

**Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Chair:** Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

**Present:** Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, P. Conlon, S. Conlon, Flynn, Gibbons, Gilliland, Johnston, Keelan, McAree, McCooey, P. Treanor, S. Treanor and Truell.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Ms. C O’Hare, Ms. P. Monahan, Ms. O. McConnon, Directors of Services, Mr. N. O’Connor, A/Director of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. McMahan, Staff Officer.

**MS Teams:** Cllr Clerkin

**Apologies:** Cllr Coyle

**Sympathy – Dr. Rory O’Hanlon and Mr. John Keenan, RIP:**

At the outset the Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ O’Hanlon paid tribute to Former Fianna Fáil TD and Minister for Health, Dr. Rory O’Hanlon and former Councillor, Mr. John Keenan on their sad passing – He extended the sympathy of the Council and sincere condolences to their families.

The members joined in paying tribute to Former Fianna Fáil TD and Minister for Health, Dr. Rory O’Hanlon and former Councillor, Mr. John Keenan and associated themselves with the expression of sympathy.

The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting for a short period as a mark of respect.

**Urgent Business**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had received the following Notice of Urgent Business as follows:

**1. On behalf of the Sinn Féin group:**

*‘That this Council expresses serious concern at the approach taken by Government to the recent fuel protests, which arose from genuine and widespread concerns about the cost of living and the rising cost of doing business.*

*This Council condemns the aggressive and inflammatory language used by members of Government, which served only to heighten tensions, and further condemns the failure and refusal of Government to engage in a constructive and meaningful manner with those involved.*

*That this Council, in light of the above, has no confidence in the current Government’s willingness or ability to adequately support workers, families and businesses during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.’*

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, it was agreed to enter ‘into committee’ to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.*

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motions of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.*

**1. Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting held on 02 March 2026**

Cllr P. Treanor noted a correction under Item 7 of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 to reflect his request that further opportunities for use of the Irish Language in general be explored.

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, as amended, be confirmed.*

**2. To consider the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for housing at old Castleblayney Fire Station site.**

Mr. T. Gourley, Senior Executive Planner, referred to the Part VIII report which had been circulated in respect of the proposed development of housing at the old Castleblayney Fire Station site, Co. Monaghan. The development comprises of the demolition of the existing fire station, salt store and outbuilding, change the use of the site to construct a housing development consisting of three new terraces and the refurbishment of the existing protected structures on site, providing 22 no. dwelling units in total. He provided members with a brief overview of the five third-party submissions/ observations which were received during the public consultation period and have been addressed in the report circulated. Mr. Gourley recommended that members proceed with the proposal.

Mr. Gourley and Mr. L. MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing, responded to queries from the elected members.

*On the proposal Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr A. Campbell, it was agreed to approve the development of housing at the old Castleblayney Fire Station site, Co. Monaghan, as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report prepared in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*

Following a short debate on the proposal, a vote by show of hands was taken which resulted in, 16 For, 1 Against.

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal carried.

**3. To consider Section 183 - Sale of Property of Assembly Rooms, Dawson Street, Monaghan**

Mr. K. McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, outlined the S183 circulated for the proposed disposal of Assembly Rooms, Dawson Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan– site area 0.095 Hectares to Ward Funeral Services Ltd.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr A. Johnston, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of Assembly Rooms, Dawson Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**4. To consider Section 183 - Sale of Property at Church Street, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan**

In accordance with the Ethics Framework, Cllr A. Johnston declared a possible conflict of interest in relation to this item and withdrew from the meeting room whilst the matter was being dealt with.

Mr. K. McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, outlined the S183 circulated for the proposed disposal of property at Church Street, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan – site area 0.0047 Hectares.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Gibbons, seconded by Cllr A. Campbell, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of property at Church Street, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**5. To consider Section 183 - Sale of Property at No. 4/5 Mill Street, Monaghan**

Mr. K. McNally, Town Regeneration Officer, outlined the S183 circulated for the proposed disposal of property at 4/5 Mill Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan – site area 0.031 Hectares.

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the disposal of property at 4/5 Mill Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and attached site location map in accordance with S183 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

**6. To consider a Resolution to borrow up to €1.4m for the construction of a Monaghan County Council Depot at Teehill, Clones, in the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District.**

Ms. O. McConnon, Director of Services, advised the members that in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001, approval is being sought from the members to borrow up to €1.4m for the Construction of a Monaghan County Council Depot at Teehill, Clones, Co. Monaghan.

Ms. J. McKenna, Financial Management Accountant stated that with members agreement, a 30-year fixed-rate loan would be sought from the Housing Finance Agency with an Annual Repayment of €73,871.63.

*On the proposal of Cllr S. Gilliland, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Council approves the resolution to borrow €1.4m for the Construction of a Monaghan County Council Depot at Teehill, Clones, Co. Monaghan, in accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001.*

*In response to queries raised by Members in relation to funding of the 30-year annual loan repayment, the total repayment amount and a priority list for countywide construction projects, it was agreed that an update would be provided to the members at the next Council meeting.*

## **7. To consider Monaghan Co Council Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031**

Ms. P. McCreesh, Biodiversity Officer, provided members with a presentation on the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031. Key points to note were:

- The Plan sets out a roadmap for protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity across County Monaghan over the next five years, up to 2031.
- The need for a Plan stems from the Dáil declaring both a Global Biodiversity and Climate Emergency in May 2019. In 2023, there was an amendment made to the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) which placed a biodiversity duty on public bodies for the first time. This meant that public bodies must take account of the actions and objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- At the outset of the Biodiversity Action Plan process, in July 2024, various relevant parties were invited to join the Monaghan Biodiversity Working Group (BWG), which includes representatives from the farming sector, state agencies, community groups, county recorders, NGO's, PPN members and biodiversity specialists. The first task of the newly formed group was the preparation of the Biodiversity Action Plan, and four Biodiversity Working Group meetings have been held to assist with this development, and to discuss the groups ambition for biodiversity in County Monaghan.
- The 50 Actions set out in the Plan will be achieved through mechanism of community collaboration and sustainable management.
- The Plan aligns strongly with national plans, policies, the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031.
- The role of the Plan is to provide a clear and consistent roadmap for how the Council will manage biodiversity across the County. It helps to set priorities so that efforts are focused where needed most, it ensures that biodiversity is built into the Council's day-to-day work and makes it easier for the Council to engage with national and external funding opportunities.

