



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

MAY 2026 ISSUE



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

- A list of Orders made in the last month will be available in the Corporate Department for inspection by the Elected Members.

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CORPORATE

Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh presenting the captain of the Callan Utd Under 17 All Ireland Champions team Chloe Teehan with the Cathaoirleach's Certificate in recognition of the team's success



Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh presenting members of the Clogh Handball Club a Cathaoirleach's Certificate in recognition of the club's 100th anniversary



Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Mayor John Coonan and members of Kilkenny County Council at the Community Awards 2026



Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh presenting Peter Lynch a Cathaoirleach's Certificate following his international record-breaking athlete achievements



Mayor Cllr. John Coonan presenting Emily Moloney with a Mayoral Certificate of her outstanding achievements in equestrian sport, representing both Kilkenny and Ireland with honour and distinction.



PLANNING

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Summary	Total January to April	
	2026	2025
Planning Applications Received	288	264
Planning Applications Granted	253	221
Planning Applications Refused	14	23
Complaints Received	31	49
Warning Letters Issued	25	35
Enforcements Notices Issued	13	20
Cases Closed	57	77
Cases sent for legal prosecution	2	3
Section 5's Received	39	23
Section 5's Decided Upon	31	23

Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2030

Following the consideration of the Chief Executives Report on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme at the Council meeting on 20th April, the Development Contribution Scheme 2026 to 2030 was adopted. The Scheme is effective from 21st April, 2026. The Adopted Development Contribution Scheme 2026 – 2030 can be viewed at

https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/services/planning/planning-applications /applying-for-planning-permission/development_contribution_scheme/

FORWARD PLANNING

Variation 5: Castlecomer Settlement Plan

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) issued a notice in April in respect of the Castlecomer Settlement Plan, suspending the zoning objectives for lands in Flood Zones A and B in Castlecomer, pending the OPR's assessment of the flood risk on the lands. By way of background, the OPR had written to the Minister seeking a Direction relating to the Flood Risk Assessment, and the Minister directed that the OPR carry out that assessment. The Council website will be kept updated as this process proceeds.

Variation 8A

Variation 8A to change the zoning of land in Kilkenny City, to reflect the requirements of the Government's *National Planning Framework Implementation Guidelines* was adopted on 20th April, 2026.

Variation 8B

The proposed Variation 8B to reflect the requirements of the Government's *National Planning Framework Implementation Guidelines*, in relation to the accommodation of growth in the settlements of Callan, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh, commenced public display on 1st May, 2026 with submissions invited until 29th May, 2026.

Taking in Charge

Works are progressing on the following estates:

- Cluain Glasan, Kilkenny
- Berkley Terrace, Ferrybank Co Kilkenny
- Danville Road Industrial Estate Kilkenny

Active Land Management

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The public consultation period finished on 01st April 2026. Seven submissions were received. Determinations on submissions received are due by 30th June 2026.

Conservation

The Conservation Office manages all protected structures in Kilkenny County & City. These structures are recognised for the following special interest: Architectural, Historical, Archaeological, Artistic, Cultural, Scientific, Technical, Social.

An advisory service on conservation matters is provided to the public and colleagues, while the conservation grants and funding applications are also delivered.

For the month of April, the Conservation Officer completed reports on the following:

▪ Planning Referrals.....	7
▪ Further Information requests	2
▪ Clarification of Further Information requests.....	0
▪ Section 57 Declarations.....	5
▪ Post Planning	1
▪ Part 8	0

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026: Engagement with all successful applicants underway.

The Historic Structures Fund 2026:

Six applications were forwarded to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for funding support, of these, two projects have been offered funding.

Projects	Awarded Funding	Amount of Funding
Heritage Council, Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny: window repair	Yes	€50,000
Kilkenny County Council, Woodstock House, Inistioge: continued stabilisation	Yes	€125,458
St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny: Window Repairs	No	N/A
Cushendale Mills, Graiguenamanagh: Roof and Floor Repairs	No	N/A
Long barn, Mountrothe House, Paulstown: Roof Works	No	N/A
Kilkenny County Council, Kenny's Well, Kilkenny: Step and Paving Repairs	No	N/A

Building Control

Valid Commencement Notices Received	Valid Disability Access Applications Received
April 2026 117	April 2026 33
April 2025 92	April 2025 13
April 2024 149	April 2024 20
April 2023 89	April 2023 9

CAPITAL DELIVERY & PARKS

Playgrounds

Improvement works continue across our playground network, with a focus on enhancing safety, presentation, and long-term durability. Painting has been completed in both Piltown and Mullinavat, giving each facility a refreshed and welcoming appearance ahead of the busy summer season.



In Ferrybank, fencing along the approach paths to the park has been replaced, improving safety and creating a more defined and attractive entrance to the playground area. Rejuvenation works have also taken place on the flowerbeds including the planting of mixed perennial species. This new planting theme is pollinator-friendly, supporting biodiversity while enhancing the visual appeal of the site.

Significant soft-surface replacement has been completed in Mooncoin Playground. This investment will prolong the lifespan of the play areas and ensure they continue to withstand heavy use throughout the year. These works reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining high-quality recreational spaces for families across the City and County.

Roundabout Enhancement Scheme

The Roundabout Enhancement Scheme has now entered its second year and maintenance activity is well underway across all sites. A new micro-forest has been planted at the centre of the Slieverue roundabout adding long-term biodiversity value and strengthening the natural character of the area. All flowerbeds have been weeded and mulched with similar maintenance carried out on the Ferrybank Road, Newrath, and Belmont roundabouts.



We are hopeful that orchids will once again emerge in the Newrath meadows in the coming weeks, alongside a rich display of native wildflowers that have become a hallmark of the scheme. While the design of these roundabouts prioritises naturalistic, wildlife-friendly planting, they also present a neat, well-maintained, and visually appealing entrance to the Ferrybank and Slieverue area. With all four micro-forests now fully in leaf, the roundabouts showcase how native planting and thoughtful landscaping can deliver both ecological benefits and a strong sense of place.

Woodstock Gardens

Works continue across Woodstock as the gardens enter their peak spring display. The Rose Garden has recently been edged and mulched, while the herbaceous borders have undergone weeding, dividing, and preparation ahead of mulching next week.

The *Davidia involucrata* (Dove Tree) is currently in flower in the Arboretum — a rare and special sight, as these trees typically do not bloom until they are over ten years old. Visitors have been enjoying this and many other seasonal highlights as the gardens come into leaf.

The coffee truck and ice-cream parlour is now open at weekends, and the Tea Room remains on schedule for weekend opening from mid-May. Work is also progressing in the vegetable beds within the Walled Garden. Along the woodland walks, there are exceptional displays of native bluebells beneath the newly leafed broadleaf canopy, offering a wonderful experience for visitors.



Kilkenny Countryside Park



Junior Parkrun – Second Anniversary

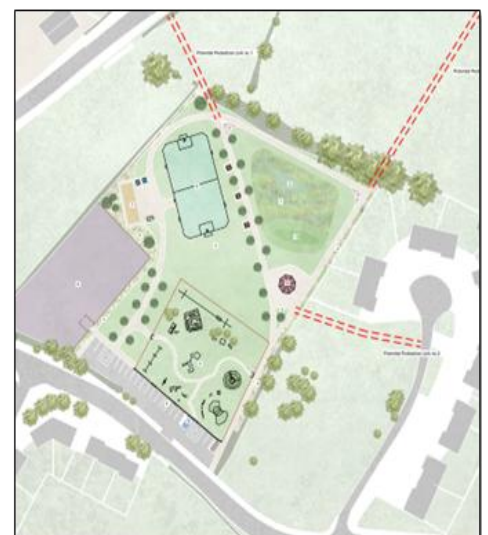
Kilkenny Countryside Park was proud to host the second anniversary of the Junior Parkrun last month. The Parks Department is delighted to continue facilitating this fantastic weekly event, which has gone from strength to strength. A special acknowledgement is due to the dedicated volunteers whose commitment has made the event such a success over the past two years.

Meadow Development

The meadows in the park are now beginning to come to life. Yellow rattle sown last autumn has successfully germinated, which is an excellent sign for the continued establishment of species-rich meadows in Dunmore. This will deliver long-term biodiversity benefits for the local area and enhance the ecological value of the park.

Paulstown Town Park Masterplan

A planning application for a Masterplan for the creation of a multifunctional communal park in Paulstown was advertised under Part 8 on 1st May, 2026. The Plans and particulars for the proposed development are available for inspection or purchase until Friday 29th May and observations or comments will be accepted up to the 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 12th June 2026. The proposal provides for a high quality, community centred and multifunctional local park on a greenfield site, adjoining the local playground. A public consultation evening / drop in event will be held in the coming weeks and details will be advertised for same. This project is being funded under the Town Centre First Scheme.



Woodstock to Southeast Greenway Link

This project is currently at Phase 2 Options Selection. The purpose of Phase 2 is to develop, examine and assess route corridor options to identify a preferred option for the project. The Study Area has been expanded from Phase 1 to ensure that all viable options are taken into consideration. The assessment of the route corridor options will be taken in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways, the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Project Management and Project Appraisal Guidelines.

