

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

Monaghan County Council



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2025

**TUARASCÁIL
BHLIANTÚIL**



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

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Foreword

We are pleased to present the Monaghan County Council Annual Report for 2025. This report highlights the achievements and progress made throughout the year across all Council services, reflecting our shared commitment to delivering high quality public services, supporting vibrant communities, and ensuring sustainable development throughout County Monaghan.

Housing delivery remained a top priority, and we are proud to report that 115 new homes were delivered, including 81 social homes, exceeding national targets. Major milestones included the county's first Affordable Purchase Scheme, providing 10 high quality homes at Station View in Monaghan Town and a further scheme planned at Sean Ghairdíní in Carrickmacross to provide 10 affordable homes for purchase. 2025 also saw the launch of Monaghan's first Cost Rental Scheme, offering 16 long term, secure rental apartments at rents below market rates. This progress demonstrates our ongoing commitment to increasing housing supply, improving affordability, and supporting those most in need.

2025 marked the first full year of the Monaghan Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, with over 70% of its 153 actions completed or underway, highlighting the Council's commitment to sustainability and to embed climate leadership across all departments. Key developments included the District Heating Feasibility Study, advancement of projects in the Monaghan Town Decarbonisation Zone and €612,000 invested in 17 community led climate projects.

Environmental protection work remained strong, with extensive waste enforcement activity and Monaghan town achieving 4th place nationally in the IBAL cleanliness rankings and earning a "Cleaner than European Norms" classification. Significant investment in rural water services continued, with high compliance levels maintained across small private supplies.

Our cultural, heritage and biodiversity programmes continued to flourish. Highlights included the publication of The Holy Wells of County Monaghan, the delivery of more than 50 Heritage Week events, and the advancement of the new County Heritage Strategy 2026–2031. Biodiversity initiatives expanded significantly, including the publication of A Beginner's Guide to Wetlands, the launch of the book, The Flora of Monaghan, over 30 events during Biodiversity Week, and funding for major restoration projects such as the €4 million PEACEPLUS peatland restoration initiative at Sliabh Beagh.

In 2025, Monaghan County Council continued its cultural partnership with Project Children as the organisation marked its 50th anniversary. Project Children - founded in 1975 to offer young people from Northern Ireland a peaceful summer respite in the United States - has transformed over 23,000 lives and remains an enduring symbol of cross community reconciliation. In October, all roads led to County Monaghan when the county welcomed thousands of people to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Project Children and the launch of new exhibition at the Peace Campus, entitled 'Project Children Stories'. A wide range of events and activities took place over a five-day period across the county, and it is estimated that this resulted in a €1 million boost to the county's economy.

Our Fire and Civil Protection Service responded to 432 emergency incidents, representing an 18% increase on 2024, largely due to severe weather and increased road collisions. The completion of the new Ballybay Fire Station and investment in new fleet and equipment strengthened our emergency response capacity. Civil Defence volunteers continued to provide invaluable assistance across the county, particularly during Storm Éowyn.

Monaghan County Council, together with the HSE and An Garda Síochána, launched a county wide initiative to deliver a Personal and Community Resilience Booklet and emergency fridge magnet to every home and business. The booklet provides clear guidance on preparing for emergencies and supporting vulnerable neighbours, while the Message in a Bottle scheme enables paramedics to quickly access essential medical information in a crisis. Supported by the Department of Justice, the initiative aims to equip all residents - regardless of age or digital access - with essential information, strengthening Monaghan's collective preparedness and resilience.

Community wellbeing and social inclusion remained central to our work. The Local Authority Integration Team responded to over 2,300 support requests, reflecting the county's ongoing commitment to supporting new

communities and people arriving through international protection and resettlement pathways. The Council secured €2.55 million in national funding across programmes such as CLÁR, ORIS, Town & Village Renewal and the Community Recognition Fund, enabling enhancements to community amenities across Monaghan. The PEACEPLUS Action Plan, valued at €4.57 million, moved into full implementation during the year, supporting regeneration, cohesion and cultural celebration countywide.

Economic development continued strongly through the work of the Local Enterprise Office, which supported 92 enterprises with €798,230 in grants, contributed to 166 new jobs, and delivered training to nearly 1,000 people and mentoring to 336 clients. Innovation and sustainability were supported through digital, green and export focused initiatives, reflecting Monaghan’s dynamic and resilient business community.

The Council also made substantial progress on capital projects, including the Roosky Lands Access Road, major town centre regeneration in the county’s five main towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Ballybay, Clones and Castleblayney, the development of digital hubs in Newbliss, Clones, and the Blackwater Valley, and continued efforts to revitalise vacant and derelict properties. Town Centre First Plans for Monaghan and Ballybay were completed and launched, shaping future development and community led regeneration. The county’s libraries and museum continued to deliver exceptional programmes, exhibitions and events, recording over 371,000 library visits and celebrating major cultural moments including live national broadcasts and landmark community exhibitions.

Significant progress was made in tourism development in 2025, with Monaghan County Council advancing major projects to enhance recreational infrastructure and the visitor experience. Upgrades at Black Island, Lough Muckno were completed, and the County Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved and launched. Key projects progressed to delivery, including the Dromore River Blueway, the former Lennard Arms visitor experience, and a new motorhome stopover in Monaghan Town. Further investment was secured for Castleshane Forest, Mullaghmat Mountain Bike Trails, and the €6M Sliabh Beagh project, demonstrating strong momentum in developing a high quality, sustainable tourism offering for the county.

We acknowledge with gratitude the commitment and cooperation shown by Councillor Paul Gibbons, outgoing Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Peter Conlon, outgoing Leas Chathaoirleach, in helping to deliver the Council’s high level goals during 2024/2025.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Elected Members, the Management Team and Council staff, community groups, businesses, partner agencies and volunteers whose commitment and collaboration made the progress outlined in this report possible. Most importantly, we thank the people of County Monaghan for their engagement, resilience and continued pride in their communities.

We commend this Annual Report for 2025 for adoption by the Elected Members. It reflects the significant achievements and continued strength of our county and demonstrates our shared commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for all who live, work, visit and invest in County Monaghan.

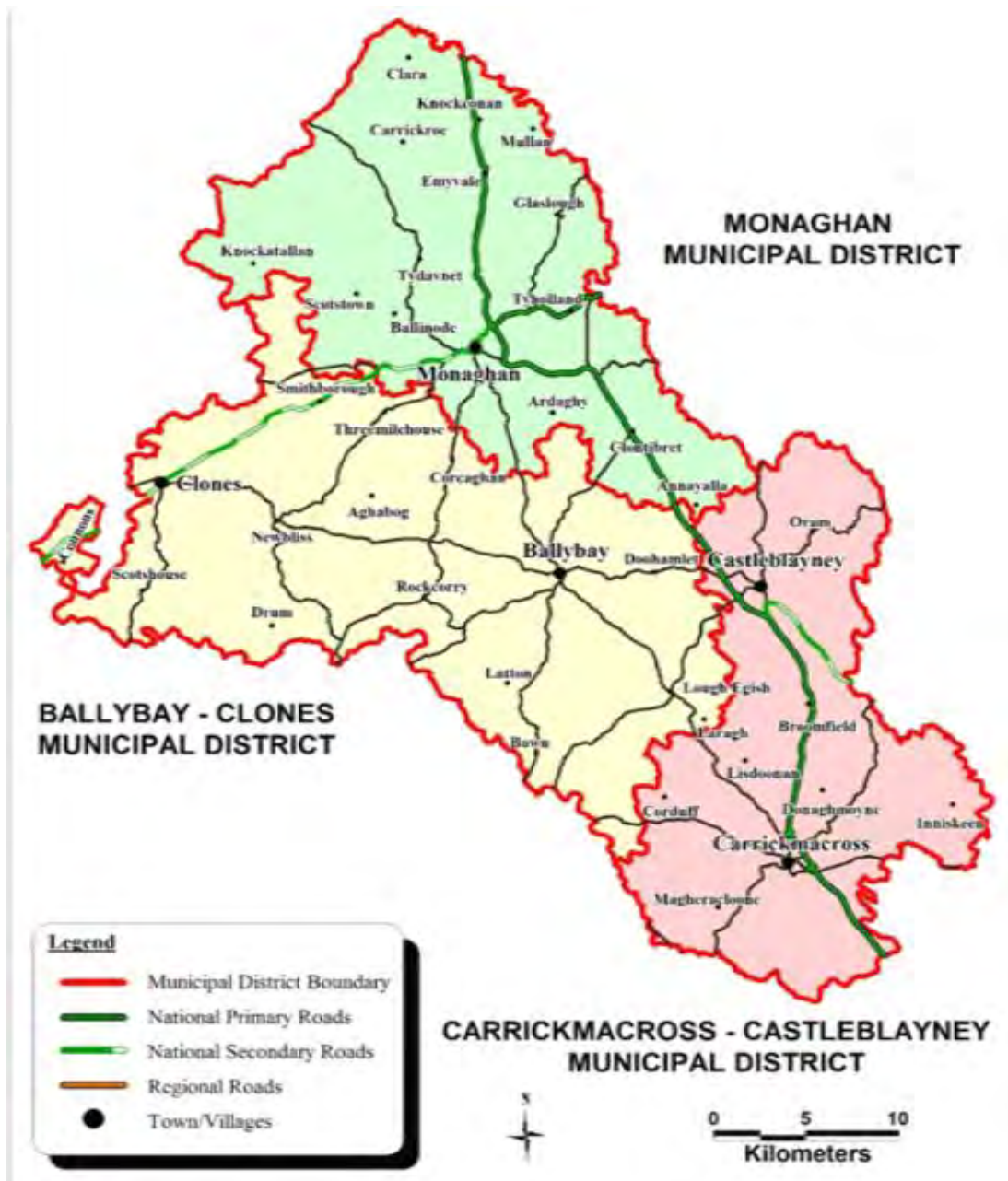


PJ O’Hanlon
Cathaoirleach Monaghan County Council



Robert Burns
Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council

District Map / Mission Statement



Mission Statement

*Monaghan County Council provides
High Quality, Sustainable Public Services to enhance the
Economic, Environmental and Cultural Wellbeing
of our People and County.*

Elected Representatives

The following are the Elected Representatives for the County of Monaghan:

BALLYBAY-CLONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Seamus
COYLE (FF)



Cllr Richard
TRUELL (FG)



Cllr Sinead
FLYNN (SF)



Cllr Sean
GILILAND (FG)

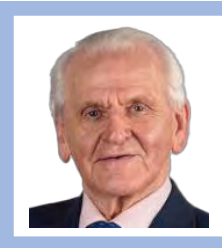


Cllr Pat
TREANOR (SF)

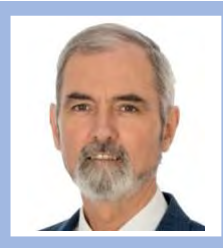
MONAGHAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Raymond
AUGHEY (FF)



Cllr Seamus
TREANOR (IND)



Cllr Seán
CONLON (SF)



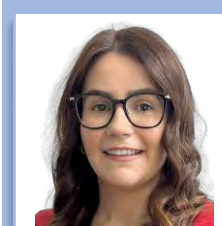
Cllr Pauric
CLERKIN (FG)



Cllr Bronagh
MCAREE (SF)



Cllr Alan
JOHNSON (FG)



Cllr Niamh
MCCOOEY (SF)

CARRICKMACROSS-CASTLEBLAYNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Cllr Noel
KEELAN (SF)



Cllr Aidan
CAMPBELL (FG)



Cllr PJ
O'HANLON (FF)



Cllr Colm
CARTHY (SF)



Cllr Paul
GIBBONS (SF)



Cllr Peter
CONLON (FG)

Finance

Reconciliation of Statement of Financial Position (SoFP) and review of Statement of Comprehensive Income (SoCI)

The Finance section carry out regular reconciliations and reviews of balances on the SoFP, thus adhering to best practice recommendations.

This ensures that debts are collected as quickly as possible, funding for capital projects is identified and transactions are monitored and reviewed on a timely basis, loans are reconciled to statements and fixed assets are reconciled to other available registers such as iHouse and the Property Asset Register.

In addition to this, Finance carries out a quarterly analysis of actual versus budgeted revenue expenditure and income to ensure that all expenditure and income are accurately posted and are recognised in the correct period.

Cumulative Surplus

The Council achieved a cumulative surplus in 2024 of €291,378. The Council hope to retain a surplus going forward. An annual surplus is achieved through accurate budget preparation, cost reduction awareness and careful monitoring of actual spend versus budget.

Treasury Management

In order to maximise interest receivable on excess funds, Finance staff monitor the bank balance and transfer excess funds to the HFA who pay 1.5% on investments up to three months and 2% on investments over three months.

Rates Collection

Monaghan County Council's Rates collection excelled again in 2025. The final collection rate is estimated at 99%. Monaghan County Council's high rate of collection is due to early and accurate billing, experienced staff, multiple payment options for customers and use of specialist legal firms.

Reduce Rates write off

In an effort to address the level of vacant properties in urban areas, the Elected Members adopted a resolution at the Budget 2023 meeting to reduce the Rates write-off on commercial properties from 100% to 80% for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

This has resulted in a reduction in vacancy. Since the introduction of the write off reduction, a number of properties have been delisted, relet, converted for domestic use or are undergoing refurbishment.

Impact of Retained Fire Officer Cost

The implementation of the workplace relation commission's proposals for retained fire fighters fell to be implemented with effect from the weekly/fortnightly pay cycle closest to 1 July 2023.

The agreement provided fire fighters with a fixed income starting at €18,050 per annum for new recruits. There will be a minimum crew of 12 in every fire station which necessitated the recruitment of 12 new firefighters and an assistant chief fire officer in County Monaghan.

A recruitment campaign commenced in Q4 2023 and continued into 2024. The additional net retained fire service costs for 2026 are estimated at approximately €0.25m versus budget 2025. It has not been confirmed if these additional costs will be offset by a grant from DHLGH.

Pension costs

An additional cost to Monaghan County Council of meeting pension and lump sum payments under the Local Government superannuation scheme is expected to rise by €0.38m from 2025 to 2026 with an expected liability in excess of €5.7m for 2026.

An actuarial review of the liability in respect of the LGSS carried out as at 1 January 2024 indicate that cashflows payable by LA are expected to increase beyond 2025 until they peak in 2048 before beginning to reduce. Cashflow analysis predicts an increase for

Monaghan of circa €7m between 2024 and 2048. This represents a 150% growth in cashflow requirements for this cost alone for Monaghan County Council over a 23 year period before any other cost movements are even considered.

Uisce Éireann- stranded costs

A Memorandum of Understanding was issued during 2023 by DHLGH in relation to payments to Local Authorities for stranded costs arising from the Water Services Transformation programme.

For the period 2024 to 2026 which is the period foreseen in the framework for withdrawal of local authority staff from the provision of water services, Central Management Costs (CMC) relating to Water services are recouped from DHLGH instead of Uisce Eireann as was previously the case.

This has resulted in a reduction in this income stream as the majority of this recoupment will be based on 2022 CMC costs. A number of water services staff have been redeployed to other sections within the Council or have transitioned to Uisce Eireann. Only a minimal number of staff remain chargeable to water services for 2026.

Budget preparation

During Q3/Q4 2025, the Finance section prepared the 2026 annual Revenue budget.

This provides for €97m of income and expenditure. Rates income is budgeted at €18m (ARV 0.2594) and LPT funding at €13.592m which includes 15% increase on the base rate. Budget 2026 funding has increased by 4% viz a vis budget 2025.

This represents an additional €3.86m of income and expenditure for Monaghan County Council for 2026. The Budget has been prepared with an objective of providing funds for the continuation of existing service levels despite the challenges of rising costs.

Housing & Building

Housing Delivery 2025

A total 115 homes were provided by Monaghan County Council in 2025 including social, affordable, cost rental, acquisitions and mortgage to rent.

Of the 115 above 81 are additional social houses. These homes were delivered through a mix of new build and acquisitions. The Department of Housing target set for Monaghan County Council for 2025 was 61 social housing units, this target was exceeded by 32%. New build projects were the main focus of the capital expenditure programme in 2025.

Monaghan County Council completed 22 new homes at Slí Lorcáin, Latlorcan, Monaghan, 21 homes at Slí na Coille, Mullaghmart, Monaghan, 13 homes at Coill An Ri, Carrickmacross, 14 new homes at Cois Abhainn, Ballinode, 4 homes at Cnoc Na Greine, Tydavnet, 3 homes at Chapel Court, Carrickroe, and 4 new homes at Station View, Monaghan two of which were negotiated under Part V.

In addition to the 81 social houses delivered Monaghan County Council launched the county's first Affordable Purchase Scheme, delivering 10 new homes at Station View, Monaghan. The Affordable Purchase Scheme enables Monaghan County Council to make newly built, high-quality homes available to First-Time Buyers and Fresh Start applicants at significantly reduced prices. The scheme supports households whose combined mortgage and deposit are not sufficient to meet the full market value of a new home.

The first Cost Rental Scheme in County Monaghan also became available, providing 16 apartments on Park Street in Monaghan Town. This marks the Council's first venture into providing Cost Rental accommodation, a new tenure type that offers long-term, secure tenancies with rents set at a minimum of 25% below current market rates.

In 2025 Monaghan County Council completed the purchase of 5 houses, these comprise of 2 Tenant in Situ and 3 Exit from homelessness / prevention of homelessness.

Through the Mortgage to Rent scheme a further 3 houses are now being managed by "Home for Life". These properties are officially recorded under the "Leasing" heading as they might eventually return to the ownership of the occupiers. However, they are currently in the ownership of "Home for Life" to allow occupiers to remain in their homes in spite of financial issues.



Housing Grants – Private

In 2025, Monaghan County Council received an initial 100% allocation of €1,912,040. Following further requests to the Department of Housing the final allocation for 2025 was €2,969,057 in response to the continued high up take of housing grants in the County. In 2025 the Housing Section approved 292 applications, issued payment on 343 applications and recouped 346 applications drawing down the full 2025 allocation from the Department.

Monaghan County Council continues to rank at the top of the Departments 'drawdown table' reflecting the strong performance and commitment of all staff involved in promoting and delivering the Housing Grant Schemes.

Disabled Person Grants – LA Properties

In 2025, Monaghan County Council carried out disabled works to 45 Local Authority owned properties, these works consisted of level

access shower, ramps, handrails, stair lifts and extension. These works will enable the tenants to remain independent and self-sufficient and remain in their homes.

2025 Allocations

Total number of allocations in 2025 was 106 (this does not include AHB allocations)



Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) continues to play an important role as a form of social housing support for those with a long-term housing need. In 2025, 84 tenancies commenced, bringing the total number of active HAP-supported tenancies to 406 on 31st December 2025.

HAP Shared Services Centre, based in Limerick City and County Council has the responsibility for all financial transactions, collection of rent from tenants and landlord payment at month end.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a support to people who have a need for long term housing. The total number of tenancies in receipt of RAS rent support on 31st December 2025 was 263. 92 households in Private rented accommodation and 171 households in AHB properties. The monthly landlord rent costs for all tenancies on 31st December 2025 was €119,775.46.26.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

In 2025 - 26 Tenant Purchase Scheme application were received. 3 were completed, 6 withdrawn, 5 with the solicitor and 12 are sitting at various stages between getting a valuation and going to the solicitor.

Homeless Services

In 2025, Monaghan County Council received 205 enquiries to homeless services either directly from households themselves or from others on their behalf, reporting homelessness. 119 children were noted to be implicitly impacted as a result. Following a Homeless Assessment, 35 of those households were deemed as homeless, including 27 children implicitly impacted and required a placement into Homeless Emergency Accommodation. The remaining 170 enquiries were experiencing accommodation related difficulties or were at risk of homelessness, but not homeless. In respect of all homeless enquiries support and guidance was provided by the Council's Homeless Services. There are 7 individuals currently engaged with the Housing First Programme in county Monaghan. They are accommodated in a mixture of Local Authority and Approved housing units and are supported by a wraparound support service provided by Peter McVerry Trust.

Casual Vacancies / Voids Monaghan

County Council dealt with 63 Casual Vacancies in 2025 at a cost of €1,338,383.02 and recouped €929,356 towards the costs from Department of Housing. The houses were prepared for reletting at an average cost of €21,244.17 each and completed in an average time of approximately 11.27 weeks, which is a significant decrease from 2024. Typical reletting works are new kitchen, flooring, electrics, painting, heating system, bathroom upgrades and fencing. Monaghan County Council does not have any long-term vacant houses (Voids).

Housing Maintenance

In 2025, €1,242,423 was spent on Housing Maintenance, exceeding the budget allocation of €1,125,000 provided for response & planned general maintenance of the Council's housing stock. €82,414 was recouped from the Department of Housing and the remaining balance was covered by Internal Capital Receipts. The increase in costs was due in part to the increasing Housing Stock and also additional urgent unforeseen works during year captured by inspections.

Health and Safety Unit

Operational Plan:

In line with the Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) developed for 2025, the Head of Health & Safety developed the 2025 HSU Operational Plan. This plan set out the work targets to be achieved in 2025. The Head of H&S reviewed the Operational Plan on a weekly basis to ensure achievement of the plan. The operational plan was successfully achieved (some work contained in the original plan was replaced with higher priority unplanned work required).

The following is a summary of the main elements of work conducted by the Head of H&S in 2025:

- H&S Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025 developed on time and implemented.
- H&S Annual Report 2024 completed on time.
- H&S Operational Plan 2025 developed on time and delivered.
- H&S Corporate Risk Register 2025 reviewed, updated quarterly and report issued.
- A detailed review of the HSMS was conducted in Mar and Oct 2025.
- Corporate Safety Statement reviewed/updated twice in 2025.
- 58 Procedures and 27 Forms / Templates updated with new MCC Logo HSSP29 Electric Bike Procedure developed and issued.
- HSSP06 Violence and Aggression at Work Procedure was approved in June 2025.
- ‘Standard Operating Guidance (SOG) for Ukrainian & International Protection’ was issued by the LGMA and passed to the responsible Director of Service for implementation.
- HSP55 Covid Procedure removed and all other connected procedures updated.
- 12 H&S Procedures reviewed and updated.
- 11 H&S Forms reviewed and updated.
- One Section H&S Manual Audit conducted in 2025 (HR Section). Detailed audit report along with a summary audit reports was issued.
- HSMS gap analysis review conducted.
- HSU Monthly Reports issued on time.
- Attendance at four LASOG Meetings and (including two day National Conference).
- 15 x Safety Briefings developed and delivered to all employees.
- National Workers’ Memorial Day took place on 28 April 2025. The H&S Unit honoured this day by issuing information to staff and members of the public via social media and email. European Safety Week took place in October. Safety briefings were issued daily along with general H&S information.
- Daily events delivered for Health and Safety Week in October 2025.

- Bi-monthly defibrillator testing, maintenance and cleaning carried out. New coded defibrillator heated cabinets researched and two purchased.
- First Aid Kits and supplies issued as required. Adequate stock of kits made up and supplies maintained.
- Safety Link Newsletters were produced in June and December 2025 with positive feedback from employees.
- 14 EPA testing locations were set up in the H&R Assessment Register. There were new locations and time consuming to complete.

Inspection Programme:

The following table outlines the spot checks completed by the Head of H&S (no target was set as checks were conducted on a time allowed basis). Table below lists inspections conducted:

| Inspections Conducted: | Number Conducted: |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Roads / MD's Outdoor | 08 |
| Playgrounds and Parks | 20 |
| Total: | 28 |

Hazard and Risk Assessment:

The following table outlines Hazard and Risk Assessments completed by the HSU in 2025:

| Assessment Type: | Number Conducted: |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Depot | 13 |
| Building | 09 |
| Playparks / Grounds / Fitness | 04 |
| EPA Testing Locations | 14 |
| Employee Assessment | 01 |
| Total: | 41 |

Water Services

Uisce Éireann Transformation

Uisce Éireann is responsible for the operation of all public water and wastewater services including:

- Management of national water and wastewater assets.
- Maintenance of the water and wastewater system.
- Investment and planning.
- Managing capital projects.
- Customer care and billing.

Uisce Éireann is also responsible for all of the capital investment decisions and implementation of the capital programme delivery across the country.

With the Master Co-operation agreement signed by Monaghan Co. Council and Uisce Éireann in 2023, Uisce Éireann assumed responsibility for the management and direction of all eligible water services staff in Monaghan County Council. The Master Co-operation agreement will come to an end in December 2026.

Many members of staff have transitioned permanently to Uisce Éireann and Monaghan County Council would like to thank these members of staff for all their hard work over the years and wish them continued success in their careers.

Monaghan Co. Council continues to have oversight of the Rural Water Program, which is unaffected by the transition of public services to Uisce Éireann.

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme in County Monaghan is administered by Monaghan County Council. The programme provides measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water Schemes.

- Group Sewerage Schemes.
- Private Water Supplies where no alternative group or public supply is available.
- Private Domestic Wastewater Treatment systems (DWWTs) where the applicant qualifies under the Housing (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020.
- Private Water Supplies where the applicant qualifies under the Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022.

Subsidies

There are 12 group water schemes in the county. The 12 Group Water Schemes supply approximately 43% of the population of County Monaghan.

An integral part of maintaining and improving the quality and reliability of rural water supplies is the annual subsidy, administered by Monaghan Co. Council, towards the operational and management costs of group water schemes supplying water for domestic use.

The aim of the subsidy is to ensure equity of treatment and equivalent financial support equally between households on public water supplies (Uisce Éireann) and those on group water schemes.

€4.5m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2025 by Monaghan Co. Council.



Emy Lough Glaslough Tyholland GWS

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024-2026

In early 2024 The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the launch of the next cycle of the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme which covers the three-year period from 2024 to 2026.

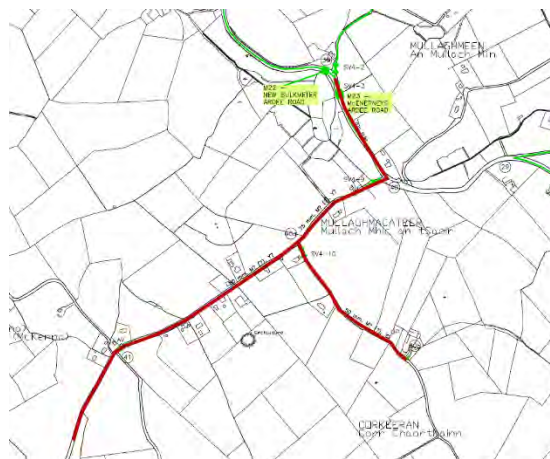
The Programme provides for €125 million of capital investment in rural water infrastructure under eight different funding measures.

The measures of the 2024-2026 funding cycle reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector - from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution). A key objective is to prevent water contamination and ensure that drinking water is safe and meets quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Monaghan Co. Council’s Rural Water Section submitted bids under its MARWP 2024-2026 application, seeking funding across a range of measures, including Source Protection, Capital replacement, Water Treatment Improvements, Improvements to Network infrastructure, Extensions to networks and Innovative Demonstration Projects.

An Expert Panel established by the Department evaluated MARWP applications over a phased period and made a series of recommendations to the Department on the suitability of projects for funding, based on the objective criteria set out in the Framework document. To date, Co. Monaghan has been allocated a total of €3.5 million in funding for 55 capital upgrade projects in 12 group

schemes. In addition, the expert panel has agreed to fund larger plant upgrades, expected to be to the value of approximately €10million to a further two schemes once the new Design, Built and Operate (DBO) contract is in place. Rural water section is currently working with all stakeholders to ensure that the projects are completed to the department guidelines. Large infrastructure upgrades on networks are planned for the end of Q2 2026. Rural Water Section will continue to support all GWS and work closely with the National Federation of GWS and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to ensure successful implementation of MARWP 2024-2026 and full drawdown of all allocated funds.



Kilanny GWS Network upgrade approved under MARWP 2024-2026, works to commence in Q2

Well Grants

In 2025 applicants to the Wells Grant Scheme could claim €1,000 towards treatment of their private water supply, €3,000 towards upgrade/remedial works and €5,000 for the installation of a new well- private water supply. The purpose of the scheme is to assist households in rural areas that are dependent on a private water supply (individual well) for their household use, by financially assisting them where they incur capital expenditure, to carry out improvements to the supply to ensure that the water supply is safe for consumption. In 2025 Rural Water Section inspected, reviewed, and approved a total of 18 well grants and paid €65,319 in grant aid towards upgrade/remedial works or the installation of treatment systems to their private water supply.



Example of works carried out on a Well

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Under the Water Services Amendment Act 2012 Monaghan County Council undertakes inspections of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTSs). The Domestic Wastewater Treatment System Grant scheme offers grant funding of 85% towards the cost of the repairs or a new system, up to a maximum of €12,000. This is an increase from the previous grant of €5,000, and there is no longer a requirement to register a domestic system in order to qualify for grant aid. There are 3 different types of septic tanks grant schemes in Ireland, please note that this is not a universal Grant and is subject to the household meeting the criteria for each septic tank grant scheme as outlined below:

- DWWTS grant under the National Inspection Plan - In order to be eligible for this grant, works to the DWWTS must arise directly from an inspection carried out under the National Inspection Plan, and the subsequent issue of an Advisory Notice to the householder by the local authority.
- DWWTS grant in Prioritised Areas for Action - In order to be eligible for this grant, the DWWTS serving a house must be situated in a Prioritised Area for Action in accordance with the current River Basin Management Plan for Ireland, and the applicant must have received a letter from the Local Authority Waters Programme Office (LAWPO) confirming eligibility to apply for a grant.
- DWWTS grant in High Status Objective Catchment Areas - In order to be eligible for this grant, the DWWTS serving a house must be situated in a High Status Objective Catchment

Area in accordance with the current River Basin Management Plan for Ireland. The applicant can apply to the local authority for a DWWTS grant.

In 2025, under the National Inspection Plan (NIP) please see the following:

- 50 domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTS) inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff
- 24 compliance notices and 26 advisory notices being issued to householders.
- For inspections carried out in 2025 a total of 7 NIP grants for upgrade works totalling €80,432 were paid out to householders under the grant.
- Also 9 NIP grants for upgrade works totalling €68,054 were paid out to householders that received advisory notices from previous years.

Grant applications relating to 2025 advisory notice requirements will continue to be submitted in 2026 by householders, as improvement works are completed and inspected.

The new river basin management plan has extended the High-Status Catchment Area which is located in the Scotstown area, a total of 170 householders have been included in this area and Rural Water Section have notified all householders by letter of their inclusion in this area.



Example of works carried out on a Domestic Wastewater Treatment System

Drinking Water Compliance

In 2025 the compliance rate in Monaghan for small private group water schemes and small private supplies was 99.5% out of 1,914 parameters analysed.

There were 30 exceedances noted throughout the year and HSE was consulted where relevant. The main exceedances were Manganese. The 30 exceedances were identified through our own sampling program, notified by the lab, and then notified to the scheme.

Among the corrective actions taken by the schemes to close out exceedances were, repeat sampling to verify compliance, investigations into treatment plant processes and escalating to a site audit if necessary.

In addition to the regulatory sampling program, there is also a program of raw water monitoring of the group water scheme sources. This is in addition to the daily samples taken by the schemes themselves.

All raw water samples taken by MCC in 2025 provide additional information in respect of substances of interest such as herbicides and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Additional Raw water monitoring for 2 schemes that are undergoing assessments for upgrades were also completed in 2025. This data will be used to contribute towards reporting when required.

There was 'Do Not Consume' notices issued on two small private supplies in December 2024. These notices remained in place until remedial works are carried out on their supplies. In 2025 both premises upgraded their treatment systems and are now fully compliant and using their small private supplies again.

In addition to the sampling and monitoring work as outlined above Monaghan County Council carried out 2 audits of private GWS treatment plants and several visits to some small private supplies during 2025. The visits were selected on priority, based on their last

date of inspection or a particular water quality issue.

The audits identified some operational issues regarding plant performance, plant processes, and available treatment. Some of the recommendations detailed in the audit reports and being implemented by the GWSs include:

- Installation of additional coagulation, flocculation & clarification CFC controls.
- Review of alarms and inhibits.
- Review of monitoring carried out at plant and network.

Asset Transfer

Section 12 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provides for the transfer of Water Services Assets to Uisce Éireann.

Monaghan County Council had a total number of 164 assets to transfer to Uisce Éireann at the end of 2025 progress on transfer of the assets was as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Assets fully transferred | 90 |
| With LMT for final sign-off | 24 |
| No longer in use- will not be transferred | 26 |
| Awaiting resolution of ownership issues | 24 |
| Total | 164 |

Detailed work is ongoing preparing supporting material for the transfer of these assets including the subdivision of folios and associated mapping, the registration of unregistered sites, the establishment of legal rights of way and the resolution of outstanding title anomalies.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Services unit of Monaghan County Council was again tasked with the implementation of EU and National Environmental Policy and legislation during 2025, primarily aimed at protecting our Environment.

As per Goal Four “A Sustainable Future” of the Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029, the work of the Environmental Services Unit in 2025 was focused on the implementation of awareness, regulatory, and enforcement work programmes in the areas of water quality, air quality, litter, and waste management.

A significant portion of our workload in 2025 was to ensure that Monaghan County Council continued to deliver work programs in line with the national enforcement priorities in the following thematic areas:

- **Waste** - Improving waste management and protecting our environment.
- **Water** - Improving Water Status in all waterbodies.
- **Air** - Protecting public health and to improve and maintain air quality.

The mechanism through which work was progressed was through the RMCEI process and in February 2025 Monaghan County Council submitted a comprehensive RMCEI inspection plan to the EPA which detailed the work to be undertaken by Monaghan County Council within these thematic areas. A summary of the work that was undertaken under these 3 thematic areas is outlined below.

Waste Enforcement and Regulations

During 2025 our enforcement and regulatory work around waste was in line with the following National enforcement priorities (NEPs) for waste which were communicated to all local authorities via correspondence issued by the EPA in December 2024.

- Tackling significant illegal waste activities.
- Construction and demolition Waste.
- Household Waste.
- Commercial Waste.
- Producer responsibility initiatives.

During 2025 there were four full time Enforcement Officers involved in waste and air enforcement activities, and Monaghan County Council recouped €192,000 from the Department of Environment Climate Energy and the Environment for costs associated with waste enforcement activities including staff costs. In addition, there was one full-time environmental patrol warden. Whilst a significant portion of the enforcement staffs workload was involved in dealing with the National Enforcement Priority (NEP) work areas, staff were also engaged on other activities such as the investigation of waste complaints, the processing of Certificate of Registration and Waste Facility Permit applications, the assessment of planning applications to ensure waste management compliance, and ensuring that waste activities taking place within County Monaghan were being carried out in compliance with waste management legislation through the appropriate certification and permitting regime.



Unauthorised waste site investigated in 2025

In delivering on these waste priorities in 2025 Monaghan County Council completed the following:

- Investigated 497 waste related complaints.
- Carried out 466 routine waste inspections including 122 inspections of waste permitted and registered sites authorised by Monaghan County Council.
- Issued 353 warning letters, 61 No. Section 14 directions and 14 No. Section 55 Notices under the Waste Management Act.
- Issued 4 Fixed Penalty Notices under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations.
- Secured 3 separate convictions in Monaghan District Court against 3 individuals for breaches of waste legislation.
- Assessed approximately 150 planning applications from a waste management perspective.



Diesel wash stored at Scotch Corner Compound.

During 2025, the illegal dumping of diesel laundering waste remained problematic with 36 incidents of diesel wash recorded during the year, again primarily in the south of the county. The cost incurred in dealing with diesel wash waste in 2025 was more than €100k which was subsequently recouped from the Department of the Environment of Climate Energy and the Environment.

During 2025, Environmental Services also secured funding to the value of €98,000 to deliver a range of projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative program.

Projects delivered in 2025 included:

- Subsidised Bulky good Collection Month at Carrickmacross and Scotch Corner Recycling Centres.
- Site Clean ups & site improvement infrastructural works at separate sites in Castleblayney Monaghan, Dartrey,

and Carrickmacross to minimise illegal dumping activity.



Fencing erected on site in Castleblayney under the ADI Program

On October 11th, 2025, Monaghan County Council in partnership with the regional waste Management Planning Offices hosted a free household hazardous collection event. At this event over 7,500 kgs of household hazardous waste was safely collected. These hazardous wastes were subsequently sent for appropriate treatment at an appropriately licenced hazardous waste treatment facilities at an estimated cost of €27,871.

ONE DAY ONLY to drop off your HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE...for FREE!

SATURDAY 11TH OCT. 2025
9AM - 1PM*

SCOTCH CORNER RECYCLING CENTRE, LETTERBANE,
ANNYALLA, CASTLEBLAYNEY, CO. MONAGHAN, A75 P267

*Opening hours subject to capacity limits

Householders, this is a great chance
to safely dispose of that household
hazardous waste that's been building
up...and all for FREE!

- T&Cs apply:
- Limit of 10 paint cans per customer
- Limit of 25 litres of motor oil per customer
- **No commercial/farm waste**
- Strictly limited to householders
- Only products in original containers with original labels will be accepted
- Materials may **not** be left at the venue outside of the opening hours

NO
HAZARDOUS
FARM OR
COMMERCIAL
WASTE

Check out
www.mywaste.ie
for full list of
accepted items

Water Quality

In 2025, Five full time technical staff were involved in delivering on the following National Enforcement Priorities in water which were communicated to Local authorities in December 2024.

- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage.
- Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading.
- Discharge Licences/ Misconnections.
- Local Water Quality Pressures including Septic Tanks and Private Water Supplies.

The 2025 RMCEI Enforcement and inspection plan was prepared in February in line with these national priorities. Over the course of the year Monaghan County Council's water team continued its program of water quality sampling of designated rivers and lakes in conjunction with the EPA, carried out investigative assessment work on other selected river and lake waterbodies, undertook a comprehensive farm inspection program, monitored non-designated bathing waters in the county, investigated a significant number of water pollution incidents, regulated effluent discharges through licensing, and worked with the Local Authorities Waters Program (LAWPRO) with the aim of improving water quality in areas designated as priority areas for action under the Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland.

The national Water Action Plan is the overarching plan that sets out the actions that Ireland is taking with the aim of improving water quality and achieving 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters).

Some of the inspection work carried out by our water team in 2025 included the following:

- 131 water pollution complaints investigated.
- 157 Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) farm inspections carried out.

- 87 inspections of facilities licensed to discharge effluent under Section 4 of the Water Pollution Act.
- 268 samples taken as part of Water Framework Directive monitoring on rivers and lakes.



WFD Sampling Team

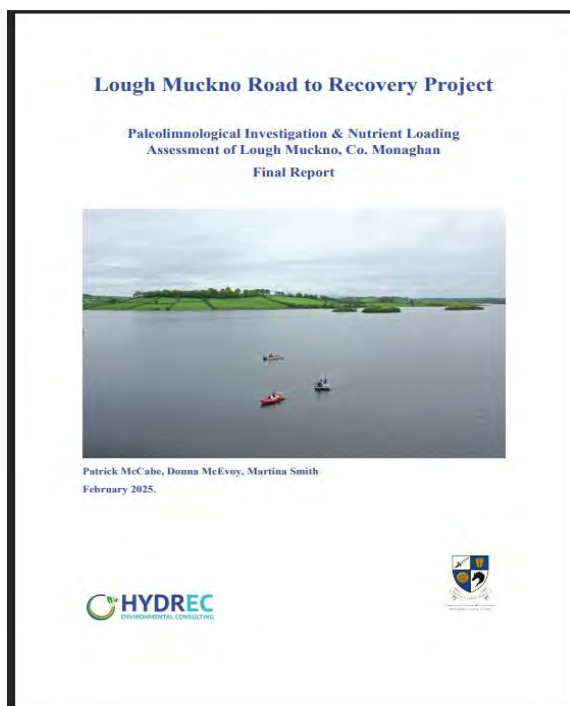
- 257 Investigative River samples taken.
- Assessed over 300 planning inspections from a water quality point of view.
- Carried out 47 bathing water sample inspections carried out at eight non designated bathing water locations in the County.
- Initiated 3 prosecutions of water quality related breaches.
- Submitted 16 Cross reports to DAFM for breaches of the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.



Monaghan County Council Facebook Post

A significant portion of the work of our water team in 2025 was assigned to the carrying out of farm inspections and two of our staff were fully funded by the DHLGH under the 2025 National Agricultural Inspection Program (NAIP). This is an area which has seen increased focus nationally and in recent years and in 2025 there was a huge body of work completed in this area.

During 2025, our water team concluded our preliminary scientific study called the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery project. Under this phase of the project the aim was to complete a Paleolimnological study of the lake sediment to reference trophic changes and predict lake recovery times.



As a result of this project Lough Muckno has been included as a Priority Area for Action in Ireland's Water Action Plan (2022-2027). In addition, during 2025, Monaghan County Council became an associate partner on the PEACE 5.3 plus "Protecting our Shared Waters" project. The role of Monaghan County Council as Associate Partner will be to provide local expertise on the Fane catchment and to support the selection of a demonstration farm which can be used for knowledge exchange purposes.

