

Minutes of the Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 11th May 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Chair: Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, P. Conlon, S. Conlon, Coyle, Flynn, Gibbons, Johnston, Keelan, McAree, McCooey, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

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

MS Teams: Cllr Truell

Apologies: Cllr Gilliland

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Council Meeting held on 13th April 2026

Cllr A. Johnston noted a correction under Item 9 of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th April 2026 to reflect the request for his motion (20.2) to be deferred rather than withdrawn.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr B. McAree, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th April 2026, as amended, be confirmed.

2. Proposed Variation No.2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 to address the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements

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

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner Planner, referred to the documents circulated with the agenda in respect of the proposed variation No.2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 to address the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements. He stated that the variation relates to the zoning of additional residential lands within the County Development Plan in the 5 largest towns in the County. He noted that members were familiar with the proposals which had been outlined at workshops in October and November 2025 and February 2026.

Mr. Hughes sought members agreement to proceed to public consultation in respect of the proposed variation No.2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 to address the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, for a period of 4 weeks.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr. S. Coyle it was agreed that the proposed variation No.2 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 to address the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, proceed to public consultation stage.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed, for the purpose of enhancing the potential of qualified housing applicants in acquiring planning permission for domestic dwellings, that the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC discuss as an agenda item the issue of visibility splays, Item 15.23.1 of the County Development Plan, that create legal and financial burdens on applicants.

3. To consider Taking in Charge - Alderwood, Cloghvalley Upper, Carrickmacross

Mr. A Hughes, Senior Planner outlined the proposed Taking in Charge of Alderwood, Cloghvalley Upper, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. He informed the members that a request had been made by the developer for the public areas/services within Alderwood to be taken in charge. He stated that no responses were received following the public consultation period and advised the members that the Planning Authority is satisfied that the development can be considered for taking in charge.

On the proposal Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Conlon, it was agreed that the Council approve the Taking in Charge application for Alderwood, Cloghvalley Upper, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan in accordance with the Taking In Charge of Estates and Declaration of Public Roads Notice, under Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

4. To consider Monaghan Co Council Draft Heritage Strategy 2026 - 2031

Ms. K. Ward, Heritage Officer, delivered a presentation to members on the Draft Heritage Strategy 2026–2031. She outlined that the Strategy provides a clear roadmap for the protection, management, and sustainable use of heritage across the county over the next five years. It aligns local priorities with national policy, ensuring a proactive and strategic approach to heritage planning.

Ms. Ward advised that the Strategy has been developed through extensive consultation, including engagement with the Heritage Forum, the hosting of workshops and public information days, and the undertaking of public consultation exercises. She noted that the final document incorporates expert contributions and reflects community priorities.

Members were reminded that heritage extends beyond built structures and monuments to include landscapes, biodiversity, traditions, language, and skills. The county currently has approximately 700 protected structures, 1,500 recorded monuments, as well as significant habitats, landscapes, and conservation areas.

The overarching aim of the Strategy is to safeguard and celebrate heritage while also using it to support wellbeing, reinforce identity, and promote sustainable development. The Strategy is underpinned by five key strategic themes:

1. **Protect and Advocate** – Leading the conservation and sustainable management of heritage assets and embedding heritage considerations in planning, policy, and decision-making.
2. **Grow Knowledge** – Enhancing research, data collection, and interpretation to support evidence-based decision-making and improve access to heritage knowledge.
3. **Empower Communities** – Promoting inclusive engagement with heritage through education, events, citizen science, and support for local initiatives.
4. **Nurture Partnerships** – Strengthening collaboration at local, national, and cross-border level to support heritage protection, promotion, and innovation.
5. **Build Climate Resilience** – Integrating nature-based and sustainable approaches to address climate impacts and protect biodiversity.

Ms. Ward highlighted that the Strategy would act as a key driver for regeneration, tourism, community development, wellbeing, and climate action in the county over the coming five years.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Conlon, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed that the Draft Heritage Strategy 2026-2031, as presented, be approved.

The members acknowledged the volume of work involved in the development of the Heritage Strategy 2026-2031 and conveyed their gratitude to Ms. Ward and all involved for their input.

5. To note the Unaudited Annual Financial Statements and approve Over expenditure and Transfers to Capital Account for the Financial Year 2025

The Members noted the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement for 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. O. McConnon, Director of Services, responded to members questions.

On the proposal of Cllr A. Johnston, seconded by N. McCooey, it was agreed to note the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement (AFS 2025) and to approve over-expenditures and transfers to the Capital Account, as per schedules submitted to the Members, as follows:

Approval of over expenditure is required for Divisions A, B, F, G & H

Division		Expenditure	Income	Net Position
		(Over)/Under	Over/(Under)	
		Estimates	Estimates	2025
		2025	2025	2025
		€	€	€
A	Housing and Building	-3,288,789	3,686,940	398,151
B	Roads Transportation & Safety	-4,246,113	4,011,726	-234,387
F	Recreation & Amenity	-125,842	-580,643	-706,485
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-29,520	-1,131	-30,651
H	Miscellaneous Services	-543,067	1,000,846	457,779
		-8,233,332	8,117,738	-115,593

