Ambassador.

The role of SDG Ambassador includes:

- Advocate and promoter of the SDGs and sustainable development
- Acts as a good practice example of how an organisation or group can contribute to the SDGs and integrate the SDGs into their work or activities.
- Shares learnings with others.

Pádraig O Gorman, Director of Servies currently holds a position on the National SDG Localisation Working Group.

The objective of this group is to develop and oversee SDG localisation in Ireland, building on the work already underway at local level, and as set out in the SDG National Implementation Plan.

Carlow County Council continues to work to advance the SDGs, including through:

- the incorporation of the SDGs into our policy documents,
- joining/establishing local and/or international partnerships,
- the holding of information events with external groups including Universities, PPNs, Tidy Towns and Creative Ireland.

The 2025 Annual Report presents a breakdown of the SDG Goals and Targets supported by each Department.



Joint Policing Committee

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 (Section 36) provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in each Local Authority. The overall aim of the JPC is to serve as a forum for consultation, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the County of Carlow.

Carlow JPC held 1 meeting during 2024 and the principal work areas were:

- Retail Theft
- Community Garda Programme
- Ask for Angela Campaign
- Rag Week Feedback
- International Protection Applicant Arrivals
- Garda Síochána Operating Model
- Community CCTV Scheme, Tullow

Chairperson:

Cllr. Michael Doran

Council Members:

Cllr. Fergal Browne, Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Cllr. John McDonald, Cllr. John Murphy, Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr. William Paton, Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. Arthur McDonald

Oireachtas Members:

Malcolm Noonan TD, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD

Executive Members:

Coilín O'Reilly, Chief Executive, Michael Rainey, Director of Services Planning, Economic Development & Corporate

PPN Community Representatives:

Gemma Hughes, Caroline Dargan and Michael Nolan

Garda Representatives:

Chief Superintendent Anthony Pettit, Waterford and Superintendent Anthony Farrell, Carlow

Other Community Representatives:

John Brophy, Chamber of Commerce, Anton Scheele, Carlow Women's Aid, Michael Lyons, Carlow Town Community First Responders PPN, William Roche, Develop Tullow Association



Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Carlow County Council Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating, and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development in the County.

The LCDC consists of 19 members both statutory and non-statutory including 4 elected members.

Carlow LCDC held 5 meetings during 2024

Statutory Interests	
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	Elected Member
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	Elected Member
Cllr. Tom O'Neill to June 2024 Cllr. Fergal Browne from June 2024	Elected Member
Cllr Willie Quinn to June 2024 Cllr. Andy Gladney from June 2024	Elected Member
Coilín O'Reilly	Chief Executive, CCC
Kieran Comerford	Head of Enterprise, CCC
Aisling Dollard	Carlow Children's and Young Persons Services
Sarah Barron	Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board Health Service Executive
Joan-Ita Murphy	Health Service Executive
Non-Statutory Interests	
Damian Howard	Myshall Muintir na Tire (Community and Voluntary PPN)
Padraig Dooley	Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (Community and Voluntary PPN)
Lynda Stacey	Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre (Social Inclusion PPN)
Áine Gahan	Carlow Childcare Committee (Social Inclusion PPN)
Ian Sewell	Carlow Environmental Network (Environmental College PPN)
Annette Fox	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG
Rowena Dooley	Carlow Chamber (Business Employer)
George Hatton	Agricultural/Farming
Agnita Kenny	Arts & Culture - Civic Society
Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow Tourism



Corporate Services and Governance



2

No. Subject
Access Request

70

No. of Freedom
of Information
applications
received



49,621

No. of Electors
registered to
vote



Corporate Affairs provides an effective and efficient support service to An Cathaoirleach, the Elected Members and Senior Management along with general services to members of the public. Monitoring and reviewing the Council's policies and procedures on an ongoing basis. It is also responsible for the provision and management of a wide range of services which include;

- Management of Council, Corporate Policy Group, Carlow MD and JPC Meetings, Attendance of Councillors at Conferences
- Payment of Councillors Allowances and Expenses, Civic Receptions, Linkage with National Bodies such as LAMA and ACCC, and Joint Policing Committees
- Preparation of Statutory Reports; Chief Executive Monthly Report, Annual Report, Service Delivery Plan, Corporate Plan
- Register of Electors & Local Elections
- Customer Service, Corporate Communications – Press Releases
- Co-Ordination of Customer Service Performance Indicators
- Coroners Court, Management of Council Property
- Corporate Governance, Ethics & Donation Register
- Freedom of Information, Ombudsman, Data Protection, Protected Disclosures, Archive Services
- Irish Language Scheme, Disability Plan
- Schools Business Programme Partnership
- Service Indicators co-ordination
- Major Emergency Management – Communications. Liaison with public, media and Councillors including during severe weather conditions

Receptions

A Reception was held on the 13th May 2024 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Carlow Golf Club and the election of Ms. Rosemary Tully as President of Golf Ireland 2024. The event took place in Carlow Town Hall and was attended by Elected Members, officials, family members and friends.

Cathaoirleach & Mayor Awards

The Cathaoirleach of Carlow, Cllr. Andrea Dalton and the Mayor of Carlow Municipal District, Cllr. Tom O'Neill and members of Carlow County Council hosted a joint Reception, to honour local groups and individuals for their outstanding achievements and work within the community. This event took place on 30th June 2024, in the Town Hall Carlow.

The following received Cathaoirleach awards:

- St. Laurence O'Toole Athletics Club, development of world class athletics facilities
- Amber O'Rourke, Fundraising for Temple Street Hospital
- Éist Carlow, for outstanding cancer support
- Borris Lace, recognition of reintroducing lace making to community
- Ollie Hennessey, recognition of his contribution to music in Carlow

The following received Mayor awards:

- Jack Doyle, Fundraising achievements for Irish Wheelchair Association
- Carlow Lions Club, contribution to Carlow Community over 40 years
- Paul Flinter, for the launch of "Talking Heads" Support Group
- Walter Coleman, for his contribution to Carlow cycling community

Moldovan Presidential Election



Carlow County Council were delighted to receive a request from the Moldovan Ambassador to Ireland, Larisa Miculet, to be one of limited number of centres throughout the country to host a count centre for the Moldovan Presidential Elections and Republican Constitutional Referendum on EU Membership in Autumn 2024.

Register of Electors

The Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors for the County of Carlow. Under the new Electoral Reform Act 2022, a national program 'Modernisation of the Electoral Register' was carried out to reform the electoral registration process. It provides for rolling, or continuous registration, which will standardise and simplify the process.

To support greater participation, several additional features were also provided for, including the facilitation of anonymous registration for persons whose safety may be at risk if their names are published in the register; provisions to enable pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds; arrangements for those with no fixed address; and bringing better and more flexible options for people who because of mental health difficulties are not able to attend polling stations to vote.

In 2024, several electoral events led to a surge in applications for inclusion on the Carlow voter register. This increased the number of voters in Carlow by 7.33%. The overall count of registered voters in 2024 reached 49,621, comprising 18,899 in the Carlow Local Electorate area, 14,321 in Muinebheag, and 16,401 in the Tullow area.

Presidential Electors	46,436
Dáil Electors	47,088
European Electors	47,800
Potential European Electors	71

Voters are urged to check the register at www.checktheregister.ie to ensure they are registered, and their details are correct.

Customer Services

The staff at the Customer Services desk in County Hall continue to provide front-line services to the public whether it be in person, by email or by phone.

Customer Service Presentations	8,881
Telephone Calls Received	16,544
Website Visitors	479,899

Corporate Property

The Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for all Corporate Property (Except Social Housing and Roads) and the maintenance and upkeep of same. Property related supports and services were provided including, conveyancing of sales, purchases and leases of property to and from other parties, Section 183's, land-related queries, insurance, and facility management.

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

Carlow County Council are working jointly with Business in the Community Ireland and Tyndall College, Carlow for the delivery of the Towards Your Future Programme.

This nationwide programme provides students with an opportunity to meet officials from the Local Authority in order to learn about and prepare for the workplace. The Programme consists of a number of steps including Meet & Greet, Programme Overview; Day in the Life, sharing team roles & daily duties; Local Authority Site Visit/s; Interview Preparation and review.

To complete the Day In The Life Session/s which are an integral element of the Programme, Students & Teachers attended site visit/s to the Fire Station, Carlow and the Council Chamber, County Buildings where presentations were provided from service areas including Climate Change; The Library; Sports Partnership & Corporate Governance.

Data Protection

Carlow County Council processes all personal information in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Acts, 1988 to 2018. The GDPR sets out more extensive obligations on data controllers and processors and provides strengthened protections and rights for data subjects. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) received public sector-specific training in 2024 and has continued to actively engage with sections in carrying out Data Privacy Impact Assessments and executing Data Processing Agreements.

Records Management & Archives

Corporate Services is responsible for the implementation of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records. 450 boxes of non-current records were transferred to the Records Centre in 2024. New procedures for on-site destruction of records were implemented. The Archivist participated in Heritage Week, and worked with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on the Mother and Baby Institution Payment Scheme.

Council Meetings

Carlow County Council has **18** Elected Members which represent **3** municipal districts of Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag. Corporate Affairs manages CCC Council Meetings, Carlow Municipal District Meetings, Corporate Policy Group meetings and Deputation.

Members Expenses

Member	Expense
Annual Expenses Allowance / Salary	€535,671.71
Local Representation Allowance	€81,168.88
Travel and Subsistence Allowance	€61,700.93
Maternity Administrative Support Allowance	-
Security Allowance	€2,500
Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	€29,897.42
Social Political Committee Chairs	€23,917.92

Chief Executive Monthly Progress Report to Council

The Chief Executive prepares a monthly report (In accordance with Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) of each directorate/section, detailing service delivery and important achievements across the organisation during the month. This report is an agenda item at every monthly Council meeting and questions are taken from members on any aspect of the report.

This report also serves as a mechanism through which members have oversight of the progress on the implementation of the Corporate Plan and Annual Budget.

Privacy Statement

Carlow County Council is committed to protecting and respecting privacy. Carlow County Council's Privacy Statement lets you know how we look after your personal data. It also informs you as to our obligations and your rights under data protection law.

Official Language Act 2003

Carlow County Council continues to implement the Official Language Act 2003 and it is committed to delivering on all aspects of Carlow County Councils Irish Language Scheme. This included working with all departments to assist them in compliance with the legislation and promotion of the Irish language in all elements of service delivery and informing staff of the Councils obligations regarding Carlow County Councils Language Scheme.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 gives legal rights to those seeking access to information held by public bodies covered by the Act.

The following is the breakdown of decisions made on these requests.

Applications Received	70
Requests Granted	28
Requests Refused	31
Requests Part-Granted	8
Requests Withdrawn	3
Carried Over 2023	23
Internal Reviews	2
Appeals to Information Commissioner	1
Journalists	19
Business/Interest Groups	6
Oireachtas/Public Members	1
Staff	0
Clients	29
Other	15

Ombudsman

The Office of the Ombudsman was established under the Ombudsman Act 1980, to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with state bodies including Local Authorities.

Carlow County Council received 7 complaints in 2024

Closed Cases	4
Open Cases	7
Carried Over 2025	3

Ethics Register

The role of Ethics Registrar is set out in Part 15 of Local Government Act, 2001 and is managed by Corporate Affairs and Governance. Annual Declarations for 2024 from all relevant employees and elected members were received and made publicly available within the statutory period.

Local Elections Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure Act 1999

Pursuant to this requirement, Carlow County Council hereby confirms that there were no donations and expenditures for 2024. Copy of declarations submitted were published on the website along with all payments made to Councillors, including the representational payment, the allowance and travel and subsistence payments.

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, Carlow County Council hereby confirms that there were no protected disclosures received in 2024





Health And Safety

In 2024, Carlow County Council continued to implement its Occupational Health and Safety Management System and seek continuous improvement in Health and Safety.

A continued focus has resulted in substantial implementation of the health and safety document control app in the Roads & Transportation Department for the management of health and safety documents and forms such as SSWP's, Traffic management plans, plant, vehicle and equipment checks. It is an objective to extend use of the app in other departments. Additionally, the app is used to conduct safety inspections as per the ongoing safety inspection schedule. 45 no. health & safety workplace inspections were carried out

in 2024. Tablets are being used to deliver and record compliance with health and safety requirements with a facility to report incidents electronically. There was a total of 10 workplace incidents which includes 1 no. IR1 reportable accident and 2 no. IR3 dangerous occurrences. Consultation and communication with staff during the year and ongoing proactive checking ensures safety, health and welfare best practice is adhered to. In the latter part of 2024, a new assistant health & safety officer joined the health and safety unit.





Human Resources



402

Headcount as at
31/12/2024



Full Time
Employment

328.34



42

No. of Interviews
Held

Gender Breakdown

213

Males



189

Females



63

Joiners,

70

Leavers

The Human Resources Section (HR) is involved in the administration of statutory employment provisions, and the staffing policies, procedures and schemes adopted by Management.

The Section is also responsible for Recruitment, Training and Development, Time & Attendance Management, Superannuation, effective Employment

Engagement, Industrial Relations, Equality & Diversity, Work Life Balance, delivery of the Staff Wellbeing Service and provision of support to the organisation.





Planning & Development



490

No. of Planning Applications Received



349

No. of Valid Applications



141

No. of Invalid Applications



4

Total no. dangerous structures complaints received



6

Housing developments were taken in charge during 2024



7

Enforcement Notices Served

3

Total no. complaints received for potential breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations



16

No. of Properties on Derelict Register

The overall objective of the Planning Department is to promote the development of the County in a manner which facilitates sustainable economic and social progress. The day-to-day operation of the department covers a number of functional areas namely development management, planning enforcement, compliance, taking in charge of residential developments, derelict sites, dangerous structures and forward planning.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Applications

Carlow County Council received a total of **490** planning applications during 2024. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2024 by Carlow County Council:

No. of Valid Applications Received	349
No. of Invalid Applications Received	141
No. of Applications Granted	242
No. of Applications Refused	20
No. of Pre-planning Consultations held	82
No. of Compliance Requests Processed	183

An Bord Pleanála Appeals

An Bord Pleanála issued decisions on 25 no. Planning Appeals in Carlow County Council Administrative Area in 2024. Carlow County Council's decision was upheld in 19 of these cases.

Declarations, Exemptions and Licences

The Development Management Section of Carlow County Council processed a number of Applications for Exemptions and Licences in 2024:

Section 5 Exempt Development Applications	71
Section 254 Furniture Licence Applications	0
Section 254 Scaffolding Licence Applications	17
Section 254 Broadband & Telecommunications Licence Applications	0
Section 57 Declarations for Protected Structures	4
Section 97 Part V Exemption Applications	11
Forestry – Tree Felling Licence	19
Forestry – Planting Approval Licence	7
Forestry – Forest Road & Native Woodland Schemes	10
SI 75 Residential Exemptions	7

Preliminary Part VIII, Part VIII & Section 179A Projects

The Development Management Section of Carlow County Council managed the process for a number of projects for Local Authority Own Development – Part VIII in 2024:

Preliminary Part VIII	7
Part VIII	6
Section 179A (Housing Projects)	2

Short-Term Lettings

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 gave effect to legislation regarding Short-Term Lettings. The legislation came into effect on 1st July, 2019. On 26th September 2019 the Carlow Local Electoral Area was designated as a Rent Pressure Zone and consequently, new regulations regarding Short Term Lettings were enforceable by Carlow County Council during 2023.

Action Taken	2024
Total number of properties identified as potentially in breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations	3
No. of investigations completed	1
Warning letters issued	0
No. of properties in Carlow Rent Pressure Zone availing of planning exemption (2020-to-date)	21

FORWARD PLANNING

Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 – Two Year Progress Report

In accordance with Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the Chief Executives report on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was presented to the Elected Members of Carlow County Council at a Special Council meeting on the 30th July 2024. A copy of the report can be accessed here [Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 | Carlow County Council's Online Consultation Portal](#).

Carlow-Graigucullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Laois County Council completed the review of the Carlow-Graigucullen Joint Urban Area Plan. The Draft Carlow-Graigucullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan was finalised in Q4 of 2023, was subject to public consultation

and material alterations in 2024 prior to its formal adoption by Carlow County Council on the 30th July and Laois County Council on 29th July 2024. The Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024-2030 provides the spatial planning framework including land use zoning for the future development of the Carlow-Graiguecullen Urban Area.

Tullow and Muine Bheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plans

The review of the Muine Bheag – Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023 (as extended) and the Tullow Local Area Plan 2017-2023 (as extended) has commenced.

The Muine Bheag-Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2024-2030 - Issues Paper was put on public display for a 4-week period. A Chief Executive’s Report was prepared and presented to the Elected Members on the 4th April 2024. The drafting of the LAP has commenced with the Draft LAP document expected to be put on public display in Q2 of 2025.

The Issues Paper for the Tullow Local Area Plan 2024-2030 was also published in March 2024. As part of this consultation process, an information session was held for members of the public on the 27th March, in the Tullow Library. Following this consultation period, a Chief Executive’s Report was prepared and presented to the Elected Members on the 15th May 2024. It is anticipated that the Draft LAP which will be published circa Q3 of 2025.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Action 15.2 of Housing for All specifically identified the introduction of a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes, this tax is known as the Residential Zoned Land Tax and replaced the vacant site levy. The principal purpose of the residential zoned land tax is to encourage the timely activation of zoned and serviced residential development land for housing. The proposed measure is to activate existing planning permissions and zonings where housing is permitted and where the land is connected to, or has access to services, but remains undeveloped. The Annual Draft RZLT Map

(2025 Liability Year) was published on 30th January 2024 and subject to public consultation. The submissions received with respect to the inclusion or exclusion of land in the RZLT were assessed and determination reports were completed as appropriate. In addition, all the land rezoning submissions/ requests received by the Planning Authority during the RZLT public consultation periods in 2023 and 2024 were assessed and a Chief Executive’s Report on these rezoning requests was completed in July 2024. A variation to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 is being progressed regarding rezoning submissions in 2024 and due for completion in Q1 of 2025.

The Annual Draft Map for 2026 was prepared for the purposes of identifying land that satisfies the relevant criteria and is to be subject to the residential zoned land tax with submissions being sought up to 1st April 2025.

The first liability date for the tax is the 1st February 2025 and will be administered by the Revenue Commissioners.

ENFORCEMENT

No. of Enforcement Complaints	73
No. of Derelict Sites Complaints	5
No. of Dangerous Structures Complaints	4
No. of Enforcement Notices Served	7
No. of Derelict Sites Notices Issued	12
No. of Potential Breach of the Short-Term Lettings Regulations	1

The Planning Department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with.

Written complaints of unauthorised development, where they appear to be well founded, are investigated. Following an investigation of a bone fide complaint, the commencement of the enforcement steps

is initiated by the issue of a Warning Letter followed by the issue of an Enforcement Notice should the matter not be satisfactorily resolved following the issue of a Warning Letter.

In the event of non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice legal proceedings are initiated.

A total of 73 complaints were received during 2024.

Warning Letters Issued	47
Enforcement Notices served	7
Legal proceedings initiated	2
Cases Closed	96
Ongoing Court proceedings	8

Taking of Estates In Charge

Taking of Estates in Charge Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requests to take estates in charge can be made by the Developer or the majority of the owners residing in the development. The Planning and Development Act 2010 allows the Local Authority to take part of an estate in charge.

In 2024, significant progress was made on the taking in charge of housing estates. 6 estates were taken in charge, and the intention of the Council to take an additional 3 estates in charge was advertised before year end. Additionally, 5 new requests for TIC were received in 2024. The Council remains actively engaged with Uisce Éireann

to address water and wastewater issues in unfinished estates throughout the County.

The housing developments taken in charge during 2024 are as follows:

No.	ESTATE	LOCATION	MD AREA
1	Ard Bhaile	Rathvilly, Co. Carlow	Tullow
2	Friar's Green	Tullow Road, Carlow	Carlow
3	De Lacey Abbey (Phase 2)	Rathvilly, Co. Carlow	Tullow
4	Cois Dara (1-93)	Tullow Road, Carlow	Carlow
5	Brownshill Rise (1-59)	Brownshill Road, Carlow	Carlow
6	Brownshill Wood (1-128)	Brownshill Road, Carlow	Carlow

Derelict Sites

Derelict sites are dealt with in accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990. The Register Lists 16 properties. During 2024, 2 properties were added to the register and notices served, while 5 were removed.

Dangerous Structures

The Planning Department implements the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 in relation to Dangerous Structures & Places. The department co-ordinates with all necessary stakeholders and expertise to minimise any potential risk. A total of 4 complaints were received in 2024.





Regeneration

The following is a synopsis of the functions of the Regeneration Office –

- Town Centre First
- Town Centre First Plans
- Addressing Vacancy & Dereliction
- Carrying out Data Vacancy Surveys
- CPO Activation Programme
- Croí Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant & Ready to Build Scheme
- Urban Regeneration Development Fund – Call 3
- Non URDF Fund
- Rural Regeneration Development Fund
- Town & Village Renewal
- Various Funding Stream applications

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

“The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community”.

Muine Bheag Town Centre First Plan

Carlow County Council, with support from the DRCD Suite of Supports 2024 – Measure 3 and the “Our Rural Future” Programme, has begun developing a Town Centre First Plan for Muine Bheag. A Town Team, made

up of 12 community members representing various stakeholders, has been formed to guide the process. To engage and collaborate with the Muine Bheag community, a series of activities have been held, including a public information session, a workshop, and surveys, to gather input for the plan’s development. A SWOT analysis was conducted on the town, and the plan’s themes will be based on the findings of this analysis. The Muine Bheag Town Team is also collaborating with the South East Technical University (SETU), where a group of international students, as part of their curriculum, is conducting a Health Check on the town.