A public consultation period regarding the proposed Route Corridor Options ran from the 6th April – 27th April 2026, and in conjunction with same a public consultation event was held on Monday 13th April in Cois Abhann in Inistioge. This event was well attended, and valuable feedback was received on the day and during the consultation period by email and post.

Following the second consultation process, landowner engagement and assessment of the various options, a Preferred Route Corridor Option will be proposed. On completion of the above, a third round of public consultation will be held on the proposed Preferred Route Corridor Option.

COMMUNITY

Community Projects

The Table below outlines in summary ongoing projects and schemes in the Community Department.

Town & Village Scheme			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	April Status
Callan 2023	King's River Town & Village Project – Riverbank and amenity area	€247,500	In progress
Dunnamaggin Local Community Group 2023	The transformation of a community green space into and events amenity for all the community knows as Madge's Garden	€247,500	Works 100% complete
Urlingford Town Team 2023	Refurbishment of Community Hall. Phase 2	€500,000	Works completed
Callan Project Development Measure 2024	Develop plans to establish an outdoor classroom community space in Abbey Field and examine the re-development of a derelict cottage in Moate Field and complete biodiversity studies on both sites	€49,950	Surveys Ongoing
Paulstown Community Group Project Development Measure 2024	Complete feasibility and design studies for the creation of a centre point in the village, consisting of an open public green space with seating and leisure facilities. This will redevelop the village centre and provide accessibility between the main street and residential areas	€49,950	Part 8 ready for public consultation
Glenmore 2025	Renovate two vacant buildings into Community Café & Shop	€500,000	Funding approved
Johnstown 2025	Public realm enhancements. Development of a public space for activities in the square, Johnstown.	€300,000	Funding approved
Callan 2025	Refurbishment of ground floor of 18 Upper Bridge Street, Callan for general business use and the re-instatement of an original carriageway to improve pedestrian access to this town centre location	€300,000	Funding approved Collaborative project with Housing accommodation on first floor

Rural Regeneration Development Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	April Status
Piltown	Phase 1 of the project comprises of main street urban renewal enhancement, parking bays, EV charging points, and bicycle bays x2	€2,180,931	Pre Tender Approval
Glenmore	Develop the Southeast Greenway Connectivity Link and Pink Rock Cycle Loop & Amenity Trail	€2,356,423	Pre Tender Approval
Thomastown	Thomastown Library and upgrade to Community Centre	€4,013,115	Complete

Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme			
Community Group/ Year Approved	Project Description	Grant	April Status
Johnstown Sports Field 2022	Contribution to development of walkway around complex	€40,000	Works in progress 70% complete
Mooncoin Celtic AFC 2023	LED Floodlighting for extra training area	€20,000	Due to commence in May 2026
Ballyhale Shamrocks 2024	Upgrade of toilets / disability access	€9,000	Complete and paid April 2026
Gowran Community Complex 2024	Contribution towards the refurbishment of a community hub	€27,000	Works 50% complete
Glenmore Camogie Club 2025	Contribution towards the re-instatement of walkway	€29,000	Not yet commenced
Mullinavat Drama Group 2025	Lighting, Sound, Projector, Screen, Curtains	€11,000	Partially complete
Marian Hall Kilmacow 2025	Installation of heating, bathrooms, kitchen	€11,000	Works to commence May 26
Kilkenny Girl Guides 2025	Emergency Lighting & Fire Alarm	€15,000	Works to commence June 26
Kilkenny SOS Lawn Bowls 2025	Fencing, Lighting, Bicycle Bays, shed	€30,000	Contractor appointed
Kilkenny Ambers Women's Refuge 2025	New Playground	€35,000	Works complete
Freshford Town AFC 2025	Floodlighting for all weather pitch	€32,000	Works commenced
St. Joseph's Athletic Club 2025	Shelter and walking track	€11,000	Works to be finalised in May/June 2026
Graiguenamanagh Rowing Club 2025	Storage racking for rowing boats	€15,000	Works complete awaiting paperwork for payment
Callan AFC Football Club 2024	Dressing Room upgrade	€36,000	Completed in 2025 Final grant payment due

Community Recognition Fund			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	April Status
Christian Youth Centre	Development of existing building to provide community space, meeting rooms	€390,607	Works in progress
Fr. McGrath Centre	Installation of Solar Panels, Painting of building and installation of windows	€100,474	Works complete
Ballyragget Community Hall	Renovation of CYMS Hall	€173,000	Procurement process ongoing. Extension of time sought until December 2026

CLÁR			
Community Group	Project Description	Grant	April Status
Galmoy Community Hall 2023	Provision of a MUGA	€30,015	Not Yet Commenced
Windgap Handball Alley 2024	External insulation of two outside walls	€29,419	Change of scope of works submitted for approval
Windgap GAA 2024	Works to include tarmacadam to driveway and parking area	€38,307	Works to be completed in May 2026
Naomh Aodhan Community Centre CLG 2024	Upgrade works on rebuilding and refurbishing of handball alley and ground works	€44,312	70% complete
St. Brendan's National School, Muckalee 2025	Pitch Development	€65,000	Tender process ongoing
Lisdowney GAA 2025	Construction of new MUGA and Ball Wall	€65,000	Evaluation of tenders underway
Coolagh Community Hall Upgrading Project 2025	Hall and Kitchen upgrade	€77,022	Contractor has not commenced
Moin Ruadh National School 2025	Construction of new MUGA with carparking area and sensory garden	€100,000	Due to commence
Killanaspick Lighting project 2025	Roadway lighting	€22,500	To commence Autumn 2026
Kilmoganny GAA 2025	Lawnmower for Community Area	€35,424	Due to be finalised

AGE FRIENDLY

Outreach Workshops

The Older Persons Council commenced a programme of Outreach Workshops on the 22nd April, 2026 with the first of five sessions held in Inistioge. The event began with an overview of the role and remit of the Kilkenny Older People's Council, delivered by a member of the Executive Committee. This was followed by a series of informative and practical presentations, including guidance on financial safety from New Ross Credit Union and a comprehensive presentation on Assisted Decision Making, Advance Healthcare Directives and Planning Ahead, delivered by a Senior Social Worker with the HSE. Members of An Garda Síochána also addressed the group, providing advice on personal safety in the home and online. The workshop was well attended and positively received. A significant number of participants completed OPC membership applications and provided valuable feedback on the supports and services they would like to see developed within their communities as they age.

Further workshops are scheduled to take place in:

- Moneenroe Community Hall Monday, 11th May,
- St. Mary's Parish Hall, Slieverue...Wednesday, 10th June
- Paulstown Community Hall.....Thursday, 11th June
- Galmoy Community Hall Wednesday, 24th June.



Community Event Grant Scheme 2026

The Community Event Grant Scheme was widely advertised, with a closing date of the 13th March, 2026. The total budget available for the 2026 scheme was €30,000. Allocations were approved for 85 applicants. The main purpose of the Community Event Grant scheme is to provide financial assistance to not-for-profit groups and organisations engaged in running small scale community events.

Community Awards Night take out all and put in press release

Kilkenny County Council held the Community Awards Night in the Parade Tower in Kilkenny Castle on Thursday 30th April, 2026. Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh welcomed all the groups who attended the Community Awards ceremony that is held in recognition and to acknowledge the dedication and work of the community groups carried out in towns and villages throughout County Kilkenny.

The Cathaoirleach commented *“Kilkenny has always demonstrated a special community spirit that lives in every town, every village, and every neighbourhood. Tonight, is not simply an awards ceremony; it is a tribute to the people who breathe life, colour, care, and pride into the places we call home.”*

On the night there were awards for three different categories including the Pride of Place nominations from Kilkenny for the national competition in 2025, Tidy Towns groups who were recognised for their achievements and finally the prize giving for the winners of the Tidy Estates Competition. The IPB Pride of Place is an all-island competition both North & South that rewards people and groups who come together to make positive changes within their communities and improve the daily lives of those citizens. Kilkenny County Council nominated three communities for these awards for this national competition. The groups representing Kilkenny for the 2025 competition were community groups from Windgap, Gowran and Piltown.

All nominees were celebrated at the Kilkenny Community Awards ceremony and received an award in recognition of their achievements and their participation in the national competition. The Tidy Towns group also received a special acknowledgement and recognition award for their dedication, achievements and success in the national competition 2025.

Inistioge Tidy Towns were recognised for their achievement in achieving a Gold Medal and first place in the County Awards Category. This achievement reflects the extensive efforts and wealth of experience brought forth by the committee and dedicated local volunteers. Keep Kilkenny Beautiful finished just 5 marks shy of the national champion in the 2025 competition, retaining its gold medal award and securing second place in the County Awards. KKB were honoured as one of only two national recipients of the Greenways and Active Travel Awards for their innovative and sustainable initiatives.