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Truell, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that the Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031, as presented, be approved.*

The members acknowledged the volume of work involved in the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 and conveyed their gratitude to Ms. McCreesh and all involved for their input.

## **8. To receive a progress report on Climate Action Plan 2024-2029**

Mr. M. Coyle, Climate Action Coordinator joined the meeting to provide members with the 2nd update on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and progress to date. He referred to the following 3 'headline' targets within the plan and how the Council plays a key leadership role in the delivery of climate action:

- Transition to a Climate Resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, climate neutral economy by 2050.
- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030

Mr. Coyle gave a brief overview of the progress to date in relation to the implementation of the 153 Actions from within the Plan; 93 from within the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029; and 60 from the Monaghan Town Decarbonisation Plan. Key points to note were:

- Two thirds of all actions have been completed. Many of the completed actions are recurring and have been embedded into the Council's day-to-day operations.
- There has been a significant reduction in actions not started.
- The Council wide Climate Action Team, which is led by the Chief Executive, continues to meet quarterly with representation from each section taking the lead on actions for their respective areas.
- In terms of Energy Efficiency, our position is strong overall. A minor decline in the past year highlights the need for continued monitoring and increased Solar PV projects to improve efficiency of council owned buildings.
- Fossil fuel emissions exceed baseline estimates. Progressing pathfinder projects, particularly decarbonising the heating in Monaghan Leisure Centre will be essential to achieving targets.
- While fleet emissions remain high, they are expected to decline in the next energy report, with 61% of HGVs now operating on HVO. Additional EVs were introduced in 2025, and together these measures are expected to positively influence the 2025 energy report.
- To adapt to the climate impacts that we are already facing, particularly flooding and severe weather, key actions include; embedding climate risk into the Major Emergency Plan & Flood Plan.
- Significant progress has been made across all Municipal Districts in terms of drainage and road maintenance directly reducing surface water/flooding risks.
- Nature based solutions have been embedded in planning policy to ensure that new developments are more resilient by design.
- By the end of 2025, 55% of social homes across the county had achieved a BER rating of B2 or higher, rising to 59% within the Decarbonisation Zone.
- Key Active Travel projects - Monaghan Town Greenway and Horseshoe Pedestrian Bridge that were completed in 2025, contribute to improving public health, connectivity and reducing car dependency.
- Biodiversity is a core part of climate adaptation response. The biodiversity team led a strong programme of community outreach with high levels of engagement through the development of the Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031.
- The Local Enterprise Office have been active in supporting local businesses to reduce emissions and there was a very strong demand for the Green Business Grants and Supports. Over 60 local businesses attended a Decarbonization Event in the Peace Campus as part of Enterprise Week, demonstrating strong interest in climate action among the business community.
- The Monaghan County Council Climate Action Unit, in partnership with Cavan and Leitrim Local Authorities are leading on the District Heating project. 100% funding was secured through the SEAI Pathfinder Programme for the feasibility stage. Following identification of two high-potential district heating opportunities, Monaghan County Council submitted an EOI to SEAI's District Heating Pre-Construction Fund.
- There were over 1600 participants at events raised as part of Climate Action Week 2025 which took place from 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- As part of Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme, 16 Community Groups are being supported to deliver Climate Action projects to the value of €789,880. 37 applications were received as part of Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme demonstrating demand of more than 3 times the available funding (€1,379,124 requested €392,000 allocation). 18 groups were recommended for funding to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

**9. To approve Monaghan County Council's Annual Report 2025**

The members considered the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2025 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Ms M. McGarvey, A/Senior Executive Officer, outlined the main elements of the Draft Annual Report for 2025. The comprehensive report, which had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001, provides an overview of the activities and progress made by each of the Directorates within Monaghan County Council during 2025. Ms. McGarvey thanked Ms. M. McBride, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services and the Executive for their cooperation and assistance in the preparation of the Annual Report 2025.

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, it was agreed to adopt the Draft Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2025 as presented.*

**10. To receive Local Government Auditors Report for year ended 31 December 2024**

Members noted the Local Government Auditors Report for year ended 31 December 2024, which had been circulated to the members.

**11. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026, which had been circulated.

*On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.*

In response to a query raised by Cllr. N. Keelan, the Chief Executive, advised that if members wish to meet with Oireachtas Members on an annual basis this could be facilitated. He noted that the statutory requirement places an obligation on the Council Executive to meet with the Oireachtas Members on an annual basis.

**12. To receive Management Report – March**

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for March 2026 which had been circulated with the agenda. He advised the members that he had received confirmation of funding support of €950k from the Department to support the Roads Maintenance Strategy.