Graiguecullen Town Park

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

The TVRS is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social recovery and regeneration. This will be achieved through projects focusing on town centre regeneration, enhancing our Streetscapes and bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as community multi-purpose spaces through refurbishment and renovation. 4 applications were approved in 2024 for the following locations and amounts and works have commenced and are ongoing –

Hacketstown	€274,000
Tullow	€406,600
Clonegal	€110,240
Carrigduff	€277,770
St. Mullins	€130,000

Projects were completed in the following locations during 2024

Fennagh	€107,077
Graiguecullen Town Park	€285,672
Tullow Town Park (PDM)	€50,000



Wolf Sculpture, Fennagh



Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

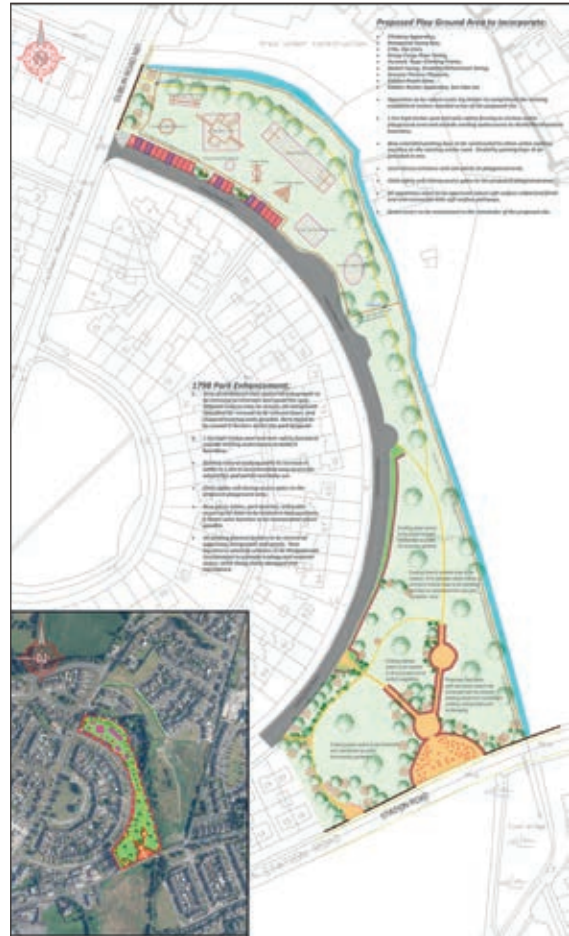
In May 2024, RRDF Call 5 Category 1 funding was approved for the redevelopment of a former school building in the heart of Rathvilly into a multi-purpose community hub. This project will revitalise the town centre, provide essential community facilities, and help foster a renewed sense of community. The estimated cost of the project is €2.7 million.

DRCD Suite of Supports 2024 – Measure 3

A project involving the enhancement of the 1798 Park in Tullow, including the creation of a new accessible play area received funding of €45,718.00 under this Suite of Supports to support the pre-development activities and to bring the project to the planning stage. The project will include environmental works to manage overgrown riverbank vegetation, as well as upgrades to planting, paving, play equipment, and seating throughout the park. Additionally, the project will regularise and increase the number of parking spaces. The estimated cost of the project is €285,000, and it is part of the Tullow Town Centre First Plan.

Urban Regeneration Development Fund – Call 3

Carlow County Council have been approved for a programme of 14 properties under the above funding stream to the value of €1.5m. This funding support acts as a dedicated revolving fund designed to address the financial barrier and risk faced by Carlow County Council in seeking to address long term vacant and



Design proposal for enhancement of the 1798 Park, Tullow

derelict properties across Carlow Town. This funding is being made available to acquire long term vacant or derelict properties for onward sale or re-use. The Revolving URDF Fund will be replenished from the proceeds received from the sale or reuse of properties and sites, allowing a local authority to establish a rolling programme of acquisitions to tackle long term vacancy and dereliction.

The Regeneration team have activated all 14 properties and engaged with the owners to assist them in bringing the property back in to use themselves, or where necessary, such as where a property is unregistered or engagement with the owner is not possible, to acquire the property compulsorily.

These properties are not being targeted with a view to retaining them as Local Authority stock for use as Social Housing, they are solely being targeted for onward sale.

Properties approved by the Department	14
Vested	4
Voluntarily Acquired	1
Sale Agreed on the open market	2

In addition to the properties within the URDF area, a pilot scheme was undertaken within the Local Authority to identify properties outside the URDF area that could be placed on the open market for sale. To date one property was identified, CPO'd and has gone sale agreed.



Vested properties

CPO Activation Programme

In the face of significant housing demand, it is crucial that existing houses and properties are fully utilised. Although the reasons for vacancies can be complex, the regeneration and reuse of vacant properties in our towns, villages, and rural areas can provide much-needed housing while revitalising these areas and benefiting the communities that live there.

The CPO Activation Programme was launched in April 2023, with Carlow County Council playing a central role in activating and bringing properties back into use. This is achieved through engagement with property owners and the implementation of various available schemes and measures. Compulsory acquisition is one of the tools Carlow County Council may use, particularly when other efforts to engage owners of vacant and derelict properties have been unsuccessful.

CPO Commenced	31
CPO Withdrawn	5
CPO Referred to An Bord Pleanala	3
Properties Vested	15

Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

The Croí Cónaithe (Towns) fund is a key initiative which underpins the policy and objectives set out in Pathway 4 of Housing for All programme.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

This Scheme was launched in July 2022. This is one of the measures which has been implemented to address vacancy and bring properties back into use. It benefits those who wish to turn a formerly vacant house or building (as per scheme outlined) into their principle private residence or to make it available for rent. A maximum grant of up to €50,000 is available for the refurbishment of vacant properties. There is also a further maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be structurally unsound and dangerous, or, if the property is already on the local authority's Derelict Sites Register. Once an applicant receives approval in principle for the grant, they can then proceed to complete their project. On completion of all works, the grant is then drawn down and paid directly to the applicant.

2024 statistics –

Applications Received	46
Applications Approved	28
Works Complete awaiting payment	2 valued at €100,000
Grants Paid	15 valued at €759,733



Vested property



Before



After

Ready to Build Scheme

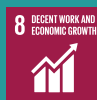
Carlow County Council will offer serviced sites in towns and villages that have adequate services, amenities, and direct access to essential infrastructure. These sites will be available at a discounted price, with a value of up to €30,000.

The Council plans to develop existing sites within its control or purchase new sites

to facilitate development by providing necessary services and access to these locations.

The scheme is exclusively available to individuals or households who intend to build their principal private residence on the purchased site.

15 potential sites identified



Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development & Special Project Development



34

Financial Support
Packages



17

Lean for Business
Vouchers



46

Green for
Business Vouchers



37

Trading Online Vouchers



1791

Total Training



146

Start Your Own Business
Participants



193

Management
Development Clients



1452

General Training &
Networking



486

Mentoring
Assignments



8

Export Development
Clients



13

Digital for Business
Vouchers



10

Energy Efficiency Grants

Enterprise Ireland - Service Level Agreement

The output for 2024 in respect of the Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland in respect of the operation of the Local Enterprise Office was as follows:

GRANT APPROVED	No.	€
Financial Assistance to Manufacturing & International Services Companies		
Business Expansion Grants	12	€371,918
Priming Grants	4	€110,250
Feasibility Grants	5	€60,200
Trading Online Vouchers	37	€75,357
Technical Assistance Micro Exporters Grants	12	€23,332
Lean for Business Vouchers	17	€38,000
Green for Business Vouchers	46	€80,354
Digital for Business Vouchers	13	€39,600
Energy Efficiency Grant	10	€49,198
Grad Start	1	€30,000



The Local Enterprise Office published a '10 Year Review' in April 2024 to mark the 10th anniversary of the foundation of Local Enterprise Offices

Ireland South East

Carlow County Council provided funding to the Ireland South East Office for the coordination of a variety of actions in the area of economic development and business support.

Carlow Tourism

Carlow County Council supported the Annual Plan for Carlow Tourism under their MOU with Carlow Tourism and strategic framework for the future support of the Tourism Sector in County Carlow.

Streetfest

Streetfest was a series of entertainment events and artisan craft stalls held on Lower Tullow Street over 6 weekends from April to June. It served as a pilot project for the potential pedestrianisation of Lower Tullow Street, aiming to enhance the shopping experience and create an unforgettable atmosphere.

Economic Marketing

Carlow County Council commissioned a variety of publications in association with the Sunday Business Post, KCLR and the Nationalist during 2024 promoted Carlow on a regional and national level.

Communications & Engagement Group

Carlow County Council facilitates a Communications & Engagement group of business sector agencies and support bodies to ensure a coordinated approach to business community engagement. The group hosted the annual Carlow Business Day in October 2024 which was attended by over 200 people.

Opportunity 2024

Carlow County Council published 'Opportunity 2024', a ground-breaking commuter study, designed to highlight the skills and experiences of Carlow's workforce and identify opportunities for growth.

Enterprise Space Development

The Council worked with Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG to develop a series of projects to provide Enterprise Space in the County. These projects are supported by Enterprise Ireland & Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Construction neared completion on the Station House – Community & Enterprise Hub in Hacketstown with pre-development carried out in respect of the Catalyst Project in Carlow Town and Presentation House in Bagenalstown.

Development & EU Funding

Carlow County Council was a partner in the successful application for a new EU project, European Emerging Craft Platform – Craftwork 4.0 All, an ambitious initiative funded by the Creative Europe Programme under the Call for European Platforms for the Promotion of Emerging Artists. This programme will launch in 2025

InnoCom, a project in respect of business engagement funded under Interreg Europe, continued. Carlow County Council hosted an international meeting of project partners and stakeholders in September 2024.

Christmas 2024 Programme

Carlow County Council enhanced the Christmas Programme which a series of activities under the brands Lightfest and Shop Local Shop Carlow. Events were attended by over 10,000 people.





Environment & Climate Action

Environment Department of Carlow County Council has a wide range of functions that are growing annually as new legislation is introduced, new national priorities emerge and work practices within the organisation change. The following is a non-exhaustive list of functions: -

- Waste Management – Enforcement & Licencing
- Operation of Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Centres



- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Circular Economy



- Environmental Complaint Management
- Litter Prevention & Control
- Environmental Education & Awareness



- Energy Management & Targets



- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution



- Environmental Planning
- Water Pollution/Water Framework Directive
- Rural Water/Small Private Supplies
- Farm Inspection and Nutrient Management



- Burial Grounds



- Control of Dogs
- Dog Breeding Establishments
- Dog Warden Service



Complaints 2024

Complaint Type	Complaints	Investigated	Active	Resolved
Air/Odour	35	35	1	34
Litter	339	339	1	338
Noise	28	28	1	27
Waste C&D	46	46	2	44
Waste not C&D	360	360	0	360
Water/Wastewater	28	28	1	27
Other	80	80	1	79
Total	916	916	7	909

Enforcement 2024

Legislation	Advisory Letter	Warning Letter	Notice	Fines issued
Litter Act		58	42	
Air Pollution Act		17	1	
Water Pollution Act	3	17		
Waste Management Act	3	21	58	3
Environmental Protection Act				
Total	6	113	101	3

Environmental Planning

Planning Environmental Inspections (Routine)	Number
Inspections (environmental) of existing planning permissions	28
Inspections (environmental) in advance of grant/refusal of planning permission	344
Quarry Inspections (e.g. relating to noise, dust, surface/groundwater emissions, vibration etc.)	2
Other planning inspections relating to environmental issues	41
Subtotal Planning Inspections (Routine)	415

Rural Water Grants 2024

Grants	Received	Approved	Total Paid
Domestic Well Grants	74	70	€170,000
Domestic Septic Tank Grants	5	5	€17,000
Domestic Lead Remediation Grants	0	0	0
Total	79	75	€187,000

Waste Inspections 2024

Waste Inspections	Number
Waste Permitted Facilities	9
Joint inspections with NTFSO	1
Inspections of Cert of Registration sites (private)	8
Inspections of LA Cert of Registration sites e.g. bring centres and bottle banks	674
Multi-agency inspections, including vehicle insp and multi agency site inspections	13
Hazardous waste sectoral inspections (e.g. WTF, garages, mini-labs, industrial healthcare, POPs & others):	5
Inspections in relation to segregation, recovery and disposal of C&D handling waste at inspections at construction/development sites to include major public projects (eg. Waste Mgt Plans, Gypsum handling, etc)	55
Household Waste Surveys	183
Inspections in relation to the household & commercial k/s waste collection (incl Brown Bin)	50
Other inspections of waste collection permit holders to include eg validation audits, not included above	33
Commercial Food Waste Inspections - original waste producers (hotels, nursing homes, restaurants etc)	14
Inspections in relation to authorised ELV facilities (ATFs) with an emphasis on traceability requirements (SI 320 of 2014)	8
Other routine inspections (not included in above numbers) - please specify (e.g. unauthorised ELVs)	11
Investigative inspections of fly tipping or illegal dumping, excluding unauthorised C&D, ELVs & Tyres	3
Investigative Inspections in relation to unauthorised C&D sites (sites with no permit)	4
Inspections in relation to Unauthorised waste sites excl above incl PTUs & crashed vehicles inspections etc	7
Inspections in relation to Waste Facility Permits continuing to operate after their permit has expired	2
Inspections in relation to extractive industries	2
Household Waste/waste presentation Inspections arising from complaints, including backyard burning	3
Inspections of sites notified under Article 27	6
Other non-routine inspections (not included in above numbers)	11
TOTAL	1102

Water & Waste Water Inspections 2024

Water & Waste Water Inspections	Inspections completed 2024
Discharges licenses to waters (Section 4)	16
Audits of private water supplies	5
Farm Inspections under GAP Regulations conducted by LA (not including farm inspections by DAFM)	133
Farm Inspections Other e.g. Routine farm inspection but not GAP inspections BIOSOLIDS	34
WFD investigative monitoring samples and analysis by Local Authorities	388
Bathing Waters	22
DWWTS Inspections under National Inspection Plan Septic Tanks	25
DWWTS Engagement Activities	32
Other Surface & Groundwater Protection Inspections [e.g. drinking water source protection, zoc monitoring, etc]	4
Misconnection Surveys	8
Inspections relating to water pollution incidents/complaints excluding non-routine farm inspections	6
Non-routine farm inspections, eg on foot of pollution incident or complaint	6
Unauthorised Discharges Investigated	15
Inspections in relation to Water Pollution Licence applications	7
Total Inspections in categories above	701

Annual Dog Stats 2024

Strays	168
Surrenders	18
Reclaims	38
Re-homed by Shelter	49
Directed to Rescue	102
Put To Sleep (specify reason) - Welfare of Dog	1

Spotlight on Biodiversity

The Carlow Biodiversity Officer was appointed on January 6th 2024, and successfully secured €101,689 grant funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (NPWS), and €20,000 grant funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund (Heritage Council), to progress implementation of Actions under the Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2025.

These included:

- Carlow Wetlands Survey – to establish the extent of wetland habitat in Carlow.
- Carlow Hare's Corner Project – to facilitate landowners to create a space for nature through installing a wildlife pond, or planting a heritage orchard or mini-woodland.
- Carlow Invasive Species Control – to restore riparian habitat through the control of rhododendron and cherry laurel.
- Carlow Catchments Hedgerow Survey – to assess hedgerows with a water quality function, i.e. parallel to rivers, and the bottom of sloping land, and with a good base structure.
- Carlow Otter Survey – to map the extent of their distribution on the River Burrin, River Mountain, and urban sections of the River Barrow.
- River Burrin Riparian Habitat Gaps & Fragmentation Survey – to map priority areas along the river for restoration intervention.
- Orchard River & Riparian Restoration – restoration works to reinstate spawning gravels and strengthen the riparian zone.
- Carlow Protected and Rare Flora Survey – to assess the current status of rare flora records.
- Carlow Mayfly Recording Project (part of application with 27 other Local Authorities and LAWPRO)
- Carlow Hedgehog Survey – a citizen science survey to establish extent of the Carlow population.
- Carlow Significant Tree Survey – to update a 2004 survey of over 600 significant trees.

Applied Learning Programme for High Nature Value Landscape Communities

The aim of this project was to deliver an improved understanding of results-based landscape management to the broader Blackstairs community, encouraging farming and non-farming relationships, and strengthening the foundations for future community stewardship.

The delivery of the project revolved around five main elements:

- 1 Targeting non-farming landowners in the Blackstairs area to prepare “Plans for Nature” (part of the Hare's Corner initiative to create space for nature) – 13 Plans completed
- 2 Delivering an in-person Heritage Keepers workshop to local community and interest groups, with funding provided for six local action projects, including an archaeology assessment of the Nine Stones, and a display set of wildlife infrastructure (i.e. bird and animal boxes).
- 3 Community Conference, “*The Landscapes that Connect our Farming and Non-Farming Communities*”, with contributions from local Farming for Nature Ambassadors and Agri-Environmental Programme coordinators (over 60 attendees).
- 4 Guided Farm Walks for participants in the above events, including Agricultural Science and Green Schools students from Borris College
- 5 Interpreting the Blackstairs through the production of an Art publication - “*Landscapes of Inspiration & Imagination: Musings from the Blackstairs Mountains*” produced by students and staff of Borris College.



Owen Carton delivering workshop



Minister Noonan at Community Conference



Heritage Keepers participants

Spotlight on Waste Management

Environmental Inspection Plan Outcome 2022

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications set the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) annually. Each local authority must submit to the Environmental Protection Authority its inspection plan to respond to the NEPs and a detailed return for inspections and outcomes for the preceding year (called the RMCEI Plan).

The EPA concluded the evaluation of all Local Authority performances concerning National Enforcement are Priorities for 2023. Carlow County Council delighted not only to have met the stipulated standard but also attained a commendable 85%, surpassing the national average of 70%.

Litter Management Plan 2024-2026

In accordance with Sections 10 – 13 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, Carlow County Council reviewed its Litter Management Plan 2021-2023, and prepared a Litter Management Plan for 2024-2026.

The Local Authority Litter Management Plan aims to tackle litter-related issues in County Carlow through a structured and strategic approach.

The plan outlines the current state of litter across the county, relevant legislation on litter control, services offered by Carlow County Council, as well as initiatives focused on education, awareness, and engagement with the community and businesses.



Environmental Awareness

Rubbish Film Festival.

The project was funded through Carlow’s allocation under the National Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Scheme. It included environmental presentations, litter picks, and workshops delivered by the Environment Team and local Tidy Towns representatives in six secondary schools. Following this, Create School provided workshops and support in key Next Generation Skills, empowering students to produce short films that highlight global and local issues related to waste, pollution, and their impact on both the county and the planet.

Congratulations to Presentation College, Carlow, who were Runners-Up for “Best Film” at the National Finals with *Out of Sight*, *Out of Mind*, Coláiste Aindriú, Bagenalstown, who were regional Runners-Up with their film *Something Fishy*, Borris Vocational School, who were regional Winners for Best Poster with *Don’t Ruin It*.

Working with our Schools

Schools programme. 9 Schools were awarded flags in 2024.

Voice Ireland Picker Palls campaign has been engaged to work with 14 primary Schools

across the County to facilitate increased litter awareness and engage in litter prevention activities.

Spotlight on Climate Action

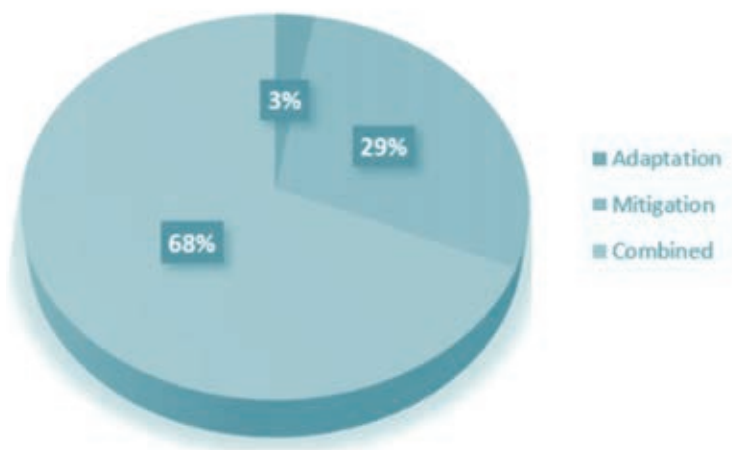
Adopted by the Elected Members in January 2024, Carlow Local Authority’s Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is a comprehensive framework aimed at achieving the targets set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The suite of 73 actions contained in the plan provides a structured pathway to reduce emissions, enhance climate resilience, and support a just transition for the wider Carlow community.

As at 31st December 2024

- 36 actions have been completed.
- 20 are in progress.
- 17 have not started.

CO2 and Energy: Monitoring & Reporting 2024.

Annual Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) report is mandated under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) regulations, which require public sector bodies to report their energy performance directly to SEAI – in accordance with SI 426 of 2014.



The M&R report focuses on the following key points: analysis of energy consumption and Gren House Gas emissions; comparison with efficiency and emissions targets for 2030; data presented by Carlow Local Authority; tracking progress towards 2030 targets; focus on achieving energy efficiency goals; improvements and innovation.

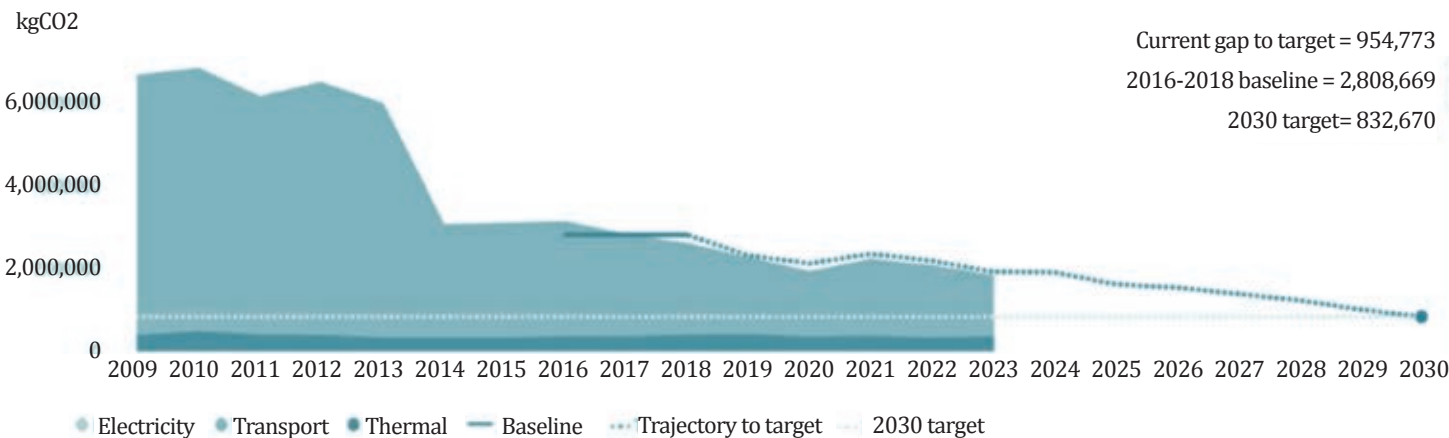
Annual reporting is released with a one-year delay is prepared in conjunction with our energy partners, Southeast Energy Agency and the M&R reporting 2023 data is now available on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) website.