Transfer to Capital

	Transfer Amount	Budget Provision	Difference
Workshop & Overheads	€464,392	€0	-€464,392
Swimming Pool dividend surplus	€24,290	€0	-€24,290
Monaghan Town Improvement (Parking Surplus)	€180,282	€0	-€180,282
Sewerage Scheme Knockatallon	€6,307	€0	-€6,307
Heritage strategic plan	€25,000	€20,000	-€5,000
Irrecoverable Rates	€488,000	€488,000	€0
Members Gratuity Scheme	€100,000	€100,000	€0
Fire Service Gratuities	€50,000	€50,000	€0
Community And Enterprise	€20,000	€20,000	€0
Clones Sports Project	€51,000	€51,000	€0
General Biodiversity	€20,000	€20,000	€0
Urban Regeneration Dublin Street provision	€100,000	€100,000	€0
Industrial and Economic Development	€150,000	€150,000	€0
Clones / Ballybay MD Allocation	€286,170	€286,170	€0
Monaghan MD Allocation	€286,170	€286,170	€0
Carrickmacross / Castleblayney MD Allocation	€286,170	€286,170	€0
Civil Defence General	€15,000	€15,000	€0
CMX Swimming pool provision	€300,000	€300,000	€0
Library Headquarters	€25,000	€25,000	€0
Arts Programme Grants & Strategy Delivery	€20,000	€20,000	€0
Patrick Kavanagh Exhibition Centre	€25,000	€25,000	€0
Local Election	€20,000	€20,000	€0
Transfer to / from Capital Account	€600,000	€600,000	€0
Corporate Support Services	€20,000	€20,000	€0
Disability Initiatives	€10,000	€10,000	€0
New Offices Provision	€1,500,000	€1,500,000	€0
Maintenance of Networks & PC's	€183,867	€183,867	€0
Economic Development	€4,932	€5,000	€68
Peace Campus Annual Running Costs	€50,000	€100,000	€50,000
Local Lighting Running Cost	€79,168	€147,975	€68,808
Regional Lighting Running Cost	€47,552	€76,095	€28,543
AHF - Affordable Housing Fund Scheme	€2,757	€0	-€2,757
Operation Parks & Open Spaces Cmx - Cby MD	€1,768	0	-€1,768
Dog warden service	€75,392	0	-€75,392

6. To approve nominations for appointments to the Disability Steering Committee

Ms. N. Payne, Senior Executive Officer, Community & Enterprise, joined the meeting to provide members with an overview of the role and membership of the Disability Steering Committee. She stated that role of Monaghan County Council's Disability Steering Committee will be to ensure that services across the county are accessible to people with a disability. This will include the development, implementation and monitoring of a 5-year Disability Strategy. The committee will also strive to ensure the needs of people with a disability are embedded in the policies, plans and strategies of Monaghan County Council and its wider partner agencies. The Disability Steering Committee will be established as a subcommittee of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and will report to them on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Payne stated that the committee will ensure that the services of Monaghan County Council and its key partners are accessible to people with a disability. No physical or discriminatory barriers should prevent them from engaging fully as users of all services. Ms. Payne concluded by providing members with an overview of the proposed membership of the Disability Steering Committee which includes 3 elected members (1 elected member from each municipal district).

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ O’Hanlon sought nominations for 3 elected members (1 elected member from each Municipal District) to the Disability Steering Committee.

*On the proposal of Cllr N. McCooey, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, **Cllr Sean Conlon** was nominated to the Disability Steering Committee.*

*On the proposal of Cllr A. Campbell, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, **Cllr Peter Conlon** was nominated to the to the Disability Steering Committee.*

*On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, **Cllr Seamus Coyle** was nominated to the Disability Steering Committee.*

As there were no further nominations, **Cllrs Sean Conlon, Peter Conlon, Seamus Coyle** were declared elected to the Disability Steering Committee.

7. To agree a date for 2026 Annual General Meeting of Monaghan Co Co

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that the Annual Meeting of Monaghan County Council would be held on Monday, 15th June 2026, at 2.00 pm.

8. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group – 21st April 2026.

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st April 2026, and draft letters to the Office of Government Procurement and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding procurement processes which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr C. Carthy, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st April 2026 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

9. To receive a presentation on 'Place Branding' at the May Co Co Meeting

Ms. C. O’Hare, Director of Services welcomed Ms. G. Morgan, Innovation and Marketing Strategy Lead, to the meeting to provide members with a presentation on ‘Place Branding’. Ms. O’Hare advised the members that the requirement for ‘Place Branding’ had been identified during the development of the Tourism Strategy 2023-2028 and the Council committed to delivering this within the Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Ms. O’Hare noted that the ‘Place Branding’ project is not corporate rebranding, however, the work that has been carried out to date has looked at how both brands will co-exist.

Ms. Morgan provided Members with a brief overview of the work undertaken to date in respect of the Place Branding Project. The following key points were noted:

- The primary objective of the project is to develop an overarching proposition and place brand that will showcase County Monaghan both locally and internationally as an attractive location to live, work, visit and invest/do business.
- It was acknowledged that, while there are currently a number of strong marketing initiatives promoting tourism and business within the County, these efforts are fragmented and lack a cohesive ‘Master Brand’.

- The proposed Place Brand is designed to be simple and clean, utilising upper-case lettering to convey confidence and pride. A soft arch feature has been incorporated to symbolise opportunity and optimism within County Monaghan.
- Members were advised that the Place Brand will complement, and not replace, the traditional Monaghan County Council coat of arms.
- The typeface used in the branding has been specifically designed for County Monaghan and draws inspiration from the elliptical forms and strokes of Gregg Shorthand, a system developed in 1888 by Monaghan native John Robert Gregg.
- A shorthand version of the logotype, “MN”, will be used alongside both the Place Brand and the traditional coat of arms in appropriate applications.

The members thanked Ms. Morgan for her informative presentation and commended her and all involved for their input on the ‘Place Branding’ project.

10. To receive Management Report – April 2026

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for April 2026 which had been circulated with the agenda. He highlighted the update from the Housing Section regarding the status of ongoing and upcoming housing developments, noting that these projects are expected to contribute to more balanced development across the county. He advised that the Housing Section remains on target to deliver 100 new homes in 2026.

In addition to the provision of affordable and social housing, and the management of tenancies, the Chief Executive acknowledged the important role the Council plays in supporting and stimulating the private housing market, including assisting private developers in delivering new housing.

Turning to planning activity, the Chief Executive noted that 456 planning permissions for new homes were granted in 2025. He further advised that 2026 is continuing this strong trend, with permissions already granted for 206 homes to date.

In conclusion, he referred to the 374 approvals issued under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant since its inception. He emphasised the positive impact of this scheme across the county and commended Director of Services, Mr C. Flynn, along with the Town and Regeneration team, for their contribution.

Ms. C. O’Hare, Director of Services, provided an update to members on the development of the new Monaghan County Council Citizen App. She advised that Monaghan County Council is leading the way nationally in creating a Council-owned digital platform, which is currently in testing.