Tullahought Tidy Towns celebrated a major milestone by achieving their first ever Gold Medal in the Tidy Towns Competition, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects decades of commitment. Owing Tidy Towns also received recognition for their achievements in 2025. The group were recognised with the Endeavour Award at the national competition. This award is presented to the community that shows the greatest improvement in marks overall. Kilkenny County Council Tidy Estates Competition aims to encourage residents to take an active role in improving the physical appearance of their housing estates. The overall winners in the Large Estates category were Glenvale Ballyragget, and in second place were Bellfield Estate, Ferrybank and Woodview Estate, Freshford received third place in the competition.

In the Medium Estates category, the winners were The Belfry Estate, Thomastown, with Mill Road, Inistioge following in second place and in third place Assumption Place, Urlingford. In the Small Estates category, the winners were Fr. Raftice Place, Moneenroe, and in second place were Old School Crescent, Moneenroe and in third place were Shamrock Grove Estate, Kilmacow.



Piltown Community: Stephen Cummins, Geri Hickey, Mary Hilda Cavanagh Cathaoirleach, Anne Marie Power, Eddie Blackmore, Philip Walsh



L-R: Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Maria Dollard, Regina Byrne Keep Kilkenny Beautiful



Glenvale, Ballyragget



Bellfield Estate, Ferrybank



Woodview, Freshford



The Belfry, Thomastown



Fr. Raftice Place, Moneenroe, Castlecomer



Lianne Kelly, Cora Nolan, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Anne Marie Shortall, Catherine Byrne Murphy Cllr/ John Coonan and Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

HEALTHY IRELAND

Health & Well Being Older Persons Grant Scheme

As part of the Healthy Ireland Fund, Kilkenny LCDC announced a grant scheme to support organisations in implementing Health and Wellbeing actions under the Kilkenny Age Friendly Strategy. The Health and Wellbeing Older Persons Grant Scheme 2026 aims to support Non-Government Agencies, Charities, Organisations wishing to undertake specific 'Health and Wellbeing' projects under the relevant categories of the programme. The purpose of the grant scheme is to encourage organisations and communities to take an active part in improving and protecting health and wellbeing for older people in our community. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 12th May, 2026.

For further information please contact Colette Power by:
email Colette.power@kilkennycoco.ie or telephone 056-7794920.

Kilkenny Local Community Safety Partnership

The Chairperson and the Coordinator met with many members of the Partnership over the last month to build relationships and gather ideas on how members would like to see the Partnership develop. These meetings were very constructive and provided valuable insight into member's priorities and expectations.

A workshop was held on the 14th April, 2026 with all members of the LCSP to begin planning the Partnership's first public event. It was agreed that hosting a centralised safety event would be the most effective approach.

The Community Safety Information Event "Safer Together", will take place on the 11th May, 2026 in the River Court Hotel from 6pm-8pm. The event aims to bring together a range of agencies to provide information and raise awareness on various aspects of safety.

The event will include a number of information stalls, allowing attendees to engage directly with representatives from different organisations. In addition, there will be a series of speakers on the evening who will deliver short presentations on key safety topics.

Register for free through the link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safer-together-tickets-1988391869608?aff=oddtcreator>

LEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

- €104,242 in direct financial assistance was approved for 8 manufacture/export service businesses in located in throughout the County.
 - €32,270 awarded in Feasibility Study Grant
 - €44,283 awarded in Business Priming Grant Assistance
 - €20,615 in Business Expansion Grant assistance
 - €7,073 in Market Explorer Grant
- 3 Businesses have commenced LEAN one to one consultancy programmes to investigate possible resource efficiencies and process improvements their businesses
- 11 businesses have availed of the Digital for Business programme to prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the enterprise.
- 13 businesses have availed of the Energy Efficiency Grant totalling €119,977 to support investment in technologies and equipment of enterprises
- 13 business have availed of the green for business consultancy support scheme. This scheme supports businesses to become greener and environmentally friendly.
- 210 people participated on focused small business training, including 36 people participating on the Starting Your Business programme
- 66 businesses have availed of specialised business specific mentoring on a variety of topics including finance, marketing, social media marketing and HR.

Start Up Kilkenny based Tech Company Huwmo Ltd receives County Enterprise Award



Kilkenny County Council's Local Enterprise Office have announced the Kilkenny nomination to the National Enterprise Awards 2026.

Huwmo Ltd. Is a start-up Tech software company that provides an all in one solution specifically designed for independent hotels. The business was the winner of the Kilkenny 'Start' competition during 2025.

START 2026 competition open for innovative businesses



The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny has launched the START Competition 2026. START 2026 is a business ideas competition open to anyone with an innovative business idea in the early stages of trading (*within the first 18 months of trading or pre-trading*)

To support budding entrepreneurs to come forward, LEO Kilkenny are running a Vision to Action programme. This programme consists of 6 workshops designed to focus on practical Market Research, viability assessments and route to market exercises. This programme is currently running and was opened to all business types regardless of eligibility for this competition.

Local Enterprise Office Event: Uncovering Your Signature Story - Brand, Business & the Power of You

Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny in partnership with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce organised an event called *Uncovering Your Signature Story: Brand, Business & The Power of You*. Speakers included Pádraig Hyland and Ruth Larkin who's words were highly beneficial to all who attended and offered true inspiration.



Business Support Roadshow – Castlecomer



The Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny in partnership with Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board, Kilkenny Leader Partnership and Kilkenny Intreo Office held a roadshow in Castlecomer on 15th April. Attendees had a chance to speak directly with funding and support agencies representatives who answered specific questions, provide advice and help to identify the support and grants that are available to those already in business or with an ambition to start a new business. The roadshow provided an opportunity to connect with a network of support that can help navigate challenges of running a business.



Tourism Kiosk

Kilkenny County Council Tourism team has again partnered with key heritage attractions in the city to encourage visitors to provide a Tourism Information kiosk. By providing a dedicated space for attraction operators to engage with visitors, the kiosk will support local businesses and jobs and promote the movement of guests throughout the City.

The kiosk will be managed by the attractions involved and will open at least four days a week in high season. The kiosk will operate from May to September, 2026.

Kilkenny Tourism and Visitkilkenny.ie



KILKENNY TOURISM CONNECTS

NEIGHBOURS IN BUSINESS, PARTNERS IN TOURISM

Kilkenny Tourism invites you to take part in this unique opportunity to expand your network, grow your business, secure valuable referrals & get your business featured on key itineraries.

What's Involved

- Marketing opportunities with Visit Kilkenny
- Tourism supports available to you
- Networking with other businesses
- Tips to help build the success of your business & Kilkenny as a domestic & international tourism destination

When & Where

Wednesday 22nd April
Windgap Community Centre

Thursday 23rd April
The Loop Café, Freshford

Both events will take place from 4:30pm - 7pm

Register Now
Scan the QR code or go to
VisitKilkenny.ie/Kilkenny-Tourism-Connects



Kilkenny Tourism, supported by the Council hosted a networking and collaboration evening in Freshford this April.

“Tourism Connects” provided a unique opportunity for local businesses, indeed neighbours, to explore opportunities to collaborate and develop opportunities to work together to enhance their tourism offering for visitors to Kilkenny.

The Loop Café facilitated the events with 20 small/medium sized local businesses attending on the evening.



Kilkenny's Digital and online marketing and PR campaigns remain strong and compared to last year our audience reach grew by 5,500. The spring months featured a campaign to support all our local festivals with a great collaborative "Golden Ticket" prize for the audience to enter. Participants will win tickets to all festivals in Kilkenny in 2026.

Initial feedback on the campaign indicates strong engagement showing us our domestic audience is very interesting in events happening throughout the year City and Countywide.

Taste Kilkenny



Taste Kilkenny working with our partners in Kilkenny Tourism and Savour Food festival will deliver county food tourism initiatives in 2026 whilst also incorporating, celebrating and promoting everything that is food tourism related to Kilkenny's wider tourism product. Kilkenny County Council have been awarded €10,000 by Failte Ireland to support this development and the inclusion of food experiences into existing festivals.

Screen Kilkenny & Screen South East



Screen Kilkenny joined forces with Screen Wexford and Screen Waterford under the banner "Screen South East" to run a series of workshops and panel discussions in the Ormonde Hotel on Saturday, 18th April. Workshops were run by Kilkenny based scriptwriter Peter McKenna and actor Abhin Murphy. Panellists included Richard Cook, Jade Travers of the National Talent Academies, Colman Farrell of Screen Ireland and local actor John Morton.

The topics covered on the day were "Emerging Talent" and "Sustaining Careers", and the event attracted a large number of attendees eager to start or develop their careers in the film industry. A networking event took place afterwards in the Young Irish Film Makers studio in Kilkenny. The next event in conjunction with Screen South East is planned for September 2026.

HOUSING

The Directorate of Housing incorporates a wide range of services for applicants and tenants to facilitate and support the provision of independent and supported accommodation. The following information gives the up-to-date progress for April 2026 under the various support services.