In addition, Catchment characterisation and inspections are proposed in the County Water and the Gentle Owens River Catchment areas. The project has highlighted these areas as the catchment areas contributing the most significant loads to Lough Muckno.

In addition, our water team were heavily involved in the blue dot steering group set up in 2024 with the aim of protecting the high-status classification of the Scotstown Blue Dot River. The group is made up of multiple agencies involved in water protection and includes representatives from Tydavnet Group Water Scheme, Monaghan County Council's Environment & Biodiversity sections, LAWPRO, ASSAP, ACRES, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Birdwatch Ireland, and Armagh Banbridge District Council.

One of the major developments of 2025 was the success of Tydavnet Group Water Scheme in securing approx. €500,000 in PEACEPLUS funding through the CALM Project for the Scotstown Blue Dot River to help implement measures to protect this high valuable watercourse. The project was shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards – "Protecting the Scotstown River: A Community-Led Blue Dot Waterbody Initiative in Supporting Sustainable Communities".

Air Regulatory work

Whilst the focus of our enforcement and regulatory work in the Environmental Services unit has very much been concentrated on the waste and water area, increased focus is now being placed on Air quality nationally. During 2025 the work carried out by Monaghan County Council was in line with the following national enforcement priorities for air which were issued to local authorities in December 2024.

- Solid Fuel
- Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use
- Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities
- Local Air and Noise Investigations

During 2025 over 60 routine air quality inspections were conducted under the Solid Fuels Regulations, the Petroleum Vapour Regulations, the Solvent Regulations, the Air Pollution Act and The Decorative Paints Regulations. In addition, 26 air/odour and 16 noise complaints were investigated. At the end of 2025 the following facilities were regulated under the following air regulations.

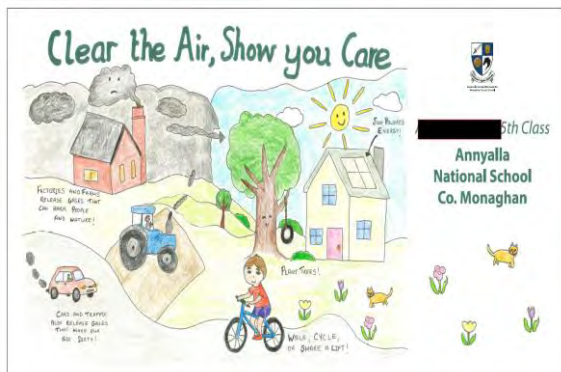
- 24 car-refinishers were authorised under the Decorative Paint Regulations.
- 3 dry-cleaning facilities and one industrial premises were authorised under the Solvent Regulations.
- 31 Stage 1B facilities and three Stage II facilities were certified under the Petroleum Vapour Regulations.
- 1 macadam manufacturing facility licenced under the Air Pollution Act.

comprising of two recycling centres at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross and 26 strategically placed bring centres located in our county towns and villages.

The two recycling centres are operated under a concession contract, which generates income for the Council. This contract is due to be retendered again in 2026.



Carrickmacross Recycling Centre.



Winning Poster of from Air Quality Competition ran by Environmental Services in December 2025

In relation to the landfill facility at Scotch Corner, further small-scale infrastructural improvements were progressed during 2025 including surface water management works, leachate management works, and additional groundwater and surface water investigations.

All monitoring and sampling works continued to ensure compliance with our waste licence for the Scotch Corner facility. Our most recent EPA Audits on site indicates no non-compliances, and Agency staff noted the excellent work being conducted by our landfill team in striving to ensure full compliance with our licence.



Winning Prize being Presented to Annyalla N.S.

Waste Management Facilities.

During 2025 Monaghan County Council continued to operate a comprehensive recycling infrastructure network in the county

During 2025 the landfill team in partnership with Coillte progressed an application with the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine to progress a native tree planting project on approximately 8 acres of land at Scotch Corner. A planting application had been prepared in late 2024 in conjunction with a Technical Amendment lodged with the EPA in respect of the proposed Tree planting project. Formal approval from DAFM was received in late 2025 and planting works are due to commence in Q1 2026. It is expected that

planting works will be completed on site by June 2026.

Historical Closed Landfill Sites

During 2025 Monaghan County Council secured €20k funding from the Department of Climate Energy and the Environment to progress further works under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008. The regulations apply to closed landfill sites that were previously operated by local authorities during the period 1977 to 1997. Under these regulations local authorities are required to conduct an environmental assessment of the closed landfill sites, seek a waste authorisation from the EPA for each site and subsequently carry out remediation works at each site. Most of the costs incurred by Local Authorities can be recouped from the Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.

Progress made in 2025 in respect of these closed landfill sites included the following;

- Securing of Sec 177AE Planning approval from An Bord Pleanála for remediation works at the Killycard closed landfill outside Castleblayney.
- Completion of site investigation works and preparation of draft Certificate of Authorisation application for the Tiragarvan closed landfill site outside Carrickmacross.
- Securing of a Certificate of Authorisation for the old landfill at Scotch Corner.
- Submission of Certificate of Authorisation application to the EPA for the Corkeeran closed landfill outside of Ballybay.
- Appointment of RPS consultants to progress detailed remediation design at Killycronaghan closed landfill outside Smithboro.

Litter Control and Environmental Awareness

In 2025, Monaghan County Council continued to fulfil its statutory responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and associated national waste regulations, with its litter-control remit encompassing prevention, enforcement, planning, maintenance, litter awareness and education.

Litter Management Plan

In 2025, we undertook to review our previous litter management plan to meet our statutory obligations. We consulted with all relevant stakeholders, assessed local litter issues based on previous NLPMS surveys and set clear goals and actions for litter prevention and control for the next 3 years. The Litter Management Plan 2026 – 2029 will be put forward to Council Members for adoption in 2026.

Environmental Patrol Warden Activities

- Conducted 270 **litter pollution surveys** and submitted the data to the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS).
- Investigated 267 complaints relating to fly tipping and illegal dumping.
- Carried out 347 inspections and maintenance site visits to our 26 Bring Bank Centres located throughout the county.
- Completed 150 visits to Community Groups involved with Litter clean ups.

IBAL Survey Results 2025

Monaghan town ranked 4th out of 40 towns/cities surveyed in 2025 and was classified as “Cleaner than European Norms”, continuing its strong national performance. The 2025 IBAL findings describe Monaghan as:

- One of Ireland’s cleanest towns.
- Showing continued year-on-year improvement.
- Benefiting from new public realm investments (e.g., Peace Campus).
- Achieving excellent results across multiple key sites.

This performance is credited to coordinated efforts between Monaghan County Council, Tidy Towns, local businesses, and volunteers.

N2 Litter Pick

Environmental Services continued to allocate €25,000 per year to the Road Section to litter pick twice annually along the N2 by contractors appointed to do the verge cutting.

Litter Awareness and Control

A strong emphasis was placed on **litter awareness and control** throughout 2025. Campaigns were run to highlight the environmental and social impacts of littering, supported by enforcement measures and community clean-up events. Collaboration with schools, community groups, and local media helped to reinforce positive messages and encourage responsible behaviour countywide.

Environmental Awareness Officer

The Environmental Awareness Officer delivered an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of environmental initiatives throughout 2025, strengthening community engagement, promoting sustainability, and supporting national and local environmental goals. The year was marked by innovation, collaboration, and recognition at both local and national levels. Projects rolled out in 2025 included:

Circular Economy Initiatives:

Inaugural Debs Dress Pop-Up Shop

A standout achievement in 2025 was the launch of the inaugural **Debs Dress Pop-Up Shop**, a creative initiative promoting reuse and sustainable fashion among young people. The project encouraged students to donate and purchase pre-loved formal wear, reducing textile waste while supporting affordability and inclusivity. The initiative received an **Excellence in Local Government Award** and attracted interest from RTÉ and other local authorities eager to replicate its success. This project highlighted the potential of community-led circular economy initiatives to inspire behavioural change.

Relove Fashion Competition

Monaghan celebrated national recognition when a local participant won the overall **National Award** in the **Relove Fashion Competition**; a project which challenges students to design and create outfits using upcycled materials. This achievement highlighted the county's leadership in promoting sustainable fashion and youth engagement in environmental action. The aim of the programme is to create sustainable and wearable clothing using materials obtained from local charity shops or items already at home. Several workshops were organised throughout the county for participating schools and youth groups, funded by Monaghan County Council. Sewing machines were purchased to facilitate these events.

Circular Economy Workshops

During the Christmas period, a series of **Circular Economy Workshops** were held to encourage residents to adopt more sustainable consumption habits. These workshops focused on creative reuse, waste reduction, and mindful gifting, offering practical guidance on reducing environmental impact during the festive season. The sessions were well attended and praised for their hands-on, community-focused approach.

Green Dog Walkers Project

The **Green Dog Walkers** project was introduced in the Spring of 2025 and expanded across the county, promoting responsible dog ownership and cleaner public spaces. Through community pledges, awareness campaigns, and the distribution of branded materials, the initiative fostered civic pride and encouraged positive environmental habits among pet owners. The project's success reflected strong collaboration between the Environmental Awareness Office, local communities, and voluntary groups.

Support for Tidy Towns

Significant support was provided to the **Tidy Towns Network** across County Monaghan throughout 2025. The Environmental Awareness Officer and the Environmental Patrol Warden collaborated closely with local

committees, offering guidance, training, and resources to enhance environmental projects and improve sustainability scores in the national competition. The Environment Section continued to supply litter pickers, bags, and skips to community groups participating in clean-up initiatives, including the Spring and Autumn Clean-Ups.

Environment Fund 2025

Monaghan County Council continued its annual Environmental Services Funding Scheme, which provided financial support to community and voluntary groups for projects that enhance and maintain public spaces. The total Environment Fund allocation for 2025 was €90,000 which was an increase of €20,000 on the previous year.

Green Schools

In partnership with An Taisce, ongoing support was also provided to the Green Schools Programme, assisting schools in achieving and maintaining their Green Flags. This included workshops, school visits, and advice on waste management, biodiversity, and energy conservation, helping to nurture environmental awareness among young people. Successful schools were rewarded with their flags at a ceremony in Dundalk.

Green Business Hub

The **Green Business Hub** continued to promote sustainable business practices across the county, providing information, resources, and networking opportunities for local enterprises seeking to reduce waste and improve environmental performance. The hub served as a focal point for collaboration between businesses, community groups, and the council, advancing the green business agenda in Monaghan. Visual Waste audits were conducted in 3 Enterprising Monaghan locations in each of the MD areas with follow up lunch and learn sessions provided. Seven businesses were also provided with audits with comprehensive reports provided on each location.

Picker Pals Programme

The **Picker Pals** programme engaged primary school children in litter-picking and environmental education activities, combining fun with learning to instil lifelong environmental values. The initiative empowered children and their families to take direct action in their communities, contributing to cleaner neighbourhoods and greater environmental awareness. The programme is focused on children aged 6 – 9 who receive classroom support and litter picking resources. Any school who applied to the initiative in County Monaghan was funded in 2025.

Graveyard Grants 2025

Monaghan County Council remains committed to the care and preservation of its ten heritage graveyards, providing ongoing financial support, guidance, and information to ensure their protection and continued appreciation as important cultural and historical sites. Each graveyard was allocated the sum of €1,000 each to assist their committees in meeting their obligations relating to the care and conservation of heritage graveyard locations in County Monaghan.

RepairMyStuff.ie

Monaghan County Council continues its collaboration with the EPA on repairmystuff.ie website through the national stakeholder body called the National Reuse & Repair Network.

In **2025**, the EPA completed a comprehensive study to assess and plan the future development of the website.

The EPA concluded that with Ireland's emerging **Right to Repair** requirements, the **RepairMyStuff.ie** website plays a key national role in supporting the circular economy by making repair services more accessible, but significant improvements in usability, visibility, and alignment with EU repair obligations are needed to maximise its impact.

Dog Control Unit

As per *Goal 2: A Thriving Community*, of the Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029, with particular attention to sub

category 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities, the work of the Dog Control Unit in 2025 was focused on enforcing responsible dog ownership, managing stray and dangerous dogs, and responding promptly to incidents, the Unit helped maintain safe public spaces for residents. Our work reduced risks to pedestrians, protects livestock, and promoted community well-being, contributing directly to a safer and more secure environment for all who live in, work in, and visit County Monaghan.

The Dog Control Unit has seen seismic change in 2025. The transfer of the LAVS (Local Authority Veterinary Service) from local government to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) brought significant changes for the Dog Control Unit within the section.

Previously, the unit operated under a framework where veterinary oversight and enforcement were locally managed, allowing for direct coordination with dog wardens and community-based services. With the move to DAFM, responsibilities, reporting structures, and compliance requirements shifted to align with national standards and departmental protocols.

This transition required adjustments in operational processes, communication channels, and resource allocation, creating a period of adaptation for staff and stakeholders as we navigated new procedures and expectations.

After 25 Years of loyal Service our County Veterinary Officer Brendan Smith moved across from Monaghan County Council to DAFM in March 2025.

Under this new structure, the Council now employs one full-time Clerical Officer and 2 Full Time Dog Wardens. We received funding for the second dog warden through the Depts of DRCDG and the Dept of DAFM to assist in tracking and issuing Certificates of Exemptions to XL Bully Dogs.

The XL Bully Dog Warden came on board in September 2025. This XL Bully Dog Warden is

in place subject to continued funding allocation from DAFM.

The funding aimed to strengthen dog control across the county by increasing frontline staffing, which has allowed Monaghan County Council to have fulltime dog control service cover going forward.

It also enabled effective enforcement of the XL Bully ban and other dog-related laws and sought to ensure zero tolerance for uncontrolled dogs in both urban and rural areas.

Shelter facilities for the detention and care of stray and unwanted dogs continued to be provided on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Carrick Dog Shelter in Lisdoonan.

The number of dogs admitted to the Dog Pound in 2025 was 403. All but 7 of these dogs were either reclaimed or rehomed to members of the public or dog rescues. 6 dogs were put to sleep on suspicion that they had attacked sheep, other animals, or a person. One dog died of natural causes.

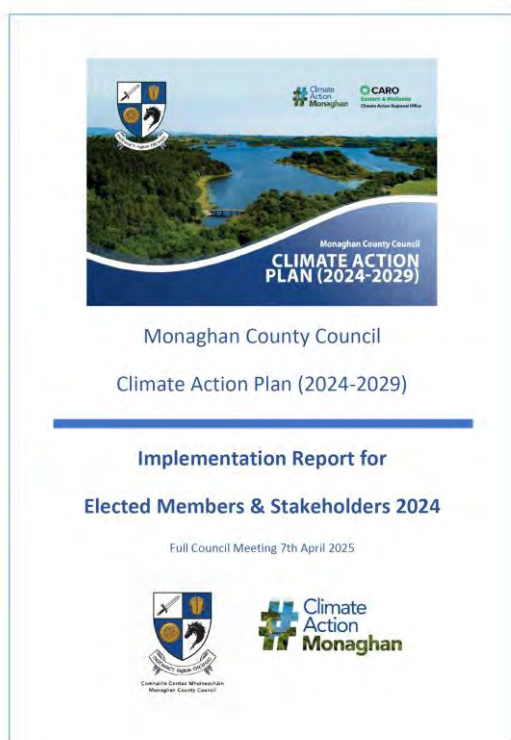
The number of dogs licenced in Monaghan in 2025 was 5,923 which is a slight increase on the number licenced in 2024 – 5,888. Approximately one third of licences were bought online. The Council continued its advertising campaign to highlight the danger of straying dogs to sheep.

Finally, we received funding from DAFM of €65,000 in late December and this money will go to transitioning our second Dog Warden van to an electric vehicle which aligns with the Climate Action Plan's target of a 51% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Climate Action Unit



Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan (2024-2029)



2025 marked the first full year of implementation of the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan (2024–2029). The plan contains 153 actions across the themes of: Governance, Built Environment & Transport, Natural Environment, Communities, and Sustainability.

Building on the successful adoption of the plan in 2024, significant progress was made across all Council service areas in embedding climate action into policies, operations and community engagement programmes.

This first progress report of the Monaghan County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 was given to the April Council Meeting. This progress report reflects the plan implementation period from January 2024 to February 2025. The report illustrated that over 70% of all Climate Action Plan measures were completed or in progress, reflecting strong cross-departmental collaboration and the increasing integration of climate action into core Council work.

Key targets remain central to delivery:

- 50% improvement in the Council’s energy efficiency by 2030.
- 51% reduction in the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- Strengthening climate resilience across County Monaghan.
- Supporting and empowering communities to engage in climate action.

Key Achievements in 2025

1. Governance & Whole-of-Council Climate Action



Climate Action Team visit to Drumlins Park Wind Farm in Newbliss

Climate Action Team – Quarterly Meetings

The Council-wide Climate Action Team continued to meet quarterly throughout 2025, with strong participation from every department. Meetings were held in:

March – first annual progress review.

June – visit to Drumlins Park Wind Farm, a key renewable energy project aligned with our Climate Action Plan.

September – autumn meeting focusing on progress towards the 2030 targets for energy efficiency and emissions reduction and District Heating.

December – overview of new five-year Monaghan County Council Biodiversity Action Plan, including a site visit to the Eco Meadow biodiversity site.

Senior Management attended each session, underscoring the corporate priority placed on climate delivery. Presentations included updates on the Community Climate Action Programme, biodiversity actions, district heating feasibility work, and progress across all Council sections.

SPC Integration of Climate Action

Presentations were delivered to the inaugural SPC meeting outlining how climate action must be considered in policy development across biodiversity, water quality, land use, transport, air quality, waste management, and community actions. All Strategic Policy Committees formally integrated climate action as a cross-cutting theme in their 2025 work programmes.

2. Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) – Monaghan Town



Monaghan Town was designated as the county’s Decarbonisation Zone under the Climate Action Plan. The DZ Taskforce— comprised of all relevant Council sections—

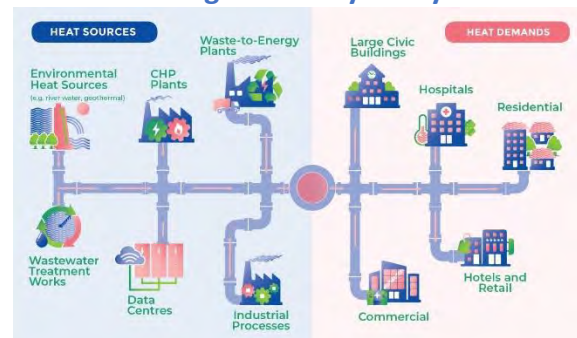
met twice in 2025 to advance targeted interventions.

Key DZ Developments in 2025

- Establishment and operation of the cross-departmental DZ Taskforce
- Register of priority projects, including public realm, energy, transport and biodiversity measures
- Over 60 local businesses attended the Decarbonisation Zone event on 5 March, where the LEO outlined supports to help improve sustainability and energy efficiency
- Progression of the Monaghan Area Based Retrofit Initiative (MABRI) led by Housing team targeting upgrades of 100+ homes
- Development of a proposal by Biodiversity Officer for Elliott’s Land including meadows, hedgerows and conservation grazing

3. Energy, Built Environment & Transport

District Heating Feasibility Study



A major milestone in 2025 was the commencement of the Council’s District Heating Feasibility Study Led by Monaghan County Council and delivered in partnership with Cavan and Leitrim local authorities.

The feasibility study was split over two phases.

Phase 1 (completed): Assessed heat demand across settlements in County Monaghan to identify priority clusters. Five towns — Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney,

Clones and Ballybay — were evaluated based on demand levels, anchor loads, heat source potential, growth projections and land zoning. Monaghan Town, Carrickmacross and Castleblayney were shortlisted. A detailed desktop analysis identified Monaghan Town as the preferred location for a district heating network.

Phase 2 (near completion): focuses on Monaghan Town’s Decarbonisation Zone, including route design and techno-economic assessment, concluding in early 2026.

This project secured 100% funding of €66,457 through the SEAI’s Pathfinder programme.

SEAI Expression of Interest for Pre-Construction Fund:

Following the identification of two high potential opportunities for District heating within the feasibility study, Monaghan County Council submitted an expression of interest to SEAI’s District Heating Pre-Construction fund. The purpose of the EOI is to secure funding to progress the two district heating opportunities identified through Detailed Project Development (DPD).



EV GoCar Pilot for Business Travel

A 6-month pilot sustainable transport initiative was launched, introducing an electric car available for staff business travel. The initiative supported reduction of emissions from Council fleet travel and promoted low-carbon alternatives to traditional transport.

Staff demonstration events to increase uptake of the EV service were held over the summer, providing information and test drives.

4. Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

2025 was a highly productive year for community-led climate action. Seventeen groups received funding under Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme.

Phase 1 Delivery (Strand 1 and 1a) By the end of 2025:

- €612,000 of the €770,000 allocation had been drawn down
- 56% (9 projects) fully completed
- 38% (6 projects) nearing completion

Works included installation of solar PV, battery storage, LED sports lights, biodiversity enhancements, water refill stations, insulation, bike racks and cycle shelters



Traugh Gaels GFC- Solar PV System



Cremartin GAA- Solar PV System



Monaghan Harps Replacement Windows & Doors



Monaghan Rugby Club- Insulation

Phase 2 Launch



Phase 2 opened for applications from 28 October 2025 to 6 January 2026 with a total funding allocation of €392,000.

Extensive outreach was undertaken, including webinars, information clinics and one-to-one supports for community groups.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

Phase 2 Opening
28th October 2025!

To find out more visit
monaghan.ie/climate-action



TYPES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- ✓ Community Energy
- ✓ Travel
- ✓ Food and Waste
- ✓ Shopping and Recycling
- ✓ Local Climate and Environmental Action



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



5. Climate Action Week 2025



Monaghan's Climate Action Week featured a comprehensive programme of events designed to foster connection, knowledge sharing, and active engagement with sustainability initiatives.

The programme theme of Small Steps – Big Changes highlighted the many small actions we can take in our daily lives that add up to big, positive changes for our communities and our planet.



Children's Climate Art Competition

The strong engagement was a highlight, with over 1,600 people taking part throughout the week. The activities, held across the county, sought to promote awareness of practical actions and measures that individuals and communities can implement at both local and

personal levels to contribute to a more sustainable future.



Climate Action Week 2025 (13–19 October) delivered the most ambitious programme to date, with over 1,600 participants across the county.

Highlights Included:

- Primary school poster competition with 400+ entries
- “Climate Heroes Staff Challenge” – over 140 participants and 7,000 kg CO₂ saved
- Library storytelling events
- Composting workshops
- WEEE recycling week events
- Youth biodiversity activities
- Re-Love Fashion workshops
- Business events on SME energy efficiency
- Nature and foraging walks
- Community tree planting
- Wetland, pollinator and mini-forest planting events
- Launch of Re-Use Halloween Costume Swap initiative

Climate Action Week showcased community leadership and strengthened awareness of the practical steps citizens can take to contribute to climate goals.

Retrofit Roadshow in Monaghan Town



Images from Retrofit Roadshow

The Climate Action Unit partnered with Monaghan Institute to host the Retrofit Roadshow from 4–7 November, attracting strong public interest. The NZEB mobile unit provided practical guidance on energy upgrades and home retrofitting, with popular drop-in clinics and 32 participants attending additional workshops.

6. Community Projects

Projects funded through CCAP contributed significantly to biodiversity improvements in 2025, including:

- Pollinator gardens
- Mini forests and orchards
- Wildflower and native tree planting
- Hedge and habitat creation
- Community garden supports

A major community tree planting event took place at the Bog Garden in partnership with EUROPE DIRECT, Monaghan Tidy Towns, local schools, the Climate Action Team, and Monaghan County Council’s Horticultural team. Transition Year students from St. Louis Secondary School Monaghan, members of Teach na nDaoine, and local volunteers joined forces to plant a variety of young trees.



The event was well attended and created a meaningful opportunity for people of all ages to take practical climate action. It also contributed to the EU's 3 Billion Trees pledge—an important commitment under the European Green Deal aimed at planting at least three billion trees by 2030. The goal is to enhance forest health, advance climate and biodiversity objectives, and strengthen both rural and urban areas.

7. EU and National Funding & Projects

URBACT Transfer Network Success



Monaghan County Council secured a place in a European URBACT Transfer Network led by Perugia, Italy. This partnership will support the development of Monaghan's Green Infrastructure Plan, integrating nature-based solutions and urban sustainability initiatives across the county.

Conclusion

2025 was a pivotal year in accelerating climate action across County Monaghan. Significant progress was made in policy integration,

community engagement, energy planning, biodiversity enhancement and the delivery of large-scale feasibility studies that will underpin future investment.

The success of 2025 reflects the collective commitment of Council staff, community groups, businesses, schools and stakeholders across the county. The Climate Action Unit will continue to work collaboratively to meet the ambitious targets of the Climate Action Plan and achieve a more climate resilient, biodiversity rich sustainable county with a thriving green local economy.

County Heritage Office

2025 marked significant progress in conservation, public engagement, and the advancement of the new County Heritage Strategy.

Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum which comprises a representative group of heritage organisations and elected members as well as Local Authority staff met quarterly throughout 2025. Discussions focused on funding applications, project prioritisation, and development of the new County Heritage Strategy 2026–2031.

Heritage Series – Holy Wells of County Monaghan



The third volume of the Monaghan Heritage Series 'The Holy Wells of County Monaghan' was launched in early 2025.

Community Monuments Fund

Key 2025 CMF projects included works at Old Errigal Truagh, St Patrick's Holy Well (Clonfad), and Killeevan Abbey.



The CMF programme enabled substantial conservation works across key archaeological sites. At St Patrick's Holy Well, the combination of surveys, vegetation management, and interpretive design greatly enhanced understanding and public accessibility. The project also served as a model for cultural education through workshops, community storytelling, and school engagement. Meanwhile, stabilisation and arboricultural works at Killeevan Abbey addressed long-standing risks and helped preserve historical integrity for future conservation phases.

Historic Towns Initiative and Heritage Led Regeneration

Two HTI funding applications were submitted early in the year. The Heritage Officer also presented the Heritage-Led Regeneration Plan for Monaghan Town at a regional symposium, showcasing best practice in heritage-led renewal.

County Heritage Plan Funding

County Heritage Plan funding of 37.5k was awarded to the Heritage Section from the Heritage Council which supported

continuation of the Field Names Project, Heritage at the Heart podcasts, the Heritage Week event grant scheme and advertising awareness initiatives. A further 17k was awarded for a Community Archaeology project collaboration between the Heritage Section and Monaghan County Museum which supported the delivery of a feasibility study for a seasonal Community excavation at Rossmore. This was generously match funded by Monaghan MD.



Heritage Week 2025

Heritage Week (16–24 August) delivered over 50 events including the Big Dig at Rossmore Park, talks, tours, traditional skills demonstrations, and numerous community-led activities. Monaghan achieved 76 events per 100,000 population and contributed to over 13 million national social media impressions.



The “Spirit of the Water” event by Friends of the Upper Annalee was shortlisted for the National Water Heritage Award, with recognition celebrated at the National

Heritage Week Awards at IMMA in Dublin in October.

National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme
16th - 24th August 2025

Monaghan Heritage Week Launch

The year's theme - *Lighting the way forward - adding to what we already know, as we heritage our past and plan for the future.*

50th August 11:00am - 4:00pm
17th August 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Learn to Sew
Old Donagh Cemetery
Cemetary making in George
Guided Tour of the Waller Garden
The Foundations of the Monaghan Mills
Field Names & Place-Names of Tyndall
Hullon Factory Tours
Stain Estate Blue Tour
21st August 12:00pm - 2:00pm
22nd August 12:00pm - 2:00pm
23rd August 12:00pm - 2:00pm
24th August 12:00pm - 2:00pm

For further information on the events above please visit www.heritagecouncil.ie or contact the County Monaghan Heritage Office via email herit@monaghancoco.ie or phone 047-73722

Outreach and Community Engagement

Community engagement remained central to 2025 activity. The expansion of the Field Names Project and the fifth series of the Heritage at the Heart podcast continued to deepen local understanding of landscape, memory, and place. Meanwhile, community organisations benefited from direct support with event planning, heritage research, and conservation advice. These initiatives strengthened intergenerational learning and fostered wider participation across diverse communities.

Storm Éowyn response

A number of historic graveyards were impacted by storm damage during the year particularly by Storm Éowyn. This required a coordinated response between the Heritage Officer and the MDs to deal with uprooted human bones and deal with felled trees and damage to boundary walls.



conservation and archaeological projects across County Monaghan. In addition to project delivery, the Heritage Office strengthened partnerships with local groups, advanced the new Heritage Strategy, and expanded outreach programmes including podcasts, workshops, and schools-based engagement.

Heritage Strategy 2026–2031

A major focus of 2025 was development of the Draft County Heritage Strategy. Public engagement played a central role in shaping the new Draft Strategy. Information sessions in each Municipal District informed communities about upcoming projects and encouraged submissions. Pre-draft surveys received almost 50 responses. The draft was completed and presented to the SPC in December ahead of Irish translation, Appropriate Assessment, and public consultation scheduled for early 2026.

Monaghan County Heritage Strategy 2026-2031

Have your say!

- ✓ Via the online portal
- ✓ Email comments to heritage@monaghancoco.ie
- ✓ In writing marked "Monaghan County Heritage Strategy 2026-2031 (Draft)", Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan, County Monaghan H18 X982.

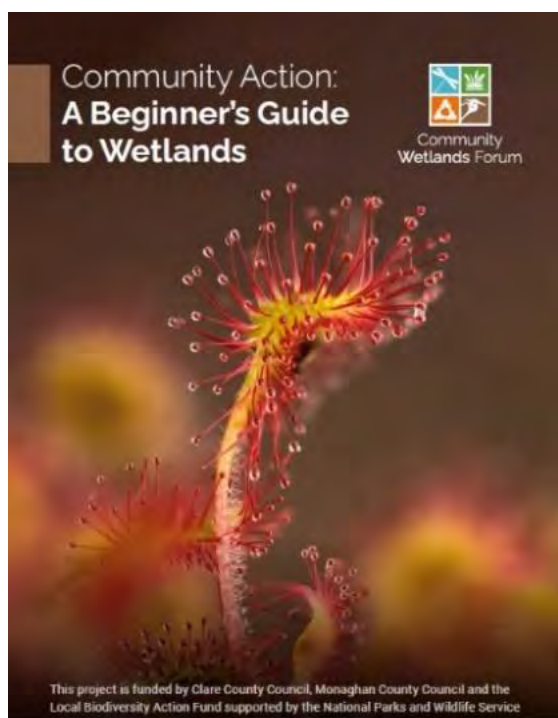
Advice and Guidance

Throughout 2025 the Heritage Officer provided continuous support for regeneration initiatives and planning applications requiring heritage input. Guidance also extended to BHIS applications, built heritage queries, and public heritage enquiries.

2025 marked a year of increased strategic development, a strong rise in community-led heritage activity, and significant progress on

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Officer, supported by a part time administrative assistant, now operates within the Transport, Environment and Climate Action Directorate. Throughout 2025, the section continued to implement biodiversity policy, deliver awareness initiatives and public events, and manage a range of funded biodiversity projects. Funding for this work was secured from several sources, including the Heritage Council, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival, and Creative Monaghan.



World Wetlands Day Feb 2nd, 2025

Working closely with the counterpart in Clare County Council and the Community Wetlands Forum, the Biodiversity Officer produced **A Beginner's Guide to Wetlands**. This new booklet offers an accessible overview of Ireland's wetland habitats, explains their ecological importance, and highlights key indicator species. It also features results from 15 years of wetland monitoring in County Monaghan, showcasing the value of these

habitats for biodiversity, water quality, and climate resilience.

The official launch of *A Beginner's Guide to*



Wetlands was held on World Wetlands Day in February at Carrickmacross Library. Over 20 people attended an engaging talk, *Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands*, delivered by the Biodiversity Officer and LAWPRO's Community Water Officer, with copies of the booklet provided to all participants.

U3A Presentation

The Biodiversity Officer gave a very well received presentation on Monaghan's Biodiversity with a focus on Invasive Species to members of Monaghan's active U3A group in the Four Seasons Hotel on 28th February. Engagement and feedback were excellent.



Green Schools

The Biodiversity Officer was invited to lead Scoil Eanna, Ballybay, in their Biodiversity Action Day on March 3rd as they work towards their Biodiversity Green Flag. A nature quiz followed by a field trip to Lough Major was enjoyed by all the pupils in 1st and 2nd Class.



Heritage Council & Teagasc Collaboration

The Heritage Council–Teagasc partnership has



strengthened links between Biodiversity Officers and Teagasc advisors. As part of this, the Biodiversity Officer attended a hedgerow training day at Ballyhaise Agricultural College on 6 March.

Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in March by presenting the four Gaelscoileanna in County Monaghan with bespoke biodiversity signs featuring striking images of native Irish flora and fauna, all labelled in Irish. These colourful signs will enhance each school's outdoor space. Courtney Nic Uilís from Muineachán Le Gaeilge joined the Biodiversity Officer for the school visits.



Biodiversity Week 16-25th May

National Biodiversity Week was celebrated in Monaghan with over 30 free events held across the county. From bee, bird and bat walks to open farms and foraging sessions, there was something for everyone, including storytelling and nature craft activities for children. All events were very well attended, and feedback from participants was excellent.

A highlight event of Biodiversity Week 2025 was the launch of *The Flora of Monaghan* book at the Four Seasons Hotel. Authored by Alexis FitzGerald after nearly a decade of

fieldwork documenting over 1,200 plant species, the book represents a major milestone for the county's natural heritage. A full audience attended the launch, celebrating this valuable new resource for both researchers and the wider community.



Launch of 'Flora of Monaghan' Book



Farm Walk at Mark Gillanders Organic Farm



The Horticulture Team also collaborated to run a very popular plant workshop in Castleblayney.

The main event of Biodiversity Week was the arrival of well-known media presenter and wildlife expert Éanna Ní Lamhna who guided a wildlife walk around Peter's Lake and gave a biodiversity talk afterwards in the Peace Campus.



Competition winners were presented with copies of Éanna's new book 'Great Irish Biodiversity Book'.

MCC's Water Team collaborated with the Biodiversity Officer to hold a Muckno Water Quality



Workshop on Monday 19th.



The Biodiversity Officer was invited by the Morehart Family, along with numerous local and national stakeholders, to take part in their 'ASU Inaugural Academic Program: The estate as a Living Laboratory', whereby graduate students from Arizona State University came to Monaghan for a two week residential to study the biodiversity of the estate and propose a sustainable way forward.



Castleblayney Agricultural Show

The Biodiversity Officer was invited to launch the inaugural Sustainability Tent at the Castleblayney Show in August. Despite the stormy weather, there was a large crowd in attendance and great engagement with landowners and general public.



President of the Irish Shows Association Freda Kinnarney, right and President of Castleblayney Show Eddie Forde, making a presentation to Dr Patricia McCreesh, at the opening of the Sustainability Village at Castleblayney Show. Photo Rory Geary



Happy prize winners of the 'Guess the Number' competition!

Carrickmacross Tidy Towns were worthy nominees in the **Pride of Place** competition in the Biodiversity & Climate Action section. The Biodiversity Officer was delighted to meet with the judges and outline the biodiversity projects

around the town such as the Eco Meadow, which the group have worked so hard on.



National Heritage Week August 2025

As part of National Heritage Week, the Biodiversity Officer welcomed leading ornithologist and wildlife sound recordist Seán Ronayne for a memorable day of nature events. The morning began with a Dawn Chorus walk, where Seán guided participants through the county's birdlife and shared his expert knowledge of birdsong and ecology. Later, he delivered a well-attended lunchtime talk, offering insights into his work documenting Ireland's birds, the challenges they face, and the importance of habitat conservation.



National Hedgerow Week was celebrated in September with a successful hedge laying event at Elliots Farm in Monaghan Town. Facilitated by Hedgerows Ireland there was great interest in the event from landowners, farmers and community groups.



Climate Action Week October

The Biodiversity Officer facilitated three events for Climate Action Week, with 6 community and residents groups attending excellent Leaf Mould making workshops in Monaghan and Castleblayney. A native seed collecting event took place with the children from the Waldorf school in the Ballybay wetlands, and a very enthusiastic group of foragers attended the Mushroom Foraging walk in Rossmore Park.



National Lottery Good Causes Awards



The Biodiversity Officer was delighted to support the Irish Wildlife Trust Monaghan Branch at their nomination in the National Lottery Good Causes Awards which took place at the

Killashee Hotel in October.

2nd Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum

Taking place in Belfast on November 4th, Monaghan County Council was represented by the Biodiversity Officer. The forum featured expert-led presentations and panel discussions, case studies from across the island of Ireland, breakout sessions and excellent networking opportunities with leading experts in biodiversity, conservation, and invasive species policy.

3rd Annual Monaghan Biodiversity Conference



Monaghan's Third Biodiversity Conference

took place on 8 November at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel as part of Cavan Monaghan Science Week. The event brought together experts and community members for talks on topics including the marsh fritillary, otters, citizen science, wildfire prevention, breeding waders, and Dark Skies. A highlight was the presentation of the Fearghal Duffy Memorial Award to Joe Shannon for his decades of bird recording in the county. Attendees also received bareroot trees donated by John McKeon ahead of his film *Seeds of Inspiration*. Building on successful events in 2022 and 2023, the conference continues to strengthen collaboration and reinforce Monaghan's commitment to biodiversity protection.



The Biodiversity Officer attended the third meeting of the **Sliabh Beagh Wildfire Management Group** at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel in November. A demonstration was



given of a high-tech drone capable of carrying 100 kg, showing its potential to deliver water to suppress early fires, create fire breaks, or transport heavy firefighting equipment into difficult terrain.

Heritage Council Training

The Biodiversity Officer continued to attend quarterly training during 2025 facilitated by the Heritage Council. This is an invaluable opportunity for training and networking. Photo shows members of the Biodiversity Officer Network across the country.



Meeting of National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

In September the Biodiversity Officer gave a presentation on the role of the Biodiversity Officer to NBDC staff. This annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss joint priorities and avail of targeted training.



PlacePlus Nature Initiation Meeting, Dungannon

In September, the Biodiversity Officer attended the first group meeting of all the partners involved in the PlacePlus Nature Project. This project will see MCC, in partnership with River Blackwater Trust and Truagh Development deliver at €4m peatland restoration at Sliabh Beagh.



Wilder World Monaghan, Knocknagrave Environmental Centre

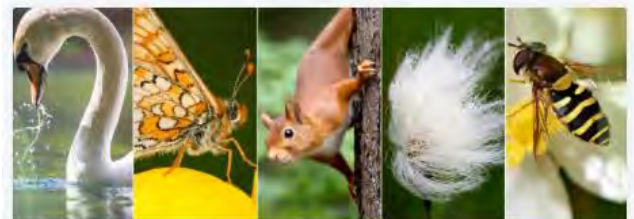
The Biodiversity Officer was delighted to present the draft Biodiversity Action Plan and draft Tree and Hedgerow Strategy at the Wilder World Monaghan event run by the PPN in collaboration with the Irish Environmental Network (IEN). This was a day of talks and demonstrations on water, biodiversity and funding streams in the county and was an excellent networking opportunity for members of the PPN.



Biodiversity Working Group Activities and Biodiversity Action Plan Progress

The Biodiversity Working Group met three times in 2025—in January, April and October. As a collaborative stakeholder forum, the group brings together local expertise and community perspectives to guide the development of the new Monaghan Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Its role is to help shape practical, evidence-based actions and strengthen partnerships that support biodiversity across the county.

Throughout the year, the draft BAP was presented at all Municipal District meetings, the PPN network meeting, two SPC meetings, and to the Senior Management Team. The document’s actions were translated into Irish, environmental screening was completed, and the plan proceeded to final public consultation in December.



05.12.2025 - 20:30
02.01.2026 - 20:30

CLOSED

Draft Monaghan Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

3 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD

Fire & Civil Protection

MONAGHAN FIRE & CIVIL PROTECTION

Monaghan Fire & Civil Protection (MFCP) continued to address emerging risks linked to the Climate Change such as Storm Eowyn, and energy transition, that include Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), in 2025. While the implementation of the WRC retained firefighters' agreement required significant updates to administrative processes, recruitment, training, HR policy alignment, and address challenges associated with pay standardisation, and fortnightly payroll commitments. These challenges contributed to an ever increasing administrative and operational workload and will influence future budget planning.

While MFCP continued to deliver essential services to the citizens of Monaghan, including emergency response, community support, and collaboration with partner agencies to strengthen major emergency planning. The service also carried out fire safety and building control functions, compliance inspections, licensing assessments, and community fire safety initiatives.