The App will offer a range of features, including a reporting tool for issues such as potholes, along with access to local news, a calendar of events, death notices, and information from the Council, community groups, sporting organisations and local businesses.

Ms. O’Hare also noted that key emergency information, including the Emergency Resilience Booklet, will be accessible through the App in both online and offline modes.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr N. McCooey, it was agreed that this Council enables the communications team to start the work on the new Monaghan County Council Application now and get in contact with clubs, organisations and committees throughout the county to ensure that sufficient information is available once the Application goes live.

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

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

11. Business Submitted by the Chief Executive

There were no matters for consideration under this item.

12. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th April 2026

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ O’Hanlon addressed Cllr A. Johnston’s query in relation to the Standing Orders.

There were no further matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th April 2026.

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

The members noted the reports from Cllrs Truell and Treanor in relation to their attendance at the following Conferences/Training events:

- LAMA Spring Seminar – Connacht Hotel, Galway – 28th & 29th January 2026
- AILG Training – Fairways Hotel, Dundalk – 19th February 2026

14. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

No further update on the N2 National Primary Road.

15. To receive update on North South Interconnector project

The minutes of the meeting of Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, Monaghan County Council and Eirgrid-ESB representatives on 24th February 2026, in relation to the North-South Interconnector were circulated to members.

Mr. C. Flynn, Director of Services, provided members with the following update in relation to the North South Interconnector project:

- Since the meeting on 24th February 2026 between the Executive and Eirgrid-ESB representatives, Condition 7 has since been complied with in full.
- Eirgrid-ESB are compiling the additional information required in respect of Condition 3 Compliance.

16. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

No further update on the Ulster Canal project.

17. Correspondence

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

- Response from the Office of the Minister Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Dara Calleary, T.D., regarding funding for the Irish Language.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding the severe and ongoing impacts of flooding.
- Response from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding access to Bus Éireann services for non-digital service users.
- Response from Uisce Éireann following the request by members to facilitate their Annual Councillor Workshops in a public forum.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., regarding the reunification of Ireland.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of An Taoiseach, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., regarding compensating businesses following recent road blockades.
- Acknowledgement email from the Office of the Minister for Finance, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., regarding compensating businesses following recent road blockades.
- Acknowledgement from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., regarding the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme.
- Acknowledgement from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms. Noma Foley, T.D., regarding Rainbow Lodge.
- Acknowledgement from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms. Noma Foley, T.D., regarding engaging with Errigal Truagh Special Needs in relation to respite services.
- Acknowledgement email from Bus Éireann regarding access to Bus Éireann services for non-digital service users.

Additional Correspondence:

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

- *Resolution from Roscommon County Council calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to establish a commission for the validation of planning objections.*

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Gibbons, it was agreed that this Council, supports the Carlow County Council resolution calling on the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, for annual local representative clinics and a local representative dedicated reporting service, to be provided from ESB Networks. This would be a similar service provided to local representatives by Uisce Éireann.

On the proposal of Cllr B. McAree, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council, writes again to Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ms. Norma Foley, T.D., and to the HSE, asking that funding for the extension at Errigal Truagh Special Needs is expedited and furthermore that Minister Foley engages directly with the group in relation to respite provisions in County Monaghan.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Flynn, seconded by Cllr P. Clerkin, it was agreed that this Council, writes to the Minister for Transport, National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann calling for the urgent introduction of a telephone-based booking system to allow passengers to reserve seats on bus services ensuring public transport is accessible to all. Furthermore, that the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann engage meaningfully with Age Friendly Ireland and the National Older People's Council to ensure that older people are not excluded from essential transport services.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Coyle, seconded by Cllr R. Aughey, it was agreed that this Council, requests that the Northern Western Regional Assembly undertakes a detailed study of the diversity their region in terms of population growth, infrastructural defects, geographical peripherality and lower levels of private sector investment in the border counties, showing clearly that these counties are 'less developed' or 'in transition' and do not meet the criteria of 'more developed' areas. Furthermore, this Council demands of the Irish Government, as we take up the European Presidency in July to prioritise examining the implications for the regions of the reclassification for EU statistical and funding purposes beyond 2027.

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan, it was agreed that this Council write to the Age Friendly Ireland National Coordinator, Ms. Catherine McGuigan seeking national endorsement of the local campaign by Age Friendly Monaghan regarding access to ticket purchases for Bus Eireann services for non-digital service users.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Flynn, it was agreed that an invite be issued to the Social Inclusion Officer to attend the next meeting of this Council in order to discuss social inclusion and issues being experienced by bus pass holders securing a bus ticket by phone.

18. Notices of Motion

1. Cllr P. Gibbons proposed, Cllr S. Conlon seconded:

'That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. James Browne, T.D., and the Office of the Planning Regulator, requesting an amendment to planning legislation to address issues around the proliferation of shops selling nicotine inhaling products. Shops selling predominantly these products should be a distinct class so that any change of use from a retail shop to a shop selling predominantly nicotine inhaling products constitutes a material change requiring full planning permission as currently exists for off licenses and betting shops. We also request that issues relating to shop fronts (neon lights, use of cartoon character and brightly coloured signage), location of such shops near schools and areas of architectural significance and the number of such shops in a particular area all be considered as part of this legislative review'.

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

2. Cllr B. McAree proposed, Cllr C. Carthy seconded:

‘That this Council writes to the HSE seeking increased investment in early intervention mental health supports at community level, including youth and family-based services, and that the Council explores opportunities to support local initiatives through its own community funding streams’.

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

19. Questions and Replies

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

- 1. *Has this Council a communication policy in place with An Garda Síochána in relation to their sharing of collision data and relevant information for the purpose of this Council’s role in improving road safety measures?***

Reply: Under GDPR, collision data cannot currently be shared with Local Authorities. The most recent update provided on the matter by the Minister of State at the Department of Transport Seán Canney is as follows.