HOUSING CAPITAL



Completed Housing Development at Marnellsmeadows consisting of 22 units



Housing Development at Abbeymount, Ferrybank near completion consisting of 16 units

HOUSING OPERATIONS STATISTICS

HOMELESS SERVICES SUMMARY 2026	April	To-Date
Homeless Presentations	63	256
Prevention & Interventions	42	177
Emergency Service	16	51
Not Eligible/Did not avail of service	5	28
HAP Place Finder Service		
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies at 1 st day of month	41	
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies created during month	0	3
Number of Homeless HAP tenancy breakdowns	2	10
Number of Homeless HAP tenancies in place at last day of month	39	
Other Social Housing Tenancies supported /created during month	4	25
Notices To Quit (NTQ'S)		
Valid NTQ's received	6	16
Number of NTQ solutions found	3	16
Provision of Emergency Accommodation		Avg Per Month
Households in Temporary Emergency Supported Accommodation at 30 th April	35	32
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B accommodation	7	7
Households in Temporary Emergency B&B Accommodation that are families	6	6
Households (<i>singles/couples</i>) in Transition Emergency Accommodation (<i>Own Front</i>	45	45
Households (<i>Families</i>) in Transition Emergency Accommodation (<i>Own Front Door</i>)	22	22

SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPORT APPLICATION SUMMARY 2026	April	To-Date
Number awaiting Social Housing Support (Gross Need)	1,241	
Number awaiting Social Housing Support (Net Need)	661	
Number of Social Housing Applications received	86	258
Number of applications incomplete / awaiting further information/clarification	39	124
Number of applications validated and ready for assessment during the month	26	85
Number of applications assessed	30	93
Number of applications awaiting assessment	59	105

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT (HAP) SUMMARY 2026	April	To-Date
Total active HAP tenancies	333	
New HAP tenancies set up	7	11
HAP Tenancies allocated Social Housing	26	51
Closed HAP Tenancies	31	59
HAP rent Reviews	126	208
HAP other Tenancy Amendments	133	225

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS 2026	APRIL	TO
Local Authority Social Housing offers of allocations	8	66
Approved Housing Body offers of allocations	17	38
RAS offers of allocations	1	3
LA/RAS/Leasing offers of allocations	26	107

TENANCY MANAGEMENT

COMPLAINT TYPE	Number of Complaints	Number Investigated	Number Ongoing	Number Closed
Drugs related; Violence; Racism; Threats & Intimidation	3	1	2	0
Damage to property, animal related (dog/horse/fowl); Refuse/dumping/hoarding	5	2	1	2
Noise; Parking/boundary issues; Other	4	1	1	2
Total Number To-Date	123	53	57	13

MAINTENANCE HOUSING STOCK

MAINTENANCE CALLS 2026	APRIL	TO DATE
Number of maintenance calls	550	2,479
Number of maintenance calls that resulted in a call out	413	1,860

PRIVATE HOUSE GRANTS

The housing grants budget is €3,349,286 made up of €2,846,893 (85%) grant funding and €502,393 (15%) KCC contribution for 2026.

GRANTS COMMITTED BUT NOT PAID

Scheme	To-Date	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	101	€1,147,848
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	8	€29,300
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	151	€1,065,491
Total	260	€2,242,639

GRANTS PAID OUT IN 2026

Scheme	To-Date	Amount
HGD - Housing Adaptation Grant	21	€236,569
MAG - Mobility Aid Grant	2	€9,600
HOP - Housing Aid for Older Persons	59	€356,622
Total	82	€602,791

HOUSING LOAN ACTIVITY 2026

Loan Type	Received	Approved	Amount Approved	Number Paid	Amount Paid
Local Authority Home Loan	10	0	€262,600	2	€262,600
Local Authority Purchase & Renovate Loan	0	0	€0	0	€0
Caravan Loan	0	0	€0.00	0	€0
Total	10	0	€262,600	2	€262,600

VOIDS

VOIDS ACTIVITY 2026	APRIL	TO DATE
Number of voids completed	6	34
Number of voids in progress		44

RETROFITTING

RETROFITTING ACTIVITY 2026	APRIL	TO DATE
Number of units retrofitted	0	12
Number of units in progress		37

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS SUMMARY 2026	APRIL	TO DATE
Number of inspections completed by Kilkenny County Council staff	39	200
Number of inspections completed by external inspectors	1	21
Total number of inspections completed	40	221

ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE ACTION

Sustainability in the New CBC, Dunningstown Road

The Climate Action Team visited the new CBC Secondary School on the Dunningstown Road to view the sustainability measures incorporated into the new build.

Items include:

- Heat Pump
- Solar Panels
- Green Roof
- Rainwater harvesting system that supplies water to the toilets, reducing the demand for mains water
- Low temperature radiator design
- Smart lighting and room-level temperature control
- Pervious Paving
- Rain garden and swale that are beneficial during periods of heavy rainfall.
- 342 Bike Parking Spaces



Year 2 Implementation Report on Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)

The Climate Action team gave an overview of the Year 2 Implementation Report to the SPC on 1st April 2026. The reports demonstrate the progress of the 99 actions in the LACAP with input received from all 28 service areas. The report includes case studies from Housing, Callan/ Thomastown Area Office (*Active Travel and Nature-based solutions*), Emergency Services and The Arts Office. It also includes an update on the Community Climate Action Programme. This report was presented to the Plenary Council on 20th April, 2026.

Climate Action Steering Committee

The Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Steering Committee held its quarterly meeting on 18th March 2026. The Steering Committee, comprising of representatives from all services areas in the Council, was established in 2023 with an aim to provide leadership within the Council to help deliver on climate targets. Presentations at the March meeting were provided by Housing, CBC TY Students and the Fire Station who informed the committee about their new electric powered fire vehicle.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

“Borrow, Use, Return” Pilot Scheme for Greener, Waste-Free Celebrations

A new initiative helping communities celebrate sustainably is being launched in County Kilkenny introducing a simple but impactful idea: borrow your partyware instead of throwing it away. The “Borrow, Use, Return” pilot scheme provides reusable party packs through selected community groups, making it easy for residents to host birthdays, events and gatherings without relying on single-use plastics.

Developed by Environmental Awareness Officers across the Southern Waste Region including Kilkenny the initiative is funded by the EPA’s National Waste Prevention Programme and supports the move towards a more circular, low-waste economy. Following strong interest from across the county, a number of local organisations have been selected to act as lending hubs during the six-month pilot.

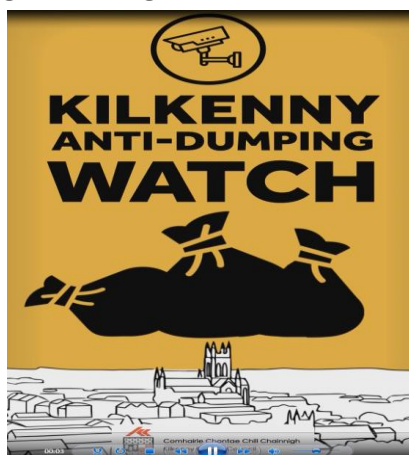
These include:

- Aurora Community Hub
- The Rower Community Hall
- Graiguenamanagh Tidy Towns
- 3rd Kilkenny Thomastown Scout Group
- St. Kieran’s Community Hall & Town Team
- Ballyragget Development Association & Tidy Towns
- Droichead Family Resource Centre
- KACC Canoe Club
- Freshford Community Café CLG
- Kilquan Drama Group



Each pack caters for up to 30 people and includes reusable plates, cups, bowls, cutlery and jugs, along with colourful bunting made from upcycled textiles by Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI). Designed for repeated use, the packs help cut waste, reduce costs and keep resources in circulation locally.

New Anti-Dumping & Anti-Fly Tipping Campaign



On the week of the 30th March, the Environment Department launched a new public awareness campaign aimed at tackling illegal dumping, fly-tipping and littering across the city and county. The campaign, which will run over the coming months, features a series of short online videos highlighting well-known locations throughout Kilkenny that have been adversely affected by illegal dumping, fly-tipping and persistent littering.

These videos are designed to bring the issue closer to home by showing the real and visible impact of waste-related offences on local communities, amenities and the natural environment. Illegal dumping littering continues to pose a significant challenge across both urban and rural areas of Kilkenny. These activities not only damage the environment and local biodiversity but also place an unnecessary financial burden on the Council and, ultimately, the taxpayer.