In 2023 Carlow Local Authorities produced 1,785,037 Kgs CO2 which is an overall reduction of 1,023,632 Kgs CO2 from the baseline figure of 2,808,669 Kgs CO2.

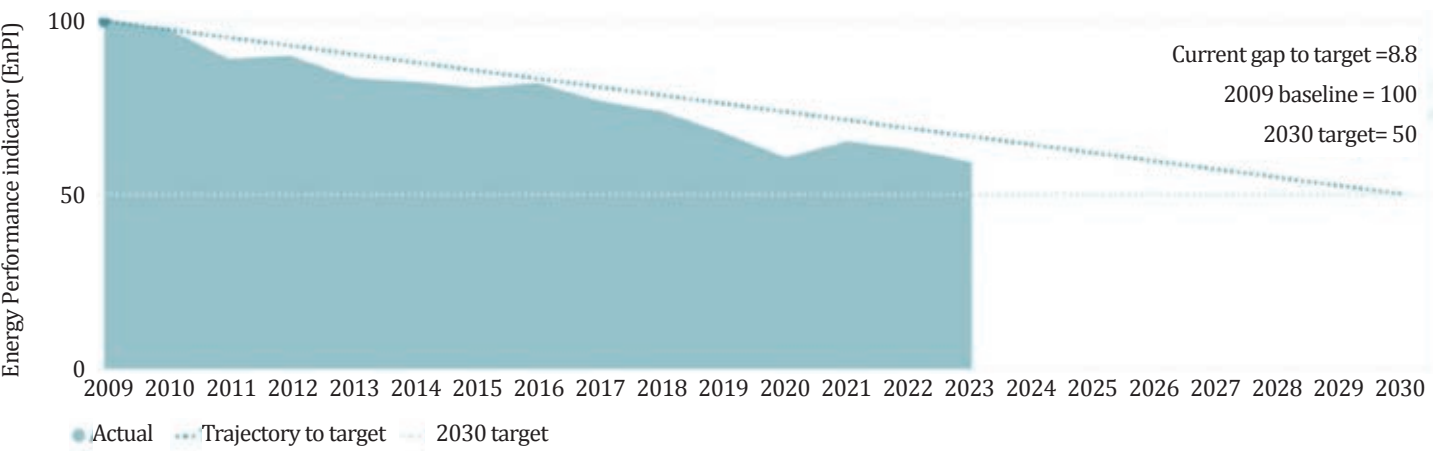
As the 2030 target is set at 832,670 Kgs CO2 the Local Authority must achieve a further reduction of 952,367 Kgs CO2 before 2030.

- ➔ Thermal: Emissions have been decreasing since 2019 but remain significantly above the 2030 target, indicating a need for more aggressive reduction strategies.
- ➔ Transport: Emissions have fluctuated with only a slight decrease from the baseline. Carlow Local Authority have made significant progress in this area in 2024.

Total CO₂ target



Energy efficiency target





Launch of Carlow Climate Action Plan

Organization	Funding Amount	Project Description
Tinryland Park	€20,000	Upgrade of public lighting to energy-efficient alternatives.
Bagenalstown Gaels	€38,690	Coordinated improvements involving Bagenalstown Gaels, Bagenalstown AFC, and the Community Garden.
St. Patrick's GAA Tullow	€39,707	Installation of solar panels and battery systems.
Carlow Town Hurling Club	€50,000	Implementation of solar panels and energy upgrades, including water heating systems and energy-efficient windows.
Tullow Men's Shed	€25,596	Building enhancements such as insulation, window and door replacements, sensor lighting, solar panels, and energy-efficient heating systems.
Drummin Bog	€93,648	Rewetting of Drummin Bog and installation of a walkway (subject to planning approval).
St. Patrick's AFC Graiguecullen	€50,930	Installation of an energy-efficient hot water system, replacement of floodlights with energy-efficient versions, building insulation, water refill station, and biodiversity planting.
Myshall Community Centre	€53,319	Insulation and window replacements, as well as the installation of bike stands.

Carlow Climate Action Week 2024.

The inaugural Carlow Climate Action Week took place from the 14th to 20th October 2024. In total, 35 events took place throughout the week. 21 of these free events were organised/led inter-departmentally in partnership with the Climate Team.

9 Community based events were hosted by recipients of the Community Climate Action Fund, and 5 events were hosted in partnership with stakeholders including, Teagasc, SETU, Carlow College, South-East Energy Agency, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and Carlow PPN. There was an overall attendance of circa 1,300 across the 35 events, which took place both in person and online.

Climate Literacy Training

A six-week training course for individuals over the age of 60 began on November 6th at An Gairdín Beo. The program aimed to enhance participants' climate action education, helping them understand how their daily activities contribute to carbon emissions and, in turn, climate change. It also guided them in creating a plan to reduce their personal carbon footprint. A total of 24 people took part in the course.

Schools in Carlow Town engaged in a climate literacy programme delivered by Education for sustainability. During the 10-week course participants addressed the gap between knowledge and action by providing teachers, principals, and students with an action-led roadmap of knowledge, tools and skills designed to enable them to live more sustainably by improving climate literacy.

UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As former SDG Champions, Carlow County Council currently hold the role of SDG Ambassadors.

During SDG week 2024 the Environmental Awareness Officer at Carlow Local Authorities designed and delivered a webinar entitled "the Health and Wellbeing Benefits of Growing and Sourcing Local Food" directly linking the following SDGs to local food production.

- SDG Number 1: No Poverty
- SDG Number 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG Number 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG Number 4: Quality Education
- SDG Number 6: Clean Water & Sanitation
- SDG Number 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG Number 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG Number 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG Number 13: Climate Action
- SDG Number 15: Life on Land

The workshop was delivered in partnership with Carlow PPN and examples were provided about the importance and benefits of supporting local food systems and how they connect people and communities locally, nationally and globally.



Emergency Services & Building Control



186

Commencement
Notices

88

Building
Control
Inspections

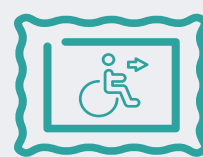


37

Fire Safety
Certificates

28

Disability
Access
Certificates



46

Annual
Disability
Licensing
Inspections

County County Council maintains Fire Brigades in four Fire Stations located in Carlow Town, Muine Bheag, Tullow and Hacketstown. A Fire Service Training & Development Centre utilised by Fire Services from across Ireland, The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management, The Irish Defence Forces and The Irish Air Corps is also based in Hacketstown Fire Station.

The dedicated crews, together with modern vehicles and equipment, ensure delivery of a prompt, efficient and effective service responding to a total of 535 separate emergency incidents resulting in 696 mobilisations by County Carlow Fire Brigades in 2024. This represented a welcome 6% reduction in attendances at emergency incidents when compared to the total figure for 2023. There were no fire fatalities recorded in Co. Carlow in 2024. The operational response is supported by the Eastern Regional Control Centre located in Dublin Fire Brigade HQ in Townsend St, which receives calls from the public through the 999/112 service and mobilises the appropriate fire service resources in County Carlow. Services such as administration, fire prevention activities, Building Control, Major

Emergency Management etc. are delivered from the Fire Service Headquarters at Green Lane, Carlow Town.

Key Performance Indicators

The Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023 carried out by NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) which was published in September 2024 highlighted that Carlow Fire Authority had a cost per capita of €46.71 per head of population. This is in line with the national average of €45.96 per capita for the operation of Retained Fire Stations. The NOAC report also highlighted that in 87% of mobilisations, a crew from Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service arrived at the scene of an emergency incident within 20 minutes from time of mobilisation.

Emergency Services & Building Control

The Code of Practice for Inspecting and Certifying Buildings and Works in relation to inspections of new buildings, for which valid commencement notices have been received, sets a minimum requirement of 12 – 15%. County Carlow Building Control Authority achieved an inspection rate of 22%. Applications for Fire Safety Certificates were granted within the statutory period of 2 months in 74% of cases, above the national average of 52%.

Safety, Health & Welfare & Quality Management Systems

In December 2023, Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service’s Safety Management System was certified to ISO 45001 by the National Standards Authority of Ireland. This is confirmation of the safety management system in Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service complying with international best practice and recognition of the work and dedication across all sections and levels of the service required to achieve this standard. The awarding of ISO 45001 means that the organisation is internationally recognised in an elite category of businesses, one of a small number of fire services that have attained this standard in Ireland. In 2024 the County Fire Service maintained its commitment to this standard and underwent an internal audit in preparation for the 2-day reaccreditation audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland in Q1 of 2025.



Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service also applied for registration to the ISO 9001 Quality Management System standard which sets out the essential requirements for a practical and effective quality management system (QMS) which is, in essence, a system for minimising risk and maximising opportunity. The standard is the first port of call for almost all organisations, large or small, public or private, that have decided to strengthen, streamline or review their management procedures. It can be used

to focus on improving performance in a particular department, plant or site. This would be confirmation of the Quality Management System in Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service complying with international best practice and recognition of the work and dedication across all sections and levels of the service required to achieve this standard. To achieve this award, the County Fire Service underwent an internal audit in 2024 in preparation for the 2-day registration audit by the National Standards Authority of Ireland in Q1 of 2025. Should the County Fire Service be successful in attaining this accreditation they will be one of very few nationally with both ISO 45001 & ISO 9001 standards.

Capital Funding

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, announced funding of €20.8 million for the provision of 40 new ‘Class B’ fire appliances, which will be allocated across the country’s 27 Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services. Carlow County Fire Service received an allocation of 1 new Class B Appliance as part of this announcement which is scheduled for delivery in Q1 2026. Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service received final approval to proceed to tender for design and engineering services for the refurbishment and upgrade of Muine Bheag Fire Station which will greatly enhance the working conditions for firefighters within the station. Carlow County Fire Service received funding from the National Directorate for a number of Capital Projects during 2024 including:

Purchase of 3 no. New Panel Vans	€197,000
Purchase of 3 no. New 4x4 Jeeps	€190,000
Purchase of 2 no. 2009 Fire Appliances for the Resilience Fleet	€140,000
Modern Day Built Environment Firefighting Equipment	€55,000
Purchase of Flood & Water Response/Rescue Equipment	€45,000
Class B Fire Appliance (Delivery expected Q1 2026)	€465,000



Extensive capital works were completed in the Hacketstown Training & Development Centre during 2024. Works included replacement of live fire training units in the Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour facilities and the installation of a Breathing Apparatus and PPE decontamination machine.

Other works included construction of a forklift truck storage building, improved changing areas for students and instructors' and improved classroom facilities. Approval in principle has been received for funding for additional improvement works to the centre involving construction of specialist working at heights training tower, a new laundry building for PPE, vehicle storage buildings and replacing some changing facilities.

Training

A range of specialist Training Courses were delivered to operational firefighters during 2024. Officer Training as well as training in the operation of Pumps, Compressed Air Foam, Breathing Apparatus, Compartment Fire Behaviour, Working at Heights, Winches, Abrasive Wheels, Emergency Service Vehicle Driving, Emergency First Responder and Cardiac First Responder was delivered to all crews. The County Fire Service also invested in new Mental Health First Aid and Suicide intervention training for staff. The number of Critical Incident Stress Management Station Peer Supporters was increased to two in each station with training provided

for the new Peer Supporters in 2024. New Manual Handling, Breathing Apparatus, Compartment Fire Behaviour and Road Traffic Collision Instructors were trained in 2024 further developing the skill set and resilience within the County Fire Service. Recruit Firefighters completed initial basic recruit training as well as training in the use of Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour. Carlow Firefighters completed the annual training programme in a range of training disciplines during 2024.





Operations

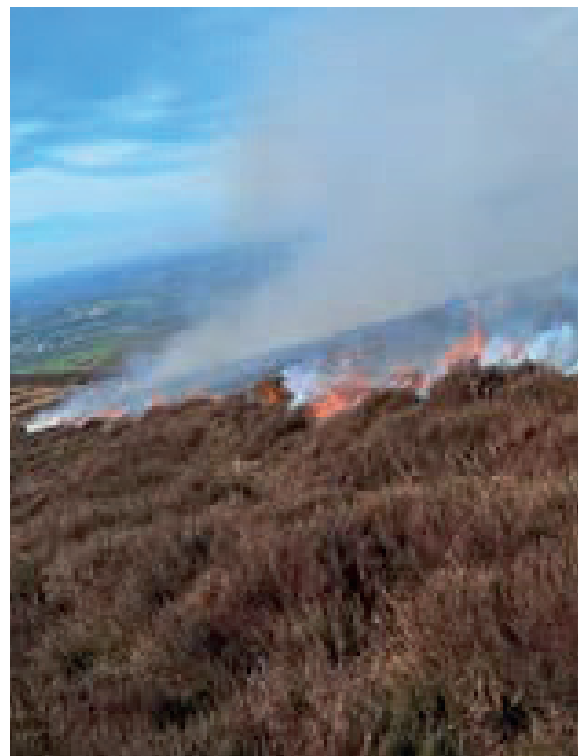
Crews from across County Carlow attended a total of 535 separate emergency incidents resulting in 696 mobilisations by Carlow Fire Brigades in 2024. This represented a welcome 6% reduction in attendances at emergency incidents when compared to the total figure for 2023.

There was no fire fatalities recorded in Co. Carlow in 2024. A slight 4% increase was observed in attendances at Road Traffic Collisions in 2024 compared to 2023. Accidental activations of monitored fire alarms in commercial and domestic premises continue to create issues for the fire service, however a welcomed 8% reduction was observed in 2024 compared to 2023. The County Fire Service continues to develop initiatives to try to reduce them.

Three new recruit firefighters commenced operational duty with Tullow Fire Brigade including the first female firefighter to join this Brigade. Hacketstown Fire Brigade also saw three new firefighters join their ranks. Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service became the first Fire Authority in Ireland to achieve the full complement of 12 firefighters in all stations as per the recent WRC agreement. All promotional positions were also filled in 2024. There are currently 49 operational firefighters including Driver/Mechanics, Sub Officers and Station Officers, and 3 Senior Fire Officers employed in Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service.

Community Fire Safety & Fire Prevention

In addition to its operational activities, Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service was also very active in promoting fire safety and continues to inspect public-assembly buildings in an effort to meet the obligations under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service has taken a more proactive role in promoting Community Fire Safety in particular during Fire Safety Week and Positive Ageing Week which took place on September 30th to October 6th 2024, members of the public were invited into Stations to view our equipment and appliances, speak to Fire Prevention Officers and view fire safety demonstrations and displays. Daily Fire Safety messages were published on social media pages as well as radio interviews undertaken with KCLR and Beat FM. Carlow County Fire Service continued to deliver the Home Fire Safety Check initiative during 2024. Firefighters visit older persons in their homes, carry out a home fire safety check, provide advice to the homeowner in relation to fire safety and install smoke detectors where required. Over 150 Home Fire Safety Checks were completed by County Firefighters in 2024.





The annual licensing and inspection of premises was completed in September with publicans, dance and restaurant license renewal applications before the Courts. In total 46 premises were inspected in the run up to the Court date in late September. A large body of work was undertaken to comply with the provisions of the Fire Services Act along with the administrative duties associated with issuing certificates, letters and conditions of license. A number of enforcements were carried out on public premises as well as warning letters issued to premises owners and occupiers following inspections on foot of complaints by members of the public and issues that were highlighted post incident that may have been brought to the Fire Officers attention.

Building Control

The Building Control section actively manages the Building Control Management System and carries out routine inspections of construction projects to ensure compliance with all parts A to M of the Building Regulations during construction stage, validating and technically examining Disability Access Certificates as well as advising members of the public on the system. All Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate Applications are now being made through the Building Control Management System. The Building Control Section worked closely with the National Market Surveillance Office which monitors the quality and standard of construction products offered for sale within

County Carlow. A number of inspections of premises who offer construction products for sale within County Carlow received unannounced initial and follow up inspections.

Hacketstown Training & Development Centre

Hacketstown Training & Development Centre is regarded as the leading facility and a critical piece of strategic infrastructure in Ireland for the delivery of firefighting training for operational firefighters and fire officers. The facility provides Recruit Firefighter Training, Breathing Apparatus Training, Compartment Fire Behaviour Training, Road Traffic Collision Training, Medical Training and Working at Heights Training. A National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Compartment Fire Behaviour Instructor Training Course was also hosted in 2024 which developed the newest instructors in this skill set for the Country. The Training Centre is unique as it can host two and sometimes three courses being ran simultaneously. Courses were hosted in the facility for firefighters from Carlow, Clare, Cork City, Cork County, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow Fire Services as well as the Irish Air Corps and Irish Defence Forces. The LASNTG (Local Authority Services National Training Group) hosts regular QQI accredited Training Courses in Firefighting Skills, Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour in the Training Centre. In total, Hacketstown Training & Development Centre hosted training courses for a total of 308 days during 2024 for over 500 firefighters. The number of training courses hosted in Hacketstown will see an increase in 2025 due to the additional 400 retained firefighters being recruited nationally as a result of the recent WRC Recommendation.

Rescue Organisation Ireland

The Rescue Organisation team continued training throughout 2024 and competed in the national competition. The team have reached out to new members from within the County Fire Service during the year.

Major Emergency Management

Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service worked in collaboration with our Partner Response Agencies within the South-Eastern Region maintaining the Councils ability to carry out its functions in any Major Emergency that might be declared. The County Fire Service and Carlow County Council staff played an active part on regional working groups throughout 2024. New Council media liaison Officers were trained, and the Councils Major Emergency Plan was updated in 2024.

The County Fire Service led out on the largest regional major emergency exercise in a decade with Partner Response Agencies delivering a simulated commercial aircraft crash on Mt. Leinster on the 2nd October 2024. This exercise involved over 150 emergency service staff from across the region including the Primary Emergency Services, Voluntary Emergency Services and strategic managers from the Primary Response Agencies. This simulation also included exercising Carlow County Councils Major Emergency Plan which was updated in 2024. Footage from the exercise will be used to develop new Major Emergency training materials for use across the Country.



Climate Action

Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service continues to support Carlow County Council's Climate Action Plan to achieve the target of reduction of 51% of carbon output by 2030. The County Fire Service introduced further Climate Action measures during 2024, all staff completed the LASNTG Climate Action training, petrol-powered Road Traffic Collision Extrication Equipment and Positive

Pressure Ventilation Fans were replaced with battery operated equipment further decarbonising the Fire Services equipment and reducing carbon output.

The Hacketstown Training & Development Centre continues to be managed for wildflowers, biodiversity with beehives installed in the wildflower area which has seen a number of swarms make their home there. It is hoped this measure will improve biodiversity in the Hacketstown area. In 2024 the County Fire Service also took delivery and put into service the first ECO Class B Fire Appliance in Ireland. This Fire Appliance combines the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil instead of diesel with solar panels and vehicle software which charge auxiliary batteries to power battery operated equipment and the emergency blue lights at incidents. This allows the Fire Appliance engine to enter standby mode when stationary for extended periods of time reducing carbon output. The County Fire Service is also working on developing further new innovative technical solutions to reduce the carbon output from our operational fire service vehicles and equipment in the future.

National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management National Resilience Fleet

Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service continues to support the work of the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management through the management of the Directorate's fleet of 13 Resilience and Training Fire Appliances. These 13 fire appliances are managed and maintained through Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service and are used by the National Directorate for the delivery of the Fire Service National Training Programme across Ireland for fire officers at all ranks from Recruit to Senior Fire Officer ranks.



Roads & Sustainable Transportation



1,329km

Road network within the County of Carlow



32

Funding recoupment claims in the amt of €10,678,527



131

Chief Executive/Director of Services Orders



54

Priority 1 Winter Services Treatments using 252 tonnes of salt



25

Priority 2 Winter Services Treatments using 640 tonnes of salt



559

No. Road Opening Licences



77

Abnormal Load Applications processed



€437,086

Spend on National Secondary Road Maintenance Works



€4,476,239

Total Spend on National Secondary Road Improvement Works



€10,628,969

Spend on Regional & Local Roads Improvements



4,219

Number of LED Public Lights in the County



€2,585,800

Spend on Regional & Local Roads Maintenance



€296,286

Spend on Regional & Local Road Bridge Maintenance and Improvement



€1,320,933

Spend on Regional & Local Road Drainage, Road Safety & Other Works



6,733

Number of Public Lights in the County



1,568

Number of Public Light Repairs undertaken



€518,904 & €2,556,824

Public Lighting Energy & PLEEP Improvement Costs

Having a good road and rail network is integral to the economic prosperity of a county. It is essential to have good access to the capital, the ports, and the large towns of the region. For local economic, social and recreational purposes it is also essential that the regional and local road asset base is maintained to the highest possible standards consistent with available funding.

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as financial resources permit. The administrative area of Carlow has a road network of 1,329 km (comprising of 24km of Motorway, 54 km of National Secondary, 186km of regional and 1,078km of Local roads.

Motorway Network

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) manages and provides funding for all motorway schemes.

National Secondary Road Network

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for national roads. In 2024 Carlow received an allocation of €2,180,268 for maintenance and improvement works for bridges and carriageways, and to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting and general maintenance of the national road network. The identified projects consist of;

Funding Category	Project	Allocation
Pavement Improvement Scheme Locations identified based on a comprehensive survey of the national road network. • <i>NOTE – Projects assessed & designed in 2022/2023, with works in progress or completed in 2024.</i>	N80 Rathcroogue/Carlow N80 Clonmackshane/Ballykealy N81 Bough/Co Bounds	€1,708,462 €1,590,489 €744,820
National Road Safety Improvement Scheme Allocation to progress Safety Improvement Scheme through the PMG Phases 1-7	N80 Leagh Bends Improvement Scheme	€50,000

Subsequently, Carlow County Council applied for and was awarded additional funding for maintenance and improvement schemes on the National Roads in the amount of €186,500.