“The General Scheme of the National Vehicle and Driver File Bill 2025 has been approved by Government and is with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. The provisions included in this General Scheme improve the legislative basis underpinning the National Vehicle and Driver File, remove the requirement to display a paper motor tax disc, allow for open-ended declarations of non-use of a motor vehicle, and **amend the Roads Act 1993 to provide a basis for the direct sharing of road traffic collision data with local authorities.”**

Cllr P. Gibbons asked:

- 2. *Can a pedestrian crossing be considered for the site of the large new Gaelscoil in Killycard, Castleblayney which is due to open later this year? Many homes are on the opposite side of the busy Castleblayney- Shercock road directly in front of the school.***

Reply: As part of the site development conditions, the developer is required to provide a pedestrian crossing on the R181, Shercock Road, Castleblayney, adjacent to the new Gaelscoil site.

- 3. *Can a list of existing playgrounds in Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD be provided, along with a list of applications for upgrades and new playgrounds submitted in 2025 and 2026 to date?***

Reply: The Carrickmacross-Castleblayney Municipal District is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of 13 publicly accessible play and recreational facilities, as listed below:

	Site	Facility
1	Onomy Walk	Exercise equipment
2	Linear Park	Exercise equipment
3	Cloughvalley	Playground , MUGA , Skate Park
4	Bree Park	MUGA
5	Drumillard	Playground
6	Ard Na Lurgan	Playground
7	Oram	Playground
8	Lough Muckno	Playpark
9	Bath Avenue, CMX	Exercise equipment
10	Clonseady	Playpark
11	Convent Lands	Playground, MUGA, Exercise Equipment
12	Inniskeen	Playground
13	Lough na Glack	Playground

From 2025 to date, the Municipal District executive has successfully secured funding for the following upgrades and new facilities:

- **Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme**

- Development of sensory area and inclusive outdoor recreational space adjacent to existing playground in Lough Muckno Park, Castleblayney - €70,000

- **Community Recognition Fund**

- Upgrade of the two sports courts at Cloughvalley, Carrickmacross - €82,000

- **PEACEPLUS Programme**

- BoxUp Units at Drumillard Playpark, Castleblayney and Cloughvalley Playpark, Carrickmacross - €50,000
- Recreational Exercise Equipment, Oram Village - €50,000

Unfortunately, funding applications for the schemes listed below proved unsuccessful:

- The provision of a new playground facility in Castleblayney, centrally located between Plás An Bhrí, Rosevale, Knocktornagh and Coill Darach housing developments
- Upgrades to the existing playground in Inniskeen Village
- Upgrades to the existing playground in Lough Na Glack housing development, Carrickmacross

The executive will continue to explore potential funding opportunities to progress these proposals and others.

How many approved social housing applicants have included Castleblayney as their area of choice? What is the breakdown as regards housing type required?

Reply:

AREA	Total Number	1 BED	2 BED	3 BED	4 BED	1 BEDROOM SPECIALLY ADAPTED	4 BEDROOMS SPECIALLY ADAPTED
Castleblayney	332	174	86	48	21	1	2

4. **Can an overview be given on social, cost rental and affordable housing in the planning stage in the Carrickmacross Castleblayney MD?**

Reply:

Municipal District	Simple Scheme	Location	Status	Total Units 2026	Total Units 2027	Total Units 2028
CBY-CMX	Build	Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	Other	9		
CBY-CMX	Build	Connabury (Gort an Choinicear) Castleblayney	Other	14		
CBY-CMX	Build	Gleann Droimnin Part V	Other	2		
CBY-CMX	Build	Sean Ghairdini, Carrickmacross	Affordable Purchase	10		
CBY-CMX	Acquisition	Drumillard, Castleblayney	Completed	1		
CBY-CMX	Build	Connabury (Gort an Choinicear) Castleblayney	On-site		12	
CBY-CMX	Build	Sean Stáisiún Dóiteáin, Castleblayney	Other		10	
CBY-CMX	Build	Sean Stáisiún Dóiteáin, Castleblayney	Not Started			12
Total				36	22	12

6. **Can the number of people presenting as homeless in 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date be provided along with an overview of services provided to anyone presenting in these circumstances?**

Reply:

2024	2025	2026
185 presentations	204 presentations	95 presentations as of 30/04/2026

Cllr C. Carthy asked:

7. ***When is it expected Stage 2 of the procurement process for the design of the Carrickmacross Swimming Pool project will be advertised and what are the next steps once this part of the process begins?***

Reply: The evaluation process for suitability assessment of tendering candidates under Stage 1 is complete. The Executive is currently awaiting submission of requested information from candidates that have been provisionally shortlisted. It is expected that Stage 2 of the procurement process will be advertised in mid-May. In compliance with procurement regulations, the advertisement period for Stage 2 tenders will be a minimum of 30 days. Following the closing date, Stage 2 tender submissions will be evaluated to determine the successful Design Team Consultants.

8. ***Has the executive been able to source funding to supply dog fouling bags to our dog bin dispensers considering the huge reduction in dog fouling since they were introduced?***

Reply: Yes, dispensers are currently being replenished

Cllr S. Flynn asked:

9. ***Can the Executive provide an update on the CCTV project for Clones and Ballybay, including the current status of the scheme in both towns, the expected timeline for installation and activation, and confirmation that the necessary funding and Garda engagement are in place to ensure the project is delivered without further delay.***

Reply: Data Protection Impact Assessments are completed for both Clones and Ballybay and are now required to go to The Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) for the required community consultation and obtaining local approval for any Community CCTV applications.

This approval must be secured prior to the submission of applications to the Garda National Communications Bureau for final consideration.

Monaghan County Council has been advised that all new Community CCTV schemes are currently paused pending the completion of updated Codes of Practice by the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau. These Codes of Practice will govern the operation of schemes under the new CCTV legislative framework, enacted as Section 47(3) of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023, which will replace the existing legislation.