Green Schools Update

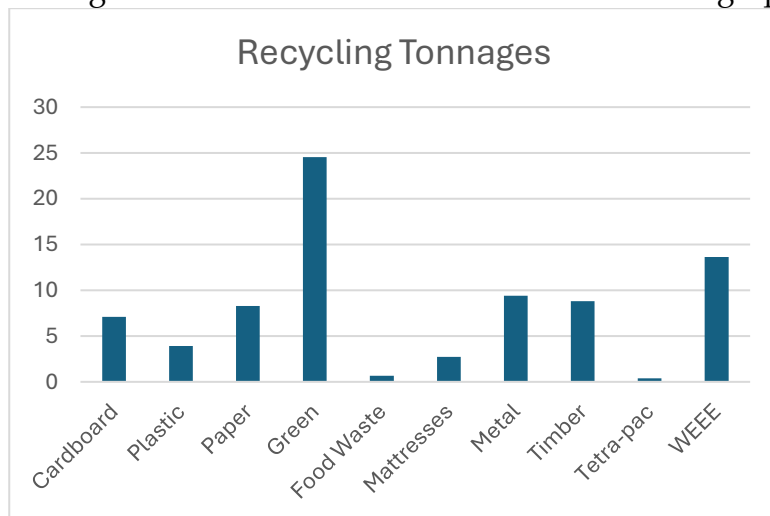


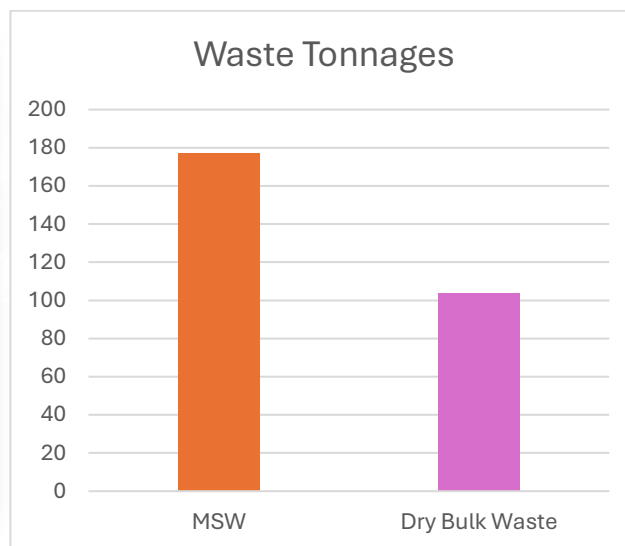
Assessment activity for the Green Schools Programme in Kilkenny is nearing completion, with 18 applications submitted from a cohort of 35 schools scheduled for renewal this cycle, out of a total of 85 Green Schools in the County. Three schools have made formal requests for deferral, which have been acknowledged and will be accommodated in line with programme guidelines. In addition, two schools have sought short assessment extensions; these have been approved, with assessments scheduled to take place within the next two weeks. Overall, progress remains on track, with many participating schools successfully advancing through the assessment process.

WASTE

Dunmore Civic Amenity Site (CAS)

Tonnages of Waste and the various recycling streams deposited at the Dunmore facility during the month of March can be seen in the infographic below.





March saw an increase of approx. 28% in MSW accepted into the site while Dry Bulk Waste tonnages increased by approx. 7% on February's figures. As part of the Landfill Aftercare the landfill gas flare continues to run 24 hours per day seven days per week extracting and burning approximately 35m³ of landfill gas per hour. The month of March also saw 104.24 tonnes of landfill Leachate tankered off site for treatment.

Multi Agency Inspection

On the 11th March, staff members from the waste team, with a team member from the Air quality team, conducted a multi-agency inspection with members of An Garda Siochana, WERLA, Revenue and Customs on the Kilkenny Waterford border just outside Waterford City.

The aim of the inspections was to inspect and identify any illegal waste transfer and also illegal activities under the air quality regulations, that may be carried out and involved inspections of trucks, vans and the likes that may be carrying waste to view their waste collector permits or to ascertain if there are any illegal activities or transfer of waste being carried out.

These inspections are always a great success and a good example of co-ordination between varying government bodies on the crack down of illegal activities.



A Member of our waste team also attended a meeting of the Garda Eastern Region – Multi Agency Forum for Environmental/Wildlife Crime in Kilkenny which was useful for the continued collaboration with Environment departments of the Local Authority and An Garda Siochana in highlighting and tackling Environmental waste concerns.

AIR NOISE WATER

Water Quality – Farm Inspections

The target for 2026 is 308 inspections. Kilkenny County council staff has started organizing inspections for 2026 and highlighting sub basins to be nominated for inspections. A new NAIP Agricultural inspector has recently joined the farm inspection team to aid with the completion of the 2026 program. Follow up GAP inspections from 2024/2025 are currently underway. To date, 24 initial GAP Inspections, 32 follow ups and 2 cross reports have been carried out.

Septic Tank Inspections

The target for 2026 is 62 inspections. Kilkenny County council staff has started organizing inspections for 2026 and highlighting households in high priority zones to be nominated for inspections. Kilkenny County Council are currently working on historical advisory notices in the hope to close some out before the 2026 NIP program commences. Kilkenny County Council have started inspections under NIP.

Noise

Kilkenny County Council are in the process of purchasing new noise monitors for 2026

Air

Staff will be monitoring the information received from air monitors. All solid fuel inspections have been identified for quarter 1 of 2026 and inspections are now underway.

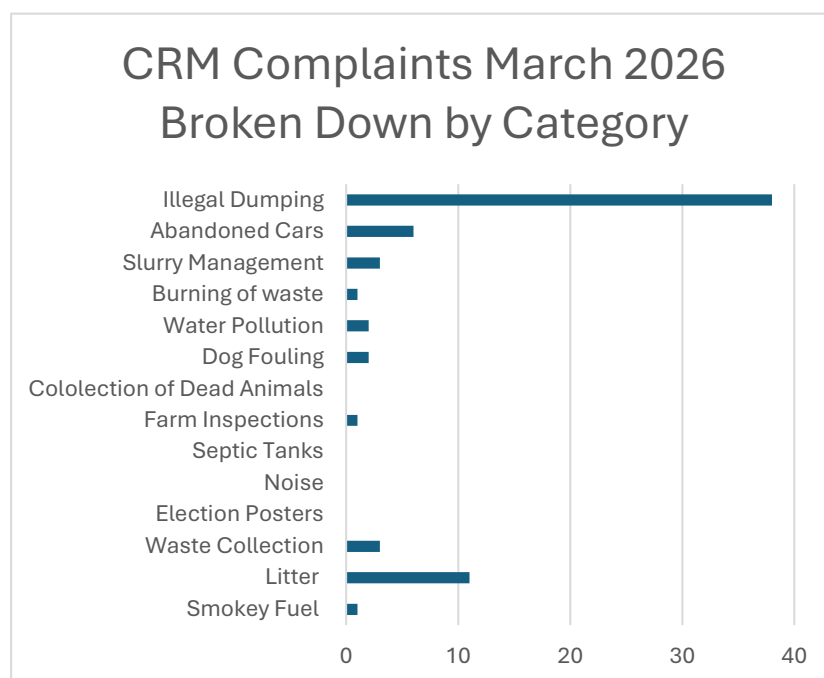
Discharge Licences

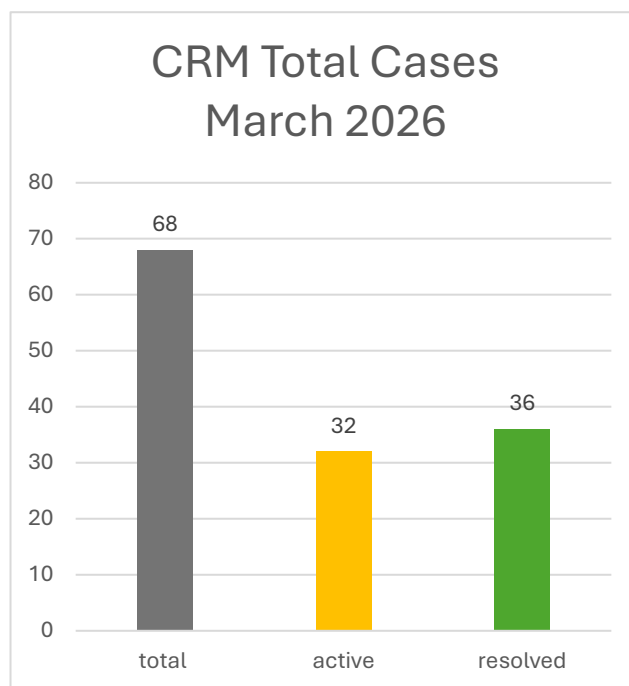
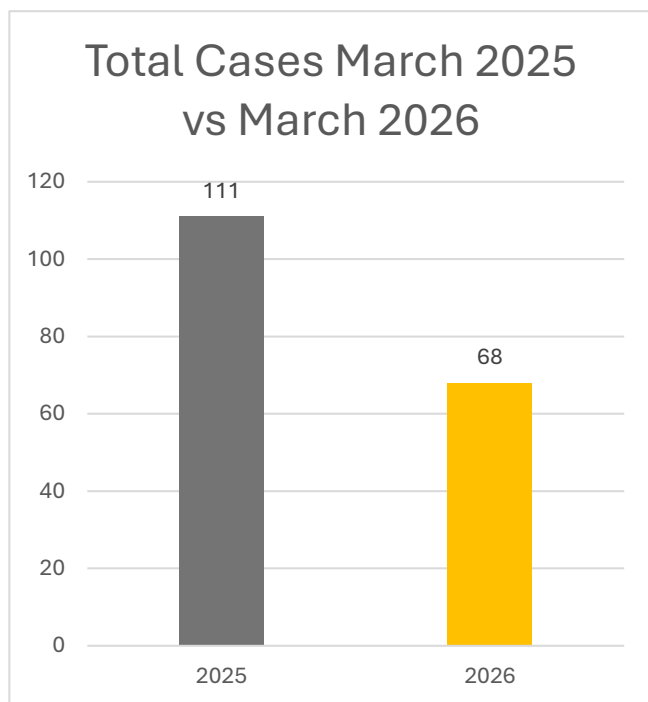
Kilkenny County Council are in the process of following up with non-compliances for discharge licences from 2025 results

Environmental Complaints

All Environmental complaints received are logged on the CRM (*Customer Relations Management*) System. The nature of these complaints included littering, illegal dumping, burning of waste and abandoned cars. The majority continue to be related to illegal dumping. Whilst every effort is made to bring unacceptable environmental practice into compliance, Environment Enforcement staff continue to manage significant enforcement cases progressing through prosecution cases.