Regional & Local Road Network

The Department of Transport provides funding for maintenance and improvement works on Regional & Local roads. In 2024, Carlow received an allocation of €7,935,450 for improvement works and general maintenance of the non-national road network. This programme targets much needed remedial measures on regional and local roads in the county under the following:

Funding Category	Status	Allocation
Restoration Improvement. This programme targets improvements to the structural integrity of Regional & Local Roads.	39 projects completed	€3,980,000
Supplementary Restoration Improvement. On 31st May, Carlow received notification of additional funding to target improvements to the structural integrity of Regional & Local Roads.	6 projects completed	€394,000
Restoration Maintenance. This programme targets improvements to the surfaces of Regional & Local Roads.	20 projects completed	€544,500

Funding Category	Status	Allocation
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance. This programme targets improvements to the surfaces of Regional & Local Roads.	18 projects completed	€476,000
Discretionary Grant. This Grant contributes to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting, winter & general maintenance, signage installations, road markings, footpath improvements /repairs of the non-national road network	20 specific projects completed, including general maintenance & winter maintenance activities	€1,065,000
Bridge rehabilitation. This programme targets repairs to bridges on Regional & Local Roads throughout the county.	8 projects completed	€269,600
Specific Improvement Grant. The Specific Regional & Local Road Improvement Grant Scheme with a total estimated project cost of up to €5 million, aims to contribute to undertaking the necessary assessments to progress the project.	-R448 Royal Oak Junction Traffic Calming (Options & Feasibility Report completed, intention to commence Section 38 in 2025) -R418-R725 Tullow Link road (suspended pending review by DOT)	€125,000
Strategic Improvement Grant. The Strategic Regional & Local Road Improvement Grant Scheme with a total estimated project cost of over €5 million, aims to contribute to undertaking the necessary assessments to progress the project.	Carlow Southern Relief Road (Competition completed to appoint Technical Consultancy Services for the Design & Planning Phases)	€100,000
Safety Improvement Works. This programme targets improvements to specifically identified safety issues of Regional & Local Roads.	9 projects completed	€228,500
Drainage Works. This programme targets improvements to surface water drainage of Regional & Local Roads.	15 projects completed	€240,500
Former National Road. This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory of Former National Roads in the county.	-R448 Powerstown to Orchard -Resurfacing – Project completed	€450,000
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works. This Grant aims to undertake a targeted programme of improvement works to Regional & Local Roads	9 projects completed	€221,500
Community Involvement Scheme. This programme targets improvements to the structural integratory & surfaces of Local Tertiary Roads in the county in cooperation with the associated property owners.	8 projects completed	€180,450



Surface Dressing Operation



Surface Water Drainage Remediation

National Road - Pavement Improvement Schemes

Following a comprehensive survey of the national road network throughout the county, several locations were identified requiring significant remedial action. These large projects typically in excess of €200,000, are assessed & designed to inform the Pavement Asset Repair & Renewal Report which sets the scope of the schemes for funding, tender and completion. The schemes undertaken in 2024 included:

- Completion of the N80 Rathcrogue to M9 Scheme for circa 3.2km
- Completion of the N80 Clonmackshane to Ballykealy Scheme for circa 3.9km
- N81 Bough to Co Bounds Scheme for circa 2.8km

N80 Leagh Bends Scheme

Carlow County Council is committed to roads infrastructure and safety improvements and has progressed a number of sections on the national network for improvement over the years. A 3km section of the N80 was identified for realignment from the townland of Graiguenaspiddoge to the townland of Castletown, traversing the

townlands of Leagh or Ballybeg, Kilballyhue and Kilcoole all in the County of Carlow, including all ancillary works associated therewith. Following extensive survey, design and consultation on Tuesday 3rd December, Carlow County Council formally submitted the Section 177AE Planning Application and Compulsory Purchase Order Application to An Bord Pleanála for consideration.

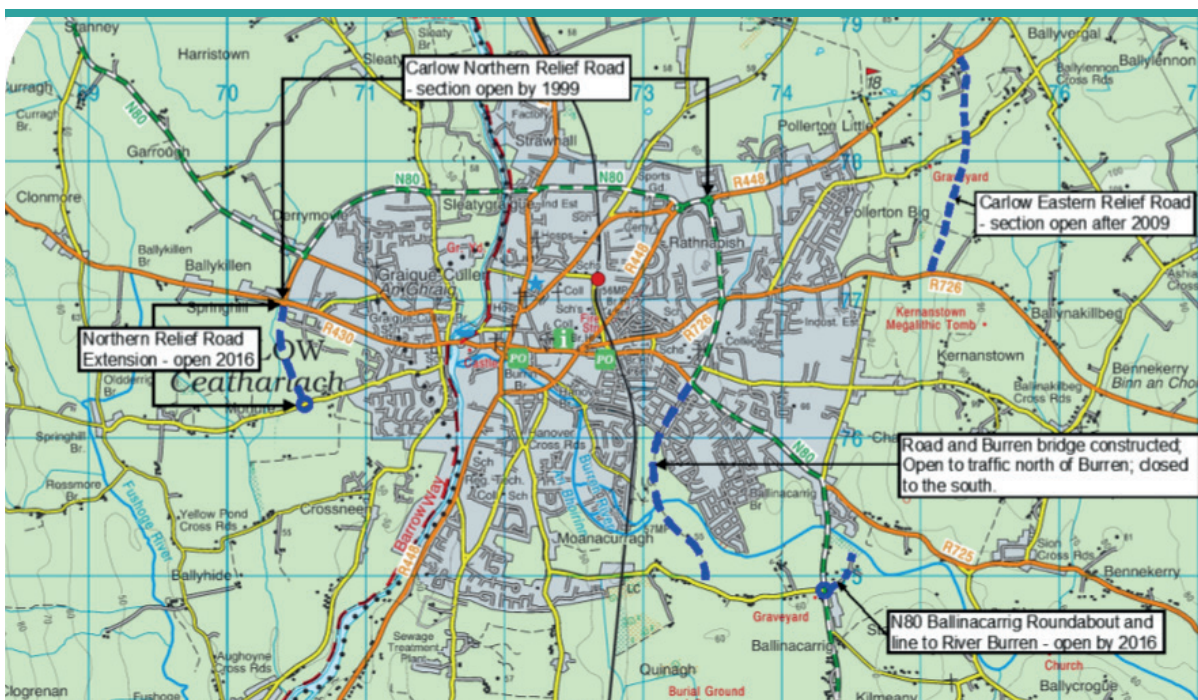
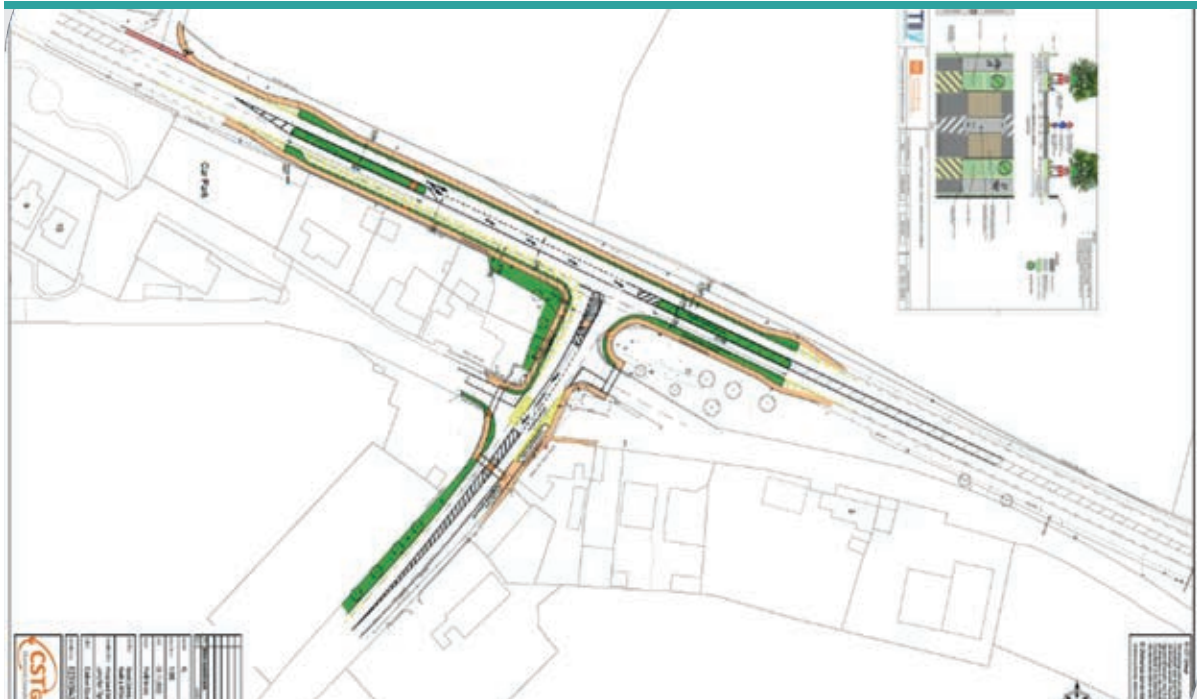
Specific Improvement Project - R448 @ Royal Oak Road Junction

Following completion of a study at the junction between the Regional Road, R-448 and the Regional Road R-724, locally known as the Royal Oak Junction 4 potential options were developed for the improvement of the Junction. The members of Muinebheag Municipal District agreed to proceed with a Section 38 application for Option 1: Junction Tightening and Traffic Calming at their meeting in December 2024. The scheme introduces measures to manage traffic flows, undertaking improvements to pedestrian & cyclist facilities throughout the area. (Figure 3.1 attached)

Strategic Improvement Project - Carlow Southern Relief Road

In August 2021 Carlow County Council submitted the Carlow Southern Relief Road Strategic Assessment Report to the Department of Transport for consideration and on the 1st of December 2021 received approval to proceed to Preliminary Business

Case development. Since the engagement of Project Manager in December 2023, great progress has been achieved with the completion of tender process for the engagement of Technical Consultancy Services for the Carlow Southern Relief Road Phases 1-4 as set out in the TII Project Management Guidelines.





Photos of Raingardens Entry at junction of Old Dublin Road/Railway Road – Presidential Awards 2024 and LAMA Awards 2025

Local Improvement Scheme

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced funding for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) to undertake a programme of targeted improvements to the structural integrity and surfaces of private roadways in the county in cooperation with the associated property owners, for which Carlow received:

Announcement	Allocation	Status
LIS - 2024	€626,561	19 projects completed

Bioretention Areas (Rain Gardens)

The bioretention gardens at the junction of the Old Dublin Road/Railway Road were entered in the prestigious European competition celebrating environmental excellence at local level. This is a Europe-wide competition for villages, towns and cities where communities and public bodies highlight the importance of the green environment to improve people's quality of life. Carlow County Council's initiative was awarded overall Gold Award, the President's Prize for the town's rain garden development and a Special Characteristic Prize for the Delta Sensory Garden. It was also shortlisted for LAMA Awards 2025 for Best Environmental /Ecological Initiatives Category.

Noise Action Plan 2024-2029

Carlow County Council being the designated Action Planning Authority under the Environmental Noise regulations reviewed its existing plan and prepared a new noise action plan aimed at the strategic long-term management of environmental noise from

major roads (more than 3 million vehicles a year). It does not apply to noise from domestic activities, neighbourhood noise, noise at workplaces or noise inside means of transport. The Carlow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028, supported by Noise Consultants Limited, for sections of major roads in County Carlow, was made on the 18th December 2024, and a copy of the Noise Action Plan and associated documents including a link to the Round 4 mapping is available to view on the Council Website [Noise Action Plan | Carlow Co Co.](#)

This Noise Action Plan is supported by a four-year programme for implementation (2024-2028), with progress reported to the Environmental Protection Agency on an annual basis. It is underpinned by a set of overarching noise policy principles outlined in the Noise Policy Statement. These noise policy principles are supported by a series of Responsible Aims for managing noise issues within Carlow County.

Default Rural Speed Limit

The national speed limit review published in September 2023, consisted of 28 recommendations, including the changing of the national default rural speed limit from 80km/hr to 60km/hr. The members of Carlow County Council at their meeting of July 2024 agreed to implementation of the default rural speed limit on all local roads in County Carlow. The Statutory Instruction to implement Section 7 in the Road Traffic Act 2024, which legalises the reduction in the default speed on rural local roads on the 7th February 2025, was signed by the Minister of Transport, on 6th November 2024.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)

All local authorities are in the process of converting their public lighting to LED luminaires. This change in technology will improve energy efficiency, cut costs and reduce CO2 emissions. To date, 4,219 of a total number of 6,733 Public lights in County Carlow have been converted to LED luminaires.

Active Travel

Active Travel is “travelling with a purpose using your own energy”. Generally, this means walking or cycling as part of a purposeful journey and can also include the use of non-motorised scooters which are increasingly being used for urban transport, especially by school children. So, walking as part of a commute to work, cycling to the shop or scooting to school are all considered active travel, whereas walking or cycling for purely leisure purposes is not.

Active Travel is a positive climate action and is seen as a critical component of Ireland’s Climate Action Plan. The delivery of Active Travel projects will contribute to tackling climate change by providing the opportunity to use “green” and sustainable transport options. Walking or wheeling instead of travelling by car is a great way to reduce our impact on the climate.

In December 2023 the National Transport Authority (NTA) invited applications from Carlow County Council (CCC) for schemes to be considered for funding under the 2024 Active Travel Investment Programme. In February 2024 the NTA allocated funds of

over €290M to Ireland’s local authorities for the provision of walking and cycling infrastructure. CCC received an allocation of approx. €3M for the delivery of projects across the county. The following table shows the amount spent on each Active Travel project in 2024.

Scheme	Amount (€)
Active Travel Pathfinder - Carlow to SETU Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme	349,976
Tullow Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme, Carlow	1,199,054
Dublin Road Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme, Carlow	199,804
Carlow / Graiguecullen Local Transport Plan	35,827
Junction Tightening, Green Road, Carlow	79,024
Tullow Town Orbital Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme – Phase 3	29,975
Footpath Scheme, Fenagh Rd, Borris	22,600
Gore's Bridge, Active Travel Measures	100,983
Ballyellen Footpath Scheme	99,710
Safe Routes To School (SRTS) - St Brigid's National School, Muine Bheag	350,645
SRTS - Queen of the Universe, Muine Bheag	29,153
SRTS - St Patricks National School, Rathvilly	80,188
SRTS – Holy Family Girls and Boys National Schools, Askea	115,687



Special Projects

Carlow County Council's Special Projects Division is comprised of two separate teams encompassing Capital Works and The Carlow Town URDF Project.

The teams are involved with a diverse range of initiatives, encompassing both large-scale, multi-million-euro projects funded by the **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)** and smaller projects funded by the **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)**, the **Town and Village Renewal Scheme**, and CCC's own resources.

Capital Works

In September 2023, the Capital Works Team was re-established and managed several capital works projects through the various stages of development.

• Tullow Courthouse - €200K

→ Management of construction phase to refurbish roof, windows and doors on this listed structure part funded by an Historical Structures Fund (HSF).

• County Buildings Carpark - €700K

→ Provision of 90 spaces.
→ Designed, procured the construction and completed the delivery of the project on site.

• Bagenalstown Public Realm Improvements Budget - €500K

→ Public Realm enhancement at Market Square.

→ Design in-house and Part 8 submitted in December.

→ Procurement of construction phase commenced.

• Carlow Library Roof & Chimney Repair - €500K

→ Procurement of construction phase.

→ Contractor appointed.

→ Works to commence Q1 2024 part funded with HSF Grant.

• VISUAL Public Realm Enhancements - €500K

→ Public Realm Enhancement works at VISUAL.

→ Part Funded by Fáilte Ireland, Procurement and Management of construction stage.

• Heritage & Trail Way finder Signage - €250K

→ Interpretive and wayfinding signs in Carlow Town.

→ Part funded by Fáilte Ireland.

→ Signs designed, procured and contractor procured to install.

In addition, the team assist with technical guidance and supervision with other sections including the "Sky Lakes" project by the Arts Office in Carlow Town Park and the development of Enterprise Centres at Hacketstown, Bagenalstown and Carlow with the LEO office.



Carlow Town Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF)

Carlow Town URDF aims to revitalise and rejuvenate the town, creating a thriving urban centre that meets the needs and aspirations of the community.

The total value of Carlow Town URDF projects is €22.78M, 75% of which would be grant aided through the URDF fund.

This fund focuses on the following projects, creating a more compact, sustainable, and vibrant core:

Schemes	Amount
Railway Link and Public Realm Improvement through Carlow College to Town Centre	€2.9m
Public Realm Improvement to Tullow Street and Dublin Street	€2m
Public Realm Improvement to Potato Market	€8.5m
Public Realm Improvement and new linkage from Potato Market to Barrack Street via Carlow Shopping Centre	€3.3m
Barrack Street including Shamrock Square & Thompson’s Corner/Bus Park	€4.1m
Public Realm Improvement to Kennedy Avenue	€1.9m

The projects will be delivered in two bundles.

The first is the Rail Link Project, which will be delivered by Carlow County Council’s own in-house Design Team. The second is the

Town Centre Project, which will include the rest of the funded URDF projects.

In June 2024 Carlow Co Co successfully completed the Part 8 planning process. We are currently finalising the construction tender which is due to be published mid 2025. The project is due to be completed in 2026.

In October 2023 Carlow County Council announced the appointment of Urban Agency as the external design team for the Carlow Town Centre Project, marking an important milestone in the transformation and enhancement of Carlow Town.

Urban Agency are responsible for developing a comprehensive design proposal that encompasses architectural design, landscape design, urban planning, and the integration of sustainable practices.

There has been extensive public consultation at all stages of the project process, from its inception with “Carlow 2040”, during the design process through “Your Carlow” and through the statutory Part 8 planning process.

The Part 8 process is due for completion in Q2 2025.

In addition, the team assist with technical guidance and direction with other sections including the “Destination Towns” project with the LEO office, conservation advice with the Active Travel team, the THRIVE application with the regeneration team, as well as consulting with the planners on some town centre planning applications.





Carlow County Civil Defence

Carlow County Council is the Civil Defence Authority for the administrative area of County Carlow. The 2003 Civil Defence Act sets out a number of roles for Civil Defence. Among these roles are providing a backup service to the Primary Emergency Services; Community Service; Training in Casualty; Radio Communications; Rescue; Welfare; Fire Fighting and Boating Skills (search and recovery). Civil Defence also provides service to the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, and the Gardai in the event of severe weather conditions such as flooding and snow. Civil Defence also provide in emergency situations Radiation Monitoring.

The Major Emergency Management Framework document also sets out roles and responsibilities for Civil Defence in the event of emergencies, such as setting up Welfare Centres, Registration of Casualties, responsibility with HSE for transportation to various Hospitals and Secondary Line back up to the Principal Response Agencies.

The members of Carlow Civil Defence are all volunteers except for the Civil Defence Officer who is employed as CDO on a part-time basis by Carlow County Council. At present we have over 34 volunteer members ranging from locations such as Carlow town, Muinebheag, Borris and Rathanna. Weekly training on subjects such as First Aid to CPR level, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Responders, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighting skills, Swiftwater Rescue techniques, Technical Rescue, Search Skills, Welfare etc., are taught and practised. On our training schedule at weekends the subjects taught are exercised and the skills resulting from this are pitched against other counties in competition at various venues.

Also our training at field days are used for searching in open country, AFS fire fighting events, and Search Skills training on land and with boats in the river Barrow and Slaney. The Civil Defence Headquarters, completed in September 2009, is fully operational, making the Carlow operations more efficient and so providing an effective and quick response.

In 2014 Carlow Civil Defence rolled out a new Search Skills Training Course for its volunteers. It was taught in the Garda College and Carlow volunteers were among the first to embrace this activity and we gained status to Instructor level. Since mid-2014 we also have Instructor level at Water Awareness and Swift Water

Civil Defence Boat units provide back-up assistance to the (PRAs) Fire service and Gardai in River Search and Recovery (RSR) situations. Volunteers are trained in Boating skills, River and land search and recovery techniques for back up situations to Gardai. Water awareness and Swift Water Flood Response courses are run throughout the year.

Carlow Civil Defence were involved in the Setting up of Rest Centre for the arrival of Displaced persons from War torn Ukraine and continue to help as required during 2022 and are available in the event of any emergency.

In 2020 Assistant Civil Defence Officer (Part time) was also appointment to help with all the new duties and call outs.

A new Voluntary Emergency Management System computer registration system known as VEMS was rolled out this year to manage volunteers in training courses, Equipment, Vehicles and the management of all operations.

Drone Operations

Carlow Civil defence operates drones in the Open Category operating under the IAA registered organisation 'Carlow County Council'.

Carlow Civil Defence currently operates three different drones manufactured by DJI. The three drones are different sizes and have different roles. Drone technology is always

changing and improving and we are keeping up with this by upgrading our drones and equipment. In 2024 a new mobile charging unit was added to our equipment and in 2025 the Civil Defence College are planning to replace our largest oldest drone with a new DJI Matrice M30T at a cost of approx. €15,000. There are currently three trained pilots in Carlow Civil Defence and we have a number of support staff trained also.

The following is a list of some of the activities covered by Carlow Civil Defence in 2024:

Date	Activity	Venue
28/01/2024	Community event 5km road race Oak Park Carlow	Oakpark, Carlow
17/02/2024	Search for missing person	River Barrow area of Graiguecullen
22/02/2024	Critical Incident Stress Training	Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
23/02/2024	Call out for missing female from nursing home	Carlow Town area and surrounds
17/03/2024	Safety and Traffic Management at 2 number St. Patrick's Day Parades – Bagenalstown and Carlow Town	Road Traffic Management and First Aid assistance – Bagenalstown and Carlow
11/04/2024	Emergency Management Training for South East Region	Dolmen Hotel and on ground training
14/04/2024	Boat Safety and First aid training for South East Region	River Barrrow, Carlow Town area
28/04/2024	Drone Training	Carlow Town area
18/05/2024	Safety at Launch of Carlow Car Rally 2024	Carlow Town and Haymarket area
19/05/2024	Dragan Boat Racing River Barrow	River Barrow Carlow Town
02 & 03/06/2024	Safety Operation for Carlow Regatta on river Barrow.	River Barrow, Carlow Town
09/06/2024	Safety Boat operations for Dragon Boat operation on River Barrlow	Carlow Town
15/06/2024	Safety operations on River Barrow for Carlow Pride Festival, Bagenalstown	Bagenalstown – different locations
14/07/2024	Safety Boat on River Barrow for Carlow Pride Festival	Carlow Town area
01/08/2024	Safety Boat on River Barrow, Bagenalstown for 1 Mile Community Annual Swim	Bagenalstown
15/08/2024	Safety at Borris Annual Fairday	Borris Town, Carlow



Boat Training





Housing Department



2,129

Total housing stock



566

Total HAP



276

Total RAS



850

Housing Applications



93

Long Term Lease Properties



33

Repair and Lease Scheme



486

Homeless Presentation



93

Transfer Applications



339

Total Placed in Emergency Accommodation



186

Houses Allocated



94

New Build Units



€1,867,300

Value of Mortgages Drawdowns



41

Re-Lets



15.96 weeks

Average Re-Let Time



164

Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints



€2,905,419

Grant Value



3003

Number of Maintenance Requests



€8,029,968

Rents Collected



€2,532,746

Energy Retrofit Spend



78

Energy Retrofits



15

Mortgages Approved in Principle



246

Grants Approved under Housing Aid for Older People



7

Grants Approved under Mobility Aids Grant Scheme



72

Housing Adaption Grants Approved



58

LA House Purchases



33

CAS / AHB House Purchases



20

Total Tenant in Situ Purchases

New Build Programme 2024

An overall delivery of 94 new build units was achieved in 2024. This includes a combination of Part V new build units, AHB Turnkey, Local Authority Build and Buy and Renew (Conversion of Vacant/Derelict Units). The build target under Housing for All was 92.

