



**Comhairle Contae  
an Chabháin**  
Cavan  
County Council

# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2024

## Annual Report 2024



# 2024 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae  
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Cavan  
County Council

## ***Mission***

*A Council that leads and collaborates with all to drive  
and shape a better future for our County*

## ***Vision***

*A progressive, vibrant County which is smart,  
connected, innovative, inclusive and sustainable*



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## Cathaoirleach's Address

Mar Chathaoirleach Contae an Chabháin, tá an-bhród orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2024 na Comhairle a chur i láthair ina sonraítear gníomhaíochtaí na Comhairle i rith na bliana. Is foinse luachmhar tagartha agus eolais é an foilseachán seo maidir leis an réimse leathan seirbhísí a chuireann an Chomhairle ar fáil.



As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, I am very proud to present the Council's 2024 Annual Report which details the Council's activities during the year. This document is a valuable source of information regarding the wide range of services provided by the Council.

Working closely with the public, my fellow councillors, and council staff, I have gained a strong appreciation of the quality and sheer volume of services delivered by this local authority on a daily basis. Since being honoured by my colleagues with the role of Cathaoirleach, I have had the opportunity to attend many events at home and further afield, representing the people of Cavan, and in doing so I have gained an even greater insight into the work we do as a local authority, meeting people on a daily basis whose lives have been improved through the efforts of our dedicated staff.

Of course, I would never have had the opportunity to wear the chain of office without the faith shown in me by the electorate, and I would like to thank all those voted for me in the local elections last June. It was a bittersweet occasion, as we welcomed many familiar faces and some new ones into the Council Chamber, but lost some dedicated and well-loved public servants in the process.

I want to congratulate all those who put themselves forward for election – win or lose, your willingness to stand for public service is commendable. Equally, I want to thank all who exercised their right to vote. It's an oft-repeated maxim, but that right was hard-won, and in voting – no matter who we vote for – we honour the sacrifice of those who fought for our independence.

Elections aside, 2024 was a busy year for Cavan County Council with a great number of significant achievements. As a council, we deliver over 944 services to the public, and so I will not attempt to completely summarise the contents of this report – rather I will highlight some of the achievements which made a particular impression on me throughout the year.

A personal highlight was the historic return of the relics of Saint Kilian to Mullagh and Cross. As a native of Cross, the story of Kilian's faith, bravery, and unwavering principle was a source of inspiration growing up and I have been lucky enough to visit Würzburg to witness first-hand the reverence in which he is held. So, to see the way in which the local community in Mullagh and Cross came together, ably assisted by the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District team, was a truly special moment. It was also an opportunity to return the excellent hospitality we have received from our friends in Würzburg and



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Kürnach over the years.

One of the things that really came to the fore during COVID-19 pandemic was the selflessness and dedication of our Civil Defence volunteers. Cavan has one of the country's most active Civil Defence branches, and it was a pleasure to attend the official opening of their fabulous new County Headquarters in Pullamore in April by then-Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment Peter Burke TD.

It's a fabulous facility and fitting tribute to the skill and commitment of our volunteers, who I have no doubt will continue to do the county proud for many years to come.

Housing continues to be one of the most urgent issues facing us as a society, and in 2024, Cavan County Council continued to make great progress in expanding our social housing stock. In one of my first acts as Cathaoirleach, I had the privilege of turning the sod on the ambitious, €11 million Pairc na Teile project in Bailieborough, which when complete will deliver 45 high quality homes to the region.

I also made a number of visits to the impressive Brigid's Place development in Cavan Town, Phase One was substantially complete by the year's end and the first tenants will receive their keys in 2025. Phase two is already in planning, with this development an exemplar of urban regeneration, converting a derelict sites and underused space to build compact, high-quality homes in the town centre, simultaneously delivering high quality homes, and providing an economic boost to the town.

Cavan County Council has made excellent strides in recent years in securing significant funds for major capital projects. In November, we secured the second biggest allocation in the country under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Scheme, with €19 million awarded towards the delivery of the Cavan Regional Sports Campus.

Great credit goes to all of the staff involved in preparing the application, project partners The Royal School and Cavan GAA, and to my fellow councillors who have shown great vision in providing vital match funding for projects of this nature.

Great strides were made in 2024 towards the delivery of another major capital project with the commencement of enabling works to prepare the way for the transformative Abbeylands Regeneration project in Cavan's historic town centre.

I had the pleasure of turning the sod on what promises to be one of Ireland's premier tourist attractions – The Shannon Pot Discovery Centre – in July. Along with a spectacular new sky walk attraction at Cavan Burren Park, this attraction is estimated to attract over 600,000 visitors by 2036.

As councillors, we work closely with our colleagues in the Oireachtas to deliver for the people of the county. When Heather Humphreys made her decision not to stand for re-election in November's General Election, we lost one of our most hard-working and dedicated public representatives, who worked equally hard on behalf of the people of Cavan as she did for her home county of Monaghan. I and all at Cavan County Council wish her well in her well-deserved retirement from public life.

I have long held the work of our retained fire service in high regard, and my term as Cathaoirleach afforded me the opportunity to visit Castle Saunderson in October to offer my congratulations to the 18 new fire service recruits who had just completed their initial firefighting skills training at the fabulous facilities in the International Scouting Centre.



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The dedication of these men and women, who are always ready to put themselves in harm's way to protect those in their community, is truly inspiring and it was a pleasure to watch them hone their life saving skills in person.

Hot on the heels of the extraordinary success of the return of St Kilian's Relics, Cavan County Council celebrated the life of another notable figure in Cavan's history, the great Ulster General Eoghan Rua Ó Néil – marking 375 years since his demise at Cloughoughter in November 1649. This entertaining and informative programme organised by the fantastic team in Cavan County Library Service, gave a great insight into one of the most intriguing figures in Cavan's colourful history.

In October I had the privilege of attending what may well be one of the most significant events in the local authority's history – Cavan's inaugural Climate Action Week. Climate Change is the existential threat of our time, and as the local authority in the county, it is incumbent on Cavan County Council not only to reduce its own carbon emissions, but to act as a leader in promoting more sustainable practices. This Climate Action Week, organised by the Climate Action Team, helped to raise awareness about the Council's newly adopted Climate Action Plan, while inspiring meaningful action across the community, promoting community participation and social inclusion by showcasing local sustainability projects led by GAA communities, schools, and businesses, inspiring others to take action.

The programme engaged all sectors of society, reinforcing Cavan County Council's commitment to protecting the county's natural beauty and securing a sustainable future.

Initiatives such as this are absolutely crucial in terms of leaving a legacy of a healthy planet for future generations to enjoy, and I am proud to have been involved with this effort, and look forward to supporting the efforts of the Climate Action Team going forward.

Of course all of this represents just a flavour of the immense body of work contributed by Cavan County Council staff over the course of 2024. This work could not have been achieved without the collaboration of the local community, partner agencies, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, and state bodies.

I invite you to peruse the pages of the report to see the sheer scale, range, and quality of work that is being achieved on behalf of the people of Cavan. The work continues, and with the support of communities the length and breadth of the county, we will continue to work tirelessly to enhance quality of life for all in this most special county.

Le gach dea-ghuí

**Councillor TP O' Reilly**



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## Chief Executive's Address

A chairde,

Is cúis mhór áthais dom Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2024 Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin a chur i láthair, doiciméad cuimsitheach ina leagtar béim ar an dul chun cinn mór atá déanta ag an údarás áitiúil seo.



I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Cavan County Council for 2024. This detailed and comprehensive document catalogues the excellent progress made by this local authority last year in delivering services, supporting business, and building and maintaining vital infrastructure throughout the county.

It was a year of great change for the organisation, with the June local elections ushering in a new council for the current five-year term. As is ever the case with elections, we said goodbye to some stalwart public servants who, can look back with pride on their time in the chamber, content in the knowledge that they gave their all on behalf of their communities.

Equally, it is a pleasure to welcome new faces to the council, and those who have joined in the current term, have already shown that they possess the enthusiasm, commitment, and vision to make a positive impact during their political careers. I look forward to a continued fruitful relationship with all of our elected members during the coming years.

Staff-wise, we also welcomed a number of new employees to the organisation this year, reflecting the ever-growing remit of the local authority in delivering services on the ground locally. Whether through the newly established Local Authority Integration Team or the recently expanded retained fire service, these new colleagues are most welcome and will contribute significantly to our ability to deliver the more than 900 services your council provides on a daily basis.

As a local authority we take a strategic approach to planning our service delivery, but we must also deal with unexpected scenarios that arise such as serious weather events. 2024 saw a number of named storm events including Storms Isha, Jocelyn, Kathleen, Darragh, and Bert some of which caused significant damage to infrastructure in the county. As ever, we are indebted to our retained firefighters, municipal district crews, and civil defence volunteers, who spring into action during these challenging times, to restore a sense of normality in the wake of destructive weather events.

As these extreme weather episodes become more common, it is fitting that 2024 saw the adoption of Cavan County Council's Climate Action Plan. Climate Change is a generation-defining challenge and Cavan County Council is determined to lead the way locally, and in unanimously adopting the plan, the elected members showed their commitment to working alongside staff to achieve our Climate Action goals.



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The year also saw another milestone on that front, when we hosted our inaugural Climate Action Week, working with schools, the GAA, community, and business partners to showcase the benefits – both societal and economic – of undertaking climate action measures.

Our commitment to Climate Action extends to trying to encourage more environmentally-friendly behaviours among our own staff, particularly in the area of active travel and smarter travel, and I was delighted to join the Cathaoirleach and our staff in partaking in the ‘Ready, Set, Cycle’ and ‘Walktober’ initiatives.

In recognition of our efforts, Cavan County Council was in November awarded the bronze Smarter Travel Mark. The Smarter Travel Mark is a prestigious three-tier certification that recognises and celebrates organisations that support active and sustainable travel options, resulting in reduced carbon emissions and a more engaged workforce.

Housing is, alongside climate action, perhaps the greatest challenge facing us as a local authority. In 2024, Cavan County continued to make excellent progress on delivering on its ambitious housing targets under the Government’s ‘Housing for All’ programme, with 71 “new build” social housing units will be completed, while 15 schemes consisting of 180 new units were under construction at year’s end. Cavan County Council also completed the acquisition of 13 houses in 2024, while 61 vacant houses were returned to active housing stock during the year. A further 14 schemes, consisting of 236 units, are at various stages of planning and design. This multi-faceted approach, incorporating local authority builds, private acquisitions, and a robust voids restoration programme, is yielding excellent results, and Cavan County Council will continue to exhaust all possible avenues to continue to deliver high-quality social housing for Cavan.

Elsewhere, the council is pursuing a very ambitious capital programme, with major tourism, community, and transportation infrastructure projects at various stages of planning, design and construction across the county at year’s end.

The N55 Corduff South of Killydoon Realignment Scheme, Section B, which was substantially complete at the end of 2024, is a hugely significant development for the county, a 3.7km roads project which will reduce direct transport costs, decrease accident numbers and the proportion of fatal and serious injuries, and minimize environmental impact on a route traversed by in excess of 5,000 vehicles per day.

Town regeneration schemes, which represent a combined investment of €47 million, are underway in Cootehill, Kingscourt, Ballyjamesduff, and Abbeylands in Cavan Town. These are large-scale, transformative projects that will breathe new life into our town centres.

Great effort went into compiling compelling applications for the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) and its urban equivalent, the URDF, and we are now seeing the fruits of those labours. Great credit must also go to the elected councillors, who have made difficult choices to ensure that the match funding is available to allow us to pursue such ambitious projects.

Other landmark projects currently planned include the Cavan Regional Sports Campus, towards which Cavan County Council secured €19 million under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Scheme in



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November 2024, the currently-under-construction Shannon Pot Discovery Centre, and the N3 Virginia Bypass, which at year's end was progressing through Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines, with a formal planning application expected to be made to An Bord Pleanála by Q1 2026, subject to approvals and ongoing funding.

Further significant investment in the county was secured with the announcement by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) of €4.3 million in funding under the PEACEPLUS programme, enabling the delivery of 28 projects across Cavan on themes of community regeneration and transformation, thriving and peaceful communities, and celebrating cultural diversity.

A significant moment in documenting the cultural diversity of County Cavan took place in December, when we officially opened the Bailieborough Bridewell museum and visitor centre. This brand-new tourism facility completes a €2.5 million investment in the Bailieborough Courthouse Economic and Tourism Hub and involved a groundbreaking partnership between Cavan County Council, Bailieborough Development Association, and the Ulster Scots Association.

The historic Courthouse and Bridewell have now been redeveloped as an economic, community and cultural hub that includes a Plantation Museum, cultural and exhibition space – the first of its kind on the island of Ireland.

The facility was officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys in one of her last official acts following her retirement from public life. I want to publicly thank her for her great service to the people of Cavan and Monaghan and wish her a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Much of Cavan County Council's success in attracting funds for large scale projects in recent years can be attributed to strong strategic planning. Having robust, detailed plans in place to chart our work in the medium term has yielded great results for us. In that regard, 2024 was an important year, with an extensive research campaign and public consultation undertaken for the development of a new corporate plan, which was ready for presentation to the councillors for approval in early 2025.

On the community front, another major document, the new Local Economic and Community Plan, an integrated plan that will guide the county's economic and community development over the next six years, was approved by councillors in March 2024.

As I'm sure this short summary has made clear, a great deal has been achieved in 2024. I invite you to read the remainder of this report to get a sense of the scale of work completed.

I am proud of our staff, and grateful for their effort as I am for the support of our elected members and indeed communities the length and breadth of Cavan.

With such a strong and committed coalition of public servants, democratic representatives, and engaged and energetic communities, buoyed by a robust strategic foundation, I am confident that we can continue to build on our successes to date in the years to come.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

**Eoin Doyle,**

**Chief Executive, Cavan County Council**



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## Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives Jan – June 2024

### Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District

- Carmel Brady, Fine Gael
- Aiden Fitzpatrick, Fianna Fáil
- Clifford Kelly, Fianna Fáil
- Paddy McDonald, Sinn Féin
- Sarah O'Reilly, Aontú
- Val Smith, Fine Gael

### Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District

- Madeleine Argue, Fine Gael
- Brendan Fay, Non Party
- John Paul Feeley, Fianna Fáil
- Peter McVitty, Fine Gael
- Áine Smith, Fianna Fáil
- Patricia Walsh, Fianna Fáil

### Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

- Winston Bennett, Fine Gael
- Philip Brady, Fianna Fáil
- Craig Lovett, Fianna Fáil
- Shane P O'Reilly, Independent
- T.P. O'Reilly, Fine Gael
- Trevor Smith, Fine Gael

## Outgoing Councillors – June 2024

				
Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick Fianna Fáil	Cllr Paddy McDonald Sinn Féin	Cllr Madeleine Argue Fine Gael	Cllr Peter McVitty Fine Gael	Cllr Craig Lovett Fianna Fáil



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## Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives June – Dec 2024

### Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District

 <p>Cllr Carmel Brady Fine Gael</p>	 <p>Cllr Clifford Kelly Fianna Fáil</p>	 <p>Cllr Niall Smith Fianna Fáil</p>
 <p>Cllr Sarah O'Reilly Aontú</p>	 <p>Cllr Stiofán Conaty Sinn Féin</p>	 <p>Cllr Val Smith Fine Gael</p>

### Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District

 <p>Cllr Áine Smith Fianna Fáil</p>	 <p>Cllr Brendan Fay Non Party</p>	 <p>Cllr Damien Brady Sinn Féin</p>
 <p>Cllr John Paul Feeley Fianna Fáil</p>	 <p>Cllr Niamh Brady Fine Gael</p>	 <p>Cllr Patricia Walsh Fianna Fáil</p>



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## Ballyjamesduff Municipal District

 Cllr Noel Connell Sinn Féin	 Cllr Philip Brady Fianna Fáil	 Cllr Shane P O'Reilly Independent Ireland
 Cllr T.P O'Reilly Fine Gael	 Cllr Trevor Smith Fine Gael	 Cllr Winston Bennett Fine Gael

## Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number of meetings held in 2024
Monthly, Reconvened and Special Meetings of the Plenary Council	11
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	8
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	7
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	9
Annual General Meeting	1
Annual Budget Meeting	1
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	11
Housing, Community, Social Inclusion and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee	1
Economic, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	2
Transportation, Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee	1
Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee	1
Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee	1
Joint Policing Committee	1
Audit Committee	4



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### Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Number Attended
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Irish Health System	1
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	The Irish Housing Crisis – A Sustainable Option	3
Kennedy Summer School	New Ross, Co. Wexford	Summer School	3
Patrick MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal	Summer School	4

### Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number attended
Module 1 Annual Declarations, Donations, Code of Conduct and LRA update	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Fairways Hotel, Dundalk / Greenhills Conference Hotel, Limerick	11
Module 2 Local Election 2024 Preparation – A Briefing from the Electoral Commission	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone / Radisson Hotel, Cork	7
Module 3 General Induction Training	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Mullingar Park Hotel	9
Module 4 An Overview of the Planning System	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Horse and Jockey Hotel, Tipperary / Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore	12
Module 5 Local Authority Finance and Budget Process	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Sligo Park Hotel	10
Module 6 A Guide to the Home Upgrade Grants	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Claregalway Hotel	7
Annual Conference	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow	14



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Autumn Seminar	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	13
Southern Regional Assembly	Association of Irish Regions in Focus Training	Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co Limerick	10
Spring Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Abbey Hotel, Donegal town	12
Autumn Training Seminar	Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Newgrange Hotel, Navan	12

### Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on

Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly, Patricia Walsh, Brendan Fay, Sarah O'Reilly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady, Áine Smith (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Brendan Fay, Áine Smith, Clifford Kelly, Trevor Smith (replaced by W. Bennett 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024), Carmel Brady, Niamh Brady, Damien Brady
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Aiden Fitzpatrick, Trevor Smith (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) John Paul Feeley, Áine Smith, Winston Bennett (replaced by Trevor Smith 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)
Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board	Brendan Fay, Paddy McDonald, Craig Lovett, Patricia Walsh, Madeleine Argue
Northern & Western Regional Assembly	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Áine Smith, Clifford Kelly (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Áine Smith, Shane P. O'Reilly
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Patricia Walsh, Craig Lovett, Winston Bennett (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Patricia Walsh, Sarah O'Reilly, Winston Bennett
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Paddy McDonald (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Sarah O'Reilly
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) John Paul Feeley, Shane P O'Reilly, Peter McVitty (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Philip Brady, Winston Bennett, Carmel Brady



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Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly
Cavan Local Community Development Committee	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly, Aiden Fitzpatrick, T.P. O'Reilly (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly, T.P. O'Reilly, Val Smith
County Cavan Joint Policing Committee	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Sarah O'Reilly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Clifford Kelly, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald, Patricia Walsh, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Philip Brady, Craig Lovett, Brendan Fay, Trevor Smith, T.P. O'Reilly (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Brendan Fay, Shane P. O'Reilly, John Paul Feeley, Philip Brady, Clifford Kelly, Patricia Walsh, Niall Smith, T.P. O'Reilly, Trevor Smith, Niamh Smith, Noel Connell, Carmel Brady, Stiofán Conaty
North East Regional Drugs Task Force	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Aiden Fitzpatrick, Carmel Brady (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Carmel Brady, Noel Connell
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) John Paul Feeley, Patricia Walsh, Trevor Smith, Madeleine Argue (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) John Paul Feeley, Shane P. O'Reilly, Damien Brady, Trevor Smith
Age Friendly Alliance	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Brendan Fay, Carmel Brady (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Niall Smith, Carmel Brady
Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) John Paul Feeley, Winston Bennett, Áine Smith (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Philip Brady, Winston Bennett, T.P. O'Reilly, Damien Brady
County Cavan Heritage Forum	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Brendan Fay, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Shane P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly (from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Áine Smith, Clifford Kelly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Brendan Fay, Stiofán Conaty, Trevor Smith
HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group	(up to 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Sarah O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly
Cavan PEACE Partnership	(from 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024) Clifford Kelly, Patricia Walsh, Niall Smith, Val Smith, Trevor Smith



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### Payments to Members of Cavan County Council in 2024

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€47,541.05
Representational Payments (Salary)	€534,852.00
Local Representation Allowance	€45,376.35
Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€41,574.54
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€28,980.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars	€5,997.45
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€36,926.63
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€6,262.87

### Strategic Policy Committees

<b>Economic Development, Enterprise &amp; Planning</b>	<b>Climate, Biodiversity Action &amp; Environment</b>
<p>Cllr John Paul Feeley <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Peter McVitty  Cllr Sarah O'Reilly  Cllr Winston Bennett  Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick  Cllr Carmel Brady  Thomas Rogers (Agriculture &amp; Farming)  Jim McGaughran (Development &amp; Construction)  Tom Brady (Business &amp; Commercial)  Stanley Nwaneri (Community &amp; Voluntary)</p>	<p>Cllr Philip Brady <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Madeleine Argue  Cllr Winston Bennett  Cllr T.P. O'Reilly  Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly  Cllr Craig Lovett  Fintan McCabe (Environment /Conservation)  Barry Wilson (Community/ Voluntary)  Joe Brady (Agriculture)</p>
<b>Housing, Social Inclusion and Corporate Affairs</b>	<b>Transportation, Infrastructure and Emergency Services</b>
<p>Cllr Val Smith <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Paddy McDonald  Cllr Clifford Kelly  Cllr Patricia Walsh  Cllr Trevor Smith  Cllr Madeleine Argue  Leanne Coyle (Community/Voluntary)  Thomas Maughan (Social Inclusion)  Paul Elliott (Development &amp; Construction)  Theresa Thompson (Trade Unions)</p>	<p>Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick <b>Chair</b>  Cllr Peter McVitty  Cllr Sarah O'Reilly  Cllr Trevor Smith  Cllr T.P. O' Reilly  Cllr Brendan Fay  Padraig J Young (Agriculture &amp; Farming)  Eamon Mulcahy (Community/ Voluntary)</p>



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## Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport

Cllr Clifford Kelly **Chair**  
Cllr Philip Brady  
Cllr Paddy McDonald  
Cllr Craig Lovett  
Cllr Val Smith  
Cllr Shane P O'Reilly  
Michelle Duffy Rudden (Business & Commercial)  
Evija Nwaneri (Environment / Conservation)  
Grainne McPhillips (Social Inclusion)  
Mary B Duffy (Community / Voluntary)

### Political Donations

The Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 (as amended) requires that Elected Members of Local Authorities furnish donation statements to their Local Authority by 31st January each year giving details of donations received by them in the preceding twelve-month period. No single political donations exceeding €600 in value were declared by the elected members for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024 as per donations statements submitted by each elected member by the 31st of January 2025.

### The Corporate Plan 2019 -2024

The Corporate plan was adopted in February 2020 and outlines the Local Authority's strategic framework for activity during the lifetime of the Council. (It is adopted in accordance with section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 49 of the Local Government Act 2014).

An extensive research and public consultation was undertaken for the development of a new corporate plan which was ready for presentation to the councillors for approval in early 2025.

### Our Values

The focus of Cavan County Council is to deliver a quality service to the citizens of Cavan in an efficient, accountable and transparent way. The following core values will inform and underpin our decisions:

<b>Local Democracy:</b>	Promote and support greater community involvement while recognising and respecting the democratic mandate of the elected members and their role in providing representation and civic leadership in the county
<b>Quality Customer Service</b>	Commit to delivering a high-quality service which meets the changing needs of our customers
<b>Integrity</b>	Maintain proper standards of integrity in the performance of our duties
<b>Progressive</b>	Strive continuously for improvements in all that we do to promote an innovative and forward-thinking organisation
<b>Sustainability</b>	Deliver our services in accordance with the principles of sustainability, respecting our natural resources and safeguarding the environment for future generations.
<b>Equality</b>	Commit to improving equality of opportunity for everyone and to promoting a culture of wellbeing, inclusion and respect for all.

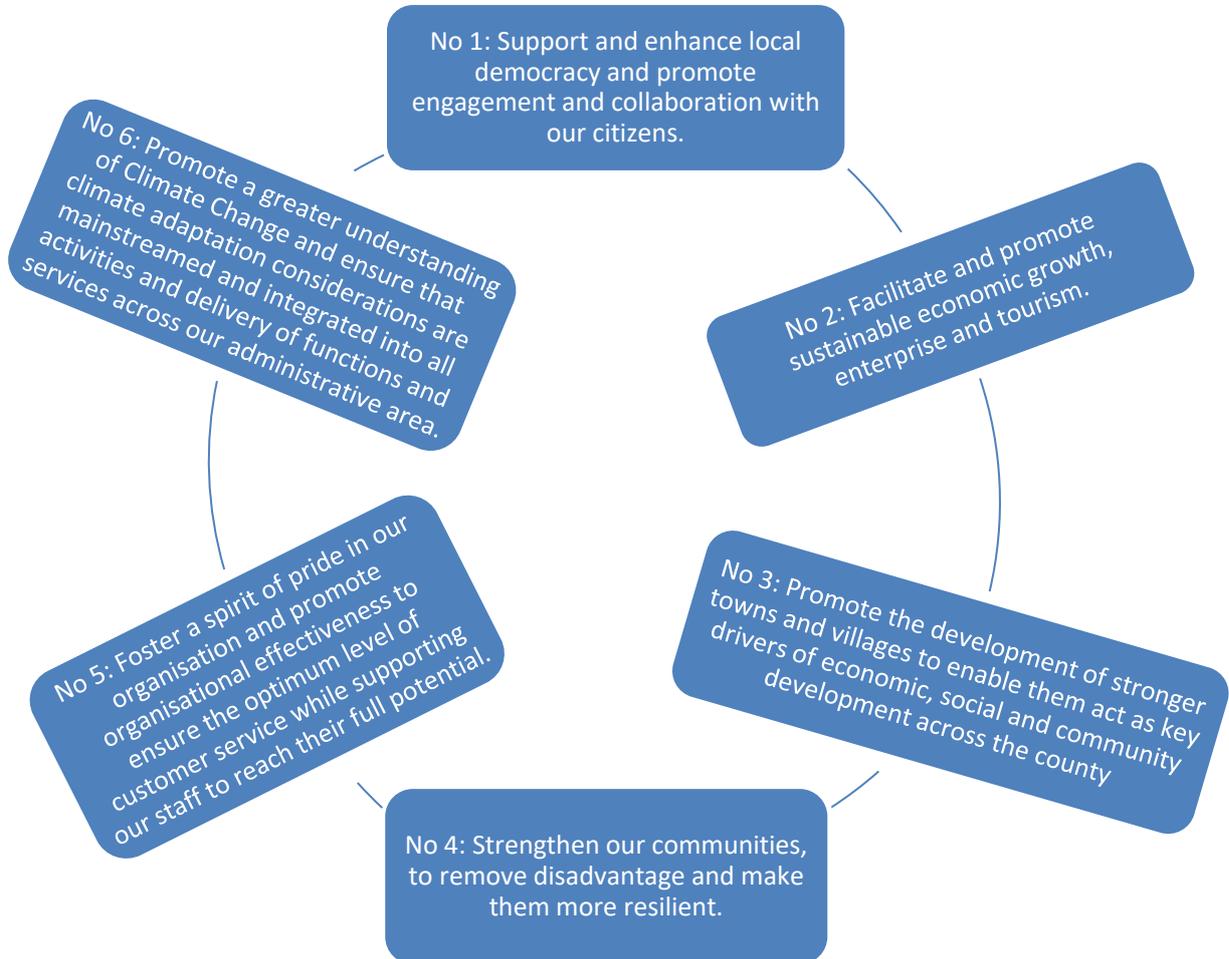


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The Strategic Objectives identified in the Corporate Plan are as follows:



In accordance with section 134 (9) (a) of the local Government Act 2001 Cavan County Council is required to prepare an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. This annual review was carried out and presented as part of the budget report submitted to the members at the time of the statutory budget meeting. The annual progress report included reports by the various departments and is supplemented by the Annual Service Delivery plan and the chief executives' monthly reports. The report highlighted progress made during 2024 and also sets out progress made in relation to commitments set down by the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2019-2024.