See detailed breakdown of categories below, along with a comparison to February 2025.





RURAL WATER

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024-2026

Group Water Schemes who have funding approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are progressing planned works. It is expected that most works should be completed by year end.

Well Grants - Improvement Works to Private Water Supply

42 applications received to end March with funding to the value of €118,542.06 paid out. 36 applications received in the same period 2025. Funding to the value of €95,637.24 released.

Subsidies for GWS Operations

Application forms for subsidies to offset operation costs incurred in 2025 will be issued shortly to Group Water Schemes.

Water Quality and Testing

Rural Water are currently tendering for an INAB laboratory to carryout water testing for the current year, 2026. Kilkenny County Council intend to take samples in May/June and September/October 2026.

BIODIVERSITY

The Hare's Corner

Kilkenny County Council was successful in securing a collaboration with the Burrenbeo Trust this year to enable the roll out of the Hares Corner Project in Kilkenny. This initiative supports landowners to create ponds, mini-woodlands and other habitats, boosting local biodiversity through simple, practical actions.

To date, 60 participants received heritage apple trees, 30 participants collected woodland tree species and 40 participants collected hedgerow species at the tree collection day in Stoneyford. These collectively will create 60 orchards, create over 430 meters of hedgerow and create 1 acre of woodland cover.

Subject to funding under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2026, it is anticipated that the project will create 20 wildlife ponds across Kilkenny in collaboration with private landowners this summer and funding will enable 20 Plans for Nature to provide long term guidance for biodiversity enhancement on private lands. This project is supported by Kilkenny County Council as it aligns with action 6.5 of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 and the tree giveaway day was supported by members of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Working Group.



Tree Recipient, Mary Hughes with members of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Working Group and Louise Laing of Burrenbeo Trust.

International Women's Day

Creative Ireland funding enabled Michelle McMahon who is a local artist and self-proclaimed eco feminist to provide a talk on International Women's Day 2026. Over 40 women attended Rothe House to listen to Michelle as she described how historically civilizations moved away from our connectivity with nature, often forgetting to nourish it while placing more demands to preform for our benefit.

It was fitting that our Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh provided the welcome address, a woman with over 50 years of Local Government leadership. This event was a collaboration between the Biodiversity Office, the Creative Communities Engagement Officer and Michelle McMahon who led on the "Biodiversity on the Block" Creative Ireland project last year, and these art outputs will be on display across Kilkenny this summer as part of National Biodiversity Week. This Creative Ireland event aligned with Action 6.2 of Kilkenny's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030.



Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh, with Cllr Maria Dollard, Michelle McMahon and Biodiversity Officer, Bernadette Moloney.

LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM [LAIT]

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues to play a vital role in supporting the integration of diverse communities across Kilkenny. Their work continues to focus on individuals in the following categories:

- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) – Ukrainians
- International Protection Applicants (IPAs)
- Programme Refugees
- Those granted Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status

Currently, Kilkenny is home to 336 Ukrainians accommodated in 12 properties contracted by the Department of Justice, Migration & Home Affairs. An additional 184 Ukrainians reside in Offer A Home properties and Irish Red Cross pledged homes, benefiting from the Accommodation Recognition Payment. Alongside them, 194 IPAs are housed in 3 Department-contracted properties.

Employment figures show encouraging progress:

- 29% of Ukrainians and
- 72% of IPAs are now registered as employed.

Throughout March, LAIT continued delivering information, advice, and advocacy, including:

- 64 Ukrainians supported through 80 interventions, covering accommodation, education, finance, immigration and signposting to wider stakeholders.
- 53 Ukrainians attended 5 group Induction Sessions upon arrival at the DAC.
- 27 IPAs assisted with 42 interventions, primarily addressing immigration concerns, work permits, and accommodation queries.
- 10 IPAs attended 1 information session on Employment Rights in Ireland, hosted by Migrants Rights Centre Ireland.

Year-to-date, LAIT has provided 463 interventions to 347 individuals, underscoring their commitment to fostering inclusion and stability within the community.

Events:

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) continues to work closely with partner agencies. Here's a snapshot of what happened in March, 2026:

St. Patrick's Day - participants from the *Global Dance Club* took part in a vibrant parade performance that celebrated the truly multi-cultural spirit of the group. Dancers from the club's diverse dance group showcased the various styles they have learned throughout the year. Their St. Patrick's Day dance piece beautifully blended traditions from around the world while honouring Irish culture, creating a memorable highlight of the celebration.



Neighbourhood Hall Event - The LAIT Team collaborated with KLP to successfully facilitate the end of Eid Ramadan celebrations.

Weekly Drop-In Clinic – Every Thursday afternoon, LAIT hosts an open clinic at the Neighbourhood Hall, offering advice and assistance to those seeking support.

Information Sessions – Ongoing at the Wallslough Designated Accommodation Centre, these sessions help new arrivals navigate integration processes and access accommodation supports.

International Day on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination- Kilkenny Local Authority marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 20th March 2026 by wearing red in the workplace. This collective act served as a clear and purposeful statement of the organisation's commitment to promoting inclusion, respect, and equality for all.

Global Dance – This free 8 week dance program for adults held at St. John's Community Hall finished yet another successful term in March. New classes will commence on the 9th April, 2026.



Library Event - A successful Information Session on employment rights in Ireland was held on 25 March 2026 at the Mayfair Library. The event was delivered by the LAIT Team in collaboration with KLP and the Migrant Rights Centre, providing valuable guidance and support to attendees.

Offer of a Home and IRC Pledged Properties at 31st March, 2026

31 st March, 2026	Number of Pledged Properties	Number of Residents
Offer a Home Scheme	50	171
Pledged Properties (<i>shared and not shared</i>)	3	13
Total	53	184

Offer of a Home Scheme

The 'Offer a Home' Scheme is managed by Local Authorities on behalf of the Government. A Government tax-free Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) of €600 per month is available to property owners offering accommodation to Ukrainians with Temporary Protection status. There was a reduction in the monthly ARP payment from €800 to €600, from June 2025. This reduction sought to mitigate any unintended impact on the private rental sector. It also reflects recent policy changes which aim to ensure that such temporary and timebound supports for people who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are proportionate and equitable.

A separate programme is run by the Irish Red Cross which is seeking pledges of spare rooms or accommodation that would be shared with the owner or others. If an owner wishes to pledge a spare room in their house, they can contact the Irish Red Cross at (01) 6424600 or email info@redcross.ie

Accommodation Recognition Payment

Changes to the eligibility criteria for the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) have been introduced under [Part 3 of the Residential Tenancies \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2026](#). From 3 March 2026, new applications for properties that have been registered with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) will no longer meet the scheme's eligibility criteria. This applies to properties registered with the RTB at any time since 4th March, 2022. Tenants in rental properties will also no longer be eligible to make new applications for the scheme. A notice has now been placed on Gov.ie webpages related to ARP and on the [scheme's FAQs page](#) informing prospective applicants of the change. Further details on the Offer of a Home Scheme are available on www.offerahome.ie or you may wish to contact Kilkenny County Council's Integration Team.

FIRE SERVICES



Fire Safety Certificate and Licence applications.

- 33 Fire Safety Certificates Applications
- Public Dance Licences
- Dangerous Substance Licences
- 25 Fire Safety inspections this year.