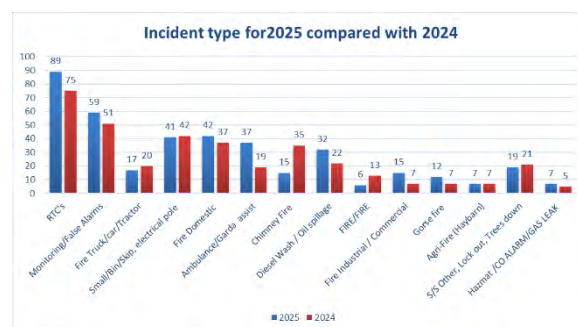
Fire Crews attending QQI Pump Training: Oct 2025

In 2025, Monaghan Fire Service responded to 432 incidents, representing a 18% increase in first-attendance mobilisations compared with 2024. The most common incident types included road traffic collisions, alarm activations, domestic fires, and small fires, with chimney fires continuing their downward

trend. The overall increase in activity is largely attributed to storm-related callouts and a rise in road traffic collisions requiring fire service intervention.

A station by station breakdown of first and second turnouts in 2025 is as follows:

| Fire Station | 1st Turn Out | 2nd Turn Out |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ballybay | 49 | 41 |
| Carrickmacross | 98 | 7 |
| Castleblayney | 85 | 17 |
| Clones | 41 | 4 |
| Monaghan | 159 | 8 |



Fire Service Incident in 2025 compared to 2024

Road Traffic Collisions remained the most common incident type in 2025, accounting for 21% of all callouts attended.



MFCP officers attending NOAC Good Practice workshop Nov.2025

MFCP officers also participated in the NOAC Good Practice Workshop in November 2025, contributing to shared learning and the exchange of best-practice approaches across the local government sector.

Training: The 2025 training programme included an Initial Recruits Course and a Breathing Apparatus Course for new firefighter entrants, supported by Flood First Responder, Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS), and Emergency First Responder training.



Fire Crews attending QQI Transportation Training: Sept 2025

MFCP delivered RTC-HGV training at Monaghan Fire Station in 2025 and has since become the national lead for this specialist training. The programme was further enhanced through the development of a QQI-accredited course created by the Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) in partnership with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM).



Little Blue Heros' Clones August 2025

MFCP's training needs assessment incorporates national, regional, and local requirements and includes the ongoing station training programme. This assessment is reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with the organisation's safety management system and to address emerging trends and priorities.

Health & Safety: MFCP's Occupational Health and Safety Management System is accredited to ISO 45001, associated audits have highlighted areas for improvement, particularly in asset management which has formed an essential element of our H&S delivery programme.

Fire Safety: The Fire Prevention Section reviewed and processed all valid fire safety certificate applications and provided guidance on achieving compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations. Emerging fire safety risks in 2025 included Battery Energy Storage Systems and Modern Methods of Construction. Inspections were carried out across a wide range of premises, including licensed venues, residential care facilities, preschools, flats, petrol stations, and community buildings.

Fire Safety Week promoted home fire safety, emphasising the importance of having a working smoke alarm in every household. Throughout the year, MFCP delivered targeted campaigns for older and vulnerable individuals, along with seasonal initiatives at Easter, Halloween, Christmas, and during Fire Safety Week.



4th Class poster winner from Corracrin NS Oct 2025

A total of 238 Fire Safety & Building Control inspections were conducted in 2025, and 164 planning referral reports completed. All notified licensing referrals for pubs, clubs, dance halls etc were assessed by a fire officer and recommendations issued to the Court Service.

The processing and issuance of Dangerous Substance Licences remained buoyant in 2025.



Cathaoirleach Cllr O'Hanlon at Age Friendly Conference in advance of Fire Safety Week 2025

Community Fire Safety: A range of fire safety initiatives were delivered focusing on both schools and community groups. Smoke detectors were distributed as part of the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and the key messages of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week and Fire Safety Week were promoted via local and social media platforms.

Building Control

In 2025, Monaghan Building Control Authority received 210 valid Commencement Notices, representing a 9% decrease compared with 2024. The number of Commencement Notices for new dwelling units fell sharply, reflecting the impact of the Contribution Waiver Scheme. An inspection rate of 32% for new builds was achieved during the year. Additionally, 88 Fire Safety Certificate applications and 44 Disability Access Certificate applications were processed under Building Control legislation.

The proportion of one-off houses availing of the 'opt-out' provision from statutory certification remains notably high. By choosing to opt out, homeowners acknowledge that their dwelling will not appear on the Certificate of Compliance on Completion register.



Building Control Inspection: Glenn Dromin July 25

Community Resilience

Every household and premises in County Monaghan received a Personal & Community Resilience booklet in May 2025. The purpose of the booklet is to promote a safe, sustainable, and resilient community, through practical planning guidance. The Booklet has been a collaborative project involving HSE, AGS and various Voluntary Groups, with the aim to provide the public with advice, contact details and practical tips on how to be prepared in the event of an emergency.



Community Resilience Booklet May 2025

Major Emergency Management

MFCP continued in 2025 with assistance from both An Garda Síochána and the HSE to test our response capabilities associated with procedures to ensure an effective interagency response, communication and media processes, and interoperability.

Multi-Agency Major Emergency Management involves maintaining plans, systems, procedures, and training, and to enhance the capability of all stakeholders.



Emergency Management Workshop Sept 2025

Emergency Management: Storm Éowyn placed significant pressure on MFCP and partner agencies, requiring extensive road clearance, emergency response, and sustained support to HSE, Uisce Éireann, and ESB

operations. The scale of disruption highlighted the increasing impact of severe weather events and reinforced the need to further strengthen and expand MFCP's emergency planning structure to ensure greater capacity, resilience, and multi-agency coordination.

Emergency Management Workshop: This Workshop was held in September 2025, providing an opportunity for agencies to review procedures, strengthen interagency coordination, and enhance preparedness for major incidents.

The Met Eireann Flood Forecasting Unit along with Uisce Eireann were among those who presented at the workshop, agencies also updated on preparedness for the winter season ahead. The Flood forecasting officer outlined the extent of information available to assist both Principal Response Agencies and various utilities.

Cross Border Emergency Planning: The Cross-Border Emergency Management Group (CBEMG) continue to review and enhance multi-agency engagement to ensure procedures are in place to enable an effective response from agencies on both side of the border.

Cross Border Research - 'Advancing a Focused All-Ireland and Cross Border Approach to Planning for Recovery in Strategic Emergency Management': This report undertaken by ICLRD in collaboration with Monaghan County Council and the Cross Border Emergency Management Group was finalised in 2025, and examines how a cross-border Building Back Better (BBB) approach can strengthen disaster recovery and long-term resilience across Ireland and Northern Ireland by integrating climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and strategic emergency management.

External Validation Group (EVG): MFCP was the first Fire Authority to undergo an External Validation Group visit in October 2025. The EVG process forms a key element of the 'Keeping Communities Safe' Framework, providing a structured, independent assessment of Fire Service performance and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement. The 2025 EVG cycle built on

previous validation exercises, maintaining a strong focus on service standards and operational effectiveness. MFCP received a highly positive endorsement, recognising the organisation's commitment to delivering good practice.

Capital works: Upgrade works were completed in both Carrickmacross and Clones Fire Station, while an additional appliance facility in Monaghan Fire Station has been operational in 2025 to protect vehicles exposure to weather. Construction of the new Fire Station in Ballybay was also completed in 2025.



New Ballybay Fire Station Oct 2025

Capital Investment in fleet and equipment: There was again significant capital investment in 2025 with the delivery of new Emergency Tender for Monaghan Fire Station, and new Breathing Apparatus sets to enable a transition from 200 bar to 300 bar cylinders, funded by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management.

MONAGHAN CIVIL DEFENCE

Monaghan Civil Defence Officers and Volunteers provided essential support to vulnerable community members following Storm Éowyn and played a key role in assisting Principal Response Agencies. Throughout 2025, the service demonstrated strong progress, reflecting its commitment to community support and emergency preparedness.



Civil Defence Officer Brian McCreery with MCC Cathaoirleach, Tánaiste and Cllr's

Key activities and accomplishments throughout the year included:

Community Support Initiatives

- Providing essential medical support at various outdoor events.
- Volunteers delivered food and medication to those in need, ensuring that vulnerable individuals received the assistance they required.
- Proactive during severe weather events, supporting local communities and mitigating the impact of emergencies.



Civil Defence Vol's. at the Monaghan Country Music Festival July 25

Training and Skill Development: With 54 multi-skilled volunteers, Monaghan Civil Defence training focused on critical areas such as:

- Casualty First Aid
- Search & Rescue, including boating and water incidents
- Auxiliary Fire Service
- Welfare and Communications
- Radiation Monitoring & Radio Communications

Training Courses were held at various levels, enhancing skills through opportunities at local, regional, and national training facilities.



Monaghan Civil Defence Vol.'s awards ceremony: Oct 2025

Recruitment: Monaghan Civil Defence saw a boost in volunteer numbers in 2025, attributed to:

- Comprehensive training programs.
- Opportunities for personal growth and teamwork.
- Skills development in areas like Technical Rescue and Emergency First Response.
- Community engagement through local and national events.

Fleet Enhancement: A New Patient Transport Vehicle was secured in 2025 that will enhance accessibility for various community members, improving overall service delivery.



Civil Defence Vol's. displaying fleet and equipment August 2025

Monaghan Civil Defence HQ continued to serve as a vital centre for coordinating local support and collaboration with Principal Response Agencies, ensuring effective emergency management.

In summary, Monaghan Civil Defence's proactive approach in 2025 ensured they were well-prepared for future challenges, emphasizing their commitment to community welfare and volunteer development. Their focus on training, collaboration, and support has positioned them as a key player in emergency response and preparedness in the region.



Monaghan Civil Defence Vol.'s attending their Annual Conference: Nov 2025

Community Development



Monaghan Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

Monaghan Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) supports people who have arrived in Ireland through international protection and resettlement pathways, including International Protection Applicants, Refugees, Programme Refugees, and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

The team provides practical information, guidance and integration support to individuals and families across County Monaghan. Services are delivered through a combination of local outreach clinics, direct engagement by telephone and email and collaboration with statutory and community partners.

In 2025, the LAIT responded to over 2,300 requests for support from individuals, families, and community groups. Supports provided include one-to-one assistance, signposting to relevant services, information provision and the delivery of workshops and community-based activities. These initiatives strengthen inclusion, encourage participation and enhance community integration across Monaghan's diverse communities.



Monaghan Community Integration Forum (CIF)

Monaghan Community Integration Forum continues to play a vital role as a collaborative network and working group. Its purpose is to identify emerging trends, address needs or gaps in service provision and develop solutions at a local level or escalate issues where necessary. The Forum is driven and chaired by Patricia Monahan, Director of Services for Community and Rural Development and consists of representatives from service providers across the county.

Throughout 2025, the Forum convened five times, reinforcing its commitment to fostering integration and supporting social inclusion policies and initiatives.

Local Enhancement Programme

This fund was managed by Monaghan LCDC on behalf of Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. The fund was open to groups seeking funding for operating costs, small capital projects and the purchase of equipment. 156 groups were awarded funding to a total of €150,835, of which €148,490.77 was successfully drawn down by the year end. The balance has been carried forward into 2026.

Community Development Fund

93 community and voluntary organisations were supported under the Council's Community Development Fund in 2025, benefiting to the tune of €100,000. The focus of the Fund is to promote social inclusion and to support areas of activity for which there are few income streams available, such as programme costs. Initiatives to benefit include Christmas parties for older people, local heritage publications and the purchase of life-saving equipment for First Responder groups.

Community Development

Monaghan County Council expanded its community development team, taking on

three new Community Development Support Officers during 2025. The role of these officers is to provide advice and support to community groups, to build local leadership capacity and to work alongside communities to prepare Community Plans and funding applications so that the county continues to enjoy a thriving, active community sector, which we believe is a key component to a sustainable, successful Monaghan.

Play & Recreation

Monaghan County Council were one of two local authorities to receive the maximum available grant of €125,000 towards the development of a teen space from the Dept of Children, Disability & Equality. Following consultation with the young people of Clones, a design for a €1million amenity, to be located on the site of the former halting site on 98 The Avenue has been devised. Phase I of the development has progressed, with the DCDE funding, and additional funding from the Peace Plus programme and the Ballybay Clones MD. The tendering process was completed during 2025, and the contractor is expected on site in Q1 of 2026. Phase I, outlined in blue in the image below, is expected to be open by summer 2026.



Clones Teen Space

New Playground

Funding of €18,800 was secured from DCDE’s Capital Grant for Play & Recreation Programme to provide a playground in the new local authority housing estate in Scotshouse, Luí na Gréine. The children living on the estate participated in a consultation event, which shaped the design brief given to the contractors. The amenity opened in early February 2026. This small project cost over €30,000 to complete, with the balance of the funding being provided by Monaghan MD.



The new play amenity at Luí na Gréine housing estate

National Play Day took place in July, and once again Monaghan County Council collaborated with a number of organisations across the county to deliver a range of events, from circus skills workshops to kite building. Funding was provided by DCDE.



Clones Library during National Play Day 2025

DRCDG Funding

In 2025, Monaghan County Council continued to maximise rural development funding to deliver high-impact community projects countywide. The combined funding of €2,552,340 secured represents a major achievement for Monaghan, supporting initiatives in recreation, town centre renewal, community facilities, biodiversity and strategic planning. These investments reflect the Council’s strong commitment to sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all communities.

| Scheme | Funding Approved |
|---|----------------------|
| CLÁR | €580,658.72 |
| Town & Village Renewal Scheme | €1,200,000 |
| Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) | €447,837.02 |
| Community Recognition Fund | €323,845 |
| Total funding approved by DRCDG in 2025 | €2,552,340.74 |

CLÁR Programme 2025

In 2025, Monaghan County Council successfully secured €580,658, a significant package of investment under the CLÁR Programme, supporting a wide range of community led initiatives across County Monaghan. The funding enables improvements to local sports and recreation facilities, enhanced accessibility and expanded community spaces. This year's programme reflects the strong partnership between the Council and community groups, ensuring that rural communities continue to have access to modern, inclusive and safe facilities.



Edenmore national School Sensory Play area

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2024/2025

Through the 2024/2025 ORIS Scheme, Monaghan County Council advanced an ambitious suite of outdoor recreation improvements with a total allocation of €447,837. This funding supports enhanced walking and cycling amenities, upgrades to park and trail infrastructure, improved accessibility, and the development of strategic recreational planning tools. These investments strengthen Monaghan's outdoor tourism potential, encourage active lifestyles, and safeguard natural amenities for community use.



Black Island Project

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025

Under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Monaghan County Council secured €1.2 million to progress projects focused on town centre revitalisation, amenity enhancement, and the development of strategic plans for future regeneration. This funding will reinvigorate public spaces, create new economic and social opportunities, and ensure that towns and villages continue to be vibrant, welcoming, and accessible places to live, work, and visit.



Corrybrennan Playpark Upgrade

Community Recognition Fund 2025

In 2025, Monaghan County Council received €323,845 under the Community Recognition Fund to support communities that continue to welcome new arrivals into the county. This investment helped to enhance shared community facilities, improve accessibility, regenerate public spaces, and repurpose underused buildings for community benefit.



Cloughvalley Sensory area



A project supported by PEACEPLUS; a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

In 2025, Monaghan County Council made significant progress in implementing its €4.57 million PEACEPLUS Action Plan, following its official launch by Minister Calleary on 9 April 2025 at the Monaghan Peace Campus. This marked the beginning of programme delivery across three themes: Community Regeneration & Transformation, Thriving & Peaceful Communities, and Celebrating Cultures & Diversity.



Minister for Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht, CEO of SEUPB, CE MCC, Members of the Monaghan PEACEPLUS Partnership Board, Partners of the Monaghan PEACEPLUS Programme

Throughout 2025, the programme moved into full implementation stage, with SEUPB formally contracting the application, enabling access to the reporting system and release of advance payments. The appointment process for the Independent External Controller advanced, allowing preparatory financial and compliance work to progress.



Minister for Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht, CEO of SEUPB, CE MCC, Local Representative MCC & MCC Senior Staff

Overall, 2025 focused on building strong foundations for delivering Monaghan's

PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Engagement with delivery partners was also prioritised to ensure they understood programme requirements and were fully supported in meeting SEUPB compliance standards.

Healthy Ireland

In 2025, Monaghan County Council and project partners made significant progress across both Healthy Ireland outcome areas. Approximately 4,500 people participated in Healthy Ireland-funded programmes countywide.

A major achievement was the distribution of Monaghan Playground Passports to all pre-school services, supporting early years physical activity and wellbeing for over 2,800 children.

A total of ten actions were delivered, offering diverse, evidence-informed programmes spanning early childhood to older adults in their mid-80s. Target cohorts included young people, people with disabilities, ethnic minority communities, LGBT+ individuals, new parents, and older adults, alongside universal community initiatives. This work strongly supports LECP priorities on reducing health inequalities, strengthening social inclusion, and promoting active, resilient communities.

A further key development in 2025 was the launch of the Cavan–Monaghan Connects website, providing accessible mental health information, training, and supports.



Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

In 2025, Comhairle na nÓg focused on the priority topic of Youth Mental Health.

Comhairle delivered Bridging the Gap, an intergenerational initiative developed with the Hello, How Are You? campaign. The project supported dialogue and understanding between young people and adults.

Members also collaborated with the Cavan Monaghan Local Creative Youth Partnership to create a podcast series exploring academic stress, friendships, and the wider impact of stress on young people's mental health.

Comhairle members participated in multiple local consultations and contributed significantly to the successful Making Places funding application, ensuring youth voice remained central to local planning.

Don't Pour Your Dreams Away

The annual Don't Pour Your Dreams Away youth alcohol awareness and safe socialising campaign took place ahead of the Junior Certificate results. This multi-agency programme delivered with MID, Youth Work Ireland, Foróige, CYPSC, and An Garda Síochána reached over 1,000 students across all 12 post-primary schools.

In 2025, all sessions were professionally recorded and shared with parents in advance of the results, ensuring parents were informed of social and legal risks and better equipped to support young people.

Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership

Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 27th November 2025. The concept of community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their own community. At the heart of this policy is the principle that every community has the right to be, and feel safe, in order to thrive and flourish in their own communities.

This is a new Partnership and membership includes seven local councillors, and representatives from Monaghan County Council, An Garda Síochána, HSE and Tusla. Local residents, members representing youth groups, the older population, new

communities, minority groups, business and education representatives are also represented on the Monaghan Local Community Partnership.



Cllr. Alan Johnston was elected as the Chair of the LCSP, with Cllr. Sinéad Flynn being elected as Vice-Chair. The Partnership will hold at least six meetings annually, including a meeting with the Elected Members which will take place in May 2026, and a Public Meeting.

The primary focus of the Partnership is on the development and implementation of the 3 Year Community Safety Plan.

Whilst the focus is firmly on the development of the 3 Year Plan, the partnership will also work with agencies and the community to seek funding to deliver Community Safety projects.

Monaghan Sports Partnership (MSP)

Community-based Programmes: MSP facilitated 25 different Active Adults (50+) activities in 16 community areas across the county. Over 750 participants took part in a diverse range of activities, including some special health related fitness activity for people with chronic conditions.



Supporting National Events/ Initiatives: MSP delivered events to celebrate national initiatives at a local level, including; Women In Sport Week, Men’s Health Week, National Bike Week, Social Inclusion Week, HER Outdoors Week, Positive Ageing Week, EU Week of Sport with over 500 people taking part across all events.

Children & Young People: MSP created new opportunities for a) primary schools activity to 35 schools with 2,300+ children engaged and b) post primary schools activity to 6 schools with 226 teens engaged in Olympic Handball, Badminton Leaders of the future, Sportshall Athletics, Basketball, PE In the Park, Step Around Monaghan challenge, Volleyball, Playmaker leadership training.

Sport Inclusion for Adults with a disability: MSP delivered a series of physical activity for 190 service users of local adult disability day services –attended various activities including soccer skills, chair exercises, lawn bowls, Pop Up Pool classes, exercise to music, dance fit.



Sport Inclusion for Children with a disability: MSP delivered a series of physical activity opportunity for children with additional needs within 16 special education classes / autism supported classes in activity - Inclusive Cycling, Gymnastics, Football For All, Swim Lessons, Movement and Mobility. Supported community-led multi sport activity.

Education & Training: 7 education courses were attended by 340 people including, transition years students, primary school students, teachers and sports club volunteers.

2025 Sports Club Grants Funding Programme: MSP administered €27,700 in funding support to 56 sports clubs under 2 measures; small scale sports equipment and training & education. The Training & Education supports assisted 85 individuals in upskilling in sports coaching and other relevant workshops.

Community Sports Activity Hubs: Led by MSP, the Kilmore and Drumsnatt Hub has seen over 600 unique participants, adults and children participating in sports such as basketball, athletics, badminton, indoor bowls, martial arts, yoga, circuit training. Doohamlet and Tullycorbet projects have engaged over 300 participants locally.

POP Up Pool (Carrickmacross) Swim Ireland initiative supported by Monaghan County Council, based at Carrickmacross continued to be in place throughout 2025. Over 400 people have availed of the pool for swim lessons, exercises classes, special activity and rehabilitation services. MSP supported and subsidised activities for older people and for adults & children with a disability.

Sport4Empowerment programme Facilitated by MSP the Sport Ireland ESF+ programme "Sport 4 Empowerment" (S4E) commenced in 2025 which implements socially innovative programmes, using sport and physical activity, to foster social inclusion and enhance the wellbeing, education, and economic prospects of people at risk of social exclusion.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Monaghan LCDC plays a co-ordinating role at county level helping to ensure that there is a coherent approach to local and community development in the county. In 2025, the LCDC met 8 times and operated effectively in managing various programmes including SICAP, PEACEPLUS, Community Enhancement Fund, Social Inclusion and Healthy Ireland Fund.



Local Area Child Poverty Project

Monaghan Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPSC) in collaboration with Monaghan LCDC secured €186,000 in funding from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to deliver the Local Area Child Poverty Project. This pilot project is one of four across the country and explores the reasons of poverty for those disadvantaged individuals and families across County Monaghan. Its aim is to identify local needs and promote the need for service integration to respond to these needs.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

Monaghan LCDC oversaw the implementation of the 2025 work plan, which received funding of €882k from Pobal.

Monaghan Age Friendly Programme

The Monaghan Age Friendly Programme restructured the membership of the Age Friendly Alliance in 2025. The committee is chaired by the Chief Executive Robert Burns. Key priorities in 2025 included completing the review of the Age Friendly Strategy 2020-2024, and developing a new Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2030.



The Older Persons Information Booklet was launched in March 2025. The booklet is a

comprehensive guide tailored for older residents, offering essential contact details for local services to promote independent living. It covers topics like health, social welfare, housing, and community supports.

Social Inclusion Week

In 2025 the Local Equality Subgroup decided on the theme “Diverse, Inclusive, Respect” as their topic for Social Inclusion Week. Some members of the Equality Subgroup told their own personal stories of their life in County Monaghan and highlighted projects that they are involved in that promote inclusion throughout the County.

Africa Day 2025

On the 24th May 2025 Africa Day was celebrated in the Peace Campus in Monaghan Town. The day featured poetry, music, fashion, food and stories celebrating the African community in County Monaghan.

Make Way Day 2025

Make Way Day was marked in all three Municipal Districts. Our Disability Officer and Community Development Officers carried out walking audits in collaboration with Mise in Monaghan Town and Cairde in Clones. The audits identified potential issues which may cause difficulty for people getting around the various towns.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND 2025.

The Community Development Fund provided funding to local community groups. €100,000 was allocated to 93 community groups which contributed to the purchase of equipment, community fun days and craft courses.



Tidy Town Insurance

In April 2025, the PPN supported the Council to rollout the new Tidy Towns Insurance scheme. The scheme is funded by the local authority with no charge to the Tidy Town Committee.



Representatives from the Tidy Towns Network with MCC Elected Members & Senior Management Team

Training

A series of training events were carried out over the year for our community groups including:-

- Effective Meetings
- Good Governance
- Communication Skills and Social Media
- Project Management for Community Organisations
- Biodiversity Training
- Circular Economy Workshop
- Writing Funding Applications



Trip to Stormont to Mark International Women's Day

Monaghan Women's Assembly, in collaboration with WCI Blaney Blades and WCI Monaghan, marked International Women's Day with an inspiring trip to Stormont.

Women Beyond The Dail

Monaghan Women's Assembly in conjunction with the National Women's Council & SHE (See Her Elected) hosted a Women Beyond the Dail Seminar in the Council Chamber which included a panel discussion with our current female councillors in Monaghan County Council about "Access, Representation and Retention of Women in Irish Local Government"

Pride of Place

Monaghan County Council nominated four community groups to represent the County at the All-Ireland Pride of Place Awards held in Limerick.



Doohamlet Community Centre took first place in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category, with Carrickroe Community Development taking runner up place in the Area with a Population of 0-100 category.



Planning

Forward Planning

Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031

The Monaghan County Development Plan is the primary policy framework guiding the proper planning and sustainable development of County Monaghan. The new County Development Plan came into effect on 07 July 2025, following a two-year programme which entailed extensive consultations and engagement with internal departments, statutory agencies, the public and public representatives.

The Council received two Draft Ministerial Directions in respect of the adopted Plan. A final Direction was issued on 21 October 2025 by the Minister, and the Development Plan was amended accordingly.

National Planning Framework (First Revision)

On 29 July 2025, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a letter to the Chief Executive in respect of the implementation of the updated 'Housing Growth Requirements' which are set out in the First Revision of National Planning Framework (NPF) (April 2025). Work on this commenced immediately and the Planning Department in conjunction with the Housing Activation Team has undertaken the necessary assessments to ensure that the Core Strategy aligns with the increased housing delivery targets set out in the updated Framework.

Variation No. 1 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031

The first variation to the County Development Plan 2025-2031 went on public display on 14 August 2025. The variation sought to rezone a portion of lands at Annahagh, Monaghan to 'Industry, Enterprise and Employment'. Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report, Elected Members on 06 October 2025 adopted the variation to the Development Plan.

Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures

Following a request to delete the former 'Paragon Bar', Fermanagh Street, Clones, from the Record of Protected Structures, a formal process under the Planning Acts was initiated. After a public consultation process, and a report to the Elected Members, a resolution was passed in December 2025 to delete the structure from the Record of Protected Structures.

Tier 4 Village Plans

It is an objective of the County Development Plan to prepare three village plans per year for Tier 4 villages. Following agreement with the Municipal District Members, the villages of Glaslough, Inniskeen and Smithborough have been selected for preparation of plans in 2026. It is anticipated that following a tender process, consultants will be appointed in March 2026 to commence the process with the plans to be completed by the end of 2026.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Mapping

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced in the Budget in 2022, under the provisions of the Finance Act 2021, and amended under the Finance Act (No.2) 2023.

The RZLT aims to incentivise landowners to activate existing planning permissions for housing on identified lands and to stimulate land that is serviced and zoned for residential development but remains undeveloped.

Local authorities are required to undertake mapping to identify the lands in scope for the tax in their respective functional areas. The RZLT mapping is required to be carried out on an annual basis.

The final maps for 2025 were published on 31 January 2025, and any tax liability in relation to properties on this Final Map was payable to the Revenue Commissioners by 23 May 2025.

Affected property owners were required to register for RZLT and file a 2025 RZLT return. Four submissions were received by the Planning Authority requesting rezoning of lands in respect of the final map for 2025. In accordance with the requirements of the Finance Act (No. 2) 2023, the Planning Authority issued determinations in respect of each submission received. Work commenced in November 2025 on the preparation of the Final Map for 2026 and the Annual Draft Map for 2027.

Support to Housing Activation Team and Town Regeneration Office

The Planning Department provided planning guidance throughout 2025 to both the Housing Activation Team and the Town Regeneration Office, in identifying suitable lands for housing and infrastructure, as well as the activation and development of vacant or derelict sites.

Lough Muckno and Environs Master Plan

The Planning Section commenced the preparation of a Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs in 2025.



The study area comprising of approximately 1,000 hectares, included the lake, the park, the rural landscape, and urban area. Extensive background research and analysis was carried out in advance of community engagement which was undertaken in May 2025. This included stakeholder workshops, community drop-in clinic, schools' workshop, online community survey and meetings with strategic partners and statutory agencies. In total 271 responses were submitted to the online community survey, and 140 attended in-person events.



An 'Emerging Options' report is scheduled to be concluded in early 2026 and released to public consultation, for their feedback prior to finalising a Draft Plan in Summer 2026. The Draft Plan will be subject to statutory environmental assessments with a final plan completed by November 2026.

Built Heritage

Monaghan County Council's Planning Section administer two annual heritage grant schemes, the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF).

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) encourages the investment of private capital in small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve historic structures, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons.

In 2025 County Monaghan received an overall allocation of €161,952 under the BHIS and twelve projects were awarded funding;

- Lakeview House, North Road, Monaghan town
- Holy Family Church, Balloisin
- Hilton House, Hilton Park, Clones
- Magherarny Old School
- St. Sillian's Church, Tyholland
- St. Laebhan's Church, Newbliss
- Drum Church of Ireland
- St. Vincent's, Castleblaney
- Shanco Church, Emyvale

- Freame Mount Demense, Dartry, Cootehill
- Private dwelling, Market Square, Castleblaney
- Newbliss Gate Lodge, Threemilehouse

Lakeview House, North Road, Monaghan



Before



During



After

Historic Structures Fund

The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) is on the conservation and enhancement of historic structures and

buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. It aims to enable conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support. Total funding awarded under the HSF for 2025 was €100,000, and this related to the refurbishment of St Macartan’s Cathedral.

St Macartan’s Cathedral



Before



After

Section 57 Declarations

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) works which would normally be considered exempted development under Section 4(1)(h) of the Act may not be exempt in respect of a Protected Structure or a Proposed Protected Structure.

Section 57 of the Act allows for the owner or occupier of a Protected Structure, or a Proposed Protected Structure, to make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a declaration as to the type of works which it considers would, or would not materially affect the character of the structure, or any element of the structure, thereby clarifying which works would be considered exempted development and those which would require planning permission. Monaghan County Council received eight Section 57 Declarations in 2025.

Development Management

The Planning Authority received 641 planning applications, 12 applications for extension of duration of planning permission, and 138 exempt development applications during 2025.

The number of overall applications increased slightly by 2.5% compared to those received in 2024.

The number of exempted development applications received continue to remain high, primarily due to the success of the Croí Cónaithe Grants Scheme.

The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) III was transposed into Irish legislation in 2025, with most of the provisions coming into effect on 07 August 2025. The Directive includes provisions that aim to speed up the permit granting process for renewable energy projects. Three applications were received under this provision in 2025. Of these 2 were deemed incomplete, and 1 progressed to the Development Management Unit.

One material contravention was processed in 2025.

| Planning Applications Received in 2025 | |
|--|-----|
| Full Permission | 521 |
| Outline Planning | 6 |
| Permission Consequent | 7 |
| Retention | 107 |
| Extension of Durations | 12 |
| Exempt Development | 138 |
| Part VIII Proposals | 9 |
| Total Applications Received | 800 |

Whilst the majority of applications received were for single dwellings, home extensions and agricultural development, a number of significant and complex applications, (many of which were accompanied by Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and/or Natural Impact Statements) were submitted during the year.

| Planning Applications Statistics for 2025 | |
|---|-----|
| Invalid | 109 |
| Granted | 451 |
| Refused | 32 |
| Withdrawn | 31 |

Grants of permission accounted for 83% of applications processed, whilst refusals accounted for 6%. 9 decisions were appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála, which represents 1% of applications received in 2025.

Planning Permissions Granted for Housing

The breakdown of types of housing granted in 2025 are set out below. The number of housing units granted represents a 151% increase on 2024 figures.

| Planning Permissions granted for 2025 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Houses (excluding one-off houses) | 290 |
| Apartments | 58 |
| One-off Houses | 108 |
| Total | 456 |

Compliance with Conditions

Legislation requires the Planning Authority to deal with any compliance submission in respect of a condition(s) attached to a planning permission, which requires the written agreement of the Planning Authority, within a time limit of eight weeks. The 143 compliance submissions received by the Planning

Authority in 2025 reflects a slight increase from 2024.

Planning Search Requests

The number of planning search requests received have increased in recent years, reflecting higher levels of property transactions and development interest within the county. This rise would also appear to reflect a greater emphasis on due diligence, with applicants and solicitors seeking more comprehensive planning histories before progressing with sales or development proposals. In 2025, 239 planning searches were completed.

Eplanning Portal

The Planning Section continues to operate a dual system whereby it accepts both hard copy and online applications. In 2025 a total of 83.5% of the planning applications were received online, which is a marginal increase from 2024, of 79%.

Planning Enforcement

When the Planning Authority becomes aware of a breach of planning permission or unauthorised development, discussions with owner/occupier of the lands/property concerned are often sufficient to ensure remedy. Where issues are not addressed by the owner/occupier then formal enforcement action is often required. Enforcement complaint numbers have remained consistent year on year with 116 new cases in 2025 compared to 118 in 2024.

Enforcement statistics for 2025 are set out below.

| 2025 Enforcement Statistics | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| New cases opened | 116 |
| Cases closed | 46 |
| Ongoing enforcement cases | 294 |

There are 29 enforcement cases that are currently being pursued for legal action through the courts system.

Taking in Charge

Five estates were taken in charge in 2025. A further two were progressed through public consultation process and it is anticipated that these will be formally taken in charge in 2026.

There are 27 applications under consideration in the Taking-in-Charge process.

The Planning Authority continues to engage with Uisce Eireann as part of the process.

Continuing Professional Development

Planning and Development Act 2024

A phased commencement of the new Planning and Development Act 2024 continued in 2025. These have included provisions relating to An Coimisiún Pleanála, the Office of the Planning Regulator, Judicial Review, the National, Regional and Local Policy Framework (including the Development Plan), Environmental Assessments. Further commencements are expected in 2026, including provisions for the Development Management framework.

Staff have attended training days provided by the Office of the Planning Regulator in respect of the new Planning Act and will continue to update their training in 2026.



Staff attended various other training throughout the year including report writing, Fundamentals in Planning Administration, Development Management, Enforcement, Forward Planning, Environmental Assessment, Built Heritage and Town Regeneration.

Capital Projects

Roosky Lands Access Road

Construction of the Roosky Lands Access Road and Active Travel Links commenced on 28 July 2025 and is progressing well under Gibson Brothers Ltd., with supervision by Monaghan County Council and DBFL Consulting Engineers. Site clearance, topsoil removal, pavement foundations and most underground services are complete. Bridge piles and beams over the Shambles River have been installed. Next Steps include bridge-deck concrete, service completion, the new Monaghan Harps entrance, and asphalt base layers. Works will be completed by Q3 2026.



Roosky Lands Access Road and Active Travel Links

Proposed new Civic Office Headquarters

The Part 8 Planning was approved for the proposed Monaghan County Council Civic Office Headquarters at Roosky, Monaghan by the Elected Members in April 2024. In addition, the Fire Safety Certificate and Disabled Access Certificate have also been approved.

The project team have shortlisted potential works contractors and Tender documents have been issued with Tender returns due in March 2026. The Tender Report will be presented to the Elected member after tender evaluation in Q2 2026.



3D Birdseye CGI image of the proposed new Civic Offices at Roosky



Front elevation CGI image of the proposed new Civic Offices at Roosky

Dublin Street & Backlands Regeneration Project

Dublin Street South Regeneration Project

During 2025, RPS Design Consultants progressed detailed designs for Phase I of the regeneration scheme focused on the development of the new civic plaza off Dublin Street.

Avison Young (Valuation Office) continued engagement and negotiations with affected property owners and agreement has been reached for the acquisition of 7 properties.

Negotiations on the remaining properties will be progressed in 2026. Subject to acquisition of required properties and URDF Department Approval it is envisaged that Phase 1 may proceed to tender in Q2 2026.



Conceptual Image – View of proposed Pedestrian Civic Plaza from Dublin Street



Conceptual Image – View of proposed Pedestrian Civic Plaza towards Dublin Street

Dublin Street North Regeneration Project

The Capital Project Department is continuing to progress proposals for the regeneration of the Dublin Street North area of Monaghan Town. Planning permission has been approved by An Coimisiun Pleanála. Capital Projects is currently preparing Costs to move into the next phase of the project Detailed Design and Land Acquisition. Moving into this next phase is subject to the approval of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Plan view of Dublin Street North Regeneration proposals



3d Birdseye view of Dublin Street North Regeneration proposals and potential for future development

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase II – Castleblayney Market House & Market Square.

The Council lodged a submission with the funding department (DRCDG) in March 2025 seeking approval to progress stage 2 of the tender process. Following approval, the tender process was completed in September, and Felix O’Hare Contractor was identified as the successful tenderer. A further submission under *Decision Gate 3 Approval to Proceed*, was lodged in October 2025 seeking approval to award the construction contract. This submission remains under consideration by the DRCDG. The commencement of construction works in 2026 is contingent on the approval timelines under Decision Gate 3.



Conceptual Image – Refurbished Market House



Conceptual Image – Upper Ground Floor

Proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex in Carrickmacross Town

Consultants S3 Solutions completed the Feasibility Study and Strategic Assessment Report in January 2025. Following this, the consultants completed a comprehensive assessment of potential sites for the proposed facility throughout 2025. The preferred site location was presented to the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Elected Members at the November MD Meeting. It is anticipated that procurement of Surveying Services and Design Consultants will be progressed during 2026.



Conceptual Image of Proposed Facility

Newbliss RRDF Digital Enterprise Hub

Monaghan County Council secured RRDF support from the Department of Rural and Community Development to deliver the Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub. This transformative project has repurposed the former Newbliss Area Office into a modern, fully serviced remote working, enterprise, and digital facility.



Newbliss – Rear

The project plays a central role in the sustainable regeneration of Newbliss Village. Bringing a vacant protected structure back into productive use, the Hub enhances footfall in the village, addresses longstanding dereliction issues, and acts as a catalyst for local economic renewal. The facility is managed and operated by Enterprising Monaghan.



Newbliss- Front

Lowry Construction Ltd. were appointed as the main contractor, with construction commencing in June 2023. Substantial Completion was achieved in March 2025. The office accommodation has been fully occupied since September 2025, supporting a range of local enterprises and remote workers. Additional facilities—including the conference room and hot-desking spaces—are available for hire through Enterprising Monaghan.

Blackwater Valley Rural Enterprise Hub

The Blackwater Valley Rural Enterprise and Digital Hub project, with McKelvey Construction Ltd appointed as the main contractor and Craftstudio Architecture Ltd

acting as the Employer's Representative, commenced in March 2025.

Blockwork construction is now complete, and the roof installation is scheduled to take place over the coming weeks. This milestone will allow first-fix mechanical and electrical works to begin shortly thereafter.

Substantial completion is anticipated for early Q4 2026. Following construction completion, Monaghan County Council (MCC) will collaborate with Truagh Spirit to coordinate the final fit-out and manage the building handover process towards the end of 2026.



Clones Regeneration Hub Project

In August 2024, MCC received confirmation of funding for the Clones Regeneration Hub Project.

The project consisted of the development of two hubs in the town, one on the site of the Old Cinema Site on Fermanagh St and the other on the site of Lennard Arms.



Old Cinema Site, Fermanagh St

The Capital Project Team are responsible for the delivery of the Fermanagh St. Business Hub. The building when complete will provide circa 632sqm for office use and associated facilities over two floors. It includes for the provision of car parking as well as the development of a new public realm space, which includes for the construction of an accessible ramp and stairs to the north of the site and retention of existing public pedestrian route to Fermanagh Street, adjacent to the site.

Lowry Construction Ltd. were selected as the successful Contractor and are expected to commence on site in early 2026. The estimated timeframe for completion of this project is Q3 2027.



Fermanagh St Regeneration

Rockcorry Community Centre

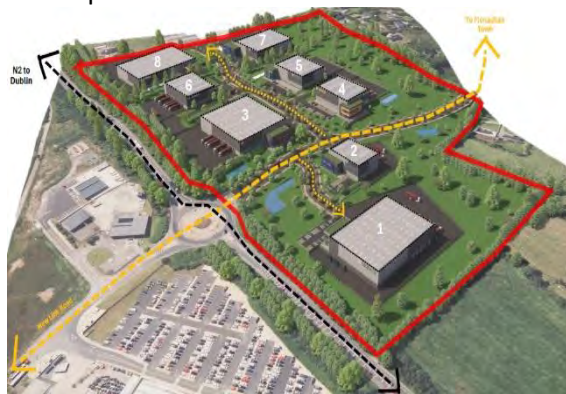
A design team, led by Hall Black Douglas Architects, was appointed in September 2024 to manage the design and oversee construction of this project.

Working closely with the Rockcorry Community Group and Monaghan County Council, planning permission for the Community Centre was secured in April 2025. The Detailed Design Stage followed and is now complete. The necessary Works Requirements have been prepared, and the project is now ready to proceed to public tendering.