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## Management Team



Paddy Connaughton  
Director of Services



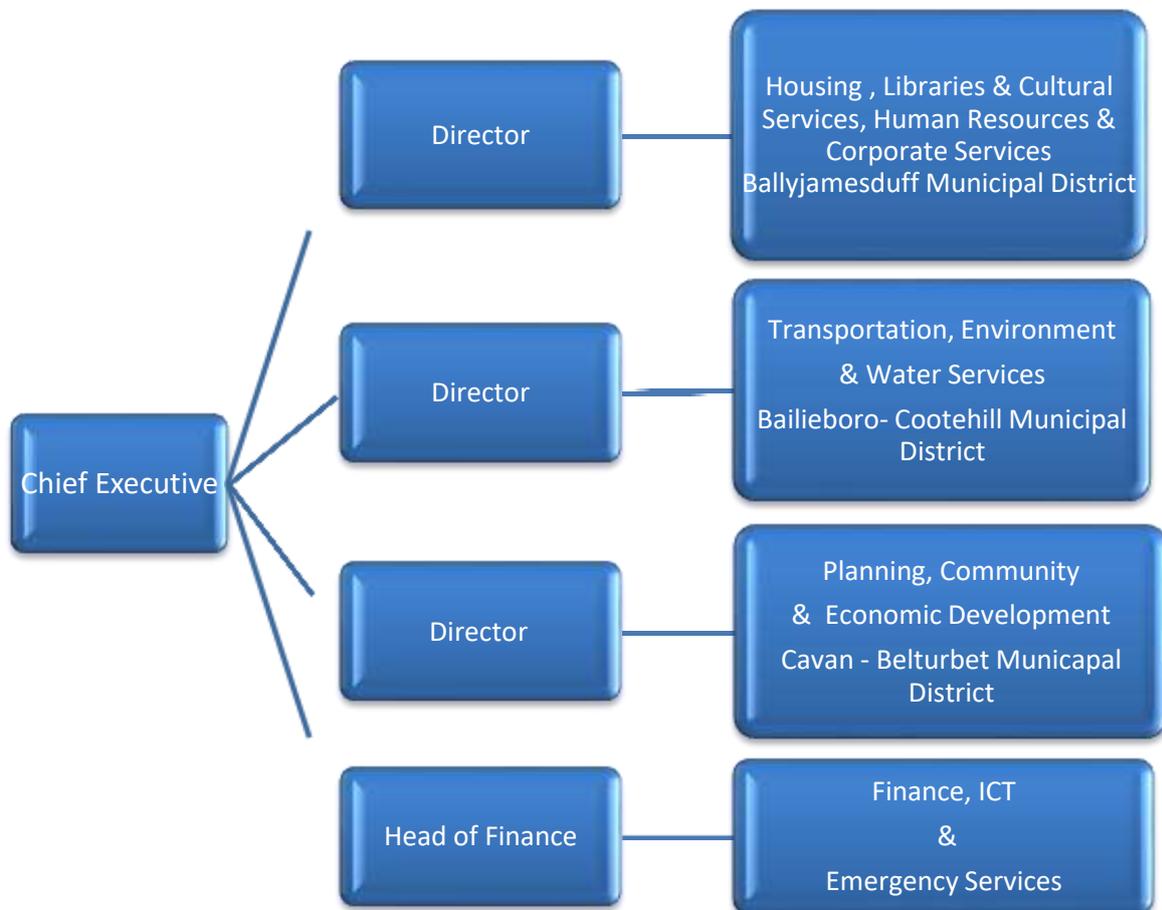
Brendan Jennings  
Director of Services



Margaret McNally  
A/Head of Finance



Lynda McGavigan  
Director of Services





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## Housing, Libraries & Cultural Services, Human Resources & Corporate Services

### Human Resources and Corporate Affairs

#### Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is responsible for the delivery of all aspects of the human resources function which includes the recruitment, selection, and organisation of staff, training and development, staff welfare, industrial relations, performance management and development, workplace partnership, equality and diversity and superannuation.

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 484 staff and 111 retained firefighters were employed by the Council.

#### Recruitment

During 2024 the Human Resources Department finalised competitions advertised at the end of 2023 and also organised a further 32 separate competitions for various posts within the Council. The 2024 competitions attracted 1,837 applicants and a significant number of employees have been appointed as a result of these competitions, including new employees joining the organisation and, in many cases, existing employees attaining promotion.

The Council was also among only four local authorities in Ireland to participate in the WAM programme, a graduate programme for people with disabilities. Three staff were employed on this programme in 2024.

#### Gender Pay Gap Report

In December 2023, the Council published its Gender Pay Gap Report, the third such report to be commissioned by this local authority. The Gender Pay Gap calculates the percentage difference between the average earnings of males and females irrespective of their role. The Gender Pay Gap is not the same as equal pay. Employment Equality legislation provides for equal pay for like work. All male and female employees in the local government sector are paid equally for work that is the same or similar or for work of equal value, therefore this report does not examine equal pay. Rates of pay within the sector are agreed through national wage agreements negotiated regularly between employers and staff representatives. Most employees are paid according to an incremental salary scale.

Organisations are asked to select a 'snapshot' date in the month of June. The reporting period is the 12-month period immediately preceding and including the snapshot date, which for local authorities, the snapshot date is 30 June 2024. Organisations have six months to prepare their calculations, before reporting six months later during December 2024.

By way of comparison, in terms of gender balance on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 62% of all Cavan County Council's employees were male and 38% were female, and this remained the same in 2024. The Mean Gender Pay Gap shows that on average, in 2023 females are paid 0.94% less than males whereas in 2024 females were paid 3.26% less than males. The Median Gender Pay Gap shows that



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the median rate of pay in 2023 for females is 14.23% higher than the median rate of pay for males and in 2023 this decreased to being 10.07% higher for females than the median rate of pay for males. More detailed information in relation to part-time employees, pay band quartiles etc. is outlined in the Gender Pay Gap Report which is available on the Council's website or on request from the Human Resources Section.

### **Staff Welfare**

#### Work/Life Balance Options

We are conscious of the need for staff to balance their working and domestic lives. Employees have access to a wide range of schemes that aspire to assist employees achieve a proper work life balance. Schemes include parental leave, force majeure leave, work sharing, shorter working year and career breaks.

#### Blended Working

In accordance with national guidelines for the public sector, blended working arrangements were also introduced in 2022. Blended working is a combination of office based/on-site and remote working which can be undertaken at home, in a hub or alternative office-based location.

Blended working, where consistent with the organisational needs of the local authority and where a role is deemed suitable, enables a local authority (subject to certain criteria) to offer a choice to an employee of the location where their role will be undertaken. Whilst this does not change the nature of the role or the substantive duties to be carried out by the employee, it will require all employees to be more flexible in the undertaking of their duties both in the remote and office-based environment. It was a matter for each Council to develop its own Blended Working Policy, consistent with the sectoral national framework. The policy has considered the functional and operational needs of the Council, having due regard to national and sectoral policy to ensure consistency. This consistency reflects in the application of blended working to grades, roles, and functions across the sector and takes into account the individual service delivery models/process of each local authority.

Employees have the right to request the option of blended working within the policy of the Council. However, reflecting the nature of local government services, a significant proportion of the Council's services must be delivered within a specific workplace on a full-time basis and therefore, would not be suitable for blended working.

Employees availing of blended working will be required to attend the Council's work premises for a minimum of 3 days per week and can therefore work remotely for a maximum of 2 days per week. The move to blended working does not, of itself, change existing hours of attendance.

The application process opened in June 2022 and blended working arrangements were implemented from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. To date, 131 employees are currently availing of blended working arrangements.



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## Wellness Programme

The Council continues a Wellness Programme for staff which not only promotes the Council's employee assistance programme but also encouraged employees to participate in Council organised free talks and workshops on issues such as mindfulness, men's and women's health promotion, physical activities, parenting advice etc. throughout 2024.

## **Learning & Development**

A comprehensive Learning & Development Programme was delivered in 2024 to enable staff carry out their role in a confident, competent manner and contribute effectively to the overall vision of the organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives. Staff training was delivered via 35 online courses and 209 in-person courses, with specific emphasis on health & safety and mandatory organisational training needs. Cumulatively, training was provided to 1,168 indoor staff and 478 outdoor staff. Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes.

## **Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)**

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) is the mechanism used to support and improve performance at individual, team and organisational levels and is a means of engaging, supporting and developing individual staff members. The competency framework, now embedded in the organisation for both Senior and Middle Managers, is an integral part of our PMDS process. Performance Management and Development System in Cavan County Council is driven by the Senior Management Team.

## **Corporate Affairs**

### **Freedom of Information (FOI)**

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on 21 April 1998. The current Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation was enacted and applied to local authorities in October 2014. The 2014 FOI Act provides that every person has the following legal rights to:

- access official records held by Government Departments or other public bodies as defined by the Act.
- have personal information held on them corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
- be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect them.

### **Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics 2024:**

Cases brought forward from 2023:	2
Number of applications received:	63
Number of applications granted:	39



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Number of applications part granted:	5
Number of applications refused:	16
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	3
Ongoing requests:	2

## Data Protection

Data protection is a fundamental right set out in Article 8 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

This means that every individual is entitled to have their personal information protected, used in a fair and legal way, and made available to them when they ask for a copy.

If an individual feels that their personal information is wrong, they are entitled to ask for that information to be corrected. Under data protection legislation the following rights have been conferred on members of the public:

- the right to be informed;
- the right of access;
- the right to rectification;
- the right to erasure;
- the right to restrict processing;
- the right to data portability;
- the right to object;
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

As a Data Controller Cavan County Council is legally obliged under legislation to comply with the following data principles :

- Process it lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner.
- Collect it only for one or more specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and do not otherwise use it in a way that is incompatible with those purposes;
- Ensure it is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose it is processed;
- Keep it accurate and up-to-date and erase or rectify any inaccurate data without delay;
- Where it is kept in a way that allows you to identify who the data is about, retain it for no longer than is necessary;
- Keep it secure by using appropriate technical and/or organisational security measures;
- Be able to demonstrate your compliance with the above principles; and
- Respond to requests by individuals seeking to exercise their data protection rights (for example the right of access).

**Data Protection Statistics 2024:** Subject Access Requests: 2



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### Promotion of the Irish Language

Cavan County Council continued to fulfil the requirements of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021. A member of Senior Management was appointed to oversee matters in relation to the obligations in the Official Languages Act and all staff were regularly updated regarding these. The Council also placed Irish language adverts in newspapers and magazines in accordance with Section 10a of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 regarding advertising, as well as continuing to meet other requirements of the Act.

The Council also promoted the use of the Irish language through the following events and scholarships:

- Library Services ran a comprehensive programme for all ages for Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Workshops for Leaving Certificate students preparing for their Oral Irish exams with an experienced Irish language teacher in various library branches
- Storytime as Gaeilge for local schools
- Family Bingo as Gaeilge
- Presentation on Placenames
- Special Film Screening for Residents from local Nursing Home
- Ongoing library investment in Irish language material, including printed publications and digital offerings
- Engaging displays of Irish language stock in libraries
- Demonstrations of online Irish language resources
- Expanded Gaeltacht Scholarship programme for young people and adults, supported by Cavan County Council, Ghlór Bhréifne, and Coláiste Sheosaimh and Oideas Gael
- Irish language and culture programming across the year including Bealtaine, Heritage Week, Children's Book Festival etc.

### Council Meetings and Elected Members

Corporate Affairs has responsibility for the administration of plenary Council meetings and provides support to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members in carrying out their functions and duties.

### Register of Electors

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was signed into law on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022. This Act is a fundamental strengthening of our electoral system and processes, and it will make them more streamlined, effective, inclusive and resilient into the future. Under the new Electoral Reform Act 2022, the processes of producing a draft, final and supplement registers have been replaced by a single live and continuously updated register. This means that the same process is in place all year around and electoral records can be updated at any time up to fifteen days before an electoral event. The most significant change to the electoral register process lies in the move from fixed statutorily imposed deadlines for updating electoral register to continuous or rolling registration which can now be done online or through a form. From the age of sixteen years, one can apply to be added to the Pending



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Electors List and the registration system will record the elector as pending until they reach the eligible voting age of eighteen years. Once they reach eighteen the registration system will automatically update their status to active.

2024 was a very busy year for staff working on the register of electors. On 8<sup>th</sup> March the Government of Ireland held two referendums on proposed amendments to the Constitution of Ireland' The Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 proposed to expand the constitutional definition of family to include durable relationships outside marriage. The Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023 proposed to replace a reference to women's "life within the home" and a constitutional obligation to "endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home" with a gender-neutral article on supporting care within the family.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Local Elections were held and on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 a General Election took place.

## HOUSING

### Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme

Funding for the construction of new social housing schemes, the acquisition of houses for use as council owned social housing, and other capital grant aid comes from the Social Housing Investment Programme. The 2024 Capital Funding Allocations received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage were as follows:

• New Build Programme	€ 21,915,395
• Acquisition Programme	€ 3,796,459
• Part V Purchases	€ 1,173,553
• Energy Retrofit	€ 1,261,463
• Voids Programme	€ 460,874
• Housing Adaptation Grants to Council Houses	€ 263,504
• <u>Traveller Accommodation Programme</u>	<u>€ 237,803</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 29,109,052</b>

**By the end of 2024, 71 “new build” social housing units will be completed under the Council’s “Housing for All” Programme:**

- 23 Units at Lisaturrin, Kingscourt.
- 19 Units at Main Street, Mullagh.
- 13 Units at Elm Park, Cavan.
- 8 Units at Woodlands, Ballyjamesduff.
- 3 Units at Fairymount Close, Kingscourt.
- 3 Units at Taoibh Coille, Yew Park, Virginia.
- 2 Units at Clankee Drive, Shercock.



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20 Units at St. Brigid's Terrace, Cavan – currently under construction

**In addition, 15 schemes for 180 new units are currently under construction.**

- 24 Units at Woodlands, Ballyjamesduff
- 3 Units at The Duckin Stool, Belturbet:
- 20 Units at St Brigid's Terrace, Cavan:
- 10 Units at Lisaturrin, Kingscourt;
- 6 Units at Cavan Road, Errigal, Cootehill;
- 3 Units at Taoibh Coille, Yew Park, Virginia;
- 2 Units at Creighan Manor, Cavan;
- 45 Units at Páirc na Teile, Bailieborough:
- 9 Units at Ashgrove Court, Ballyjamesduff:
- 8 Units at Portaliffe, Killeshandra:
- 7 units at Páirceanna an Bhaile, Ballyhaise:
- 13 Units in Kilnaleck: on 2 separate sites in the village:
- 11 Units at Pairc na Cairéal, Cootehill;
- 6 Units at Cnoc na Rí, Kingscourt;
- 13 Units at Chapel Lane, Town Centre, Cootehill.



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Sod Turning for the construction of 45 Units in Baillieborough



Contract signing for the construction of 17 Units in Killeshandra and Ballyjamesduff



Contract signing for the construction of 33 Units in Kingscourt



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Contract Signing for the construction of 7 units at Ballyhaise

### **Finally, 14 schemes for 236 units are at various stages of planning and design;**

- 9 Units at Widows Row, Belturbet:
- 4 units at Drumbarlow Road, Kilconny, Belturbet, (Flynn's Pub);
- 64 Units at Swellan Lower, Cavan:
- 7 Units at Kilnavara Lane, Cavan Town:
- 3 Units at Aughnaskerry, Cavan Town:
- 32 Units at Railway Road, Swellan Upper, Cavan Town:
- 12 Units at Derrylurgan Court, Ballyjamesduff:
- 3 Units at Dunaree, Kingscourt:
- 44 Units at Lios na Rí, Munnilly, Cootehill:
- 20 Units at St Brigid's Terrace, Cavan – Phase 3:
- 18 Units at Crossdoney Road, Ballinagh:
- 7 Units at "The Palais", Belturbet;
- 10 Units at Coolkill, Kilnaleck;
- 3 Units at Kilnavara Heights, Cava

### **House Acquisitions**

The Council completed the acquisition of 13 No. houses in 2024.

### **Management, Maintenance and Refurbishment of Housing Stock.**

Housing Construction Section is responsible for the maintenance of the Council's stock of 2179 housing units. A sum of €1,500,000 was allocated in the Council Budget 2024 for response maintenance to council houses.

The budget allocation is used for day-to-day repairs such as:

- Heating Issues.



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- Plumbing Issues.
- Electrical Issues.
- Roof Repairs.
- Window repairs - fair wear and tear only – (tenant responsible for broken windows).
- Door repairs – fair wear and tear only.
- Stove repairs.
- Repairs to demountable dwellings.

## Programme of Works to Vacant Housing Units

A funding allocation of €462,000 was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the completion of improvement works on 42 vacant houses. This allows for funding up to an average value of €11,000 per property per claim.

With the addition of this funding and own resources funding, the refurbishment of 61 vacant houses was completed in 2024.



**Vacant House Before**



**After**

## Croí Conáithe (Towns) Fund - Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grant

This scheme was launched in July 2022, it was expanded in November 2022 and again in May 2023.

The following expansion of the scheme came into effect on 01 May 2023:

- 1) The inclusion of one property which will be made available for rent, by the owner, in addition to one grant for a property which will be the principal private residence of the owner i.e. a maximum of two grants will be available to an individual, with only one grant available for a property to be rented;
- 2) Changing the property eligibility date, which is currently pre-1993 for the build date, to include vacant and derelict properties built up to and including 2007; and
- 3) Increasing the current maximum grant rates from €30,000 to €50,000 for vacant properties and from €50,000 to €70,000 for derelict properties.



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Vacant Properties Refurbishment Grants from 01 July 2022 to 31 December 2024:

• Total number of Applications received to date	404
• Number of Applications to provide further information	48
• Number of Applications approved in principle to date	285
• Works completed and Applicants Paid	39

### **Adaptation Works for Disabled Persons & Improvement Works in Lieu Scheme**

Funding of €366,590 was received from the Department of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with 10% co-funding of €40,732 from the Council allowed for the completion of adaptation works to 24 council houses for tenants with a disability.

### **Energy Retrofit Programme**

Launched in 2021, this revised programme sees a significant upscaling from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit'. In March 2024, the Council received an updated allocation of €1,394,000.

Work was completed on 41 houses across the 3 municipal districts.

- 9 houses in Killymooney Drive, Cavan,
- 4 houses in Kilconny, Belturbet,
- 6 houses in Drumnaveil, Cootehill,
- 10 houses in Forest Park, Virginia and
- 12 other houses in Bailieborough, Virginia, Cavan, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Belturbet and Swanlinbar

### **Inspection of Private Rented Accommodation:**

Housing Section carries out inspections on private rented accommodation to assess compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

331 private rented dwellings were the subject of at least one inspection for compliance with the Regulations during 2024, with a total of 405 inspections carried out.



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## **Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment 2023**

The annual Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment was carried out on 4 November 2024. A total of 1194 households qualified for social housing support. 555 of these were already in receipt of support and were seeking a transfer from existing council or HAP tenancies leaving the total nett need for social housing support in the county at 639. 481 social housing applicants completed a housing assessment interview.

## **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

HAP plays a vital role in the delivery of affordable housing to the residents in the County. It is a form of social housing support whereby the Council provides financial assistance to people who are qualified renting in the private rented sector. There was a total of 481 active tenancies on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. A HAP Place Finder Service commenced in September 2023. The service provides guidance and financial support to those households who find themselves in homelessness or with impending homelessness.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

The RAS Scheme continued to operate in a very challenging environment. Many landlords sought to terminate the tenancies as they wished to sell their properties and given the limited availability of alternative properties resources concentrate on the provision of alternative solutions for these tenants. Despite this the total active tenancies at year end were 446 (incl. Approved Housing Body).

## **Leasing of Property**

A total of 271 active lease agreements are in place with both private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies under the social housing leasing scheme. All of these are rented by the Council to qualified applicants on its waiting list.

## **Mortgage to Rent Scheme**

On 31 December 2024, 48 homeowners were successfully housed in the scheme. Activity in this area continues to increase which is beneficial for homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and becoming homeless.

## **Loans and Tenant Purchase**

The Council continued to offer loans to first time buyers under the Housing for All Local Authority Home Loan Scheme. In 2024, 6 loans were paid out totalling €882,870.

14 tenant households purchased their houses under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme in 2024.

## **Differential Rent Scheme 2023**

The Differential Rent Scheme 2023 came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023. A rent review was carried out



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in late 2023/early 2024. All rents were reviewed in accordance with the Scheme and new rent rates were applied from 2 March 2024. The rent review generated an additional 900k in rental income for Cavan County Council. A total of €6.8m income was included in the 2024 budget under this heading.

## **National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027**

The National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was launched in January 2022. Developed under the guiding principles of Housing for All, the government's National Plan for Housing to 2030, the strategy seeks to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live. Working together with the relevant Agencies the Council seeks to meet the objectives and the targets set out in the Local Strategic Plan for Housing People with Disabilities 2022-2027. A review of this Plan took place in 2024 to ensure it meets the requirements of the National Implementation Plan which was recently launched by the Minister. A Mental Health Housing Action Team and Disability Housing Action Team has been established to arrange for both the accommodation needs and the support packages to enable disabled people to live independently if the so wish.

## **Homelessness Provision**

The housing department dealt with 192 homeless presentations in 2024. A total of 66 adults and 19 children were provided with temporary emergency accommodation. Cavan County Council have service level agreements with Dublin Simon and the Peter McVerry Trust to deliver on programmes for homeless prevention, accommodation solutions and support for housing applicants with complex needs. Cavan County Council continues to roll out Housing First and there is a total of 8 active tenancies participating in the programme at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Cavan County Council held a housing and homelessness information session in December 2024 for all service providers whose service users may be impacted by homelessness. The service providers who attended included Social Inclusion, Disability Services, Probation Services, Simon Community, Tusla, Aftercare and Addiction Services.

## **Private House Grants**

There are three types of grants provided by the council: Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme, the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. The schemes are designed to help people remain living in their homes when they are no longer suited to meet their needs. A total of €2,260,600 was allocated in funding for the private house grant scheme.



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Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	100	€1,392,881
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	10	€46,511
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	135	€851,256
Total	245	€2,290,648

## Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Local Traveller Consultative Committee consists of Elected Members, Traveller representatives, and County Council officials. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024 was completed in 2024. 42 traveller households were accommodated over the life of the programme which includes 1 full retrofit and refurbishment and 1 extension to accommodate a household disability. The figure of 42 does not include 15 traveller households accommodated through HAP (housing assistance payment) between the years 2019-2023.

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was finalised and adopted by Cavan County Council in December 2024. The target provision of 25 units of standard social housing support during the course of the new Programme (2025-2029) is to be achieved through the allocation of newly built, leased and any vacancies which may arise in both the Council and Approved Housing Bodies stock.

## Estate Management Programme

The Estate Management Programme includes pre-tenancy training, tenant liaison, estate enhancement and grant scheme. 84 local authority tenancies were created in 2024 and a further 30 tenancies were regularised. A total of 84 pre-tenancy training sessions were completed in 2024 prior to tenant receiving keys to their local authority properties.

229 complaints of anti-social behaviour were received in 2024, 204 of which were dealt with and closed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The Council regained possession of 5 abandoned properties.

Cavan County Council's Tenant Liaison Officers work with residents of local authority estates supporting them in their efforts to improve the living environment of social housing areas. The annual estate grant scheme continued in 2024 and grants were awarded to 60 resident groups who applied for and submitted plans for improving the appearance of their estates.



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*Marion Row, Ballinagh, Winner of the Blooming Beautiful Award 2024*



*Corstruce, Ballinagh, Winner of Climate Action Champion Award 2024*

Cavan County Council hosted its Cavan County Estate Awards on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The awards are an initiative of the Housing Department designed to support and acknowledge the work of resident groups in housing estates in Cavan.

The event was opened by Chief Executive of Cavan County Council Eóin Doyle who commended all the groups on their work and their engagement with Cavan County Council by continuing to take part in the awards and volunteer their time and efforts in taking care of public areas. Mr Doyle committed that the council through the Tenant Liaison Officers and Community Wardens will continue to support residents' groups.



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Cathaoirleach Philip Brady presented awards to 23 groups. Councillor Brady extended his thanks to all resident groups for their dedication and congratulated the winners of the Estate Awards on their well-deserved recognition. He noted that all residents' groups registered with Cavan County Council received financial support through the annual grant for the ongoing work that they do, and the awards shine an additional spotlight on those who have been particularly impressive in their efforts. In 2024 all participating groups registered with the Public Participation Network who act as a support agency for all community groups in Cavan.



*Cavan County Estate Awards*

### **Playgrounds**

There are 27 existing playgrounds and 8 outdoor gym areas in County Cavan and Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and insurance of these.

A sum of €163,773 was allocated in the Council Budget 2024 for the general maintenance, repairs and grant match funding of council playgrounds.

Four playgrounds were refurbished in 2024.



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### **Kilnavara Crescent Playground, Cavan**

funded under Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth's (DCEDIY), Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Council match funding.  
Total Cost of works €64,869



### **Morrissey Park Playground, Belturbet**

funded under Community Recognition Fund (CRF) and Council match funding.  
Total Cost of Works €132,579



### **Drumnaveil MUGA, Cootehill**

funded under Community Recognition Fund (CRF) and Council match funding.  
Total Cost of Works €62,588



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### **Cootehill Playground**

funded under Community Recognition Fund (CRF), Cootehill Area Development Donation and Council match funding.