The Chief Executive provided the following update in relation to the Affordable Purchase Scheme at Sean Ghairdíní, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan which includes 4 two-bedroom homes and 6 three-bedroom homes:

- 35 applications were received via the Portal.
- House sales will commence later this month and into May with starting prices from €240k.
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The Chief Executive concluded by referring to the Affordable Housing Survey which aims to assess the level of demand for future Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental schemes in County Monaghan. He advised the members that over 150 responses have been received to date and the survey remains open until 5pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

The members noted the Management Report for March which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Truell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that this Council reviews the current status and potential use of the civic building in Ballybay. This building was originally intended to accommodate Ukrainian refugees, however, to date, it appears unused. Given the ongoing need for community facilities, consideration should be given to repurposing the building for public use for the benefit of the local community in Ballybay. The building would serve as a valuable space for meetings, community events and other local initiatives. If Departmental approval is required to repurpose the building, then this should be sought and an update provided to members on the building's future use.*

*On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., seeking a further allocation of funding to enable this Council to reopen the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.*

**13. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events**

The members noted the reports from Cllrs S. Conlon and Coyle, in relation to their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- AILG Elected Members Training Module 1 – Fairways Hotel, Dundalk – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- AILG Elected Members Training Module 2 – Raddison Blu, Sligo – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026
- LAMA Spring Seminar – Connacht Hotel, Galway – 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**14. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive**

There were no matters for consideration under this item.

**15. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

**16. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes**

No further update on the N2 National Primary Road.

**17. To receive update on North South Interconnector project**

In response to Cllr N. Keelan's query regarding the minutes of the recent meeting between the Executive and representatives from Eirgrid/ESB, the Chief Executive stated that draft meeting notes had recently been circulated to all attendees for their agreement.

**18. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project**

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

## **19. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Response from the Office of the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Mr. John Cummins, T.D., regarding funding for an Access Officer.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding thresholds for social housing.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding funding for Active Travel.
- Response from the IHA Manager Cavan/Monaghan, HSE regarding Rainbow Lodge.
- Letter from Monaghan Older Persons Council requesting Council support regarding Access to Bus Éireann services for non-digital service users.
- Correspondence from Senator Robbie Gallagher forwarding the response he received from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Martin Heydon, T.D., regarding Bord Bia.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Mr. Peter Burke, T.D., regarding a request to re-introduce the ICOB Grant for all SMEs for the calendar year 2026 and beyond.
- Acknowledgement email from the office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Martin Heydon T.D., regarding the roll-out of an Economic Compensation Scheme to protect poultry farmers' income when they are impacted by Avian Influenza outbreaks.
- Acknowledgement email from the from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding funding for regional and local roads.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Dara Calleary, T.D., regarding increasing the provision of Irish-medium education.
- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to Minister for Education and Youth, Ms. Hildegarde Naughton, T.D., regarding increasing the provision of Irish-medium education.
- Acknowledgement email from Uisce Éireann regarding Taking In Charge applications.

### **Additional Correspondence:**

The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued was also circulated:

- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding additional funding for roads following severe weather events.
- Response Senator Robbie Gallagher received from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding the request for additional funding for local and regional roads.

### **Proposals arising out of correspondence:**

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Flynn, it was agreed that this Council, forwards the correspondence received from Monaghan Older Persons Council, to the Chief Executive Officer of Bus Éireann and also to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., in order to address the issues raised and request that a response be issued to the Council.*

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that this Council, write to Minister Norma Foley, T.D., requesting that she engages directly with Errigal Truagh Special Needs with regards to her recent request whereby she asked people locally to communicate the availability of respite or where they think there might be opportunities to do so.*

*On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council, write to Minister Normal Foley and the HSE requesting that Rainbow Lodge remains open and operational alongside the new unit at Urbalkirk when it opens.*

## **20. Notices of Motion**

### **1. Cllr P. Treanor proposed, Cllr N. McCooey seconded:**

*‘That this Council recognises that the reunification of Ireland is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; and there is a growing national discussion around constitutional change with people from diverse backgrounds now exploring the possibility of Irish unity.*

*This Council notes that the Good Friday Agreement 1998 provides the democratic and peaceful means to achieve reunification through the provision of unity referendums; — the significant Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement report "Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics", recommends the establishment of Citizen Assemblies and other relevant forums, a designated Joint Oireachtas Committee and a Government Department to take responsibility for planning and preparing for constitutional change, received cross-party support.*

*This Council writes to the Office of An Taoiseach, seeking the Irish Government to plan and prepare for Irish unity, through the following actions:*

- *establish an all-island representative Citizens' Assembly or Assemblies, to allow for informed debate, and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity to enable careful planning;*
- *produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders;*
- *engage with northern protestant and unionist opinion about the future of Ireland; and*
- *work to secure a date for the referendums on unity provided for in the Good Friday Agreement’.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the members, and it was agreed unanimously.

### **2. Cllr A. Johnston proposed, Cllr S. Gilliland seconded:**

*‘That this Council write to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., requesting that the Government introduce cost of living and cost of business supports due to the impact of the Iran war on energy prices. Such supports should be targeted at those individuals and business/community/sports entities and sectors that are most affected and should be introduced in advance of the budget’.*

Cllr A. Johnston requested that his motion (20.2) be deferred.

### 3. Cllr A Johnston proposed, Cllr S. Gilliland seconded:

*‘That this Council write to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O’Brien, TD requesting that the Government review the current electricity pricing structure to eliminate the market clearing price so that cheaper energy producers can pass on cheaper prices to their customers.*

*Currently energy prices in Ireland are based on the most expensive source required to meet demand. Given that Ireland relies heavily on natural gas for energy production, wholesale electricity prices strongly track global gas market fluctuations. This results in customers of cheaper produced energy such as renewables paying a disproportionately high electricity price compared to its production costs. Natural gas accounted for 40% of energy production and customers are subjected to price distortions based on geopolitical factors.’*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the members, and it was agreed unanimously.

## 21. Questions and Replies

**Cllr. R. Aughey asked:**

1. Why is the Department of Heritage making us spend more money on houses that are in poor repair in Clones and Monaghan, that could be used to deliver many units for our housing lists rather than trying to save buildings that are unsafe and unsightly, and if other people own them, we could issue them derelict sites notices and a levy?