Acquisitions/Tenant in Situ Purchases

In 2024, 58 properties were purchased throughout County Carlow. 20 properties were secured under the tenant in situ scheme, preventing eviction. Other acquisitions included START, Housing First, Long Term Complex and Aftercare Programmes, and housing designated for Traveller Accommodation, Disability, and Elderly needs.

Private Grants

A total of €2,905,419.00 was allocated under Private Grants Schemes, including Housing Aid for the Elderly, Mobility Aid Grants, and Housing Adaptation Grants. This represents 325 approved grant applications, ensuring essential upgrades and repairs to homes, allowing elderly and disabled individuals to remain in their residences longer.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)

Carlow County Council's target remains 490 properties by 2030. In 2024, 78 properties were completed. A total of €2,532,746 incl VAT was invested, averaging €32,471.10 incl VAT per unit. Works included insulation, window/door replacements, heating system upgrades, and other energy improvements, aiming for a B2 BER Rating.

Casual Vacancies/Relets

In 2024, 41 vacant units were returned to stock. The average turnaround time was 15.96 weeks, ensuring properties met private rental standards before reallocation.



Housing Stock

The Council housing stock increased by 102 in 2024, bringing the total to 2129. This includes additions through new builds, acquisitions, and improvement programs, with 4 properties removed due to sales, expired programs, or decommissioning.

Housing Applications/Transfers

There were 417 new applications for housing supports in 2024, alongside 93 transfer applications. The Housing Department continued processing valid applications within 12 weeks.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)/Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The number of active HAP tenancies at 31/12/2024 was 566, reflecting decrease of 46 active tenancies from 31/12/2023. The number of RAS properties decreased to 276 over the same period in 2023.

Homeless Services

Carlow County Council remains part of the Southeast Homeless Region, implementing the 2022–2026 Homeless Action Plan. In 2024, there were 486 homeless presentations, an increase of 146 from 2023. Homeless prevention efforts assisted 339 cases, diverting them from emergency accommodation. Emergency placements increased by 51 adults and 13 children,

totalling 144 adults and 38C individuals receiving full care and case management.

Tenant Liaison & Anti-Social Behaviour

In 2024, 164 complaints regarding anti-social behaviour were received, with 8 cases leading to legal actions or eviction proceedings. The Tenant Liaison Team expanded, focusing on proactive tenancy management and new tenancy success programs.

Mortgage Services

The Housing Department received 34 applications for local authority home loans in 2024, with 15 approved in principle. A total of €1,867,300.00 was drawn down during the year.





Integration Support

Local Authority Integration Team

A Local Authority Integration Team was established in May 2024 with the role of the Integration Team being to provide advice, guidance and information to empower International Protection Applicants and Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection to live independent lives within the County of Carlow. The Integration Team works in partnership and collaboration with multiple agencies including government departments, state agencies, NGO's and Volunteer Groups in fulfilling the integration role.

In supporting the New Arrivals, the Integration Team hold information clinics in all accommodation centres throughout the County with 29 clinics being held in 2024.

Several events were held in partnership with other agencies during 2024 as follows:

- Multi-Cultural Supper Club where new arrivals could experience food, music and dance from other cultures.
- Stay and Play is a programme for 3 to 6 years of age where children experience song, rhythm and dance.
- Christmas Cinema.

Community Integration Forum

The Community Integration Forum was established in 2024 to provide strategic leadership in co-ordinating supports and services locally to International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection newly arrived in County Carlow. The membership of the Community Integration Forum consists of representatives of Community, Statutory and Voluntary agencies working in partnership to provide key integration supports. A total of 9 meetings of the Forum were held during 2024.

Two sub-groups of the Community Integration Forum were formed during 2024 namely a mental health sub-group and an Integration Support Workers sub-group. A total of 9 meetings were held during 2024.



Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund is a scheme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development introduced to support the development of community facilities in towns and villages hosting the majority of new arrivals. Projects approved under this scheme are for the benefit of all members of the community. Outlined below are the projects that received funding during 2024:

Town/Village	Project Approved
Carlow	The Carlow Exchange – Enterprise Festival & Event Equipment
Muine Bheag	Bagenalstown Swimming Pool – Upgrade and enhancement works club carpark facility

Offer A Home Scheme

The Offer A Home Scheme is a government initiative, led by local authorities, whereby property owners offer vacant houses, apartments and holiday lets to the Local Authority to accommodate Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. During 2024 this scheme provided accommodation to 145 Ukrainian persons in County Carlow.

Rest Centre

A Rest Centre to provide temporary accommodation facilities to Ukrainian Beneficiaries of temporary protection arriving in Ireland was operated by Carlow County Council from April 2022 until the Rest Centre closed in March 2024. A total of 772 Ukrainian persons were accommodated in the Rest Centre during that period.





Community, Recreation and Amenity



122

Grants Awarded (Env/
Amenity Grant Scheme
2024-Totalling €65,080)



Pride of Place
Applications

143



289 Grants Awarded
(CCC Discretionary
Funds)

€147,102.18



€89,537

Funding Received
under CLÁR
Scheme 2024



€894,500

SICAP Budget for 2024



2690

No. of People engaged
in Healthy Carlow
programmes, training
& events in 2024



No. of Active Member
Groups with Carlow
Public Participation
Network (PPN)

358



356

No. of participants
in Bagenalstown in
Bloom Workshops

Carlow's Pride of Place

The Carlow Pride of Place 2024 competition was launched in Ballykealy House with a Workshop from Gary Graham. Speakers at the workshop also included Laura Kelly, Community Development Officer; Shane Casey, Environmental Awareness Officer; Aine Byrne, Community Climate Action Officer.

A total of 143 applications were submitted across various categories, and the enjoyable yet challenging task of judging took place throughout the summer.

The Pride of Place awards night was held on 5th December 2024, with a full-capacity audience in attendance. Communities across County Carlow were praised and thanked for their efforts. Numerous prizes were awarded to the hardworking groups, with the overall winner in the Towns and Villages category

going to the community of Rahanna, and the overall winner in the Estates category going to the New Oak Residents Association. A new category, the Community Project Award, was introduced to the 2024 competition to recognize innovative projects and efforts within communities that did not fall under the existing population categories. The overall County Winner of this award was An Gairdín Beo, Carlow.

The prestigious Michael Deering Cup was awarded to Hacketstown Biodiversity Garden, while the Individual Award was presented to Pat Mealay of Carrigduff recognizing his years of hard work and dedication. The Council awarded over 60 prizes, to community groups throughout the county. The prize categories included Towns & Villages, Resident Associations, Community Project Award, Front Garden, Commercial Premises, Individual, and Youth Awards.



IPB Ireland Pride of Place

On Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, Monaghan's Hillgrove Hotel hosted the prestigious IPB Pride of Place Gala Awards Ceremony, marking the 22nd year of celebrating community and resilience across Ireland

The IPB Pride of Place competition honours communities that work tirelessly to improve daily life for residents and build stronger, more resilient neighbourhoods. Every year, communities from across Ireland showcase their initiatives, sharing how they've come together to shape positive change.

The Carlow Elderflower Garden Club, nominated in the Age Friendly Communities category, developed an exceptional urban space notably called 'A hidden Gem' that is not only educational, sustainable, and accessible, but is also a social outlet and a haven for older residents. The project won a special award for impressing judges with innovative use of space.

The Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group were nominated in the Creative Communities category, as they showcased 'Bagenalstown in Bloom' a fantastic community-driven initiative that highlighted the rich heritage of Bagenalstown while promoting a whole of community approach to getting people involved.

Environmental/Amenity Grant Scheme 2024

A total of 122 grants were awarded to community groups, residents' associations, and schools across the county. The projects funded included:

- Landscaping and development of open spaces,
- Amenity development along river and stream banks,
- Environmental protection and enhancement, including the promotion of biodiversity, recycling, waste minimization, and water harvesting.

In 2024, grant funding of €65,080 was distributed.

Discretionary Funding 2024

Elected Members awarded a total of 289 grants from their Discretionary Funds to Resident Associations, Tidy Towns Groups, Community and Voluntary organisations, schools, and sporting organisations, amounting to a total value of €147,102.18.

Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC is comprised of 19 members, both statutory and non-statutory, including four elected members. The Chairperson is Ms Lynda Stacey.

Following the Local Elections held in June 2024, Cllr. William Quinn and Cllr. Tom O'Neill were replaced by Cllr. Fergal Browne and Cllr. Any Gladney.

The LCDC/LAG has programme oversight and programme management in respect of the following programmes/activities:

- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024 - 2028
- Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 - 2029
- Healthy Carlow
- Local Enhancement Programme 2024 in which €142,867,38 of capital funding was provided to support community groups.

Local Economic & community Plan (LECP) 2023 - 2029

At the Council meeting on Monday, 13th November 2023 the Carlow LECP Framework Document 2023-2029, along with the 2-year Implementation Plan, received formal approval.

The LECP will be carried out through three consecutive two-year implementation phases. The first, the Carlow LECP 2023-2025 Implementation Plan, presents a detailed strategy to promote sustainable economic and community development in County Carlow. This plan is structured around six High-Level Goals (HLGs), each focused on critical areas such as sustainability, community empowerment, inclusivity, education, economic resilience, and infrastructure development.

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER) and LEADER Programme 2023 -2027

The funding allocated to County Carlow under the LEADER programme 2023-2027 is €4,968,715, under the following themes:

- Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation;
- Theme 2: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion;
- Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LEADER Programme was officially launched by the Implementing Partner, Carlow County Development Partnership CLG, on September 3rd, 2024, with a significant turnout at the event. Speakers on the night included Cllr Fergal Browne, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Eileen Doyle, Chairperson of Carlow County Development Partnership CLG, and past recipients of LEADER grant aid – PL Curran representing St Laurence O'Toole Athletic Club and Mary White of Blackstairs Eco Trails.

Carlow County Development Partnership CLG invited calls for 2025 under the themes of Economic Development Job Creation, Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion, Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor to the Local Community Development Programme. SICAP is a locally-driven social inclusion initiative aimed at supporting the most marginalized groups in Irish society.

2024 marked the first year of the SICAP Programme for the 2024-2028 period, following the previous SICAP Programme (2018-2023). The LCDC serves as the contracting authority, while Carlow County Development Partnership acts

as the Programme Implementer. For this programme, County Carlow is one Lot for the purposes of this programme.. The budget for 2024 was €700,184.00. Additional funding for New Arrivals was received in 2024 in the amount of €194,316.00.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

The Department of Rural and Community Development's Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 provided capital funding to assist community groups across Ireland. This funding was aimed at supporting groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out essential repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables, chairs, tools, signage, laptops, printers, lawnmowers, canopies, training equipment, and more. The funding enables communities, community groups, and committees to continue delivering valuable services to local residents while strengthening community connections. Additionally, the programme aims to support local strategic priorities by aligning with Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

The total funding amount for County Carlow included:

- €119,056.15 in capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme, to be used for repairs, facility improvements, energy efficiency projects, equipment purchases, and more.
- €23,811.23 in capital funding specifically designated for Women's Groups.

Carlow LCDC approved, in accordance with the Department's guidelines, that the Capital Fund be divided with 70% targeted funding through the Social Inclusion Forum and 30% funding for grants of €1,000 or less.

In total 83 community groups/organisations received funding across the three Municipal Districts.

Community Development

The Community Development Officer collaborated closely with community groups,

residents' associations, and organizations in throughout 2024.

The Community Roots Programme initiative was developed in 2024 by Laura Kelly, Community Development Officer. This is a Youth Leadership programme in collaboration with Carlow County Council Community Section, Carlow Regional Youth Service, Carlow County Development Partnership and Carlow Sports Partnership. A countywide workshop held in Bagenalstown Community Garden launched the programme in October as part of Climate Action Week. Weekly programmes took place in Tullow and Bagenalstown to facilitate team building and youth leadership training. 20 Young people involved completed First Aid, Manual Handling Training and Child Protection Awareness Training. Young people had opportunities to volunteer in their local community as part of the Pride of Place awards and they also engaged with local community groups, mens shed, garda and elected members.

Bagenalstown in Bloom held in June 2024 is a vibrant community-driven event organised by the Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group. The showcases a diverse array of activities, workshops, and entertainment, appealing to all age groups and interests. KCETB, Carlow County Council and Carlow Development Partnership all provide funding and support to these events which are managed and delivered by Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group. Bagenalstown in Bloom was promoted at Bord Bia Bloom and on Local Radio as part of Carlow Mental Health Associations Hello Carlow How Are You? The event has significantly contribution to the community spirit, attracting visitors to Bagenalstown and providing a platform for local artists, children, and families to showcase their talents and efforts. Through diverse workshops and activities, Bagenalstown in Bloom fosters creativity, physical activity, and community collaboration, making it a highlight in the town's annual calendar.





Attendees at Living Well Expo with Carlow Age Friendly Ambassador Faith Amond

In April 2024, 275 children and their families attended **Community Easter Egg Hunts** on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday in Coppengh House Farm, Tullow and St Mullins, Carlow respectively. Both events offered families an opportunity to engage in a community based treasure hunt which was organised by local community groups and supported by the community section.

In December 2024, the Community Development Section collaborated with Carlow Regional Youth Service, The Carlow County Council Integration Team and Healthy Carlow to provide two **Outdoor Cinema** events in The Exchange Carlow in the lead up to Christmas. This initiative was rolled out to promote positive wellbeing and to support families to have an opportunity to visit Santa and enjoy a cinema experience while also learning about Carlow Regional Youth Service and the supports they have to offer.

The **“Art Through Nature - Creative Ireland Pilot Programme”** in Hacketstown was held in collaboration with the Community Section for four weeks in July with 12 participants attending this intergenerational project.

Playday which was organised in collaboration with Sports Partnership and Healthy Carlow, took place on July 20th

2024, with approximately 340 children participating.

The Bunclody Family Fun Day, hosted by the Bunclody Recreational Committee on June 9th 2024 had 200 families attending.

Age Friendly Carlow

Age Friendly Carlow, part of the national Age Friendly Ireland network and supported by Carlow County Council, is guided by an interagency Alliance chaired by the Chief Executive. The Alliance, which includes representatives from public sector organisations, community agencies, and the Older Persons Forum, met in 2024 to enhance planning and services for older adults in County Carlow.

Key achievements in 2024 include:

- ➔ Completion of the review of the Carlow Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2022.
- ➔ Production of the “Having Your Say” research report, which summarizes public consultations for the new 2025-2029 strategy. Consultations included online surveys, public meetings, and interviews with key populations, such as travellers, low-income households, and non-Irish nationals. The findings from this

report will shape the upcoming strategy to improve services for older adults in County Carlow.

- Strengthening the Carlow Older Persons Forum by aligning it more closely with national Older People's Council guidelines and enhancing the development and implementation of key actions within the community.

In 2024, three Alliance meetings were held to oversee the review of the previous strategic plan and manage the public consultation phase for the new plan. The Carlow Older Persons Forum, with support from the Alliance, Healthy Carlow, Carlow County Development Partnership, and UPMC, organized the Living Well Expo on October 22nd. This free event showcased over 40 exhibition stands from local organisations, including An Garda Síochána, HSE, SETU Lifelong Learning, VISUAL, Carlow Volunteer Centre, and the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with various service providers and discover resources that promote healthy, fulfilling, and active lifestyles

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle Na nÓg members selected "Discrimination" as their key theme for 2024. To communicate their actions on this important topic, they produced a range of outputs, including podcasts, leaflets, and social media campaigns.

In 2024, Comhairle na nÓg Carlow held 14 meetings, with notable achievements throughout the year. One key output was the launch of their 'Tru You' podcast. The group won a Garda Youth Award in June, recognizing their outstanding contributions.

On July 10th, National Executive Isabel and two members attended the annual Comhairle na nÓg Regional Networking event, where members from different regions gathered to discuss topical issues. The group also partnered with Kilkenny Comhairle on the "Not Around Us" campaign, supported by Healthy Carlow.

Franek Dobronski represented Carlow at the Oireachtas as part of the "Local Champions"

program, which teaches young people to lobby for youth work funding.

€25,000 funding under the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund 2023 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to support the operation and facilitation of Carlow Comhairle na nÓg was secured.

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group

The Carlow Traveller Interagency Group works to ensure that statutory agencies and state-supported initiatives providing services to Travellers focus on enhancing the integrated delivery of these services. The group is facilitated by the Community Development Section of Carlow County Council, with support from the Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform. Outputs for 2024 included the implementation of the Carlow Traveller Interagency Group Strategic Plan 2023-2026, providing support to the interagency and cross-departmental participation in strategy actions, securing funding from Dormant Accounts for Traveller cultural awareness training, and liaising with Department on reporting and funding requirements. €18,228 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth linked to the Carlow Traveller Interagency Group was secured. The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth provided a grant of €18,228.00 under the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement for the implementation of the project for services for Traveller and Roma Initiatives.

Healthy Carlow

2024 is the second of a three-year strategy for Healthy Carlow. All programmes supported under Healthy Ireland funding for the duration of the strategy are focusing on increasing levels of positive mental health and wellbeing, for those in our identified target groups: adolescents, older people, disadvantaged families and one parent families.

Healthy Carlow working collaboratively in 2024 to deliver a number of very positive



programmes. The following are some of the programmes:

Swimmin Women, A swimming programme for disadvantaged women and their children provides a safe space to engage in a social opportunity and encourage integration into communities; **Look Good, Feel Good**, a programme focused in self confidence and looking after appearance; **Youth Train** a physical activity programme to focus on methods of engaging in relaxing behaviours and social engagement in a positive manner; **Social Farming** giving disadvantaged people

an opportunity to undergo a supportive, healthy and inclusive experience on farm life; **Decider Skills** training for professionals in supporting individuals and families with coping mechanisms around wellbeing; **Trauma Informed Practise Training** increase professional knowledge and skillset in working with families and individuals who have experienced trauma; **My Garden, My Fork** supporting disadvantaged families to grow their own produce; **Multi Cultural Supper Club** fostering connection and understanding among diverse communities, celebrating cultural backgrounds;



Entente Florale Judging Day

Community Get Together's foster local social connection and raising awareness and engagement with community groups at a local level; **Not Around Us**; a campaign to de-normalise smoking and vaping around children and young people; **Carlow Period Dignity** a county wide campaign to tackle period poverty in Carlow including the provision of free period products and developing an identity around availability; **Carlow Farmer Wellbeing** a community wellbeing initiative aimed at supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of the Carlow farming community.

2690 people in Carlow engaged in programmes, training and events funded through Healthy Carlow in 2024.

CLÁR

Under the CLÁR scheme 2024, Carlow received funding for the following projects;

Project	Amount
Scoil Moling, Glynn	€45,000
St. Patrick's National School, Ballymurphy	€44,537

Capital Play and Recreation Grant Scheme 2024

A capital grant was awarded to Carlow County Council in the sum of €16,363.39 for the installation of an accessible mini basketball court and associated works in Oak Park Forest Park, Carlow.



Community Get Together



Period Dignity Launch

Entente Florale European Competition

The Entente Florale Europe competition celebrates the importance of green environments and their role in improving the quality of life for communities across Europe. Carlow's success highlights the town's commitment to sustainability and sets a high standard for others to follow.

The Entente Florale Competition took place in Hungary on 7th September 2025. It was a proud night for Carlow as the town won a gold medal at the awards. In addition to the gold medal, Carlow was honoured

with the President's Award for its Rain Garden Development and the Special Characteristic Prize for the Delta Sensory Gardens, recognizing the town's dedication to environmental excellence.

The awards reflect the hard work and commitment of the local authority, local organizations, community groups and volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make this achievement possible. Judges visited Carlow on July 12th and toured key locations, including St. Mary's Church Haymarket, Carlow Fire Station, Linear Park, Hanover Park, Carlow Town Park, Carlow College, Visual, St. Laserian's National School,

and Delta Sensory Gardens, all of which contributed to the town's success.

Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN)

In 2024, Carlow PPN received €120,700 in total funding, with €35,000 from Carlow County Council and €85,700 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Carlow PPN had 358 active member groups across the Environmental, Social Inclusion, and Community & Voluntary Colleges.

The PPN had 32 community representatives on various boards and committees, including four Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Carlow Tourism Board, Joint Policing Committee, and Carlow Development Forum.

Carlow PPN participated in over 28 consultations and surveys on local and national issues, such as the Carlow Age Friendly Strategy, the Draft Heritage Plan, and the National Transport Authority.

To celebrate its 10th Anniversary, Carlow PPN hosted two Community Expo and Networking events, themed "Wellbeing in Your Community," in Carlow and Bagenalstown Municipal Districts, bringing together PPN members, local groups, and speakers to discuss topics of interest.

Africa Day

€7,400 towards the organisation of events to celebrate Africa Day 2024 was secured. Africa Day, designated by the African Union as an annual celebration of the continent's unity, falls on 25th May each year. The Department of Foreign Affairs has been the driving force behind Africa Day celebrations in Ireland since 2006 and Irish Aid supports a programme of community-based and policy-focused initiatives around the country on an annual basis.