Total Cost of Works €55,703.48 Ex VAT

## LIBRARY SERVICE

Cavan County Library Service provides a vital service in the heart of every community it serves with branches serving as welcoming civic spaces for all.

### Ongoing Library Initiatives

Cavan Library Service continues to roll out national initiatives such as Right to Read and Healthy Ireland at your Library.

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. Each year we facilitate programmes designed to support adults, families and children in reading and learning. It includes the following four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy: Spring into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library. Cavan Library consistently works with other local organisations to ensure that our services support and enhance existing local literacy programmes. We are committed to stocking wide ranging and varied book collections to support literacy projects, continuing to train staff to offer advice on reader development and book selection and to providing an events and activities programme suitable for children of all ages.



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Summer Stars 2024 Storytelling Event. PHOTO: Cavan Library Service

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, part of the national Healthy Ireland strategy, aims to improve public health and wellbeing by promoting a holistic approach to “Eat Well, Think Well, Be Well.” Funded by the Department of Health, the programme has supported the development of a core collection of books and resources, recommended by health clinicians and experts. Through a range of resources and innovative event programming, Cavan Libraries offer engaging, accessible spaces for people of all ages and are a go-to place for information and services of every kind including health literacy. In 2024 Cavan Library Service welcomed over 1,100 people to library events on health and wellbeing countywide. All presentations were facilitated by experts and covered a wide range of topics including men’s and women’s health, mental health, nutrition, and physical health.



Pictured: Cathaoirleach Cllr. Philip Brady with Library and Theatre Staff at the Irish Heart Foundation



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### WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Cavan Library Service acknowledges the important role of the many partners we work with in delivering our annual programmes, including Cavan County Council's Community and Enterprise Section, Environment Team, Culture and Creativity Team, Cavan Sports Partnership, and external agencies such as Cavan/Monaghan ETB, the HSE and many more.

### ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Social media is utilised to maximum effect to highlight the range of online services freely available through the library service, which has seen strong usage of e-books and e-audiobooks, online newspapers, magazines and language and other training courses.

### **Creative Cavan Programme**

Cavan Library Service plays an integral role in the coordination of the Creative Ireland programme for the county and 2024 highlights include Cruinniú na nÓg in June and Culture Night in September. Cruinniú na nÓg, a national day to celebrate creativity among children and young people, took place Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June with a host of fun, interactive activities coordinated by Cavan County Library Service, Cavan Arts Office and the County Museum

Cavan Library Service successfully applied for Dormant Account Funding to continue its work with marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged communities, including the provision of furniture and equipment to support older people and to assist children and adults with physical and learning difficulties to better access library services.

### **Local Studies**

Cavan Library Service's Local Studies department delivered a comprehensive programme of events in 2024. Additionally, the Library Service introduced new initiatives by way of a weekly Local Studies Clinic and a monthly Reminiscence Group. By appointment, the Local Studies Clinic offers researchers an opportunity to seek advice and further their research. Reminiscence time takes place once a month in three of our branches and brings together persons of all ages. In 2024, Reminiscence groups explored topics like bygone schooldays, showbands, folklore, cures, and a Christmas childhood. This year's highlight was the Eoghan Ruadh 375 Commemoration which took place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November. Organised by Cavan Library Service and the Cultural section, a broad range of events to mark the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eoghan Ruaidh O'Neill's death took place in a variety of venues including Virginia Library, Johnston Central Library, Cavan County Museum, and the Townhall Theatre. This included a lecture by Dr. Katharine Simms; 'Music of the Era'; an enacted drama by the Hacklers; a reworking of the Clogh Oughter exhibition; a round table discussion on Eoghan Ruaidh; a reading of Brian Friel's Making History; and a guided tour by boat to Clogh Oughter Castle. All events had capacity attendance.



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Pictured at the launch of the Eoghan Rua 375 Commemoration Programme: Cathaoirleach Cllr. T. P. O'Reilly, Chief Executive Eoin Doyle, Director of Services Lynda McGavigan and Library Staff.

PHOTO: Cavan Library Service

## **Cavan Monaghan Science Festival**

The Cavan Monaghan Science Festival ran for its 9<sup>th</sup> year in November 2024 and was organised in Cavan by Cavan County Library Services and Creative Cavan, in partnership with the Environment Dept of Cavan County Council. 2024 saw the CMSF successfully reinvented, pivoting from a predominantly schools-focused model to a community-centred experience that attracted a new adult audience. Groups were invited to co-host events with Cavan Monaghan Science Festival in their own communities and they proved very successful with events being held in Bailieborough, Virginia, Ballyhaise, Shercock, Ballyjamesduff, Lough Sheelin, Dowra and Kingscourt, providing a wide geographical spread to the festival.



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*Pictured is Catherina McKiernan who featured in the 2024 CMSF programme.  
PHOTO: Cavan Library Service*

We forged some very meaningful partnerships when organising the Science Festival Programme this year with Dundalk Institute of Technology, Cavan Institute, The Environmental Protection Agency, NUI Galway, UCD, Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Galetech Windfarm, Cavan County Fire Service, Cavan Civil Defence, Age Friendly Cavan and with local prominent scientists.

The Science Festival activities ended with a Family Fun Day Event in Kingscourt Community Centre. With activities and events organised throughout the day, those who joined us could explore science from the caves under our feet to the stars about our heads and could get up close to reptiles, robots and everything in between.

## Service Indicators - 2024

L1: Library Visits, Issues and Registered Members	
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	2.10
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	161,829
C. Library active members per head of population	0.14
D. Number of registered members of the library in the year	10,034
L2: Cost per capita of operating a Library Service and per capita expenditure on collections	
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	€ 39.23



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Programme F data for 2024 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2023 to 31/12/2024	€ 1.92

## LIBRARY FUNDING 2024

Cavan County Library Service received over €511,244.66 in funding to upgrade facilities and support library and creative initiatives.

Funding Initiative	Amount
Dormant Accounts Funding	10,622.12
Decade of Commemorations	21,729.00
Creative Ireland	455,860.83
Healthy Ireland at Your Library	2897.41
Cavan Monaghan Science Festival - Science Foundation Ireland	20,000.00
Right to Read	135.30

## ARTS

In accordance with **Section 6** of the **Arts Act 2003** local authorities may provide financial assistance for the purpose of: (a) Stimulating public interest in the arts, (b) Promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, or (c) Improving standards in the arts within its functional area.

Cavan County Council Arts Office is guided by **Inclusivity and Ambition – A Strategy for Cavan Arts 2018 – 2023**.

### The Priorities for Arts Are:

- Artistic
- Audience Development
- Diversity
- Infrastructure

**Framework Agreement Cavan County Council and the Arts Council 2019 to 2026 shared priorities.**

1. Supporting Artists
2. Young People and the Arts
3. Reaching More People



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The role of the arts office facilitates artists and communities to make great artwork in County Cavan. This work includes mentoring, advising, networking and partnering with local, regional and national stakeholders. The arts office recognizes the crucial role of the professional artist in the development of the arts and the value that creative communities bring to the lived experience of citizens of the county.

## Funding

**Cavan County Council** is the primary source of funding for arts development with annual revenue support from the **Arts Council** in 2024 of €83,100.

The **Specialist Staffing Scheme Awarded by** the Arts Council enabled the appointment of a p/t Assistant Arts Officer. Marina Harten was appointed to the post.

## Arts Programme

### ARTS AWARDS AND BURSARIES

2024			
	Received	Requested	Allocated
Arts Development Award	46	€89,053	€45,310
Emerging Artist	23 (17) Awards	€43,560	€26,680
Professional Artist Awards	41 (32) Awards	€111,043	€63,951
<b>Total Awarded €135,941</b> Artists Supported 17 Emerging + 32 Professional = 49 Total <b>€90,631</b>			

Awards under the Arts Act were approved by the Members of Cavan County Council.

## CREATIVE IRELAND

The Shared Island aspect of Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027 granted *Dance Connects in Rural Border Regions* €250,000 further to an application by the Arts Office and Creative Cavan.

**Dance Connects** partners local authorities of **Cavan, Monaghan and Fermanagh-Omagh** with diverse dance communities across professional, amateur, community and commercial dance in contemporary, jive/country, line/social, Sean-Nós, hip hop/urban, Scottish Country and Flamenco in their border areas and researchers Dr Victoria Durrer (School of Art History and Cultural Policy, **University College Dublin**) and Prof Aoife McGrath (School of Arts, English and Languages, **Queens University Belfast**).



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## ARTS AND HEALTH

- In January & February 2024 our focus was on our application to Culture Action Europe which was successful.

Objective:

To support and promote emerging European artists working in the interprofessional space of culture, health, care and social sectors.

Aims:

Provide financial support for artist-led projects that bridge culture and health

Support and build artists' capacities

Enable international mobility

Increase visibility and networking opportunities

The platform will also raise awareness about the vital role culture plays in health and well-being

Minimum 200 artists supported in 4 years.

- Meetings were held with Cavan and Monaghan General Hospital to try to bring more Arts & Health to both facilities. This work is still in its early stages, but we have hosted 3 Arts & Health Awareness Days in Cavan Hospital
- Application was also submitted to Creative Cavan for our Kindling the Spark with Healing Arts project. Our aim is to offer 10 Music for Health Workshops, 10 Drumming for Health Workshops and 10 Creative Movement and Dance workshops and 10 Creative Arts workshops to 5 healthcare settings within County Cavan. Awarded €13,300. Spend 2024 = €6,820. More than half our target achieved in 2024
- 4 CPD Days Hosted, and the Peer Support Network continued to grow and develop.



Music in Nursing Homes Project:



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This project delivered in different elements.

- 2 x Choir of Older People
- Samba Drumming workshops
- Singing and music performances
- Final celebration performance in local library –3 libraries throughout the county.

The project delivery team incorporates Creative Cavan, Cavan Arts, Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland. This joint delivery approach ensures that the outcomes on health and wellbeing for nursing home participants and staff are maximised. The feedback from the audience and those who engaged in this project was really positive.

## Training and Networking

- Engage – Connecting with Men Training – Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre
- Agresso Training
- Coaching and Interview Training
- Information stand @ Cavan Youth Reach
- Rural Hub Information Stand & Presentation
- Connect Cavan – Library Events Space – Mental Health & Well being
- Information Roadshow – Age Friendly Ireland Event
- Men's Health Event @ Breffni Park Cavan
- Climate Action Event – Bailieborough Library
- Two wellness days provided for all Council Staff in collaboration with Healthy Ireland
- Supported the Le Cheile Hub in Cootehill with creative art workshops which included painting and felting and Samba Drumming Workshops.
- Culture Night Event – Belturbet Railway Station
- Support @ various Arts office events... Knockbride Project, Drumlinia, Exhibitions
- Cross Border collaborations and networking.
- Participation in the Art of Life Project with Creative Cavan
- WRAP training in Cavan Library.
- Support in development work in Ballyconnell Community
- Workshops provided for Creative Places project in Ballyconnell
- Support & further development of the Singing for Health choir
- GAA Health & Wellbeing day in Conaty Centre – Information Stand
- Arts & Health Awareness Day & Seed Project Initiative – Cavan Hospital (HSE, Realta, Creative Cavan, Arts & Health, Healthy Ireland)
- Supported the Singing for Health Choir throughout 2024



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Our Create to Connect Project was further expanded in 2024 with workshops being facilitated in several schools and an exhibition planned.

## ARTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The **Local Arts and Education Partnership** continues to support CREATIVE SCHOOLS and add value to arts in educational settings with partners CMETB and Cavan County Council. Cavan also sits on the board of the newly founded CMETB Creative Youth Arts Committee.

Cavan County Council partners with Monaghan County Council and lead partner Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board on **Music Generation**. The program included: Music on Wheels Tour Cavan/Monaghan with Music Educators in 28 schools, Ukele workshops with Templeport Foroige, Come Sing With Me Townhall, Cavan and the Youth Orchestra and work in formal education and community settings.

## CULTURE NIGHT 2023

The event organized by the Arts Office collaborating with cultural partners, artists and communities took place in 10 towns: Cavan, Bailieborough, Ballinagh, Ballyconnell, Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet, Castlerahan, Cootehill, Dowra, Shercock and Virginia. RTE broadcast events from Cavan town as part of Culture Night 2023.

There were **34 events** county-wide including theatre for both adults and children: Singing for Health promoting well-being through singing. Music performances encompassing a variety of genres like jazz, folk and rock music and a new original composition inspired by the boglands of Cavan. Exciting street circus performances, engaging poetry and storytelling sessions and workshops in clay and in painting and many visual art exhibitions were held county wide.

**€28,150** paid to different artists and community groups in the county and **€9000** to Cavan Arts Festival Committee to programme events in both urban and rural localities.

## COLLABORATION

Working collaboratively, particularly within the Cultural Sector is essential to the work of the arts office.

The Arts Office is part of a successful **Invitation to Collaborate** through the Arts Council with lead partner Wexford County Council and Roots for the Future Arts Collective. Research and development work to support the foundations and data for a **Climate Art Assembly in 2025** was carried out by **'Roots for The Future'** artist **Sinéad Curran**. Sinéad had a six-day residency where she embedded herself within the community working closely with arts and non-arts partners to address societal issues related to climate change.

The Arts Office supported by committing €2,000 cash and in-kind support to the value of €2,000 in the form of administrative, marketing and space support and by including expertise in an advisory role,



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providing administrative and outreach support to connect Artists-In-Resident with local knowledge, experts, local artists, communities, Biodiversity Officers, the Climate Action teams, Heritage Officers, and other Local Authority Departments as appropriate.

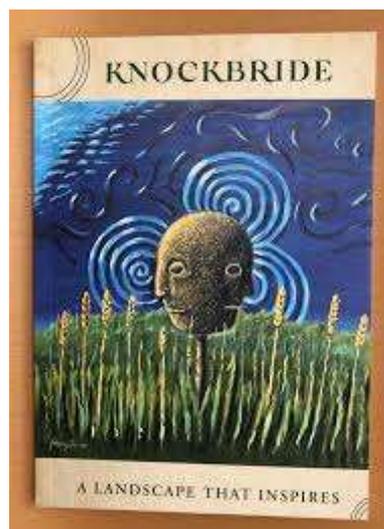
## **Drumlinia Music Industry Week**

The second music industry week was held in Cavan in October 2024 in association with Don Mescall, singer / songwriter, and Cavan Institute.

The aim is to support artists and musicians in early and mid-career development.

- The event included an Industry Day with 10 leaders in music attended by 146 musicians.
- 20 workshops with 10 tutors attended by 341 musicians over a range of instrument.
- Townhall Arts Centre hosted concerts with Frances Black (Attendance 197) and The Scratch (full house) and The Listening Rooms Concert (Attendance 92)
- Townhall also hosted Children's Musical Shows: 'Pstryk!' (Attendance 25) and 'Rebecca and The Magical Bridge' (Attendance 200) and a Movie Night showing Cavan film, 'Redemption of a Rogue' with Q&A afterwards with the writer and star of the film (Attendance 146)
- 10 Listening Room events took place in local businesses.
- The Arts Offices supported the independent charity event in support of the Cathedral Restoration Fund, **Daniel at the Cathedral** with **Daniel O'Donnell** hosted in the Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Felim organised by Fr Fay and Don Mescall.(1000 attendance)

## **Knockbride Project**



The Knockbride project was conceived by Cavan Arts Officer Catriona O'Reilly and Poet Noel Monahan after the publishing of author and librarian Jonathan A. Smyth's book, 'Gentleman & Scholar, Thomas James Barron. 1903 -1992'. Jonathan's book shone a light on the legacy of



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schoolteacher Thomas James Barron, who famously identified the significance of the tricephalic Corleck Head and subsequently brokered its loan to The National Museum of Ireland.

With Jonathan's book as inspiration, Noel Monahan, lead a group of seven writers into the magical landscape of Knockbride. Focussing on the 'Dindshenchas' or lore of places and delving into the origins of placenames and traditions concerning events and characters associated with the Knockbride area, the writing group produced a body of poetry, which was edited by Noel Monahan and culminated in the publishing of the poetry book, 'Knockbride – A Landscape that Inspires' Ten artists were also invited to read Jonathan A. Smyth's book, 'Gentleman & Scholar, Thomas James Barron. 1903 -1992'. They responded in diverse ways, including music composition, oil and acrylic paintings, ceramic and bronze sculptures and needle-felted textile art and were shown in the exhibition 'Knockbride – An Artist's Response'.

The culmination of the project was a joint event celebrated at Bailieborough Library on Thursday 5 September 2024 included the launch of the poetry book 'Knockbride – A Landscape that Inspires' and the exhibition: 'Knockbride – An Artist's Response'

### **Creative Places / Cumas Ceantar**

Working with Ballyconnell Community Centre Committee, the Market House and members of the local community, the arts office made a successful bid to be part of the 17 funded Arts Council Creative Places program. Creative Places provides an opportunity for places to benefit from sustained arts investment to build local arts programmes with local people.

The €30,000 Research and Development Grant will support the ambition to create connection, opportunity and understanding for arts participation and sense of place in Ballyconnell. The project will engage a co-ordinator and a researcher to work with local artists to animate the area.

The **Artist Liaison** enabled a program of exhibitions, studio awards and capacity building for the arts community in association with the arts office and Townhall Arts Centre. The studio awards were through open call advertised and managed by the arts office. An independent panel advise on the exhibition program.

### **Reporting**

The arts office reports to Emma Clancy, County Librarian, the Housing, Corporate and Cultural Affairs Special Policy Committee and Lynda McGavigan, Director of Services.

### **2023 Staff Structure**

Emma O'Brien, Clerical Officer, Marina Harten, Assistant Arts Officer p/t, Elisha McCaffrey, Arts and Health Manager p/t, Rhonda Tidy, Public Art Manager and Catriona O'Reilly, Arts Officer until July 2024 and Padraic McIntyre Acting Arts Officer July to December 2024.



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## COUNTY MUSEUM

2024 marked another fantastic year of growth at Cavan County Museum. Development of all aspects of our operation has been seen, demonstrating a growing interest from schools and the public in the Museum and its work. A total of 11,170 visitors accessed the amenity, enjoying tours and attending events.

The Museum reception and gift shop performed strongly, reflecting not just the increase in visitors but also indicates a positive impact of visitor engagement and sales. Schools and groups also showed a significant increase in 2024, with a 73% increase in numbers taking part in group visits, up to 545 in 2024, compared to 315 in 2023. This despite the closure of the WW1 Trenches for the last quarter of 2024. The team at the Museum aims to continue to build and develop our offer to ensure sustained growth beyond 2024.

In 2024, the Museum participated in several national celebrations, including Culture Night, Heritage Week and Cruinniú na nÓg. For Heritage Week, the Museum took part in four events including hosting the Ballyjamesduff Heritage Society local history afternoon in partnership with the Ballyjamesduff Heritage Society and Teach Solais. A drop in crafting event, 'Courageous Men of Cavan' took place on the Tuesday with Bailieborough Creative Hub encouraging visitors to reminisce on family members who took part in World War 1, and to share their stories. On the Thursday of Heritage Week Jonathan Smyth gave a talk on The Life of Tom Barron, Cavan historian and discoverer of the Corleck Head, now held in The Treasury in the National Museum of Ireland. On the last Saturday of the week staff attended with school objects from the Museum collection to a Schools Days reminisce group. The Museum's Culture Night programme "Wheely Good Stories" was a combined storytelling event by Cavan Yarnspinners and a late opening with the Ballyjamesduff Men's Shed in attendance to talk to visitors about their Museum Garden Project. These events, their linking to local heritage and culture and the working together in partnership with key external organisations and stakeholders.



Ballyjamesduff Heritage Society local history afternoon in Cavan County Museum for Heritage Week 2024

(photo credit: Ballyjamesduff Heritage Society)



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The Museum continued to be a site of lifelong learning in 2024. A range of lectures were held throughout the year, including those as part of Bridgid 1500, Heritage Week and Cavan Climate Action Week in October, when a talk was given by Met Éireann meteorologist Joanna Donnelly in the Museum. The Annual Arthur Griffith lecture was delivered by Mark Jones, Professor in Global History at UCD, with the title “1923 – Hitler’s Breakthrough Year”. Mark examined the international, national and local situations in Germany that year, and how this allowed for the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazism in subsequent years. An Archaeology Open Day was held in July with demonstrations by the School of Irish Archaeology, Ancient Music Ireland and an Ogham writing workshop by Museum staff.



Joanna Donnelly of Met Éireann with the Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council T.P. O'Reilly, Councillor Trevor Smith, staff of Cavan County Museum and staff of Climate Action Cavan County Council (photo credit: Climate Action Cavan)

The Museum hosted a showcase in February and the finale in October of the Border Talk Storytelling programme with the Armstrong Trust and Storytellers of Ireland, funded by the International Fund for Ireland. The Museum’s Research and Education Officer graduated from the programme and delivered storytelling sessions to over 130 pupils from Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class from St Clare’s Primary School Ballyjamesduff, with great feedback from pupils and staff alike. The Museum will continue to take part in this cross-border programme in 2025. The 2024/2025 season of the Eden Galley exhibitions began in July 2024, with five exhibitions in 2024. These events allow local artists to showcase their work in the County Museum, and admission to the exhibitions is free of charge.



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Administrator Caroline Walsh, artist Kieran Hyland, artist Emma Carter and Research and Education Officer Catherine McGuinness at the opening of Enigma in Cavan County Museum in August 2024 (photo credit: Adrian Donohoe)

As well as our visitor facing operations, 2024 saw a great deal of work behind the scenes at the Museum. This included a project to work on the storage and documentation of the Museum's collections, which was supported in part by a grant from the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Fund, who awarded the Museum € €16,463 towards this project. Through this work the Museum will continue to safeguard artifacts, artworks, and historical items for future generations. An application has been submitted to the Heritage Council for funding to support this work into 2025 and beyond. Upgrading to indoor exhibitions was also completed with the aid of a grant of € 8,453 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's 2024 Regional Museum Exhibition Scheme.

This ongoing work also complies with best practice as set out by the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland, which awards accreditation status to Museums who met the standards of the programme. Cavan County Museum has been accredited since 2012; accredited Museums are reviewed through an accreditation maintenance application every 5 years. Having been delayed due to COVID-19 and staff changes, Cavan County Museum's maintenance application was reviewed in 2023, which included a site audit in September 2023. The outcome of the application was received in March 2024, and the Museum has successfully retained its accreditation status. Curator Holly Roche and Administrator Caroline Walsh attended an award ceremony in July 2024 organised by the Heritage Council to officially confirm the Museum's status for the next 5 years.



Minister Malcolm Noonan, Curator Holly Roche and Administrator Caroline Walsh at the presentation of the Museum's MSPI accreditation in Kilkenny in July 2024 (photo credit: The Heritage Council)



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2024 saw an increase in our Education and Group numbers compared to the previous year, despite the closure of the popular “WWI Trench Experience” exhibition, which is a main feature of the Museum’s current Education offer and is a unique draw for schools and groups. The Trench Experience had closed permanently in October 2024, after some sections were identified as needed repair and maintenance work. The experience will remain closed until Summer 2025, when the necessary work had been completed. This was a big loss to the Museum, but the work carried out was a necessity, and will ensure the longevity of this award winning experience.

2024 saw the departure of Museum Curator Holly Roche, who made a significant contribution through her expertise and dedication. She is wished well for the future

## TOWNHALL ARTS CENTRE / RAMOR ARTS CENTRE



### Mission Statement 2024

Townhall Arts Centre and Ramor Arts Centre aim to impact and enable. Impact our audiences and enable our artists by encouraging, nurturing and developing an interest and participation in the arts in the county. This is done by presenting a varied program of performances by professional artists in all the art-forms together with encouraging and facilitating professional theatre companies, youth arts, community based amateur groups and individual artists to develop projects and showcase them in each venue.

The two Cavan Arts Centres have recently undergone important restoration, refurbishments and rebranding. With a strategic Countywide Arts plan from the Cavan Arts Office, the Arts Centres are in a position to undertake a whole new chapter in their development, working in unison under the one management team to create ‘happening places’ where art is accessible and beneficial to everyone.

Our aim is to continue "Forging connections between the arts and the public" with our Arts Centres



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being, public facing, professionally managed, building based organisations. They will support the creation, presentation and mediation of the arts across a range of arts practices by supporting professional, collaborative, voluntary and amateur arts practice. Ramor Arts Centre is home to Livin Dred Theatre Company which over the past seventeen years has worked in partnership with the venue to incubate, develop and produce top quality professional theatre, which has toured both nationally and internationally. It is our aim to grow this partnership with Livin Dred as we embark on the next chapter of our evolution.

Ramor Arts Centre and Townhall Art Centre aim to IMPACT our audiences and visitors so they will leave feeling that they have been in the presence of the spiritual, the emotional and the intellectual. Our aim is that they come away enriched through the experience the venues present, thus inspiring them to stay connected and explore these 'happening places' on their doorstep on a regular basis. We understand to achieve this we must ensure the highest quality artwork and events are programmed in our venues across the artforms. The events that we will host will be wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests.

## **Ramor / Townhall Art Centre's Staff**

**Venues Manager** Padraic McIntyre

**Deputy Manager** Narissa Cosgrove

**Marketing Manager** Annetta Lovett

**Technical Manager** Paddy Farrelly

**Assistant Technical Manager** Shane Carroll

**Box Office** Frances Brady, Liz O'Hanlon, Trinia McCann, Anna Marie Galligan

**Front of House / Coffee Bar** Helen Foy

**Front Of House / Caretaker** Aisling Fay

## **Artistic Quality & Development of the Arts**

The events we host are wide and varied and aims to meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests.

In Cavan Town there is a more multicultural population to be catered for and a larger student population to be targeted and we aim to have events that will appeal to these demographics. In both centres we aim to have arts events across all genres and artforms which will appeal to and attract different nationalities, age groups, religions and genders living in Cavan into our venues.

Although Townhall Cavan's doors have only opened in September 2021, and Ramor reopened after the building of the new library in June 2023 we ran a hugely successful programme of events in 2024 across all the artforms, music, theatre, dance, comedy, visual arts, opera and pantomime. Some of



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the Irelands best known names, across the genres visited us in 2024. Audiences responses were excellent in both turnout and reaction to our programme in 2024.