**Reply:** Conserving existing historic buildings sustains the established urban grain and character that make town centres legible and attractive for residents, businesses and visitors, which is a stated aim of Monaghan’s regeneration agenda. Planning and heritage policies require proposals that respect original fabric and streetscape. By maintaining authentic facades and plot patterns while accommodating contemporary use behind them, projects can add homes and services without erasing the architectural language that gives a street its identity.

Heritage-led approaches also support place-based economies: Monaghan’s tourism materials explicitly anchor interpretation and walking routes in historic streets and monuments, demonstrating how intact townscapes underpin cultural value and footfall. Public-realm proposals linked to regeneration—wider pavements, improved cycling and pedestrian connections, new civic spaces—work best when framed by conserved buildings that provide enclosure, continuity and a recognisable sense of place.

From a delivery perspective, sensitive rehabilitation reduces planning risk in heritage contexts where demolition can trigger statutory objections and more intensive assessment; conversely, proposals that retain significance while introducing appropriate new-build to the rear have been advanced as pragmatic, policy-aligned solutions in Monaghan. This model, where we restore the front and add capacity behind, meets housing need while safeguarding streetscape significance, and reflects the balance that national guidance expects between development and conservation.

Conservation aligns with the broader public interest embedded in local policy: it protects designated assets recorded in the Record of Protected Structures, keeps town-centre living viable by reusing well-located buildings, and complements strategic regeneration that prioritises active travel, high-quality public space and sustainable servicing. Rather than starting over, working with what is already there respects statutory protections, secures community support rooted in identity and memory, and delivers new homes and amenities in a way that strengthens, rather than weakens, the character that makes the urban cores of Monaghan and Clones distinctive.

Considering the two houses at Old Cross Square in Monaghan town for example:

Following consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage we procured a new design team that includes a conservation architect. The new design team recommends that the two houses be made into one house plus five new apartments to be constructed to the rear following demolition of the building behind the original two houses, please see initial concept sketches below.

This proposal aims to achieve the requirements of the Department while also delivering 6 dwellings (one house and 5 apartments). The conservation / heritage aspect of the development will only apply to the house, the apartments will be new build... achieving a good blend of conservation and new build while preserving the historic and important urban fabric of Old Cross Square.



**Cllr. B. McAree asked:**

**2. Playground – Emyvale**

What funding streams, if any, are currently available to upgrade or refurbish the existing playground facilities in Emyvale, and whether the Council has any plans to seek such funding in the current or upcoming capital programme?

**Reply:** Regarding funding opportunities to upgrade or refurbish the existing playground facilities in Emyvale, an application for €22,000 has been submitted to the Department of Children, Disability and Equality for the development of a Teen Hangout space at Cois Locha playground. If the application is successful, the project will be requesting an additional €14,000 in match funding from the MD. Further refurbishment works, if required, may also be eligible for support under the CLÁR Programme.

**3. Proposed Play Park – Tydavnet**

Has the Council considered the development of a new public play park in Tydavnet, and whether any feasibility studies, site assessments, or funding applications are planned or underway?

**Reply:** At present, no site has been identified for the development of a public play park in Tydavnet. Without an identified site, the Council is unable to progress to the next stages such as feasibility studies, detailed site assessments or planning/landowner permissions. Before any funding application can be submitted, all necessary permissions and approvals must be in place, including confirmation of site availability, suitability, and planning.

Once a suitable site is identified and the required permissions are in place, there would be potential to explore funding opportunities under DRCDG programmes. Depending on the overall scale and cost of the project, funding could be sought under the following schemes:

**CLÁR Programme – funding of up to €100,000 available**

**Town & Village Renewal Scheme – funding up to €500,000 available for large strategic projects or funding up to €300,000 for smaller scale projects, depending on the scope and cost of the proposal.**

**4. Traffic Calming – Mullan Road, Emyvale**

What measures, if any, are planned to address traffic speed and safety concerns on the Mullan Road in Emyvale, including the potential for traffic calming interventions, further signage, or speed monitoring? **Reply:** The most recent speed survey completed at Mullan Road Emyvale showed a marginal exceedance of the speed limit. Since this speed survey, Monaghan Municipal District introduced additional road markings to include edge lines, a centre line, and SLOW painted on road in line with the adopted Traffic Calming Policy. The road was resurfaced in Q4 2025, and as part of these works these measures have been reinstated. Monaghan Municipal District will monitor this road by carrying out speed surveys now that the 6-month period will have passed since the road was resurfaced and the re-introduction of the previous measures in line with the adopted Traffic Calming Policy.

**5. Vacant Social Housing – County Monaghan**

How many social housing units are currently vacant across County Monaghan, the reasons for these vacancies, and the expected timeframe for their allocation to applicants on the housing list?

**Reply:**

There are currently 10 vacant social housing units in Monaghan County Council, with re-letting works in progress. See the tables below for details.

| MUNICIPAL DISTRICT              | VACANCY REASON      | EXPECTED PROPERTY OCCUPATION |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Ballybay-Clones MD              | Tenant transferred  | May 2026                     |
| Ballybay-Clones MD              | Tenancy surrendered | May 2026                     |
| Ballybay-Clones MD              | Recently acquired   | May 2026                     |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | Tenancy surrendered | May 2026                     |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | Tenancy surrendered | April 2026                   |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | Tenancy surrendered | April 2026                   |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | Tenancy surrendered | May 2026                     |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | Tenant passed away  | May 2026                     |
| Monaghan MD                     | Tenant transferred  | April 2026                   |
| Monaghan MD                     | Tenant passed away  | May 2026                     |

| MUNICIPAL DISTRICT              | NO        |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Ballybay-Clones MD              | 3         |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD | 5         |
| Monaghan MD                     | 2         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>10</b> |

**Clr C. Carthy asked:**

- When is it expected the design team for the Carrickmacross Swimming Pool Project will be selected and what timescale is envisaged for them to bring design proposals to the Council?