In August 2025 the Council submitted the Decision Gate to the DRCDG for Approval to Proceed. This remains with DRCDG for authorisation. Once approval is granted construction is estimated to take approximately 15 months.

Industrial Zoned Lands, Annagh, Monaghan

In December 2025 Monaghan County Council submitted a Part 8 Planning Application for serviced infrastructure which will lead to new industrial development on 15 Hectares of land zoned industrial/ Enterprise/ Employment west of Annagh Roundabout on the N2 in Monaghan town. Monaghan County Council have appointed a Design Team to deliver the project right through to construction. The Part 8 Application will be presented for consideration by the Elected Members in Q2 2026. Concurrently, Monaghan County Council advertised and received Expressions of Interest from interested businesses to purchase plots on the available lands for economic development.



Feasibility Plan for development of industrial sites at Annagh, Monaghan

Clones Mini DigiHub

The Mini DigiHub project was officially launched on the 21st of November 2025 at Monaghan Peace Campus. This project has been supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Led by East Border Region, project partners include Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), Monaghan County Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Meath County Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Monaghan County Council are currently procuring a Design Team to develop the ground floor of the former Bank of Ireland Clones, and it is anticipated that the facility will open in 2026.



Former Bank Of Ireland Building, Clones



Mobile DigiHub, DKIT

St. Tiarnachs Quarter Regeneration Project Clones

The St. Tiarnach's Quarter Regeneration Project advanced in 2025 with confirmation from DRCDG of €664,668 in RRDF Cat 2 funding

to support masterplanning and early design work. Monaghan County Council, working with local community groups and Clones and Monaghan GAA, is leading the redevelopment of St. Tiarnach’s Park and the surrounding area.



The funding will progress a masterplan for the wider Quarter, initiate the design of a

new multi-purpose Community Hub, and advance early public realm improvements. The Hub will provide flexible community, enterprise, training, and digital spaces, supporting local groups and social enterprises.

This project builds on Clones’ existing assets including St. Tiarnach’s Park, the Peace Link, and the Ulster Canal to strengthen the town’s profile, stimulate economic activity, and support the long-term development of Clones.

Monaghan Leisure Complex

Monaghan Leisure Complex continues to be managed on behalf of Monaghan County Council by Coral Leisure Ltd., who have operated the facility since 2006. Coral Leisure is one of Ireland’s leading leisure service providers, managing eight publicly owned facilities nationwide.

In 2025, the Complex maintained a strong membership base of 1,002 members and recorded 178,026 individual visits, reflecting its ongoing importance as a health and wellbeing asset for the county.



A notable highlight for 2025 was the introduction of pickleball, which has proven to

be a major success. Members and new users of all ages have embraced this fast-paced, sociable racket sport, making it a vibrant and popular addition to the programme and a positive enhancement to Monaghan town’s recreational offering.



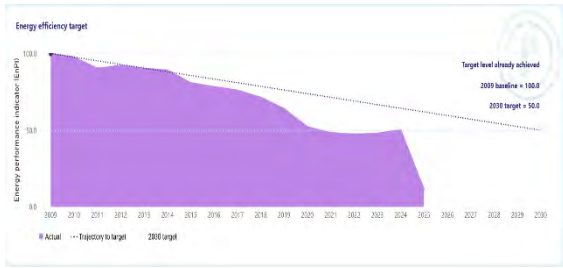
Energy

Monaghan County Council’s Capital Projects Department oversees energy monitoring and reporting in line with the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 and national obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. These commitments include a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

All public bodies are required to submit annual energy performance data through the SEAI Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) System. This supports compliance with national and EU targets, including a 50% improvement in public-sector energy efficiency by 2030.

SEAI M&R Report 2024

- 50% Energy Efficiency Target achieved (ahead of schedule)
- 41% CO₂ reduction achieved to date (2025 results pending)



Monaghan County Council continues to progress towards its 2030 and 2050 targets through a range of initiatives, including:

- Ongoing performance monitoring through the SEAI M&R system.
- Reducing carbon emissions from key buildings under the SEAI Pathfinder Programme, focusing on deep energy retrofits.
- Transitioning the fleet to lower-carbon alternatives such as HVO and electric vehicles.
- Ensuring all new buildings meet NZEB standards.

Energy Efficiency Achievements

Monaghan County Council has achieved significant progress in decarbonisation and energy improvement:

- **High Energy Performance:** MCC is among the strongest performers nationally, already achieving a 50% improvement in energy efficiency.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Continued collaboration with SEAI and the Eastern & Midlands CARO supports best-practice climate action and energy management.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Through the CARO Border Energy Unit, MCC works with Leitrim and Cavan County Councils to coordinate regional decarbonisation projects.

SEAI Pathfinder Project

Deep Retrofit of Major Buildings. Design Team was appointed in Q3 2025 to lead the retrofit

design process with progression to Detailed Design in early 2026.

- Monaghan Leisure Centre
- Carrickmacross Civic Offices
- Clones Library Headquarters

This programme will target delivering significant reduction in Council fossil CO₂ emissions and advancing the Council's progress toward the 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

Property Asset Management

The Council's Property Interest Register (PIR) records and tracks all land and building assets under the control of the Council. This ensures good Governance and effective management of our property portfolio and links to the Financial Assets Register (FAR).

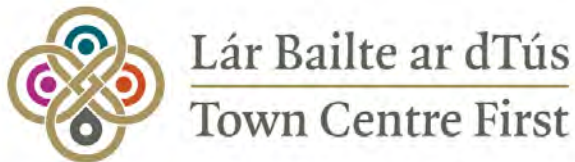
As of December 2025, Monaghan County Council currently has 2,120 Assets in the Property Interests Register.

| Asset Type | PIR Register End 2025 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Housing | 881 |
| Roads | 690 |
| Amenity | 141 |
| Water Services | 126 |
| LA Building | 72 |
| Car Park | 54 |
| Other | 44 |
| Land | 38 |
| LA Building Campus | 30 |
| Acquisition in Progress | 11 |
| Landbank | 11 |
| Depot | 7 |
| Landfill | 6 |
| Heritage | 6 |
| Burial Grounds | 1 |
| Playgrounds | 1 |
| Quarry | 1 |

Town Regeneration Section

Monaghan Town Centre First Plan

Monaghan County Council commissioned John McLaughlin Architects in July 2024 to develop a Town Centre First Plan and options Paper for the St Louis Lands for Monaghan Town.



Following a series of consultation events the final draft of the documents was completed and made available during mid November 2024. The plan mapped out a series of transformative projects specifically tailored for Monaghan Town, encompassing a spectrum of scales and ambitions.

It is a live document, remaining responsive to ongoing input and feedback, ensuring its adaptability to the evolving needs and aspirations of Monaghan Town.



It was finally launched on the 20th October 2025



Launch of Monaghan Town Centre First Plan

St Louis Convent Lands and Buildings

In association with the development of the Town Centre First Plan for Monaghan Town one of the objectives was the development of proposals for a vacant heritage building in public ownership to be brought back into use, and the carrying out of citizen engagement in association with these projects.

A masterplan for St Louis site was developed in conjunction with the Monaghan Town Centre First Plan documents.



Following development of this document a grant application for the St Louis Convent Chapel was made under THRIVE Strand 2 funding stream by Craftstudio Architects on behalf of Monaghan County Council.

On 17 September 2025, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr James Browne TD, announced funding of €7 million for

Monaghan County Council under the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE) to support the redevelopment of St Louis Convent Chapel.

The investment will enable the conservation and adaptive reuse of the former chapel as a flexible community and cultural facility, providing space for events, meetings, creative activity and community use. The project will also enhance pedestrian connectivity between the site and Monaghan Town Centre.

Subject to the completion of detailed design and procurement processes, construction is expected to commence in Q4 2026, with completion anticipated in Q4 2027.

Ballybay Town Centre First Plan

Monaghan County Council commissioned Paul Hogarth Company Ireland to prepare a Town Centre First plan for Ballybay in July 2024. They commenced the initial consultation process in September 2024 and a draft plan was issued in November 2024.



Following further consultation, the final document was launched by the Ballybay – Clones Municipal District in conjunction with the Ballybay Town Team on the 21st July 2025.

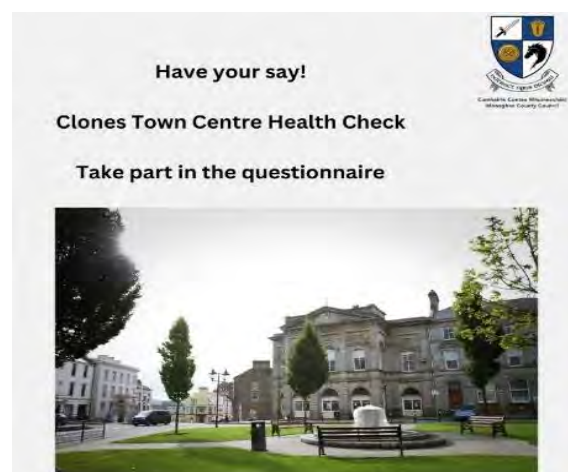
This project is being funded by an allocation from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Town Centre Health Checks and Town Team Capacity building

Monaghan County Council were awarded funding of €10,000 to undertake Town Centre Health Checks and Town Team Capacity building for each

of the towns of Clones, Castleblayney and Monaghan.

Queens University, under the auspices of the School of Planning were appointed to undertake the Town Centre Health Checks for the three towns. The initial survey work consisting of online questionnaires and in person surveys commenced in September 2024.



The health checks were completed in March 2025.

Following the training Town Team Capacity building for Clones, Castleblayney and Monaghan was undertaken by MCA consulting and into Q1 2025.

Action Plans have been developed by the individual Town team to progress the aims and objectives of the Town Teams informed by the Town Centre First Plans developed in their areas.

Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3

The Unit is progressing the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3 for Monaghan Town. This involves actively engaging

with property owners, where possible, to address the long-term vacancy and dereliction of 87 properties within the town. The potential acquisition of properties has been approved and resources provided by the Department Housing Local Government and Heritage for these properties, either compulsorily or by agreement, and to place them on the open market for sale to buyers that will bring the properties back into active use. This funding is committed to 2030.

Under the provision of URDF Call 3 one property has now been vested and sold to a local developer who has already applied for the Vacant homes grant.

The Council were also able to acquire a property under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 to enable the commencement of the Dublin Street South Regeneration project funded under URDF Call 2.

Under the provisions of the URDF call 3 scheme there are maximum price thresholds beyond which it is necessary to secure prior approval from the department of housing prior to purchase. Due to the form, nature, and size of the Assembly Rooms on Dawson Street the valuation exceeded the thresholds, so sanction was sought and approved for the acquisition of the property. A derogation of remedial funding was also received for this property which allowed for the Council to remove the excess vegetation to the rear of the property and make it more desirable for sale.



Assembly rooms has been derelict for over 30 years and is now going to be purchased by agreement



Assembly rooms rear, vegetation being removed

Three Properties has been identified for CPO Activation in Q1 2025. A Vesting Order has been issued for one of the properties.



Vesting order issued on 9 Plantation Terrace.

Monaghan County Council have entered 26.no properties onto the derelict site register within the URDF call 3 area. We have engaged with these owners, and most have issued a programme of works to make the properties non derelict or listed the property for sale.

17.no properties have been listed for sale/sale complete. The property owners have been afforded some time to complete sale, these will be entered onto derelict site register if sale is not complete by Q2 in 2025.

Through intervention, 14.no derelict properties have now been brought back into use and are functional commercial/residential properties and 13.no properties have applied for the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.



24-26 Market Street. Property was fire damaged in 2017. MCC started CPO proceedings, but property was sold to developer who has started to undertake works

Countywide Dereliction Programme Update

234.no Section 8(2) notices (including URDF programme) have been issued by Monaghan County Council since 2024. This notice advises the property owner that the Council considers that their property is derelict and invites them to submit proposals within a reasonable timeframe to address the dereliction issue.

Resulting from this engagement, a further 114.no properties have been entered on to the Derelict Site Register as detailed below:

There were 30.no historical properties on the Derelict Site Register. After surveying these properties, the Council were able to remove 31.no from the register leaving a total of 113.no properties on the Derelict Site Register at present.

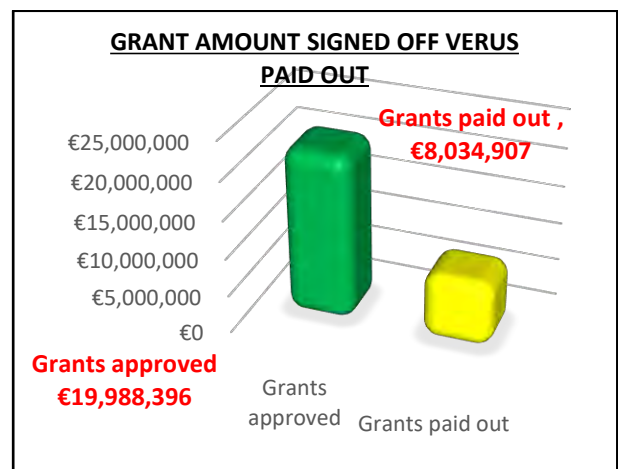
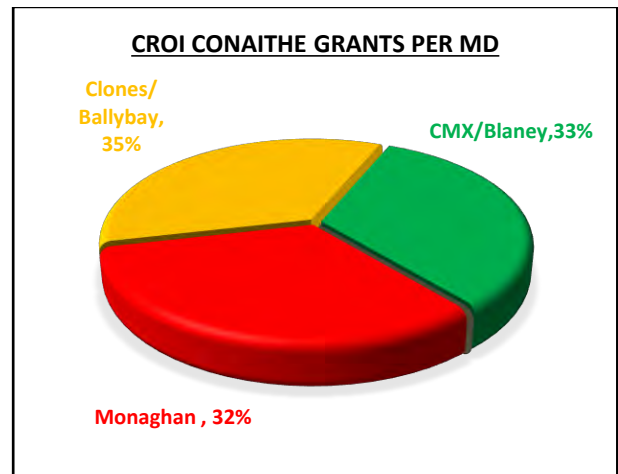
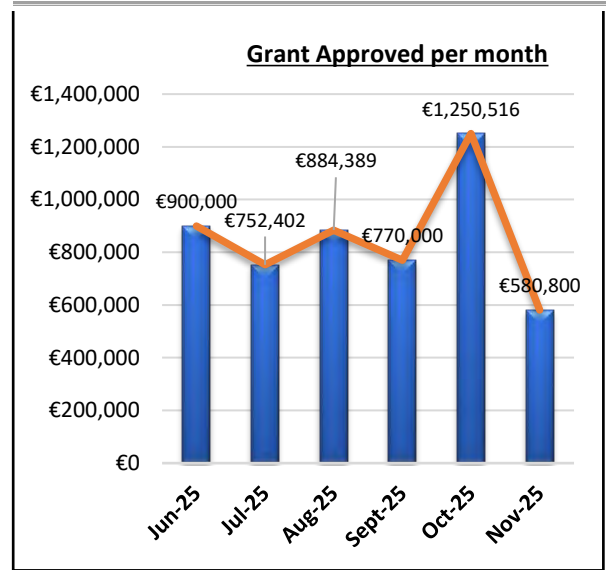
CPO Activation Programme

In addition to the Monaghan Town URDF Call 3 Scheme, the Council has acquired thirteen additional properties utilising its powers as detailed in the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Five properties were purchased for the Housing Section to develop and one for the Municipal District to develop. We have sale agreed/sold on six properties and one advertised for sale at present.

Croí Cónaithe Property Refurbishment

The total grant approved up to December 2025 is €19,988,396 with an average grant approval amount of €62,269. There have been 132 grants drawn down with a total amount of €7,634,907.

There have been 457 Croi Cónaithe grants received, and 322 grants approved with only 61 rejected.



Examples of Properties that have been recipients of the Croi Connaithe Grant

1)



2)



3)



4)



Monaghan County Libraries

2025 in numbers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Visitors | 371,197 |
| Outreach events | 3,623 |
| Event attendance | 61,824 |
| Items borrowed | 149,382 |
| Online loans | 91,406 |
| Local history queries | 2,490 |

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

Additional support to communities affected by Storm Éowyn

Libraries across the county diversified their service offerings throughout the aftermath of Storm Éowyn to help those most affected by the storm. They provided an opportunity for the community to come in, charge up and warm up.



Castleblayney Library open on Saturdays

Castleblayney Library opened every Saturday from 10am-1pm in 2025 and we are delighted to see people visiting on Saturday mornings.

Fighting Words

Fighting Words is a creative writing organisation that aim is to help students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing. A pilot was initiated between the Iontas Arts Theatre and Creative Monaghan and now rolled out through the library branch network in 2025.

Free blood pressure and pulse checks

Monaghan Town Library hosted the Irish Heart Foundation Mobile Health Unit at the Peace Campus on 06 February. This was delivered as part of the Healthy Ireland @ Your Library initiative.

'Spring into reading' challenge for 2025

We ran a new reading initiative designed to help busy adults reconnect with their love of reading. The 'Spring into reading' challenge was to read at least four library books to be in with a chance to win a robotic vacuum cleaner. The winner was rewarded with the gift of time for more reading!

Design a book bag competition

On World Book Day, we launched a new competition for library members aged 4-13. The challenge was to design a book bag which that reflects your love of books and stories. We received hundreds of entrants and awarded prizes for various categories.

Engineers Week

We were delighted to team up with DKIT Engineering Department and Engineers Ireland North-East branch to bring the Engineers Week Primary School Quiz. Teams competed in regional qualifiers with the winners went to compete in the grand final in DKIT.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhíomar an-ghnóthach le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 le himeachtaí Gaeilge i ngach leabharlann. Bhunaigh muid Club Leabhar nua i Muineacháin ag obair le Muineacháin le Gaeilge. We held a Pop-Up Gaeltacht in Carrickmacross Library, we invited all Gaelscoileanna to Irish language Magic Shows and delivered Children's Storytime in Irish to more than 340 children.



Visit to Leinster House 11 March 2025

We brought a group of 60 young people from Monaghan and Cavan to spend the day in Leinster House learning how parliament works. This was part of a European project (named FUTU4U) that aims to help young people learn about democracy. Students from Monaghan Institute, Cavan Institute, Youthreach Kingscourt and the National Learning Network Monaghan got a tour of Leinster House and attended a workshop led by Parliamentary Education Officer.



APRIL, MAY, JUNE

Autism awareness month

April was World Autism Awareness month, and we took the opportunity to highlight the autism-friendly services and supports we provide to our communities throughout the year. We curated a selection of book recommendations for autistic people, their parents or caregivers, or simply anyone who would like to expand their understanding of autism. We hosted a free online learning workshop with early intervention specialist, Sylvia Angel. We pledged support for the new county-wide initiative for Monaghan to become an autism-friendly county, building on the previous certification of library branches as autism-friendly spaces.

LAI Conference hosted in Monaghan

Monaghan County Libraries were proud to host the Library Association of Ireland's Youth Libraries Group conference to the Peace Campus, Monaghan on 26 March. Over 60 librarians from across the island spent the day learning from expert speakers and colleagues. The keynote speaker was Allison Keating, the Practical Psychologist.

TechKnow

We were delighted to announce the return of our free TechKnow sessions. These are one-to-one digital skills workshops with an experienced tutor. Library members decide the topic, which can be anything from getting advice on setting up or using a new smart device, printing a boarding pass or sending an email. Members can bring their own device or use a library provided device. TechKnow is funded by the European Commission through EUROPE DIRECT Clones, which is the hub for information about Europe for the Cavan, Louth and Monaghan region.

Launch of EU21 photographic exhibition

On Friday, May 2, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Paul Gibbons launched a new photographic exhibition celebrating the 21st anniversary of the 2004 enlargement of the European Union. More than 50 people attended the launch in support of Polish-born, Monaghan-based photographer, Barbara Golec Regiec, who created a portrait exhibition that explores the human dimension of European integration. The exhibition was open to the public at the EUROPE DIRECT Clones centre in Clones Library for the month of May. From there, it travelled to public libraries in Cavan and Louth; the region covered by the EUROPE DIRECT centre in Clones. An online version of the exhibition is also available on the Digital Repository of Ireland. The exhibition was supported by Monaghan County Libraries, through EUROPE DIRECT Clones, and Creative Monaghan.



Castleblayney Library sensory room

On Tuesday, 29th April Castleblayney Library held a grand opening of its new Sensory Room, a purpose-built environment designed to support individuals with sensory needs. Practitioners, support services and caregivers were invited to explore the space and resources. The Sensory

Room offers a calm, inclusive environment where visitors can regulate their sensory input in a safe and supportive setting. It is equipped with specialised resources designed to accommodate various sensory preferences and needs.



Digital 'Write a book' competition

Monaghan County Libraries partnered with Monaghan Education Centre on the popular 'Write a book' competition, which has been running for 25 years. One-hundred digital books were read and judged by library staff and the winners were awarded their prizes at a special prize giving ceremony in the Garage Theatre on Wednesday 21 May. Monaghan County Libraries arranged for the wonderful author/illustrator Alan Nolan to speak to the winners about his journey to becoming an author.

History Writing Competition 2025

On Tuesday, 20 May, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul Gibbons awarded prizes to the winners of the History Writing Competition 2025. The competition was open to all sixth-class primary school students and all secondary school students in county Monaghan. Students were invited to research and write about specific topics relating to the history of county Monaghan. All winning entries were published in a booklet that is available to view on the library website.

Monaghan Town Library celebrates one year in the Peace Campus

On 13 May, Monaghan Town Library celebrated their first anniversary at their new library in the Peace Campus. In that time, we welcomed more than 180,000 people to the library: a 127% increase on 2023/2024. We hosted 908 events, which we attended by more than 20,000 people.

We welcomed more than 6,000 students to the library with 176 school visits.

Cultural Companions

Monaghan County Libraries developed a new way to connect people who have passion for cultural experiences but may not always have a companion who shares the same interests. Events are selected by Monaghan County Libraries, the Cultural Companions gather before each event for a relaxed chat and together they enjoy a performances, exhibitions, and cultural experiences.



Explore Arts & Culture with new connections.



Little Library Bag

Monaghan County Libraries made available a free bag of books for every child starting primary school in county Monaghan in 2025. Book bags are available in English and Irish. The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy.

Bloomsday in Monaghan

We welcomed school children to Monaghan library for a performance of 'The Cat and the Devil' which was read by Pat Deery. In the evening, we hosted a community reading event and performance of 'The Dubliners' by Declan Gorman. Castleblayney Library hosted a Joyce-themed Storytime and Craft session on Bloomsday by stepping back in time to Dublin 1904 with a reading of 'A blooming great day' by Úna Woods and the chance to make boater hats. They also ran

a poetry writing competition inviting members to craft a poem where the first letter of each line spells out their own name.

Healthy Ireland @ Your Library

As part of Men's Health Week, Monaghan County Libraries hosted an information evening in Clones Library.

The line-up included a GP, Physiotherapist and Psychologist. More than 20 people attended and enjoyed healthy treats and a very informative session. In June, Castleblayney Library hosted a series of talks about managing coeliac disease with Darina Curran, Senior Dietitian.

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER

Little Sunflower Family Literacy and Wellbeing Summer Camp

From 4-18 July, Castleblayney Library hosted the 'Little Sunflower Summer Camp'—an initiative that brought parents and children together to explore the empowering *Little Sunflower* stories.

These stories are specially crafted to nurture self-esteem and resilience in young children. Parents were equipped with practical tools to support their children in managing big feelings in a fun, reflective, and meaningful way. Each day, families shared stories and took part in themed activities focused on courage, kindness, and healthy habits. The camp was facilitated by author Sarah Gilbert.

Play with Words at Clones Library

From 21-25 July Clones Library welcomed young participants to its SENSational Summer Camp 'Play with Words'. This was an engaging and supportive programme designed specifically for children with special educational needs (SEN). The camp focused on nurturing speech and language development, fine and gross motor skills, and social interaction through playful, purposeful activities. Set in the Clones Library's sensory room, the camp offered a unique opportunity for children with SEN to enjoy a fun-filled week of learning, connection, and creativity.

'Grab and Go' bags

A reading surprise awaits members of the library with our 'Grab and Go' bags. Each bag contains three books that have been carefully chosen by library staff to surprise members and encourage them to explore new genres, authors and topics they might not have discovered on their own. The bags are proving to be very popular with readers reporting that they have expanded their reading horizons and enjoying the convenience of picking up a bag if they're in a hurry.

Dinosaur Day at Castleblayney Library

Castleblayney Library was transformed into a prehistoric paradise for a day in July when we welcome families to explore the world of dinosaurs. Library members enjoyed the photo booth with a full-sized dinosaur, a baby dinosaur petting zoo, a fossil dig, dinosaur colouring and puzzles and, of course, a big selection of dinosaur

themed books to borrow. Learning is always an adventure at your local library!

Summer Stars Science Workshops

Our series of Summer Stars Science workshops proved popular across our branches over the month of July. Children learned about different fields of science that are represented in some well-known children's books. The Summer Stars programme is a national reading initiative for children designed to encourage reading during the summer months.

'AI in our daily lives' Carrickmacross Library

More than 50 people attended a talk by leading expert in AI, Dr. Dympna O'Sullivan, in Carrickmacross Library on 8 September. The talk, entitled "AI in our daily lives: present and future", explored how AI impacts everyday life and addressed common misconceptions about AI. The talk was delivered as part of our 'Skills for Life', EUROPE DIRECT and 'Age Friendly Libraries' programmes.



Play clubs in Clones Library

Clones Library was delighted to partner with the National Childhood Network on a series of Play Clubs at the library over the month of August. On 12, 14 and 19 August, we welcomed children aged 0-14 to the outdoor space at Clones library for lots of fun and games, all facilitated by the wonderful Shelly McGee and her team.



Fermentation workshops

Castleblayney and Carrickmacross Libraries welcomed Bia Cultures to deliver workshops on the art of fermentation. These workshops were delivered under our 'Skills for Life' programme, which highlights the role of libraries in helping adults build everyday life skills from going online and managing money to staying healthy and living more sustainably.

New scanning and translation service

Monaghan Town Library has a new scanning and translation tool called ScanEZ. Library members can use the ScanEZ device to scan and translate documents into more than 100 languages. The device was funded through EUROPE DIRECT Clones in support of our goal of creating inclusive services that meet the needs of our diverse community.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

ComiCon 2025

Monaghan County Libraries were delighted to partner with CMETB to bring Comic Con back to Monaghan for a second year. Hundreds of enthusiastic fans descended for another free entry event that celebrated all things comic books, graphic novels and pop culture.



Climate Action Week at Monaghan County Libraries

Monaghan County Libraries were delighted to support Climate Action Week at Monaghan County Council by organising a range of events and activities that brought climate action awareness to library members and our community in general.

‘Wolfwalkers’ exhibition in Clones Library in collaboration with Clones Film Festival

As part of Clones Film Festival's programme, we were delighted to host Cartoon Saloon's exquisite 'Wolf Walkers' exhibition at Clones Library. During the run, we welcomed children into the library for a tour of the artwork and a workshop where they got the chance to draw their own creations.

EUROPE DIRECT Clones Soapbox competition

On Friday 24 October EUROPE DIRECT Clones hosted the Regional Soapbox Public Speaking Competition for participants from Cavan, Louth and Monaghan. Over forty participants gathered at the Peace Campus to give their 3-minute argument for or against the motion "Likes, Lies and Legal Limits: Is it time the EU banned social media for under-16s. Our regional winners of the annual EUROPE DIRECT Pablo Rafael Lopez Cardozo of St Macartan's College Hill won the national award of €1,000 in the '16 & Under' category.



Down Memory Lane

We collated and launched a selection of clippings and photographs from local newspapers, designed to offer a gentle way to spark memory and conservation.

Castleblayney Library on TG4!

An bhfaca tú an chéad eipeasóid de Buildings Beo a d'inis scéal Hope Castle Gate Lodge agus Castleblayney Library? Monaghan County Libraries were very proud to feature in the

'Buildings Beo' series, which celebrates how communities are breathing new life into derelict properties, turning abandoned spaces into living spaces.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2025

The Cavan Monaghan Science Festival (CMSF) marked its 10th anniversary this November with a programme of events that embodied the theme: *Then, Today Tomorrow*. Running from 08-16 November, the festival delivered over 30 events across Monaghan, making science accessible, engaging, and relevant to everyday.

Social Inclusion Week Chatterbox podcast

To mark Social Inclusion week 2025, Monaghan County Libraries launched a new podcast with students from National Learning Network. The students talk about how important it is to be included in all of society. This gave them a sense of independence, dignity and respect.



History Talks series

We partnered with Monaghan County Museum on a series of Saturday afternoon talks exploring the 100-year anniversary of the boundary commission and its impact on border communities.

‘My Future’ conference

On 20 November 2025, Monaghan County Libraries hosted 'My Future', a free one-day conference designed to inspire and empower young adults to envision and shape their futures, at the Peace Campus in Monaghan Town. The conference featured speakers who have overcome adversity to build the futures they want. 'My Future' represents Phase 2 of the FUTU4U democracy project.



‘Colours of Culture’ exhibition

In November and December, Clones Library was proud to host ‘Colours of Culture’, an exhibition about dance, which was part of the Cross-Cultural Celebrations programme funded by the Executive Office District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

EUROPE DIRECT Clones 2026-2031

Monaghan County Libraries were successful in our bid to host the EUROPE DIRECT centre at Clones Library for another five years as part of the national network of centres co-ordinated by Libraries Ireland at LGMA.



EUROPE DIRECT
Clones

Monaghan County Libraries in NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2024

NOAC Performance Indicator Report No. 77 (2024) showed that Monaghan County Libraries reported the following performance increases in that year:

- An increase of 62% in the number of library visits per head of population (from 3.29 in 2023 to 5.34 in 2024).
- The number of items borrowed increased by 52.61%.
- The number of active library members increased by 25%
- The number of registered library users increased by 26.53%.

We are exceptionally proud to see that the people of Monaghan continue to embrace and value their library services, provided by Monaghan County Council.



Irish Writer’s Centre Mentoring Programme

Monaghan County Libraries are delighted to sponsor a writer resident in county Monaghan to take part in the Irish Writer’s Centre National Mentoring Programme. This island-wide initiative pairs emerging writers with leading Irish authors, giving the opportunity to receive sustained creative and professional support from an established Irish writer. Selected mentees for the 2026 cycle will be announced in March 2026.



Creative Monaghan 2025

In 2025, Monaghan County Council received **€403,544** in funding from Creative Ireland, enabling the Creative Monaghan programme to support and deliver an extensive range of cultural and creative initiatives across the county.

A total of **60** projects were supported, audience of **22,422** and **462 creative practitioners** were engaged throughout the year, contributing to projects that strengthened community participation, celebrated local heritage, and expanded creative opportunities for all ages.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 brought a vibrant programme of free creative activities for children and young people on 7 June. Events spanned circus skills, art, photography, theatre, music, drama, filmmaking and crafts. A flagship Family Creativity Day at Monaghan Peace Campus attracted 600+ visitors and was delivered in partnership with Monaghan Town Library, Monaghan County Museum, and Foróige.



CREATE! Festival

Held at Hilton Park, Clones on 9 August 2025, the CREATE! Festival showcased creativity in a unique rural setting. Visitors participated in hands-on workshops including copper smithing, stained glass painting and pottery. Storytelling tours of Hilton Park and a performance by the Armagh Rhymers enriched the cultural experience. A Green Artisan Market highlighted sustainable crafts and local makers. The festival was funded

through the Creative Ireland Shared Island Creative Health and Wellbeing Initiative.



SCRAP Initiative

In its second year, SCRAP promoted slow fashion and sustainability among secondary-school students, encouraging upcycling, repurposing and ethical fashion practices. In 2025, 73 students from Monaghan participated in the national Relove competition. Across the county, 26 public workshops on sewing, alterations and upcycling were delivered through the library service.



Drumlin Storytelling Festival

Running from 19–21 September 2025, the second annual festival brought storytelling to venues across the county. The programme featured school and care-home sessions, puppet workshops, museum and heritage-site events, outdoor story walks, and a headline evening at Bessmount House. Nearly 600 participants of all ages engaged in festival activities, highlighting the county's strong storytelling tradition.

Monaghan County Museum

Ireland AM Live Broadcast from Monaghan County Museum

On the morning of January 16th, the museum was beamed into homes across the nation as Monaghan County Museum played host to Ireland AM. It was with great excitement that Deric Hartigan, TV presenter and weatherman, made his live morning broadcast from the museum galleries.



Deric Hartigan with the Monaghan County Museum team

Welcomed by Curator, Liam Bradley the program was a great opportunity to showcase our groundbreaking new exhibition 'Bordering Realities - Monaghan People and Stories' over the airways.

Liam talked Deric through the unique stories pertaining to our county and the surrounding area that form the narrative of the exhibition. The visit generated a lot of additional interest in the museum and the exhibition from all over the country.

International Women's Day Celebrated at the Museum



Irish Women's Collective Monaghan celebrating International Women's Day at Monaghan County

Museum. This March, the museum was delighted to host International Women's Day in collaboration with the Women's Collective Ireland Monaghan Dochas for Women.

Easter Workshop



Participants weaving Easter baskets at the museum's workshop

Easter was celebrated in the museum with a basket-making workshop for all ages. Led out by Anann's Arch Artists, participants were offered the chance to learn the ancient craft of basket weaving using items easily found or recycled from material found around the home. Great fun was had and each participant got to take their own Easter basket masterpiece home.

Barry McGuigan: The Clones Cyclone at Monaghan County Museum

In April we were delighted to welcome Barry McGuigan back to the museum. He was here to talk about the upcoming 40th anniversary of his world title win against Eusebio Pedroza and to promote the special event commemorating his historic victory that was held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on Sunday June 8th.



Barry discussing his World Championship fight

Project Children a Landmark Exhibition



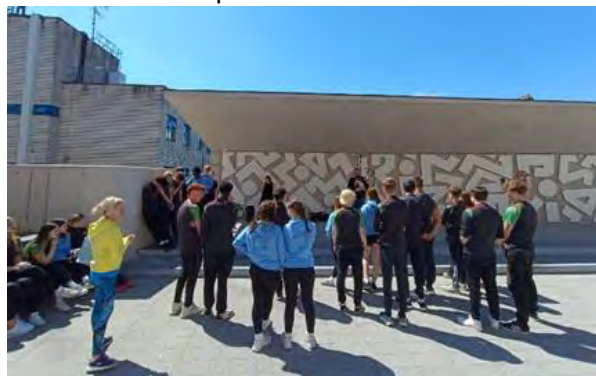
On the evening of 8th of October 2025, Monaghan County Museum opened the landmark exhibition The Project Children Stories.

The launch of the exhibition coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the pioneering Project Children initiative that gave thousands of young people from Northern Ireland the opportunity to escape the violence during the Troubles.

Ulster Scots Musical Traditions

In May, the museum hosted a pilot event where the Ulster Scots Agency invited schools from the

area to a workshop on the history and heritage of Ulster Scots. On the day the sun shone, and the students were able to enjoy music from a piper and some traditional dancing at the outdoor stage of the Peace Campus.



Students from the Royal School, Cavan listening to the piper

Court House Gathering

The Garda and New York Police Department (NYPD) Pipe and Drums bands came into formation on the square in preparation for a parade which would take them, along with a large contingent of Project Children visitors from the US, Northern Ireland and further afield, to the Peace Campus for the official launch of 'The Project Children Stories – A Legacy of Peace lives on in Monaghan'.



Parade



Monaghan County Museum Curator, Liam Bradley, on the steps of the Courthouse.

The parade was then led by Project Children Chairman and co- Founder Denis Mulcahy and his family. Leaving the Court House, the NYPD Band and Garda Band led the parade through the town via the North Road towards the Peace Campus. This marked the first time the two bands marched and played together in Monaghan.



The parade halted at the front of the Peace Campus and Denis Mulcahy was invited to inspect the honour guard from An Garda Síochána before entering the building.



Denis Mulcahy with Catherine Flood (left) and Linda Croston (right) volunteer coordinators of Project

The exhibition brings together photographs, personal testimonies, and rare video footage that records the visits of Northern Irish children.

The Project Children story began in the summer of 1975 when six children, three Protestant and three Catholic travelled to Greenwood Lake, a small town in New York State for a six-week holiday.

The idea was simple yet powerful: to give children from the divided communities in Northern Ireland a break from 'The Troubles' in a place where they could just be kids. From the first six in 1975, Project Children organised for some 23,000 children over the following decades.



Cathaoirleach P J O'Hanlon

Cathaoirleach of Co. Monaghan P J O'Hanlon welcomed the Mulcahy family and the visiting Americans. Speaking at the exhibition opening, Denis Mulcahy stated that; "It's a true honour to see the Project Children exhibition housed at the Monaghan Peace Campus".

The crowd was treated to a musical performance by Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan who played a specially commissioned piece composed by Michael Rooney to celebrate the story and spirit of Project Children.

The Project Children Stories Exhibition



Front row, (left to right): Denis Mulcahy, Miriam Mulcahy, Cathaoirleach Councillor P.J. O'Hanlon. Back row, (left to right): Cathal Flynn, Director of Services. Directorate of Economic Development, Planning & Capital Projects; Olga McConnon. Director of Services. Directorate of Finance, Housing & Cultural; Robert Burns, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council; Peadar O'Lamhna, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ms Carmel O'Hare Director of Services. Directorate of Corporate Services and Innovation.

Arts Office

It is our role to assist and nurture Artists within the County and The Arts office continue to **assist individual Artists** e.g. Writers, Theatre Practitioners and Visual Artists. Some have been awarded grants from both the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. It ranged from travel assistance to material purchases and direct funding matched with secured Arts Council funding. We offer the facilities of The Market House to Artists throughout the year.

The Arts Office continued to adopt a proactive approach to their 2025 Programme for Arts.

Arts Development Objectives: 2025

Keeping our Programming and funding model to the 3 strategic goals of our framework agreement with the Arts Council 2020 -2027 was a key objective again in 2025, in the understanding that the Council's delivery and commitment of the Arts in County Monaghan can be more sustainable this way. These three key objectives were the key elements of our efforts to maintain a fulfilling role for the Arts in the creative community within Monaghan.

[SPC Extract From Framework Agreement 2020-2027](#)

Some of the updates in our 2025 delivery are as follows:

1. **Supporting the Artist:** Value and support the work of artists and extend the range of opportunities for artists to develop their practice.

Our Value-Added Scheme 2020-2027 contributed financially to 1 Artist which at its core is a commitment to support the Professional Artists who have been awarded a **bursary** from bodies such as **The Arts Council/Culture Ireland** <https://monaghan.ie/arts/value-added-scheme-2020-2027>

In addition, the Artist Support Scheme which we ran in 2025 awarded a total of **€18K to 20 Artists**, both as Emerging Talent & Established Artists.

<https://monaghan.ie/arts/2024/12/19/artist-support-scheme-tacaiocht-do-ealaiontoiri-2025/>

We facilitated 2 Music Gigs with Musician "**Gráinne Duffy**" in April . We had a packed venue both evenings and she will return in 2026.

We facilitated the Ukrainian Community with Art and Drama Classes throughout the year.

The Clones Artists' Studios is the Council's most public investment in advocating to the significance that artists make to our locality. The artists in the studios deliver artist led Workshops in 2025 and other more publicly accessible events and have been a bridge to some integral projects within the area. The Council's commitments to artists in 2025 were remarkable.

<https://www.facebook.com/ClonesArtStudios>

1. **Young people and the Arts;** opportunities for children and young people to create, access and participate in great art.

Contribution to **Music Generation** in 2025 of 30K which is the Music Education Service providing opportunities for children and young people to have access to instrumental tuition locally and great opportunities. Many of our schools and young people benefit greatly by being involved in this initiative.

The Cavan Monaghan Youth Arts Bursary for 2025 was launched in March and supports young people to participate in short youth Arts Projects in collaboration with a Professional Artist and within Youth work and non-formal Education Settings. 6 Bursaries worth €1600 each are awarded, 3 to County Monaghan.

<https://www.youth.ie/articles/cavan-monaghan-youth-arts-bursary-call-for-applications/>

We each contribute financially to its operation which in turn assists schools in both counties to achieve the status of being in the **Creative Schools Programme** under the auspices of the Arts Council. We aim to support them and enhance their Programme, and we now have many Schools

in County Monaghan who have achieved and participated in the programme.

We also provided €5K to **Tradoodle Festival**, a traditional Arts Festival “**A Very Curious Céili**” featuring Music and Workshops by the talented for young audiences in 2025.

We contributed €800 to **Arts Bursary Tickets** to The Limerick Gathering in May for Artists Eileen Gomez and Matthew McMahon.

Many free Arts and Cultural Events took place countrywide as part of this year’s **Culture Night** and County Monaghan was very much a part of it around various venues supported by our office.

Face-Off Project Youth Group used the venue throughout the year for their meet-ups and discussions.

Our Local Arts in Education Partnership (LAEP) is a joint commitment to the Arts with a particular emphasis on young people and opportunities for them, which we share with Cavan County Council & CMETB.