Carlow Arts Service plays a vital role in sustaining local arts development working closely with communities and artists across the county representing inclusion, diversity, and equality. We nurture and support our artists to help develop their artistic practice and processes.

In 2024 our four strategic objectives were:

Support to Artists

Carlow Arts Office Programme 2024

Working in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland **€105,000** was secured. **€5,000** of the budget was dedicated to an Artist Bursary that reaches artists under the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion policy of the Arts Council of Ireland. **Cairdeas Centre, Tullow** were the worthy 2024 recipients.

Under the Arts Acts Grants for Artists, following a competitive assessment process a total of **€17,600 was awarded** with **10 artists** receiving grants. Under the Arts Acts Grants for Community Groups **13 community groups** were awarded funding totalling **€22,400**.

ArtLinks provides professional development opportunities and supports for established and emerging artists who are resident in the four partner local authority areas in the South East region. 2024 saw Carlow Arts Service support **9 Carlow artists** with bursary supports that totalled **€19,500**.

Carlow Live and Local

Following an Open Call, led by the Arts Service, **62 applications** were received from local Carlow Musicians to perform at Carlow Arts Festival as part of the Carlow Live and Local Programme. **82 Carlow Musicians** were supported by this initiative with **€30,000 in grant funding allocated**.

Breaking the Patterns

This new South -East initiative is led and supported by Carlow Arts Service, targeting emerging artists who are from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The programme offers ongoing professional development training for artists, bursary supports and an opportunity to take up a European Artist residency. Within the competitive context from the Southeast region, **6 artists** were selected to undertake a three-month artist residency in Seville Spain which featured **2 Carlow artists**. A further **three-month artist residency** in Lisbon, Portugal was delivered with **2 Carlow artists** taking part. This project will continue to support emerging Carlow artists into 2025.

Other artists supported by Carlow Arts Service in 2024

- Carlow Exchange – Commissioned Artist -Local artist Kirstie Mahers’ mural at The Exchange
- Local film maker Frank Mannion on his Quintessentially Irish Film Premier at VISUAL.
- Festival in a Van and local dance artist Roisin Whelan at Light Fest in Bagenalstown.
- Musician Marian Gaynor with Sing to Care providing Carlow Day Care Centre attendees with 8 weeks of singing, percussion instruments, active participation, and movement.



Bagenalstown young people from Carlow Regional Youth Services reach new heights during The Lock Keepers Memory performance.

Community Engagement

County Carlow Youth Theatre

Managed by the Arts Service supported 2 groups of young people who met weekly in VISUAL aged 10-13 and 14 -18 years. Participation took place in workshops and performances throughout the year as well as site specific performances during Cruinniú na nOg, with 48 young people from all around Carlow getting an opportunity to perform.

Music Generation Carlow

MGC continued to work across the county with participation of over 4,600 young people engaging in performance music education weekly, working in 24 local primary schools and 4 secondary schools along with community/outreach centres across the county. MGC's HUB programmes have now fully recovered to pre-COVID levels of participation with 5 HUBS across the county. In 2024, MGC introduced a new HUB in Bagenalstown, aimed at servicing the South Carlow area. All programmes operate during and outside school hours, both after school and on weekends — ensuring wide accessibility for families across Carlow.

Carlow Arts Festival

From 5th - 9th June 2024, Carlow town took centre stage for the 45th edition of CAF.

Over 22,000 people visited the festival to engage with the 89 performances and events, presented by 113 artists. Comprising of local, national and international artists, the festival presented work from a wide array of art forms including dance, literature, circus, spectacle, music, theatre, cinema, and visual arts.

Creative Ireland Carlow Programme

Total funding awarded to Carlow by the Creative Ireland programme for 2024 was €207,419. €30,000 of this funding was ringfenced for Cruinniú Na nÓg 2024 - National Day of Creativity for children and young people which took place on Saturday 15th June with 30 free creative events across the county.



Musician Trish O'Reilly performs at the Creative Ireland Carlow Living Artfully launch

Creative Ireland Carlow Programme 2024 proudly supported:

- Specially produced Borris Lace Starter kits, developed and produced as part of the Creative Ireland Open Call 2023/2024 by **the Borris Lacemakers**.
- The work of **St. Catherine's Traveller Support Services** "Crush On" project and ensuring inclusion within the Pan Celtic festival showcasing renowned Traveller Singers Trish Riley and Thomas McCarthy, in an event attended by **98 festival goers**.
- **Gnathoga Nadurtha Phase 2** project in collaboration with Drummin Bog, Rathangan Bog, Kildare and Girley Bog, Meath formed part of the Irish Museum of Modern Art's "Earth Rising Event", a festival of events aimed at addressing climate crisis. This project was shortlisted under the Chamber Ireland Excellence in **Local Government Awards 2024 – Sustaining the Arts** and under the LAMA Awards 2024 - **Best Environmental Project**.
- **9 new and existing Rambling Houses** around Co. Carlow following a new open call providing €20,000 in grant supports.
- The development of a new **initiative in Hackettstown** called "Art Through

Nature" developed with the Biodiversity Garden in collaboration with Artist Mairead Holohan.

- **Muine Bheag Arts** summer programme COMMUNE - a programme of live events in the Muine Bheag Community Centre.
- Summer School Forest School Workshops at **VISUAL**.
- **15 Care Concerts in residential care homes** and healthcare settings across the county with Mobile Music Machine.

Living Artfully

Creative Ireland Carlow and Kilkenny officially launched the "Living Artfully" programme on 25th September. Living Artfully is a two-year creative programme funded through Creative Ireland and aimed at supporting **Creativity for Health and Wellbeing in our communities**. Living Artfully invites service users and staff engaged with Traveller Support Services, Dementia Friendly services, Mental Health services, Social Prescribing services, HSE Carlow/Kilkenny to participate in this therapeutic intervention and health resource that offers a mechanism to instil creative, healthy, and helpful habits through engagement in this socially engaged arts initiative.

Place-Based Practice

Take a Part Carlow

2024 brought rich collaboration with local artists. Community writer in residence Clifton Redmond led inclusive and inspiring writing workshops to a broad range of the Tullow Road Community, from young people aged 16-19 at Youth Reach, to St. Catherines Traveller Support Services members and community members at the Eire Og Club House through open-door writing sessions.

Artist Kate O'Shea then engaged with Clifton to develop a specially designed poetry broad sheet which looked at creative responses to the concept of displacement and featured writing from the multiple Tullow Road Community writing workshops. The Poetry Broad sheet was launched on Culture Night alongside an open mic style poetry reading night which featured local talent and newly commissioned performances by musician Duane Ayers.

Carlow artist Cian Kinsella developed a new project entitled "Serious Messin" for Carlow Regional Youth Services Tullow Road Youth Project after school programme.

Building local capacity in the community remained on top of Take A Parts objectives in 2024. The following activities helped bolster community ownership of the programme and capacity building amongst the Arts Action Group:

- Members attended the **Meet the Arts Council Sessions** at VISUAL and talked about funding opportunities and supports to build capacity in the community.
- Take A Part Carlow worked closely with Carlow Arts Service, Take A Part UK, Creative Places Bagenalstown and community members and artists to develop a "**Creative Capacity Building Day**" in Carlow. This event workshopped the Arts Action Group model, how local decision making has influenced the work of Take A Part Carlow and reviewed the Arts Action Group membership in terms of supporting the strategic development of this socially engaged arts programme.

Creative Places Bagenalstown

In 2024, the Creative Places Bagenalstown Programme enriched the cultural landscape of Bagenalstown with a series of vibrant projects. The highlight of the year was ***The Lock Keeper's Memories***, an enchanting promenade performance created by Hugh W. Brown in collaboration with the young people of **Carlow Regional Youth Service** in Bagenalstown and the wider community. This unique theatrical experience celebrated local voices, history, and shared memories.

Another standout project was "***A Musical Planet Looks Like...***", an Augmented Reality (AR) Wall Mural by artist **Paul Byrne** in collaboration with **Music Generation Carlow**. An accompanying soundscape, crafted by **Paul Brett** and **Gearoid O'Sullivan**, added an auditory dimension.

Culture Night Bagenalstown drew large crowds and celebrated the town's cultural heritage. The Old Post Office hosted local Traditional Musicians, while the Fairgreen Park featured a family-friendly pop-up cinema produced by **Joe Cleere /CCC Community Cinema**.

Additionally, Creative Places Bagenalstown funded a **retractable lighting deck and sound system** requested by the community. This new resource is now available for use across the town, enhancing the quality and versatility of local events.

Culture Night

A programme of **41 free events** was devised by the Arts Service in collaboration with community and artists around the county to celebrate Culture Night on Friday 20th September. **€24,000** in grant funding was made available to support these events which comprised of Music, Song, Dance, Storytelling, Visual Arts, Literature, Poetry, Film and Theatre. Over **16,000 audience** members in **34 venues** spanning across the county engaged in the evening.



Carlow Sports Partnership (CSP)



4,668

No. of Participants across 139 events and programmes



75,000

No. of digital views on the '5 Bullet Friday' weekly newsletters



34,923

No. of Views reached on www.carlowsports.ie



€26,000

Funding Secured through the Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Funding Scheme 2024



€90,000

Amount Allocated for works in Duckett's Grove through the Participation Nation Funding Scheme 2024



€30,000

Amount secured via Amuigh Faoin Spéir Funding Scheme Allocation for the Duckett's Grove - Biodiversity Initiative



€136,600

Funding Secured via the Dormant Accounts Fund to support community sports initiatives

Carlow Sports Partnership: A Year of Growth, Inclusion, and Community Spirit

In 2024, Carlow Sports Partnership continued to inspire and engage communities across the county, delivering **139 events and programmes** and engaging with **4,668 participants**. With a commitment to ensuring sports and physical activity accessible to all and to provide opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to participate.

Throughout the year, older adults found joy and connection through programmes such as **Forever Fit, Active Agers, and Wise and Well**. These initiatives provided a space not just for movement but for friendship and well-being, helping participants stay active and socially engaged. The **Go for Life Games** became a highlight, bringing together groups from different areas to celebrate physical activity in a fun, relaxed, and inclusive environment.

Empowering women and teenage girls remained a key priority, with events like **Her Outdoors, Women in Sport Week, and the Women's Hiking Series** drawing significant interest. Women of all ages embraced new challenges, from hiking scenic trails to learning the fundamentals of strength training in the **Introduction to Weightlifting for Teenage Girls** sessions. One hiker reflected, *"The Women's Hiking Series was an amazing experience. It pushed me out of my comfort zone, and the sense of achievement at the top was unforgettable."*

Inclusivity was at the heart of the year's initiatives, ensuring that children and adults with additional needs had opportunities to participate in sport. Programmes like the **Delta Centre Walks, Inclusive Multi-Activity Camps, Inclusive FAI Football for**

All Camp, and Inclusive Basketball Camp created safe and welcoming spaces where every participant could thrive.

Outdoor adventure continued to be a huge attraction, with participants taking on activities like the **Columban Way Walk, CYCLES, Stand Up Paddle Boarding for Teenage Girls, and the Street Velodrome Bike Week Event**. Whether on land or water, these experiences encouraged people to embrace new challenges and enjoy the benefits of outdoor fitness. Additionally, community spirit flourished through events like the **Bagenalstown in Bloom Family Fun Run, Wednesday Wanderers, and Wellbeing Playday**, which brought families, friends, and neighbours together to celebrate movement and connection.





Carlow's young people were not left behind, as Carlow Sports Partnership continued its strong relationship with local schools and clubs. Initiatives such as **School Hall Athletics, Balance Bikes, and TY Girls Basketball** encouraged students to get moving, often giving older students leadership opportunities to guide younger children.

Safety and education remained central to Carlow Sports Partnership's work, equipping volunteers, coaches, and community leaders with essential training. Over the course of the year, **Disability Awareness, Autism in Sport, CPR & Defibrillator Training, Sports First Aid, and Safeguarding Levels 1-3** were delivered, ensuring that local sports programmes were inclusive and well-supported.

Carlow Sports Partnership welcomed an **ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer**,

who helped launch new initiatives like **Community Roots and Youthreach Badminton**, ensuring even more young people had access to sport and recreation.

With another incredible year of achievements Carlow Sports Partnership remains dedicated to fostering **inclusivity, engagement, and active living**.

Additional Statistics

- ➔ **Inclusive Children and Teens:** 220 children and teens with disabilities took part in **8 inclusive camps**, creating opportunities for participation in sport.
- ➔ **Learn to Cycle:** 100 children developed cycling skills through **3 dedicated events**.
- ➔ **Her Outdoors:** 107 women participated in activities spread over **5 days**, encouraging outdoor engagement.
- ➔ **Women in Sport:** A total of **263 women** engaged in activities over **5 days**, supporting female participation in sport.
- ➔ **Forever Fit:** 110 older adults benefited from tailored fitness programmes across the county.
- ➔ **Training & Development:** 290 participants attended **23 training courses**, equipping them with skills in coaching, safeguarding, and first aid.
- ➔ **Establishment of Women's Hiking Series:** 127 women took part in **8 hiking events**, promoting adventure and well-being.



Museum



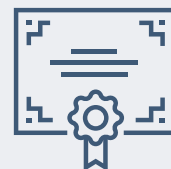
15,000 plus

No. of Visitors



3 plus AGM

Museum Board Number of Meetings



Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI) Status

Awarded Full Accreditation in July 2023

The Board of Carlow County Museum

The Board of Carlow County Museum held three meetings throughout the year. At the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Board Cllr Andrea Dalton was elected Chairperson for 2025 replacing Dr Seamus Ó Mhurchú.

Museum Appears on the RTE Today Show

On Wednesday March 27th, Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, appeared live in the RTE 1 television programme the Today show. The show was broadcast from the RTE Studios in Cork City. Dermot was interviewed by host Daithí O'Shea about a number of objects that were displayed specially for the broadcast including the wallet of Kevin Barry, the smoking pipe of Myles Keogh, the fossilised squid fossil, Lucinda Sly books and Corcoran's Mineral Waters. The Museum has received very positive feedback from both RTE and the public about the broadcast.



Carlow Town hosts the Irish Museums Association (IMA) Conference 2024

Over 100 museum professionals from across Ireland gathered in May in Carlow Town for the 2024 Irish Museums Association (IMA) Conference, under the theme “Beyond Boundaries – the future for regional museums”. Carlow County Museum, on behalf of Carlow County Council, hosted the conference. The event highlighted the crucial and valuable role that local and regional museums play within their communities, showcasing their contributions to cultural heritage preservation, deep community engagement, and economic development. Representatives from over twenty museum sites and related industries provided insights into the significant work being carried out across regional museums and their profound connection to their localities and those that visit and reside in these. The conference, held in Carlow College, highlighted exemplary practice by museums working in this context.

Delegates celebrated Carlow County Museum’s 50th anniversary with a reception hosted by Carlow County Council, taking the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local cultural offerings. Cllr Fintan Phelan, Leas-Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, said in welcoming the IMA to the Museum that ‘such gatherings as the annual conference are important as they allow for reflection, the generation of ideas, to hear issues and explore latest thinking’s and probably most important, the development

of formal and informal friendships between institutions and their staff’.

Dr Seamus Ó Murchú, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum, informed delegates that Carlow County Museum has been through three generations; the pioneers of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society who set events in motion; the nine founders of the County Museum who brought the dream to life; and the present professional staff operating an accredited museum in collaboration with local volunteers. Each generation building on what went before, leaving a legacy for those to come’.

John Shortall, County Librarian, presented a paper on Carlow County Museum titled Museum for the County: the County Council leading the Way, while Dermot Mulligan presented a paper on Breaking Borders: Saints Alive as Carlow Hops to Luxembourg! On the opening morning of the conference, Padraig Dooley, Museum Board Member, took delegates on a walking tour of Carlow Town. Carlow Tourism supplied the delegates with a conference bag with information about County Carlow and some Carlow produce.

Despite the positive developments, the conference underscored significant challenges faced by the regional museum sector. Gina O’Kelly, Executive Director of the Irish Museums Association, noted there are “serious core capacity concerns” stemming from the need for greater investment and cohesive policy frameworks. She noted





that “Many museums across the island are surviving in a policy vacuum. While they may successfully raise investment for public-facing programmes and exhibitions, concerns about understaffing and day-to-day operational funding remain an increasing priority – one that the development of a national museums strategy would seek to address”.

The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to collaboration, innovation, and advocacy to ensure that regional museums continue to thrive and enrich their communities. Several of Carlow’s other museums, Bishop Daniel Delany Museum, Tullow, and the St Mullins Heritage Centre, had delegates present at the conference.

Hopping Procession, Echternach, Luxembourg

Cllr Andrea Dalton, Cathaoirleach, Cllr John Murphy and Dermot Mulligan visited Echternach, Luxembourg, for the 2024 UNESCO Hopping Procession. Her Excellency Jean McDonald, Ireland’s Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, extended a Céad Mile Fáilte to the delegation. She held a reception for the delegation at her residence with many Irish people who live and work in Luxembourg.

The delegation and Ambassador McDonald visited Echternach on Monday and Tuesday May 20th and 21st where they were guided by Alain Muller, Willibrordus-Bauverein.





Mayor Carole Hartmann, Ville d'Echternach, and the Members of Ville d'Echternach, hosted a reception for the Carlow delegates. Later that evening the delegation attended the evening celebrations in the Basilica of St Willibrord followed by a reception by the Parish in the adjoining Hopping Procession Visitor Centre. Here the connection between Carlow and Echternach were on display with the vellum Book of Carlow and Echternach 2017 taking pride of place.

On Tuesday the delegation and Ambassador McDonald met the German pilgrims that had walked approximately sixty kilometers over the previous three days to reach Echternach at 7.30am, just in time for 8am mass in the Basilica. Afterwards the delegation partook in the UNESCO World Heritage Status



Hopping Procession. In the procession the delegation were joined by Her Excellency Fleur Thomas, British Ambassador to Luxembourg, His Excellency Chris Trott, British Ambassador to the Holy See, His Excellency Jean Claude Kugener, Luxembourg Ambassador to the Holy See and Patrick Dondelinger, Luxembourg Ministry of Culture.

Lisa Burke, from Killeshin and former Sky News weather forecaster, hosts a radio show on RTL (Radio Television Luxembourg – the national broadcaster) and she recorded an interview in her studio with Cathaoirleach Dalton, Ambassador McDonald along with others including the British Ambassador to Luxembourg and the British Ambassador to the Holy See.



A Carlow delegation attended the Luxembourg National Day celebrations on June 23rd hosted by her Excellency Florence Enschedé, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Ireland in Dublin. A Carlow delegation also attended the Ambassador's hosting the Irish launch of Dr Michel Summer's book, *Willibrord between Ireland, Britain and Merovingian Francia (690 – 739)*. This is a significant publication as it is the first biography of St Willibrord published in English in many decades. On Thursday 7th, the Feast of St Willibrord, the St Willibrord Biennial Lecture was presented by Dr Immo Warntjes, Department of History Trinity College, in St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, with coordination by Carlow County Museum.



Heritage Week 2024

National Heritage Week took place from the 17th to the 25th of August with the week coordinated in County Carlow by the Heritage Officer.



On Thursday the Museum presented a lecture by Deb Goodrich, Historian in Residence at the Fort Wallace Museum, Kansas, USA on Leighlinbridge's Captain Myles Keogh. Myles was the Commander of the Fort in its early years and Deb explored his role and contribution. Keogh, as commander, and Frederick Beecher, as adjutant, were responsible for turning the ramshackle structures into a real fort. Keogh established the first library and school in Wallace County on the post. The Fort Wallace Museum honors Captain Keogh each March with the Captain Keogh's Emerald Banquet.

Kevin Barry Portrait

The Museum had conservation works undertaken to the framed portrait of Kevin Barry by Anna Francis Levins. The frame and the canvas were all treated, and a protective glass front was added to the frame by conservators Dr Pat McBride, Paper Conservation Studios, and Kathy Day Carrigan. The portrait was back on display by November, the month in which he was executed in 1920. A Conservation Grant from the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society contributed significantly to defray the costs of this.





Carlow County Library Service

383

No. of Visits from
Learning Centres,
Primary & Secondary
School Classes



138,955

No. of Items
issued in 2024



38,753

Number of Online
Services accessed



9871

Social Media
Followers on
Facebook, X and
Instagram



Reading & Literacy:

National Initiative	No of events	No of participants
Ireland Reads	11	182
Spring into Storytime	12	199
Summer Stars	28	536
Little Library Bags	N/A	431
Children's Book Festival	16	358
Family Time	10	156

Other Right to Read Activities

- The LEO Right to Read Primary School Short Story Competition Project was very successful with 22 national schools submitting 449 entries. An awards night was held in November with over 170 people in attendance.
- The Library Awareness Week for KCETB learners took place in October. Library staff prepared and provided library tours, presentations and an online webinar. 207 learners visited the libraries during the week with 18 groups and their tutors participating.
- The library service collaborated with LEO in delivering the unique 3 Senses

programme. This business literacy initiative ran from August to November, concluding with a business networking event and panel discussion. Project partners included CCDP, County Carlow Chamber, Carlow Tourism, Powerhouse Women in Business Network and Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG.

- The Hug Your Book programme ran in July and again in December. This collaboration with KCETB Family Learning supports parents and guardians to develop a range of skills to support their children's reading, writing and talking. It helps support children's language and literacy development as well as their social and emotional needs.

- The annual Summer Stars reading challenge, the national campaign to encourage children to read over the Summer Holidays launched on 10th June and continued to 31st August, over 600 children registered to take part across the county.
- Ireland Read's Day took place on Saturday February 24th. This is an annual National Day celebrating reading and to encourage people to take some time out to read a book, magazine, comic etc. Eleven events were organised with 182 attendees.
- Childrens Book Festival - 358 children enjoyed 16 events over the month of October. These included visits from authors Nicola Pierce and Brendan MacDonald, craft workshops and camps and clay monster workshops.

Story Streets

The Department of Children selected Story Streets, devised and developed by Carlow County Library Service, as one of two national pilot programmes supporting disadvantaged families and children. Carlow Libraries are leading on this five-year national pilot and work progressed over the year in collaboration with the LGMA Libraries Development Unit. Following preparatory works the pilot programme was rolled out in Tullow and Blanchardstown libraries in November. This project is supported by the Children's Fund and the aim is to perfect our model, expand gradually to other counties, and eventually mainstream Story Streets as a national programme.