10. ***Can the Executive provide a detailed report on the planned domestic violence refuge centre in County Monaghan, including progress to date and a clear timeline for construction and opening, and outline whether there are any challenges or delays currently impacting the timely delivery of the project?***

Reply:

- The proposed new refuge facility will include 12 independent units of refuge accommodation, along with essential ancillary services. The funding application by Safe Ireland for the facility in Monaghan, aimed at providing support services to the Cavan and Monaghan region, successfully passed the first funding approval stage of the four-stage funding approval process in October 2025.
- A project Manager has been procured for the project and will be appointed shortly, the tender assessment panel for the Project Manager met in April 2026.
- The eTenders procurement for the Design Team for the project has been published and tenders for the Design Team will be assessed in June 2026.
- It is intended that the Design Team will be appointed in July 2026 and the design will be progressed to allow the Stage 2 funding application to be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Following Stage 2 approval the Design Team will proceed with preparation of the Planning submission in 2027 followed by the tender process to procure a contractor.
- The four-stage approval process allows 75 weeks from Stage 1 to Stage 4 funding approval plus pre-contract / commencement preparation period prior to appointment of contractor would give an approximate construction commencement date of May 2027.
- Safe Ireland will continue to work with Cuan and all relevant stakeholders including Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Housing Agency, Monaghan County Council, and Cavan County Council on next steps.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

11. **What is the up to-date position in relation the proposed Inniskeen Village and Community plan?**

Reply: The tender evaluation process has been completed, and a preferred tender has been identified. It is anticipated that the formal appointment shall take place in the coming days, with work on the Plan commencing shortly after.

12. **In the interest of road safety particularly on the N2, have the council any plans in conjunction with TII to introduce average speed cameras for the purpose of reducing excessive speeds on this very busy and dangerous roadway?**

Reply: In 2024, MCC collaborated with TII Road Safety Section, regarding the installation of an average speed camera on the N2 between Castleblayney and Ardee. This was to be part of a nationwide pilot scheme. A suitable location was established, however, MCC were informed by TII that the N2 between Castleblayney and Ardee was no longer being considered as a candidate site for the pilot and was subsequently withdrawn. MCC have and will continue to impress upon TII the need for an average speed camera along this stretch.

13. **What is the up to-date position in relation to the proposed safety works at the very dangerous Tullavragh junction on the N2?**

Reply: A detailed design for clearing vegetation to provide improved visibility at this junction is nearing completion. Third party lands are required and are currently being explored to acquire by agreement. TII have committed to funding works at this location.

14. **With the huge increase in fuel and other associated costs and tenders due back, what impact will this have on the councils' ability to carry out the agreed road reconstruction & resurfacing programme for this year 2026?**

Reply: The increase in fuel and associated costs will have a significant effect on the delivery costs of both these road programmes. The council are exploring all their options, including the Reclaimed Asphalt and Low-Cost Initiatives. The Council have been in contact with the Department of Transport seeking additional funding to complete the 2026 programmes.

15. **In relation to Active Travel, what schemes can we expect to see progress in the coming 12 - 18 months in the Carrickmacross /Castleblayney MD area?**

Reply:

- Carrickmacross Local transport Plan- Active travel along with appointed design consultant are currently underway with drafting a local transport plan for Carrickmacross town. It is envisaged that this should be completed Q4 2026 - Q1 2027.
- Ross Rd. Carrickmacross- Active travel Unit have recently appointed a design consultant to commence with Prelim design and Detail design for an active travel scheme on Ross road and Castleblayney rd Carrickmacross. It is envisaged that detail design for this scheme shall be completed in 2027 and hope to commence construction in 2027 depending on funding.
- Dundalk Rd/ Oriel RD- Active travel along with appointed design consultant are compiling detail design for active travel infrastructure along the Dundalk Rd and Oriel Rd in Carrickmacross. Detail design and procurement is programmed to be completed in 2026 with construction in 2027 depending on funding.
- Safe routes to School - Convent Junior School Castleblayney- Round 4 of Safe routes to school has been confirmed for Convent Junior school in Castleblayney. Active travel are currently awaiting the delivery report to be issued from An Taisce/ NTA. Once the report has been received by the Active travel unit a design consultant will be procured. It is envisaged that design will commence in 2026 with design completed early 2027 and procurement and construction in 2027 which is dependent on funding.
- Bus stop enhancements- Active travel unit have completed 9 bus stop enhancement in 2026- ATU are currently tendering for a design consultant to carry out design of 14 bus stops in the CMX/CBLY MD which require more complex interventions, it is the intention to have these bus stops designed and procured in 2027.

Cllr N. McCooey asked:

16. **Have Transport Infrastructure Ireland approved Monaghan County Council's feasibility and options report for the installation of a VRS on the N12 at Skinnagin Bridge, Tyholland?**

Reply: In February 2026 a Feasibility and Options Report was submitted into the TII Road Safety Section, in March the report has been approved in principle, there was additional information required to progress the scheme for funding, MCC submitted an addendum to the Feasibility & Options report to TII Road Safety in mid-April 2026, MCC are awaiting a response.

17. **Can Monaghan County Council provide an update on the recruitment of a full-time Irish Language Officer as part of the Strategic Workforce Planning process?**

Reply: Monaghan County Council is in the process of the recruitment of a full-time Irish Language Officer and intends to advertise this position before the end of May.

Cllr P. Clerkin asked:

18. How much has been spent on cleaning up incidents of fly-tipping and other illegal dumping activities in 2025 and so far in 2026?

Reply: In 2025 Monaghan County Council spent €105,000 on the clean-up and disposal of illegally dumped diesel wash waste. During 2025 there were 36 separate incidents of diesel laundering waste dumping in the county. To date in 2026, approximately €55,000 in costs have been incurred in respect of dealing with illegally dumped diesel wash waste.

In addition, in 2025 Monaghan County Council also incurred costs of €1.038 Million in carrying out street cleansing activities in the three municipal districts. This program is primarily in place for street sweeping and the servicing of litter bins in the county but a proportion of this funding would also be used to by the Municipal Districts to deal with fly tipping and waste illegally dumped on council lands or lands that may not be registered. This funding is also used to cover Monaghan County Council's labour costs associated with carrying out these works. To date in 2026, approximately €321,000 have been spent by the three Municipal Districts on such works.

Furthermore, in 2025 approximately €28,885 was also spent by Monaghan County Council on litter picking activities on our national road network following verge cutting works.