**Reply: Stage 1 tender documentation for the appointment of Design Consultants was advertised on the eTenders platform on February 10<sup>th</sup>. A total of eight tender submissions were received by the closing date of March 19<sup>th</sup>. The evaluation process in relation to suitability assessment and prequalification of tendering candidates under Stage 1 is currently ongoing. It is expected that Stage 2 of the procurement process will be advertised in early May.**

- Has there been any further updates in relation to the Clos na Droimainne unfinished estate in Carrickmacross? What plans are in place to get something done to complete the development or, if delays are going to continue indefinitely, what can we do to force ownership change?

**Reply: For the purposes of addressing the issues associated with the Clos na Droimainne unfinished estate in Carrickmacross, under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended), it has been divided into 4 sections. On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025, each of these sections were entered onto the Derelict Sites Register. Properties entered onto the Derelict Sites Register, are liable for the Derelict Sites levy of 7% of the market valuation. The demand for the Derelict Sites levies due in respect of this site, €216,650, were issued in February 2026. The Housing Agency received a Repair and Lease proposal from the current owner of Clos na Droimainne. Unfortunately, the derelict apartment block is not suitable for Repair and Lease as the proposal would require some demolition before the 14 apartments could be brought into use. The Repair and Lease proposal to bring the 12 unfinished houses into use was considered in detail by the Housing Agency, North and East Housing Association (NEHA) and Monaghan County Council. Unfortunately, the Repair and Lease proposal is not financially viable for either NEHA or Monaghan County Council so there is no possibility of bringing the dwellings into use under the current Repair and Lease scheme. The Council will continue to liaise with the owner of the property to seek payment of the outstanding Derelict Sites levies and ensure that they identify a solution to bring the property back into use.**

- Following the recent announcement of the 2026 allocation of LIS funding, how many roads does the Executive envisage completing this year? And how many laneways remain on the list to be completed?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has received an initial funding allocation of €385,880 for the Local Improvement Scheme in 2026. It is estimated that this allocation will complete 9 lanes, subject to tender rates. Tenders have been uploaded to SupplyGov with a closing date of the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. There are 155 eligible lanes applications on the current list. There are other applications that further information was requested, and this information is still being received.**

- Considering that all 41 houses in Ard na Radhairc, Carrickmacross, are owned by Monaghan County Council, has the developer engaged with the council to begin the process of Taking in Charge the estate?

**Reply: To date, the Local Authority has not received a written request by the developer or residents to take in charge the services and structures of Ard na Radhairc, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.**

**Clr P Clerkin asked:**

- Are there plans to install a pedestrian crossing in Tydavnet Village?

**Reply: There are currently no plans to install a pedestrian crossing in Tydavnet Village. Prior to any plans to install a pedestrian crossing, a needs analysis would be required to identify pedestrian movements and desire lines. There are plans to complete a Community Plan for Tydavnet Village on or before 2028 at which time the needs of the village will be identified and there will be consultation sessions with the community.**

- Has Monaghan County Council considered installing new public lighting in Monaghan Town, like the new street lighting installed in Carrickmacross in recent times?

**Reply: There are currently no plans to install new street lighting in Monaghan Town. Monaghan Town recently has had new street lighting installed at St Marys Boys School Clones Rd, Upper Courthouse Car Park and Park Road. Any issues with defective street lighting should be reported using the Deadsure App.**

- When does Monaghan County Council plan to begin the consultation process to give the public the opportunity to have their say on the future use of Moyna's Field in Scotstown Village?

**Reply: The land in question in Scotstown village was purchased with the intention of providing social**

housing, parking and a small playground. Some is identified as being at risk of flooding in 100-year and 1000-year storm events. A design team has been procured to examine how best to develop the land. The proposed development will follow the usual statutory Part 8 planning process that applies to developments by Local Authorities.

**Clr S. Conlon asked:**

13. For the purpose of availing of the European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) Local Authority Decarbonisation Zone scheme, applicable to Monaghan Town, which includes measures aimed at flood mitigation works, are this Council engaging with the North West Regional Assembly in efforts at securing grant aid that provides an initial allocation of €2.5m for Local Authorities within the NWRA area?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council has engaged fully with the North-West Regional Assembly (NWRA) in relation to the Decarbonising Zones Scheme, which provides 100% grant funding for eligible local authority climate projects within designated Decarbonising Zones.**

**As part of this process, the Council has submitted two applications for Monaghan Town's Decarbonising Zone:**

**A Green Infrastructure Framework for the Monaghan Town DZ. This proposal will:**

- Strengthen connectivity between existing public green spaces, urban parks, and greenways, improving routes for active travel and biodiversity.
- Support climate mitigation and adaptation by identifying and prioritising nature-based solutions across the town.
- Provide a clear implementation roadmap to guide future investment and ensure strong alignment with ERDF, URDF, Active Travel and other national/regional funding streams.

**A SuDS Tree Pit & Urban Greening Upgrade within Peter's Lake Car Park. This project delivers:**

**Replacement of existing damaged tree pits with new Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) tree pits, improving stormwater interception and filtration.**

**Installation of additional tree pits in locations selected for maximum hydrological and ecological benefit.**

**Creation of two Rain Gardens, enhancing water retention, biodiversity, and flood-mitigation capacity.**

**Landscape and urban greening improvements at the lower end of Peter's Lake car park, revitalising the area and contributing to improved microclimate and public amenity.**

**Strong alignment with the Town Centre First (TCF) Plan for the Peter's Lake area and wider public-realm ambitions.**

**This project directly supports local flood-mitigation objectives while delivering high-visibility climate-adaptation benefits.**

14. With recent additional funding provided by Monaghan County Council that secured the future viability of BioConnect, has a timeframe been established for this Local Authority driven project to commence operations?