Community Fire Safety

- 4 Home Fire Safety Visits scheduled
- 60 Primary School Visits scheduled
- Open days - all stations
- Fire safety talks/stands
- Pre Incident plans - All stations



Fire Training

- Fire Fighting Skills
- Breathing apparatus
- Weekly Drill training
- QQI Hazardous Materials
- Electric Vehicle Training
- Confined Space Training

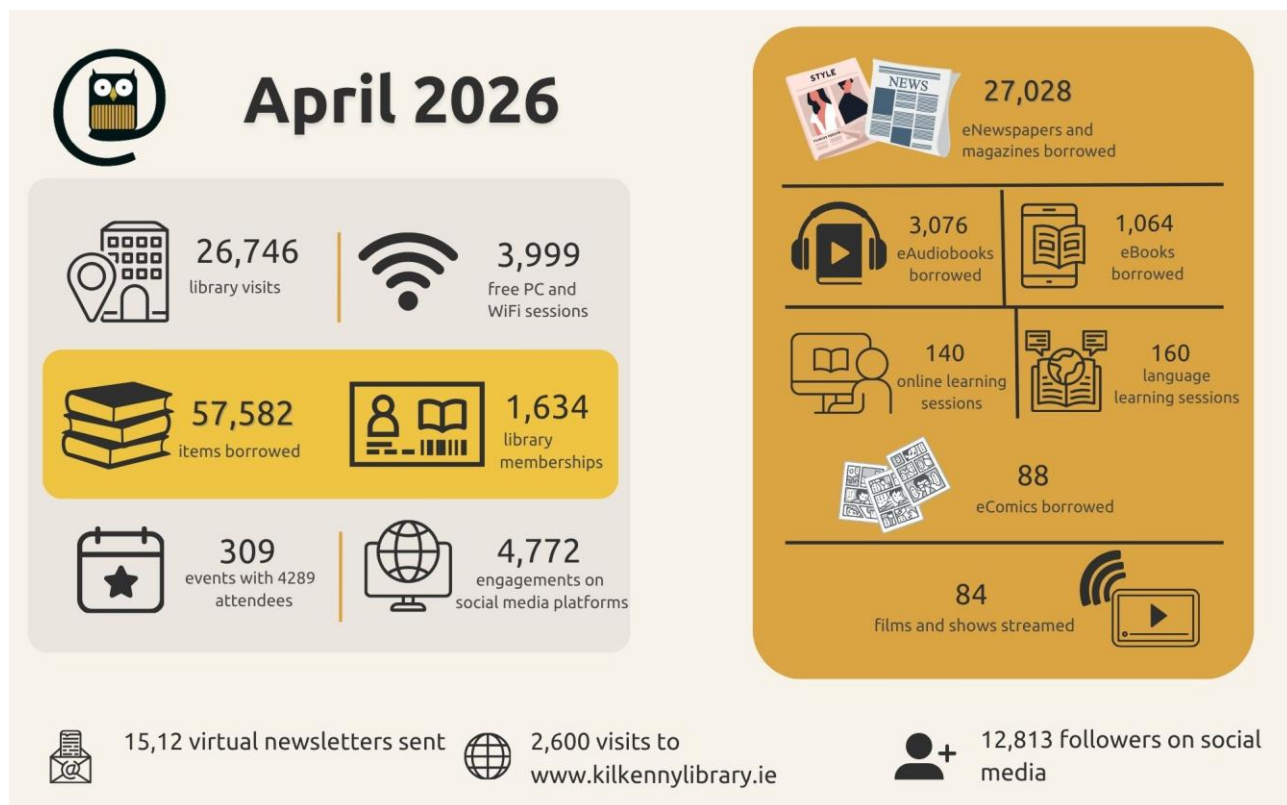


Recruitment

- Recruitment is on-going in these stations:

- Freshford
- Urlingford
- Thomastown
- Graigueamanagh





Spring Into Storytime

Spring into Storytime, a national initiative under Right to Read, delivered 42 events reaching 723 participants across the County. The programme promoted early literacy through storytimes, crafts, workshops, and seasonal themed activities. Impact was strengthened through a mix of regular sessions and outreach to early learning settings, led by library staff and visiting facilitators.



Toy & Resource Collection Event

We recently relaunched our Toy and Resource Collection in Mayfair Library, supported by an information session led by Sarah Gannon, Senior Occupational Therapist. The collection is designed to support children, parents and caregivers by providing access to a curated range of toys and resources that promote play, development and inclusion. The relaunch highlights the library service's ongoing role in supporting family wellbeing and early childhood development through accessible, community-based resources.

Fado Fado Prizegiving Ceremony

Kilkenny's rich local history came to life in the Fadó, Fadó Sparking Memories competition, with over 160 entries from primary and post-primary schools. Organised by Kilkenny County Council Library Service, the Kilkenny Archaeological Society and the Rothe House Trust, the competition celebrated family stories, local landmarks and historical events, with judges praising the imagination and strong sense of place shown in the work. The 2026 prize-giving ceremony in Mayfair Library attended by pupils, families, educators and local heritage figures.

Award-winning and commended projects are now available on the Kilkenny Library Digital Archive, ensuring these young perspectives on the past can be enjoyed by the wider community for years to come.



Houseplant Swap at Ferrybank Library

As part of our Climate Action goals Ferrybank Library hosted it's first ever House Plant Swap in April. Members were invited to bring a plant in for rehoming and take a new plant home. The event was well attended and prompted great discussion from members on plant care and gardening. Houseplant books were displayed to encourage borrowing and promote related library resources.



Castlecomer and Penvénan Twinning Digital Collection



Castlecomer Library staff have undertaken significant work in recent months to digitise a collection of documents and photographs marking 25 years of the twinning relationship between Castlecomer and Penvénan, Brittany. The collection documents the origins of the twinning arrangement, early exchange visits between the two towns, celebrations marking the tenth anniversary, and more recent visits in 2025.

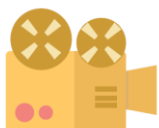
The full collection is now publicly available on the Kilkenny Library Digital Archive, ensuring long-term preservation and public access to this important aspect of local heritage.

The following programme of events were held during April:

- Comic Club Graiguenamanagh Library, 9 April
- Audrey Dowling Illustration Workshop Graiguenamanagh Library, 18 April
- Preparing for Your Camino Journey Public Talk Loughboy Library, 17 April
- Tusla Fostering Information Event Mayfair Library, 2 April
- Colour and Style Workshop Mayfair Library, 21 April
- Neurodivergent Community Play Sessions Mayfair Library, 23 April
- Crafternoon Castlecomer Library, 10 April
- Chess Club Launch Castlecomer Library, 11 April



Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



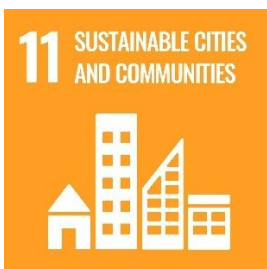
Digital Engagement

Library staff prepared, recorded, edited and published **237** posts and videos on our social media platforms in April. Our engagements for the month were **4,772** and our videos and reels had **14,619** views. Our virtual newsletter was sent to **15,122** email accounts.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals



Library activities this month supported **SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing** by promoting family wellbeing, inclusion and community connection through initiatives such as the Toy and Resource Collection relaunch, neurodivergent play sessions, wellbeing-focused talks and community engagement events.



They also supported **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** by preserving and sharing local heritage through digitisation projects, encouraging cultural participation through arts and community events, and supporting environmentally and socially sustainable practices within library spaces.

ARTS

Nore Boardwalk Mural

Artist Claire Provoust completed the Nore Boardwalk Mural. The mural brief was developed in consultation with the Nore Dragon Boat Paddlers and the Canoe Club. This wonderful session provided us with the opportunity to look at the past present and imagine the future of this area and inspire the design of the mural which includes flora and fauna of the area and its built heritage. This mural will serve to connect users of the boardwalk to the surrounding area and its historic past. It also ensures that the underpass is a pleasant area to pass through and enhances its safety.



Culture Night Kilkenny

Culture Night Will be taking place across Ireland on Friday 18th September 2026 from 4pm until late. The Arts Office has just sent out their Open Call for organisers to apply for event funding with a deadline of the 20th May.



Public Arts

Two public events were hosted in April as part of our Public Arts Project *From Hide to Heel*, which traces a journey from raw animal hide to finished footwear, the project brings together local histories of farming, tanning, and shoemaking, connecting Kilkenny City, County and region through a collaborative and participatory artistic process. The project is rooted in two historically linked sites in Kilkenny city: Padmore & Barnes, 'The Boot Factory' on Wolfe Tone Street and the former neighbouring Cattle Mart on Barrack Street. Together, these sites anchor a shared story of labour, industrial production, and skilled handcraft, revealing how global systems of trade, materials, and movement shape local lives.



Professor Mary E. Daly presented 'Irish women's working lives in town and country from the 1930s' on 11th April and Architect Emma Gilleece presented on 'Form, Function and Footwear: State Ambition and the Industrial Modernism of Kilkenny' on 25th April. Both

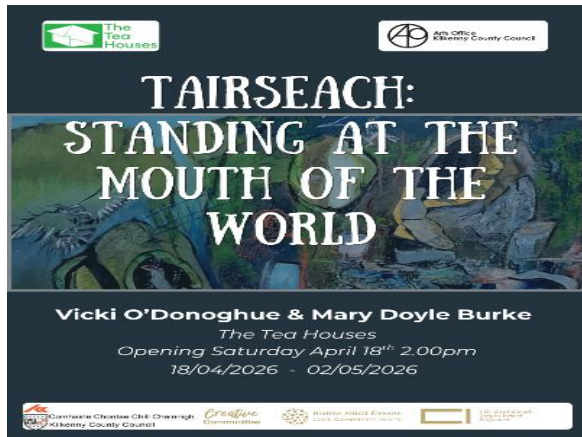
events were incisive responses to artist Pauline O’Connell’s project. Audiences were invited to reflect on the relationship between past and present, labour and land, people and place. The project aims to deepen public understanding of Kilkenny’s living heritage while highlighting the importance of safeguarding social history, cultural and environmental knowledge.