In 2025 Monaghan County Council also received €98,000 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative program. This was used to deliver a range of projects including an awareness project with local schools on waste; the funding of a subsidised bulky waste collection month at Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross recycling centres; and preventative infrastructural works such as the installation of fencing to minimise illegal dumping at a number of sites in the three Municipal District areas.

19. How many incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported in Local Authority Housing in each Municipal District in 2025 and to date in 2026?

Reply:

2026 - 115 incidents of ASB to date as at 05/05/2026 - 102 were Ballybay - Clones; 10 in Monaghan and 3 in Carrickmacross-Castleblaney.

2025 - 143 ASB incidents -98 were Ballybay - Clones; 32 were in Monaghan and 13 in Carrickmacross-Castleblaney.

20. How many constituents contacted the local authority regarding their removal from the electoral register, and how many are now eligible to vote again across the county?

Reply: As of 27th April 2026, there are 2,285 electors with No Eircode and No DOB on the Register, down from 2,380. These electors have received correspondence pertaining to their status on the electoral register and are eligible for removal.

This means that total of **95 electors**, from the list of electors who are scheduled to have their names removed, have contacted us to update their details / confirm to have their names removed.

The breakdown per MD is as follows:

LEA	Electors with No Eircode and No DOB 26/03/2026	Electors with No Eircode and No DOB 27/04/2026
Ballybay - Clones	922	900
Carrickmacross - Castleblaney	762	744
Monaghan	678	641

21. Will Monaghan County Council investigate how many bins and dog bins are located on the Greenway throughout County Monaghan?

Reply: Along the Greenway in Monaghan Town between Coolshannagh and Rossmore, there are currently 5 dog foul bins, and 4 no general litter bins. Additional litter and dog foul bins are also located at locations off the greenway close to access points to include Coolshannagh, Old Cross Square, Mall Road, Broad Road, Glen Road and Mullaghmatt.

Cllr A. Johnston asked:

22. Can the Council provide the total number of housing units added to the housing stock (e.g. constructed, acquired, repurposed etc) for each of the last three years (2025, 2024 and 2023) and also provide the number currently under construction.

Reply: The total number of housing units added to the housing stock for each of the last three years is 291, a breakdown by year is provided below.

2025	2024	2023
115	100	76

The total number of housing units currently under construction is 113 and a breakdown of these has

been provided below:

Municipal District	Project	Total Units
CBY-CMX	Gort an Choinicear, Conabury, Castleblayney	26
CBY-CMX	Sean Ghairdini, Carrickmacross	10
CBY-CMX	Gleann Droimnin Part V	2
CBY-CMX	Radhairc An Bhri. Bree, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	9
Ballybay - Clones	Maple Grove, Smithborough, Co Monaghan	13
Monaghan	Slí Lorcáin, Latlorcan, Monaghan (D&B)	29
Monaghan	Cois Abhainn, Ballinode	8
Monaghan	Coill Seannach Coolshannagh Monaghan	5
Monaghan	Park Street Monaghan	5
Monaghan	Coill Seannach Coolshannagh Monaghan Part V	5
Monaghan	Macartan View, Latlorcan, Monaghan	1
Total housing units currently under construction		113

23. Can the Council provide the average rent paid per social housing unit currently and provide the following breakdown?

How many units are paying the following:

- a. Weekly rent up to €100
- b. Weekly rent €101 - €150
- c. Weekly rent €151 - €200
- d. Weekly Rent €201 to €250
- e. Weekly rent >€251

Reply:

- a. Weekly rent up to €100 1,361 tenants
- b. Weekly rent €101 - €150 427 tenants
- c. Weekly rent €151 -€200 115 tenants
- d. Weekly Rent €201 to €250 13 tenants
- e. Weekly rent >€251 2 tenants

Cllr A. Campbell asked:

24. With regard to housing under Monaghan County Council's control:

- a. What is the breakdown of ownership by the council
- b. What is the breakdown of ownerships by AHBs?
- c. What is the breakdown of pipeline houses due to be completed this year by the council?
- d. What is the breakdown of pipeline houses due to completed by AHPs?

Reply:

a. Breakdown of ownership by the council:

NOTE – MTR, LEASED AND COST RENTAL PROPERTIES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THESE FIGURES

1 BED PROPERTIES	153
2 BED PROPERTIES	658
3 BED PROPERTIES	985
4 BED RPROPERTIES	182
5 BED PROEPRTIES	14
6 BED PROPERTIES	3
TOTAL	1995

b. Breakdown of ownerships by AHBs:

CALF	281
CAS	209
CLSS	76
MTR	46
TOTAL	612 UNITS

c. Breakdown of pipeline houses due to be completed this year by the council:

Municipal District	Project	Total Units
Ballybay - Clones	Maple Grove, <u>Smithborough</u> , Co Monaghan	13
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Gort an Choinicear, <u>Conabury</u> , Castleblayney	13
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Sean Ghairdini, Carrickmacross	10
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	Gleann <u>Droimín</u> Part V	2
Monaghan	<u>Sli Lorcáin</u> , <u>Latlorcan</u> , Monaghan (D&B)	29
Monaghan	<u>Cois Abhainn</u> , <u>Ballinode</u>	8
Monaghan	Coill <u>Seannach Coolshannagh</u> Monaghan	5
Monaghan	Park Street Monaghan	5
Monaghan	Coill <u>Seannach Coolshannagh</u> Monaghan Part V	5
Monaghan	Macartan View, <u>Latlorcan</u> , Monaghan	1
Total pipeline houses due to be completed this year by the council		91
Carrickmacross - Castleblayney	<u>Radhairc An Bhri</u> , Bree, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	9
Total pipeline houses due to be completed this year by AHBs		9
Total Expected Delivery 2026		100

**Please note that Acquisitions & Leasing (MTRs/RAS) are excluded from this report.*

d. Breakdown of pipeline houses due to completed by AHPs:

Municipal District	Location	Total Units 2026	Total Units 2027	Total Units 2028
CBY-CMX	<u>Radhairc An Bhri</u> , Bree, Castleblayney (Phase 2)	9		
CBY-CMX	Sean Stáisiún <u>Dóiteáin</u> , Castleblayney (Phase 1)		10	
CBY-CMX	Sean Stáisiún <u>Dóiteáin</u> , Castleblayney (Phase 2)			12
Total housing units currently in the pipeline for delivery by AHBs		9	10	12

We are currently closing the sale of 10 affordable purchase units in Sean Ghardini. While there are no new applications with the Department at present, we continue to actively seek new opportunities countywide and are maintaining ongoing liaison with developers regarding future delivery.