## Professional Development Opportunities

Cavan Arts Centre's continue to be committed to ensure high-quality professional development opportunities for practising artists and arts professionals. We feel we are now in a much stronger position to deliver on these commitments with a much better physical infrastructure in place across both buildings. Townhall Cavan has three studio spaces on the top floor of the building which are ideal working locations for artists or arts professionals across a wide range of artforms. These studios are all serviced by a lift which means inclusivity of all artists. Several Residencies occurred in these studios in 2024 with artists having the studio for 3 months together with a payment. The third studio is a Multimedia Suite, with capabilities for design, visual art, animation, video editing, sound/music recording and editing, radio broadcasting, 3D printing and laser cutting. Townhall Arts Centre also has a large meeting/rehearsal/workshop room located on the second floor.

The newly renovated Ramor Arts Centre gives us huge opportunities to engage, work with and develop professional opportunities for artists and arts professionals which much more space and a purpose-built studio.

## Key Goals For 2026

For both Townhall Arts Centre and Ramor Arts Centre, we have identified the following strategic priority areas and their related key goals, which we are committed to implementing (or achieving) over the next few years.

- Artistic Programming – Something for Everyone, our theatres are for you. The events that we will host will be wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests. We want our venues to be professional, collaborative, and yet a place where volunteers and amateurs alike all feel like they belong here.
- Diversification – Showcasing a wider variety of events which will lead to a more diverse audience
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Sustainability – Customer Retention, Cross, Link & Up-selling.
- Organisational Effectiveness

A major key goal for us is to expand our customer target market to reach those areas we are lacking in by focusing on culture, youth and disadvantaged audiences.

## Activity Description 2024

The Ramor & Townhall Arts Centre enjoyed a stellar year with over 130 events taking place all the



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artforms, music, theatre, dance, comedy, visual arts, opera and pantomime.

## Commercial Programme

Our Commercial programme are successful high-profile acts which attracts customers and raises the profile of the Venues nationally. Cavan Arts Venues hosted a number of high-profile commercial acts in 2024 including, Pat Shortt, The Undertones, The Scratch, Declan Neary, Sean Keane, ABBA Forever and The Bob Dylan Roadshow and Niall Bressie Breslin.



Niall 'Bressie' Breslin performed at both Ramor & Townhall Arts Centres in 2024.

## Community Arts Programme

Community Arts has been and remains a huge part of what Cavan Arts Venues do in our local area. The Venues continued to collaborate with local music and drama groups, creating and developing relationship with groups and their audiences. Now in their 75<sup>th</sup> year, Cavan Three Act and One Act Drama Festival were hosted in Townhall Arts Centre Cavan in March and November respectively. Several community groups used our facilities for both meetings and workshops.

Baillieborough Drama Group performed their All-Ireland winning production of Dying Minutes at The venue.

2024 seen the continuation of the of a very old Cavan tradition the Christmas panto, with a production of The Little Mermaid selling out for 8 performances.

## Professional Theatre Programme.

We held 12 professional touring theatre shows in Ramor & Townhall in 2024. Sean Moylan, Irish Revolutionary, The Hare, Dolly and Mick, The Abbey Theatre's Touring production of Tom Moran Is a Big fat Disgusting Liar, Sugar, Indigestion, Mary Byrnes Check me Out, The Empty Nest and



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Sheakspears all enthralled audiences in both venues.



*Seamus O'Rourke in his sell-out professional theatre production of 'Indegestion', performed at Townhall Arts Centre in 2024.*

### **Childrens and Teenagers Theatre Programme**

Home to POD Youth Theatre, Ramor Arts Centre has always advocated for voice of the young person in the arts. With weekly workshops for children and young adults (8-18years old). Both Art Venues programme consciously to cater for developing mind and tastes, featuring Local school, Virginia College performed both Summer & Christmas Shows at Ramor Arts Centre, Joe the Magician at The Ramor.



2024 seen the continuation of the of a very old Cavan tradition the Christmas panto, with a production of The Little Mermaid selling out for 8 performances.

### **Townhall Arts Centre Gallery**

February/April 2024 – Sensitive Paints by Kristina Huxley



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Kristina Huxley's work is situated within a hybrid and expanded painterly practice that explores indeterminacy, change, impossibility, technology and visual perception holding traces of contemporary time, realities and narratives observed from within our turning, unstable and volatile world.

February 2024 – Studio Artist's Talk – Paul Galligan, Marie Smith, and Karina Charles

February 2024 – Studio Artist's Talk - Michelle Harton and Raquel Montero Calero

April/May 2024 – Far Away and Close to Home by Enda Burke



Enda Burke is a photographer based in Galway. Enda's practice entails building elaborate vintage sets and concocting narratives with family and friends in them. With a particular emphasis on Nostalgia, Colours, humour and all things kitsch.

June 2024 - Augmented Body Altered Mind by Alan James Burns



Augmented Body, Altered Mind is a collaborative, interactive artwork that weaves a brain-



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computer interface with a projected audiovisual environment discussing the effect of climate change on people with lived experience of disability, with a particular focus on neurodivergence and the unique perspectives that these communities have on climate change. Augmented Body, Altered Mind examines correlations between the natural world, neurology, philosophy, and neurodivergence. By wearing a Brain-Computer Interface headset, the audience becomes immersed in evocative imagery and soundscapes as their brainwaves guide undulating, amorphous visuals and scripted audio-dialogue to shift and merge.

June/July 2024 – The Good Room by Bernadette Doolan



Bernadette Doolan's work explores the fragility of the human condition primarily through depicting aspects of childhood. This interest relates to the resilience and strength children own even through their vulnerabilities. It is perspective explored through reflection of her own childhood and an awareness of how socialization modifies our behaviour's. The sense of vulnerability which a child can experience is more often than not where our strengths reside. Her work has been described as having an 'emotional weight with psychological intensity that is not necessarily representing the physical, but one's internal voice'.

August/September 2024 – Scenic Roots – Curated By Laura O'Connor (Gallery + Theatre Space) with artists Lisa Fingleton, Laura Fitzgerald, Maria McKinney, Siobhán McGibbon, and Kian Benson Bailes.





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Contemporary art in Ireland seems to be in a moment where artists are looking to the land to ask questions about identity, responsibility, and social change. Many of the artists in Scenic Roots have shared spaces in previous group shows dealing with land, agriculture, and rural life. It's also not the first exhibition about the land that the Townhall Arts Space has hosted in the past few years. It makes me wonder what is drawing contemporary artists to these themes. Of course, artists have historically dealt with the land, landscape, rural life, and identity, but contemporary practice is posing some new questions around these themes, or at least they are framing them differently. Queer identity, folklore, biodiversity, sustainability, the Anthropocene, and social and cultural influence all interweave through the works in Scenic Roots. They combine ideas from the past and folklore, proposals for the future, and changing landscapes. Each of the artists is embedded in the countryside, whether through patronage or through a passion to explore alternative stories that the land speaks.

September/November 2024 – YOUREYESFOURTEEN by FxMurphy



This work is a response to the pervasiveness of colonialism, a construct that continues to be at play in our world despite a presumed demise. A simple strategy that one might employ to grapple with such a big notion is to localise it, to see what has happened in your own parish, on the small stage, among your neighbours and to imagine some possible responses.

## **Transportation, Climate Change, Environment, Waste Management and Water Services**

### **Roads & Transportation**

Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of in excess of 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

As a land locked county with a reliance on the road infrastructure, the roads area is an integral part of delivering key strategic objectives contained within the Cavan County Council Corporate plan.



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- 1. Supporting Communities
- 2. Stimulate Sustainable Economic Activity
- 3. Protect & Enhance Natural Environmental Resources
- 4. Plan and Develop Infrastructural Capacity
- 5. Promote a Positive Image of Cavan County Council and the County
- 6. Good Governance and Building Organisational Capacity

These objectives are contained within our Annual Service Plan and help shape our objectives for the year ahead.

## Cavan Road Network Classification

The total length of public roadway in County Cavan is 3,011km with an estimated value of over €1.1billion, with the Regional and Local Road network accounting for €1 billion of this total.

## Funding

Funding for the improvement and maintenance of public roads in Cavan comes primarily from three sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for National Roads with the Department of Transport (DOT) providing funding for the Regional and Local Road Network. Technical and administrative backup for this funding is provided by the TII as required. Cavan County Council provides a substantial annual allocation from own resources towards the upkeep of the Local and Regional Road Network. The National Transport Authority (NTA) from 2021 onwards is tasked with providing funding for Active Travel projects across the county within urban areas.

## 2024 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source at the start of 2024.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 16,782,833
Regional & Local Roads	Department of Transport	€ 18,140,310
Regional & Local Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,926,379
Active Travel	National Transport Authority	€3,325,000
		<b>€41,174,522</b>

## Cavan County Council Contributions

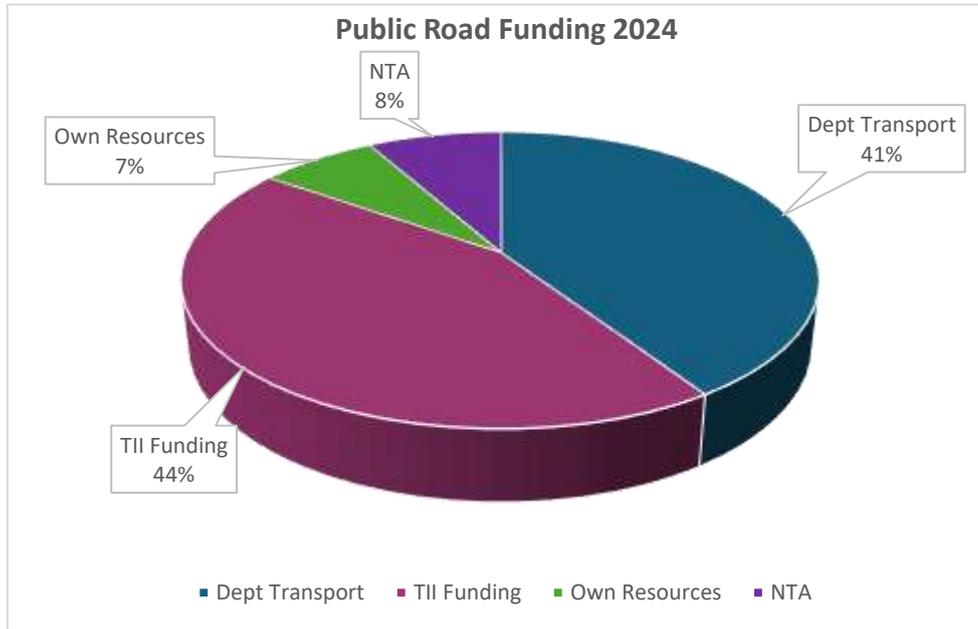
At the start of 2024, Cavan County Council provided €2.92 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Local and Regional Roads. This demonstrated the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining its roads network.



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## Additional Allocations

During 2024 Cavan County Council was able to avail of additional funding as follows;

Source	Category	Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	Pavement Emergency Works, Ordinary Maintenance Defects, Safety Barrier	€3,640,657
Department of Transport	Additional RI money, Speed Limits	€1,581,500
		<b>€5,222,157</b>

## National Roads

The National Primary Road network consists of the N3 and N16. The N3 is the Dublin/ Enniskillen/ Ballyshannon Road; the N16 is the Sligo/Enniskillen Road. The National Secondary network consists of the N54 Cavan/Monaghan Road between Butlersbridge and the County Boundary at Leggykelly, the N55 Cavan/Athlone Road and the N87 from Staghall Roundabout, Belturbet to the Border at Swanlinbar.

### Major Schemes N3 Virginia Bypass

Virginia is the last remaining town on the N3 National Route from Dublin to the NI Border which has not been bypassed.

Cavan County Council appointed JB Barry Transportation as Technical Advisors to provide all engineering, environmental, economic and appraisal services required to deliver this project through the planning and design phases.



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The N3 Virginia Bypass scheme is to be developed as a hybrid multi-modal transport solution which comprises road, Public Transport (bus) enhancements, demand management, active travel facilities and transport park and share hubs (mobility hubs). The active travel facilities, incorporating pedestrian and cycle facilities, will be provided along the length of the Scheme with connectivity, where feasible, to existing footways and walking routes along the scheme. The transport park and share hubs (mobility hubs) will provide for safe parking to safe bus stops and facilitate more carpooling for longer onward journeys, with Electric vehicle charging also being investigated. The scheme will greatly improve safety on the N3, reducing congestion, noise and air pollution in Virginia and the settlements of Maghera and Whitegate, while providing a consistent route cross-section with an improved journey time and travel efficiency for national road traffic.

The Scheme is being developed in a phased approach in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Project Management Guidelines and is currently in Phase 3, Design and Environmental Evaluation. An update on the developing design was advertised on the Project Website on the 10th of September 2024. This update illustrates the proposed geometric alignment of the scheme, junction types and locations, Active Travel facilities, two Park and Share hubs, side roads and drainage attenuation ponds. The proposed scheme is a 14.4 km Type 2 divided road (Dual Carriageway) which is similar to and consistent with the N3 Kells bypass, it has two link roads and a HGV/Axle ban for Virginia Town (except for deliveries). Further design development is required before fence lines and lands to be acquired are determined.

Meetings were held with affected landowners over a two-week period in November 2024. These meetings were primarily to discuss the impact of the scheme on land holdings, farming/stakeholder practices and proposed accommodation works.



There have been numerous surveys and investigations carried out as part of the scheme, these include Site Investigation, Topographical Survey, Archaeological Survey, Environmental and Biodiversity surveys. Additional Site investigations commenced in November 2024 with further Environmental and Biodiversity surveys planned for 2025.



Site investigation - Rotary Coring



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## Minor Improvement Schemes N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A

Section A, which involved a 3.2km realignment of the N55 at two distinct locations to the south of Ballinagh, reached substantial completion in late 2018. The Contract remains in the Handover Phase. The Consultant with the assistance of Cavan County Council finalised the Final Statement Report and Project Closeout Reports that were submitted to TII for review in early 2025. The Phase 7 deliverables are expected to be finalised and the Project formally closed out in the first half of 2025, pending receipt of TII approvals.

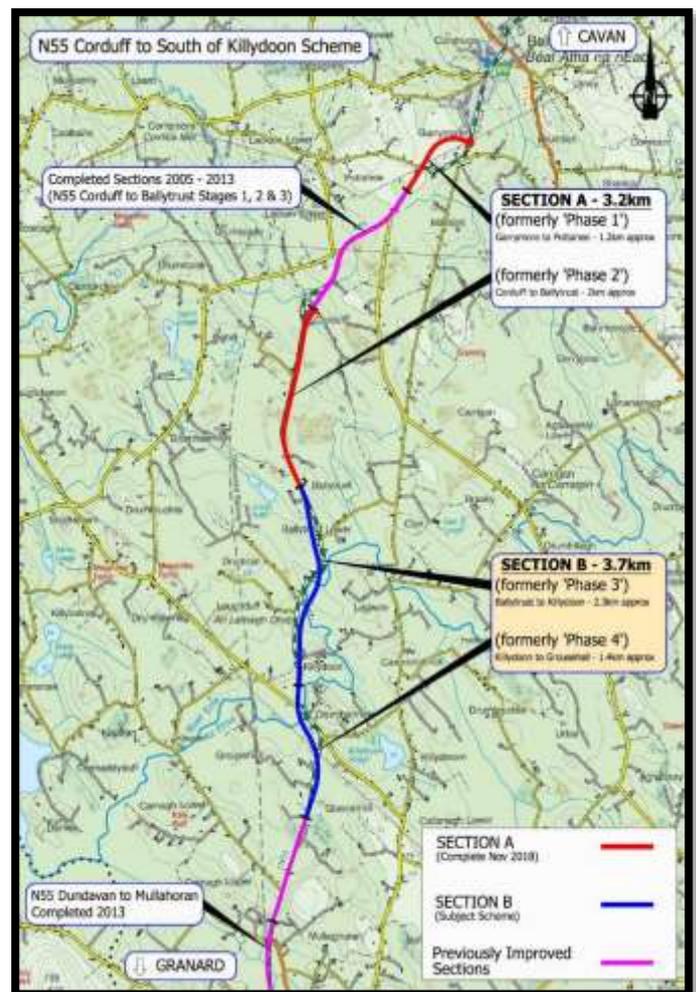
## N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section B

Section B, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, involves a 3.7km realignment of the N55 immediately south of Section A. The Scheme has seen significant progression over the last 12 months.

Having received TII approval to award the Main Construction Contract in October 2022, Clare Civil Engineering Ltd., were subsequently appointed as Contractor and PSCS and commenced works on site on 30th January 2023. Construction Works continued largely on programme during 2024, resulting in the Scheme being certified as substantially complete on 13th December 2024 (except for agreed outstanding works), 5 days ahead of the Contractual date for Substantial Completion.

Outstanding works, include completion of the Killydoon Village Loop Walk, Accommodation works at one property, works arising from the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit and snagging of all completed works.

Completion of the forgoing works is expected in mid-2025 allowing for weather and ground conditions to improve.



Cavan County Council took possession of the CPO lands in late 2020. The associated land and property acquisition processes progressed significantly during 2024 with most cases settled and conveyancing advanced or completed.



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## *N55 Section B – Scheme Photographs*



*Above: Aerial view looking south from Ch1+800 of the new alignment either side of Bridge Structure B2.*



*Above: View of the completed B2 Bridge structure at Ch2+300 in the townlands of Legwee and Killydoon.*



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*Above: Aerial view of the realigned Mainline at the northern tie-in in the townlands of Drumhawragh & Ballytrust.*

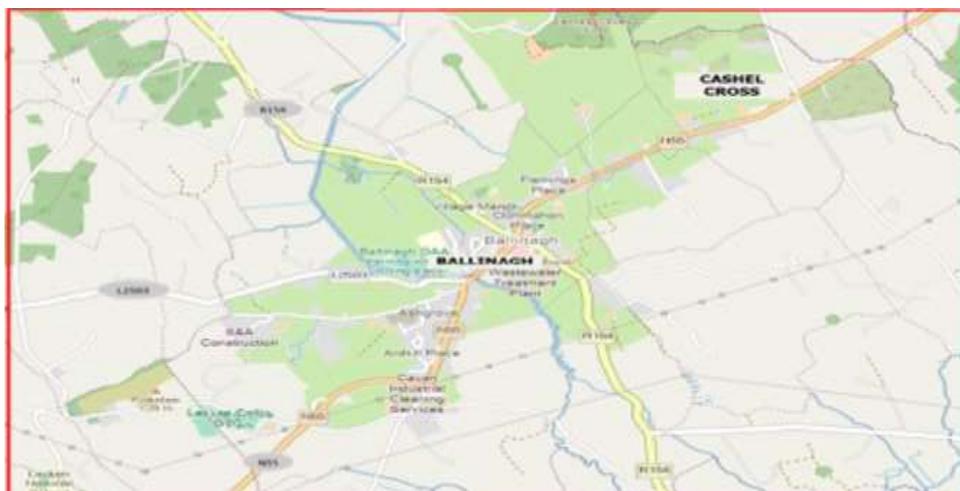
*Above: Aerial view north showing the progress on Killydoon Traffic Calming and footpath works at November 2024.*

### N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme

RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme through phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project Management Guidelines. RPS Consulting Engineers are our Technical Advisors for the scheme and are currently working on phase 2, Option Selection.

### N55 Ballinagh Relief Road

The Planning of the N55 Ballinagh Traffic Relief Scheme (PMG Phase 0) commenced with the appointment of Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers to undertake the preparation of a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) in 2023. The subsequent SAR report received TII approval during 2023 with approval to progress the Scheme to Phases 1-4 of the Project Management Guidelines. In Q1 of 2024 Cavan County Council ran a tender competition for the engagement of consultants to develop the Scheme through Phases 1-4 of the Project Management Guidelines. Following a robust tender evaluation process Sweco Ireland Ltd were formally appointed as Designer and PSDP in September 2024 for the delivery of Phases 1-4 of the Project Management Guidelines. The total Contract performance period for the 4 phases is 45 months. Phase 1 is currently being progressed, and the Feasibility Study is anticipated to be complete in mid-2025. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be complete mid 2025 at which point the Scheme will progress to the Phase 2 Options Selection stage.



*Above: Phase 1 Study Area for the N55 Ballinagh Traffic Relief Scheme.*



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## National Road Safety Schemes

### Virginia – Carrakeelty More Safety Scheme.

This safety scheme incorporates online improvement works, junction improvements and minor road widening. RPS consultants are currently progressing this scheme through Phases 3 to 7 of the Project Management Guidelines. It is hoped that works will commence in early 2025 subject to landowner agreement, TII approvals and funding allocation.

### Cavan Crystal – Kilmore Roundabout Safety & Pavement Scheme.

This scheme incorporates the installation of new footpaths, raised Cycle Lanes, New Bus bays and safety improvement works that would benefit cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists from the Cavan Crystal Hotel to the Kilmore Hotel.

RPS consultants completed this scheme to Phase 2 of the Project Management Guidelines. Clandillion Civil Consulting have been appointed to progress this scheme through Phase 3 (Public Consultation) to Phase 7 (Construction) of the Project Management Guidelines.

Discussions are ongoing with landowners along the route in relation to the provision of some land for the delivery of the scheme. If successful with the necessary land take and approval of the design by the TII, the scheme will proceed to the planning stage in 2025.

### N55 Cashel Cross Safety Scheme

JB Barry consultants progressed a safety scheme at this location which involved the alteration of two local road junctions and the introduction of two right turning lanes. The contract was awarded to S Wilkin and Son's Ltd and work commenced in April 2024. The works were substantially complete in October 2024.



**Above :** *New right turning lanes for southbound traffic turning into the L2508 Caughoo and northbound traffic turning into the L6568 Kilmainham.*

### N54 Cloverhill

Sight distance improvement works are designed for this location, and subject to TII approval of the design, it is anticipated that works will commence in 2025.



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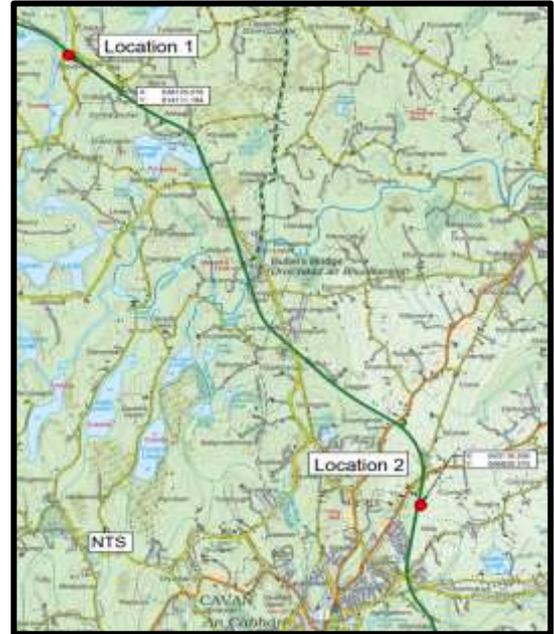


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## N3 Cavan Bypass Average Speed Cameras

Network safety analysis carried out on the N3 Cavan/Belturbet bypass identified this road as a high collision location. This identification is based on collision frequency and collision rates that are well above the average for National Roads, therefore targeted road safety remedial measures needed to be put in place to reduce the collision rates. A proposal to install average speed cameras on the N3 Bypass was identified by An Garda Síochána as a potential measure to reduce collisions on this road.

A funding allocation to install average speed cameras was received from TII during 2024 and Cavan County Council organised for the Civils works to be completed at the two locations outlined on the location map opposite. The civils works were complete in August 2024 and the average speed cameras were installed by GoSafe during September 2024 with the cameras going live at the end of October.



Left: New average speed camera on the N3 Cavan Bypass.

## National Road Pavement Overlay Schemes

There were 4 pavement overlay schemes that were progressed during 2024 on the National Primary and National Secondary Road and 3 Emergency Works Schemes as detailed below.

Road Number	Scheme	Status
<b>Pavement Schemes</b>		
N3	Pollamore to Kilmore Roundabout Pavement Scheme	Design stage
N3	Killygrogan Pavement Scheme	Design Stage
N54	Butlersbridge to Border Phase 2 (Cloverhill to Butlersbridge)	Completed
N87	North of Bawnboy and Swanlinbar (North & South)	Tender Completed
<b>Emergency Work Schemes</b>		
N3	Cornaslieve	Completed
N55	Ballinagh	Completed
N55	Pottahee	Completed



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### NP/NS Retrofit Fencing 2024

TII allocated €60,000 for retrofitting of existing concrete/timber rail fencing along national routes with a revised fence type of a tensioned wire mesh restraining system. These systems are recommended for along clear zones on sections of the national road network where the 100 km/h speed limit applies.

Cavan County Council identify several sites along the N3 to be completed. These sites were submitted to TII for funding and subsequently approved. The total costs of these works are €65,000 works are programmed to commence in October and were completed in November 2024.

### Regional & Local Roads

#### 2024 Road Works Programme

A grant of €18,140,310 was allocated to Cavan County Council during 2024 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads in the county this includes the figure for Bridge Rehabilitation, Speed Limits in Housing Estates, Low-Cost Safety Schemes. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2024 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts.

#### Strategic Regional & Local Roads

##### East West Road (from Dundalk to Sligo):

The Council are currently preparing a brief with a view to appointing consultants in 2025 to advance the project in line with The Departments new Transport Appraisal Framework and guidelines for Capital Investment in Transport Projects.

#### Specific Improvement Grant

##### Assan Bridge Project

Malachy Walsh and Partners were appointed in 2021 as specialist bridge consultants for L3028 Assan Bridge project. Assan Bridge (opposite) is located 6km NNE of Ballyjamesduff on the L3028 at the crossroads with the L3005 (going south) and the L3545 (going north) has a Eirspan condition rating of 3. These roads link the N3 with the R165 at Grousehall and is used as a diversion route when the N3 is closed for emergencies.



**Above:** Assan Bridge – Site Layout Prior to Project



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A number of options were considered by the consultant, with the preferred option being the construction of a new two-way bridge and the realignment of the existing road and junctions.

The contract was awarded to Donnelly Civil Engineering and involved the rehabilitation of the original 200-year-old Assan Bridge together with a river diversion to allow for the construction of a new 7.5m clear span reinforced concrete bridge and reconfiguration of local roads L3005 and L3545.

The new layout will now facilitate the safe movement of traffic and allow the passage of HGVs without the need from them to reverse over the old bridge. The project was completed in 2024.



**Above:** Assan Bridge – New Bridge and Junction Layout



**Above:** Rehabilitated Assan Bridge



**Above:** New Bridge and Road

## Regional & Local Road Safety Schemes

Cavan County Council received €300,000 in Department of Transport Grant Allocations for 6 No. Low- Cost Safety Schemes in 2024. The schemes were as follows.