Libraries for all

Library Development Plan 2025 - 2029

Work was completed on the development of this five-year plan for the Library Service. An external consultant collected a wide range of data and worked with the library management team to agree priorities and strategic objectives for the future of the service. The plan aims to ensure that our libraries are multi-purpose social and educational places for all members of the community to enjoy.

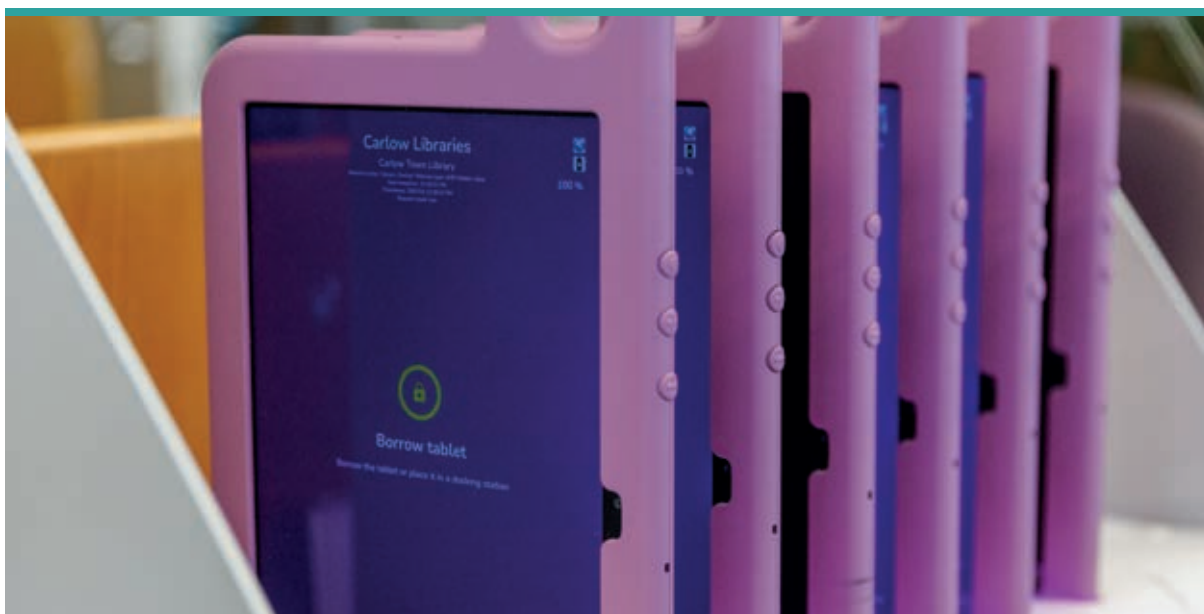
Our Digital Offer

In 2024, Carlow Libraries maintained a high standard of online services provision, offering improved and expanded stock of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, online classes and educational programmes.

Online Services Statistics:

eBooks Loans	8,530 items borrowed
eAudiobook Loans	15,920 items borrowed
eMagazine & eNewspaper Loans	13,521 items borrowed
eLanguage Learning Sessions	503
eLearning Sessions	279





ePress

In May a new online service was introduced which brought all eNewspaper and eMagazine titles under the Borrowbox umbrella, which has already established itself as one of our most popular resources in the Library Service. Named “ePress” it offers access to over 63,000 titles, including some of the country’s best sellers such as the Irish Independent, Hello Magazine and National Geographic, and has been enthusiastically embraced by our members.

Hublets

Public IT services were further developed with the introduction of a new Hublet tablet lending device in Tullow, while the same service in Carlow Central Library was upgraded with a new set of devices.

Short Story Dispenser

In the last quarter of 2024, a new machine was installed in Carlow Library, offering patrons the opportunity of availing of print-outs of short stories, poems and sketches. The machine is easily portable and can be brought to locations throughout the county.

Assistive technologies and equipment

Dormant Accounts Funding 2024 enabled us to improve accessibility within our libraries for those with physical disabilities. A total grant of €15,000 was awarded by the DRCD

which was match-funded by Carlow County Council.

- ➔ Height adjustable tables and ergonomic chairs were installed in Carlow Central Library
- ➔ All branches received assistive C Reading Pens which are available to borrow
- ➔ ReadEasy Evolve machines were provided in all branches and in Local Studies. These lightweight and portable devices, that help those who are visually impaired by scanning text and then reading it aloud. These scanners use optical character recognition (OCR) technology to convert printed text, such as from books, documents, or even signs, into a format that can be read aloud.

Sensory Services

An innovative range of Sensory Services was launched in April, aiming to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all. The new services include a variety of supports such as sensory equipment available for use within the libraries, a Sensory Backpack lending scheme, and the provision of social stories tailored to each branch. All were designed to enhance the comfort and accessibility of library visits. The service also joined the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower network, with all staff receiving comprehensive training in the scheme.

The Library as Centre of the Community

Social Media Engagement

Social Media Platform	Followers	Views	Reach
Facebook	5,310	232K	137.5K
X	3,197	118,300	
Instagram	1,364		

Come & Play

A series of eight Come and Play Music workshops were held across all library branches between January and June. These were for children aged 4 to 6 years and combined music, stories, and creative play. This collaboration with Music Generation Carlow was funded by Creative Ireland. Our partnership aims to ensure that these opportunities are accessible to all by offering free music tuition workshops, removing financial barriers and promoting inclusivity.

Cruinniú na nOg

In collaboration with Creative Ireland Carlow, this national day of free creativity for children and young people was celebrated across Library Branches on Saturday 15th June. Events included: · Childrens Craft sessions with Artist, Jean Robertson of Brownshill Art Studio · The AHA African Storytellers provided an exciting morning of stories, dance, song and poetry · Comic Book Illustrator Declan Pierce taught children how to design their own comic book cover

Art Exhibitions

In Addition to local group of artists “Barrowvalley Art Group” Exhibition in April for the Pan Celtic Festival, another Local Art Group “Chroma” held an exhibition during arts week in June

Age Friendly Library

Library staff attended the National launch of the Age Friendly Library Recognition Programme held on February 16th in Edgeworthstown Library, Longford where Minister Heather Humphries awarded charters to each County Library. The Library was also represented at the Carlow Older

Person’s Forum roadshow on February 27th, promoting the supports and services that Carlow County Library make available to older people.

Pan Celtic Festival

As part of the celebrations in April Carlow Library hosted An Art Exhibition by the local Barrow Valley Art Group An evening of entertainment with Carlow Storytellers, Carlow Little Theatre, the Dargan Dancers and guests Gala Hutton and Michael Somers. Celtic Family Storytelling sessions with widely acclaimed storytellers Colin Urwin, Aideen McBride, Deirdre O’Byrne and, from Brittany, Katell Kloareg.

Healthy Ireland At Your Library

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme aims to contribute to improving the health, wellbeing and overall quality of life of communities and individuals at all stages. Funding from Healthy Ireland has enhanced health and wellbeing book collections and provided for the events and programming in 2024 including:

Talks: Dr Mary O’Kane – talk based on her book “supporting anxious children in an anxious world” on 18th May and Dr Padraic Gibson – talk based on his book launch of ‘When the Bubble Bursts’ - a book about depression was held on 27th June.

Dr Padraic Gibson also did a talk in November where he discussed the behavioural challenges in children and adolescents and a talk in December which focused on the art of self-deception. In addition,

Carlow County Library Service collaborated with HSE Primary Care and Child Psychology Services to deliver Parenting Talks, Topics covered included Anxiety Management, Managing Strong Emotions and Managing Low Mood.

- ➔ Staff Participation in the Hello How Are You day in May, a campaign about connection and engaging in open conversations about mental health.
- ➔ Changing Gears: This programme was a

collaboration between Carlow Library and Age & Opportunity. Running over five weeks, it's aim was to at boost wellbeing and resilience and teach skills to manage transitions in mid to later life.

- Following the success of last year's Singing for Well-being programme, funding from Healthy Carlow was secured for programming across all branches in 2024. The tutor, Regina Hanley, took the lead in making the group a welcoming, fun and safe space for participants. Library co-ordinators managed the programme and provided ongoing support throughout the programme.

Culture Night

We celebrated Culture Night on September 20th with a series of events: Carlow Library hosted a lovely evening of music, drama, stories and song. The AHA storytellers performed sharing the culture and folklore of Africa. The Carlow Storytellers then performed their unique mix of songs and stories and were joined by the Dargan School of Irish Dance, Carlow Little Theatre, the Butler Sisters and local author Maria O'Rourke Muinebheag Library hosted a poetry reading and storytelling Tullow Library hosted craft workshops for children with local facilitator Sandy.

Science Week

Science Week took place in November and was a collaboration with Calmast (Centre for the Advancement of Learning of Maths, Science and Technology), funded by Science Foundation Ireland. Carlow Library hosted several events to mark the week including - Art and Craft workshops for children with local artist Jean Robertson, a visit from Dave's Jungle, a lecture on DNA and Fingerprinting with Dr Cas Kramer and two Bricks for Kids workshops

Family Time At Your Library

Events were planned as part of the Carlow - A Festive Family Christmas initiative. Wibbly Wobbly Wendy entertained children and their parents in Muinebheag and Carlow libraries. A series of Family Learning workshops were held across all library branches in collaboration with KCETB.

Families were invited to take part in these reading and craft workshops, each receiving a free book as part of the initiative.

Carlow Library hosted children from Kildavin N.S. in collaboration with Music Generation Carlow in a beautiful Christmas Carol Concert in Carlow Library

Lunchtime in the Library

Our third season of Lunchtime in the Library featured talks by poet Rita Ann Higgins, artist and writer Don Conroy and novelists Aoife Fitzpatrick and Sarah Gilmartin. 85 people attended the sessions, engaging with the speakers and hearing all about what shapes their work.

The Library Totem Project

This was a significant undertaking for the branch in 2024. The project, which was grant-aided, involved Liga Valge, as facilitator, with the expertise and enthusiasm to see the project to completion. Her skill in polymer clay sculpture and her dedication to the work was matched by the participants, including our own Gill, who threw herself into the work with real enthusiasm. The team worked steadily from mid-January to late-March to create the elements, each person working on a piece based on their individual vision, while working towards a collectively themed goal. The resulting artwork was launched officially in May and is prominently displayed in the branch, which has prompted numerous discussions and expressions of praise for the result and the work that went into it.

Culture & Heritage

Local Studies and Genealogy

313 visitors attended the Local Studies and Genealogy service in 2024. We also offer a service by email and phone with almost 500 people using the services in total. The Genealogy Service continues to grow comprising visitors from UK, United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania as well as many local Irish visitors. Researchers consulted a wide variety of source material including newspapers, photographs, maps, Minute Books, journals and Estate Papers. Enquiries were received from students, those researching Carlow

localities and family history, local historians, general researchers and school groups.

Books produced by Carlow Library in 2024

The Carlow Sugar Factory: *The extraordinary story of an Irish Industrial icon* by Christopher Power

Civil War- Writers Respond – Anthology

Selection of books acquired by Local Studies Department in 2024

Old Carlow Photos IV by Dermot O'Brien

Carlow Life Episodes by Myles Kavanagh

Remembering Carlow by Maria O'Rourke

Carloviana 2025 containing two articles by Christopher Power

Heritage Week

Carlow Library Service was delighted to support the Heritage Office of Carlow County Council during Heritage Week which took place from August 17th to 25th. Some examples of the events hosted in our libraries included 'Learn about Swifts in County Carlow', by Jaroslaw Majkusiak, Maria O'Rourke did a reading from her book 'Defying the Curse' in Borris Library, 'The Pattern of Irish Slate Roofing' by Sarah-Jane Halpin, 'For the descendants, from the ancestors. Connections through personal archives ' by Louise Kennedy, Archivist, Carlow County Council. August 19th marked a special day in Leighlinbridge to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Belfast address given by John Tyndall. Carlow County Council and Carlow Tourism marked the occasion with a day of celebration including children's workshops, a guided walk, evening lecture, music and drama.

County Archive

The Carlow County Archive is a resource available to all persons interested in the history of Carlow and its people. Material is accessed by a variety of users from academics, students, school groups, family history researchers and authors. An article on the Archive, written by staff member, Christopher Power was published in *Carloviana*, 2025 edition.

A conservation assessment of the County Archive was carried out by Paperworks Studio in June. The collection was examined, assessed, and treatment proposals and estimates provided to guide future works.

The following important acquisitions were made during 2024 by the County Archive:

- Finely executed manuscript Estate map Carlow [Browne Clayton Estate] Part of Kernanstown and Part of Chapelstown and Part of the Townland of Carlow in the County of Carlow, the Estate of Robert Clayton Browne. Copied and enlarged from the Ordnance Survey by Hodges and Smith 1841
- An extensive and comprehensive File of manuscript documents mostly Signed by the Magistrate and Land Agent in Carlow William Fishbourne. It deals with assaults, wage disputes, stealing potatoes, mule, corn, clothing and cattle. It also deals with public house incidents along with several precepts for court appeals. A most interesting file of legal documents from the period of 1816-1831 in the Carlow area and the workings of a legal mind of that period.
- Suppliers to Carlow Jail 1830's [Co. Carlow] 1832 -42. Signed Proposals from suppliers for provision to Carlow Jail, Best Dublin soap, best Buttermilk, best new milk, rape oil, linseed oil, sweet oil, drying oil, oatmeal, potatoes, brushes with handles. etc. Some were signed by members of the Board of Governors.
- Two large Files relating to William Fishbourne who died aged 88 in 1855. During his life he served as magistrate and member of the Grand Jury in Carlow. He was an officer in the yeomanry during the 1798 Rebellion and assisted in suppressing the United Irishmen. Over 200 documents covering the period 1816 - 1850 detailing Peace and Answering and Prosecute Recognizances, attempt to murder, larceny, assault, housebreaking, stolen clothes, trespass, combined with another batch of Indentures in which Fishbourne had an interest.



Decade of Centenaries Lectures

The Decade of Centenaries programme staged two lectures during 2024:

- 3 April, at Knockbeg College, a lecture by Philip O'Regan of Skibbereen Historical Society, on "The Life and Times of Gearóid O'Sullivan". O'Sullivan played a prominent role in the War of Independence and served as a teacher in Knockbeg.
- 14 November, at Carlow Central Library, "Local Government in Carlow", by Dr. Matthew Potter, author of *The Municipal Revolution in Ireland*.

Both lectures were very well attended.

The Flame of Liberty

The other significant, lasting testament to the creative and artistic work of local people in the Tullow area was also an important part of 2024 in Tullow Library. It is the Flame of Liberty sculpture, which was donated to the library in February by Burnside Autocyl Engineering of Tullow. The 300kg sculpture was moved into place in February and an official launch was organised to take place on the actual anniversary of the date of the Easter Monday rebellion 1916.

This involved a collaboration between Burnside, Carlow County Council Library

Service, the Decade of Centenaries Committee, Music Generation, Flynn Catering Services and others, all of whom worked to ensure that the work and generosity of the creators, owners and custodians of the sculpture were marked in a suitable manner.

The process also inspired an article by Dan Cahill, who had worked as an engineer on the original project, and which appeared in *Carloviana* 2024.

Launch of Carlow Sugar Factory Book

On Tuesday 19 November the launch took place in The Seven Oaks Hotel of "The Carlow Sugar Factory – the extraordinary story of an Irish industrial icon", written by Christopher Power.

The launch was excellently attended with over 200 patrons filling the ballroom in The Seven Oaks, where they were addressed first of all by author Christopher Power, who outlined the themes, motivation and methodology behind his production of the book. There then followed an address by John Kehoe, former Carlow branch chairman of the IFA, who told those in attendance of the enormous sense of pride that Carlovians did, and should, feel about the industry and innovation that sprung from that once great institution. There then followed a few words from Carlow Co. Co.'s Cathaoirleach, Cllr.



Fergal Browne, who spoke of his childhood memories of the Factory, as well as his dismay at its closure in 2005. The book was then launched by Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Chair of the Carlow Co. Co. Centenaries Committee, which led the publication of the book.

The book was exceptionally well received, and a second print run was undertaken in January 2025.

Launch of “Carlow Writers Respond to the Topic of Civil War”

Tuesday 17 December saw the launch of “Civil War: Writers Respond – an anthology” at Carlow Branch Library, and marked the completion of the work carried out by Carlow County Council’s Decade of Centenaries Committee, which commenced in 2016.

Authors, poets and playwrights from across Co. Carlow were invited to reflect on the theme of Civil War, and use their own individual expertise to create a short piece of writing – in a variety of formats – to illustrate how this emotive theme can be used as inspiration for their creativity. The resultant publication is a very reflective and thought-provoking body of work that explores the devastating division, sorrow and hope that can be found in such conflicts, both amongst

those that lived through them and the generations that followed.

The book was launched by Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Chair of the Centenary Committee.

Centenarians Medals

The presentation of Centenarians Medals to those people living in Co. Carlow that have reached the age of 100 years continued throughout 2024.

Presentations during the year were held for Bernard Landy and Bridget Meaney (both Tullow); Angela Hickey, Kildavin and Essie Glynn, New Oak Estate.

Climate Action

South Eastern Energy Agency Energy Hub and Clinics

In September Carlow Central Library hosted the launch of the Community Energy Hub. Developed by the South East Energy Agency, a not for profit energy agency based in Kilkenny, providing energy services to all citizens across the southeast of Ireland. In conjunction with POBAL, & Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford & Waterford Libraries, the South East Energy Agency created the Community Energy Hub to help households, community



groups and businesses to better understand energy efficiency and help streamline grant and funding information for citizens to undertake energy upgrades for their homes, communities and business.

Following the launch Carlow's Library branches hosted four Energy Clinics, staffed by the SEEA, in our Carlow, Bagenalstown and Tullow branches

New Library Service Vehicle

In November 2024 Carlow Library Service upgraded its vehicle to an electric Peugeot ePartner, carrying out its commitment in the Carlow County Council Climate Action Plan to replace its diesel vehicles with more sustainable electric versions. A charging point for same was also installed in the Presentation Place carpark.

Lighting Upgrade

Work was completed on the installation of new lighting in Presentation Building Library HQ. The result is that the Library now has motion sensor LED lights which operate in a more energy efficient manner.

LEAF Pilot Programme

During the summer of 2024 Carlow Libraries joined forces with GIY for the LEAF Project (Literacy and Food Education LEAF @ The Library) which will run until September 2025. LEAF looks at growing as a climate action within the community and supports individuals and communities in their efforts to get growing. LEAF provides resources, information, and activities through the library network, and a number of events

were held in growing centres throughout Carlow to mark its launch. The Project will work through to September 2025, engaging a wide range of community groups from primary schools to GIY collectives.

Climate Action and SDG Week Events

Seed Workshop - During Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) week (23 to 29 Sept), Dee Sewell, a qualified horticulturalist and County Carlow's new Environmental Awareness Officer, delivered four Seed Workshops throughout our branches in Co. Carlow. During these workshops students and members of the public learned more about seeds and how they fit into the United Nations SDG targets to create a healthy and thriving planet. During the workshop Dee spoke about the differences between seeds, how to store and sow them, when best to sow, as well as tips on minding seedlings. Our seeds workshop was also a great way to start off the public's involvement in our county's LEAF (Literacy Education and Food) programme.

Schools Workshops - Climate Action Week took place from 14th to 20th October and as part of the SEAI and Carlow Climate Action Week program, a series of workshops were held in the library. These workshops were facilitated by Úna Halpin, Wildways Adventures Ltd. and were based around the theme of energy. Úna is a science and geography expert and spoke to the children about the effects of climate change on their natural surroundings.





Heritage Services



3

**Carlow Heritage
Forum Meetings
Held**



11

**Community
Heritage Funding
Applications
Supported**



42

**Public
Consultations
Events Organised**

Carlow Heritage Forum and County Carlow Heritage Plan (2024-2029)

The members of the Carlow Heritage Forum meet on three occasions in 2024 (February/May and September 2024). The focus of the attention of the members of the Forum was on the finalisation of the County Carlow Heritage Plan. The draft was edited and sent for Environmental Screening in early 2024. The completed draft County Carlow Heritage Plan (2024-2029) was adopted by Carlow County Council in April 2024.

Inaugural County Carlow Heritage Seminar 2024

An action of the County Carlow Heritage Plan (2024-2029) was the hosting of an annual County Carlow Heritage Seminar. The inaugural County Carlow Heritage Seminar took place in the Seven Oaks Hotel in April 2024. The focus of the seminar was to showcase the diversity of successful heritage projects delivered around County Carlow, with an emphasis on community group projects funded under the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme and projects delivered by the Carlow Heritage Office.

Historic Structures Fund 2024

Four Protected Structures in County Carlow received funding for necessary conservation works from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The structures were Sherwood Park House, Kilbride; Borris House, Borris; Millford House, Millford and Presentation Buildings (County Carlow Central Library), Tullow Street, Carlow.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024

Three protected structures in County Carlow received funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The funding ensures private investment in the structures. The structures were The Old Rectory, Killedmond where conservation works were carried out on the loggia and the supports were strengthened. The original sash windows in Rathduff House, Carlow were conserved and conservation works and energy efficiency measures were completed in Lower Ballyellen Lockhouse, Carlow.



Community Monuments Fund 2024

Four Community Monuments projects were delivered in County Carlow. The medieval church with its Romanesque doorway of St. Finian in Myshall was conserved through removal of vegetation, repointing and flaunching of walls and conservation of portions of the doorway. Two Conservation Method Statements were prepared for two priority historic churches that require conservation, namely the medieval church in Cloonagoose, Borris and the medieval church at Dunleckney, Muine Bheag. A geophysical survey was carried out within the ground of Carlow College St. Patrick's in late 2024 and the results have identified geophysical anomalies that warrant further research.

Launch of the Heritage Audit of the Historic Churches and Graveyards in County Carlow (Phase I)

A Heritage Audit of the Historic Churches and Graveyards in County Carlow (Phase I) was undertaken as an action of the County Carlow Heritage Plan (2024-2029) with funding from the Heritage Council. The audit undertaken by Colm Moriarty (Archaeologist) included a priority listing of conservation needs of the structures. The report was formally launched in December

2024 in the Carlow Town Hall by Cllr. Fergal Browne (Cathaoirleach) along with a private screening of a video on the Heritage of the Carlow Ambulance Service, funded by the Heritage Council and launched by Cllr. Fintan Phelan (Mayor of Carlow).