25. What are the current job vacancies within Monaghan County Council?

Reply: Monaghan County Council currently has 42 vacancies across its Directorates. These vacancies arise due to additional roles identified in the Strategic Workforce Plan, staff turnover, retirements, and the need to resource externally funded programmes.

Vacancies span administrative, technical, professional and operational roles and are distributed as follows:

Directorate of Corporate Services, Innovation and Emergency Management

- Irish Language Officer
- Mechanic (Fire)
- IS Project Leader
- Staff Officer
- Part-time Cleaner

Directorate of Planning, Economic Development, Capital Projects and Regeneration

- Architectural Conservation Officer
- Clerical Officer
- General Operative
- Ganger / Driver A

Directorate of Transportation, Environment and Climate Action

- Project Management Officer – Sliabh Beagh
- Assistant Engineer
- Executive Engineer
- Mechanic

Directorate of Finance, Housing and Cultural Services

- Education and Outreach Officer
- Clerical Officer
- Assistant Engineer

Directorate of Tourism and Rural & Community Development

- Ganger / Driver A
- Resettlement Support Worker
- Interpreter / Translator / Cross-Cultural Worker
- Peace Development Officer
- Staff Officer

Recruitment is ongoing through open competitions and panels to ensure continuity of service delivery across all functional area.

26. With regard to the water quality in Lough Muckno and ongoing works to improve the quality of Muckno:

- a) What is the latest update on this work?*
- b) What plans have Monaghan County Council in place for testing the water quality to ensure swimming etc. may occur?*

Reply:

- Lough Muckno has been included as a Priority Area for Action in Ireland's Water Action Plan (2022-2027). Work is underway at a national and regional level to develop water action plans for all sectors and agencies involved in water framework directive implementation. In respect of work being carried out by Environmental Services staff in the Muckno catchment area, catchment characterisation and inspections are ongoing in the County Water and the Gentle Owens River Catchment areas. Our work to date on the Lough Muckno project has highlighted these areas as the catchment areas contributing the most significant pollutant loadings to Lough Muckno. Farm inspections are also taking place in the Fane 10 catchment upstream of Lough Muckno. Farm inspection work now makes up a significant portion of our water quality work in Environmental Services as "Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage" and "Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading" are two National Enforcement Priority areas as directed by the EPA on which Local Authorities have to allocate significant time and resource to.

Monaghan County Council is also an associate partner on the PEACE 5.3 plus Project titled "Protecting our Shared Waters". 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. Monaghan County Council is due to meet shortly with the Project Lead Partners and will continue to provide local expertise and support to the project throughout 2026 and beyond.

Since January, Environmental Services in collaboration with other local groups and cross border bodies have been exploring funding opportunities to develop a cross-border collaborative work plan for the inputting river catchments which are contributing the most significant loads of pollutant to Lough Muckno. Confirmation on whether these funding applications have been successful has yet to be issued by the awarding bodies.

- In June Environmental Services will be commencing sampling under the 2026 Bathing Waters Sampling program. Although there are no designated Bathing Waters in the county and Monaghan County Council has no obligation to conduct the sampling of any bathing waters, sampling of a number of non-designated bathing waters will be taking place over the summer months during the bathing season. In relation to Lough Muckno, Monaghan County Council will be carrying out bathing water sampling at the following locations in the period from June to September:

- Lough Muckno Bathing area
- Lough Muckno Water Sports Area
- Lough Muckno Black Island Point

These sites listed above shall be assessed for compliance with the water quality standards specified in the 2008 Bathing Water Regulations, using the two microbiological parameters, Intestinal enterococci, and Escherichia coli (e-coli). Samples will be taken and analysed by our contracted laboratory. It takes three to four days for the results of sampling to be completed and returned by the lab. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of bathing water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day that an individual chooses to bathe at one of these locations that there may not be an issue with water quality. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influences of rain or sunshine and the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal. In the event of the detection of a Poor-Quality Result the council will:

- Erect a notice at the site advising not to swim.
- Arrange for a further sample to be taken.

In recent years the bathing water quality at the Muckno bathing area location has consistently been below standard and Environmental Services is of the opinion is that this can be attributed to the fact that this is a very popular location for the feeding of ducks and it is the high concentration of ducks in this area that is contributing to the poor bathing water quality. Environmental services would advise that the public refrain from swimming at this particular location and have erected an advisory notice on site to this effect at this location.

However, it should be noted that the sampling results for the other sampling locations at the Water Sports Area and at Black Island on Lough Muckno have consistently indicated that the bathing water quality at these locations is good.

In 2026 all monitoring results at the designated locations will be available to view on the national bathing waters website www.beaches.ie

27. What is the latest update on the restoration of the Market House in Castleblayney?

Reply:

Monaghan County Council's submission under Decision Gate 3 (DG3), *Approval to Proceed*, remains under consideration by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG).

28. Regarding Monaghan County Councils Litter Management plan:

a. What is the update on this plan?

b. Have Monaghan County Council made progress with the mobile cameras around the issue with GDPR?

c. What plans has Monaghan County Council to litter pick along the main roads in County Monaghan?

Reply:

- It is going to full council meeting on the 8th of June where the Environment Section will seek adoption of the Litter management Plan 2026 – 2029
- Yes, Monaghan CoCo has made progress to introduce Mobile Cameras at Bottle Banks. The next step is public consultation for the local DPIA and the evaluation thereafter. Once reviewed the DoS of the Environment Section will submit the final draft of the local DPIA and CCTV proposal to the Oversight Board for approval which will allow us to go out to tender for a 3-party service provider.
- In 2025, a total of € 28,885.75 was spent on litter picking along the national road network.