**Reply: The Bio-Connect Construction Project will reach substantial completion before the end of April. Operations will commence, shortly thereafter, following the inspection, design certification and assigned certified compliance under the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations (BCAR) process and handover.**

15. With the Industry, Enterprise, and Employment zoned lands at Annahagh West along the N2 bypass committed for purchase and development by identified businesses, which has substantially reduced the Council's land bank for this purpose, are the Executive actively pursuing lands for the purpose of establishing additional serviced sites that will attract investors to the Monaghan town area?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council are actively sourcing suitably zoned industrial land, not only in Monaghan Town, but across the county. Details of lands acquired, can only be made available following the execution of contracts.**

16. With the recent cuts by Government to this Council's roads budget, in particular the withdrawal of funding for the award winning Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement Programme, how have the Section 86 agreements, led by this Council with counties Cavan, Louth and Cork, evolved that will spread the budget impacts on advancing this innovative initiative, especially in regard to the purchase or leasing of specialised batch mixing and production machinery?

**Reply: The current Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement Programme (RAP) contract is in its final year in 2026, and the rates tendered under the original procurement process continue to be honoured for the full duration of that contract. The Section 86 agreements with Cavan, Louth and Cork continue to function effectively, and the collaborative framework remains in place. The RAP trial phase has now been completed, and a formal specification for this material is scheduled for publication later in 2026 by TII. As part of the Council's five-year pavement maintenance strategy, this material type has been incorporated to ensure continuity of the innovation developed to date.**

17. What level of engagement is occurring between the Council's Housing Section and the North-West Regional Assembly in relation to availing of the Warmer Home Scheme budget of €55 million, as well as the Social Housing Scheme with a budget of €34 million, both which provide for 100% funding?

**Reply: The Warmer Homes Scheme, funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and delivered nationally by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), provides free home energy upgrades to eligible low income households, including attic and wall insulation, draught proofing, lagging**

jackets, energy efficient lighting, and in some cases renewable heating systems and window replacements, with priority given to the oldest and least energy efficient homes particularly those with BER ratings of E, F, or G to improve warmth, comfort, and energy affordability. Monaghan County Council has no direct engagement with the Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) in relation to the scheme, as Warmer Homes is delivered directly to private homeowners by SEAI rather than through the local authority, and therefore falls outside the remit of the Monaghan County Council's Housing Section.

You can access and apply for the Warmer Homes Scheme directly through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) at the following link:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/fully-funded-upgrades-for-eligible-homes>

At present, Monaghan County Council's Housing Section is undertaking an internal review of the NWRA's €34m ERDF Social Housing Scheme and assessing potential Local Authority owned buildings that may be suitable for submission. Formal engagement with the NWRA will intensify once the competitive call for proposals opens in April 2026.

Cllr A. Johnston asked:

18. Are there any mechanisms where Monaghan County Council can develop and build affordable housing?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council are currently in the process of completing 10 Affordable Purchase units at Sean Ghairdíní. Monaghan County Council are proactively engaging the contractors and developer in relation to future proposals.

We have released a survey online to assess demand for all aspects of Affordable housing and Cost Rental in the county it will remain open until Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. We will present result of this survey in the next Management Report.

19. When is development of the Dublin Street South regeneration project expected to commence?

**Reply:** The Council are continuing to progress the initial phase (Phase 1) of the South Dublin Street regeneration scheme which is focused on the new pedestrian civic plaza off Dublin Street. The executive is currently finalising acquisitions of back-land properties required for the implementation of the Phase 1 scheme. Following completion of property acquisitions, it is expected that the Council will make a submission to the URDF Department under the next project stage approval (Pre-Tender Approval) as required under the Infrastructural Guidelines. Subject to URDF Department Approval, it is envisaged that Phase 1 may proceed to tender in Q3 2026.

Cllr P. Gibbons asked:

20. I understand the construction of the N2 Castleblayney bypass cut through a number of pre-existing roads and that these are still in the ownership of Monaghan County Council, and not eligible for repair under either the MD repair programmes or Local Improvement Scheme. The N2 bypass is approximately 20 years old and many of these roads are deteriorating badly. Can an overview be given on the number of such roads, a summary of their condition and any plans the Executive has to repair same.

**Reply:** There are 28 access lanes created as part of the N2 scheme. These are private lanes that are in the ownership of MCC. They are not public roads and as such do not appear on a road schedule. As they are not on our schedule there is no specific funding to carry out repair works. The executive in the roads department will discuss this item at our next monthly TII meeting and we will update the members accordingly.

21. Have the tenancies of Council tenants who are in Part V tenancies been examined from a legal perspective? I am referencing in particular to tenants who accepted tenancies in early Part V houses. I have been advised that they were not initially informed that these houses would not be able to be purchased but were after they had accepted tenancies and settled in their new homes.

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council sought legal advice regarding the tenants' request to purchase a property that had been allocated under a previous Tenant Purchase Scheme. Based on the legal guidance received, it has been confirmed that such a purchase is not permitted under the 1995, 2010, or 2016 Schemes, nor under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001. The tenants previously had the opportunity to purchase the dwelling under the schemes in place at the time of allocation; however, they did not avail of this option before the respective scheme expiry dates.

22. Can an overview be given on the plans and actions undertaken for the provision of affordable and cost rental housing by Monaghan County Council in Castleblayney?

**Reply:** As per response above (Q18), Monaghan County Council are proactively engaging the contractors and developer in relation to future proposals. We have released a survey online to assess demand for all aspects of Affordable housing and Cost Rental in the county it will remain open until Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. We will present result of this survey in the next Management Report.