As we also fund many other Arts centre, Festivals and Venues in the County we ask them through our funding programmes to also follow up on the advocacy programme that we commit to in realising the potential of every child and commit to supporting young people in the Arts.

3. **Creating Capacity** Investing in the professional development of venues, festivals and organisations providing high-quality arts experiences.

The Council awarded through its **Arts Partners Scheme** a total of **€75K** to the below named seven recipients

The Garage Theatre

Féile Oriel

Íontas Theatre

Féile Patrick Byrne

Muckno Mania

Castleblayney Drama Festival

Clones Film Festival

N/East Musical & Dramatic Society

Tourism Section

The role of the Tourism Unit within Monaghan County Council is:

- To raise customer awareness of the Monaghan area as a tourism destination
- To develop and contribute towards the development of the county's tourism product

Key Tourism Development Initiatives progressed in 2025 included the following:

Tourism & Recreation Forum

The Monaghan Tourism & Recreation Forum which was set up in 2024 under independent Chair Matt Mohan continued to meet regularly to oversee implementation of the *Tourism Strategy for Co. Monaghan 2023-2028*. The strategy is focused on promoting and developing the tourism product in Co. Monaghan by maximising the county's rich assets and infrastructure to enhance the visitor experience with both new and existing offerings. Aims include expanding networks and collaborations, growing visitor numbers while promoting sustainable tourism, and boosting the Monaghan Tourism brand through strategic marketing efforts. Good progress was made on actions outlined in the strategy throughout 2025, culminating in an end of year review in December 2025.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

In 2024/2025, the Monaghan Tourism Unit was awarded funding from a number of sources and works were carried out to progress the following projects.

Completed Projects

Recreational Enhancements at Black Island, Lough Muckno – €500,000 ORIS funding was granted to Monaghan to enhance the recreational facilities on the island. Planning permission for these upgrade works was granted in September 2024 and a procurement process was undertaken thereafter. Works were completed in December 2025 and included upgraded trails, bridge refurbishment, and the installation of new fixtures and fittings such as viewing points, seating and

signage. These works have significantly enhanced accessibility and the overall visitor experience at one of Monaghan's most scenic outdoor locations. It is anticipated that the formal launch of this project will take place in spring 2026.



County Outdoor Recreation Plan – MCC approved the new County Outdoor Recreation Plan for Monaghan at the April Council meeting. The plan sets out a strategic framework to guide the development, enhancement, and sustainable management of outdoor recreation across the county. A sub-committee, formed through the Tourism and Recreation Forum, played a key role

in the development of this plan, which was officially presented at the April Tourism and Recreation Forum meeting. Actions within the plan have been allocated to different stakeholders/organisations and the Forum will oversee the plan's phased implementation over the coming years. The development of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan was supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Launch of County Outdoor Recreation Plan for Co. Monaghan by Monaghan Tourism & Recreation Forum – Tuesday 8th April 2025

Official Launches

Recreational Enhancements at Dartrey Forest – In April 2025, MCC were delighted to welcome the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary to officially launch the Dartrey Forest Enhancement project which received €400,000 under the ORIS Programme. Representatives from Coillte, Monaghan County Council, and the local Rockcorry and Cootehill community were also present at the launch. Works included trails upgrade, signage, play equipment and extended car parking.



Rossmore Forest Playpark Extension – In April 2025, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary also officially launched the Rossmore Playpark Extension project. This project, which received funding of €150,000 under the Community Recognition Fund, entailed the extension of the existing playpark at Rossmore and the provision of play equipment suitable for older children. Additional car parking and accessible seating and picnic tables were also installed.





Projects Progressed

Dromore River Blueway Project – ORIS Measure 3 funding of €500,000 was secured previously to deliver infrastructure for a 12km Blueway under the 2023 ORIS programme for capital works. Following a protracted planning process, An Comisiún Pléanala granted planning permission for the project in July 2025, and the project finally got the green light to proceed. A design team has now been appointed, and the Tourism Unit will continue to work in conjunction with Ballybay-Clones MD until project completion by end 2026. Once completed, the Blueway will extend from Lough Major, Ballybay to Lisnalong with access and egress slipways, signage, information boards and car parking and an amenity area at Ballynascarva Bridge.

Visitor Experience at former Lennard Arms Building – The former Lennard Arms hotel in Clones is being refurbished and developed into a visitor experience that matters to local people and appeals to visitors- one which will stand as an attraction on its own and as a gateway to the wider heritage of the town and region. The Tourism Unit supported Ballybay-Clones MD in progressing the exhibition design & interpretation element of this project. Once completed in 2027, this project will provide an engaging cultural and heritage attraction in the heart of Clones, enhancing the town's visitor offering and supporting local economic activity.

Development of Motorhome Stopover Amenity in Monaghan Town – Following an assessment of various sites across the county by consultants from the motorhome leisure touring industry in September 2024, a site was identified in Monaghan town centre for further development. Part 8 Planning Approval was granted for the development of a motorhome stopover site at Old Cross Square, Monaghan Town in Q3 2025. A funding application submitted under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme was successful, and €300,000 was awarded in December 2025 towards the completion of this project. This development will enhance visitor facilities within Monaghan Town, supporting increased overnight tourism and promoting the town as a welcoming base for touring visitors by providing secure overnight parking for up to nine motorhomes, complete with service facilities for electrical hook-up, and waste-water disposal.

Interactive Recreational Map for Co. Monaghan – €30,000 funding was secured under ORIS Measure 1 for the creation of an Interactive Map charting all recreational facilities available across county Monaghan. This project, identified as an action in the County Outdoor Recreation Plan, will provide a digital, user-friendly platform showcasing the county's trails, parks and outdoor amenities. Works to collate the content required for this project were commenced by the Monaghan Tourism Unit in Q3 2025, and tenders were sought for technical expertise to deliver the geospatial interactive software element of this project. The project will be completed in 2026.

Enhancement works at Castleshane Forest – Funding of €151,000 under ORIS Measure 2 was awarded for enhancement works at Castleshane Forest, focusing on improving visitor access, trail connectivity and interpretation within this popular woodland site. The Tourism Unit will progress this project in 2026.

Project development for provision of Mountain Biking trails at Mullaghmatt Forest – The Mullaghmatt Forest Mountain Bike Trail Project received support under the ORIS Project Development Measure to prepare for the development of a new family-friendly mountain biking trail within the forest. The tendering process for this project was completed by end

2025 with a view to appointing the successful tenderer and commencing the project in 2026.

Sliabh Beagh – Following a Shared Island funded feasibility study in 2023, the completed report and associated studies were used as the basis for seeking funding for proposed works. Capital funding of €6M was announced for this project under the Shared Island programme in May 2025 and upon receipt of an official letter of offer, it is anticipated that project delivery will commence in 2026.

TOURISM PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The section was very active in promoting tourism in 2025, with a strong focus on promotional campaigns designed to highlight the county's people, places, and unique visitor experiences. A number of successful initiatives delivered include the following:

C'Mon to Monaghan – Built on the ongoing success of the "C'Mon to Monaghan" video series of recent years, this year's series was a vibrant showcase of attractions, activities, and local stories that capture the spirit of the county, promoting Monaghan as a welcoming, authentic destination, inspiring both locals and visitors to explore everything the county has to offer.



Scenic Sessions – The "Scenic Sessions" series was a new campaign launched in 2025 and featured a collection of pop-up performances filmed in some of Monaghan's most picturesque settings, including Ballybay Town Park, Lough Muckno and Church Square, among others. The series was developed in conjunction with the Cultural Section and brought together local musicians and stunning scenery, reaching strong engagement levels across Monaghan Tourism's social platforms and further strengthening Monaghan's identity as a creative and cultural

destination. The campaign was supported with funding from Fáilte Ireland, Creative Monaghan and MCC Arts Office.



Influencer Posts – Monaghan Tourism was delighted to welcome and host *Best of Ireland* (@best_of_ireland on Instagram) on two separate visits to the county in 2025. Their first visit in May 2025 focused on South Monaghan, where they explored a range of attractions and experiences including Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, Swallow Studios, Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Brehon Brewhouse and Laragh Tin Church. Their second visit in August 2025 highlighted North Monaghan, with an itinerary that included Rally School Ireland, Rossmore Forest Park, Monaghan County Museum, Sliabh Beagh, and a stop at Glaslough Village. Both visits generated excellent engagement across social media helping to raise Monaghan's profile as an authentic and welcoming destination.





Monaghan Tourism also welcomed Stephanie Buckley of *Eat Sleep Chic* (@eatsleepchicblog on Instagram) along with her family to north Monaghan for a weekend getaway where they enjoyed outdoor activities at Rossmore Forest Park, water sports in Clones, and crafts alongside at Busy Bee Ceramics in Glaslough village, as well as a sampling of just some of the delicious foodie experiences the county has to offer along the way.

Christmas Campaign – Building on the success of the summer campaigns, Monaghan Tourism’s Christmas campaign commenced in late November 2025. The focus was on the promotion of Christmas themed events and markets throughout the county, with fresh new festive imagery, a Christmas Lights Switch-On video and a series of influencer collaborations to showcase Monaghan’s family-friendly experiences.

Diaspora Initiatives – The “How Monaghan Are You?” video series was developed to engage Monaghan’s global diaspora and highlight the county’s genealogical and cultural links. Supported by Fáilte Ireland, the initiative featured influencer Helen Drumm as she explored her Monaghan roots and met local experts to uncover family connections. Designed for social media platforms, the series combined personal storytelling with local heritage, encouraging others with Monaghan ancestry to reconnect with the county. The campaign also promoted upcoming clan gatherings and diaspora-focused tourism experiences planned for 2026.



The Tourism Unit also developed a guidance booklet to support diaspora engagement and provide practical information for visitors tracing their Monaghan heritage. The booklet includes guidance on genealogy research, town-twinning links, guided tours and suggested itineraries. It is designed as a digital and print resource for use by tourism partners, diaspora groups and upcoming clan gatherings.

Events Supported – Monaghan Tourism promoted its Festival Funding Schemes in March 2025, supporting a variety of local events. Funding was allocated to key festivals, enhancing cultural, musical and seasonal celebrations across the county. These events played a vital role in attracting visitors and fostering community engagement.



Further to this, Monaghan Tourism were successful in securing funding via the Agri-Food Tourism Funding Scheme from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in support of local food tourism initiatives and events, including the Monaghan Street Food Festival.

Project Children – As part of the celebrations for the Project Children cultural partnership with Monaghan County Council in October 2025, Monaghan Tourism was delighted to welcome participants for a series of guided tours and cultural experiences during their visit to Co.

Monaghan. The Tourism Unit organised and facilitated visits to key attractions across North Monaghan and Clones, South Monaghan and Kavanagh Country, along with a hiking excursion to Sliabh Beagh. The tours were very well received and provided participants with a memorable insight into the county's rich heritage, landscape and hospitality.



Visitors from Project Children initiative enjoying visits to Clones Round Tower and Carrickmacross Lace Gallery as part of their tours across county Monaghan, October 2025

Trade Familiarisation Trips, Workshops & Industry Supports – The Monaghan Tourism Unit welcomed key industry stakeholders on a series of familiarisation trips in March 2025, designed to showcase the county's tourism offering. Held over two half-day visits, the trips explored both North and South Monaghan, giving participants a first-hand experience of the diverse range of visitor attractions, local businesses, and hidden gems across the county. From cultural landmarks and heritage sites to artisan producers and hospitality providers, the itinerary offered a valuable opportunity to build connections, strengthen collaboration, and inspire future promotion of Monaghan as a tourism destination.

These familiarisation visits continue to play an important role in deepening industry knowledge, building relationships, and increasing confidence in what Monaghan has to offer both visitors and the wider tourism sector.



Participants on trade familiarisation trip visit the Tin Church in Laragh, March 2025

In April 2025, Monaghan Tourism in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, organised a Champions Workshop in the Peace Campus, aimed at equipping local tourism providers with the tools and knowledge to enhance the visitor experience. The session, which had 37 participants, focused on enhancing destination knowledge, creating meaningful connections with guests and empowering participants to become true ambassadors for Monaghan and Ireland's Ancient East. The interactive workshop encouraged collaboration and sharing of best practices amongst tourism champions, reinforcing the county's commitment to delivering authentic and memorable experiences to all who visit.

Additional activities completed by the Monaghan Tourism Unit to support the promotion of the tourism offering in the county included the creation of a marketing toolkit aimed at the local tourism industry to provide guidance and practical advice on how to best promote themselves and enhance their presence within the local and national tourism landscape, as well as the delivery of tourism awareness training for Monaghan County Council staff based in libraries and other Visitor Information Points within the county. This training took place by way of a webinar which provided participants with an overview of Monaghan's key tourism attractions, ensuring they are well-equipped to inform and advise visitors on things to see and do in the county.

Patrick Kavanagh Centre

2025 Year in Numbers

We welcomed 4,255 visitors to the centre for exhibitions and events.

Growing the team

In July we were delighted to confirm Shaun O'Byrne as our Visitor Experience Coordinator, a new role for the Patrick Kavanagh Centre to support the development of the centre and Inniskeen as a tourism attraction.

July Evening Festival

As in 2024 the Kavanagh Centre supported the Inniskeen July Evening Festival, which is community run. As well as providing marketing and production support we programmed an exhibition of new work by John Price and hosted an event with performer Phelim Drew in the centre.



Patrick Kavanagh Weekend

Progressing well since a 2023 reboot, the festival deepened its engagement with the poetry and artistic community. A thematic focus on making art in difficult times was powerfully expressed in a wonderful keynote from one of our most experienced artists Declan Gorman.

New festival elements included the introduction of an artist in resident strand with singer songwriter Dani Larkin, and the introduction of a venue partner, Brehon Brewhouse.

We published a second book of poetry and created a new product line of greeting cards based on Geraldine Martins exhibition 'A Hole in Heavens Gable'.



The programme included performances from Michael Gallen and Cormac Begley among others, the annual procession of light with Armagh Rhymers, talks, workshops and film screenings.



We also created new brand and marketing collateral as well as a dedicated festival landing page on the PKC website in a further example of the professionalisation of the festival.

Audiences for the festival were broadly the same as year before (c 1,200) and we improved our funding from Arts Council from €5 to €6k. Ultimately, we are aiming to secure greater levels

of funding from the Arts Council to support festival aims and growth.

Eternal Lanes of Joy & Taking Flight

RTE Radio broadcast two productions with which the Kavanagh Centre were involved. The first, a radio drama entitled 'Eternal Lanes of Joy', was written and directed by award making filmmaker Pat Collins and featured Mikel Murfi, Rosaleen Linehan and Charlene McKenna among others. The well received drama, is about Patrick Kavanagh's fabled walk from Inniskeen to Dublin in the winter of 1931, to meet the publisher AE Russell. Mick Heaney, writing for the Irish Times called it a minor masterpiece. The Kavanagh Centre commissioned the research and development phase of the work.

The second series of Taking Flight essays was broadcast in the Spring of 2025 and featured new work from Annemarie NíChurreáin and Scott McKendry amongst others. This was commissioned and produced by the Kavanagh Centre with support from Creative Monaghan.



Other events

Over the course of the year the Patrick Kavanagh Centre hosted events including the Project Children film screening, the 'No Earthly Estate' traditional music concert and a Culture Night performance with Tiarnan O' Duinnchinn and Sean McElwaine.

Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group

In December, the centre hosted a presentation and plaque unveiling, celebrating the contributions of past members of the Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group. Without their efforts and vision the Kavanagh Centre simply wouldn't exist.



Armagh Rhymers Workshops

As part of the preparation for Kavanagh Weekend, The Armagh Rhymers delivered a series of performance and craft workshops across schools and groups in Monaghan and Armagh. This saw participation levels in the annual procession of light rise in numbers and also increased diversity.



Local Enterprise Office

Introduction

In 2025, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Monaghan, in partnership with Enterprise Ireland, continued to lead sustainable economic development across the county. Through targeted support for microenterprises and by promoting a pro enterprise culture within Local Authorities, LEO Monaghan remained a key driver of local job creation, business growth, and long-term economic resilience.

LEO Monaghan’s core functions include:

- Supporting startups and micro businesses through advice, training, mentoring, and financial assistance.
- Promoting entrepreneurship countywide.
- Delivering enterprise actions under the Local Economic & Community Development Plan and the County Development Plan.
- Advancing sustainability goals through initiatives such as the Go Green series.



Supporting Start Ups

Financial Supports & Job Creation

In 2025, LEO Monaghan approved €798,230 in grants and supports to 92 local enterprises. These supports included Measure 1 grants - such as GradStart, Market Explorer, Feasibility, Priming, and Business Expansion - as well as Measure 2 supports aimed at strengthening resilience and competitiveness by improving productivity, efficiency, and sustainability.

Grant Approvals 2025

| Scheme | Grants | Commitments 2025 |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| Measure 1 | 26 | €475,624 |
| Digital | 14 | €32,000 |
| Energy | 25 | €223,000 |
| Lean | 8 | €37,638 |
| Green | 19 | €29,968 |
| | 92 | €798,230 |

These grants enabled companies to carry out feasibility studies for new product and market development, establish new enterprises through Priming Grants, and scale established businesses via Business Expansion Grants.



LEO Monaghan 2025 Highlights

The Annual Employment Survey, conducted on behalf of Enterprise Ireland, recorded 166 new jobs created by LEO supported businesses in 2025, representing a net gain of 90 jobs.



Monaghan ranked 9th nationally for net employment gains, marking the sixth consecutive year of growth.

Training

Throughout 2025, the section delivered enhanced support and services designed to promote the growth of new startups and strengthen existing businesses with a focus on emerging challenges, including sustainability and digitalisation.

A total of 989 participants, comprising of business owners, entrepreneurs, and individuals seeking to start or grow a business engaged in LEO Monaghan's training programmes.

These included specialised Start Your Own Business courses, as well as workshops in Finance, Digital Marketing, and other tailored areas.

Mentoring

The Mentor Programme matches the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced practitioners with small business owners / managers who need practical and strategic confidential advice and guidance.

One-to-one mentoring support is available to established companies and in some cases to new business start-ups to address specific management needs.

In 2025, mentoring sessions reached 336 clients covering themes such as IT, HR, Sales, and Marketing.

Lean for Business



Aligned to LEO Monaghan's strategic pillar of 'Competitiveness', the LEAN For Business programme supports the implementation of LEAN principles to achieve savings and build operational capability.

In 2025, eight projects were delivered with commitments of €37,638.

Digital Supports

To help small businesses maximise competitive advantage through digitalisation, LEO Monaghan assigned consultant support to 11 local enterprises in 2025. Consultant recommendations enabled participating companies to prepare applications for new software under the Grow Digital voucher.



The voucher provides a grant covering 50% of eligible costs up to €5,000, supporting ecommerce solutions, customer relationship management (CRM) systems, accounting software, and associated training.



Get Exporting Program

Government policy aims to increase the number of first-time exporters by 2000 companies by 2030.



Monaghan firms were strongly represented in the 2025 Get Exporting pilot. Seven local companies took part in export readiness assessment clinics with Enterprise Ireland mentors: five progressed to Phase 2 to develop tailored export development plans.

In 2025, LEO Monaghan also supported six companies to exhibit in international trade events through the newly launched Market Explorer Grant.

Promoting Entrepreneurship

Local & National Enterprise Awards

Local Enterprise Week 2025 attracted over 250 participants, celebrating innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship across the county.



A range of events were organised to show case the options open to entrepreneurs develop their enterprises through increased digitalisation and reducing their carbon footprint through adoption of green initiatives.



The week culminated in the local enterprise awards which were sponsored by Mullan Lighting.

Finalists represented a wide range of sectors - including manufacturing, engineering, renewable energy, food, hospitality, and technology - demonstrating Monaghan's breadth of enterprise.



The winner chosen by an independent panel was SPRYT a digital health company based in Monaghan

town who in May became the first enterprise from Monaghan to be crowned National Enterprise of the Year.

Student Enterprise Awards 2025



The 2025, Monaghan Student Enterprise Awards were held in February. This year 595 students from 11 local schools took part in the program locally.



Funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, the programme supports students to create, design, and market their own businesses, with the ambition of reaching the National Finals.



Largy College Senior Category Winner 2025



Our Lady's Secondary School Intermediate Winners 2025

Monaghan TY Young Cook of the Year



Monaghan TY Young Cook of the Year Competition took place in Monaghan Institute also in February. Monaghan LEO sponsored Aprons for the participating Students. Beech Hill College represented Monaghan at the event which was held in Cavan Institute of Technology in March.

National Women Enterprise Day

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED), Ireland's largest event dedicated to female entrepreneurship, took place on 16th October 2025.

LEO Monaghan hosted an event featuring keynote speaker Laura Dowling, an advocate for women's health. Gráinne McElwain hosted conversations with inspiring female leaders, including NWED Ambassador Tara Gartlan, founder of the multi award winning Tara Gartlan Chocolate.

The Monaghan Women in Business Network continue to meet monthly.



National Ploughing Championships

Bia Cultures, a Monaghan-based food business founded by Rory Gartlan and Laura Pusceddu, proudly represented the

Local Enterprise Office Monaghan at the 2025 National Ploughing Championships, held from 17–19 September. Participating through the Local Enterprise Village, the business showcased its range of raw, unpasteurised fermented foods made from seasonal Irish vegetables.

Delivering Enterprise Actions

The Local Enterprise Development Plan provides a strategic framework for LEO Monaghan to support entrepreneurship, enterprise growth, exporting and job creation across County Monaghan.

Aligned with national and regional policy, the Plan focuses on strengthening the competitiveness, productivity and resilience of micro and small enterprises while advancing digital transformation and climate action. It prioritises startup support, export readiness, innovation, and a strong place-based approach to enterprise development.

Through targeted mentoring, training, management development, digital and sustainability initiatives, LEO Monaghan has supported businesses at all stages of the enterprise lifecycle and contributed to sustainable economic growth and vibrant communities across the county.

During the year the following initiatives were undertaken in support of LEO Monaghan responsibilities under the County Development Plan and Local Economic Community Development Plan.

Tourism Business Start Up Training



Monaghan LEO, in co-operation with Monaghan Integrated Development, developed the 'Tourism Business Start-Up Programme' for individuals with a tourism related business idea or those in the early stages of establishing an enterprise.

Concept to Commercialisation programme

Launched in 2025, this structured programme supports individual entrepreneurs and early-stage companies to develop new products and

bring them to market. It bridges the gap between initial feasibility and commercial launch, providing a comprehensive understanding of the product development lifecycle - from idea generation to market ready product - and includes dedicated one-to-one mentoring with an experienced New Product Development (NPD) specialist.

Funding your Business Growth

In May, LEO Monaghan hosted an information event outlining a wide range of funding supports to help businesses grow.

Briefings covered key programmes including IP Start/IP Plus, offering €2,000–€35,000 for intellectual property protection; GradStart, providing up to €30,000 to hire graduates; and RD&I funding, which supports innovation projects with grants of up to 45% (capped at €300,000).



National and crossborder supports were also highlighted. The Department of Social Welfare presented employer schemes such as Work Placement and JobsPlus, while InterTradeIreland outlined the Acumen programme, which funds up to €21,562 for sales development, and the Trade Export Pathway, offering €5,000 towards export strategy development.

The event strengthened the regional enterprise ecosystem by showcasing targeted financial supports that enable sustainable business growth.

Creatives Connect Management Development Program

Through LEO Monaghan a new management development programme was designed specifically for the local creative sector.

A blended programme of inperson and online events ran from March to December 2025 for the creative sector, covering branding, design trends, sustainability, sales and PR, funding guidance, HR and financial management, along with study visits to Creative Spark and local creative studios.

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme

During the year LEO Monaghan worked closely with agencies – such as Monaghan Integrated Development to provide briefing sessions on the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

Under this scheme people on social welfare can become self-employed while keeping a portion of their payment (100% in year 1, 75% in year 2).

Town Team

LEO Monaghan continues to work with the various town teams to support the development of enterprises and effect urban renewal.

Farm Business Option Training

Delivered in collaboration with Local Enterprise Offices, the Options training programme enables farmers and farm families to diversify and explore new business opportunities. The first event was held at Ballyhaise Agricultural College in November and is designed for those seeking to improve farm income or branch into new ventures such as renewable energy, artisan food production, organic farming, and rural tourism.

The programme provides practical guidance on business planning, connects participants with mentors, and links them to agencies that can provide ongoing support.

Smart Regions Innovation Fund

In September 2025, through LEO Monaghan, Monaghan County Council secured funding to undertake a feasibility study of the advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors.



The objective is to identify strategic supports and interventions that can be implemented through the Smart Regions Fund to drive innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth within the region. Consultants have been appointed to undertake this study.

Advancing Sustainability



With a continued focus on climate action and sustainability, LEO Monaghan took the lead in developing adaptation strategies and fostering awareness among local businesses in Monaghan during the year.

ESG (Environmental Social Governance) Cluster.

This programme provided local companies with “ESGo” an easy-to-use digital tool that assists businesses in tracking and managing their responsible Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) journey.

This programme was nominated for Chambers Ireland Award under the ESG Cluster Project category. This recognition highlights the strong collaborative efforts across Council departments and partners to advance sustainability initiatives that align with both regional development priorities and national climate action plans.

Farming for the Future

As part of Climate Action Week, the Local Enterprise Office Monaghan partnered with Climate Action to host ‘Farming the Future’ in October.

The event brought together a strong audience and featured expert speakers from CREDIT Technology Gateway, who showcased innovative solutions such as on-farm wind energy, smart livestock technologies, and waste-to-energy opportunities.



Go Green – SME Grants

During Climate Action Week, LEO Monaghan, in collaboration with SSE Airtricity, delivered briefings on the financial supports available to enterprises on their sustainability journey.

In 2025, 18 companies availed of the Green for Business consultancy support, which can act as a pathway to further sustainability grants.

The Energy Efficiency Grant supports investment in enterprise sustainability projects, providing up to 75% of eligible costs (to a maximum of €10,000) following completion of a Green for Business assignment, Green Start project, or SEAI Energy Audit.

In 2025, 25 businesses received the grant to implement energy efficiency improvements.

Information Systems

The Information Systems (IS) Section is responsible for ICT services, cybersecurity, digital transformation and geographic information systems within Monaghan County Council. We provide secure, modern and resilient infrastructure, systems and digital solutions to enable efficient service delivery across the organisation and to the public.

Throughout 2025, the Section continued to advance digital transformation, strengthen cyber resilience, enhance service delivery platforms and support major corporate and cross-departmental initiatives.

Applications and Digital Transformation

The Applications and Digital Transformation Unit continued to modernise internal processes and expand online service delivery in line with national targets for 90% of local authority services to be available online by 2030.

System Upgrades

A number of core systems were upgraded during 2025 to ensure continued security, efficiency and compliance:

- iHouse – System upgrades implemented
- iReg – Upgrades implemented
- T&S System – Upgrades completed
- LiveTiles – Development of an enhanced Intranet page for Elected Members (“Councillor Portal”)
- Laserfiche – Stage 1 upgrade completed, alongside server migrations (Stage 2) to enhance performance and resilience

These upgrades ensure improved system performance, strengthened security posture and enhanced user experience across departments.

Digital Headed Paper

Digital Headed Paper was successfully rolled out organisation wide. This initiative standardised official correspondence, reduced reliance on manual templates and improved corporate branding consistency. It also contributes to sustainability goals by reducing unnecessary printing.

Laserfiche Forms & Process Automation

Significant progress was made in automating internal and public-facing processes.

During 2025:

- **110 new public and internal processes** were created using Laserfiche Forms.

Key developments included:

Housing

- Affordable Housing Scheme process
- Private
- Rented Inspections – streamlined inspection forms
- Automated letter generation for Private Rented Inspections
- Executive Orders – standardised digital processes

HR

- Eight Family Friendly application forms digitised
- Travel & Training forms streamlined and automated

Planning

- Exempt Development process improvements
- Public Register dashboards

Environment & Community

- Community Development Fund Scheme
- Environment Services Fund Scheme
- Environment, Biodiversity & Circular Economy Fund
- CCTV digital forms and processes
- Public Participation – Identification of Bathing Waters submissions

Arts & Tourism

- Arts Partnership Grant & Artist Support Scheme
- Tourism funding application forms

Gaeltacht Scholarships

- 116 submissions processed from late January onwards through the digitised platform.

These initiatives have reduced manual administration, improved processing times and enhanced transparency for applicants.

Online Public Consultations

The Council continued to utilise a cloud based consultation platform to manage online consultations and surveys. Two tranches of Teams-based staff training were delivered to ensure consistency in approach across departments.

Engagement with the platform vendor continued in relation to a new training hub, which will allow staff to gain certification and further embed best practice in public consultation processes from 2026 onwards.

MyCoCo Platform

MyCoCo continues to evolve as a scalable, shared service platform for local authority online service delivery. During 2025, the team worked with stakeholders to improve existing workflows, including process enhancements for the Roads Section.

MyCoCo remains a critical enabler of digital transformation across local government.

Operations & Infrastructure

The Operations and Infrastructure Team manages ICT systems and network services across more than 35 locations countywide.

Technical Support

The Technical Support Team continued to deliver a high-quality service to over 400 staff and elected members.

In addition to supporting over 500 laptops and desktops, the team manages mobile phones and tablets, with over 100 upgrades and new connections completed during 2025.

Call Statistics

| Year | Total Calls | Avg per Month | Avg per Day | Resolved within 24 Hours |
|------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2025 | 7,957 | 663 | 32 | 87.40% |
| 2024 | 7,562 | 630 | 29 | 88% |
| 2023 | 5,488 | 457 | 22 | 68% |
| 2022 | 4,417 | 368 | 18 | 49% |
| 2021 | 5,892 | 491 | 23 | 57% |

The sustained high resolution rate within 24 hours reflects the team's commitment to responsive service delivery despite increasing demand.

Managed Print Solution

A new Managed Print Solution was implemented:

- 35 printers migrated
- 9 printers decommissioned
- Colour and duplex printing restrictions introduced

The solution enables detailed print analytics, promotes accountability and contributes to cost savings and carbon reduction objectives.

Windows 11 Upgrade

In collaboration with the Cyber Security Team, over 400 devices were upgraded to Windows 11 before Windows 10 reached end-of-support, strengthening the Council's security baseline.

Meeting Room Upgrades

A standardised conferencing system was installed across 13 meeting rooms. This ensures consistent user experience, ease of use and enhanced hybrid meeting capability throughout Council buildings.

Library Systems

- 72 public PCs and laptops upgraded from on-premise reservation software to a cloud-based solution
- Cloud-based security and update management implemented across all library devices

Storm & Emergency Resilience

To enhance emergency preparedness:

- Satellite internet systems were installed in all three Municipal Districts
- Mobile units were procured for emergency deployment

These systems provide resilience during severe weather or network outages.

CCTV

The Monaghan Town CCTV system was launched in 2025. The Technical Support Team facilitates approved viewing and download requests from An Garda Síochána.

Cyber Security

Cyber security remains a strategic priority. During 2025, the Council strengthened governance, risk management and technical controls.

Governance & Incident Readiness

- Tabletop ransomware exercise conducted with the Information Security Committee / Corporate Incident Response Team
- Roles and responsibilities clarified under the Incident Response Plan
- Continued active oversight through the Information Security Steering Committee

Patch & Vulnerability Management

- Ongoing remediation of vulnerabilities identified in penetration testing and server reviews
- All endpoints upgraded to Windows 11
- Expert review of cloud architecture undertaken

Email Protection Enhancements

An additional email screening layer was introduced, ensuring internal emails are scanned to the same standard as external messages.

Risk Management

A new risk portal was implemented to identify and track high-priority information security risks for inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register.

Responsible AI

An approved AI tool was introduced, supported by a new **AI Acceptable Use Policy** to ensure ethical, secure and responsible use of AI technologies.

Awareness & Training

- Monthly phishing simulations and training
- Regular security articles in Staff Newsletter
- Four-week Cyber Security Awareness Month programme
- Tailored cyber session delivered to Housing craftworkers
- New compliance tool introduced to improve training and policy acknowledgement completion rates

These initiatives continue to strengthen security culture across the organisation.

Broadband & Digital Development

National Broadband Plan

The Broadband Officer continued engagement with the Department of Rural and Community Development and The Gaeltacht regarding the rollout of the National Broadband Plan.

- Upgrade of broadband and Wi-Fi equipment across 17 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) commenced in 2025 and will conclude in early 2026.
- As the build phase nears completion (expected mid-Summer 2026), focus has shifted to newly built rural premises.
- Emerging broadband challenges in urban areas have been identified, requiring future policy and infrastructure initiatives.

STEM Development & VEX Robotics

Monaghan County Council continues to champion STEM education.

In May 2025, the largest VEX Robotics event ever staged in the North East was hosted at Combilift's Global Headquarters in Monaghan:

- Two-day event
- Participants from Monaghan, Cavan, Louth, Meath and Donegal
- Over 300 students and teachers involved

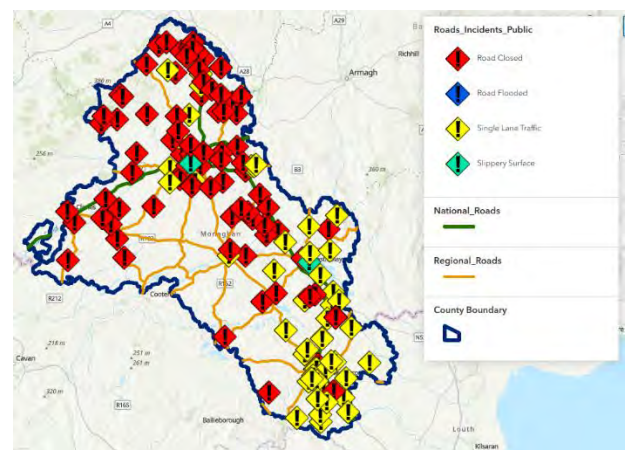
Primary schools competed in VEX IQ, while secondary schools and Youthreach groups participated in VEX V5 competitions.

Annyalla National School became the first Monaghan school to participate in Microsoft Dreamspace and achieved two awards.

GIS & Data Innovation

Severe Weather Events

The MCC Road Incident App and associated GIS dashboards proved critical during Storms Éowyn, Darragh and Amy.



During Storm Éowyn:

- 139 road incidents recorded
- 443 trees reported down

A Community Call Helpline GIS system was developed to map public requests and coordinate response with ESB, Uisce Éireann and the HSE, ensuring support reached vulnerable residents.

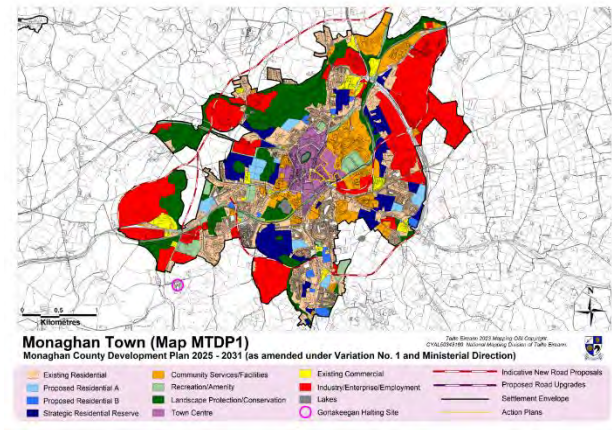


Monaghan County Development Plan 2025–2031

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2025–2031 was adopted on 26 May 2025.

GIS data supported:

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Population and housing strategy
- Environmental protection measures
- Infrastructure and transport planning
- Settlement hierarchy and regeneration priorities



Extensive datasets from CSO, EPA and other bodies were analysed to inform the evidence base for the Plan.

Environment Reverse Register

Under Section 18 Notices, waste collection data was gathered from authorised collectors. Using GIS, a reverse register was developed to identify households without active waste

collection services, enabling targeted inspections and improved regulatory oversight.

Open Data Portal

A new Open Data Portal was launched in 2025, providing:

- Public access to high-quality datasets
- Support for transparency and innovation
- Evidence-based decision-making tools



What is Open Data?

Open Data refers to data that can be freely used, shared, and built upon by anyone for any purpose. At Monaghan County Council, we're proud to support this initiative as part of our commitment to transparency, economic and social innovation, supporting research, digital transformation and public engagement.



Open Data can be downloaded, reuse and redistribution to conduct research, develop web and mobile applications, design data visualisations and much more.



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Browse Data by Category

Feel free to peruse our data library by the following categories:



This represents a significant milestone in the Council's digital transformation journey.

Conclusion

Throughout 2025, the Information Systems Section continued to strengthen digital service delivery, enhance cybersecurity resilience, modernise infrastructure and support community development initiatives.

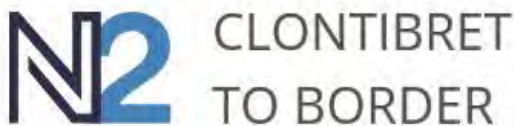
The integration of secure digital platforms, resilient infrastructure, advanced GIS capabilities and strong governance frameworks ensures that Monaghan County Council remains well-positioned to meet future challenges and deliver high-quality services to citizens, businesses and elected members.

Roads & Transportation

Major Schemes

N2 Clontibret to Border Road Scheme

The project commenced in 2018. In 2021 a 400m Preferred Route Corridor was identified, and the next phase of the design process (Phase 3; Design & Environmental Evaluation) commenced. The project received no funding in 2022, and all design work was suspended. In early 2023 Monaghan County Council made an application for funding to the EU's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) fund, with CEF grant funding of €2,335,005 secured in October 2023. Match funding is being provided by the Department of Transport. Design work and environmental surveys recommenced in late 2023. Ground investigation works and archaeological surveys started in Autumn 2024 and were completed in 2025. An initial design of the road was published in April 2025, with landowner meetings and public information events taking place over a 4 month period. Feedback received from stakeholders resulted in a number of design changes, and an 'Updated Design' was published in November 2025, followed by another round of public information events to facilitate engagement and feedback for landowners and members of the public. The design is to be finalised by Q2 2026, allowing a business case to be developed and consent to be requested to go progress to phase 4 (Statutory Approvals) in early 2026.



N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road Scheme

Funding was suspended for this project in 2023, and no design work was undertaken on this project in 2023, 2024 or 2025. Funding was requested to allow the Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation process to recommence in 2026.



National Roads

N54 Tullybryan Road Realignment Scheme

MCC received approval from TII in April 2025 to commence land & property acquisition. Notice to Treat and Notice to Enter letters were subsequently issued to all affected landowners. Discussions with landowners regarding compensation and accommodation works were ongoing throughout 2025. In addition, new consultants were procured and appointed in June to finalise detail design and prepare tender documents to facilitate procurement of a construction contractor. Enabling Works in the form of archaeological investigations and supplementary Ground Investigation Works were tendered in 2025, with main construction expected to commence in Q4 2026.

N53 Ballynacarry Bridge

MCC received approval from TII in April 2025 to progress to Statutory Process and advance the preparation of planning documentation for both the ROI and NI jurisdictions. Ecological surveys were completed in order to update environmental reports, as previous surveys were no longer valid. Planning applications were lodged in Q4 2025.

Safety Schemes (National Roads)

Planning and Detailed Design of a number of schemes progressed throughout 2025, with a view of going to construction in 2026, including the following-

- N2 Emyvale Road Safety Improvement Scheme.
- N54 North Rd Peace Campus crossings.
- N2 Ballyalbanny Junction traffic calming scheme.
- N2 Castleshane Junction.
- N2 Tullvaragh Junction.
- N2 Park & Share/Ride facility at Carrickmacross.



Design Layout of N2 Emyvale Road Safety Improvement Scheme

National Road N2 Cycle Paths

The N2 Emyvale Active Travel Scheme was completed in 2025.

A Pre-Part 8 planning consent application for the N2 Corlat to Collegiate Active Travel scheme commenced in Q4 2025, with construction expected in Q3 2026. Extensive site investigatory works were executed at the Coolshannagh Roundabout, to gather data to inform the optimum design for several active travel facilities converging at this location.



N2 Emyvale Active Travel facility.

Pavement Renewals on National Roads

In 2025, a total of €3.3 million was expended on renewing and maintaining the national road network. Resurfacing work took place on the N2 Moy to Mullabryan and N12 Liscarney to Coolshannagh Roundabout. Pavement rehabilitation works to isolated sections of the national road networks were also implemented.

Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 2 (Monaghan – NI Border)

MCC received approval from TII in August 2025 to commence land & property acquisition. Notice to Treat and Notice to Enter letters were subsequently issued to all affected landowners. Discussions with landowners regarding compensation and accommodation works were ongoing throughout 2025. In addition, new consultants were procured and appointed in August to finalise detail design and prepare tender documents to facilitate procurement of a construction contractor. Enabling works in the form of archaeological investigations to commence in Q1 2026. The main construction contract is expected to commence in Q2 2026.



Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 2 (Smithborough – Monaghan)

Flood modelling was completed in early 2025. Areas at risk of flooding were identified and alternative construction techniques were explored and presented to TII in Q1 2025, which were subsequently approved. New consultants were procured to complete detailed design. It is anticipated that a Part VIII application will be submitted in Q2 2026.

Ulster Canal Greenway – Phase 3 (Smithborough – Clones)

Flood modelling has confirmed that 4.1km of the preferred route is at risk of flooding. Alternative construction techniques to provide a flood resilient Greenway were prepared and presented to TII for review in 2025.

Non-National Roads

In 2025, the Department of Transport allocated € 18,008,350 under the various Non-National Road Grant Schemes.

Restoration Improvement Grant

In 2025 the Department of Transport provided an allocation of €8,506,500 under the Restoration Improvement Grant to Monaghan County Council for the rehabilitation of Regional and Local Roads identified as having a PSCI rating of between 1 and 6.

Restoration Maintenance

The Department of Transport allocated grants totalling €1,068,000 in 2025 for the resealing and restoration of skid resistance on the non-national road network. The funding allocated allowed for the surface dressing of over 80km of Regional and Local Roads in 2025.

Discretionary Grant

A grant allocation of €2,149,000 was received from the Department of Transport under the Discretionary Grant. The Municipal Districts use the funding to carry out maintenance and essential works on the road network. This allocation also provides for the winter maintenance programme and storm responses.

Specific Improvement Grants

Specific Improvement Grant funding for the following schemes was received in 2025:

- Rooskey Access Road €100,000
- L63101 Drumary Bridge Replacement €500,000
- R181 Drummillard to Crossduff €25,000
- R162 Glen Rd Culvert €300,000
- Glen Road Culvert Phase 2 €50,000
- Link Road Design (Old Cross sq./Sli Oige Ui Dhufaigh to N2 to N12 €30,000

Bridge Rehabilitation

In 2025, an allocation of €775,000 was received from the Department of Transport for the

rehabilitation of bridges on the Non-National Road network. In total, 8 bridges had rehabilitation, or replacement works in 2025.



Local Improvement Schemes

An initial funding allocation of €373,479 was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development in May. 10 lanes were completed under this grant. An additional allocation of €588,297 was announced August and this enabled the road section to complete all lanes on the 2017/18 list.

Community Involvement Scheme

An allocation of €432,850 was received from the Department of Transport in 2025, which, together with community contributions, enabled the resurfacing of four roads.

Speed Limit Review

An allocation of €426,000 was received from the Department of Transport in 2025. The initiative for 2025 is the implementation of the new default Rural Speed Limit signage of **60km/hr**.

RAP Pilot Scheme & Intervention initiatives

The 2025 RAP Pilot Scheme was delivered regionally with Monaghan acting as lead authority, working in partnership with Louth and Cavan County Councils to advance the use of cold-mix Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement as a sustainable pavement-maintenance solution. The programme involved trialling variations in RAP mix designs to determine the most effective and durable formulation for wider network application, while demonstrating substantial reductions in waste, energy use and carbon emissions. A centralised RAP recycling centre was established in 2025 to process, screen and batch RAP to a consistent standard, with Monaghan County Council confident of securing NSAI accreditation for the facility. The success of the pilot confirmed RAP as a viable, low-carbon alternative to traditional maintenance methods and enabled its formal

integration into the Council's 5-Year Pavement Maintenance Strategy, where RAP will become a core component of annual road-maintenance works from 2026 onward.



Sustainable, Low-Cost Interventions

In 2025, Monaghan County Council advanced a range of sustainable, low-cost pavement interventions that offered effective and environmentally responsible alternatives to traditional resurfacing methods. These included Dry In-Situ Recycling, which renews pavement structure by reworking existing materials in place; Micro surfacing, which restores texture and protects the surface with minimal disruption; and Downcut Stabilised In-Situ Recycling, introduced for the first time in Ireland and demonstrating strong potential for circular-economy, stabilised pavement renewal. Each of these treatments reduced waste, carbon emissions and construction duration while improving overall network performance. Their successful deployment in 2025 provided a robust evidence base for integrating these interventions into Monaghan's 5-Year Pavement Maintenance Strategy, ensuring their continued use as core elements of the county's sustainable maintenance programme.

Pavement Maintenance Strategy

The 5-Year Pavement Maintenance Strategy (2026–2030) was developed in 2025 to provide a structured, evidence-based approach to optimising investment across Monaghan's road network. Its preparation was informed by a series of low-cost and low-carbon intervention trials carried out during 2025, which demonstrated the performance, efficiency and sustainability benefits of modern treatment technologies. These trials enabled the Council to identify maintenance solutions that deliver greater network resilience while reducing environmental impact, forming the foundation for a multi-year programme that

prioritises durability, cost-effectiveness and resource optimisation. Increased investment has been sought for 2026 to support the rollout of the strategy, which will guide maintenance planning and delivery through to 2030.

Health & Safety

In 2025, Monaghan County Council appointed Prowork Core Ltd to supply an electronic system for the management of Temporary Traffic Management (TTM), Safe System of Work Plans (SSWPs), Job Information Packs, Document Storage and Asset Management. It is the intention to roll out this digital transformation to the Municipal Districts outdoor staff to replace the on-site paper-based folder approach over the course of 2026 through training provision and the provision of Tablets.

Active Travel:

Several active travel schemes were completed throughout 2025.

Monaghan Town Local Transport Plan-

Monaghan Town LTP was completed in 2025 and agreed by the Elected Members of Monaghan Municipal District at the September MD meeting.

Clones Urban Mobility Plan-

The Urban Mobility Plan for Clones town was completed in 2025 after it was agreed by the Elected Members of Clones Ballybay Municipal District at the February MD meeting.

Monaghan Town Greenway - Slí Ogie Dhufaigh -

Works completed on section of the Monaghan Town Greenway adjacent to Slí Ogie Dhufaigh to include final red coloured skid resistant finish to improve connectivity and wayfinding along the greenway for cyclists and pedestrians.

Junction Tightening Schemes

Inniskeen – works were completed at the Low Cost Junction Tightening Inniskeen at Junction of L8602 Moyles Rd and L4622 Inniskeen Rd Inniskeen Co Monaghan at St Marys Church. The scheme consisted of new kerbs, build outs, drainage network improvements, uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, footway, signage and resurfacing.

The purpose of the scheme was to improve connectivity to existing church and surrounding

areas whilst also improving road safety for all users including vulnerable road users.



Castleblayney junction: works were completed at the Low Cost Junction Tightening of the junction of the R181 Shercock Road and L3210Killycard Road west of the Castleblayney. The scheme consisted of new kerbs, build outs, drainage network improvements, uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, footway, signage and resurfacing.

The purpose of the scheme was to improve connectivity to existing church and surrounding areas whilst also improving road safety for all users including vulnerable road users.

Horseshoe Pedestrian Bridge – works commenced on the Pedestrian bridge in Monaghan Town to improve active travel connections for pedestrians and cyclists on this busy walking route to schools, the greenway and residential areas. Works will continue in 2026. Photo taken August 2025.



Road Safety

Phase Two of the second Road Safety Action Plan for County Monaghan covering the period 2026-2027 is due for imminent publication. The aim of the Co Monaghan plan, based on the Safe System

approach to road safety, is to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on the county's roads, in line with the national target of 50% over the 10-year period 2021-2030. The plan is the second step in achieving the 2020 Programme for Government commitment of bringing Ireland to 'Vision Zero', which aims to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries on Irish roads by the year 2050.

The County Monaghan Road Safety Working Together Group provides a multi-agency approach to the co-ordination of the actions at a county level. Each of the partners has their own objectives within the Road Safety Action Plan which will contribute to improving road safety.

The Collision Prevention Programme is a national partnership programme that brings Local Authorities and the An Garda Síochána together in a sustained effort to identify collision prone locations and taking preventive remedial action, where appropriate.

Both the County Monaghan Road Safety Working Together and Collision Prevention Committee groups continue to meet regularly.

Admin

It was an exceptionally busy and productive year for the Roads Administration section. In addition to providing ongoing administrative support to the Road Design Teams, the admin office also managed a significant volume of operational tasks and public interactions.

Work Volumes Completed

- Abnormal Load Applications: 130
- Road Opening Licences: 427
- Roads Abutting Queries / Assessments: 498
- Road Closure Applications: 79
- Customer Queries: 606
- Temporary Sign Applications: 98

Funding Managed

- Total funding drawn down: €29,727,866.50

Corporate Services



Corporate Services provides support to Senior Management, the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members. It is also responsible for organising and managing monthly Council Meetings and Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Annual General Meeting, Budget Meeting and Special Meetings. The section is responsible for the collation of the Corporate Plan, Annual Report, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Monthly Management Report and the review of Risk Register.

Corporate Services also co-ordinates the compilation of the annual NOAC Performance Indicators for the Council and has a significant role in terms of governance, ensuring the Council is compliant with the Ethics Framework, Children First Act, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment legislation.

Register of Electors

[checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie)

At the beginning of 2025, our primary focus was on clearing the backlog of applications following the General Election held in November 2024, as well as processing undelivered polling cards. This resulted in the removal of over 1,000 names from the Register.

The most significant body of work involved delivering Phase I of the Local Government

Electoral Registration System (LGERS) Project. The project aims to enhance the quality of electoral data ahead of migration to a centrally managed system in 2026, as mandated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

This phase required extensive standardisation of the Register data, including technical preparedness, field standardisation, implementing set out conventions, Irish translation of townland names and all reference data, identification and elimination of migration blockers (such as incomplete or inconsistent data, invalid character, unused or duplicated data etc.), and ensuring overall data quality (such as completeness and accuracy). This was an intensive and resource-heavy process, completed well in advance of the September 2025 deadline.

Following publication of the Electoral Commission's first Annual Report on the Registers of Electors, attention shifted towards improving accuracy indicators. Letters were issued to nearly 7,000 electors missing a date of birth or Eircode. Over 40% responded, updating their records, leaving just over 4,000 electors without these key details which was a very strong engagement outcome. A second round of letters was issued in early December with approximately 3,400 electors being left to be targeted. These efforts addressed concerns raised by the Electoral Commission regarding duplicate and redundant entries in our Register.

Phase II of the LGERS Project commenced in July with a focus on managing duplicate records nationally. All of our identified lead and associate duplications have been resolved within the deadline of November 2025.

In September, Register Field Workers visited secondary schools to register and pre-register students in 6th Year (aged 16–18). Presentations on voting participation encouraged students to promote registration awareness among their families via [checktheregister.ie](https://www.checktheregister.ie). This initiative generated over 600 new registrations and pre-registrations. We have been recognised by the

Electoral Commission in their Report as one of the counties with the highest pre-registration rates.

Presidential Election took place on 24th October 2025. It brought a significant increase in applications and updates. Post-election maintenance, such as clearing the back log of applications



received after the latest date for receipt of applications and processing of returned polling cards, was carried out before the end of 2025.

The Department has provided funding to enhance Register data quality, primarily supporting additional resources for the Franchise Section and covering associated costs such as postage. Monaghan County Council has also received funding from DHLGH to recruit two Clerical Officers on 18-month contracts to manage increased workloads and meet the requirements of managing a modern electoral register. This reflects an overdue shift in prioritisation of the Register, both nationally, by the DHLGH and the CCMA, and locally, by Senior Management and the Elected Members.

Our overall progress in improvement of data quality, as demonstrated in the figures provided below, have been noted and commended by the Department.

| | Year End Figures 2024 | | Year End Figures 2025 | |
|--|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Total Electorate | 53,272 | | 51,758 | |
| Electors with DOB | 41,770 | 78.4 % | 43,907 | 84.83 % |
| Electors with Eircode | 27,977 | 52.52 % | 33,144 | 64.03 % |
| Electors with DOB & Eircode | 24,061 | 45.17 % | 28,970 | 55.97 % |
| Electors with PPSN | 9,605 | 18.03 % | 14,082 | 27.20 % |

Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 members of the public have a legal right of access to records held by the Local Authority. **63 requests** were received by the Council in 2025, from members of the media, Oireachtas, business reps and the general public.

Access to Information on the Environment

AIE gives legal rights to those seeking to access information on the environment from public authorities. 6 requests were received by the Council in 2025.

Protected Disclosures

In accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, Monaghan County Council reports that it received 1 protected disclosures in the twelve-month period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 which was subsequently withdrawn.

Twinning

Monaghan County Council is officially twinned with the following areas:

- Prince Edward Island, Canada
- Miramichi, Canada
- Peterborough, Canada
- Osterhofen Gergweis, Bavaria, Germany (Ballybay-Clones Municipal District)
- Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone N. Ireland (Ballybay-Clones Municipal District)
- District Carhaix-Plouguer, Brittany (Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District)
- Marseillan, Languedoc, France (Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District)
- Geel, Belgium (Monaghan Municipal District)

The new Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency, Mr. Dennis King visited Monaghan for the first time to attend Canada Day Celebrations on 1st July 2025. The event commenced with a flag raising Ceremony at Church Square, Monaghan, followed by a tour of the Museum at the Peace Campus.



A delegation from Monaghan Co Co visited Prince Edward Island in August 2025 for the Irish Settlers Day Celebration and to attend the 200th Year Anniversary of the Benevolent Irish Society event.



The Nelson Doyle Dancers, Miramichi New Brunswick, visited Monaghan in August 2025; a group of 35 stayed 4 nights in Monaghan and attended the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Wexford during their stay.



Civic Reception

Monaghan County Council hosted a civic reception in 2025 to mark the remarkable achievement of Mr. Shane McGuirk in recognition of his achievement in winning the WDF World Darts

Championship. The event was held in the Hillgrove Hotel and a commemorative plaque was presented to Shane by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul Gibbons.

- Costs associated with the holding of the civic honours was €1,057.



Monaghan Delegation's Visit to New York and Tennessee for the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Tennessee

Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul Gibbons, Robert Burns, Chief Executive of Monaghan County Council, and Pamela Kerr, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development formed County Monaghan delegation team's visit to Tennessee (TN) from March 11th – 17th, 2025.

The visit provided Monaghan County Council with a valuable opportunity to explore the potential for alliances and cooperation across multiple sectors, including higher education, innovation, economic development, the music industry, and rural development.

Monaghan and Tennessee have much in common and shared priorities in the areas of economic and industrial development, agriculture, advanced manufacturing and music. Both regions have a deep-rooted history in farming, with expertise in sustainable practices and agri-tech innovation, including precision agriculture and automation. The potential for knowledge exchange on farm diversification and sustainable agriculture is evident, providing a foundation for mutual growth. Additionally, Monaghan and Tennessee are both recognised for their thriving music scenes, with Nashville being at the heart of country music in the USA and Monaghan having a strong musical culture and a track record of hosting notable country music festivals. This cultural connection presents opportunities for

artist collaborations, joint music productions, music enterprise and tourism initiatives that celebrate the shared love for country music and the arts.



New York

Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Conlon, Olga McConnon, Director of Finance, Housing and Culture and Darren McCreech, Manager of the Patrick Kavanagh Centre formed the delegation that travelled to New York from 19 – 24 March 2025 as part of the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

The trip provided a great opportunity for the delegation to meet with Enterprise Ireland and various representatives from the construction sector, the Project Children team, various cultural facilities in New York and to attend the Yonker’s St Patrick’s Day parade. Denis Mulcahy, Founder of Project Children was honoured as Grand Marshall of the parade.



Annual Awards Ceremony

The Members of Monaghan County Council hosted the 18th Annual Awards Ceremony on 7th April 2025 to recognise those individuals/groups

in County Monaghan who, during 2025, excelled in the following areas:

- Sport and Recreation
- Arts & Culture
- Youth
- Community
- Environment & Heritage

10 individuals/groups were acknowledged for their contribution to our society.



Internal Audit

Internal Audit is an independent, objective, assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the operations of Monaghan County Council. Working in partnership with management, the Internal Audit Unit brings a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and governance processes within the organisation. It provides a level of assurance to the Council, Chief Executive, Management Team and the Audit Committee in relation to internal control arrangements within Monaghan County Council.

The following Internal Audit reports were referred to the Audit Committee in 2025: -

- Annual Report on Cash Point Checking and Stock Take in the Motor Tax Office for 2024.
- Machine Yard Store Stock take 2024.
- Audit Report on SICAP for Year 2023.
- Infrastructure Guidelines – MCC Civic Offices Accommodation Project 2024
- Infrastructure Guidelines – N54 Tullybryan Realignment Scheme 2024
- Infrastructure Guidelines – Revenue Expenditure Programme D06 Community & Enterprise

The following audit reports were also compiled during the year for referral to the Senior Management Team and Audit Committee:

- Internal Audit Report on a sample of NOAC Performance Indicator Results for 2024
- Internal Audit Report on a Sample of Procurements
- Draft Internal Audit Report on SICAP for year 2024
- Draft Internal Audit Report on Monaghan Town Voucher Scheme.

The Internal Audit Charter and Workplan for 2025 were reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee on 26th November 2024. Internal Audit was able to provide confirmation of its ongoing independence and objectivity to the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and Audit Committee in 2025, in accordance with the Global Internal Audit Standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors and with NOAC recommendations.

Internal Audit also provides administrative support to the work of the Audit Committee and participates in the national and regional networks of local government internal auditors.

Internal Audit also provides administrative support to the work of the Audit Committee and participates in the national and regional networks of local government internal auditors.

Meetings in 2025

The following is a summary of the meetings held in 2025:

| | |
|--|----|
| Council meetings (including AGM & Budget meeting): | 14 |
| Corporate Policy Group (CPG) | 12 |
| SPC – Economic Development and Enterprise Support | 04 |
| SPC – Transport, Community Rural Development | 04 |
| SPC – Climate Action and Environment | 04 |
| SPC – Housing, Social and Cultural | 04 |
| Monaghan Municipal District | 11 |
| Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District | 11 |
| Ballybay-Clones Municipal District | 11 |
| Audit Committee | 04 |
| Museum Advisory Committee | 0 |
| Local Sports Partnership | 06 |
| Speed Limits Committee | 02 |
| Heritage Forum | 04 |
| Monaghan L.I.S. Committee | 03 |
| An Coiste Logainmneacha | 00 |
| Joint Policing Committees (JPC) | 00 |
| Coiste Gaeilge | 01 |
| Traveller Accommodation Committee | 04 |
| Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) | 07 |

Data Protection and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)

Monaghan County Council is committed to strong data-protection practices across all service areas, supported by formal policies such as its Data Protection Privacy Statement and sector-specific privacy notices. Monaghan County Council ensures that personal data is processed with appropriate technical and organisational safeguards, including measures that protect against unauthorised access, loss, or unlawful processing. Where required, Monaghan County Council shares personal data only with authorised public bodies or regulatory authorities to meet statutory obligations. These structured processes ensure compliance with GDPR, reinforce public trust, and demonstrate the Council’s ongoing commitment to accountability, transparency, and the protection of individual rights.

Under GDPR individuals have a number of rights which include a right of access to the personal data the council hold on them. In 2025, the council received and responded to four number data subject access requests.

The 2025 GDPR activity shows consistent engagement across all core compliance areas. It indicates a continued focus on timely responses, risk mitigation and proactive data protection measures throughout the year. These figures highlight the organisations ongoing commitment to meeting statutory obligations and strengthening data governance practices.

In addition, the Council dealt with the following requests/incidents:

| Area | Details | Total Figures 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Policies/ Protocols Developed | CCTV Policy Community CCTV – access & download procedures document for An Garda Siochana Pre-flight Drones Checklist to ensure GDPR compliance | 3 |
| Data Protection Impact Assessments | 9 Complete 13 Reviewed and In Progress | 22 |
| Data Breaches | 11 reported and deemed low risk 1 deemed high risk and reported to the DPC | 12 |
| CCTV requests from An Garda Siochana | Castleblayney Community CCTV Monaghan Town Community CCTV Mullaghamatt/Cortolvin Community CCTV <i>Small number of requests also received for Council owned facilities;</i> Market House & Motor Tax Clones MD Office Halting Site, Gortakeegan | 55 |
| Data Processing Agreements | 12 different sections in the organisation engaged with 3 rd party providers and the DPO | 30 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----|
| | in the completion of DPA's. | |
| Record of Processing Activities | A full review of a Record of Processing Activities for each department was completed | 25 |
| Staff Training & Awareness | 8 Training Videos issued via Meta Compliance 3 articles submitted to the staff newsletter 2 specific Data Protection emails circulated to All Staff | 13 |
| Complaints | Received from the Data Protection Commission in relation to our response to a Data Subject Access Request | 1 |

Ethics

Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999 requires each elected member to furnish to the Local Authority, not later than January 31st, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year, the member received a donation exceeding €600. 18 completed forms were received on or before the closing date of 31st January 2026.

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 obliges each member of the council and relevant staff to complete a form in respect of their declarable interests held during the prescribed period and furnish the annual declaration to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February. 18 completed forms have been received from elected members as at 23rd February 2026. 95 relevant staff were requested to complete a declaration form. 94 forms have been completed online as at 28th February 2026.

Communications

In 2025, the Communications function delivered a strengthened and more strategic approach to how Monaghan County Council engages with the public, partners, and stakeholders. A key focus throughout the year was enhancing the reach and impact of Council messaging across all channels, ensuring that priority projects and the range of services were communicated consistently and effectively.

Across both internal and external communication channels, the team supported major corporate initiatives through integrated campaigns spanning digital platforms, print media, staff communications, media relations, and community engagement. This included the delivery of a successful Project Children marketing campaign, which promoted the Project Children Stories exhibition coming to Monaghan. The Council's digital presence was further improved through more accessible content formats, increased use of video, and streamlined messaging aligned with organisational goals.

The Communications team coordinated a range of public-facing activities, including Your Council Day initiatives, which showcased the work of Council staff and generated strong engagement across social media and local media outlets.

A dedicated Vacant Property Grant video series was produced in collaboration with our Town Regeneration team, to support public understanding and spotlight the incredible work happening within the council to tackle dereliction. This series alone received views of over 750k online.

Emergency communications remained a core part of the team's work, with timely updates issued during weather events, service disruptions, and public safety incidents. Working with Civil Defence, Fire & Rescue, and operational teams, Communications ensured accurate information was delivered quickly across digital, media, and internal channels to support community safety.

Internally, staff were kept informed through established communication tools such as the Reach app, departmental updates, and the monthly staff newsletter, supporting organisational awareness and cross-team collaboration.

Externally, the Council maintained active communication through its website, social media platforms, local press and radio, and corporate publications, ensuring broad, accessible, and consistent messaging to the public.

Overall, 2025 was marked by enhanced strategic focus, improved digital communication, and more

consistent storytelling about the work and impact of Monaghan County Council.

Social Media 2025 Stats

| Social Media Platform | Reach - number of times content is displayed | Engagement - likes, shares and comments | New Followers | Total Followers 31/12/25 |
|---|---|---|---------------|--------------------------|
| Facebook  | 9,437,984 (96% up from 2024) All organic posts. | 479,674 | 4,177 | 19,000 |
| X/Twitter  | 192.2K | 11.5K | -13 | 5,394 |
| Instagram  | 160K | 9.7K | 1,606 | 2,994 |
| LinkedIn  | 330,345 | 6,6069 | 1,114 | 3,889 |

Facebook - most popular platform
Instagram and LinkedIn - growing platforms

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Coiste na Gaeilge 2025

Díríonn Coiste na Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin ar úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Chontae chomh maith lena chinntiú go gcomhlíonann an Chomhairle a dualgais faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla.

Is iad Cllr. Aidan Campbell (Cathaoirleach) Cllr. Seamus Coyle, Cllr. Richard Truell, Cllr. Pat Treanor and Cllr. Niamh McCooley atá ina gcomhaltaí den choiste

In 2025 bhí an méid seo a leanas san áireamh i ngníomhaíochtaí an Choiste:

1. Reáchtáil an Coiste 4 chruinniú.
2. D'éagraigh an Coiste dhá ceolchoirm le haghaid Seachtain na Gaeilge
3. Bronnadh 37 scoláireacht ar mhic léinn chun freastal ar an nGaeltacht
4. Thug an Coiste tacaíocht do Fleadh Muineacháin .

5. Bhain dhá ghrúpa deag pobail leas as maoiniú Sheachtain na Gaeilge.



Coiste Gaeilge Annual Report 2025

Monaghan County Council's Coiste Gaeilge aims to promote the use of the Irish language in County Monaghan as well as insuring that the Council fulfils its obligations under the Official Languages Act.

Cllr. Aidan Campbell (Cathaoirleach) Cllr. Seamus Coyle, Cllr. Richard Truell, Cllr. Pat Treanor and Cllr. Niamh McCooey are current members of the Coiste.

The Coiste organised the following activities during 2025

1. The Coiste held 4 meetings.
2. The Coiste organised two concerts for Seachtain na Gaeilge
3. 37 Gaeltacht Scholarships were awarded to students from the County.
4. The Coiste supported the County Fleadh.
5. 12 groups availed of grants to hold events during Seachtain na Gaeilge

Tuairisc ar chomhlíonadh oibleagáidí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

Fuarthas gearán amháin ón gcoimisinéir teanga maidir le bileog eolais a dháil an Chomhairle ar gach teaghlach sa Chontae, rud nár líomhnaíodh a bheith i gcomhréir le forálacha an Achta.

Dúnadh an gearán chun sástachta an Choimisinéara tar éis do Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin a dheimhniú gur dáileadh dara leabhrán i nGaeilge freisin.

Report on compliance with obligations under the Official Languages Act

One complaint was received from the language commissioner regarding the distribution of a flyer by the Council to all households in the County which allegedly did not comply with the provisions of the Act.

The complaint was closed to the satisfaction of the Commissioner after Monaghan County Council confirmed that a second booklet in Irish was also distributed.

Human Resources

The Human Resources function plays a central role in enabling Monaghan County Council to deliver high-quality services to our communities.

In 2025, the HR budget allocation of €323,900 supported recruitment, training and development, employee relations, workforce planning, organisational development and wellbeing initiatives across the organisation. All expenditure was managed prudently in line with public sector financial governance requirements, ensuring value for money while maintaining service standards.

A significant milestone during the year was the development Monaghan County Council’s Strategic Workforce Plan 2025–2029.

The Strategic Workforce Plan provides a structured and evidence-based framework to ensure that the Council maintains and develops a skilled, resilient, diverse and agile workforce capable of meeting both current and future service demands. It aligns workforce capacity with corporate objectives, demographic trends and national policy priorities.

The Plan now provides the strategic lens through which recruitment, succession planning, learning and development, and workforce analytics are progressed.

Recruitment

| Recruitment | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Competitions held | 46 | 40 |
| Applications processed | 1187 | 1020 |
| Interviews conducted | 787 | 822 |
| Candidates appointed promoted | 158 | 63 |

Retirements/Resignations during 2025

Monaghan County Council had 20 retirements/resignations in 2025.

Apprenticeships

Monaghan County Council employ seven apprentices in the following disciplines: -

- 3 Civil Engineering Apprentices
- 2 Accounting Technicians
- 1 Horticulture Apprentice
- 1 Heavy Vehicle Mechanic

Apprenticeships facilitate blended learning giving the apprentice the opportunity to attend college one day per week and work in their chosen field 4 days per week with the Council. Each Apprentice has a designated Mentor.

Monaghan County Council Apprentices received national recognition in 2025. Ms. Sinead Murphy was shortlisted in the Horticulture category of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2025 and Mr Cameron McMeel was named Apprentice of the Year 2025 in his category of Heavy Duty Mechanic.

These recognitions highlight the calibre of our apprenticeship programmes and the strong mentoring provided across the organisation. Monaghan County Council ran a recruitment campaign for Apprentice Civil Engineers in 2025 and have employed 3 Apprentice Civil Engineers in each of our Municipal District.





Graduate Programme

Monaghan County Council participated in the national Graduate Planner recruitment campaign coordinated by the LGMA and appointed one Graduate Planner through this process.

The Graduate Planner will take part in the sector-wide Support and Development Programme, which includes induction, formal planning training and structured mentoring. This programme is designed to prepare Graduate Planners for future Assistant Planner competitions.

WAM Programme

The WAM Programme (Willing, Able, Mentoring) was established in 2005 and is currently funded by the Department of Social Protection. The central objective of WAM is to widen access to employment for graduates with disabilities while working with and supporting employers to create more inclusive workplaces.

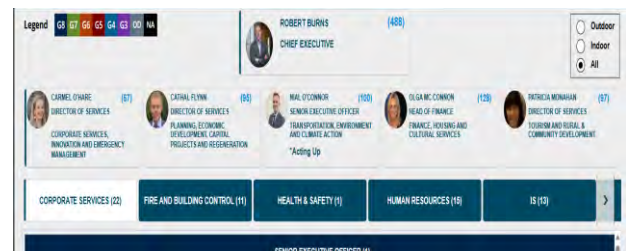
Monaghan County Council employ a WAM graduate in our Climate Action Department.

Strategic Workforce Plan 2025-2029

Monaghan County Councils Strategic Workforce Plan was developed and finalised in 2025. The Strategic Workforce Plan sets out our vision and our continued commitment to maintain and build a skilled, resilient, diverse, and agile workforce capable of meeting the evolving needs of Monaghan communities and the national policy agenda.

At the heart of this plan is a new structure – designed not simply to improve how we work by supporting efficient and effective service delivery, but to unlock potential synergies, promote collaboration, and support staff development and progression. This structure makes our Council more responsive, innovative, and sustainable.

The structure reflects our priorities: supporting our rural and urban communities, the highest standards of governance, supporting our Elected Members, the importance of preserving and promoting our culture, heritage and the Irish language, the need to support economic and tourism development and town and village regeneration, recognising the Council’s role in emergency management, our ethos of innovation, and our climate action commitments.



Training & Development

The Human Resources Department continued to support staff learning, capability building and professional development throughout 2025, ensuring that employees were equipped with the skills and knowledge required to deliver high-quality services and contribute to the Council’s strategic and operational priorities.

A comprehensive corporate training programme was delivered across the organisation, with a strong focus on Health & Safety, statutory and mandatory training, leadership and supervisory development, planning and engineering upskilling, customer-facing skills, and sector-specific technical training. Training also supported priority organisational areas including Climate Action, Public Sector Duty, Finance, and Regulatory Compliance.

In total, staff attended 165 training courses, seminars, webinars and conferences in 2025, including 30 in-house courses delivered across multiple Council locations. Induction training was provided to 37 new entrants, ensuring consistent

onboarding and awareness of corporate policies and standards.

The training schedule for 2025 included a wide range of essential and specialist programmes, such as:

- Safety programmes including Safe Pass, Manual Handling, Fire Warden, Defib/CPR, Serious Incident Training, Temporary Traffic Management, Road Opening & Reinstatement, Chainsaw Refresher, Front Loading Shovel, and Working at Heights.
- Technical and professional development courses such as Surface Dressing for Engineers, Bridge Inventory Survey, Age Friendly Housing & Public Realm, Tax Technical Training, IOSH Safety, Health & Environment for Construction Site Managers, and Commercial Rates Law.
- Corporate and administrative programmes including PMDS training, interviewee and interviewer training, Public Spending Code, and Mandatory Data Protection Liaison Officer Training.
- Leadership development, including the Leadership & Line Manager Development Programme delivered in September 2025.

The Council continued its commitment to lifelong learning by providing financial assistance to staff pursuing accredited further-education programmes relevant to their roles. HR also supported mentoring and development initiatives, including participation in national sector programmes such as the Graduate Planner Support & Development Programme.

Training in 2025 was further enhanced by the integration of digital learning supports, including online courses and webinars, and the ongoing development of the HR training suite on the Staff Portal.

In addition to attendance at these events, the Council provided financial assistance to 15 employees allowing them to pursue courses of further education. This financial support demonstrates the Councils support for a culture of

continuous learning and development in the organisation.

An inclusive Mentoring Programme for Professional, Technical, Administrative staff and Outdoor Staff was piloted by the Council in 2023/2024. Additionally, induction training was delivered to 58 new recruits in 2024, and 32 work experience applications were processed in the period.

Line Manager and Leadership Development Programme

Monaghan County Council held its first Line Manager and Leadership Development Programme on the 17th September in the Peace Campus. This unique event brought together line managers from Administration, Engineering, Technical and Outdoor services for a full day of leadership reflection and development.

The programme featured a “fireside chat” with Cathaoirleach Cllr. PJ O’Hanlon and Chief Executive Robert Burns, facilitated by Irwin Turbitt, alongside interactive group activities and contributions from HR. The event emphasized Monaghan County Council’s commitment to supporting, developing and empowering its line managers as a vital part of building organisational capacity and delivering excellence in local government.



Staff Awareness Days



The Staff Awareness Day took place on the 2nd April 2025 in the Carrickmacross Civic Offices. The event included presentations from Robert Burns, Chief Executive, Carmel O'Hare, Directors of Service, Frances Matthews, Wellbeing Officer and Damien Thornton Coordinator of Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney.

Following the presentations, there was a walking tour to the Dog Park, Pop-Up Pool and C-Tek II, followed by lunch at the Civic Offices and a tour of the Workhouse.

Feedback from attendees has been very positive.

Health & Wellbeing



In 2025, Monaghan County Council continued its commitment to fostering a positive, healthy, and supporting working environment for all staff. A broad range of work/life balance schemes remained available throughout the year, including Shorter Working Year Scheme, Maternity Leave Scheme, Parental Leave Scheme, Paternity Leave, New Parent Leave, Work Sharing, Career Breaks, Carer's Leave, Exam leave, Blended Working,

Force Majeure leave, Bereavement Leave and the Cycle to Work Scheme.

On 21 January 2025, the inaugural meeting of the new Wellbeing Committee was held, consisting of fourteen staff members. The Committee is chaired by Paul Carragher, Vice Chair is Lisa Connolly. This report provides an overview of the wellbeing programmes, campaigns, workshops, and events delivered throughout the year to support staff health and overall wellbeing.

The Council continue to provide access to the Spectrum Life Employee Assistance Programme offers a 24/7 careline which is confidential and offers support and counselling to all Council staff and their families.

Wellbeing Initiatives Delivered in 2025

Mental Wellbeing
A strong programme of mental health supports was delivered, including webinars on optimising mental health, caring for elderly relatives, the psychology of healthy eating, and the annual Green Ribbon Campaign. These sessions attracted strong participation throughout the year.

Physical Wellbeing
Key activities included the introduction of morning master swimming classes, discounted corporate rates at Coral Leisure, and a Wellbeing Committee walk along the Monaghan Greenway. The launch of the Council's first Staff Wellbeing Strategy on 30th of April, as part of National Workplace Wellbeing Day, marked a significant milestone, with 95 staff participating in a lunchtime walk.

Social Wellbeing
To encourage connection and collaboration among staff, the Council introduced the Bring Back the Buzz to the Canteens initiative, distributing activity boxes to outdoor locations and fire stations. The highlight of the year was the Wellness on Water event at Lough Muckno, which blended outdoor activity with team-building and social engagement.

Financial Wellbeing
Supports included a Carrickmacross Credit Union information stand and two lunchtime sessions

outlining key details of the LGSS and SPS pension schemes, both well attended by staff.

Acknowledgement and Next Steps

The Wellbeing Committee extends sincere thanks to all staff and the Management Team for their continued engagement and support. The Council remains committed to embedding wellbeing into every aspect of organisational life, recognising it as an ongoing and collective effort. Plans are already underway to further expand and strengthen wellbeing initiatives in the year ahead.

Gender Pay Gap 2025

Monaghan County Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report for 2025 on the 21st of November 2025. The 2025 report shows a Gender Pay Gap that on average, females are paid 1.89% more than males. The Median Gender Pay Gap shows that the median rate of pay for females is 14.31% higher than the median rate of pay for males.

The Gender Pay Gap Information Act, 2021 requires organisations with over 50 employees to publish their gender pay gap data before the end of each calendar year and within six months of their reference date. Monaghan County Council and all local authorities in the country chose 30th June 2025 as the reference date.

The information must be published on the employer’s website or in some other way that is accessible to all its employees and to the public.

Please see a copy of Monaghan County Council’s Gender Pay Gap Report 2025 on Monaghan County Council’s website or click here [Gender Pay Gap Report 2025](#)

Headcount

The staff complement for Monaghan County Council at 31st December 2025 was:-

| Core Staff | No. | Whole Time Equivalent |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Managerial | 5 | 5 |
| Clerical/Admin | 221 | 209.76 |
| Prof/Technical | 97 | 95.6 |
| Outdoor | 127 | 120.96 |
| Total Core Staff | 450 | 431.32 |
| Contract Posts | 17 | 15.65 |
| Temp/Seasonal | 7 | 7 |
| Retained Firefighters | 62 | |
| Non DoEC&LG | 2 | 0.58 |
| Total Other Posts | 88 | 23.23 |

The Municipal District of Ballybay-Clones

Peace Plus – 2021-2027 Programme

RESTART Project

Funding was secured in May 2025 for the RESTART Project (Rural Economic & Social Transformation And Resilience Transition Together) is a major cross-border rural regeneration initiative funded under the PEACEPLUS Programme – Investment Area 4.2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. Total funding amounts to approximately €8.4 million, supporting three towns: Newtownbutler, Clones, and Belturbet.

Key planned developments in Clones will include: Further refurbishment and enhancement works at the Canal Stores complex.

Redevelopment of the former Canal Workers Cottage to expand services.

Extension of the Meals on Wheels service through the upgraded facility.

Creation of additional multipurpose meeting and community spaces to support local groups and service delivery.

Spaces will also support services for the new Marina being developed adjacent to the site.

This is community focused regeneration aiming to strengthen economic, social, and environmental resilience in Clones.

The project is delivered collaboratively by cross-border partners, including Clones Family Resource Centre and Clones Erne East Community Sports Facility (Peacelink).

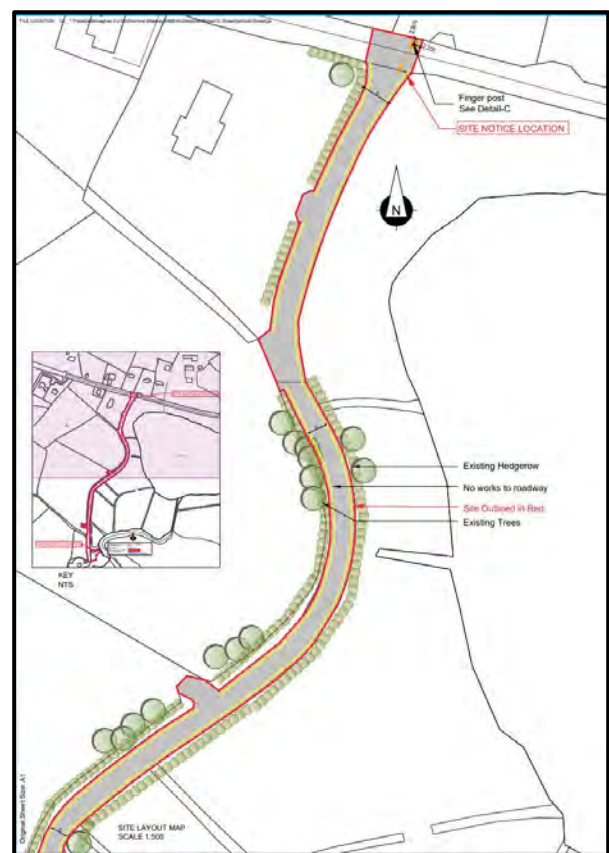


Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure

The Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme provided funding for many projects across Ballybay/Clones Municipal District.

Dromore River Blueway

Dromore River Blueway received funding in the sum of €481,560 for the development of the Blueway from Ballybay to Lisalong. Planning permission has been granted, and works will commence in Q2 of 2026.



Dromore Blueway

Drum Lough Circular Walk

The Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme provided funding in the sum of €50,000 for development of a Circular walkway at Drum Lough which was developed as part of Monaghan County Councils Drum 2030 Vision Plan.

Public consultation was completed in July 2025 and a Preliminary Design Report outlining three route options will be presented to the community in Q1 2026.

Ballybay Wetlands

With funding of €198,833 Ballybay Wetlands Public Path Enhancement works were completed in October 2025.



Ballybay Wetlands Path Enhancement

Gortnawhinny Lido

Funding of €119,560.00 was granted for the development of Gortnawhinny Lido. Works will be completed in Q1 2026.

Cashlan Lough

Funding of €49,950 was received for predevelopment work for a 2.3km walking trail at Cashlan Lough. The Municipal District are actively working with The Greenan's Cross Restoration Committee, the community group behind this project in project development. This will go to tender in Q1 2026.

Clones to Smithborough Greenway

Ballybay Clones Municipal District were successful in securing funding through the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 for €100,000 to further develop the proposals for the provision of a Greenway from Smithborough to Clones building on the feasibility study that was completed in mid-2019.

Clandillon Civil Consulting were appointed allowing for the completion of environmental studies, and route selection options. Extensive public consultations were undertaken prior to preferred route selection.