- R194 Granard Street, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan
- R205 Gortnaleck-Camagh-Porturlan, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan



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- L3503 Carrickallen, Co. Cavan
- R198 Drumbar, Co. Cavan
- R178 Shercock, Co. Cavan
- R194 Virginia Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan



*Before*

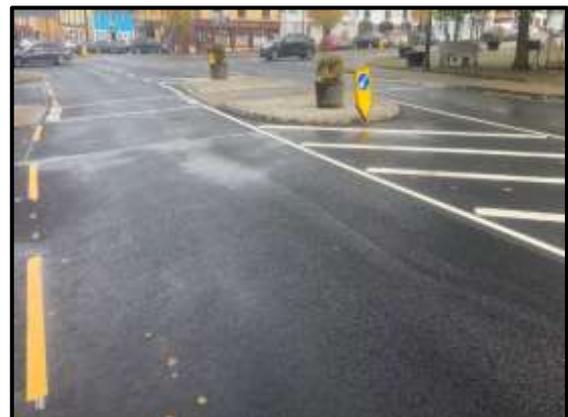


*After*

**Above:** L3503 Carrickallen – Improved Road Surface, Road Markings, High Friction Surfacing and Signage



*Before*



*After*

**Above:** R194 Granard Street, Ballyjamesduff - Improved Road Surface, Road Markings and Signage



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## Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects

Cavan County Council received €667,000 in Grant Allocations for Regional & Local Road Bridges for 2024. There were 13 number DOT allocated bridge rehabilitation schemes proposed. The bridge rehabilitation schemes are as follows: - Lisnasaran Bridge R190, Curraghmore Bridge L7054, Yewer Bridge R201, Lisnaclea Bridge R192, Turin Bridge R194, Kilduff Middle Bridge R200, Drumoosclin Bridge R165, Rabrackan Bridge R154, Loughduff Bridge L2515, Fartagh Bridge L3504, Togher Bridge L3003, Lurganboy Bridge L6102 and Pottle Soden Bridge L7005. All bridge rehabilitation schemes are complete.

Cavan County council also used its own resources funding to complete bridge repairs to Knockallosset bridge L6116, Finaway bridge R194, Canningstown bridge L3504, Glebe bridge R194 and Mullantlavan bridge L35261.



*Before Works*



*After Works*



**Curraghmore Bridge**



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## Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €517,000 under the Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works Fund for 2024 for 5 projects across the county.

## Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €419,850 for Community Involvement in 2024 with the applicants providing 10% of the overall cost of the works. The allocation provided allowed for the completion of 5 schemes across the county.

## Local Improvement Schemes

Cavan County Council received funding of €690,084 funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for Local Improvement Schemes in 2024. This allocation allowed for the completion of drainage, surfacing, and associated civil works to 8 schemes across the county.



Above: LIS Dunmakeever

## Road Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of the road network is critical in maintaining the investment of improvement works of previous years. The table below shows the value of maintenance works carried out during the year on each road type.

### National Road Maintenance

During 2024 Cavan County Council received €836,722 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting, Ordinary Maintenance and Route Defects programmes.

### Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2024 the DOT provided an allocation of €2.38m in the form of a Discretionary Grant and €2.37m in Surface Restoration Grants specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.74m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principal maintenance operations included drainage and surface repair work.



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## Winter Maintenance

Cavan County Council treats a designated 640km of the Road network as part of its Winter Maintenance Service which accounts for 20% of the entire network. A Winter Service Response Plan and maps of the salting routes are posted on the Council's Website for public viewing. The National Road Network is prioritised as it carries the greatest volume of traffic and caters for higher speeds. Winter Maintenance is carried out as a pre-treatment on the basis of forecast conditions.

## Public Lighting

Cavan County Council provides and maintains Public Lighting to a total of 29 towns and villages. Throughout the year the Council upgraded sections of the lighting infrastructure within each of the three Municipal Districts, including the use of LED technology which reduces the energy and maintenance costs and decreases carbon emissions.

78% of Cavan County Councils public lighting stock has been updated with LED fittings as of the end of 2024.

## Active Travel

### Background

In 2024, Cavan County Council's Active Travel initiatives have significantly contributed to promoting sustainable transport, improving accessibility, and enhancing safety throughout the county. These efforts have prioritised the integration of walking, cycling, and other non-motorised transport options into everyday life, encouraging healthier lifestyles, lowering emissions, and fostering more connected communities.

### Active Travel Measures 2024

Cavan County Council received €3,325,000 from the NTA for Active Travel projects in 2024 and also €500,000 for Bus Stop Enhancement Programme. There were 20 project schemes in total. Several of the schemes were continued from 2023 into 2024.

### Projects Delivered

Communities across Cavan benefited from Active Travel investment in the county's pedestrian and cycling network. This included the construction of new footpaths, upgrades to existing ones, and the installation of additional pedestrian crossings at various locations and cycle lanes including;

- Ballyhaise Village Phase 1
- Shercock Town
- Cootehill Station Rd
- Loreto school to Cavan Town
- Bailieborough Kells Road Footpath
- Cootehill Town - Cavan Street/Road
- SRTS R1 St Mary's Virginia



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- SRTS R2 St Michael's N.S., Cootehill
- Virginia Deerpark Pedestrian Crossing
- Cootehill Town - Cavan Street/Road
- Bailieborough Kells Road Footpath



*Before*



*After*

**Above:** Cootehill Town - Cavan Street/Road

## Projects being progressed

- Virginia - Rampart River Footbridge
- Cavan Town - Urban Greenway Phase 2
- Cavan Town - Local Transport Plan
- Kingscourt - Urban Greenway/Permeability Link
- Market St Junction Bailieborough Town



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- Cavan Town - Loreto school to Town Active Travel Scheme
- Cavan Town - Bus Station to Hospital, Active Travel Scheme
- Cavan Town - Footpath Link to Farnham N.S
- Cootehill - SRTS R1, St Aidan's Secondary School
- Cootehill - Station Rd, Active Travel Scheme
- Bus Stop Enhancement Programme
- SRTS R2 St Mogues Secondary School, Bawnboy



*Above: Pedestrian Crossing Farnham Road*

### **Loreto school to Cavan Town Active Travel Scheme**

The R212 Cathedral Road and Old Butlersbridge Road project is designed to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety by developing dedicated walking and cycling infrastructure along this key route. The project aims to improve connectivity between numerous residential areas, schools, and Cavan Institute with Cavan Town Centre, fostering greater accessibility and encouraging active travel.

Section 1 of the project was completed in 2023 covering approximately 450 meters while works commenced on section 2 from Cavan Institute to the Sullivan Centre in quarter 3 2024 with completion expected in May 2025. The final phases of the scheme are due to commence in 2025 subject to NTA approval.



*Above: Section 2 Works in progress*

### **Cavan Urban Greenway**

Phase 2 of the Cavan Urban Greenway will create a walking and cycling trail connecting Phase 1 of the Greenway at Cavan General Hospital to Farnham Road to Cavan town centre. This shared-use path will be approximately 3 to 4 meters wide, and will include landscaping, lighting and signage. The consultant for the Cavan Town Urban Greenway is actively working on the Option Route Selection process to determine the most appropriate and suitable desire line for the extension. While several potential routes have been identified, some face gradient challenges, to address this, the consultant will conduct a multi-criteria analysis, evaluating factors such as terrain, environmental impact, connectivity, and user experience, to identify the emerging preferred route. Once the preferred route is selected, a



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preliminary design will be developed ensuring it aligns with the project's goals of accessibility and integration with the surrounding landscape.

### **Cavan Town Area Based Transport Assessment**

DBFL Consulting Engineers (DBFL) have been commissioned by Cavan County Council (CCC) to conduct an Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) for Cavan Town. This assessment is aligned with the Cavan County Development Plan and the Cavan Town Local Area Plan, focusing on guiding the town's growth towards a more compact, self-sustaining model, in line with national, regional, and local planning policies. The key aim of the Cavan Town Local Area Plan is to improve the town's planning, urban design, and infrastructure, contributing to the town's goal of becoming a "Low Carbon Town Centre." This initiative seeks to reduce the influence of cars on the public realm, encourage mixed-use development, and create a rejuvenated urban space. The ABTA will lead to the development a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Cavan Town.

A draft LTP has been received by Cavan County Council which has been reviewed by both the Roads and Planning sections with comments and observations being forwarded to DBFL for consideration. A base transport model based on current traffic flows and surveys has been developed which will be used to predict future years traffic growth. It will also be used to determine the impact of future land use scenarios and possible road network interventions. Cavan County Council is currently in discussion with DBFL to develop and agree these inputs and interventions for the model.

### **Kingscourt Town Permeability Link to Navan-Kingscourt Greenway**

Cavan County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA), is advancing the Kingscourt Town Permeability Link to the Navan and Kingscourt Greenway, currently in Phase 3 – Preliminary Design, according to the NTA project lifecycle. The project aims to create a safe permeability link for pedestrians and cyclists between the under-construction Navan to Kingscourt Greenway and Kingscourt Town. It also supports climate action goals by promoting walking and cycling for both residents and visitors.

The scheme will enhance pedestrian and cyclist facilities within Kingscourt Town and between the town and the Greenway, encouraging Greenway users to visit. A topographical survey and geological investigation have been completed, and consultants are now developing the preliminary design in Phase 3.

### **Safe Route to Schools**

The Active Travel initiative has been supporting the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programme in Cavan, focusing on improving safety around schools through upgraded and additional infrastructure. These projects aim to enhance the safety and accessibility for students by creating safer environments for walking and cycling to school.

#### **SRTS Schools**

- Cootehill – St. Michael's N.S (SRTS R2)
- Bawnboy – St. Mogue's Secondary School (SRTS R2)
- Ballyhaise – St. Mary's N.S. (SRTS R2)
- Cootehill Town – St. Aidan's Secondary School
- Virginia Town – SRTS R1 St Mary's Virginia



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## St. Michael's National School Cootehill

As part of the Safe to Schools Programme, St. Michael's National School Cootehill received new footpaths, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming measures, and an upgraded school drop-off zone. These improvements were constructed during late summer 2024 during the school holidays to ensure a safer environment for students and families and completed in late 2024.



Above: St. Michael's SRTS Scheme

## Smarter Travel Mark

In November 2024, Cavan County Council was awarded the 'Smarter Travel Mark', recognising its ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable and active travel among staff and visitors.

The Smarter Travel Mark is a prestigious three-tier certification that recognises and celebrates organisations that support active and sustainable travel options, resulting in reduced carbon emissions and a more engaged workforce. Cavan County Council's award is at Bronze level.

The TFI Smarter Travel Programme is a national voluntary behaviour change programme managed by the National Transport Authority. Securing Smarter Travel certification provides national recognition of your organisation's commitment to active and sustainable travel, promotes integrating physical activity into staff and student commuting, enhances your organisation's reputation as an employer that supports active and sustainable travel and helps benchmark its active and sustainable travel practices.



Cavan County Council has implemented several initiatives and taken part in behaviour change campaigns, such as 'Ready, Set, Cycle' and 'Walktober', all aimed at encouraging sustainable commuting.

## Greenways

### Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway

Leitrim County Council are the lead authority for the development of the 56Km Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway project from Sligo to Blacklion. ARUP consulting engineers were appointed to the project by Leitrim County Council in September 2022 to progress the scheme in accordance with TII Project Management Guidelines. The initial public consultation took place in February with a second period of consultation taking place in May 2023.



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TII approval was received in July 2023 to progress the project from Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) to Phase 2 (Options Selection) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. ARUP consulting engineers identified several routes for the scheme and public consultation on these took place in quarter 4 2023. During 2024 a number of environmental studies took place and the consultants are currently working on the finalising of the preferred route corridor which will be subject to public consultation in 2025.

### **Cavan Greenway**

A review by Cavan County Council of this project in consultation with the TII in 2024 concluded that due to the significant changes in national policy, standards and best practice in relation to the delivery of a national greenway that it would be necessary to recommence the project to align with the TII Project Management Guidelines. Consequently, Cavan County Council completed a new Project Outline Document (POD) in quarter 4 and submitted it to the TII for approval. The revised Greenway project will be known as the Cavan North West Greenway as it will extend into County Leitrim.

### **Road Safety**

The national Road Safety Strategy from 2021-2030 Vision Zero was finalised by the Department of Transport and published in Dec 2021. The publication of the strategy required the development of a Road Safety Plan by the council. The plan was prepared by the Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group, which is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group to ensure a coordinated, collaborative and consistent approach to improving safety for all road users.

The Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group includes members from Cavan County Council, The Fire Service, The RSA, The TII, An Garda Síochána, The HSE, The Ambulance Service and The Cavan Monaghan Education & Training Board.

Vision zero has set ambitious targets of a 50% reduction of road deaths by 2030. Phase 1 of the Strategy is currently under review, following this review, the Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group will begin to prepare the County Cavan Road Safety Plan 2025 – 2027 for phase 2 of the Strategy.





### **Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme**

The Design Team working on the Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme have completed the detailed design for the scheme. A final submission of all drawings and specifications for the project was received in January of this year. Complete sets of construction stage tender documents for the scheme have also been prepared.



**Above:** *Scheme Layout*

A detailed application for a grant towards construction stage funding was prepared and submitted to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) in February 2024. This fund is financed under Project Ireland 2040 and is administered by the Dept of Rural and Community Development.

In May 2024 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D. announced the Kingscourt Town centre regeneration scheme was amongst the successful applicants for Category 1 funding.

The scheme has been granted €10,897,812 from the RRDF to proceed with next stage of its development. A match funding contribution from Cavan County Council of €1,210,868.00 is required to secure this Category 1 grant. As the estimated Total Project Cost for the development stage totalling €12,108,680.00.



*Left: Visualisation of Community Library*

*Right: Visualisation of Remote Working Hub*



A Public Procurement process is currently underway to appoint a professional services team to the project to oversee the tender and appointments of contractors, construction and handover stages of the scheme. Once the professional services team are in place pre – qualification of contractors will follow early in 2025 before the works procurement tenders and appointments of contractors are initiated.

### **Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme**

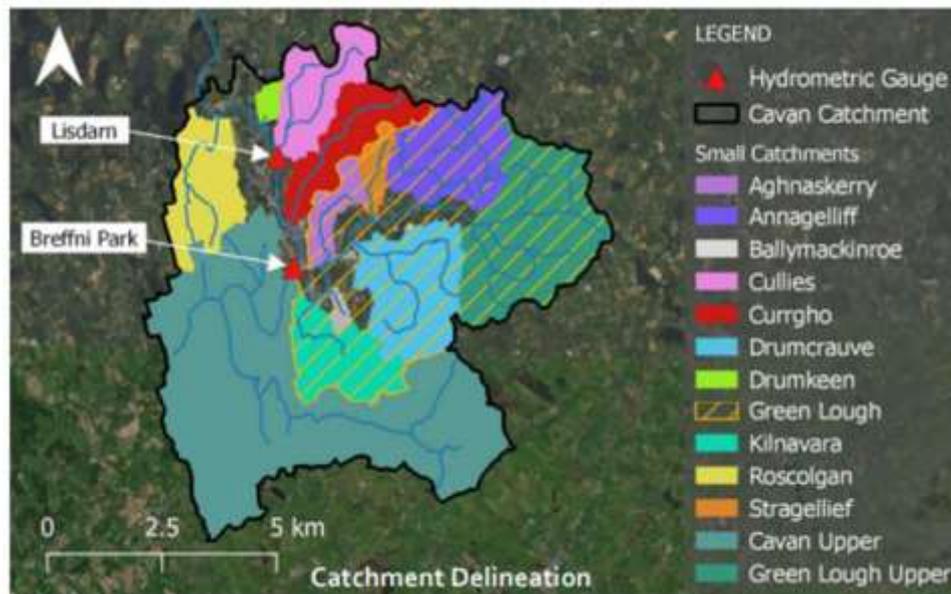
The Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) project consists of five stages with Stage 1: Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme currently ongoing. Additional stages include Planning, Scheme Development and Detailed Design, Construction and ultimately finishing with Handover of the Works. A project Steering Group for the scheme constitutes Cavan County Council (CCC) as the Client, the Office of Public Works (OPW) as the funding authority and Ayesa as the schemes Engineering and Environmental consultants. Works ongoing as part of stage I include the following:

- Hydrology

A draft hydrology report was completed for the Scheme and submitted to the Client for review in 2024. The report details the analysis completed to define how the flows in the rivers within the scheme area respond during flooding events. This will highlight areas where flood protection is required.

- Hydraulic Modelling

A sub-consultant, Arcadis, was commissioned to undertake the hydraulic modelling works for the Cavan Town scheme on behalf of Ayesa. Arcadis commenced work on the hydraulic modelling elements of the scheme during the year using inputs from completed topographical survey data. Hydraulic modelling is a desktop exercise which runs a computer software package to model the scheme's watercourses, drainage infrastructure and overland surface flows. The model for the Cavan River and its tributaries are now built, however quality assurance of the model is ongoing at present. Once complete, Arcadis will run several flood scenario events to distinguish flood events and severity, including climate change adaptation runs to evaluate the defense requirements for protection into the future.



Above:

*Catchment Map for Cavan Town Scheme*

- Environmental Works

In line with the schemes Invasive & Alien Species (IAS) management plan and treatment programme Envirico has continued with the survey & treatment of Invasives within the scheme area in 2024. Two rounds of treatment were completed in May and September with the treatment programme continuing up until construction commences.

- Environmental Surveys

- Two Specialists Environmental Surveys commenced in 2023 were completed in 2024 namely,
- Aquatic Ecology – Tobin Consulting Engineers. Report submitted Sept 2024.
  - Ornithological Surveys – Flynn Furney. Report submitted Oct 2024.

### Strategic Policy Committees

One of the main objectives of Better Local Government was to enhance Local Democracy and as a result Strategic Policy Committees were set up. These provide a new forum for Elected Representatives of the Council and Representatives of Community and State Organisations to work together to develop new policies and review old ones. Each Committee is chaired by a



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Member of the Council and is serviced by a Director of Services. A meeting of the SPC took place in April 2024 to discuss the Annual Roads Programme.

## Environment, Waste Management and Climate Change

### Environmental Services

Cavan is a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is therefore no surprise that the issue of water quality demands significant attention. Water quality can be impacted by industrial and commercial discharges, farming practices, discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and wastewater treatment systems serving one-off housing. The Environmental Services Division play a vital role in the source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. The Environmental Services Division also deal with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, air licences, planning applications and environment specific bye-laws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan County Council.

Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities. Cavan County Council has prepared this Local Authority-Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 to set out how the local authority can help tackle climate change and promote a range of mitigation, adaptation, and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government's overall National Climate Objective.

The Waste Management and Enforcement element is responsible for the prevention, management and control of waste under Irish and EU legislation. It also manages Environmental Awareness and Education, the Dog Warden Service, and maintenance of vested burial grounds.

### NOAC indicators(please note these

#### **E1: Households with access to a 3 bin service**

- A. The number of households, which availed of a 3 bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2024.
- B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations > 500).

In order to compile this information, data will be obtained directly from the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

### **Review**

The data is not available the data will be made available from the National Waste Collection Permit Office and will be published in NOAC's Annual Performance Indicator Report later in the year.



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## E2: No. of environmental pollution complaints closed

The following indicators will be presented in the performance indicators report:

### Results

<b>A</b>	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2024:	466
<b>A</b>	Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024:	488
<b>A</b>	Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2024:	42
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2023:	64

### Review

The number of pollution cases of all types that were not finalised at 31/12/2024 is 9% of the total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2024.

## E3: % of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

### Litter pollution E3:

A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2024 was unpolluted or litter free
A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2024 was slightly polluted
A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2024 was moderately polluted
A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2024 was significantly polluted
A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2024 was grossly polluted

The data is not available the data will be made available by Tobin Consulting Engineers directly to the LGMA. This will be published in NOAC's Annual Performance Indicator Report later in the year.

## E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status.

The following indicator will be presented in the performance indicators report:

### A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2024

In order to compile this information, data will be obtained directly from An Taisce: The National Trust for Ireland.

Please note the following data is obtained from An Taisce:

No. of schools (primary, post-primary and special schools) in local authority at 31/12/2024	<b>87</b>
The no. of schools that have been awarded/ renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2024	<b>29</b>
% of schools that have been awarded green flag status	<b>33</b>
Those which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2024	<b>1</b>
Those which renewed their Green Flag in 2024	<b>11</b>
Those which held a Green Flag from 2023 and therefore do not require	<b>17</b>



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renewal until 2025	
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## Review

The percentage of schools that have been awarded green flag status has increased to 33% in 2023. The application and subsequent awarding of green school flags is very dependent on individual teachers and head teachers

## E5: Energy Efficiency

1. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2024 relative to baseline year (2009)

Data is not yet available.

## Review

Figure obtained up to 31/12/23 is -28.5%. Data for 2024 for this indicator is not yet available from SEAI

Data will be published in NOAC's Annual performance Indicator Report

## E7: Climate Change

- Does the local Authority have a FTE climate action officer: Yes
- Does the local Authority have a FTE climate change coordinator: Yes
- Does the Local Authority have a climate action team? Yes

## Review

The appointment of climate change roles took place in 2023.

## River & Lake Monitoring

Nearly 400, river and lake samples were taken across County Cavan during 2024 by Environmental Services Section field staff. These inspections were undertaken in accordance with the Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme. The results of analysis from these samples, combined with other biology, ecology and hydro morphology data available to the EPA, is used to classify the water quality of the rivers and lakes for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive. There are a number of different types of pressures on water quality including, urban waste water, agriculture and forestry. Pressures on water quality are diverse and most of the "at risk" waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure. Much of the work we do to improve water quality is not readily apparent. It can take a long time for the water quality in lakes in particular to show improvement. However, given the systems in place, we expect to be able to show steady continuous improvement in the coming years.



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## **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems**

The Water Services (Amendment) Act was enacted in 2012, to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning domestic water treatment systems. All owners of premises connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by February 2013. A National Inspection Plan (NIP) set out the inspection requirements on a National basis and prioritises the inspection selection on the basis of pollution risk. Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems in accordance with the NIP. 33 full domestic wastewater assessments were carried out in 2024 in County Cavan.

## **Water Pollution**

During 2024, staff from the Environmental Services Section responded to over 70 water related complaints. The investigations relating to these complaints resulted in various forms of enforcement action being initiated. In some cases no further action was required upon investigation and the file was closed or referred to another Section of the Council for inspection. Where enforcement action was deemed necessary due to a discharge of polluting matter or a risk of pollution to waters taking place, the following actions may have been taken depending on the scenario encountered on site by



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the Inspector –

- Advisory letter
- Warning letter
- Section 12 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Section 3 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Cross Report to the Department of Agriculture

## **Discharge Licences**

Inspectors from the Environmental Services Section monitored 58 discharge licenced facilities during 2024. This involved 79 inspections associated with these facilities. These licences provide control over effluent discharges to ground and surface waters, which includes rivers & lakes. These licences place responsibility and accountability on the discharger/licence holder. Cavan County Council is responsible for controlling the discharge of effluent to waters through licensing. The licences include appropriate pollution control conditions as well as emission limit values on the discharge.

The Environmental Services Section was also involved in the process of licensing discharges to the sewer network. This falls under the remit of Uisce Eireann and the relevant Environmental Services Section Inspectors carried out this work in accordance with the service level agreement with Uisce Eireann.

## **Air Pollution Acts & Regulations (Solvents/Decopaints/PVE/Smoky Coal)**

During 2024, there were 3 active Air Licences operating in the County, Inspectors attended the sites and the operators were in compliance with their licence requirements. During 2024, one of these facilities ceased operations so by year end only two active air licences were in place.

During 2024, staff from the Environmental Services Section responded to over 20 air and noise related complaints.

The Solvents Regulations deal primarily with emissions from dry cleaning establishments across County Cavan. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. They include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short and long-term adverse health effects. These regulations are in force to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the environment, especially through controlling, preventing and reducing emissions to air. This is because VOC releases can have negative impacts on human health and the environment. The operators have assessments carried out and if all is in order, they apply to Cavan County Council for Certification. The Certificates can be issued for up to three years if the operator is adhering to the regulations. Shorter time frames may be imposed if non compliances have to be resolved. There were three facilities with the required Certificates in place at the end of 2024.



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The Decopaints Regulations, make it an offence to operate a vehicle refinishing or repair installation without a valid certificate of compliance. Motor factors and paints suppliers also need to comply with these regulations as it is an offence to place non-compliant vehicle refinishing products on the market. The procedure for Certification is similar to that of the Solvent Regulations. There were 7 facilities with the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2024.

Petrol Vapour Emission Regulations (PVE's) are relevant if a company deals with liquid and gas fuels, such as petrol stations, then there is a need to obtain a petroleum vapour emissions (PVE) certificate from Cavan County Council. An assessor undertakes an assessment when fuel is being delivered. The findings of same are submitted to Cavan County Council. If all is in order a Certificate can be issued. 33 facilities had the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2024.

Smoky Coal Regulations are also referred to as the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 (as amended). There is a ban on the burning of smoky coal and certain other fuels in County Cavan which came into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. During 2024, investigations were ongoing across County Cavan on fuel supplied for sale in the County, this included inspections of solid fuel suppliers and merchants as well as undertaking a sulphur content sampling and analysis regime. Varying levels of compliance were encountered. Adherence to these regulations will ultimately improve air quality and public health, as well as helping to protect those who are vulnerable to respiratory problems.

Air monitoring station and data - An ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station was installed in 2020 located at the rear of Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan Town. Reports are produced and distributed of the results from this air quality monitoring station. The system measures and transmits the air monitoring data in real-time with graphical results presented on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/cn/pm/>, the air monitoring data captured by the monitoring station will be used to evaluate air quality.

### **Farm Inspections & the Nitrates Regulations**

Agriculture plays an important part in the economic and sustainable growth of County Cavan. In order for this to continue, the agricultural community has to ensure that various obligations regarding the law and the environment are applied.

Cavan is predominantly a rural County; therefore, one of the potential sources of pollution to our rivers and lakes can be poor agricultural practices. The Nitrates Regulations or GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) Regulations are enforced in County Cavan. These Regulations provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural activities. Inspectors from the Environmental Services Section undertook 120 farm inspections in accordance with these Regulations during 2024.



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## **Public Drinking Water**

Drinking water from public water supply schemes and major group water schemes were monitored in 2024. This is done to ensure that the schemes are producing water that meets the highest standards with regard to public health, and to ensure that drinking water complies with the relevant regulations. Environmental Services Section staff undertook the public drinking water monitoring work on behalf of Uisce Eireann under the existing service level agreement.