Community Heritage Grants 2024

The Carlow Heritage Officer supported three successful Community Groups in their applications for and progress of, the Heritage Council funded Community Heritage Projects. The Tinryland Heritage Group compiled the extensive compilation of research produced over several years and secured funding to have it used in the production of Heritage App about Tinryland and environs. The Methodist Church, Athy Road, Carlow received funding for essential conservation of the internal façade of the church structure that was suffering from moisture damage. The Cranavane Holy Well Committee in Kildavin produced a video showing the wide range of history and heritage features in Kildavin and environs, combining narration by actor, Stephen Rea and interviews with community members and professional in the field of heritage.

Heritage Week 2024

Heritage Week is the national celebration of heritage in Ireland. The Heritage Office working with community groups and various Departments in the County Council produced a varied programme of over forty events around the County. The events ranged from lectures, workshops, demonstrations and guided walks for all age groups. The Tinryland Heritage Group organised an extensive public exhibition in the Tinryland Community Hall to showcase the wealth of heritage in Tiryland and environs. The event was well attended and was subsequently received the Heritage Council's County Heritage Week 2024 award.

National Heritage Week Award 2024

County Carlow was delighted to have two community groups shortlisted at the National Heritage Week Awards Ceremony that took place in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin on 15 November 2004. The community groups were the Friends of Columbanus Myshall in the award category of Connections, Routes and Networks Award for their event titled 'A Journey of Discovery from Mount Leinster Co. Carlow to Bangor, Co. Down' and St. Mullins Heritage and Tourism Group in the award category of Wild Child Event Award for their event titled 'From Wilderness to Wonderment on Wild Child Day'.

Carlow Heritage Office Projects

The Heritage Officer secured funding from the Heritage Council for four heritage projects in 2024. As actioned in the County Carlow Heritage Plan (2024-2028), the Heritage Office contracted Colm Moriarty (Archaeologist) to produce Phase I of a Heritage Audit of the Historic Churches and Graveyards in County Carlow.

Funding was secured for the development of the Carlow Water Pumps that enabled the consultant work with an oral historian to undertake an oral history project on the memories and stories associated with a selection of water pumps surveyed in 2023.

An audit of the vernacular furniture within a pre-famine cottage near Fennagh, Co. Carlow was undertaken by Dr. Claudia Kinmonth in July 2024. The audit identified and recorded several pieces of vernacular furniture and drew attention to significant internal features in the structure.

Videography was produced to raise awareness of aspects of the Heritage of the Carlow Ambulance Service. The video, included old oral recordings of former and interviews with current personnel, was launched in December 2024.

Creative Carlow's Holy Wells – Life Springs Eternal

The Heritage Office secured funding under Creative Ireland to undertake a pilot project on the Holy Wells in County Carlow titled Creative Carlow's Holy Wells – Life Springs Eternal. The funding enabled the formation of a project team, consisting of a researcher, counsellor and videographer to do a study of the heritage of six selected Holy Wells in County Carlow and to engage with an inter-generational audience about the significance, meaning and well-being associated with the Holy Wells. The project amalgamated poetry produced about the experience of the project into a short video for general circulation. Presentations were delivered at the PPN Network Expo and the Age Friendly Carlow Expo in the latter part of 2024, which afforded the project team an opportunity to do short video recordings of people who had engaged with Holy Wells up to the present day. The project was well received and the intention is to expand the project in future years.



Motor Tax

Carlow County Council's Motor Tax Department delivers a high standard of service.

The public office is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 12.30pm and the online service is available 24/7 - 365 days per year at www.motortax.ie. and accounts for circa 80% of all transactions.

In 2024 18,856 transactions were processed in the Motor Tax public office to a value of € 2.99 million. In addition, 75,638 transactions were processed online to a value of €10.24 million. Total 94,494 transactions to a value of € 13.23 million.



Appendices





Appendix 1

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) at 31st December 2024

	€	€
	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	1,142,113,240	1,118,262,756
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	7,473,106	5,823,915
Long Term Debtors	63,219,422	60,552,334
Current Assets		
Stocks	0	0
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	16,197,077	9,305,234
Bank Investments	53,600,014	59,550,052
Cash at Bank	2,543,428	296,146
Cash in Transit	65,245	150,283
Total Current Assets	72,405,765	69,301,714
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft	0	0
Creditors & Accruals	16,811,256	16,896,772
Finance Leases	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	16,811,256	16,896,772
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	55,594,509	52,404,942
Creditors		
Loans Payable	31,976,383	32,023,634
Finance Leases	0	0
Refundable deposits	4,611,703	3,996,938
Other	24,030,106	21,229,834
Total Creditors	60,618,192	57,250,406
Net Assets	1,207,782,086	1,179,793,540
Financed by		
Capitalisation Account	1,142,113,240	1,118,262,756
Income WIP	5,041,209	4,137,568
General Revenue Reserve	997,435	949,612
Other Balances	59,630,202	56,443,605
Total Reserves	1,207,782,086	1,179,793,540

Appendix 2

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Income & Expenditure Account Statement) For year ended 31st December 2024

The income and expenditure account statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus (deficit) for the year.

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2024	Income 2024	Net Expenditure 2024	Net Expenditure 2023
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	20,006,140	23,996,303	-3,990,163	-4,119,337
Roads Transportation & Safety	14,505,042	9,323,115	5,181,927	4,602,409
Water Services	3,747,094	3,560,505	186,589	190,468
Development Management	14,032,016	9,306,023	4,725,993	4,077,382
Environmental Services	10,469,382	2,979,311	7,490,071	6,159,386
Recreation & Amenity	5,442,693	172,657	5,270,036	4,760,188
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	282,844	60,909	221,935	239,715
Miscellaneous Services	4,234,223	5,262,044	-1,027,821	-1,190,884
Total Expenditure/Income	72,719,434	54,660,867	18,058,567	14,719,328
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			18,058,567	14,719,328
Rates			15,767,962	15,730,993
Local Property Tax			9,114,381	6,322,843
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			6,823,776	7,334,508
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			-6,775,953	-7,244,951
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			47,823	89,557
General Reserve @ 1st January 2024			949,612	860,054
General Reserve @ 31st December 2024			997,435	949,612



Appendix 3

Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC) For year ended 31st December 2024

Introduction

I, Coilín O Reilly, Chief Executive (CE) of Carlow County Council am responsible for the Annual Financial Statement (AFS), prepared by the Director 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 Carlow County Council for the year ended **31 December 2024**, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority 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 Carlow County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Carlow County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

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

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

	Current Year	Previous Year	Variance
Goods & Services	14,967,136	16,315,240	-1,348,104
Grants & Subsidies	38,857,493	31,835,878	7,021,615
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	836,238	566,368	269,870
Rates	15,767,962	15,730,993	36,969
Local Property Tax	9,114,381	6,322,843	2,791,538
Total	79,543,210	70,771,322	8,771,888

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

	Current Year	Previous Year
Income	79,543,210	70,771,322
Expenditure	72,719,434	63,436,813
Transfers to Capital	6,775,953	7,244,951
Exceptional Item	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for	47,823	89,558
Prior Year Adjustment	-	-
Opening Revenue Reserve	949,612	860,054
Closing Revenue Reserve	997,435	949,612

Income in 2024 increased by € 8.78 m represented principally by increases of € 7.02 m in grants and subsidies and € 2.79 m in Local Property Tax offset by a decrease of € 1.35 m in goods & services (*Note: commercial rates income is shown gross. Write offs in respect of vacant premises are included in expenditure*)

Expenditure in 2024 amounted to € 72.72 m excluding transfers from/to reserves. The closing balance on the Income and Expenditure account at the 31st December 2024 was € 997,435 (*credit*) with a surplus of € 47,823 (*0.07% of expenditure*) recorded within the year.

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 Carlow County Council at the end of 2024 total **€ 1,208 m** and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year	Variance
Fixed Assets	1,142,113,240	1,118,262,756	23,850,484
Work in Progress	7,473,106	5,823,915	1,649,191
Long Term Debtors	63,219,422	60,552,334	2,667,088
Current Assets	72,405,765	69,301,714	3,104,051
Current Liabilities	16,811,256	16,896,772	-85,516
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	55,594,509	52,404,942	3,189,567
Creditors (> 1 year)	60,618,192	57,250,406	3,367,786
Net Assets / (Liabilities)	1,207,782,086	1,179,793,540	27,988,546

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 CE of Carlow County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Carlow County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Carlow 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 CE of Carlow 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 CE of Carlow 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

Carlow 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 CE, I can confirm that Carlow 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 Carlow 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 Carlow 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 Carlow County Council.

Risk and control framework

Carlow 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 register details 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 2025 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2025.

Signed by:

Colin O Reilly

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Dated:

9th April 2025

.....

Chief Executive



Appendix 4

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/Mayor 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.

Signed by:

Fengal Brawn.....

Cathaoirleach/ Mayor

Dated:

1st May 2025.....

Colin O Reilly.....

Chief Executive

1st May 2025.....



Appendix 5

Conferences/Seminars/Training Attended by Councillors in 2024

Training attended in 2024 by Carlow County Council Members

Training	Venue	Date	Delegates	Expend
LAMA Spring Training	Abbey Hotel, Donegal	19th & 20th January	4	€3,079.34
AILG – Module 1	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth	25th January 2024	1	383.84
AILG – Module 1	Greenhills Conference Hotel Limerick	27th January 2024	3	€1,088.61
AIR Annual Training	Woodland Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick	7th & 8th February 2024	3	€1,442.02
AILG – Module 2	Hodson Hotel, Athlon, Co. Roscommon	23rd March 2024	3	€1,262.82
AILG – Induction Training	Radisson Blu, Co. Cork	13th July 2024	3	€1,354.50
AILG Autumn Training	The Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Latlorcan, Co. Monaghan	11th & 12th September 2024	3	€2,369.32
AILG - Planning Training	The Horse & Jockey, Co. Tipperary	26th September 2024	1	271.39
LAMA Autumn Training	Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath	17th & 18th October 2024	4	€2,518.36
IPB Insurance Engagement Forum	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	4th October 2024	1	€260.23
AILG - Module 5	Radisson Blu, Limerick	2nd November 2024	3	€1,384.60
AILG – Module 6	Tower Hotel, Waterford	14th November 2024	1	€273.90
AILG – Module 6	Claregalway Hotel, Co. Galway	16th November 2024	2	€883.58

Conferences Attended in 2024 by Carlow County Council

Conference	Venue	Date	Delegates	Expend
AILG Annual Training Conference	Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	14th & 15th February 2024	5	€2,121.15
Celtic Conferences	McKevitts Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	23rd, 24th & 25th February 2024	4	€3,051.80
Celtic Conferences	O'Donovans Hotel, Co. Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1st, 2nd & 3rd March 2025	1	€830.46

Appendix 6

Elected Members Attendance at Meetings held in 2024

Councillor Name	Total Meetings Held	No. of Meetings Attended	%
Fergal Browne	40	40	100.00
John Cassin	28	25	89.29
Andrea Dalton	43	40	93.02
Michael Doran	35	35	100.00
Andrew Gladney	30	21	70.00
Thomas Kinsella	29	27	93.10
Arthur McDonald	13	12	92.31
John McDonald	14	14	100.00
Ken Murnane	27	27	100.00
Charlie Murphy	23	23	100.00
John Murphy	12	12	100.00
Brian O' Donoghue	30	27	90.00
Tom O' Neill	15	15	100.00
William Paton	28	22	78.57
John Pender	36	36	100.00
Fintan Phelan	28	28	100.00
William Quinn	29	24	82.76
Adrienne Wallace	32	28	87.50
Paul Doogue	15	13	86.67
Daniel Pender	15	15	100.00
Jim Deane	15	14	93.33
Ben Ward	15	13	86.67

Appendix 7

Protected Disclosures 2024

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report relative to Protected Disclosures received. Pursuant to this requirement, Carlow County Council hereby confirms that there were no protected disclosures received in 2024.

Appendix 8

Human Rights

In preparing the Plan the Council has been cognisant of cross cutting issues such as Social Inclusion, Equality, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Objectives, and Sustainable Development together with Quality Service and Community Leadership. The Council is also cognisant of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights duty as set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. This duty obliges the Council to have regard to the need to;

- A. Eliminate discrimination.
- B. Promote Equality of Opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services and
- C. Protect the Human Rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services Carlow County Council is committed in this Plan to supporting the Transforming Lives Programme in relation to people with disabilities to support participation in cultural, recreation, leisure and sporting activities and in fulfilling its role in ensuring that housing for people with disabilities is an integral part of mainstream housing efforts.

The Council's role in relation to migrants and new communities is reflected in the Corporate Plan and Carlow's Migrant Integration Strategy 2020



Appendix 9

Senior Management Team

Coilín O'Reilly	Chief Executive
Pat Delaney (retired April 2024)	Director of Finance
PJ Leonard (From April 2024)	
Michael Brennan	Director of Services: Community Development, Recreation, Amenity, Sports, Arts, Culture, Libraries, Museum & Heritage
Michael Rainey (up to October 2024)	Director of Services: Corporate Services, Human Resources, Planning, Regeneration, Health and Safety, Economic Development/LEO and Information Systems
Kieran Cullinane (Acting from October 2024)	
Fiona O'Neill	A/Director of Services: Housing & Integration
Padraig O'Gorman	Director of Services: Transportation, Environment and Climate Action, Capital Projects, Building Control & Emergency Services

Appendix 10

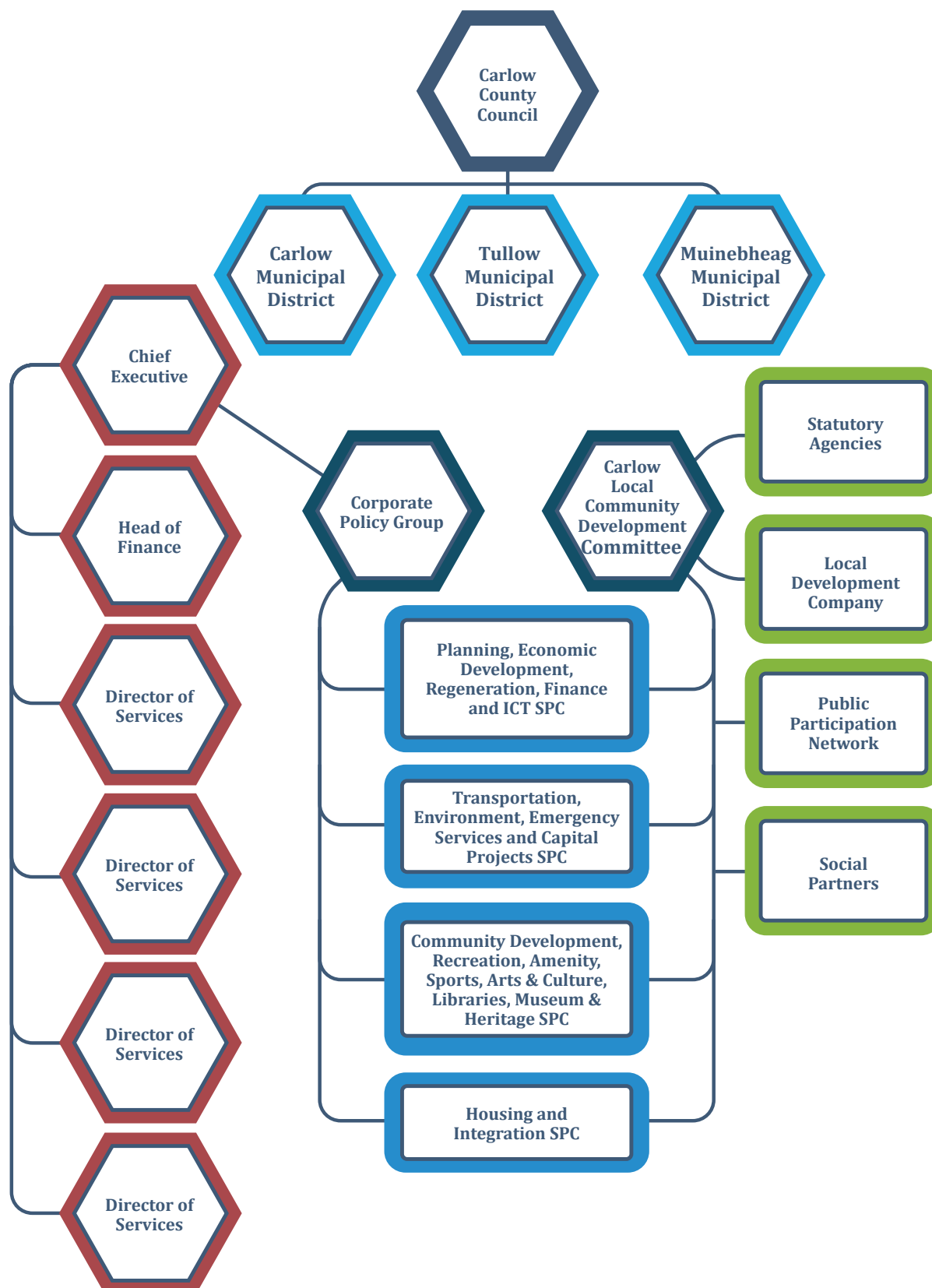
Local Operating Environment





Appendix 11

Organisational Structure



Appendix 12

Performance Indicators

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023 (Annual)

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	1932
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023 (whether constructed or acquired)	90
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	8
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	0
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	2014
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2023	0
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2023	0.94 %
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2023	19
	A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2023, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€521.19
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).	€1049671.31

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2023 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2023	18.37 wk
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2023, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2023	€17739.67
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2023 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	51

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	937 wk
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€904723
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2023	3190
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	219
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	97.06 %
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	30
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023	223

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2023	30.0 %
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2023 as recorded on the PASS system	40
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2023, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	12

Topic	Indicator	Value
Housing: H7 Approved	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	106
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	105
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	103
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	1473.8 MWh
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	422.4

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	96.80 %
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	98.38 %
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	98.98 %
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	95.41 %
	B. (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	0.08 %
	B. (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	4.37 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	B. (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	64.58 %
	B. (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	27.78 %
	B. (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	0.68 %
	B. (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	14.10 %
	B. (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	68.25 %
	B. (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	15.34 %
	B. (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	5.19 %
	B. (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	21.51 %
	B. (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	55.75 %
	B. (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	16.54 %
	B. (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	12.41 %
	B. (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	19.52 %
	B. (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	53.26 %
	B. (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	10.21 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A.1 Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023	4.3 km
	A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2023	€871899.00
	A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€31.71
	B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2023	9.7 km
	B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2023	€421419.00
	B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€6.54
	C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2023	26.3 km
	C.2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2023	€2984512.00
	C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m2)	€22.87

Topic	Indicator	Value
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2023	45.3 km
	D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2023	€1228327.00
	D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m2)	€6.74

Topic	Indicator	Value
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023	80.69 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	97.57 %
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100 %
	How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2023	52
	Total number of registered schemes in 2023	52

Topic	Indicator	Value
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2023	10639
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	98.89 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	662
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	647
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2023	32
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2022	17

Topic	Indicator	Value
Litter Pollution: E3 In Progress	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was unpolluted or litter free	41 %
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was slightly polluted	59 %
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was moderately polluted	0 %
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was significantly polluted	0 %
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was grossly polluted	0 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023	38.18 %
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023	2
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2023	10
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2022 and therefore do not require renewal until 2024	9

Topic	Indicator	Value
Energy Efficiency: E5 In Progress	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)	-41.20 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	2355.21 MWh
	B. Average wattage of each public light	86.93 W
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	42.98 %
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	2807
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	3724

Topic	Indicator	Value
Climate Change: E7 Approved	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	No
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?	Yes

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	22.39 %
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 by a builder or developer on the local authority	201
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2023 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2023 undertaken by the local authority	45

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023	15
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	86.67 %
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	13
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated	94
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023	122
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	60.66 %
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	5.74 %
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	33.61 %
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023	280
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	74
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	7
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	41

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€39.62
	AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2023	€2455348

Topic	Indicator	Value
Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	74.14 %
	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	25.86 %
	The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	58
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	43
	The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	15

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€46.71
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2023	€2894553.55

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	N/A - There are no full time stations in Carlow County Council's Functional Area
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	6.37 min

Topic	Indicator	Value
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	N/A - There are no full time stations in Carlow County Council's Functional Area
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	6.43 min
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	42.70 %
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	40.21 %
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	17.08 %
	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	45.58 %
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	43.81 %
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	10.62 %
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	281
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	120
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	113
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	48
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	226
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	103
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	99
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	24

Topic	Indicator	Value
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	2.59
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	121429
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.16
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	9756
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per automatic counters if used	160750

Topic	Indicator	Value
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€33.26
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	€1.65
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2023	€2060856
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€102130

Topic	Indicator	Value
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg scheme	90.91 %
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2023	11
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2023	10
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	1.47
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2023	340
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2023	17
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	5

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2023	325.01
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	4.72 %
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	0.27 %
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	3532.89 day
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	195.93 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2023	0 day
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2023	51.38 day
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	There are 4 no. staff on long term sick leave
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023, divided by the WTE no.	€5403.67
	Total ICT expenditure in 2023	€1756245.42
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2.77
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 before transfers to or from reserves	63436814

Topic	Indicator	Value
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	7.19
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	1.18
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	445331
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2023, were following the local authority on any social media sites	72851
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	37
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	No change

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€744827
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€772516
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€818701
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€860054
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€949612
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	1.34 %
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023	€1023.70
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure	
	The 2023 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€70771322
	The 2023 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€63436814
	The 2023 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services and is only applicable to Dublin City, Laois and Limerick	
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	86.0 %
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	94.0 %
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	95.0 %
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	82.0 %
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	96.0 %
	B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	94.0 %
	C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %
	C. b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	95.0 %
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	94.0 %
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	88.0 %
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	92.0 %
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	97.0 %

Topic	Indicator	Value
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	87 %
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	94 %
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	97 %
	E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2023	
	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023	€9.63
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2023	19
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2023	19
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€558708.93
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2023	€38100
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2023	1
	Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2023	0
	Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€0
	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	13.65 %
	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	34.11 %
	Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€8656982
	Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2023 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€21636403

Topic	Indicator	Value
Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	1.61
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	1.0
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	50.03
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	24.21
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023	31
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023	15
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	398.59
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	247
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	No
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population	€171.85
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023	€10648972





COMHAIRLE CONTAE
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