This expenditure took place within the following contracts:

- The annual verge maintenance contracts executed on the N2, N53, N12 & N54.
- The roundabout maintenance contract for 6no. roundabouts along the N2.

Works consisted of:

- Two litter picking visits annually to the road network, to coincide with verge cutting. Recyclable waste is segregated during these operations.
- Three litter picking visits annually to each of the roundabouts, to coincide with the general maintenance of the roundabouts.

Clr S. Treanor asked:

29. *In relation to allocation of houses by Monaghan Co Co from January 2022 to end of April 2026,*
- a) *How many houses in total have been allocated each year i.e. 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and up to April 2026?*
 - b) *In each year from 2022 to April 2026, how many houses were allocated to families from outside the state and from which country did they originate?*

Reply:

We cannot provide information on the country of origin.

2022

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	123
Irish	90
Other EEA	30
Non-EEA	3

2023

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	105
Irish	74
Other EEA	25
Non-EEA	6

2024

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	153
Irish	101
Other EEA	42
Non-EEA	10

2025

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	93
Irish	66
Other EEA	21
Non-EEA	4

2026

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	26
Irish	19
Other EEA	5
Non-EEA	2

30. *In relation to the current status of the Monaghan Co Co housing waiting list,*
a) *How many people are on the waiting list?*
b) *How many are from outside the state & from which countries are they from?*

Reply:

We cannot provide information on the country of origin

TOTAL APPROVED APPLICANTS	1010
Irish	577
UK	6
Other EEA	280
Non-EEA	147

20. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

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

- The family of the late Eugene McDermott, 13 Boyher, Rockcorry, former Monaghan County Council employee.
- The family of the late Annie McSkean, O'Duffy Terrace, Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, former member of Ballybay Town Council.

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

- Múinteoir Leah Nig Uidhir – Gaelscoil Ultain on winning the All-Ireland Féile Scoil dramaíochta drama competition.
- Monaghan GAA supporters, players and management ahead of the Ulster Final on 17th May 2026.

21. Conferences

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

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	Supporting Councillors responding to Mental Health, Suicide and Addiction Issues	Kilmore Hotel, Cavan	21 st May 2026	Cllr C. Carthy Cllr S. Conlon Cllr B. McAree Cllr P. Treanor
	Southern Region	Whites of Wexford	23 rd May 2026	Cllr S. Coyle Cllr P. Gibbons

Retirement – Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services

Cllr PJ O’Hanlon led the tributes to Ms. P. Monahan, Director of Services as she attended her last meeting of Monaghan County Council prior to her retirement. Cllr O’Hanlon paid tribute to the diligent and professional way in which Ms. Monahan carried out her role. He conveyed his gratitude to Ms. Monahan for her voluntary contributions to the community in Monaghan and her commitment to helping others. Cllr O’Hanlon wished Ms. Monahan a long and healthy retirement.

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, outlined Ms. Monahan’s distinguished service with Monaghan County Council, which commenced in September 2014 in the Finance Section. He noted that in February 2017, Ms. Monahan was appointed to the position of Director of Services with responsibility for Infrastructure and Operations, and that in 2019 her role changed to Director of Services for Transport, Community and Rural Development. The Chief Executive referred to Ms. Monahan’s term as Interim Chief Executive from September 2022 to September 2023 and conveyed his sincere gratitude for the guidance and support she provided both in the months prior to his appointment and subsequently. Mr. Burns paid tribute to Ms. Monahan’s significant contribution to the development of the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 in her role as Director of Services for Environment and Climate Action from September 2023. He also acknowledged her input into the Tourism Strategy 2023–2028 and her work on the Ulster Canal Marina, Clones, in her current role as Director of Tourism, Rural and Community Development. The Chief Executive commended Ms. Monahan’s diligent and meticulous work style and referred to the wide range of responsibilities she discharged during her tenure, including Transport, Climate Action, Procurement, Community and Tourism, as well as her role within Monaghan Municipal District. He noted that Ms. Monahan possesses a wealth of organisational knowledge and described her as consistently helpful and courteous in all her dealings. The Chief Executive concluded by thanking Ms. Monahan for her dedicated service and congratulated her on her retirement, wishing her every happiness and success in the future.

The members joined in the tributes to Ms. P. Monahan and wished her well in her retirement.

Ms. Monahan commenced by thanking all contributors for their kind words and well wishes. She stated that it had been her privilege to serve the organisation and reflected on her experience of working in the public sector, having joined from a background in private sector accounting. She noted that the transition had been both productive and fulfilling, while at times presenting its own challenges. She outlined that for the majority of her time with Monaghan County Council she had served in the role of Director/Acting Director, and in those roles had the support of a wide range of colleagues across the various sections that came within her remit over the years. Ms. Monahan extended her sincere thanks to her current teams in Monaghan Municipal District, Tourism Rural & Community Development, describing them as a pleasure to work with. She also expressed her appreciation to the Chief Executive, Mr. Robert Burns, and to her colleagues on the Management Team, noting the strong sense of collaboration that had developed over time. She further acknowledged the support services, including ICT, Finance, Human Resources and Corporate Services, describing them as consistently helpful and supportive, and as a vital engine that keeps the organisation functioning. She thanked the elected members for their engagement and noted that she had enjoyed a productive and positive working relationship with them. She expressed her hope that she and her teams had supported the members in their work on behalf of their constituents, acknowledging the increasing challenges associated with that role. Ms. Monahan also welcomed the increased participation of women within the Council, noting that when she was appointed Director of Services she was the first woman to hold such a position in almost 120 years of the organisation’s history. She emphasised the importance of full representation at all levels within the organisation and in the Council Chamber, and expressed her hope that more women would continue to come forward and have their contributions recognised.

In conclusion, Ms. Monahan wished the Elected Members, Chief Executive, Management Team and staff of Monaghan County Council every success for the future and stated that it had been a pleasure to have been part of the organisation.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
**Meetings
Administrator**

Date: _____