## **Cavan Monaghan Science Festival**

2024 was the 9th year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils again joined forces hosting a range of events during November 2024. Some events were held online/virtual and some in person. The objective was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. One of the festival's key successes was developing in-house, curriculum-linked, STEAM workshops, including a 'CSI Water' workshop which explored water sampling and pollution investigation techniques, developed by Cavan County Council's Environmental Services section. Furthermore, the hosting of the family fun day in Kingscourt with participants provided with events from the Environmental Services staff, Cavan Civil Defence, Kingscourt Fire Services, as well as various Science Shows was a resounding success.

## **Border Energy Unit**

The Eastern & Midlands CARO is made up of a number of sub regions. The Border Region Sub Region authorities are Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, and Leitrim County Council. The Border Region Sub Region Authorities of Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council and Leitrim County Council have come together to work in partnership as a Border Energy Unit.

The mission of the Border Energy Unit is for the local authorities to work collaboratively with the SEAI to delivery energy efficiency projects in the region. Cavan County Council acts as lead local authority for the Border Energy Unit with the aim to continuously improve energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of its assets and services. Cavan County Council aims to meet the prescribed objectives and targets for 2030.

Cavan County Council, in its capacity as lead local authority, entered into Service Level Agreements with each of the Unit Authorities viz Monaghan County Council and Leitrim County Council in 2022 and has also entered into an MoU (memorandum of Understanding) with the SEAI in 2022 both continued into 2024. The LAs and SEAI have agreed to collaborate on the delivery of a Pathfinder Programme for Border Sub Region in 2023, 2024 and 2025.



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The shared objectives are to develop a scalable model for energy and emission management and retrofit investment in the Unit Authorities' building stock to achieve national policy targets.

As part of the Pathfinder Programme, the local authorities will manage the progression of the energy and decarbonisation agenda including:

- Implementing and Progressing energy efficiency and decarbonisation upgrades
- Maintaining and developing further a collaborative approach for energy efficiency across each Local Authority in the region
- Establishing and Embedding Energy Management in each Local Authority across the region
- Developing a programme of retrofit works comprising capital works and centrally Coordinated

For the Energy Unit and Retrofit Programme the Annual Commitment shall be funded on a 50/50 basis between the Unit Authority (coordinated by Cavan County Council under the SLAs) and SEAI. In 2024 Cavan County Council appointed a Design Team for the provision of Consultancy Services. This relates to 5 of Cavan County Council's buildings (significant energy users).

## **Energy Management**

Across the entire organisation the Council's Energy Manager undertakes the following

- Update and reporting on Cavan County Council's Energy Reduction Targets
- Ensuring Cavan County Council's energy supply complies with the Office of Government Procurement national contracts.
- Establishing and maintain procedures to monitor energy consumption
- Providing guidance and advice on energy regulations and statutory requirements.
- Raising awareness to improve energy efficiency
- Encourage sustainable energy practices
- Support energy efficiency improvement projects

Cavan County Council's target is a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Based on the Monitoring and Reporting submissions to SEAI for 2023, Cavan County Council has made a 28.5% improvement to energy efficiency since the baseline period of 2001-2005. The public sector report for 2024 has not been published to date and this is why the 2023 data is utilised as it is the most up to date verified data available.



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The Energy Manager reports the annual energy consumption and related data to the SEA1 in accordance with deadlines imposed each year.

All electricity consumed by Cavan County Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender and this is administered by the Energy Manager. The current electricity contract for non-domestic buildings is with *Energia* who supply over 60 sites operated by Cavan County Council which include office buildings, libraries, waste management facilities, recreational facilities, fire stations, museum, theatres, etc.

The Public Lighting electricity supply contract is also administered via the Office of Government Procurement with *Energia* supplying the electricity to the public lights under Cavan County Council's control. There are 7290 public lights which have to be supplied with electricity and have to be maintained. There is an existing public lighting maintenance contract in place with Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd (AuS). 261 public lighting upgrades took place during 2024.

Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2023 which resulted in a spending of over **€2.1 million** is detailed in kilowatt hours in the table below:

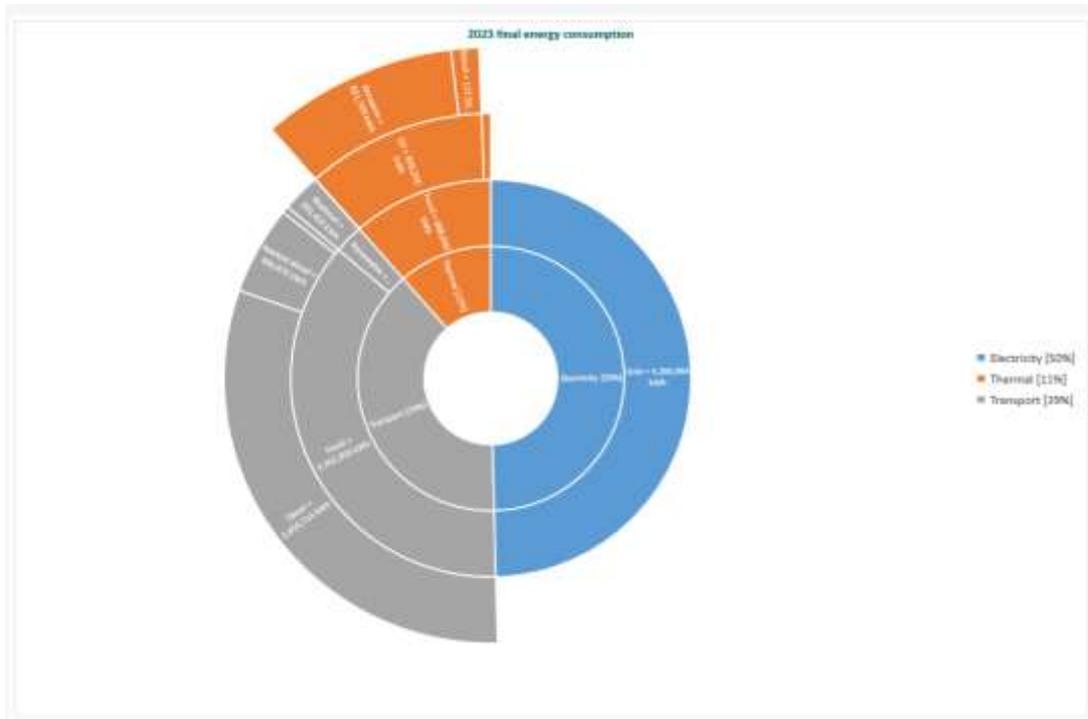
Energy Type	Energy Consumption 2023	Energy Consumption 2022
	kWh	kWh
Electricity	3,858,267 ↓	3,892,653
Thermal	1,416,727 ↓	1,748,723
Transport	3,365,013 ↑	3,013,543
Total Energy Consumed	8,640,007 ↓	8,654,919



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Cavan energy consumption:

- Electricity (Buildings & public lighting) – 50% (52% CO2 emissions)
- Transport – 39% (37% CO2 emissions)
- Heating (Buildings) – 11% (11% CO2 emissions)

### Some of the Significant Energy Actions during 2024 include

- Energy Monitoring and Reporting submitted to SEAI in accordance with deadlines for 2023 energy consumed.
- Contract awarded for Architect/Building M&E Services Led Design Team Consultancy Services for Local Authority Energy Pathfinder undertaken by Cavan County Council on behalf of the three-border unit local authorities (Cavan, Monaghan & Leitrim). This work in 2024 will progress the commencement of the necessary deep energy retrofits to Cavan County Council's significant energy users (5 premises) in line with the SEAI Pathfinder support program.
- Project Managers Appointed
- Asbestos Survey & Air Tightness Testing completed.
- Cavan managed the SEAI Pathfinder recoup from SEAI for 2024 on behalf of Cavan, Monaghan & Leitrim
- Cavan County Council Energy Engagement Strategy implemented.
- 1. Seasonal messages to staff regarding energy efficiency implemented.
- 2. Energy actions for inclusion in all Annual Service Delivery Plans/Business Plans.
- 3. Ongoing monitoring of bills and ongoing requests for meter readings within CCC. Liaising with relevant staff re. payments/approval system ongoing.
- Energy upgrades by the Council's Housing Section on 41 houses within Cavan County Councils housing stock to a B2 energy rating.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.



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- 80% of public lighting stock upgraded to energy efficient LED lights. The program replaces lights that are failing and new works with LED lighting. Work was also undertaken through active travel also.
- Input to Local Economic and Community Plan regarding relevant energy activities.
- Participation in the OPW Optimising Power at Work and the SEAI Reduce Your Use campaign has seen energy efficiency improvements by staff including a >30% improvement in energy efficiency in the Cavan Courthouse building which is one of our headquarter buildings during 2024.
- Cavan County Council's Energy Team continued to support staff across all Sections towards the 2030 targets on behalf of the organisation.

### Actions Planned for 2025

- Complete SEAI Energy Efficiency Performance Monitoring and Reporting for 2024 in accordance with new deadlines imposed.
- Embed new energy monitoring of bills for specific facilities into the Agresso system
- Report on energy efficiency progress to Senior Management Team.
- Energy Policy update and align same with the formation of the new Energy & Carbon Management Working Group. This includes LACAP requirements.
- Liaise with OPW regarding Optimising Power at Work programme.
- Support and input to the Climate Action Team.
- Ongoing Implementation of the energy engagement strategy.
- Raise staff awareness and improve energy efficiency using seasonal messages.
- Out of hours audits
- Review of monthly bills, compare and disseminate information
- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Annual Service Delivery Plans – include energy actions on Section Plans.
- Support the various building operators in relation to energy management and opportunities e.g. Museum, fire services, MD's, etc.
- Public lighting upgrades.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders
- Progress the Pathfinder Programme.
- Progress the Border Energy Unit.
- Investigate further regional opportunities for energy saving and energy efficiency projects in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities.

### Climate Change

#### Climate Action Cavan

2024 marked a significant year for Cavan County Council's Climate Action Section having adopted and implemented the first iteration of the Local Authorities Climate Action Plan. This comprehensive plan outlines 197 targeted actions across five key areas:

- Governance & Leadership
- Built Environment & Transport
- Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure



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- Community Resilience & Transition
- Sustainability & Resource Management

Following implementation of the plan, works began to implement ambitious initiatives to reduce carbon emissions across the organisation, enhance climate resilience, and providing guidance and support to local communities, businesses and stakeholders to drive collective climate action across all sectors.

## Key Achievements

### 1. Climate Action Week 2024

- Cavan County Council launched its first-ever Climate Action Week from October 14th to 19th, 2024. This event aimed to reshape the conversation around climate action by emphasising positive, creative approaches that actively engage the community while supporting the newly approved County Cavan Climate Action Plan. The weeklong event engaged over 2,000 participants across schools, businesses, and community groups.
- The event officially launched on October 5, 2024, during the Cavan GAA Semi-finals at Breffni Park. The Climate Team partnered with the Cavan County Board to highlight the Green Clubs programme and emphasize the significance of the upcoming Climate Action Week initiatives.
- The Climate Team developed a diverse program of events aligned with the plan's five thematic areas, designed to raise awareness, inspire action, and encourage sustainable practices. The week provided a platform to educate, engage, and empower individuals, schools, businesses, farmers, and communities with practical solutions to reduce their environmental impact.
- Partnered with local businesses to promote circular economy practices.
- Over the course of the week, 14 events took place, including workshops, creative sessions, biodiversity and upcycling activities, guest speakers, and climate-themed storytelling events.





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## 2. Staff Engagement

To raise staff awareness about climate action, a series of informative media posts were shared through the organisation's internal mailing system. These included:

- **Climate-Friendly IT Practices** – Practical tips for reducing the environmental impact of technology at work and home, such as using energy-efficient devices, minimizing paper waste, adopting digital document management, and utilizing cloud solutions that optimize energy consumption.
- **Waste Reduction & Food Waste Awareness** – Staff were encouraged to be more mindful of food waste, and free kitchen caddies were distributed to support waste reduction in the workplace.
- **Water Quality Awareness** – The Water Quality Team shared a video highlighting the importance of maintaining high water quality across the county.
- **Active Travel Benefits** – The Active Travel Team promoted the health, environmental, economic, and social advantages of active travel, emphasising its role in fostering a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.
- **Clean Air Awareness** – The Environment Team circulated information on the benefits of clean air, followed by an Air Quality Talk during Science Week and a live demonstration of an air quality monitoring unit in the Council car park.
- **Walktober** - was a month-long initiative encouraging staff to incorporate more walking into their daily routines, whether for commuting, exercise, or leisure. The goal was to promote physical well-being, reduce carbon footprints, and highlight the benefits of active travel
- **Eco Drive Training Event for Outdoor Staff** - The purpose of the *Drive Training Event for Outdoor Staff* was to equip staff with the skills and knowledge to safely operate vehicles in outdoor and off-road environments, while also promoting more environmentally friendly driving practices.





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### 3. Educational Initiatives

- As part of the *Nature Hero Award* initiative, students of Castlerahan NS took part in native tree and hedgerow planting. Before planting, they completed a short classroom workshop on the importance of native trees. They then explored the school yard to identify different tree species already growing on the grounds. A total of 20 students participated in the event.
- Sue Adams from Education for Sustainability led interactive workshops at Corlea National School and Coláiste Dún na Rí, Kingscourt, as part of the Green Schools Programme. Students explored the impact of carbon emissions and the crucial role of trees in reducing them. The workshop included an outdoor activity where they measured tree trunk sizes to estimate carbon absorption.
- Cavan County Council hosted the first-ever Climate Hope Forum in collaboration with An Taisce, Green Schools, and Breifne College. The event brought together over 80 students from local secondary schools, including Breifne College, The Royal School, St. Pat's College, St. Clare's Secondary School, and Bailieborough Community School to discuss climate action, sustainability, and innovation.
- As part of a climate-themed Storytime at Belturbet Library, author Emma Murphy shared her book *Special Like You*, introducing young children to invertebrates. The book highlights the vital role these tiny creatures play in maintaining biodiversity, teaching kids about their decline and the importance of caring for the planet to keep gardens thriving.

### 4.0 Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in Cavan Town

- Businesses within the DZ were supported through the Cavan County Council Local Enterprise Office in adopting energy-efficient technologies through the Green Business Support Scheme.

### 5.0 Citizen Engagement

- Cavan County Council presented information on available climate funding grants for local sports clubs. The event highlighted how sports clubs can play a vital role in climate action through sustainable practices and community engagement.
- Cavan County Council in association with CCLD (Cavan County Local Development) hosted a free one-day event in the County Museum. This event provided an opportunity for the public to view the upcycling works of the local Men's shed and The Little Redo like New project in the Ballyjamesduff area.
- RTÉ weather presenter, meteorologist, and author Joanna Donnelly gave a lecture about the effects of climate change on Ireland's weather patterns.
- Cavan County Council and Teagasc hosted a farm walk as part of the *Better Farming for Water* programme aimed at supporting sustainable farming practices. The event, attended by



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over 90 participants, focused on promoting actions to improve water quality in areas where agriculture is a key pressure.

- A Biodiversity Boat Tour on Lough Oughter in partnership with Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and Cavan Adventure Centre was organised with the aim of raising awareness about the value of lakes and water resources in the county. Participants learned about the rich variety of plants, birds, fish, and wildlife that call Lough Oughter home.



## 6. Community Climate Action Fund

- On 9th January 2024, we welcomed Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, to Cavan town to formally launch both the national Climate Action Fund allocation of €24 million and the allocation of €3 million, which is being provided by the Government's Shared Island Fund, to support cross-border and all-island community climate action initiatives.
- In total, thirty-five applications were received through Strand 1. The total allocation for Cavan under this strand is €439,000. The value of project applications received was €1,1134,480.16. Following a thorough evaluation process, seventeen projects were selected for recommendation under the Strand 1 fund totalling €439,000.
- Under Strand 1a Shared Island funding, a total of seven applications were received. The value of project applications received was €513,137.58. Five projects received funding totalled at €332,961.14
- Projects were selected for funding under the following five thematic areas: community energy; travel; food and waste; shopping and recycling; and local climate and environmental action.



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## 7. Community Engagement & Promotion

- To ensure broad community participation and accessibility, a hybrid approach was implemented, combining both online and in-person engagement.
- In-person scheduled meeting clinics were held in Johnston Library where community groups attended for one-on-one consultations.
- Guidance was provided on project eligibility and application process.
- Community presentations were provided in association with events held under the Retrofit Ready Programme in Virginia and Kingscourt.
- Online open information sessions were held in January and February.
- Applications for the fund was promoted through social media posts on Council's Facebook and Instagram pages, press releases in Anglo Celt, PPN Newsletter and Staff Intranet.

## Waste Management, Enforcement and Environmental Education and Awareness

Cavan County Council's Environmental Services is responsible for the prevention, management and control of waste under Irish and EU legislation. It also manages Environmental Awareness and Education, the Dog Warden Service, and maintenance of vested burial grounds.

### Waste Management Facilities

#### Civic Amenity Centres

Cavan County Council are responsible for 3 No. Civic Amenity Centres (CACs) located at Corranure, Bailieborough and Ballyconnell. CACs are facilities where the public can dispose of their household waste and contain collection points for a wide range of materials including paper, cardboard, plastic,



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timber, garden waste, DIY waste, glass, and metal, waste electrical goods, batteries, textiles, waste oil for recycling.

## Bring Centre Network

There are now 31 No. Recycling Bring Centre locations throughout the County. Bring Centres allows the public to deposit plastic bottles, glass jars and bottles, aluminium and tin cans and textiles for recycling. The Council have undertaken upgrade and improvement works at a number of locations in 2024 which include extensive upgrades at Ballyhaise and Ballinagh. All works were funded by and completed as part of our 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative.



### Ballyhaise Bring Centre after upgrade Waste Complaints

Roadside litter, illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles are the most prevalent types of complaints. Throughout the year the Council participated in multiple awareness campaigns to highlight the detrimental impact these activities have on our communities and to encourage behavioural change including:

- Community Wardens provided information at a stand at the Kingscourt Community Development Craft & Trade Fair in November 2024. The Community Wardens also visited a housing estate in each of the three municipal districts in June to distribute Brown Kitchen Food Caddys and provide information to residents on Food Waste and Food Waste Recycling.
- Engaged 3 prominent Businesses in Cavan to participate in the Green Kilometre initiative to look after the Dublin Road, a problem area as per IBAL, and provided each with litter picking materials.



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- Through our Anti-Dumping Initiatives, we provided a series of Bulky Waste Drop Off days (1<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024) in Corranure/Ballyconnell/Bailieborough.
- Continued to ensure our website was updated with the most current information relating to awareness campaigns and initiatives such as National Tree Week, National Spring Clean and Dog Fouling.
- Supported National Campaigns such as the initiative ran by the ERP on Free Electrical Recycling. 3 collection days took place in 2024, which were widely advertised on our social media platforms and in The Anglo Celt.



## Anti-Dumping Initiative

As part of the 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative, Cavan County Council completed 5 No. projects which focused on:

- Prevention Measures
- Abatement measures
- Education and awareness measures
- Enforcement measures

The two larger projects focused on the upgrade of our Bring Centre Network and hosting a series of Bulky Waste and Waste Drop Off for a period of 3 weeks at the Corranure, Ballyconnell and Bailieborough Civic Amenity Sites. We received unprecedented attendance over the 3-week period 1<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July, with the Bulky Waste Drop Off Days taking in over 85 tonnes of household waste, a 5 tonne increase on 2023.



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### Site Clean ups

Site clean ups were carried out at two locations in Cavan town, Cockhill View and Harmony Heights. Both areas were in close proximity to residential dwellings and were subject to prolonged illegal dumping. A total of 42.38 tonnes was removed from these sites.



Cockhill before



and after

### Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grants

Grant monies was paid to 9 No. Tidy Towns Groups amounting to €13,080.23 for projects completed in 2024 this was part funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.



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## Promotion of the Green Schools Programme

The Green Schools Programme is an environmental education programme run by An Taisce in partnership with local authorities, designed to promote long term whole school action for the environment which is led by the students with involvement from the wider community. Cavan County Council continue to promote the programme each year and consult with all schools across the County on a regular basis and provide information, support and other resources to as many schools as possible. The following 12 No. Schools were awarded a Green Flag, for the 2022/2024 period, at the regional awards ceremony held in Athlone, Co. Westmeath on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May:



- Litter & Waste Flag: St. Mogue's N.S Bawnboy and St Bricin's College Belturbet.
- Water Flag: Corlea N.S, Gaelscoil Bheirne and Colaiste Dun an Ri.
- Travel Flag: Loreto College Cavan and Farnham N.S Cavan.
- Biodiversity Flag: St. Brigids N.S Killygarry and St. Clare's N.S Ballyjamesduff.
- Global Citizenship Energy: Curravagh N.S Glangevlin.
- Global Citizenship Marine: Belturbet Boys N.S and St. Josephs N.S Kingscourt.

The local authority provided financial assistance to An Taisce for the administration of the programme and arranged for the assessments to be carried out.

## Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League

Cavan Town moved up the rankings in the IBAL Anti-Litter League in 2024 finishing in 23<sup>rd</sup> place out of 40 towns in the 1<sup>st</sup> round results, "Clean to European Norms" and 17<sup>th</sup> place out of 40 towns in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round results and ranked also as "Clean to European Norms". This is testament to the collaborative approach by the Council and Cavan Tidy Towns.

## National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System provides an accurate picture of litter pollution across the county and accurately measures changes over time. The System developed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and Tobin Consulting Engineers requires local authorities to carry out annual surveys to determine the extent, composition and causes of litter pollution in the locations assessed.

The data obtained enables us to provide more effective litter management planning and assess the effectiveness of the objectives set out in our Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2024 and ensure we allocate the appropriate resources to tackle the issues faced locally by litter pollution.



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## 2 No. locations surveyed –



**Bailieboro Rd, Virginia (L),  
National Spring Clean**



**Greenway, Cavan (R)**

Traditionally, the National Spring Clean Campaign runs throughout Ireland during the month of April and in recent years it has gone from strength to strength in County Cavan. In support of this campaign, Cavan County Council have encouraged Schools, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout the County to become involved in clean-up projects in their area. Bags, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis vests were among the items provided to groups to assist in their clean ups. Groups from all over the county participated in the campaign and large amounts of roadside litter was collected. In 2024, approximately 52 No. groups registered with An Taisce with over 1,348 people involved in clean ups between March and July. The Council provided supplementary litter picking equipment and signage to groups who needed additional supplies and disposed of all waste collected.

## National Tree Week

Planting more trees is the most efficient way of removing carbon from the atmosphere and combatting climate change. This annual campaign encourages people to plant more trees and get involved in local activities happening in their area. In 2024, 400 native trees were supplied free of charge to 22 No. community/voluntary groups, schools and individuals.



**Tree Council  
of Ireland**



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## **Dog Fouling Awareness Initiatives**

Environmental Services continues to place significant emphasis on developing measures to deter dog fouling and to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities. In addition to the 100+ No. bag dispenser units and/or combi bin/bag dispensers that had been installed up to the end of 2023, further plans were made in 2024 to increase this number along known dog walking routes. We continue to fund the provision of bags for these dispensers and oversee a maintenance schedule for each Municipal District. Community Wardens also continue to work closely with voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns to highlight the issues of dog fouling

A Media Campaign highlighting Dog Fouling Awareness ran in The Anglo Celt in 2024 and across all Council social media platforms:

Cases of dog fouling has increased recently, and Cavan County Council are reminding all dog owners the responsibilities they have as responsible dog owners, and the repercussions they face, when they do not dispose of dog waste appropriately.

## **Water Services**

Throughout 2024 Cavan County Council Water Services Section continued to adapt to challenges of what is still a relatively new operating environment in collaboration with Uisce Éireann, (formerly Irish Water). Cavan County Council Water Services Department is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure that we as a County and Nation are best positioned to avail of the opportunities presented by the changing circumstances.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water, (now Uisce Éireann). The year 2024 marked year 11 of that scenario which was initially actioned under a 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Uisce Éireann for the delivery of the services. This SLA has now been replaced by a Master Cooperation Agreement (MCA) and associated Support Services Agreement (SSA).

Water is considered a 'social good' and activities related to water services support the three aspects (economic, social, and environmental) of sustainable development. The objectives of the section working on behalf of Uisce Éireann is to:

- provide an adequate water supply of sustainable quality for domestic, industrial, agricultural, and other users.
- provide sewerage facilities for the safe and adequate disposal of sewage and other waterborne wastes.



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- provide the infrastructure to support the above objectives.
- provide an efficient and responsive service to customers at all times.
- plan for future growth and development.
- deliver all of the above at the most economic cost and minimum charge to customers.

There are 16 Public Water Schemes in the County of which 7 are being supplied by Private Group Water Schemes. There are 26 public wastewater treatment plants in the County.

### Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services

In February 2022, the government published a **Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper, Uisce Éireann – Towards a National, Publicly Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility**. The paper referenced the process facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC)- The outcome of this engagement of all relevant stakeholders with assistance of WRC was the Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services, (published in June 2022), which outlined the future plan and timescale of the transition of the Water Services function from the Local Authorities to a Single Public Utility. It also addressed staff issues relating to the future delivery of water services.

Implementation of this framework is ongoing requiring partnership and collaboration between the parties at local, regional, and national level, while maintaining the continued safe delivery of water services by Uisce Éireann and local authorities throughout the transition period.

The effective date for transfer of direct management of water services function to Uisce Éireann in Cavan County Council was September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Uisce Éireann has now assumed the direct management of the water services function in respect of public water supplies.

### Performance Indicators

Sampling and testing of all Public Water supplies and effluent discharges from wastewater plants is overseen by the Cavan County Council using Uisce Éireann’s Laboratory Framework. Cavan County Council also oversee the monitoring of Group Water Supplies.

The following are the compliance figures for the Public Water Supply Schemes, (Data for 2024 as per Uisce Éireann). Group Scheme Compliance 99.5%.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Compliance</b>	98.9%	98.9%	98.9%	99.4%	99.3%	99.7%	99.5%	99.4%



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## Capital Works

### Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) - Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Capital Upgrade Projects

Under Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Plan 2020 – 2024, Wastewater Treatment Plant Sites at Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt, Cootehill, & Virginia were identified for upgrade due to failings on discharge limits and hydraulic capacity.