Stage 3 Flood Risk Assessment for the scheme was undertaken as requested by TII. Flood modelling has confirmed that 4.1km of the preferred route is at risk of flooding. Alternative construction techniques to provide a flood resilient Greenway, with accompanying cost estimates, have been developed by Monaghan County Council in

conjunction with our consultants and presented to TII for review. We are currently awaiting feedback from TII on which option to progress into the next stage.

Public Realm Enhancement & Active Travel Projects

Part 8 Planning is progressing for the Town & Village Scheme 2021, Public Realm Enhancement, which will consist of infrastructural improvements to improve carparking, traffic flow and pedestrian facilities, works will focus on the Ball Alley & Diamond Area in Clones Town.

Ballybay/Clones MD commenced 4 Active Travel Schemes in 2025, Low-Cost Junction Tightening - Newbliss (where R189 meets R183) with an allocation of €160,000.

Clones Peace Link AT Scheme, with an allocation of €50,000 approved by NTA for development design and installation of garden at the entrance to the Peace link.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme – with an allocation of €500,000 Monaghan County Council installed 42 bus stop flag poles and sockets county wide. 13 locations are within the Ballybay Clones MD.

Ballybay Active Travel Scheme, has been approved by the NTA for development and design of walkways linking Ballybay Main St and the Town Park and Schools.

Urban Mobility/Sustainability AT Plans for Clones Town has been developed and is at consultation stage.

Municipal District Meetings

Following May 2025 Local Elections Ballybay/Clones Municipal District held its first



meeting of the new MD Council in June 2025. Cllr Sinead Flynn was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Sean Gilliland Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Newly elected Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sinead Flynn and outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Richard Truell.

Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund 2025 supported the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District have delivered 4 projects through this fund, these include.

- The Upgrade & Refurbishment of Ballybay Multi-use Community Building. With an allocation of €200,000. This project went to tender for construction.
- Provision of basketball court and equipment for Ballybay Town Park: - with a funding allocation of €69,161. The appointment of an approved contractor is underway.
- Replacement of pedestrian bridge in Ballybay town park - €54,700.
- Upgrade of the bus stop and installation of a pedestrian crossing at 98th Avenue Clones- €120,000.

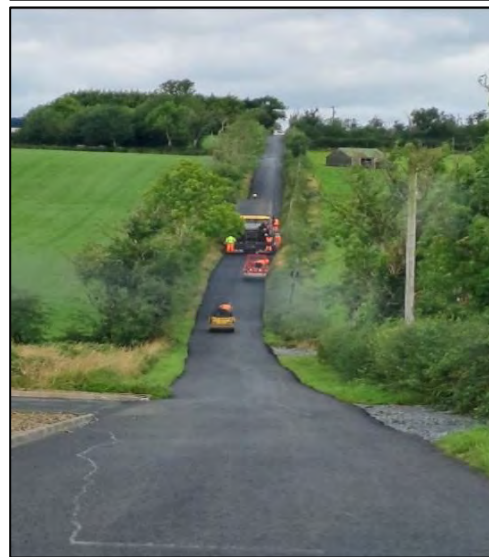
Roads Programme 2025

In 2025, Ballybay-Clones Municipal District undertook a substantial programme of road infrastructural development.

The Municipal District carried out drainage, bitmac overlay and surface dressing works for 16.2km on seven local roads and five regional roads in the district under the restoration improvement grants scheme for an estimated €3M.

Additional funding allowed for the resurfacing of a further regional road under the restoration improvement grants scheme.

There were a further 43km of roads surface dressed throughout the Municipal District on 22 no roads. The Municipal District also undertook extensive general repairs/maintenance to the road network in the district such as gully repairs/cleaning, road patching, hedge cutting, sweeping and scavenging.



RI 2025



Low Cost Scheme

Low Cost Safety Improvement Works

The Municipal District applies annually for funding for Low-Cost Improvements Schemes to improve safety on Regional and Local Roads. In 2025 the Municipal District was successful in 4 Funding Applications for Low-Cost Projects. The 4 projects include the following works:

- Installation of road markings, public lighting and vehicle activated warning signs LP3400/LP3411 Cremartin
- Installation of vehicle restraint system R183/LS6290 Guardhill, Killeevan
- Installation of a pedestrian crossing R189/LP2400 Threemilehouse
- Installation of road markings and vehicle activated warning signs R183/R162 Approach Roads Ballybay

Municipal District Offices

The Municipal District was delighted to be in a position to take part in the various lighting up of public building events throughout the year. These events were to raise awareness and highlight some very important issues that affect many throughout our communities.



Clones Municipal Offices

The Elected Members of Ballybay/Clones Municipal District in support of the Official Language Act & promoting the use of the Irish Language where delighted to fund Gaeltacht Scholarships for students from local Secondary

Schools who will enrolled in Gaeltacht courses for summer 2025.



Presentation of scholarship awards by Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Richard Truell

The Elected Members are always proud to support community initiatives and work collaboratively with our local committees.

Hosting events such as Clones Film Festival and Clones Festival of Arts.

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District held its annual Community Awards Night in June 2025. The event was in recognition of the important work which community groups undertake throughout the county on an annual basis.

The Ballybay/Clones Municipal District on behalf of Monaghan County Council together with Ballybay Town Team hosted the 25th anniversary of the town twinning between Ballybay, County Monaghan, and Gergweis, Osterhofen, Bavaria welcoming the visiting delegation and celebrating the enduring ties through cultural exchanges, shared experiences, and a commitment to fostering mutual respect and understanding.



Caithaoirleach Cllr. Sinead Flynn and Bavarian Bürgermeisterin Thomas Etschmann

Clones hosted the 137th Ulster Senior Football Championship Final in May 2025. In preparation for the event, the Ballybay–Clones Municipal District, in partnership with the Clones Town Team and Clones St. Tiernach’s GAA Club, coordinated the delivery of a comprehensive programme of pre-match entertainment.

Building on the success of the 2024 event—which featured live outdoor music, street-food vendors, and a dedicated Family Friendly Zone—the 2025 festivities were enhanced through the addition of an outdoor screen broadcasting the match.

In collaboration with An Garda Síochána, traffic management measures were implemented to support the safe movement of attendees. Additional parking facilities were also secured along key approach routes to accommodate increased visitor numbers.



Match Day Clones

Proposals for 2026

The Ballybay Clones Municipal District contains over 40% of the county’s road network. Major investment is required, particularly on the

regional road network to ensure that the network is maintained to a satisfactory standard.

The Municipal District will continue to work with the elected representatives and staff from other sections in Monaghan County Council to ensure that funding is obtained, and all schemes delivered in 2026.

Funding applications have been submitted for Low-Cost safety improvement works and bridge repair works in various locations in the Municipal District.

The Municipal District will continue to advance the projects in Ballybay and Clones, currently being funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and seek to develop schemes for further funding submissions under this programme.

The Municipal District has made comprehensive submissions under the Departments Town and Village Renewal and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and will progress these schemes following receipt of funding.

We will continue to support community and business groups in their activities and work closely with the Councils Housing, Planning & Town Regeneration sections to develop solutions and programmes of work to address dereliction within the Municipal District.

The Municipal District of Monaghan

Municipal District Meetings

The Municipal District held their Monthly Meetings on the third Monday of each month, with the exception of August. At the AGM in June Cllr. Seamus Treanor was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Raymond Aughey was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach for one year. There were a number of other subcommittee meetings to discuss roads, budgets and other issues and programs within the district.

Community

Rossmore Park

Monaghan Municipal District continued to invest in and maintain the recreation areas of the park.

A new giant sculpture, Rocky, was added to the Access for All route, this was joint funded by the Municipal District and Creative Ireland.



The Giant Rocky

An 800 metre numbered local animal trail has been developed in Rossmore Forest Park with funding from the ORIS programme. The route follows an existing bitmac trail and is designed to encourage children to explore the park, stay active, and learn about local forest animals in a fun and engaging way.

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2025

Monaghan Municipal District held the Monaghan Town St. Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March with the theme, Irish Legends.

The parade featured over 60 entrants and enjoyed an excellent turnout from the public.



Country Music Festival 2025

The Country Music Festival proved highly successful, drawing record attendance to the town during the four-day period, 17–20 July. The Municipal District planned and oversaw the necessary road closures throughout the event.

Plantation Road Culvert

Works commenced for a new culvert from Peters Lake to The Peace Campus. The project involved a 180m long new pipe with a section tunnelled under a house on the Plantation Road and under the carriageway. Works commenced in June 2025

and are due to be completed in February 2026. The project will help to alleviate flooding to the north of the town.



Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Scheme (ORIS)

Hollywood Park received ORIS funding of €276,385 which was match funded by Monaghan MD in the amount of €30,710. This project upgraded the infrastructure at Hollywood Park. The project was officially opened by Minister Dara Calleary on 9th April 2025.

Department Playground Funding

Luí Na Gréine Scotstown received funding of €18,887 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for supply of equipment which was match funded by Monaghan Municipal District in the amount of €18,000.



Luí Na Gréine Scotstown

Monaghan Town CCTV System

The installation of the Monaghan Town CCTV system for 43 cameras at 17 locations in

Monaghan Town Centre was completed, along with the erection of the CCTV signage works. The scheme was mostly funded through the income from pay parking and a grant from the Community Based CCTV Scheme from the Department of Justice.

The CCTV scheme was officially launched on 27th November 2025 at the first meeting of the Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership.



Launch of Monaghan Town CCTV Scheme

Car Parking

The Municipal District operated free Christmas parking from 12 noon each day from the 8th December 2025 to 1st January 2026.

The Parking Control (Pay Parking) & Car-Parks Bye-Laws were amended in 2025 following approval by the Municipal District and full Council, ensuring updated regulations to support improved traffic management and enforcement.

Monies raised via Pay Parking within Monaghan Town is reinvested into the Municipal District through the upkeep of Rossmore Forest Park, provision of a Business Support Executive, supporting the Town Team, and funding of projects/events in the district. This money was also used to fund the Monaghan Town CCTV system.

Walking Tours

Weekly walking tours continued each Saturday at 12 noon from 29th March until the end of September. These free guided walks started from the Westenra Hotel and were funded by Monaghan Municipal District.

Tidy Towns

Monaghan Municipal District continued to work closely with Tidy Towns Groups within the district on a number of projects. Assistance was also given

to Community Groups/Residents Associations throughout the year.

2025 saw another great result for Monaghan Town in the IBAL litter league, with the town sitting at 4th place out of the 40 Towns and Cities surveyed. Monaghan Town was acknowledged as “Cleaner than European Norms” with a very positive detailed report.

In May 2025, Monaghan Tidy Towns launched a unique Pocket Forest project funded through the Climate Action Fund, creating eight micro-forests across residential estates.

This project supports biodiversity, carbon sequestration, community engagement, and climate resilience.

Public Open Spaces

The Municipal District was responsible for the management and upkeep of many public open spaces within the district, including the Belgium Park football field.

Community Awards

On Thursday, 12 June, the Municipal District and the Community Section came together to host a Community Awards Night.

The 2025 Community Awards were held to acknowledge, commend, and celebrate the tireless voluntary work carried out by community groups and individuals across the District. They highlight the exceptional dedication, generosity, and spirit of those who contribute so much to enhancing life in Monaghan.

Playgrounds

Throughout the year, Monaghan Municipal District completed weekly inspections and provided ongoing maintenance for 20 playgrounds in the district, alongside continuous repair and upgrade works.

Farmers Market - Church Square

The Monaghan Town Farmer’s Market continued throughout 2025 each Friday at Church Square.



The amended Casual Trading (Control and Designation) Byelaws 2025 were formally approved in July 2025, strengthening the regulatory framework for casual trading across the Municipal District of Monaghan.

Sliabh Beagh Partnership

The Sliabh Beagh Partnership continued to regularly meet throughout 2025. The three Councils, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Monaghan County Council (Monaghan MD) were represented.

The group are working together to develop the Sliabh Beagh area and secured funding of €6 million to develop the area as an Eco Tourism destination under the Shared Island funding.

Roads

2025 Roads Restoration Improvement Programme

Drainage works commenced in the district in February. A total of 11.4km of Local roads and 1km of Regional Roads were drained and re-surfaced under the 2025 Road Restoration Programme.

Restoration Maintenance Programme

A total of 16km of local roads and 1.5km of regional roads were surface dressed under the 2025 Restoration Maintenance Programme.

Low Cost Road Interventions

A pilot scheme on Micro Sealing as a low-cost road intervention took place on the L-1600 at Tullybryan. This pilot scheme involved the application of a bitumen slurry seal to sections of the road that had identified surface defects. After a period of 3 -4 weeks the entire road was then fully surface dressed.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

The Municipal District progressed a low cost safety scheme on the L-1620 at Crosses. These works involved the road realignment works, new drainage and a Vehicle Restraint System (VRS).



General Road Maintenance

A number of verge slippages and damage to roads caused by storms were repaired.

Verge trimming on National Roads within the District was completed twice in 2025, with litter picking carried out as part of the works.

Tree cutting works were also completed on national roads and on Council owned lands.

Repairs were carried out on a number of bridge parapets in the Municipal District.



The Municipal District delivered hedge cutting on Council-owned lands and strategic road-safety locations, completed large-patching works on regional and local roads, carried out footpath replacement in Ballinode alongside minor repairs across the District, and delivered road-marking and drainage works in multiple areas throughout the year.

Winter Maintenance program commenced on 14th October 2025 and will continue until end of April 2026.

Monaghan County Card

In 2025, a new County Gift Card replaced the paper Monaghan Town Voucher, which had become a victim of its own success, reaching €12million in sales since it's inception in 2016.

With this level of sales, the manual work needed by both participating businesses and Council staff to administer the paper voucher and process redemptions had become unsustainable, and a more modern and efficient approach was needed.

The County Monaghan Gift Card is a simple but brilliant idea: a card that can be spent in shops, restaurants, cafés, and services all across the county. It's the perfect gift for any occasion, and best of all, every euro spent stays in Monaghan, supporting our local economy and the businesses.

The new County Gift card was launched on 21st November 2025 and has been a huge success with sales reaching €1,776,832 in the first 6 weeks following the launch.

In addition, €370,000 in Monaghan Town Vouchers were sold in the weeks prior to the paper voucher being discontinued on the launch date. Taken together, this brings total sales to over €2 million in a relatively short timeframe.



Monaghan Town Team and Monaghan Municipal District continued to promote and highlight the shops and businesses who accept the gift card through social media channels, radio advertising and town events.



Launch of County Monaghan Gift Card

Town Promotions

The Monaghan Town Team is a collective of local business owners, community group representatives, a coordinator funded by Monaghan County Council, and a representative from Monaghan Municipal District. Their primary aim is to enhance footfall, bolster business activities, and foster community spirit in Monaghan.

2025 was another successful year for Monaghan town, highlighted by a range of festivals that contributed to a notable increase in tourism. Collectively, these events enhanced economic activity, strengthened local tourism, and fostered cultural engagement.

Among them, the Street Food Festival held on 23rd August—coordinated by a committee comprising a Coordinator, Town Team members and Municipal District staff—was a great success.

The Long Table Dinner, which took place the previous evening on Friday, 22nd August, was also a notable highlight, drawing strong participation and adding to the festive atmosphere.

The Christmas Street Food Festival, held on Saturday 6th December, likewise delivered excellent results. Together, these events significantly animated Church Square Plaza and the Diamond areas, bringing vibrant activity and community engagement to the town.



Long Table Dinner – Church Square – August 2025



Launch of Christmas Street Food Festival

The Friends of Rossmore Park committee held a very successful ‘Haunting of Rossmore Forest Park’ on Friday 31st October which attracted significant numbers and was met with enthusiastic, positive feedback.

Monaghan Municipal District along with the Committee held a very successful Christmas Lights Switch-On event on Sunday 23rd November. The MD provided and managed the Christmas lights and decorations for Monaghan town.

2025 marked a special occasion as it was the launch of the new Christmas Tree complete with walkthrough archway. The tree was a huge success with very positive praise, and became an instant selfie location, further promoting Monaghan.



New Christmas Tree, Church Square, Monaghan



Christmas Lights Switch On event

The newly revitalised Church Square plaza and the Peace Campus were celebrated at the prestigious 2025 Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland Awards. Church Square earned the Urban Design Award, while the Peace Campus was honoured in both the Universal Design and Public Buildings categories.



Church Square Plaza

The Municipal District of Carrickmacross-Castleblayney

Road Infrastructure

Regional and Local Roads

In 2025, the Municipal District (MD) managed an investment of €4.5million in the Regional and Local Road network. Approximately 11km of the non-national road network was strengthened under the Restoration Improvement programme and a further 24km was resealed under the Restoration Maintenance programme. Additionally, 10 no. roads, with a combined length of 13km, were repaired and stabilised under the pilot Low-Cost Intervention Scheme.

Funding received under the 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads scheme enabled the implementation of road safety measures at 3 No. locations within the District, whilst monies secured under the Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant provided for the completion of resurfacing on the Old Ardee Road in Carrickmacross.

Elsewhere, the 2025 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works programme provided for the design of flood mitigation measures for Donaghmoyné, and emergency funding under the 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation Works programme enabled the repair of a collapsed culvert and roadside embankment slippage along the R179 at Derrylavan.



Low-cost intervention works on the LP4510, Donaghmoyné



Sheetpiling & Culvert repairs @ Derrylavan

Active Travel

The MD continued to work closely with the Active Travel Unit throughout 2025. There are currently 6 No. schemes on going in the District, with a combined value of approximately €450,000.

Regenerating our Town and Village Centres Carrickmacross Workhouse Community, Tourism and Arts Hub

The executive, in partnership with Farney Community Development Group (FCDG), advanced plans for the redevelopment of the Carrickmacross Workhouse site. With Part 8 planning approval secured, the aim of this RRDF Category 2 enabling project is to progress the scheme to “shovel ready” status by the end of Q1

2026, facilitating eligible applications under future funding calls.



Conceptual image of proposed Carrickmacross Workhouse Community, Tourism & Arts Hub

Castleblayney Market Square Regeneration Phase II Project (Market House & Market Square)

The Capital Projects team progressed the proposed refurbishment of the Market House and Market Square to construction tender stage in August 2025. Subsequently, the executive lodged a submission to the Department in October 2025 seeking approval to award the construction contract. Subject to Department approval, it is envisaged that construction may commence in Q2 2026.

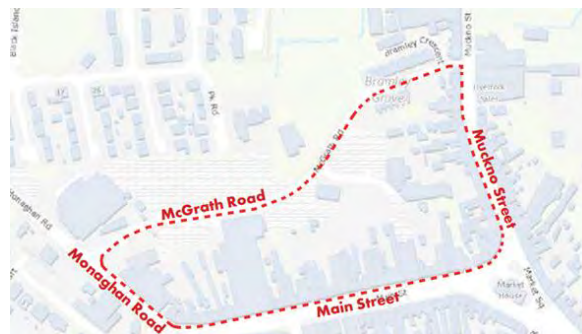


Artist's Impression of restored Market House

Regeneration Plan for the backlands off the north-western side of main street, Castleblayney

In early 2025, Monaghan County Council completed a regeneration plan for the backlands bounded by Main Street, West Street, Muckno Street and McGrath Road. The Plan provides a framework to encourage the activation of

backland properties, whilst providing guidance on viable uses, densities, layout, and design.



Backlands to the north-western side of Main Street, Castleblayney

The Bridewell, Carrickmacross

In 2025, Monaghan County Council completed the purchase of "The Bridewell" in Carrickmacross Town. Funding has been secured to develop detailed plans and costings for the restoration of the building. It is intended that a Part 8 planning application for the development will be submitted in late March/early April 2026.



The Bridewell, Carrickmacross

Proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex in Carrickmacross Town

The preferred site location for the proposed facility received the approval of elected members at November's MD meeting. The proposal is now progressing to the Project Planning and Design stage, with site surveys and investigations scheduled to commence in February 2026.



Conceptual image of proposed Swimming Pool and Leisure Complex

Streetscape and amenity enhancements to the main street in Carrickmacross Town

Funding secured under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) in 2025 shall enable the implementation of a Building Frontages Enhancement Scheme (BFES) in the Town, together with the enhancement of lighting to historic landmark buildings and the provision of a public water feature at the Market Square.

Investing in Public Spaces and Outdoor Recreational Amenities

Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan and Development Framework

Consultancy firm *Cunnane Stratton Reynolds* were appointed in May 2025 to develop a 10-year Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno Park. The Plan is aimed at providing a series of short, medium, and long-term interventions to facilitate the sustainable development of Lough Muckno Estate and its integration with the Town. The project is currently at 'Emerging Options' stage with further public consultation events scheduled for Q1 2026.

Convent Lands Landscape Masterplan

Monaghan County Council appointed *The Paul Hogarth Company* to prepare a concept landscape masterplan for the Convent Lands area to the south of Carrickmacross Town Centre. The terms of reference of the proposed Masterplan are centered on the provision of improved foot and cycle linkages to the town centre, the accommodation of the potential expansion of the St. Louis Secondary School and the consolidation of recent investments in sports facilities. It is anticipated that the Plan will be fully completed in early Q2 2026. To date, the draft Plan has provided the basis for a successful funding application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the procurement of design consultancy services to develop a Recreational Masterplan for Lough na Glack.



Study area, Convent Lands Landscape Masterplan

Gallows Hill Greenspace Masterplan & Creevy Lough Recreational Masterplan

Funding received under the TVRS enabled the development of detailed plans to enhance the amenity of Gallows Hill. The Plan shall provide a framework to deliver a new, usable, high quality and accessible public green space and amenity area to the northern end of Carrickmacross Town. Similarly, funding received under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), has enabled the development of a recreational plan to enhance the amenity of Creevy Lough in a sustainable, accessible, and environmentally friendly manner. It is envisaged that Part 8 planning applications for these developments will be submitted in early Q2 2026.



Creevy Lough Recreational Masterplan

Upgrade of pathways and recreational enhancements on Black Island

Monies secured under the ORIS provided for the completion of significant enhancements to the amenity of Black Island. Works included upgrades to existing pathways, new signage and interpretation, the installation of wooden seating, and the development of natural viewing features at rest points.



New Signage at Black Island

New Sensory Spaces in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney

June 2025 saw the completion of a new sensory and outdoor education space in Cloughvalley Park, Carrickmacross. Similarly, a new sensory space adjacent to the existing playground in Lough Muckno Park, Castleblayney was completed in August 2025.



Sensory Garden & Outdoor Educational Space at Cloughvalley



Sensory Space, Lough Muckno Park

Funding secured under the TVRS and the ORIS in 2025 shall allow for the continued enhancement of outdoor amenities including:

- The development of a restoration plan for the Walled Garden in Lough Muckno Park.
- The completion of Phase 2 of the outdoor sensory space in Lough Muckno Park.
- The refurbishment of the jetty and slipway at the outdoor adventure centre in Lough Muckno Park.
- The development of a Recreational Masterplan for Lough na Glack.

Planning and Development

The MD executive reported on a total of 146 No. planning applications throughout 2025. Breakdown as follows:

| Development Type | No. of Applications |
|---|---------------------|
| Agricultural | 12 |
| Change of use | 3 |
| Commercial | 29 |
| Educational | 7 |
| Industrial | 6 |
| Sports and Recreation | 2 |
| Part 8 | 3 |
| Residential (Total) | 84 |
| Apartments/Flats (5) | |
| Housing Development (11) | |
| Single Dwellings (51) | |
| Other (extensions, garages, new entrances) (17) | |
| Total | 146 |

Community Actions

The MD continued its support of Town Teams and local groups to help improve our communities; streetscapes; and built environment. The ongoing investment in these groups is central to our sustainable development strategy.

Events and Festivals

Commencing with the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, the MD maintained a strong collaborative

approach to delivering community events and festivals throughout 2025. Notable highlights -

- Féile Patrick Byrne - which included a reception for students and teachers from L'École de Musique du Poher in Carhaix held at the Civic Offices, Carrickmacross in early April.
- The monthly Farmer's Market at the Market Square, Carrickmacross.
- Carrickmacross Street Festival.
- Muckno Mania.
- Back to Castleblayney and Big Tom Weekend.
- Christmas lights switch on events in Carrickmacross and Castleblayney.
- Lough Muckno Christmas Market.



Corduff Pipe Band performing at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Carrickmacross



Fire display at Muckno Mania

Community Safety and Wellbeing

Storm Éowyn:

The Crisis Management Team was activated ahead of Storm Éowyn's arrival on the 24th of January 2025. Following the cessation of the Red Weather

Warning period, MD crews mobilised to clear debris and restore priority routes.

Community Hubs, supported directly by MCC staff, were activated in Carrickmacross Civic Offices, Oram Community Centre and Inniskeen Community and Social Club. The immediate emergency response phase lasted until the 11th of February, during which time MD staff also assisted ESB Networks with extensive site clearance to facilitate the restoration of power.

Remedial works continue at Bully's Acre to sensitively reinstate the burial ground disturbed by uprooted trees. Meanwhile, a new generator has been installed at the Civic Offices to ensure self-sufficiency during future storm events and power outages.

CCTV:

The MD received approval for the installation of the proposed Carrickmacross Community CCTV Scheme in November 2025. It is intended that both the Carrickmacross and Castleblayney Community CCTV schemes will be fully operational by the end of Q2 2026.

Public Lighting:

The MD completed extensive enhancements to the public lighting along Main Street/West Street, Castleblayney in late October 2025. Similar enhancements are to be undertaken to the public lighting along Main Street, Carrickmacross in early 2026.

Tidy Towns

Tidy Towns - The MD continued its support of these groups by way of annual contributions and logistical assistance throughout the year. In 2025, Carrickmacross retained their Gold medal for the 13th consecutive year whilst Castleblayney achieved a 9-point increase on their 2024 result.



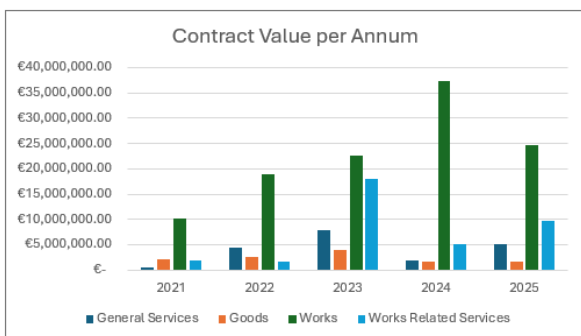
Carrickmacross Tidy Towns group pictured with MD staff at Spring Clean Day

Corporate Procurement

The procurement unit in Monaghan Co. Co. is responsible for the following:

- improving compliance with local and national guidelines and with EU procurement rules
- advising staff involved in procurement activities
- assisting staff to follow the correct procedures and develop guidelines to ensure compliance with policies
- acting as an intermediary between the Office of Government Procurement and the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre and Monaghan County Council to get the most out of centralised procurement
- reporting progress in procurement reform to management
- the application of government circulars relating to procurement
- uploading of all Monaghan County Council tenders on the eTenders and SupplyGov platform

In 2025 Monaghan Co. Co published 115 Tenders covering Goods & Supplies; Services; Capital Works and Works Related Services. This has resulted in eighty-one contracts being awarded in 2025 worth a total value of €41.2m



Contract Award value by spend category

Procurement guidance and training was provided to council staff through various support tools, updated Procurement Procedure Manual and Procurement Training. In addition to this the Procurement Unit Staff delivered inhouse procurement training to staff members across various Sections and Departments. Specific training was provided to relevant staff on the Infrastructure Guidelines.

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In 2025 the Procurement Officer coordinated, compiled and submitted the Monaghan County Council’s Quality Assurance report for 2024 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

The report noted that the checklists completed by Monaghan County Council showed a high level of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the in-depth checks carried out on a selection of projects / programmes revealed no major issues which would cast doubt on the Council’s compliance with the Code.

Monaghan 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.

Strategic Policy Committees

The role of Strategic Policy Committees is to formulate policy proposals, evaluate and report on policy implementation for consideration; provide policy centred committees which can harness the experience of external bodies in the formulation of policy.

The Committees are not designed to deal with routine operational matters in relation to the delivery of services.

The SPCs which consists of elected members of Monaghan County Council and others who are nominated by / or representative of the sectors relevant to the work of the particular SPC.

Monaghan County Council has 5 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):

SPC 1 - Housing

SPC 2 - Transport

SPC 3 - Economic Development & Enterprise

SPC 4 - Climate Action & Environment

SPC 5 – Tourism, Rural & Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services

Report of Strategic Policy Committee Activities during 2025

Housing SPC

Following the local elections in 2024 new strategic policy committees had to be convened. The newly formed Housing SPC held its Inaugural meeting in March 2025, with further meetings held in May, September and December 2025.

The SPC received presentation on the following topics:

- Capital Programme of works
- Affordable Housing Purchase Scheme
- Cost Rental Scheme
- Homeless Procedures
- Traveller Accommodation Plan
- Regeneration Team Report
- Differential Rent Scheme and Rent Review
- Safe Homes Ireland presentation
- Scheme of Letting Priorities
- Planned Maintenance Programme
- Housing Operational Budget
- Housing Adaptation Grants

Transport SPC

There were 4 Transport meetings held in 2025.

The members received presentations on the following

- Clones Urban Mobility Plan
- Proposed Pilot Road Maintenance Strategy
- Monaghan Town Draft Local Transport Plan
- National Speed Limit review
- Draft Pavement Maintenance Strategy
- Roads over Peat Presentation
- EV Charging update
- Urban Speed Limit Review

The members also received detailed updates of various Roads and Community projects including the LIS.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

4 meetings of the SPC took place in 2025 (Feb, April, Sept & Nov)

Members received presentations on a wide range of topics. These included;

- Overview of the scope of the SPC
- Rates Vacancy Abatement Scheme & Scheme for waiver of Rates
- Overview of the Local Enterprise Office
- Derelict Sites Policy Review
- Update on Croi Conaithe Grant Scheme
- Development at Annahagh Industrial Lands
- Monaghan's Economic Statistics
- Establishment of an Economic Development Forum
- Anaerobic Digestors

The SPC over the year provided a consistent forum for informed discussion, policy development and collaborative decision making.

Tourism, Rural & Community Development; An Ghaeilge & Cultural Services SPC

(4 meetings held in 2025.)

The members approved the following strategies:

- County Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025 – 2030
- County Monaghan Arts Strategy 2025 – 2031
- County Monaghan Heritage Strategy 2026 – 2031
- County Museum Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030

The members also received presentations on;

- Irish Languages Act
- Monaghan Local Sports Plan
- Festival and Events Policy
- County Museum Policies
- Treinfhir Clan
- Everybody Plays Policy

Climate Action & Environment SPC

(4 meetings held in 2025)

In 2025, members received presentations on a wide range of topics.

- RMCEI Plan for Waste, Water Air & Noise for 2025
- Draft of Monaghan's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030
- Draft of Monaghan's Litter Management Plan for 2026-2029
- Community Insurance for Tidy Towns
- Update on "Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project"
- Introduction to the newly appointed National Parks and Wildlife Service (NWPS) Conservation Ranger for Monaghan - Andrew Egan Walsh and his role within the county
- Tree & Hedgerow Strategy for Monaghan County Council
- Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Elliots Farm Rewilding & Seed Bank Proposal
- Environment, Biodiversity & Circular Economy Fund 2026
- Progress on Monaghan County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Community Climate Action Programme

Councillor Representation on External and Council Committees



Strategic Policy Committees

SPC for Housing, Social and Cultural

Cllr. Colm Carthy, Chair
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Alan Johnston

SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support

Cllr. Sean Gilliland, Chair
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Niamh McCooey
Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Peter Conlon

SPC for Transport and Community

Cllr. Raymond Aughey, Chair
Cllr. Seán Conlon
Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin
Cllr. Alan Johnston

SPC for Climate Action and Environment

Cllr. Richard Truell, Chair
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin

SPC for Tourism, Rural and Community Development: An Gháeilge & Cultural

Cllr. Seán Conlon, Chair
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Niamh McCooey
Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

**Local Community
Development
Committee**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin

Audit Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Paul Gibbons

**Standing Orders &
Procedures
Committee**

Cathaoirleach of the day
Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Seán Conlon
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Niamh McCooley

**Appointment of
members to witness the
affixing of the Official
Seal**

All Members of Monaghan County
Council appointed to witness the
affixing of the Official Seal.

Local Steering Group for the Use of Irish in Monaghan County Council (Coiste Gaeilge)

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Niamh McCooley

Local Improvements Scheme Committee

Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. P.J. O' Hanlon
Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)

Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. P.J. O' Hanlon
Cllr. Noel Keelan

Speed Limits Committee

Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. P.J. O' Hanlon

County Monaghan Heritage Forum

Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Seán Conlon
Cllr. Seamus Coyle

Road Safety Committee

Cllr. Seán Conlon

Museum Advisory Committee

Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin

Monaghan Local Sports Partnership Board

Cllr. Colm Carthy

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Cllr. Pauric Clerkin
Cllr. Niamh McCooley
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Monaghan Leisure Complex Management Committee

Cllr. Pauric Clerkin
Cllr. Sean Conlon
Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Civic Offices Steering Group

Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Seamus Treanor
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Sean Gilliland
Cllr. Niamh McCooley

Muckno Development Committee

Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. P.J. O' Hanlon
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin

**A5/N2 Cross
Border Committee**

Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Seamus Treanor
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. P.J O'Hanlon

**Peace Partnership
Board**

Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Seamus Treanor
Cllr. Niamh McCooley
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Paul Gibbons

Twinning Committee

Cllr. Pauric Clerkin
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. PJ O'Hanlon

**East Border Region
Members Forum**

Cllr. P.J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Raymond Aughey
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Paul Gibbons
Cllr. Noel Keelan

**Directors to the
East Border
Region Ltd**

Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. P. J. O'Hanlon
Cllr. Aidan Campbell

**Board of the
Garage Theatre**

Cllr. Pauric Clerkin
Cllr. Bronagh McAree

**Northern and Western
Regional Assembly
(NWRA)**

Cllr. Seán Conlon
Cllr. Richard Truell

**Management Board of
ICBAN Ltd., (Irish Central
Border Areas Network)**

Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Seamus Coyle

**Clones Erne East
Partnership**

Cllr. Richard Truell
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Sean Gilliland
Cllr. Pauric Clerkin

**Association of Irish
Local Government
(AILG)**

Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Noel Keelan
Cllr. Sean Gilliland

**Regional Health Forum
– Dublin and North
East**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Bronagh McAree
Cllr. Alan Johnston

**An Coiste
Logainmneacha**

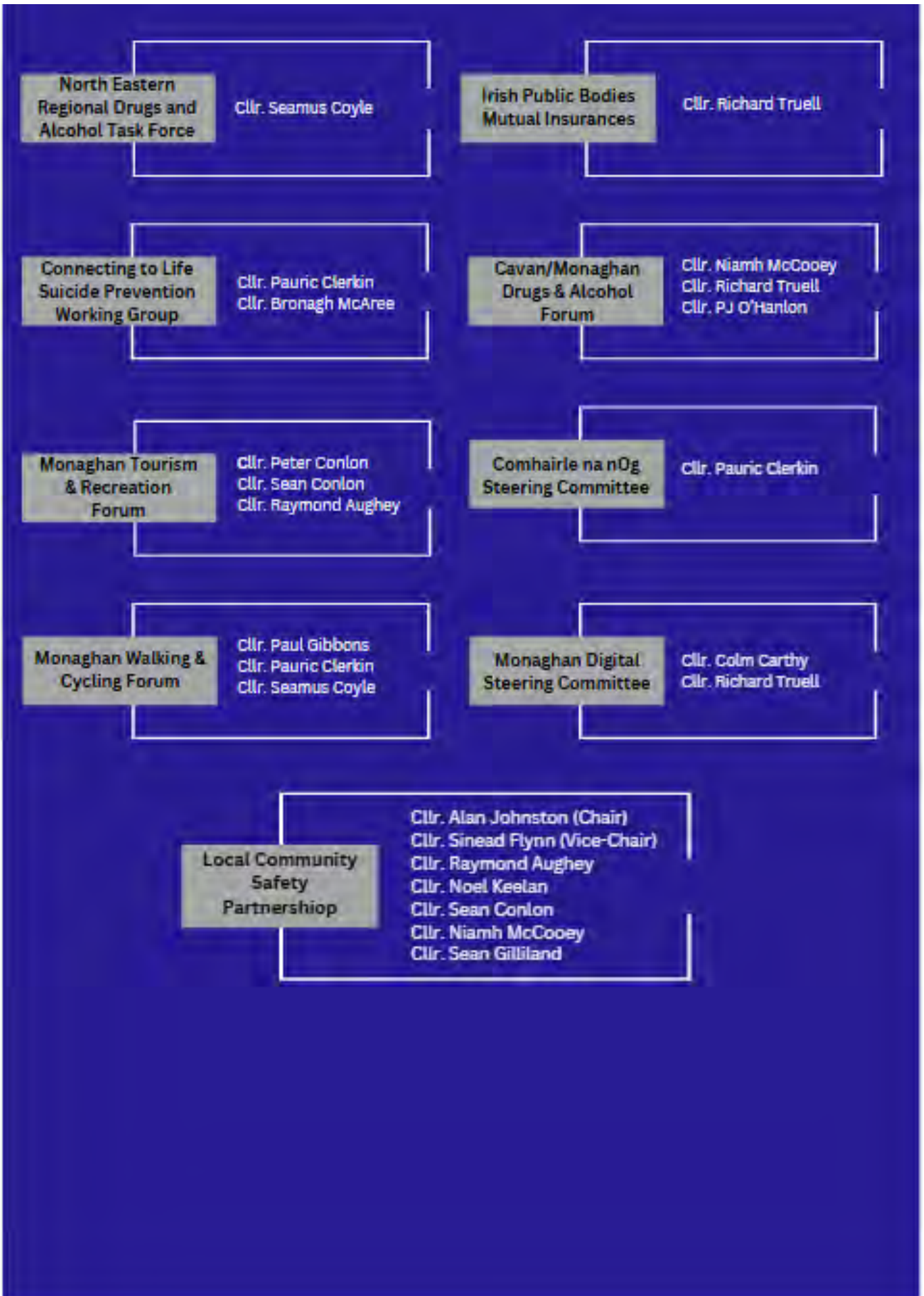
Cllr. Pat Treanor
Cllr. Peter Conlon
Cllr. Seamus Coyle
Cllr. Bronagh McAree

**Local Authority
Members Association
(LAMA)**

Cllr. Sean Conlon

**Cavan/Monaghan
Education and Training
Board**

Cllr. Sinead Flynn
Cllr. Aidan Campbell
Cllr. Colm Carthy
Cllr. Alan Johnston
Cllr. Seamus Coyle



Conferences/Training Attended by Members in 2025

| Promoting Authority | Subject | Venue | Dates | Number of Members Attended |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Lama | Spring Seminar | Kilford Arms Kilkenny | 30th - 31st Jan 25 | 4 |
| AIR | Annual Training Seminar | Radison Athlone | 05th - 06th Feb 25 | 2 |
| Celtic Conference | Corporate Governance | Clonakilty Co Cork | 07th - 09th Feb 25 | 1 |
| AILG | Wind Energy | Dundalk | 20th Feb 25 | 1 |
| AILG | WinD Energy | Kilkenny | 22nd Feb 25 | 2 |
| AILG | Embracing Equality Cultivating Local Communities | Clayton Hotel Galway | 20th Mar 25 | 3 |
| AILG | Local Government of Next Generation | Limerick Strand Hotel | 02nd - 03rd April 25 | 9 |
| IPI | Irish Planning Conference 2025 | Salthill Galway | 10th -11th April 25 | 1 |
| AILG | Emergency Response - Councils Supporting Communities in Weather Crises | Radisson Blu Hotel Sligo | 22nd May 25 | 1 |
| AILG | Re SPC Chairs & Senior Officials | Midlands Park Hotel Portlaoise | 2nd Sep 25 | 3 |
| AILG | AILG - Training Seminar | Westport Woods Mayo | 17th - 18th Sept 25 | 8 |
| AILG | Local Authority Finance & Budget" | Arklow Bay, Wicklow | 9th Oct 25 | 1 |
| AILG | Local Authority Finance & Budget" | Out of region - Tipperary | 11th Oct 25 | 2 |
| LAMA | LAMA Autum Seminar | Amber Springs Gorey Wexford | 16th - 17th Oct 25 | 4 |
| Celtic Conference | The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations | O 'Donovans Hotel Clonakilty | 07th - 09th Nov 25 | 1 |
| AILG | The evolving planning context and the new Ministerial Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act | Radison Blue Athlone | 15th Nov 25 | 3 |

Appendix I Members Expenses

Payments to Monaghan County Council Members in 2025 from 1 January - 31 December 2025

| Name of Councillor | Representational Payment / Salary (Subject to PAYE etc.) | Local Representational Allowance (T&S, Vouched & Unvouched) | Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach / MD Allowance (Subject to PAYE etc.) | SPC Chair Allowance (subject to PAYE etc) | Travel & Subsistence (Training, Conferences, Crossborder and Other Meetings) | Foreign Travel (Twinning etc., Cost of Flights and Expenses) | TOTAL PAID |
|---------------------|--|---|--|---|--|--|--------------------|
| Cllr Colm Carthy | €31,180.75 | €9,147.64 | | €6,000.00 | €246.25 | | €46,574.64 |
| Cllr Sean Gilliland | €31,180.75 | €8,712.64 | | €6,000.00 | | | €45,893.39 |
| Cllr Raymond Aughey | €31,180.75 | €4,542.88 | | €6,000.00 | | €3,423.07 | €45,146.70 |
| Cllr Richard Truell | €31,180.75 | €7,987.60 | €5,033.17 | €6,000.00 | €4,484.73 | €3,423.07 | €58,109.32 |
| Cllr Peter Conlon | €31,180.75 | €8,730.04 | €1,833.31 | | €699.90 | €1,633.79 | €44,077.79 |
| Cllr Sinead Flynn | €31,180.75 | €7,077.52 | €3,133.33 | | €1,855.70 | €794.01 | €44,041.31 |
| Cllr Bronagh McAree | €31,180.75 | €6,683.92 | | | €806.24 | €3,423.07 | €42,093.98 |
| Cllr Pauric Clerkin | €31,180.75 | €5,353.52 | | | | | €36,534.27 |
| Cllr Paul Gibbons | €31,180.75 | €8,682.33 | €12,299.96 | | €2,317.52 | €2,128.79 | €56,609.35 |
| Cllr Noel Keelan | €31,180.75 | €7,783.78 | | | €2,973.29 | | €41,937.82 |
| Cllr Sean Conlon | €31,180.75 | €2,616.84 | €2,750.00 | €6,000.00 | €4,875.46 | | €47,423.05 |
| Cllr Pat Treanor | €31,180.75 | €7,715.08 | | | €3,928.21 | | €42,824.04 |
| Cllr Seamus Coyle | €31,180.75 | €5,019.01 | | | €5,096.91 | | €41,296.67 |
| Cllr PJ O'Hanlon | €31,180.75 | €6,092.56 | €13,793.68 | | €2,635.59 | | €53,702.58 |
| Cllr Seamus Treanor | €31,180.75 | €4,792.84 | €3,250.00 | | €118.15 | | €39,341.74 |
| Cllr Aidan Campbell | €31,180.75 | €7,787.56 | | | | €681.99 | €39,650.30 |
| Cllr Niamh McCooey | €32,573.23** | €7,606.96 | | | €1,410.10 | | €41,590.29 |
| Cllr Alan Johnston | €32,573.23** | €5,266.16 | | | | | €37,839.39 |
| Cllr Cathy Bennett | | | | | €324.55* | | €324.55 |
| Totals | €564,038.46 | €121,598.88 | €42,093.45 | €30,000.00 | €31,772.60 | €15,507.79 | €805,011.18 |

*Payment to Cllr. Cathy Bennett relates to an expense incurred during her role as Cathaoirleach in 2024

**Cllr Niamh McCooey and Cllr Alan Johnston received an arrears payment in respect for their salary (for the period 16.12.24-31.12.24) following their co-option to Monaghan County Council to fill vacancies that arose following the General Election on 29th November 2024

Appendix II Financial Statement 2025

Financial Statement 2025

Summary of Expenditure, Income and Balances

The Capital Account expenditure of €68,782,798 reflects the investment by the Council in improving the infrastructure in the County.