Professional Development Workshop

Designing Atomic Habits was hosted for artists across artforms. Inspired by the best-selling ‘Atomic Habits’ by James Clear, this practical and informative webinar provided artists with the tools to design habits that will help them reach their artistic goals.

Tea Houses

Tairseach: Standing at the mouth of the world



An Exhibition by Vicki O’Donoghue & Mary Doyle Burke, April 2026

The Tea Houses launched its first exhibition of 2026, ‘*Tairseach: Standing at the mouth of the world*’ on Saturday 18th. Two Kilkenny-based artists presented their work on exploring profound encounters with the Irish landscape. Vicki O’Donoghue and Mary Doyle Burke approach their local environments with curious hearts and open minds, creating work that meditates on thresholds where the physical world meets something deeper, older and sacred.

Their work invites us to perceive wider realities beyond what immediately appears. Curated by Shannon Carroll.

Creative Ireand

April saw a strong programme of events across Kilkenny that successfully animated the public realm, advancing placemaking and regeneration objectives while fostering community pride and ownership. During the month the Young Irish Filmmakers were awarded *Most Creative Entry* at the 2026 Kilkenny St. Patrick’s Day Parade, highlighting the strength of youth-led creative practice in the county. This achievement reflects over 30 years of sustained youth arts engagement in Kilkenny and demonstrates positive outcomes in creativity, participation and cultural visibility props and float led by artist Nicole Martin.



Gary Mc Hugh from YIFM, Mayor, Cathaoirleach, Festival representatives



Participant during the parade

Earth Day 2026 was marked through *Tairseach: Standing at the mouth of the world*, an exhibition and participatory programme at Tea Houses Art Gallery that advanced Creative Kilkenny priorities around sustainability, climate awareness and environmentally responsible arts practice. The accompanying biomaterials workshop supported climate action objectives by encouraging low impact creative processes, reuse of organic materials and deeper public engagement with ecological thinking, reinforcing the role of the arts in supporting behavioural change and sustainable futures.



Biomaterials Workshop with artist Mary Doyle Burke

As a direct outcome of engagement with the Living Artfully project, a targeted creative writing programme commenced delivered for men impacted by cancer, meeting participants in a familiar, supportive setting and responding directly to their lived experiences. Poet Clifton Redmond is currently lead an eight-week workshop series at Cois Nore Cancer Support Centre. The programme uses creativity, storytelling and peer connection to support mental health, wellbeing and recovery, demonstrating the role of arts practice in accessible, person-centred health and wellbeing interventions.

Rhyme Rag

Rhyme Rag Spring edition has now ended with editor Enda Coyle Green selecting 16 poems which will be published on the Rhyme Rag website and Instagram. Young people from Kieran's College, Colaiste Abhainn Rí, and Loreto Secondary took part in the series. So far 90 students have taken part in poetry workshops as part of the programme with a further two more groups to engage in the programme in the Autumn.



All Falls Down
by
Alan Kasprzyk

The day seems to be great. Then you
venture into the day without knowing,
what will come.

You drink, eat and all of the things that you
do, oblivious to the danger ahead.
You come closer to it.
You don't know what's happening.





You feel quite nervous, considering
the danger ahead. Still, your mind not
knowing, you keep walking. All of a
sudden,
you sense the danger—

the worry starts creeping in
then it all falls down



Art of Change

In April artists Mairead Holohan, Kasia Kaminska, Lisa Hodge and Lynn Haughton have been working with school groups with groups receiving 3- 4 workshops with an artist. Lisa and Lynn have been exploring fashion and textiles impact on the environment and developing skills that allow us to extend the life of our clothes by mending and upcycling textile. Kasia and Mairead's workshops explore sustainable approaches to painting and photography that minimise environmental impact, by experiencing how these processes the groups have a renewed appreciation for natural materials and resources, grounded in respect for the environment. The Art of Change Youth group are continuing to meet once a week and exploring the programmes theme Leaf Out with coordinator Thomas Duffy.

HERITAGE

Community Monuments Fund 2025

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, and Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan TD, have announced the 104 projects that will be awarded over €8 million in funding under the 2026 Community Monuments Fund. Just over €460,000 of this fund has been awarded to seven projects in County Kilkenny. These grants help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future.

The Community Monuments Fund supports a range of initiatives to conserve, maintain, protect and promote local monuments and historic sites. This investment safeguards monuments for the benefit of communities and the public. Please find below details of the Kilkenny projects awarded.

Site Name	Stream	Details	Outcome	Amount
KCC Sites				
St Coleman's Church, Churchclara	1	Phase 2 of Conservation Works	Awarded	130000
St Catherine's Church, Rathbeagh	1	Phase 2 of Conservation Works	Awarded	130000
Kellymount Medieval Graveyard, Paulstown	1	Conservation Works	Awarded	130000
Bessborough Mausoleum, Fiddown	2	Conservation Management Plan	Awarded	22561.29
Coolagh Graveyard	2	Conservation Management Plan	Awarded	20258.73
Clomantagh Church	3	Interpretation Signage	Awarded	7921.2
Tubbrid Graveyard	3	Interpretation Signage	Awarded	22189.2
			Total Award	462930.42

Public Commemoration Programme 2026

Kilkenny County Council received an allocation of €15,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Public Commemoration Programme. This programme follows on from the highly successful Decade of Centenaries Programme and funds locally significant anniversaries. The Public Commemorations Committee have allocated this funding towards three projects: A lecture series hosted by Kilkenny Library service to mark the recent release of the 1926 Census *Kilkenny, 1926; Rothe House Retrospective: Celebrating 60 Years*; and 200 Years in a Day – *The Story of the Iverk Show*.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Please Read the Instructions and Examples shown on the accompanying Memorandum A, and then fill in

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE OR CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	BIRTHPLACE	IRISH LANGUAGE	RELIGION	REMARKS
(1) Alice Ross	(2) Head	(3) 48	(4) F	(5) Single	(6) Co. Wick	(7) None	(8) Church of Ireland	(9) None
2								
3								
4								
5								

National Archives of Ireland

2027 Year of the Normans – Three Sisters Programme

Kilkenny County Council, Waterford City and County Council, and Wexford County Council have jointly been awarded just over €16,000 to develop a unified cross-county cultural programme for the 2027 Year of the Normans (2027YOTN). This initiative will focus on our shared waterways, the Barrow, the Nore and the Suir (the Three Sisters) – the primary navigation routes used by the Normans connecting the three counties. The programme will commemorate the region's shared Norman heritage through community-led programming that highlights the connections between our built, cultural and natural heritage.

Sharing Lands Project – Members of the Choctaw Nation visit Kilkenny

In March, the Heritage Office was delighted to facilitate a visit by representatives of the *Sharing Lands* project to Kilkenny. 199 years ago, in March 1847 at the height of the Irish Famine, members of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma collected money to send to the starving in Ireland. The *Sharing Lands* project commemorates the Choctaw Gift that connected people divided by an ocean. The delegation were welcomed to Kilkenny by Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh; visited Cartoon Saloon to hear about their upcoming film about the Choctaw Gift; and partook in a cultural exchange in the Castle Park where there were demonstrations of hurling and a Choctaw sport called Stickball. Kilkenny County Board donated a signed jersey, hurl and sliotar to the delegation for the Choctaw Museum in Oklahoma.



L-R: Ryan Spring, Reno Crims, Regina Fitzpatrick. L-R: Dr Shelley Saggar, Dr Pádraig Kirwin, Reno Crims, Cathaoirleach Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Prof Gillian O'Brien, Regina Fitzpatrick

FINANCE

The expenditure by service division to the end of March is set out in Table 1. Total Expenditure for the period was €27.4m compared with the annual budget of €129m.

Table 1	Actual YTD March 2026	Budget Full Year 2026
	€'000's	€'000's
Housing & Building	7,736	36,921
Road Transport & Safety	4,126	33,045
Water Services	1,111	5,928
Development Management	2,290	16,101
Environmental Services	3,721	19,972
Recreation & Amenity	1,555	10,229
Agriculture, Education, Health, Welfare	72	348
Miscellaneous Services	2,444	6,847
Central Management Charges for Allocation	4,351	
OVERALL TOTAL	27,406	129,391

Rates Invoices 2026

The annual rate invoices for 2026 totalling €25.8 million were issued to 2883 rate customers in February. This represented an increase of 4% in the 2025 figure. A waiver of 50% of the increase was granted to all customers with a bill of €3,000 or less. 1800 customers received this waiver. Commercial rates are payable in full from 1st January 2026.

A prompt payment discount of 8.3% (*capped at €300 per rate account*) is available for customers who pay bill in full before end of May 2026 or enter into a monthly payment plan before April 2026.

Finance Update

The bank overdraft facility was not utilised in the four month period up to the end of April 2026. The Local Government Auditor has commenced his audit of Annual Financial Statement 2025.