#### Ballyjamesduff WWTP

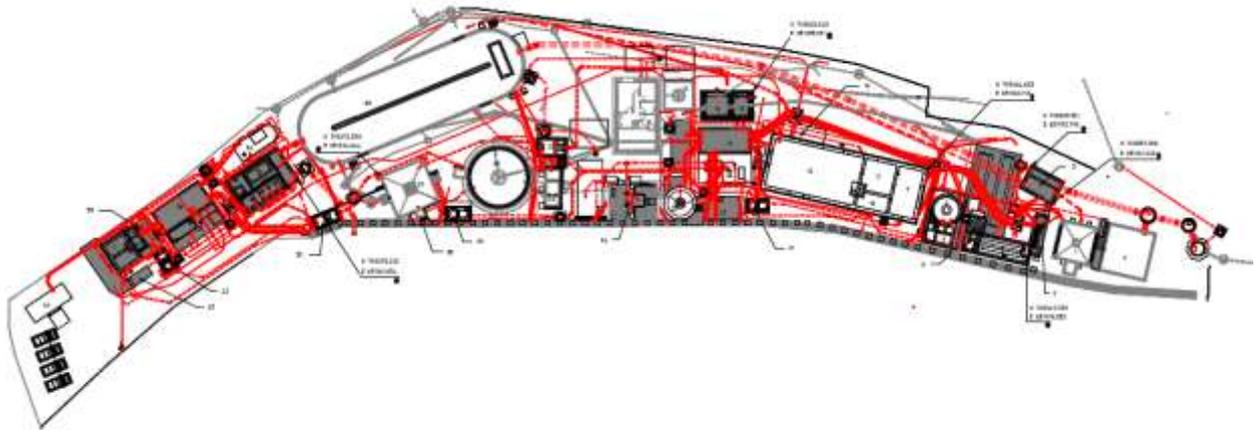
##### Project Scope

Increase current capacity from 2,200 PE to 4,300 PE for the 10-year horizon and 5,200 PE for the 25-year horizon for the purposes of this upgrade.

##### Progress

Planning Application was submitted in 2022. Notification of decision to grant was issued earlier in November 2022 with full planning permission for the Project granted in January 2023. The Project reached a significant milestone in March 2024 with construction commencing.

At present the guideline/estimated completion date for Ballyjamesduff WWTP as provided by UE / Project Team is Q3 2026.



**Proposed Site Layout Upgraded Ballyjamesduff Wastewater Treatment Plant**



**Overhead Aerial Views illustrating progress of Inlet Works, Grease / Grit Tanks, Process and MBBR Tanks achieved at Ballyjamesduff WWTP site throughout 2024**



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## Virginia WWTP

### Project Scope

Increase current capacity from 2,000 PE to 6,075 PE - Upgrade treatment process to meet the current WWDL requirements.

### Progress

Planning Application was submitted on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Notification of decision to grant was issued earlier in October 2023 with full planning permission for the Project granted in November 2023. The Project reached a significant milestone in June 2024 with construction commencing.

At present the guideline/estimated completion date for Ballyjamesduff WWTP as provided by UE / Project Team is Q2 2026.



**Perspective of Inlet Works  
Pumping Station**



**Perspective of Upgraded Wastewater  
Treatment Plant**



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Overhead Aerial Views illustrating progress achieved at Virginia WWTP site throughout 2024



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## **Project Breifne (KCB) - Cootehill, Bailieborough & Kingscourt**

Cavan County Council Local Authority Capital Office has been engaged in preliminary design works for Cootehill, Bailieborough and Kingscourt.

At present the guideline/estimated practical completion date for these Projects is Q4 2026 as advised by UE.

## **Cavan Rural Water Update**

### **Subsidy Payments to Group Water Schemes**

The process by which subsidy payments are made to group schemes has been updated in recent years.

Subsidy payments in the amount of **€3,982,418** were issued to schemes in 2024.

### **Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2019-2021**

The MARWP 2019-2021 was launched on February 8th, 2019. Submissions were made for funding towards 51 specific projects on behalf of 27 Schemes or scheme bundles. An Expert Panel adjudicated on all submissions. Allocations were announced by the Department on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

The final total allocation for Cavan was **€2,107,016.35**. These allocations are both scheme and project specific. Allocations were received for 23 of these projects, (covering 17 schemes or scheme bundles).

Seventeen schemes have completed projects under this programme and payments totalling **€2,042,930** have been issued to date.

### **Well Grants**

Well grants totalling **€274,207** have been issued to applicants under MARWP 2019-2021, with **€69,212** of that issued in 2024. These amounts have been recouped in full, from the Department.

### **Revised Lead Remediation Grant**

The funding scheme has been in existence since 2016 and in 2023, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage revised the eligibility.

Grants totalling **€2,950** were issued for lead remediation in 2024.

### **MARWP 2024-2026.**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Minister Darragh O' Brien announced the launch of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 to 2026. Cavan County Council received submissions from Group Schemes, and these were submitted to Dept., with funding sought for 133 specific projects in the amount of €18,518,525.09.



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The task of evaluating the submissions and making recommendations for funding is ongoing with an Independent Expert Panel at National Level. The Expert Panel's recommendations are scheme and project specific.

To date the total level of funding allocated to Cavan Group Water Schemes under these measures is **€1,280,593**.

Cavan County Council continues to engage with various GWSs and the Department in regard to a number of submissions which continue to be evaluated by expert panel. Further allocations are anticipated for 2025.

## **Planning, Town Centre First, Community Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development**

### **Planning**

The Planning Department is responsible for implementing the Planning and Development Acts 2000 as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. The work of the Planning Department encompasses the following areas:

- Forward Planning
- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- Development Management and other Statutory Functions
- Derelict sites and Dangerous Structures
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- Unfinished Housing Estates
- Market Surveillance
- Development Contributions and Bonds
- Building Control
- Development Compliance/Enforcement:
- Heritage
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
- Planning Performance Indicators



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## Forward Planning

In 2023, the Forward planning section focused on the delivery of the objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town. Consultants were appointed for the following projects which are key objectives of the development plan – the Burrencarragh Masterplan, Landscape Character Assessment and Renewable Energy Strategy. All of these projects got underway in 2024 with completion due in 2025.

Work was completed on the Progress Report on the achievement of the objectives in the County Development Plan. This involved monitoring of housing statistics for both urban and rural areas and monitoring of commercial applications. The Progress Report also included updates on projects approved and developed across the County. Monitoring of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that was carried out as part of the development plan process was also completed in 2024 and forms part of the documentation of the Progress Report. It is anticipated the Progress Report and SEA Monitoring report will be presented to Elected Members in early 2025.

The Forward Planning Team continued to work alongside The Active Travel Team for the preparation of their (Area Based Transport Assessment) ABTA for Cavan Town.

Continuous monitoring of the development plan was carried out by the Forward Planning Section throughout 2024, including monitoring of approved development types, development locations and housing (urban, rural and brownfield sites).

The Forward Planning Team worked alongside the Regeneration Officer with a view to seeking funding for the development of an Integrated Urban Strategy for a specified area in Cavan town.

## Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Forward Planning Team continued works arising from legislation introduced in 2022. The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced by Section 80 of the Finance Act 2021 and is contained in Part 22A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997). It is an annual tax which is calculated at 3% of the market value of land that is within its scope. The overall aim of the RZLT is to bring underutilised land forward for residential development. Mapping of the land which satisfies the relevant criteria is undertaken by the planning authority, while management of the RZLT, including liability, payment and enforcement, will be undertaken by the Revenue Commissioners.

The role of the Planning Authorities in 2024 was to prepare maps that showed the residential and mixed-use land that the tax will relate to (i.e. zoned and serviced land for Residential lands and 'vacant and idle' lands for Mixed-Use/Town Centre zoned lands).



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The Annual Draft Map went on public display on 1 February 2024 to the 1 April 2024 inviting submissions on the map. The 2024 consultation period also allowed for requests for the re-zoning of land to the Planning Authority by the 31 May 2024. The Planning Authority notified the landowners of retention or removal of their land from the 2025 annual draft map by 1 July 2024 with the appeal period on or before 1 August 2024.

The Planning Authority received 7 submissions in relation to the annual draft maps 2024 and none in relation to the re-zoning of lands. Three of the submissions were recommended for exclusion from the map and four of the submissions were recommended for inclusion on the map. Two of the decisions of the planning authority were appealed to An Bord Pleanála with one of these overturned.

## Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

### Abbeylands Phase 1



### **Concept Image** (subject to change)

The Abbeylands Phase 1 Part VIII planning application was ratified by the Municipal District Councillors in April 2023 and the Council employed an architect led multi-disciplinary integrated design team to deliver the project through to completion. The Abbeylands site is a national monument and there are protected structures on the site of regional and national importance. Due to the complex nature of the historic site, and the modern sustainable building designs, the project is currently at both



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Stage ii) Detail Design and Stage iii) Tender, with two live European-wide e-tender processes ongoing for novated specialist works contractor and main works contractor.



### **Concept Image** (subject to change)

A separate onsite enabling works contract is due to draw to completion in mid-March of this year. This works contract included partial demolitions, site investigation works, and archaeology exploration works on the site, all carried out under National Monuments and National History Museum oversight and Ministerial licence.

Information gained from this enabling works contract will allow the close out of the detail design phase and conclusion of the tender processes. Subject to final Department Decision Gate funding approvals, it is anticipated that the main works contract will be awarded in Q3 2025 and main construction works to commence. The project has a 2/2.5-year construction delivery timeline with completion anticipated in mid-late 2027.



**Concept Image** (subject to change)

This transformative project involves the construction of a new multi-functional public plaza fringed by a new state-of-the-art business development hub office facility with community function, a new state-of-the-art community service building, restoration and repurpose of historic structures on the site and associated works, is to act as a catalyst for activation of development to back-lands in the centre of the town establishing a new cultural and business quarter for all.

### Development Management

The Planning section received 732 No. planning applications in 2024. The majority of the above applications related to developments such as housing developments, single dwellings, extensions/alterations to existing dwellings, domestic garages, industrial/commercial development, school extensions, agricultural development and retention of existing works. 1 No. application was received for a Large-scaled Residential Development (LRD) which is a development of 100 or more houses.

There were 25 No. decisions of the Planning Authority appealed to An Bord Pleanála with 17 No. (68%) of the determinations of An Bord Pleanála confirming the decision made by the Planning Authority and 8 No. modifying the decision made by the Planning Authority. The Planning Authority also received 9 No. applications for Extension of Duration during the year.



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In 2024, the Online Planning Portal completed its first full year of operation, streamlining the planning application process across. Designed to be user-friendly and environmentally sustainable, the system enables applicants/agents to register accounts, submit and update documents online and track application progress with 24/7 access. The move towards a paperless system enhances efficiency, accessibility and sustainability.

Hard copies of planning applications are still accepted by the Planning section and accounted for approximately 10% of all applications received in 2024.

### **Derelict Sites**

There are many strands of work by which the derelict sites section manages, which is considerable in size. These duties include but are not exclusive to the following, collection of data on dereliction around the County, processing of files according to the legislation, following up on executive orders, erection and posting of notices, correspondence with owner(s) and members of public, commissioning and pursuing estate agent valuations, progressing CPO documentation including newspaper notices, prescribing and commissioning works required to stabilise property for market, calculation of levies and accounting on Agresso and many other such detailed tasks. The Council are steadily building on existing knowledge, and in the process of developing their derelict sites section so as to respond to dereliction in the County.

The application of the Derelict Sites Act is confined to ministerial prescribed urban areas within the County.

In 2024 there were 25 properties recorded on the Derelict Sites register in Cavan. Following recent county wide survey of our town and villages the Council have identified over 872 properties in varying states of dereliction to which the Council are actively following up with property owners under the legislation.

In 2024 the Council served section 8(2) notices to 81 property owners and are following up on representation made. The Council will be continuing to serve notices on further towns and villages in the months ahead. As a result of this, the Council expect the numbers of properties on the derelict sites register to increase sharply and are beginning the process of serving levies on these properties. The Council may also decide to compulsory purchase properties in certain circumstances under this legislation.

In addition to Derelict Sites Office based within the Planning Business Unit, the process benefits significantly from cross functional collaboration between other council sections e.g. Housing, Chroi-Conaithe team, Community & Enterprise, Town Regeneration Office, Municipal Districts, GIS officer.



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The Council have set up a cross-sectional working group entitled the 'Property Activation Team (PAT)' with target aim reactivate vacant and derelict properties across the County. This cross-sectional group includes housing & housing construction, town regeneration, vacant sites, derelict sites, and planning. This group meet on a quarterly basis to report in on progress, to share relevant information and coordinate response.

### **URDF Call-3**

The Urban Rejuvenation Development Fund (URDF) Call-3 has a €3.5million allocation for Cavan town (core only), with a Department pre-approved list of 37 properties that the Council are actively following. This is a self-reciprocating fund aimed at reactivating vacancy and dereliction in the Cavan town core. The Council have actively been pursuing properties/property owner(s) of these 37 identified vacant and derelict properties, using powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended) and the Housing Act 1966 (as amended), with the aim of challenging dereliction and vacancy, and attempting to achieve reactivation of these properties.

The number of properties on this list that are at section 8(2) initial notification stage is at 33, with 10 properties currently at section 8(7) stage (i.e. entry onto the Derelict sites register). There are a number of properties that the Council anticipated to move towards compulsory purchase order (CPO). The number of properties to which activation has already occurred as a result of the Council's interactions with the owners over the past months is 4.

### **Taking in Charge of Housing Estates**

There are currently 238 housing estates in the county. 75 estates have been taken in charge under section 180 of the planning and development act 2000 as amended. There are 44 valid applications currently awaiting processing. It is intended to take estates in charge on a continuous basis as resources allow, until all historical estates are Taken in Charge.

### **Unfinished Housing Estates**

In 2010 there were 156 estates in Cavan on the Departments Unfinished Estate Register. There are currently 2 estates remaining on the register and the proposal is to address these in 2025. This has exceeded the recommendation outlined in Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments, where it is proposed to annually reduce this by 25% min. 2016 saw the focus move towards bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council and this is still the focus going forward. The Team continues to monitor the status of all unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

### **Market Surveillance**

Any person or company, manufacturing an item for sale on the European market, including the Irish market, must comply with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) 2013. This means the product



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must be tested and certified as fit for its intended purpose. It is then issued with a CE number and the manufacturer must attach a Declaration of Performance (DOP) for the purpose of ensuring consistency across all member states.

Article 40 of the CPR requires each Member State, to designate a notifying authority, that shall be responsible for setting up and carrying out the necessary procedures for the assessment, and notification of the bodies, to be authorised to carry out third-party tasks in the process of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) for the purposes of the CPR, and for the monitoring of those notified bodies.

In the case of Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is the designated notifying authority under the CPR. The Irish National Accreditation Board undertakes accreditation and monitoring of all notified bodies in Ireland. The notified bodies are the testing houses which have been awarded notification status by the notifying authority.

The market surveillance authority for building products is the Building Control Authority for the county where the product was manufactured, as set out in S.I.225/2013.

## **Development Contributions and Bonds**

The 2017 Development Contribution scheme came into effect on planning applications granted on or after 1st January 2017. This contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are available including a 10% reduction where development contributions are paid in full within 6 months of lodgement of commencement notices and certain exemptions apply.

A total of €3.109m (€3.078M net of Irish Water deductions) was collected in development contributions. €1.948m of the total development contributions received during 2024 was in respect of applications under the Temporary Waiver of Development Contributions.

The Development Contribution Team continue to pursue outstanding development contributions by issuing invoices as commencement notices are lodged and following up on existing accounts to ensure payments are being made. Permissions granted since 2004 where no commencement notices have been lodged are also being checked to establish if development has taken place and payment of development contribution is being sought where appropriate.

The date for the completion of development works on qualifying houses under the waiver scheme is extended from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2026. This completion date applies to all qualifying houses commenced since the introduction of the scheme, including those that have already commenced prior to the extension of the levy waiver and water charge refund arrangements.

Cavan County Council approved 100 applicants for the Temporary Waiver of Development Contributions during 2024. The scheme terminated for commencements after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.



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### Bonds

Cavan County Council requires certain developers before their development is commenced, to lodge with Cavan County Council a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company or other security to secure the provision and satisfactory completion and maintenance until taken in charge by the said Council of roads, footpaths, sewers, watermains, drains, public open space, public lighting and other services required in connection with the development. This is coupled with an agreement empowering the said Council to apply such security or part thereof for the satisfactory completion or maintenance as aforesaid of any part of the development. This is to ensure the satisfactory completion of the development.

Cavan County Council collected €415,000 in respect of Bonds in 2024.

### Building Control

May 2014 saw the introduction of the Building Control Management System or BCMS. This is an online system for registering and managing all building applications. The title BCMS was changed in 2017 to BCMP (Building Control Management Project). The CCMA set up 3 regional authorities, as follows:

Building Control Regions	Local Authorities
Greater Dublin Area /Eastern and Midland Region	Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown, Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois (12)
Northern and Western Region	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway City, Galway County (9)
Southern Region	Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Waterford City and County (10)

Each region has one representative on the BCMP project board. The Northern and Western Region continues to be represented by Donegal County Council (Senior Executive Engineer over Building Control).

The Building Control Department offer advice and guidance to agents and users of the system as well as conducting site inspections to ensure compliance and accuracy of information submitted. During 2024, Cavan County Councils Building Control Section processed 353 commencement Notices, an increase of 67% on 2023. 74 Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC) were also issued which is 3 down on 2023. The breakdown per type is as follows:



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- 26 invalidated Commencement Notices. (Up 26)
- 118 validated Commencement Notices with Documentation (long form); (Up 62%)
- 59 validated Commencement Notices without Documentation (short form); (Up 71%)
- 151 validated Commencement Notices (Opt Outs); (Up 62%)
- 25 validated 7 Day Notices. (Down 5)

Of the 74 CCC's processed, 2 were invalidated.

In addition, during 2024, the Building Control Department processed 87 Fire Safety Certificate applications and 55 Disability Access Certificate applications.

The Planning Department continues to regularly monitor and inspect developments to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance with the relevant Planning Conditions and Building Regulations.

## **Development Compliance/Enforcement**

The Enforcement Section opened 102 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2024 calendar year. The Section closed 44 cases during the same period.

Of the closed files:

- 78% (or 34 cases) were resolved because these were 'statue barred', or were deemed to be 'Exempted development' and no Warning Letters were issued;
- A total of 11% of the files (or 5 cases) were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 11% (5 cases) were closed following the issue of Warning Letters or an

Enforcement Notice.

## **Heritage**

2024 saw another busy year for Cavan Heritage Office with a wide and varied program of work promoting all aspects of Cavan's heritage. The Heritage Office continues to ensure that the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained, and, above all cherished and celebrated by the people of the county. Cavan Heritage Office continued to provide a county-wide service, implementing European, National and Local heritage policies where applicable. In addition to policy implementation, the Heritage Office promoted a range of projects and activities which enabled communities to actively engage and participate with our heritage. During 2024 the Heritage Office



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witnessed a continued interest in heritage as people throughout communities in County Cavan continue to embrace and actively engage with heritage.

The Heritage Office receives an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council. This funding allows the Heritage Office to target specific projects which fulfil actions contained within the Cavan County Heritage Plan and which have a long-term lasting impact on the heritage of the county.

### Cavan Golden Ways

Another very successful year for the Cavan Golden Ways and with the number of communities participating.

County Cavan has approximately 2,400 km of primary, secondary and tertiary roads. Rural roads and lanes are part of the fabric of the countryside. As well as transport links these roads and their surroundings are home to a wealth of physical heritage in terms of their natural and vernacular features, such as Hedgerows, Walls and Gates. There is also a vast cultural heritage associated with the communities that live and have lived along these roads, in terms of place names, fieldnames, local characters, stories and traditions, giving each road its unique character. The Cavan Golden Way is an initiative of the Heritage Office of Cavan County Council to support and promote communities who have identified sections of rural road.

In 2024 Cavan Heritage continued to work with Golden Way Communities on a project entitled 'Golden Communities along Cavan Golden Ways'. This project entailed visual artists and poets working with and responding to Golden Way Communities and their heritage along golden ways creatively.

Works were undertaken along Jampa Ling Golden Way to remove invasive species rhododendron which was impinging on the native woodland. In addition, wooden bridges were reinstated and drainage provided along the Golden Way.

In addition, Cavan Heritage Office appointed an Ecologist to prepare Biodiversity Action Plans for 3 no. Golden Ways, the actions in these plans will inform the future work programs for these Golden Ways.



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Works along Jampa Ling Golden Way



Artwork – ‘Golden Communities along Cavan Golden Ways’

## Historic Graveyards Network

The Historic Graveyard Network has grown in success since its inception in 2017. Expansion of the network has taken place with the number of Council-owned historic graveyards participating in the network increasing. The aim of the network is to improve access to these sites, help undertake essential repairs and provide directional and interpretive panels. Projects this year included working with various historic graveyard groups to improve access and to clear vegetation following best biodiversity practice. The Historic Graveyards Network participated in a workshop led by facilitators to identify future work programme. In addition, a number of groups, part of the Historic Graveyards Network participated in Heritage Week 2024.



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Tidy Towns busy at work at Annagelliffe Historic Graveyard



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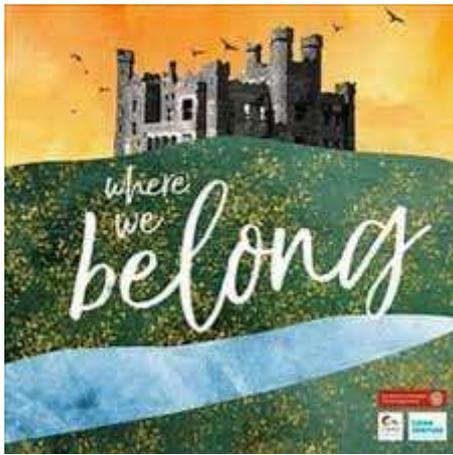
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## Placing Heritage at the Heart of Communities

This project was funded by the Heritage Council as part of an awareness raising campaign to promote the heritage of County Cavan. One such project was 'Where We Belong – Series 4'. The Heritage Office commissioned a podcast series with 5 episodes focusing on local heritage heroes throughout the county, e.g. Cavan Creameries, The Cavan Singers, Kilmore Cathedral and St Kilian's Heritage Centre. Olga Dowd also participated in this series and spoke about her journey 20 years ago when she moved to County Cavan from Ukraine. Over the years, Cavan has become more than just a place to live; it has become her home. Olga shares her remarkable story of adaptation and resilience, reflecting on the challenges she faced during her transition and how she has built a vibrant life in Ireland. From navigating cultural differences to forming deep connections within the community. The project was very successful and streaming globally meant that both locals and those far away could spend some quality time with Cavan through the world of sound.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6qMnWOMeuwxllsJbfcKMAU>

<https://f.io/V0MrnSmy>



## Community Monuments Fund

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage established the Community Monuments Fund in 2020. The Community Monuments Fund invests capital in our valuable archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. In 2024 Cavan County Council was awarded €87,659.13 for 4 no projects, Enagh Windmills, Enagh, Crover Castle, St Mogue's Island and Drumlane Ecclesiastical Site.



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Laying of paths and cutting back vegetation at St Mogue's Island



Vegetation clearance at Enagh Lime Kiln

## National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding

In 2024 Cavan Heritage Office accessed funding (€96,063) the National Biodiversity Action Funding (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) to undertake Cavan Wetland Survey Phase IV, Cavan Barn Owl Survey, County Cavan Swift Project and Recording Irish Mayfly Community Biodiversity Awareness Program.

## Bushcraft at Cavan Adventure Centre





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## Heritage Week 2024

Heritage Week 2024 was successful with many groups throughout the county embracing their local heritage.



## Built Heritage 2024

The Heritage Office continues to promote the conservation and management of our built heritage in County Cavan. In addition to reviewing and updating the record of protected structures and associated works, the heritage office provides advice and informs policy to the Planning Department. The general public are also assisted in management of Built Heritage. The Heritage Office of Cavan County Council successfully drew down €95,673.9 for Built Heritage Conservation projects and €106,403.25 under Historic Structures Fund.

## Planning Performance Indicators

<b>P1: New Buildings Inspected</b>	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	757
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2024 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2024	63 (8.3%)
<b>P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by <i>An Bord Pleanála</i></b>	
Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal in 2023	25
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	17 (68%)
<b>P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved</b>	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	102
Total number of cases that were closed during 2023	44



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% of cases at B dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	34 (78%)
% of cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	5 (11%)
% of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	5 (11%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2024	629
<b>P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service</b>	
The 2024 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2022 Census	Cost per capita €26.52

## Community, Enterprise and Tourism

The Department of Community, Enterprise and Tourism is responsible for the Local Community Development Committee, Implementation and development of the Community element of the Local, Economic and Community Plan, LEADER, Town and Village Revitalisation, CLÁR and ORIS Programmes, Rural Development Funding Programmes, Social Inclusion, Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum, Age Friendly County Programme, Peace IV Programme, Comhairle na nÓg (Junior Council), Community and Voluntary Grants, Community Activities Fund, Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan Food Strategy 2017-2022, Healthy Cavan, Slainte Healthy Communities Programme the Tourism Office. The Department supports and funds the Public Participation Network, an independent network of community and voluntary groups in County Cavan that has a remit for improving engagement with citizens. It is closely involved with the Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee and the Local Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention plan.

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Cavan Local Community Development Committee was established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The functions of the Local Community Development Committee are set out under Section 128A of Local Government Reform Act 2014. They are as follows:

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.



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2024 was another busy and productive year for Cavan LCDC and its subgroups, who continued to meet and deliver on the community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) throughout the year. The LCDC managed, implemented and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit including the Community Enhancement Programme.

Cavan LCDC's focus for 2024 was primarily on the finalising of the preparation of the draft LECP and following the LECP's adoption in March 2024 actions under the LECP Implementation Plan were commenced and there has been good progress on these to date. The LCDC also focused on the delivery of the LEADER and SICAP programmes, in particular ensuring targets were met and spend was progressing.

## **SICAP**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. SICAP 2024-2028 is the successor programme to SICAP 2018-2023, which was the successor programme to SICAP 2015-2017. Delivery is overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC.

SICAP also prioritises local engagement and partnerships, between SICAP Programme Implementers, disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. It is a multi-faceted programme that provides supports to respond to individual and community needs, aiming to ensure that beneficiaries receive quality, tailored supports, while also allowing flexibility to adapt actions to local need. It enables bottom-up approaches within the framework of a national programme which provides targets, performance indicators and requirements.

The total budget for SICAP in Cavan in 2024 was €1,207,604.50. This included funding of €239,377.50 for Supports for New Arrivals being provided under the SICAP programme. The programme is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027. The Programme Implementer, Cavan County Local Development Company achieved both its two key performance indicators (KPI's) for 2024 and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

There are 2 goals under the Programme:

### **Goal 1: Supporting Communities -**

To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities.