Capital Account

| Activity by Programme Group | 2024 Expenditure | 2024 Income | 2024 Net cost |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Housing & Building | 45,704,894 | 44,121,675 | (1,583,219) |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | 11,223,682 | 11,147,384 | (76,298) |
| Water Services | 195,869 | 218,015 | 22,146 |
| Development Management | 5,327,641 | 5,113,732 | (213,909) |
| Environmental Services | 1,920,858 | 2,206,587 | 285,729 |
| Recreation & Amenity | 1,047,749 | 1,757,117 | 709,368 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 3,362,105 | 864,117 | (2,497,988) |
| Total Expenditure / Income | 68,782,798 | 65,428,627 | (3,354,171) |

| | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance (Debit) / Credit January 1 | (5,915,014) | (1,531,260) |
| Expenditure | 58,317,848 | 68,782,798 |
| Income | 58,586,583 | 65,428,627 |
| Transfers to Revenue | (881,566) | (1,783,096) |
| Net Transfers from Revenue Account | 4,996,585 | 5,518,217 |
| Balance (Debit) / Credit December 31 | (1,531,260) | (1,150,309) |

Revenue Account

| Activity by Division | 2025 Expenditure | 2025 Income | 2025 Net cost |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Housing & Building | 16,090,124 | 18,127,994 | 2,037,870 |
| Roads Transportation & Safety | 31,474,900 | 23,139,567 | (8,335,333) |
| Water Services | 8,450,781 | 7,999,737 | (451,044) |
| Development Management | 13,713,547 | 6,822,154 | (6,891,393) |
| Environmental Services | 9,969,249 | 3,115,596 | (6,853,653) |
| Recreation & Amenity | 8,014,387 | 708,105 | (7,306,282) |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 472,809 | 228,988 | (243,821) |
| Miscellaneous Services | 5,686,673 | 7,555,471 | 1,868,798 |
| Total Expenditure / Income | 93,872,468 | 67,697,612 | (26,174,856) |

Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund (26,174,856)

| | |
|---|----------------|
| | € |
| Rates | 17,034,378 |
| Local Property Tax | 13,242,826 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for Year | 4,102,348 |
| Transfer to Reserves | (3,943,968) |
| Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) | 158,381 |
| Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 1st January | 291,378 |
| Balance (Debit) / Credit @ 31st December | 449,759 |

Revenue Account

| Income and Expenditure Account | 2025 | | 2024 | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Income | | | | |
| State Grants and Subsidies | 49,019,317 | 50.0% | 53,376,161 | 54.0% |
| Contributions from other Las | 693,483 | 0.7% | 574,329 | 0.6% |
| Goods and Services | 17,984,812 | 18.4% | 16,390,727 | 16.6% |
| Local Property Tax | 13,242,826 | 13.5% | 13,225,238 | 13.4% |
| Rates | 17,034,378 | 17.4% | 15,252,819 | 15.4% |
| Total Income | 97,974,816 | 100.0% | 98,819,274 | 100.0% |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Payroll Expenses | 36,914,427 | 39.3% | 34,885,834 | 36.8% |
| Operational Expenses | 43,799,164 | 46.7% | 46,487,579 | 49.1% |
| Administration Expenses | 3,923,640 | 4.2% | 4,355,447 | 4.6% |
| Establishment Expenses | 2,449,813 | 2.6% | 1,817,244 | 1.9% |
| Financial Expenses | 6,214,328 | 6.6% | 6,075,880 | 6.4% |
| Miscellaneous | 571,096 | 0.6% | 1,138,580 | 1.2% |
| Total Expenditure | 93,872,468 | 100.0% | 94,760,563 | 100.0% |
| Surplus for Year before Transfers | 4,102,348 | | 4,058,711 | |
| Transfers to Reserves | (3,943,968) | | (4,298,646) | |
| Overall (Deficit)/Surplus for Year | 158,381 | | (239,934) | |
| General Reserve at 1st January | 291,378 | | 531,313 | |
| General Reserve at 31st December | 449,759 | | 291,378 | |

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Robert Burns, Chief Executive (CE) of Monaghan 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 of Monaghan County Council for the year ended 31 December 2025, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS are 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 under which they purport to have been carried out. The AFS reports on the day-to-day activities of Monaghan County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Monaghan County Councils overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2025.

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

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

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Goods & Services | 17,984,812 | 16,390,737 |
| Grants & Subsidies | 49,019,317 | 53,376,161 |
| Other Contributions | 693,483 | 574,329 |
| Rates | 17,034,378 | 15,252,819 |
| Local Property Tax | 13,242,826 | 13,225,238 |

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

Over expenditure occurred on Divisions A, B, F, G, & H. This over expenditure will require the approval of the members by resolution in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001. A report on the over expenditure and Transfers to Reserves will be presented at the May 2026 Council Meeting.

| | 2025 € | 2024 € |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income | 97,974,816 | 98,819,274 |
| Expenditure | 93,872,468 | 94,760,563 |
| Transfers to Capital | (3,943,968) | (4,298,646) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for | 158,381 | (239,934) |
| Opening Revenue Reserve | 291,378 | 531,313 |
| Closing Revenue Reserve | 449,759 | 291,378 |

The opening revenue surplus for Monaghan County Council at 1st January 2025 was €291,378. The Council recorded a surplus of €158,381 for the year ended 31st December 2025 resulting in an increased cumulative surplus of €449,759.

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 Monaghan County Council at the end of 2025 total €1,613,541,669 and are as follows:

| | 2024 € | 2024 € |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Fixed Assets | 1,586,035,938 | 1,559,808,626 |
| Works in Progress | 34,905,566 | 14,021,259 |
| Long Term debtors | 29,855,541 | 29,237,526 |
| Current Assets | 22,929,893 | 17,106,856 |
| Current Liabilities | (16,171,509) | (11,270,958) |
| Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities) | 6,758,383 | 5,835,898 |
| Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year) | (44,013,759) | (40,981,437) |
| Net Assets/(Liabilities) | 1,613,541,669 | 1,567,921,871 |

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

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

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Monaghan 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 Monaghan 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 Monaghan 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 Monaghan County Council.

Risk and control framework

Monaghan 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 2026 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2026.

Signed by:

Dated:



01 April 2026

Chief Executive

Appendix III Governance Statement

Governance Statement

Purpose

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

Good Governance

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

Good Governance Principles

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

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

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

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

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

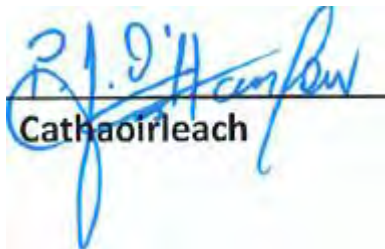
CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

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

Our Commitment to Good Governance

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

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



Cathaoirleach

Date: 01 April 2026



Chief Executive

Date: 01 April 2026

Appendix IV Progress Report for 2025 on Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029

CORE CORPORATE GOALS 2024-2029

Monaghan County Councils strategic ambition is to build on the County's strengths and continue to work to make the County a welcoming place to visit, to work, to invest in, and to call home.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <u>A great place to live</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing places to live • Planning for a sustainable and prosperous county |
| <u>A Thriving Community</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting communities to thrive and prosper • Roads and transportation to connect our communities • A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan's communities • Ensuring public safety for our communities |
| <u>A Strong Economy</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on and growing economic activity in Monaghan • Promoting tourism in Co. Monaghan |
| <u>A Sustainable Future</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing climate change responsibilities • Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County's biodiversity • Managing waste and monitoring and protecting air and water quality |
| <u>A High-Performing Council</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, digital transformation, and continuous improvement • Supporting and developing Council staff • Working in partnership to deliver for Monaghan • Robust governance, transparency, and accountability • Excellent internal and external communications |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>1:A Great Place to Live</p> | <p>1A: Providing places to live. 1B: Planning for a sustainable and prosperous county.</p> | <p>Town Regeneration In 2025, the Regeneration Section continued to prioritise tackling vacancy and dereliction as a means of increasing housing supply within the existing settlements. Through active engagement with property owners in relation to derelict sites, usage of the Croi Connaithe Programme, 250 properties entered the activation programme. Regeneration initiatives have been developed to align with the County Development Plan and the Town Centre First principles, focusing on the reuse of existing building stock and brownfield redevelopment in settlement centres. Regeneration led housing delivery reduces pressure on greenfield sites, promotes sustainable mobility, and supports climate action objectives.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community infrastructure progressed: Rockcorry CC planning & tender-ready; St. Tiarnach’s Hub masterplan funded; Newbliss Hub completed & occupied. • Dublin Street URDF public Realm progressed, Former Chapel in Convent Lands to be developed as Community Space. • Roosky Access Road advanced; Market Sq tender completed; Annahagh Part 8 lodged; Civic Offices tender issued; Pool feasibility completed. <p>LEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of goals / objectives in LECF - supporting enterprise development, job creation and economic resilience across County Monaghan. • Comply with performance metrics issued by Enterprise Ireland to issue Green for Business program supports among LEO Eligible clients - 18. • Co-operate with Age Friendly Programme – to deliver training to small SMEs. • Organised Creative connects Management Development Programme for the county. • Organised information seminars on enterprise supports in conjunction with the Town Teams. • Promoting Entrepreneurship – Local & National Enterprise Awards, Student Enterprise, Monaghan Women in Business Network events throughout the year <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission secured for the Dromore River Blueway from Ballybay to Lisnalong and project progressed through procurement stage • Planning permission secured for a Motor-home stopover site in Monaghan Town · Development of Monaghan County Outdoor Recreation Plan <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 new homes delivered in 2025. |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1:A Great Place to Live | 1A: Providing places to live. 1B: Planning for a sustainable and prosperous county. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025 we approved 292 Private Grant Applications and issued payment on 343 applications. • Turnaround time for voids 11.27 weeks. This is one of the top performing authorities in the country. • Council carried out disabled works to 45 Local Authority owned properties • 106 houses allocated • 26 Tenant Purchase Scheme application were received. <p>HR HR supported the Housing and Planning Directorates through targeted recruitment, including Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Technicians. HR provide administrative staff all levels to roll out the delivery of services for our communities. Graduate Planner, and administrative staff required to deliver housing, planning, and sustainable-development priorities. Workforce planning work ensured adequate resourcing for delivery of the Housing programme and statutory planning functions.</p> <p>Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage projects supported sustainable planning including conservation works and the next 5 year Heritage Strategy development. Coordinated and administered funding for Community Monuments Fund, supported administration of BHIS and HSF Built Heritage Funds as well as availing of and supporting applicants to avail of numerous other heritage funds. <p>Library Planning for a sustainable and prosperous county. Adult Literacy for Life initiatives developed and implemented Digital skills training provided (TechKnow) Progress reported on re-development of Ballybay Library</p> <p>Planning Adoption and implementation of County Development Plan 2025, including zoning of appropriate lands for residential purposes. Identification of lands liable for Residential Zoned Land Tax. Commenced preparation of Variation to zone additional residential lands on foot of the Revised National Planning Framework Housing Targets (2025). Progress Taking in Charge of satisfactorily completed housing developments. Progress Part VIII housing developments and amenity infrastructure. Public Planning function successfully operated throughout the year, including public counter, pre-planning, online planning system, processing of planning applications and enforcement function.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Town Regeneration The department progressed community focused plans in Ballybay and Monaghan Town designed to reflect and embed the wishes of communities in identifying their needs and aspirations. In addition, the department progressed regeneration projects designed to restore landmark buildings and repurpose underutilised assets Library - Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. Delivery of user-centred outreach and engagement programmes Delivery of the FUTU4U project 2025 Delivery of the Europe Direct Centre 2025 Delivery of the Healthy Ireland @ Your Library programme 2026. The adaptive reuse of historic and protected structures remains central to the regeneration approach. By retaining architectural heritage while introducing viable new uses to those buildings the Section is contributing to cultural preservation and economic revitalisation.</p> <p>Community Grant funding 100% allocation of €100,000 Community Development Fund to 93 community groups €148,491 allocation of Local Enhancement Programme funding to 156 community groups Monaghan County Council secured €2,552,340 in DRCDG funding in 2025 to help strengthen communities across the county. This investment will enhance community infrastructure, public spaces, and sporting amenities, while supporting greater community engagement, improving access to local facilities, expanding recreational opportunities, and enriching the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>Local Area Integration Team LAIT responded to over 2,300 requests for support and delivered initiatives that strengthened inclusion and enhanced integration across Monaghan’s diverse communities.</p> <p>Healthy Ireland Programme Delivered 10 actions supporting physical activity, positive mental health and social inclusion, engaging 4,500 participants across the county, including over 2,800 pre-school children through the Monaghan Playground Passports initiative. Provided targeted programmes for young people, older adults, people with disabilities, ethnic minority communities, LGBT+ individuals, and new parents—advancing LECP priorities on health equity, participation, and community wellbeing.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Launched the Cavan–Monaghan Connects mental health information and support website, enhancing access to training and services and contributing to Corporate Plan goals on community empowerment and digital accessibility.</p> <p>Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg Focused 2025 work on Youth Mental Health, representing Monaghan at the National Showcase in Dublin Castle and contributing to national youth policy discussions. Delivered Bridging the Gap intergenerational engagement event promoting empathy, understanding, and improved community relations. Produced a youth-led podcast series on exam stress, friendships, and mental health, strengthening young people’s capacity to influence wellbeing supports and shaping local planning through participation in multiple consultations. Played a central role in securing the Making Places for and with Teenagers funding application.</p> <p>Don’t Pour Your Dreams Away – Youth Alcohol Awareness Initiative Delivered workshops and presentations in all 12 post-primary schools, reaching 1,000+ students ahead of Junior Certificate results. Enhanced parent engagement by distributing professionally recorded sessions, supporting safer decision-making and strengthening community safety (Objective 2D). Programme delivered in partnership with multiple agencies including An Garda Síochána, Foróige, Youth Work Ireland, MID and CYPSC, demonstrating strong interagency collaboration.</p> <p>Cavan–Monaghan Drug and Alcohol Forum Facilitated by Monaghan County Council in partnership with Cavan County Council; met quarterly to coordinate responses to local drug and alcohol concerns. Strengthened interagency communication, data-sharing, and alignment with national drug and alcohol strategies, contributing to safer communities and improved health outcomes.</p> <p>Community Engagement Smithborough Community Plan completed to draft stage Monaghan County Council supported 4 groups to enter to the 2025 National Pride of Place Awards. Doohamlet Development Association won the Community Wellbeing Category and Carrickroe Community Development were runners up in the Population 0-300 category. Monaghan PPN continues to strengthen the Community and Voluntary network across the county through dedicated training supports and networking events. The PPN ensures all seats on decision making committees such as SPC’s and LCDC are filled in timely manner.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Monaghan LCDC monitored the implementation of 2025 SICAP Annual Plan by working closely with the Programme Implementer to ensure 2025 KPI’s were achieved. Monaghan LCDC and Monaghan CYPSC were successful in receiving a further €93,000 to continue to rollout the Local Area Child Poverty Pilot initiative. The project analyses the causes of barriers to families and puts actions plans in place to support these families have brighter futures.</p> <p>Age Friendly Monaghan Age Friendly Programme launched their Older Persons Information booklet providing seniors with a comprehensive overview on areas such as health, transport and services.</p> <p>Monaghan Local Community Safety Partnership Monaghan Community Partnership was set up in 2025 with the aim of improving community safety and well-being in the county. This will be achieved through a collaborative, community led approach by bringing together residents, public bodies and Elected Members to create and implement a 3 Year Community Safety Plan.</p> <p>Monaghan Sports Partnership Over 5,500 individuals participating in recreational sport and physical activity Created new opportunities for a) primary schools activity to 35 schools with 2,300+ children engaged and b) post primary schools activity to 6 schools with 226 teens engaged Ongoing swim sessions through subsidised activity for special population groups at the Pop Up Pool, Carrickmacross, and Primary School Splash and Dash event for 150 children Small grants funding scheme that supported 56 sports clubs in the community towards costs of sports equipment and coach education Education & Training opportunities through workshops and courses National initiatives delivered locally for Women in Sport Week, Men’s Health Week, National Bike Week, HER Outdoors Week, National Walking Week, European Week of Sport with over 500+ individuals engaging in activity Sports Inclusion activities for children with a disability / additional needs for over 530 children Sports Inclusion activities for adults with a disability / additional needs Activity programming in the natural environment at parks, lakes, walks and trails Specific physical activity interventions for special population groups in conjunction with HSE services.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockcorry Community Centre advanced; St. Tiarnach’s masterplan; Clones Hub contractor appointed; Mini DigiHub launched; Leisure Complex strong usage; Carrickmacross Leisure Centre feasibility analysis. • Roosky Access Road & Active Travel significant construction progress. • Castleblayney Market House/Square Phase II progressed through tender & DG3. • Newbliss Enterprise and Digital Hub Completed, operational and fully Occupied; New DigiHub in former Bank of Ireland in Clones. <p>LEO</p> <p>In 2025, the LEO delivered a range of supports that contributed to 2:A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided grants, training and mentoring that helped local businesses grow and strengthened community prosperity. 2. Assisted creative, craft, food and tourism enterprises, promoting Monaghan’s culture and heritage. 3. Delivered compliance, safety, resilience and green programmes to support safe and sustainable business operations. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scenic Sessions initiative developed · Shared Island funding secured for development of Sliabh Beagh as an eco-tourism destination. <p>IT</p> <p>The Information Systems Section continued to support community development through the digitisation and automation of public-facing schemes, including the Community Development Fund, Arts Partnership Grants, Tourism Funding Schemes, Environment Funds and Gaeltacht Scholarships. Monaghan County Council hosted the largest VEX Robotics event ever staged in the North East, involving over 300 students and teachers, strengthening STEM engagement across primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) continued to be supported and upgraded, ensuring sustainable digital access for rural communities.</p> <p>During severe weather events, the Community Call GIS system enabled efficient coordination of supports for vulnerable residents in collaboration with ESB, Uisce Éireann and the HSE.</p> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 523 Private Rented Inspections were carried out in 2025. • 10 New Affordable Purchase Units. |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Cost Rental apartments delivered for working people with net household income is below €59,000 per annum. <p>Environment</p> <p>· Funding received for the second dog warden through the Depts of DRCDG and the Dept of DAFM to strengthen dog control across the county by increasing frontline staffing, has allowed Monaghan County Council to have fulltime dog control service cover going forward. It also enabled effective enforcement of the XL Bully ban and other dog-related laws and sought to ensure zero tolerance for uncontrolled dogs in both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>HR</p> <p>HR resourced the Rural & Community Development Section through appointments of Community Development Support Officers and operational staff. HR also strengthened community-facing capacity through training in customer service, engagement, and managing aggressive behaviour. HR provide administrative staff all levels to provide delivery of services.</p> <p>Recruitment of Engineers, General Operatives, and Roads supervisory staff ensured continued delivery of road maintenance and safety programmes. HR delivered extensive health & safety training in temporary traffic management, Safe Pass, road opening & reinstatement, and surface dressing. HR provide administrative staff all levels to provide delivery of services.</p> <p>HR supported cultural services through recruitment of Visitor Experience Officers, Archivist, and support roles, strengthening tourism and cultural programming. HR provide administrative staff all levels & library staff at all levels to provide delivery of services</p> <p>HR supported the Fire Service and Emergency Management through recruitment of retained firefighters, delivery of mandatory training (First Aid, Fire Warden, Serious Incident Training), and coordination of occupational health supports.</p> <p>Heritage</p> <p>Extensive community engagement: Heritage Week event grant scheme supported groups to engage with their heritage, building capacity and impact. Field names project including schools component, workshops, events, podcasts and heritage forum all contributed to community outreach.</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>New County Development Plan adopted in 2025, including policies to promote sustainable development, vibrant communities and connectivity.</p> <p>Provision of financial supports and guidance for the protection of built heritage (Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund).</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Roads Road projects delivered in line with the ASDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 53 KM Restoration Improvement · 69 KM Restoration Maintenance · 6 KM National roads- N2 and N12 <p>Bus-Stop enhancement locations have been identified and a programme for delivery agreed with the NTA.</p> <p>Active travel schemes delivered as per programme of works</p> <p>Bridge rehabilitation schemes completed 8 Bridges</p> <p>Transport plan completed for Monaghan</p> <p>Urban Mobility plan completed for Clones</p> <p>Road Maintenance Strategy adopted.</p> <p>National Speed limit safety action implemented</p> <p>Road Safety and Quality Audits completed on all roads safety schemes delivered in 2025.</p> <p>6 road Safety schemes completed on Local & Regional roads</p> <p>Retro-fit LED programme completed, continuing maintenance using the Deadsure app is completed annually. New lighting schemes delivered throughout the county are also recorded on the Deadsure App for future maintenance purposes.</p> <p>Library A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. Ongoing operation and maintenance of library spaces that encourage community participation and are accessible and relevant to everyone</p> <p>Library staff trained to signpost users to reliable agencies and source of information in provision of trusted, high-quality frontline library services</p> <p>Action Plan for the delivery of library services in Irish in place.</p> <p>IT The Monaghan Town CCTV system was launched, with technical support provided for approved Garda viewing and download requests.</p> <p>Cybersecurity protections were strengthened through enhanced email screening, vulnerability remediation and a ransomware response exercise, safeguarding Council systems and citizen data.</p> <p>GIS dashboards and incident management systems supported coordinated emergency responses during severe weather events.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>2: A Thriving Community</p> | <p>2A: Supporting communities to thrive and prosper. 2B: Roads and transportation to connect our communities. 2C: A rich culture and heritage in Monaghan’s communities. 2D: Ensuring public safety for our communities.</p> | <p>Museum Monaghan County Museum carried out a detailed public and stakeholder consultation and produced a draft Monaghan County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2025 - 2030</p> |
| <p>3: A Strong Economy</p> | <p>3A: Building on and growing economic activity in Monaghan. 3B: Promoting tourism in Co. Monaghan.</p> | <p>Town Regeneration Vacancy reduction initiatives have directly supported economic activity by restoring economic confidence and improving the attractiveness of town and village centres for investment. The Regeneration section has also supported the development of digital working infrastructure through involvement in the mobile Digi hub project strengthening digital knowledge and capacity in the region and bringing that infrastructure to rural and more isolated locations. The ongoing renovation and adaptive reuse of the former Bank of Ireland building in Clones represents a strategic intervention in the town centre, transforming a prominent vacant property into an active community asset. This project will contribute to economic diversification, support the development of digital knowledge and reinforces confidence in Clones Town. Collectively these initiatives demonstrate a coordinated approach to linking physical regeneration with economic activation. The restoration of and reuse of heritage assets particularly the Carrickmacross Workhouse project, strengthens Monaghan’s cultural offering and enhances the county’s tourism appeal through destination led regeneration.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annahagh industrial lands Part 8; Newbliss Hub fully occupied; Blackwater Hub construction underway; town-centre regeneration supporting enterprise. • Regeneration projects support improved public realm with indirect tourism benefits. <p>LEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with performance metrics issued by Enterprise Ireland to increase the number of LEO supported companies in the County – 166 LEO client Portfolio. 92 Grants issued to clients to enhance efficiency, sustainability, Digital Transformation – Totalling €798,230. |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>3: A Strong Economy</p> | <p>3A: Building on and growing economic activity in Monaghan. 3B: Promoting tourism in Co. Monaghan.</p> | <p>NOAC Indicator J1: number of Jobs Created – 166 gross in 2025.90 net</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAC Indicator J2: Digital supports - note TOV were discontinued in 2025 – 12 Digital for Business and 3 Grow Digital in 2025. • NOAC Indicator J3: No. of Mentoring Recipients 336 recipients in 2025. • Comply with performance metrics issued by Enterprise Ireland to run training events promoting an enterprise culture - including the student enterprise awards. No Schools supported 11 (595 students.) <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continuing to implement the Tourism Strategy 2023 - 2028 in collaboration with the Monaghan Tourism & Recreation Forum · On-going promotion of the county as a tourism destination via website, marketing collateral and social media · Delivery of C'Mon to Monaghan Summer campaign · Festival funding support to 12 festivals and promotion of tourism focused festivals & events throughout the year · Delivery of recreational enhancements at Black Island, Lough Muckno · Funding secured for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castleshane Forest • Interactive Recreational Map • Mullaghamatt Cycling Trails (Project development) • Motorhome stopover site in Monaghan town <p>HR</p> <p>Recruitment of Business Advisor and various Town Regeneration support roles helped advance economic development and enterprise supports. HR also facilitated sector-specific training relevant to economic development functions. HR resourced the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and tourism services through recruitment of Visitor Experience staff and sectoral support</p> <p>Heritage</p> <p>Heritage-led regeneration plan presented at regional forum; tourism supported through events and publications.</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>Operation of an accelerated pre-planning and development management process for large-scale economic developments. Preparation of Lough Muckno & Environs Masterplan commenced.</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>3: A Strong Economy</p> | <p>3A: Building on and growing economic activity in Monaghan. 3B: Promoting tourism in Co. Monaghan.</p> | <p>Process Part VIII applications for tourism infrastructure.</p> <p>Library Promoting tourism in Co. Monaghan. Library staff trained to signpost users to reliable agencies and source of information in provision of trusted, high-quality frontline library services Delivery of Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2026 in collaboration with Cavan Libraries and colleagues at MCC</p> <p>Museum Monaghan County Museum developed and produced a major new exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of Project Children. This exhibition was launched in October 2025 and attracted an audience of over 2,000 spectators and over 300 visitors from the US.</p> <p>The Museum developed an advertising campaign that reached an audience of over 2million and achieved €358,000 cost equivalent of advertising. This will across local, regional, national and international press outlets.</p> |
| <p>4: A Sustainable Future</p> | <p>4A: Addressing climate change responsibilities. 4B: Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County’s biodiversity.</p> | <p>Town Regeneration The reuse of vacant and derelict buildings significantly reduces embodied carbon compares to new building construction. The section promotes retrofit first principles and energy upgrade measures under their grant schemes.</p> <p>Library Addressing climate change responsibilities. Educational activities, promotional campaigns, and environmental initiatives delivered in the community during Climate Action Week and throughout the year (Skills for Life) Home energy saving kits distributed by library service.</p> <p>Community Assessment criteria for both Community Development Fund and Local Enhancement Programme 2025 included ‘impact on climate change adaptation’</p> |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>4: A Sustainable Future</p> | <p>4A: Addressing climate change responsibilities. 4B: Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County’s biodiversity. 4C: Managing waste and monitoring and protecting air and water quality.</p> | <p>Assistance provided to Monaghan Tidy Towns in setting up a countywide Biodiversity website for community groups to showcase their initiatives.</p> <p>Water In 2025 the compliance rate in Monaghan for small private group water schemes and small private supplies was 99.5% In 2025, under the National Inspection Plan (NIP) 50 domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTs) inspections were undertaken by Local Authority staff resulting in 24 compliance notices and 26 advisory notices being issued to householders. Multi annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024-2026 – Monaghan Group water Schemes have received approx.. €3.5 million for capital works which include Source Protection, Capital replacement, Water Treatment Improvements, Improvements to Network infrastructure, Extensions to networks and Innovative Demonstration Projects. €4.5m in subsidy payments were made to twelve group water schemes in 2025. An integral part of maintaining and improving the quality and reliability of rural water supplies is the annual subsidy, administered by Monaghan Co. Council, towards the operational and management costs of group water schemes supplying water for domestic use.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAI M&R: 50% efficiency achieved; 41% CO2 reduction; Pathfinder design team appointed for deep retrofits. • Cross Departmental Progress on Covent Lands Masterplan in Monaghan Town • Decarbonisation of Fleet and Council Buildings contributing to improved environment. <p>LEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Green for Business consultancy to identify energy efficiency, waste reduction, and resource efficient opportunities – 18 Green for Micro & Business grants issued in 2025. • Encourage investment in energy saving technologies that cut costs and reduce carbon emissions – 25 energy efficiency grants issued in 2025. • Partner with MCC’s Climate Action Team, SEAI, educators, and experts to host targeted SME information events and promote available green supports – Farming for the future and a Go Green event for businesses held with the Climate Action Team in 2025. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity elements incorporated into recreational enhancement projects • Green procurement guidelines adhered to in all projects tendered • Promotion of local food and craft producers |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>4: A Sustainable Future</p> | <p>4A: Addressing climate change responsibilities. 4B: Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County’s biodiversity. 4C: Managing waste and monitoring and protecting air and water quality.</p> | <p>Roads SWAT team met daily during severe weather events. The Severe Weather Emergency Response Plan was implemented 4 times in 2025. Winter maintenance callouts 67 Decarbonisation of fleet - 2 new electric vans, 7 now in total. further introduction of HVO, 18 vehicles in total now use this. Construction works contracts incorporated green procurement A range of sustainable low cost pavement interventions were advanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dry In-Situ Recycling · Micro Surfacing · Downcut Stabilised in-Situ Recycling <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monaghan County Council exceeded its allocation of 101 properties and upgrade works were delivered to 118 properties at a cost of €4,889,190. • All social housing projects are being designed to either mitigate against or adapt to the impacts of climate change. • In 2025, Monaghan County Council initiated the Monaghan Area Based Retrofit Initiative (MABRI) pilot project. <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enforcement and Regulatory work under the National Enforcement Priorities in the thematic areas of waste, air and water successfully delivered through the RMCEI process. Assessment by the EPA of our RMCEI work under the Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF) indicated that Monaghan County Council was a very strong performer under this area of work again in 2025. For 2025 Monaghan County Council was ranked 7th out of 31 local authorities. · During 2025 our landfill at Scotch Corner remained compliant under the terms and conditions of our EPA licence. Site audit by the EPA indicated no non-compliances. · Monaghan County Council’s network of recycling centres continued to operate as per contract agreements and within statutory permitting approvals issued by the EPA. · DAFM approval received in 2025 to progress native tree planting at Scotch Corner in Collaboration with Coillte. This is the first such project to receive approval nationally with respect to native planting on public lands. · Further progress in 2025 in progressing the remediation of closed landfill sites. Planning approval received for site remedial work from An Coimisiún Pleanála in May 2025 under S.177AE of the Planning |

| Core Corporate Goals | Objectives | Progress in 2025 |
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| <p>4: A Sustainable Future</p> | <p>4A: Addressing climate change responsibilities. 4B: Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County’s biodiversity. 4C: Managing waste and monitoring and protecting air and water quality.</p> | <p>and Development Act. Draft Certificate of Authorisation issued for Scotch Corner closed landfill in December 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lough Muckno Road to Recover Scientific study completed in 2025. Project to be used as a basis for potential subsequent funding applications aimed at improving water quality in the catchment. · With the involvement of Environmental services on the Blue Dot Steering Group, €500K in funding was secured through the CALM PEACE Plus project for intervention measures to improve water quality in the Scotstown Blue Dot River catchment. · The EPA completed a comprehensive assessment of the future development needs of the RepairMyStuff.ie platform. The review found that, considering Ireland’s emerging Right to Repair requirements, the website serves an important national function in enabling the circular economy by improving public access to repair services. However, the analysis also identified a need for substantial enhancements to the platform’s usability, visibility, and alignment with forthcoming EU repair obligations to ensure it can deliver its full potential impact · Litter Management Plan 2026 – 2029 - The preparation of the litter management plan followed a structured statutory review process, incorporating data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and prioritisation of key issues, and is will go for public consultation and forwarded for consideration and adoption by the elected members in 2026 <p>Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 70% of CAP actions completed or in progress during 2025. • All reporting requirements delivered: LGMA KPI return, quarterly SPC + SMT updates, Annual Report to Council. • Climate Action Team met quarterly with full cross-departmental participation. Climate governance embedded across SPCs and directorates. • Microsoft Planner rolled out to track all 153 CAP actions. • Organisation wide participation in Climate Heroes Challenge supporting behaviour change. District Heating Feasibility Study advanced through Phase 1 & 2; Monaghan Town confirmed as strongest opportunity. • EOI submitted to SEAI Pre-Construction Fund. • EV GoCar pilot for staff <p>Extensive CCAP biodiversity projects: pollinator gardens, orchards, Mini forests, hedgerows. 17 projects funded under CCAP Phase 1; €612k drawn down; 56% completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 launched with €392k allocation; strong engagement via clinics, webinars and meetings. • Climate Action Week engaged 1,600+participants. |

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| <p>4: A Sustainable Future</p> | <p>4A: Addressing climate change responsibilities. 4B: Protecting, conserving, and advocating for the County’s biodiversity. 4C: Managing waste and monitoring and protecting air and water quality.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy initiatives delivered through CCAP: composting, reuse, water refill, energy upgrades. • Climate Action Week programmes promoting reuse, repair, WEEE recycling, and resource efficiency. <p>HR HR supported Climate Action delivery by recruiting Climate Action, Environmental and Resilience support staff, including WAM Graduate (Climate Action). Climate-related training and awareness programmes were also supported. HR have also implemented Blended working for our staff. Recruitment of Environmental Technicians and Executive Scientist roles supported biodiversity, water quality, and environmental monitoring functions. Appointments in the Environment teams (technicians, scientists) supported continued delivery of environmental services. HR also provided essential environmental training including location of underground services, road reinstatement, and safety training.</p> <p>Heritage Conservation works via CMF projects have helped to mitigate against climate related impacts; storm damage response; heritage strategy includes climate and biodiversity priorities.</p> <p>Planning Attendance at Climate Action Steering Group meetings. Adoption of new County Development Plan in alignment with Council Climate Action Plan. Adhered to green procurement principles in tendering.</p> <p>Museum Continued to develop climate action classroom initiative working with the climate action section of MCC</p> |
| <p>5: A High-Performing Council</p> | <p>5A: Innovation, digital transformation, and continuous improvement. 5B: Supporting and developing Council staff.</p> | <p>Library Innovation, digital transformation, and continuous improvement. Records management action plan in place for library service. Supporting and developing Council staff. PMDS procedures reviewed and training provided.</p> |

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| <p>5: A High-Performing Council</p> | <p>5C: Working in partnership to deliver for Monaghan.</p> <p>5D: Robust governance, transparency, and accountability.</p> <p>5E: Excellent internal and external communications.</p> | <p>Working in partnership to deliver for Monaghan.</p> <p>Engagement with local, national and international partners to design and deliver user-centred library programmes reported.</p> <p>Excellent internal and external communications.</p> <p>Re-development of library pages on MCC website</p> <p>Style Guide developed for branding</p> <p>Cultural Section Knowledge Share forums established and operational.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini DigiHub launched; enterprise hubs delivered; strong energy monitoring improvements. • Progress development of New Council Civic Offices • Reduce you use initiative, working with Climate Team for Climate Heros Challenge. • Extensive partnerships across SEAI, CARO, EBR, DKIT, Local Authorities contractors & community groups. • Property Interest Register, fully operational, Full integration of PSC in the Project Delivery: strong compliance via Part 8s, DGs, FSC/DAC, M&R. • Delivery of Capital Programme report, Project Management Dashboard, PIR system and Energy M&R. <p>LEO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with MCC’s Climate Action Team, SEAI, educators, and experts to host targeted SME information events and promote available green supports – Farming for the future and a Go Green event for businesses held with the Climate Action Team in 2025. • In 2025, Monaghan LEO tendered for a research study into the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering sectors in Monaghan. <p>Corporate Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Council Meetings held • 12 CPG Meetings held • Annual Report adopted April 2025 • Annual Service Deliver Plan adopted March 2025 • Monthly Management Reports submitted to Council • NOAC returns submitted by specified deadline • NOAC Report reviewed and analysed • Risk Registers Reviewed · Phase I of the Local Government Electoral Registration System (LGERS) Project delivered • Presidential Election held 24th October 2025 |

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| <p>5: A High-Performing Council</p> | <p>5A: Innovation, digital transformation, and continuous improvement.</p> <p>5B: Supporting and developing Council staff.</p> <p>5C: Working in partnership to deliver for Monaghan.</p> <p>5D: Robust governance, transparency, and accountability.</p> <p>5E: Excellent internal and external communications.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 74 Requests for access to information processed within statutory timeframes · Continued to ensure compliance and demonstrate accountability under GDPR and data protection – 8 training videos issued via Meta Compliance · Ethics declarations completed and received by statutory deadline of 28/02/25 · 4 Audit Committee meetings held · 11 Internal Audit Reports issued and recommendations followed · Compliance with the Official Languages Act 2003 - 20% advertising in Irish Language 5% of monies spent on advertising is through Irish language media · Customer Service Charter and Complaints Policy reviewed · Communications have piloted and successfully worked with IT on the rollout out of several tools to enhance and drive efficiencies such as digital headed paper, AI tools such as Copilot and also the deployment of Hootsuite within Comms team to drive efficiencies across social media. · Communications continue to deploy a number of communication channels internally and externally to maintain strong lines of communication across the organisation. We significantly increased our presence online this year, creating more video content and delivering bespoke campaigns for key initiatives, resulting in a 17 fold reach increase across social channels. · Ensuring our communications are built around a consistent brand identity is a primary focus. We undertook a focussed research and insights approach to developing a place brand proposition for Monaghan, the foundational work for the development of a cohesive visual brand identity. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Collaboration with key stakeholders such as Coillte, Failte Ireland, Waterways Ireland & Inland Waterways in terms of project development. · Ezines to Tourism trade produced outlining progress throughout 2025 · Tourism website and marketing collateral updated · Social media content promoting Monaghan as a tourism destination delivered across all relevant platforms. · Trade Workshops and Familiarisation trips organised <p>IT</p> <p>A total of 110 new digital processes were implemented across departments using Laserfiche Forms, significantly reducing manual administration and improving service delivery efficiency. Digital Headed Paper was rolled out organisation-wide, promoting standardisation and reducing paper use.</p> |

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Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

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Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2025 Annual Report 2025