23. Can the total staff number employed by Monaghan Council be provided along with the number of employees with a disability. In addition, can an overview of internal policy and legislative requirements be provided in relation to employing people with a disability.

**Reply:** No. of staff employed at 31/12/25 – 535(Headcount)

Number of staff with a Disability = 44 (Headcount)

Monaghan County Council – Disability Employment Policy and Legislative Requirements:  
Monaghan County Council

- Focus on accessibility, service/information, built environment, and external environment.

- Promote a culture of inclusion through awareness and staff training.
- Develop inclusive customer service and consultation policies.

- Appointment of an Access Officer

- Implementation of reasonable accommodation supported by national Work and Access programme.

Monaghan County Council is committed to fostering a culture of equality, including actively supporting the employment of people with disabilities. The Council's recruitment and selection processes fully comply with the Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015 and the Disability Act 2005, which prohibit discrimination on nine grounds, including disability.

1. Disability Act 2005 – Part 5

- Promote and support employment of people with disabilities.
- Public bodies must meet statutory disability employment targets (rising to 6% by 2025).
- Annual compliance reporting.

2. Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015

- Prohibit discrimination on grounds including disability.
- Require provision of reasonable accommodation.
- Support equal treatment in recruitment, promotion, and employment.

3. UN CRPD

- Support equal access to employment for people with disabilities.
- Ensure inclusive and accessible work environments.

4. Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty (2014)

- Obligates public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and protect human rights.
- Monaghan County Council participated as a national pilot for this duty.

24. Can the junction of L7870 and L4310 (Watters Crossroads, Annalitten) be assessed from a road safety perspective. These roads are quite narrow, and yield signs have been knocked consistently by lorries meaning it is not clear who must yield. Can the junction be assessed and an appropriate means of displaying same implemented (e.g. new location for signs and/or yield signs painted on road etc). This road is a main diversion route when the N2 is closed for repair or an accident with huge amounts of traffic on this route at these times.  
**Reply: The executive will assess the LP4310/LS7870/LS8310 junction (Watters Crossroads, Annalitten), with a view to optimising road signage and markings.**

**Cllr N. Keelan asked:**

25. In relation to the disability act 2005 and local authority obligations to employ a minimum of 6% persons with a disability, is Monaghan County Council meeting our obligations in this regard?

**Reply: Yes (8.2% employed with a disability at 31/12/25)**

26. What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed Inniskeen village and Community plan?

**Reply: Tenders for the preparation of the Inniskeen Community Vision and Spatial Land Use Plan have been received, and an assessment process will be completed shortly. It is anticipated that the successful consultant team will be appointed in April to commence the plan preparation.**

27. In relation to the huge increases in oil based products as a result of the conflict in the middle East, what, if any, is the impact on Monaghan County Council's ability to deliver the agreed road reconstruction and resurfacing programme for this year 2026?

**Reply: Monaghan County Council have tendered these works for the completion of the 2026 roads program as agreed with the members. These works are tendered under the Public Works Contracts which contain a Price Variation Clause, i.e. the Contract Sum/Price may be adjusted for fluctuations in the price of materials and fuel. These tenders are due back in early April, and following the tender valuation process, Monaghan County Council will be in a better position to know the effect of the current market prices on the Road programme.**

28. What was the outcome of the Inniskeen Fane Bridge trial and Survey? And what efforts are been made by Monaghan County Council to progress this proposed pedestrian and cycle bridge project in the Village?

**Reply: Outcome of the Inniskeen Fane Bridge Trial and Survey:**

**The temporary traffic trial and accompanying public survey at the Fane River Bridge were carried out to determine whether a signal-controlled shuttle system on the existing bridge could improve safety for people walking and cycling by reallocating road space. Monaghan County Council has reviewed the full technical report and all traffic survey data.**

**The trial demonstrated that, while the shuttle system was operationally feasible from an engineering and traffic-flow perspective, it generated significant negative feedback from the local community. Due to the scale of public dissatisfaction, the trial had to be ended earlier than planned. The results indicate that any future planning application for a permanent shuttle system at this location would be likely to attract similar levels of objection.**

**Efforts Being Made to Progress Pedestrian and Cycle Improvements in Inniskeen:**

**Monaghan County Council remains committed to identifying a long-term solution that supports safe walking and cycling in Inniskeen.**

The following work is ongoing:

**Integration with the new Inniskeen Village Plan:**

The Planning Department is currently preparing a comprehensive Village Plan for Inniskeen, which will include objectives and policies to guide future transport and mobility improvements.

**Continued liaison with the NTA.** The Active Travel team continues to engage with the NTA regarding future funding opportunities and to ensure that any proposals emerging from the Village Plan align with national guidance and investment priorities. **Review of all feasible options.** While the recent trial did not receive community support, MCC will continue to assess alternative design options for improving safety and connectivity for people walking and cycling, including the potential for a separate pedestrian and cycle bridge should it become viable and supported through the planning process.

29. In relation to the local Lane Improvement Scheme (LIS): What is the up to-date position regarding eligible lanes, What funding is currently available, When is it hoped to commence resurfacing works, How many lanes do we hope to resurface this year 2026?

**Reply:** There are 155 eligible lanes applications on the current list. There are other applications that further information was requested, and this information is still being received.

Monaghan County Council has received an initial funding allocation of €385,880 for the Local Improvement Scheme in 2026. It is estimated that this allocation will complete 9 lanes, subject to tender rates. Tenders have been uploaded to SupplyGov with a closing date of the 13th of April.

When the lane beneficiaries have their preparation works complete and their local contribution paid the Council can commence the works. The contractor will be available for resurfacing works from mid to late Q2, 2026.

**Clr A. Campbell asked:**

30. What is the update on an Affordable Purchase Housing Scheme for Castleblayney?

**Reply:** See reply to Q 22.

31. When it is envisaged that the options strategy under the Masterplan of Muckno will be finalised and when will this go public consultation?

**Reply:** The consultant team are progressing refinements to the 'Emerging Options' report following feedback from the Municipal District members. It is expected that the consultant team will revert to the Municipal District members in April, with public consultation to follow.

32. What is the update on the Market House in Castleblayney?

**Reply:** Monaghan County Council's submission under Decision Gate 3 (DG3), Approval to Proceed, remains under consideration by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG). The Executive is continuing to engage with the Department on the matter, however the Department have not confirmed a timeline for a decision on the DG3 submission. The commencement of construction works is contingent on DRCDG approval to proceed to contract award.

33. What is the latest update on the Data Cleansing for the Register of Electors?

**Reply:** Following the June 2025 letter campaign to nearly 7,000 electors missing a date of birth or Eircode on the register, Monaghan County Council issued two more formal letters to these electors (in December 2025 – 4100 letters and January – 3400 letters).

Where electors have not engaged with us, despite receipt of three official letters, it is assumed that they no longer reside at the address in which they are registered and therefore no longer meet the eligibility criteria to remain on the Register. Consequently, Monaghan County Council, as the registration authority, in accordance with Part 3, Section 106 (10) of the Electoral Reform Act 2022, will remove these names from the Register of Electors. There are approximately 2,380 electors scheduled to be removed in accordance with the legislation.

A list of electors scheduled for removal has been posted out to each Elected Member on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Elected Members are encouraged to contact any eligible constituents whose names they recognise and assist them in completing a form or online application or advise these constituents to make contact with the Council as soon as possible to ensure their continued registration.

Any elector who has not contacted us by 30 April 2026, or for whom we have not received at least an Eircode, will be removed from the Register and will no longer be able to vote.

After this date, final correspondence will issue to all electors whose names are being removed.

Our overall progress in improving data quality is demonstrated in the figures below:

|  | <i>Last update</i>   |                | <i>Current Figures</i> |                |
|--|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
|  | <i>November 2025</i> |                | <i>March 2025</i>      |                |
| <b>Total Electorate</b>                | <b>51,969</b>        |                | <b>51,592</b>          |                |
| <b>Electors with DOB</b>               | <b>43,702</b>        | <b>84.09 %</b> | <b>45,044</b>          | <b>87.30 %</b> |
| <b>Electors with Eircode</b>           | <b>32,636</b>        | <b>62.79 %</b> | <b>34,713</b>          | <b>67.28 %</b> |
| <b>Electors with DOB &amp; Eircode</b> | <b>28,479</b>        | <b>54.80 %</b> | <b>30,531</b>          | <b>59.18 %</b> |
| <b>Electors with PPSN</b>              | <b>13,615</b>        | <b>26.19 %</b> | <b>12,521</b>          | <b>29.81 %</b> |

We now meet or exceed the national average on 3 out of 4 accuracy indicators used for evaluating the data quality on the register.

## 22. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

It was agreed that votes of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Michelle Mulligan, Staff Officer, Housing, on the death of her father, James (Jimmy) Cassidy, Drummons, Scotstown, Monaghan.
- Padraic Cassidy, Driver, CMX-CBY MD, on the death of his father, Patrick Cassidy, Moys, Clontibret, Co. Monaghan.
- Liam Bradley, Museum Curator, on the death of his aunt Breda O’Kane, Glenullin, Co. Derry.
- Dette Hughes, Programme Manager, East Border Region, on the passing of her mother and Adrian Hughes, Senior Planner, on the passing of his mother-in-law, Maureen O’Toole, Ballymacnab, Co. Armagh.
- The family of the later Eamon Prenter, Marley Grange, Dublin

It was agreed that votes of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- Shane Hand on winning the Irish Indoor Bowling Association All-Ireland Singles Title.

## 23. Conferences

*On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training events by the members listed below:*

| Promoting Authority | Subject/Theme                   | Venue                                 | Dates  | Members Selected                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| AILG                | Annual Training Conference 2026 | Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary | 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026 | Cllr. P. Treanor<br>Cllr. N. Keelan |

### Urgent Business:

1. *Cllr B. McAree proposed, Cllr S. Flynn seconded, that this Council expresses serious concern at the approach taken by Government to the recent fuel protests, which arose from genuine and widespread concerns about the cost of living and the rising cost of doing business.*

*This Council condemns the aggressive and inflammatory language used by members of Government, which served only to heighten tensions, and further condemns the failure and refusal of Government to engage in a constructive and meaningful manner with those involved.*

*That this Council, in light of the above, has no confidence in the current Government’s willingness or ability to adequately support workers, families and businesses during the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.*

Following a short debate on the motion, a recorded vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs C. Carthy, S. Conlon, N. Keelan, P. Treanor, N. McCooey, S. Flynn, B. McAree and P. Gibbons

**Total: 8**

**Against:** Cllrs R. Aughey, A. Campbell, P. Clerkin, P. Conlon, S. Gilliland, A. Johnston, PJ O’Hanlon and R. Truell.

**Total: 8**

**Abstention:** Cllr S. Treanor

As there was an equal division of votes, the Cathaoirleach stated that he was exercising his casting vote against the motion.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

*2. Cllr S. Gilliland proposed, Cllr A. Campbell seconded that in light of the disruption to rate paying business in County Monaghan due to the recent road blockades which have had a severe and negative impact on local businesses in terms of deliveries, collections and employee disruption, this Council calls on the Government to introduce a Business Grant to the value of two weeks to compensate for the loss of business.*

Following a short debate on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put the motion to the members, and it was agreed unanimously.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings  
Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_