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## Goal 2: Supporting Individuals -

To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

Cavan County Local Development Company reached and exceeded KPI targets for 2024 as detailed in the following table:

	Annual Target 2024	Actual Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 1)	37	57	154%
Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years old & upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 2)	424	529	125%



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhoibriú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach  
Co-funded by the  
European Union



Social Inclusion &  
Community Activation  
Programme



pobail  
government supporting communities

“The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.”

”Tá an Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus Gníomhachtú Pobail (SICAP) cómhaoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, tríd an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus ag an Aontas Eorpach trí Chiste Sóisialta na hEorpa Plus faoin gClár Fostaíochta, Cuimsiú, Scileanna agus Oilúna (EIST) 2021 - 2027.”



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## Healthy Ireland Fund

### Healthy Cavan

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4 is progressing positively and runs from 2023-2025. The approach is evidence based, and outcome led. A

HI Local Strategy (HIFLS) 2023-2025 is in place, to prioritise project outcomes based on local data/need in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Two focussed outcome indicators for Cavan were agreed by local stakeholders:

- 1) Increase in % of adults & Children meeting Physical Activity Guidelines.
- 2) Decrease in prevalence of age standardised heavy episodic drinking.

All initiatives/actions over the course of Round 4 will be directed towards these outcomes.



Healthy  
Cavan

### Healthy Ireland Round 4 – Examples of Healthy Cavan funded initiatives in 2024.

- **Ukrainian Physical Health Initiatives** - Funding of €3,500 was provided to CCLD. Initiatives delivered included: Summer Tennis Camp; Summer Multi-sports activity camps.
- **Cavan Sports Partnership led Physical Activity** - Funding of €24,000 was provided to Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP). The funding helped to support a wide range of important initiatives which included: GAA All-stars programme; Summer Inclusion programme (schools with Autism units); Part Salary contribution to new County Badminton coach; Swimming for children with additional needs and isolated families; Healthy Cavan Couch to 5K and 5K run; Go for Life National Games Day participation;
- **Planet Youth Project Support in Secondary Schools** – Funding of €3,700 was provided to CMETB. This funding supported the continued provision of facilitators to undertake sport/physical activity sessions in local secondary schools.
- **Teach Oscail Physical Activity initiatives** - Funding of €5,100 was provided to Teach Oscail. There were a number of initiatives aimed at addressing increased physical activity: Family Fun Day in Terry Coyle Park on 17<sup>th</sup> July – 154 children from 45 local families attended. Boxing/Self-Defence classes and Youth Resilience Summer Camp.



Riailtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.



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## Social Inclusion

The role of the social inclusion section is to improve services for marginalised citizens and to work on an interagency basis to address poverty and exclusion in the county.

Significant areas of social inclusion activity during 2024 included:

- Further development of the Cavan Age Friendly Programme
- Supports for Cavan Older People's Council
- Co-ordination of and support for Cavan Traveller Interagency Group and Cavan Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Forum.
- Support for the Local Connecting for Life suicide prevention steering committee, led by the HSE.
- Support for the Children and Young People's Services Committee, led by TUSLA.
- Collaboration with Cavan Disability Network and Cavan County Childcare Committee.

## Age Friendly Programme

The foundation of the programme's structure is the local Age Friendly Alliance and local Older People's Council, working collaboratively with the support of a national shared service office. The local Age Friendly Programme Manager is the principal contact point for all Age Friendly activity in the county and facilitates linkages both internally within the local authority, and with all external stakeholders, especially Alliance members.

Since its establishment, the Cavan Age Friendly programme has made significant progress in improving key areas of infrastructure, services, and communication for older people in Cavan. Consultation with older people in development of age friendly strategies ensure that actions undertaken are aimed at addressing issues affecting older people. Cavan Age Friendly have to date implemented two Age Friendly Strategies, the first from 2013 to 2016 and the second from 2017 to 2019. In July 2022 Cavan Age Friendly Programme launched its 3rd Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2024.

Weekly drop-in information sessions are organised throughout the year these are held in the Events Space in Johnston Central Library on Monday mornings - topics covered are varied and included Craft Workshops, Healthy Eating and Cooking, Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme, Citizens Information, Digital Technologies, Falls Prevention and Story Telling. Other events took place including a 'Planning for Retirement' seminar in conjunction with the Retirement Planning Council of Ireland in May 2024.

Additional funding in excess of €20,000 was secured from Creative Ireland in 2024 under Creative Ireland's 'Creativity in Older Age Fund' following the success of the Cavan Older People's Council 'Ages and Stages' project in 2023. This enabled the show to be performed in three nursing homes and three isolated areas of the county during March and April 2024. The project was awarded a runner up prize



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in the IPB Pride of Place awards under the Age Friendly category on the 2nd of November and was one of the shortlisted projects for the Age Friendly National Recognition awards in the Community Innovation category.



*The Cast of 'Ages and Stages' pictured before their show in College View Nursing Home in March 2024. Photo Sheila Rooney*

### **Traveller Interagency Group**

Community, Enterprise and Tourism co-ordinates the Cavan Traveller Interagency Group (TIG). This is a statutory group that provides an interagency response to social exclusion issues among the Traveller community. Cavan County Council also supports a community development service provided by Cavan Traveller Movement [CTM].

Some of the key areas of work during 2024 included:

- The Cavan Traveller Interagency Group chaired by Chrissie O'Sullivan from Cavan Traveller Movement met regularly during 2024.
- Cavan County Council provide a funding contribution to Cavan Traveller Movement for delivery of a community development programme for Travellers in County Cavan.
- Cavan County Council funded Virginia College's and Bailieborough Community School's participation on the Irish Traveller Movements Yellow Flag Initiative. This is a practical programme that supports primary and secondary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrate diversity and challenge racism and discrimination.

### **Drug and Alcohol Forum**

The Drug and Alcohol Forum was established in 2016 as an action under the Cavan Local Economic



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and Community Plan in response to a documented concern about substance misuse in the county. Since then, the multi-agency group has been meeting regularly and is committed to tackling the issue of drug and alcohol misuse at a local level. The Drug and Alcohol Forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approximately 25 organisations are represented ranging from HSE services, public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services.

## Integration Team

In the Programme for Government, a commitment was made to end the system of Direct Provision and replace it with a new International Protection accommodation model centred on a not-for-profit approach. As part of this process, the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Mr Roderic O’Gorman TD, published A White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service in 2021.

Grounded in the principles of human rights, the White Paper provides an ambitious and comprehensive new model of accommodation and other supports in health, housing, education, and employment for applicants in Ireland’s International Protection System. A cornerstone of this new model is a focus on supporting the principle of ‘integration from day one’ with the overarching aim of empowering applicants to live independently in the community.

1. Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants)
2. Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status
3. Programme Refugees
4. Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs)

This involves linking these cohorts with local services an expansion of that system, a new national network of Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) located in each local authority, has been established to co-ordinate the provision of integration supports to the following cohorts: vice providers appropriate to their needs. The LAITs will also act as the direct point of contact, providing information, guidance and advice, answering queries as they arise and ensuring that the above cohorts access mainstream services. The LAITs are not intended to replace mainstream service provision but to support IP applicants, Programme Refugees and BOTP in accessing such services.

The LAIT was established in Cavan County Council in March 2024; the team consists of an Integration Support Coordinator (Grade 7), 2 Integration Support Workers (Grade 6) and an Assistant Staff Officer (Grade 4).

## New Website Section: Information for New Communities

In our ongoing commitment towards integration and community support, the LAIT have developed a new section on [www.cavancoco.ie](http://www.cavancoco.ie) aimed at assisting new communities on their integration journey.



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This new resource hub provides essential information, guidance and tools to support individuals and families navigate their transition to society with confidence.

## **Community Integration Forum**

Chaired by the Director of Services, the Community Integration Forum meet monthly. The working group continue to drive meaningful change by fostering collaboration, advocating for inclusion and strengthening community networks. Through this initiative, Cavan County Council reaffirm our commitment to building a society in which everyone can thrive. Members of the Community Integration Forum include: The Gardai, CCLD, FRCs, ETB and HSE.

## **Outreach/Clinics**

In striving to support community integration and inclusion, we facilitate outreach/clinics in accommodation centres, public spaces such as the libraries and online. Our work is needs-led; delivered in direct response to feedback from the cohorts we support, staff in the accommodation centres, or members of the Community Integration Forum. This ensures that our work remains relevant, impactful and aligned with the evolving needs of those we support.

## **LEADER Programme**

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 with a funding allocation of €6,400,000 for Cavan LAG. The LAG met a total of 7 times over the course of the year with meetings held in person with the option to connect remotely for those who could not attend the venue.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the funding under the 2023-2027 Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 725,006.60 for projects across the various themes. There was a total of 70 Expressions of Interest on hand as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

In 2024 the previous leader programme closed in April 2024. The total funding committed under this programme was €9,522,511.37.

In January 2024 Cavan Local Development Committee signed a contract between Cavan County Council (Financial Partner) and Cavan Local Development Company (implementing partner) to oversee the delivery of the new Leader Programme from 2023-2027.



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Photo of contract signing between Cavan County Council and Cavan Local Development Company for the new Leader Programme 2023-2027.

## CLÁR

CLÁR is a targeted investment Programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructure projects in area that experience disadvantage.

**Measure 1:** Support for Schools/Community Safety measures

**Measure 2:** Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

**Measure 3:** Community Wellbeing Supports:

(a) Community Gardens and Allotments

(b) - Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

In 2024 Cavan County Council submitted 15 projects to the Department for approval and subsequently received an allocation of €711,712.00 in respect of 15 Projects under Measure 1.

Cavan County Council received approval for the following CLÁR 2024 Schemes

- Blacklion Community Playground Upgrade existing playground and addition of new accessible and sensory play equipment. €50,000
- Scoil Mhuire Lacken To provide an inclusive, accessible and safe multi-use games area €50,000 Castlerahan Fay Park Upgrade works to the car park to include disability access, EV charging point and biodiversity planting. €50,000
- St. Ernan's Hall Upgrade and resurfacing of driveway and adjoining church grounds €38,720.



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- DENN GFC Erection of all-weather pitch, hurling wall and associated floor lighting and all ancillary works. €50,000.
- Kildallan GAA Upgrade and extension of existing walking track, lighting, biodiversity area and fencing €50,000.
- Ballyconnell Community Centre Upgrades works to Kitchen €50,000.
- Upgrade work to Stradone Community Centre Refurbishment; purchase of furniture and upgrade of existing fire system €32,525.
- Gowna GAA Provision of a fully inclusive and wheelchair accessible spectator stand €50,000.
- Castlerahan Community Centre Improved access to Community Centre sports grounds and new multi-purpose room €50,000
- St. Patrick's Arva GAA To provide a fully inclusive and wheelchair accessible spectator stand with a sheltered space. €50,000
- Dowra Geopark Community Hub Enhancement works to Dowra Courthouse, community information hub and accessible outdoor amenity area. €44,647
- Munterconnaught Community Development Association sensory garden Provide a sensory garden and a play area €50,000.
- Lavey Community Group Walking Track Carry out redevelopment works of walking track and develop biodiversity area. €45,820

These schemes are ongoing and due for completion in June 2026.

Below are photos of Ballymachugh GAA (upgrade of car park), Killinkere National School provision of a MUGA area & Gowna Community Gym completed under Clar 2023 funding



*Ballymachugh Upgrade of Car Park funded under CLAR 2023*



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*Killinkere National School-Provision of a MUGA area funded under CLAR 2023*

*Gowna Community Gym*





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## Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle AGM 2024 took place on 18th of November in person in the Cavan Crystal Hotel. All 11 post primary schools in Co Cavan participated.

Youth Work Ireland will deliver Cavan Comhairle na nÓg on behalf of Cavan Co Council. Tender awarded for 2025 to end of 2026

Cavan Comhairle na nÓgs working Topic for 2025 is lack of infrastructure facilities for young people in the County.

## Cavan Co Council PEACEPLUS Local Authority Action Plan (LAAP)

Having received and accepted our letter of offer from SEUPB Cavan County Council have now commenced the work of implementing this exciting, varied, and challenging plan, which supports vital peace-building work in the county over the next four years.

The co-designed action plan is a comprehensive and varied programme of actions that deliver on the themes of PEACEPLUS for communities across Cavan and indeed on a cross-border basis, and the depth and quality of projects contained therein will accrue many benefits for the people of Cavan and our neighbouring cross border neighbours for the next four years.

Funding of €4,334,408 has been secured to deliver 28 projects across three themes: Community Regeneration and Transformation, Thriving and Peaceful Communities, and Celebrating Cultural Diversity.

Under these three diverse themes, the plan will see delivery of seven capital projects, and a further 21 projects that tackle issues such as education inequality among traveller youth, climate change, and biodiversity loss, among others.

### Projects to be delivered in the 3 themes listed below:

#### Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation: (capital projects) X7

Project Name	Ballyconnell Community Centre and Market House
Project Name	Co Cavan Rugby Club
Project Name	Kingscourt Community Development Association
Project Name	Lavey Community Group
Project Name	Virginia Rugby Football club
Project Name	Bailieborough Men's and Hens Shed
Project Name	Cootehill Town Team – Former BOI building



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## Theme 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities:

**6 T2 PEACEPLUS TENDERS** have been advertised and awarded and letters of intent currently issuing to successful external delivery agents.

TITLE
T2 Biodiversity & Climate change action through Education
T2 Post Primary Schools Coaching and Mentoring Programme
T2 Border Biennale 2025
T2 Active Citizens Youth Project
T2 Share and Grow Project
T2 Cross Border Farming Communities

### 6 Service level agreements (SLA's) in T2

Virginia Rugby Football club Programme costs
Bailieborough Men's and Hens Shed Programme costs
Ballyconnell Community Centre Programme costs
Rugby For All – Cavan Rugby Club Programme costs
Finding avenues to move on' Cavan Orphanage committee
Luke Delaney WW1 Committee

## Theme 3: Celebrating Cultures and Diversity

**7 T3 PEACEPLUS TENDERS** have been advertised and awarded and letters of intent currently issuing to successful external delivery agents.

T3 Multi-Cultural Food Hub
T3 Bridge the gap in education inequalities experienced by traveller children
T3 Primary Schools sports integration officer
T3 Peace Education Platform
T3 Courage and Renewal
T3 Lifelong Learning for All
T3 Cavan Community Cinema

### 1 Service level agreement (SLA) in T3

A River runs through it, creative engagement with my place
--

### One project remains to be allocated.

Project Name
Our shared History

**Total number of PEACEPLUS projects = 28**



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## Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SCHP)

Department of Health, working with the HSE, Local Authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 targeted community areas across Ireland. Cavan has been selected as one of these areas.

The ultimate goal of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is to **improve the long-term health of the target populations** and **improve the quality of life of individuals in those communities**.

The 3-year piloted programme has been completed. The SHCP has now been extended for a further 5 years.

## Round 2 Seed Sunding for 2023/2024

- Funding of €75,000 'Seed Money' was made available in round 2 of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The following projects were rolled out by the Local Development Officer in conjunction with communities and local organisations.
- Planet Youth Increased Leisure Time Initiative: A new Pilot Scheme rolled out in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities targeted communities (Cavan town, Bailieborough, Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill. Provide increased leisure time opportunities for young people in their local communities in safe, healthy spaces - €25,000.
- Kilnavara Playground: Upgrade existing playground in Kilnavara and make safe for children to use - €15,000.
- Kingspan Breffni Sensory Room Equipment: To provide Sensory room equipment to cater for the additional needs of families who attend events in Kingspan Breffni - €5,000
- Sensory Zone Belturbet Library Cavan Library - €5,000.
- Fairview Community Garden: Gallows Hill, Cavan Works to be carried out to include ESB connection (and if budget allows; sewerage and of security cameras) - €15,000.
- Handball Wall at Tullacmongan Family Resource Centre: Erect a handball wall beside the Tullacmongan Resource Centre for use for the children living in the estates surrounding the centre - €10,000.

## Pride of Place Competition 2024

This competition celebrates communities as hundreds of unsung heroes from across the Island of Ireland. Pride of Place Awards night for 2024 took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the Hillgrove Hotel in Monaghan.



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The following groups have been entered into this year's Pride of Place Competition:

1. Creative Communities – Laragh Gala Variety Show
2. Climate Action & Biodiversity – Mullagh Sports Partnership
3. Inclusive Communities – Failte Isteach Choir Cavan (Ukrainian Hub)
4. Age Friendly Communities - Ages & Stages Play (Cavan Older people Group)
5. Urban Neighbourhoods and Housing Estates – (Kilnavara Crescent Cavan)

The Cavan Older People's Group won runner up prize in the 'Age Friendly' category while the Laragh Gala Variety Show won top prize in the 'Creative Communities' category.



Creative Communities winners: Laragh Gala Variety Show, Cavan



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Age Friendly Communities Runner-up; Cavan Older People's Council

## Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Schemes aim to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects in their local community which will help to improve the quality of life for the local citizens and enhance the sense of community in the county. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not have received funding from other sources.

In 2024 each of the 3 Municipal Districts were allocated funds to eligible projects as follows:

- Bailieborough/Cootehill Municipal District – 23 Projects- €120,000
- Ballyjamesduff Municipal District – 23 Projects -€120,000
- Cavan/Belturbet Municipal District – 23 Projects- €120,000

## Community/Festival Grant Scheme

The community grants scheme aims to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects which will enhance the quality of life for local citizens. The purpose of the scheme is to provide support to projects which may not receive funding from other sources and grant are to a maximum value of €2,000 for Community and Voluntary Schemes. In 2024 a total of €57,750 was allocated to 39 Community Groups under this funding stream.



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### Community Recognition Fund 2024

Cavan County Council was awarded overall funding of €1,155,190 which will be allocated in three tranches. Under Tranche 1 Cavan Council granted €570,422.00 to Community Groups in respect of 6 capital projects throughout the county. Tranche 2 was submitted to the Department on 30th September and approval was received in February 2025 in respect of a further three projects totalling €282,576.00. Tranche 3 applications were submitted in February 2025 to the Department.

### Local Enhancement Programme 2024

In 2024 a total of 78 Community groups received grants totalling € 145,100.45 which was funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development. This funding was for small to medium capital projects within community Groups.

### Large Capital Projects:

#### Cavan Regional Sports Campus (LSSIF)

- This project is to develop a regionally significant sports facility on lands situated to the Southwest of Cavan Town, in the vicinity of Kingspan Breffni and the Royal School.
- The project received €1,047,001 in funding from Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under Stream 1 funding to develop a design and achieve planning approval.
- Planning design was submitted to ABP on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, and planning was granted on the 01/11/2024.
- On 04/11/24 Cavan County Council was awarded a sum of €19m under LSSIF Stream 2, the second highest grant recipient in Country.
- Detailed design in nearing completion, and the tendering process will soon commence.
- Several advanced works contracts have already started including vegetation clearance, mammal relocating, habitat creation, geophysical surveys/investigation and ground investigation.
- Should the project receive full approval to proceed, works will commence in the summer of 2025.

#### Bailieboro Courthouse RRDF

This project consists of the re development of the former Courthouse and Bridewell as an economic, community and cultural hub to include museum with a strong Plantation theme, and cultural and exhibition spaces. This will involve the final phase of the regeneration of a substantial derelict building in the town core. The project received €1,831,789.32 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. Construction works are completed.



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### **Ballyconnell Market House RRDF**

This project entails the renovation and redevelopment of the former Market House in Ballyconnell as a Community, Remote Working and Tourism hub. The overall renovation of the Market House will act as a catalyst for the economic and community regeneration of the greater Ballyconnell and West Cavan border region. The project received €1,200,742 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. Construction works are nearing completion.

### **Belturbet Railway Complex Masterplan RRDF**

Development of a regeneration masterplan for development of services and redevelopment of the town core of Belturbet, with a particular focus on maximising some of the natural tourism assets of Belturbet such as the Shannon Erne Waterway and Marina, and the ultimate extension of the navigation to include the Ulster Canal to Clones via Castlesaunderson. The project received €210,960 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. Design Team was appointed and final Masterplan document was completed. A consultant has also been appointed to revise, develop and deliver the existing Interpretation Plan for Belturbet Heritage Railway, this is nearing completion.

- **Ballyjamesduff Community and Enterprise Hub RRDF**

This project involves the redevelopment and refurbishment of the iconic former Percy French Hotel and site, located in the centre of Ballyjamesduff. The redeveloped town centre building will be transformed into a Community and Enterprise hub, including remote working hub, office space, community room / conference room and café. The project received €7,651,195.20 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. An Architect led Design Team for proposed Construction Works Stages has been appointed. A consultant was also appointed and has carried out an independent assessment of the building functioning strategy and needs analysis. Tender for construction works to be returned before the end of Q2 2025. Estimated competition date is the end of 2026.

- **Saint Michael's Hall, Cootehill RRDF**

The project involves the refurbishment and extension of the iconic St Michael's Hall and site, located in the town centre of Cootehill. The redeveloped building will be transformed to provide a multifunctional community space of excellence, including an upgraded and refurbished event/arts theatre space. The project received €6,248,330.10 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Regeneration Fund. An Architect led



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Design Team for proposed Construction Works Stages has been appointed. Estimated completion date July 2027.

NOAC Service Indicators	2023	2024
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	72%	90%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network	356	467

## Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP)

Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP) is an initiative of Sport Ireland with the aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity throughout the county. Key objectives include increasing participation, building capacity of people clubs and communities, and fostering strong partnerships.

### Funding

Allocation	Amount	Description
Sport Ireland	442,021	Salary, operating costs, Communications and marketing, Club development grants, Women in sport funding, Safeguarding, programme and campaign funding. Dormant accounts funding under three streams.
Stakeholder funding	63,677	Funding to implement actions, plans and campaigns. Healthy Cavan, HSE, Bike week, Cycling Ireland, Age & opportunity.
Infrastructure	138,750	Outdoor swim Infrastructure, Participation nation fund (Capital & Biodiversity)
<b>Total</b>	<b>644,448</b>	

### Key highlights

In 2024, Cavan sports partnership organised and delivered **397** targeted programmes and initiatives, engaging **12,519** individuals across various ages, abilities and backgrounds.

**4,011**  
Children and young people participated in CSP programmes. Wibbly wobbly balance bike programme for preschool, MultiSport for primary and HERmoves and co-funded sport programmes.

**618**  
People with a disability participated in variety of activities and sports

**845**  
People participated in community targeted programmes such as Couch to 5k, Bailieborough urban adventure hub

**585**  
Participants took part in initiatives targeting Older adults 50+

**183**  
People supported through a variety of Training & Education courses: Safeguarding, Sports first aid, Basketball, Volleyball, PALs, lifeguard, badminton and FAI

**WHO WE TARGET**

- DISADVANTAGED AREAS
- YOUNG PEOPLE
- WOMEN & GIRLS
- OLDER ADULTS
- PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY
- ETHNIC MINORITIES

Flagship campaigns over the year included: Cavan Gets Moving, Women in sport week, Bike Week, Her Outdoors and European Week of Sport.  
Special events included Embrace your Space at Annagh Lake, HerMoves Festival, Community events, Badminton, FAI & Swim Ireland events.



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- **Grants: €30, 650** was awarded to 87 sports clubs, community groups and schools for equipment and participation programmes. **€30,000** was allocated to 4 outdoor swimming infrastructure projects in Arva, Barnagrow, Virginia and Killeshandra.
- **ESF+ Innovation in Sport Officer** recruited to implement the Sport Ireland ‘Sport for Empowerment’ programme. The officer works closely with ethnic minorities, youth at risk, disadvantaged communities, and individuals with disabilities to implement socially innovative sports initiatives.
- **‘Active Cavan’ local sports Plan:** CSP supported the development of the Cavan Sports Plan, a local authority-led action from the National Sports Policy. This five-year plan, launching in 2025 aims to map sports participation, activity, and infrastructure development across Cavan, ensuring a comprehensive, whole-council approach to supporting sport and physical activity.



*HERmoves: Teen girl roller skating session*



*Active adults 55+:  
Go 4Life games*



*Inclusion:  
Sailing/Powerboating*

## Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Funding of €743,087 was announced on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 by Minister Heather Humphreys for three towns and villages in County Cavan under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023.

Ballyconnell secured €243,145 for the development of an outdoor space at Ballyconnell Market House. Ballyhaise was awarded €249,942 to improve the aesthetics and facilities at Ballyhaise Amenity Park including the upgrade of the gate lodge building whilst Shercock secured €250,000 to upgrade the existing hall to improve energy efficiency and improve the aesthetics of the town core. These schemes are ongoing and due for completion in October 2025.



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Below are photographs of the Streetscape enhancements completed in Bailieborough funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021.





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## Projects completed in Swanlinbar funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021

A new Town Centre First Suite of Supports was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD that aims to support local communities and town teams in leading in the revitalisation of their towns and villages. Three projects secured funding under the Measure 3 Project Development Measure -

**Bailieborough:** €50,000.00 to assess the redevelopment of a back land site to include new land use proposals and public spaces with a focus on enhancing permeability and access within the town.

**Ballyjamesduff:** €50,000.00 to complete a site plan for the



development of an outdoor amenity space at a 27acre site in the town.

**Belturbet:** €50,000.00 for the redevelopment of the "Ducking Stool" site and nearby marina area in the town centre as a recreational amenity on Lough Erne.

### Town Teams

Under the Local Economic Community Plan, Cavan Co Council, as Lead Partner, committed to establishing 'Town Teams' in a number of towns throughout the County. Town Teams are now in place in Cavan, Cootehill, Virginia, Bailieborough and Killeshandra.

Town Teams in Cavan, Cootehill, and Virginia came together on 17<sup>th</sup> June at Hotel Kilmore Cavan to launch their Town Team Plans, which will guide the Town Teams as they work to encourage businesses, local communities, and others to work together to energise and reinvigorate their towns. Ómra Support Agency was engaged to assist the Teams in developing their vision and objectives for the coming three years.



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## Launch of Cavan, Cootehill & Virginia Town Team Plans



### Town & Village Revitalisation Plans

Cavan County Council commissioned Gaffney & Cullivan Architects in association with Tyréns, urban renewal specialists, to complete Town & Village Revitalisation Plans for twenty towns and villages in County Cavan. The plans will act as a catalyst to bring improvements to the towns of County Cavan and will provide a template for the revitalisation and development of each town. The towns and villages included are Cavan, Virginia, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Belturbet, Mullagh, Ballyconnell, Ballinagh, Ballyhaise, Shercock, Killeshandra, Arva, Kilnaleck, Swanlinbar, Butlersbridge, Blacklion, Gowna and Dowra.

Significant progress was made on the implementation of improvements contained in these plans throughout 20

### Town Centre First:

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell TD, launched the first ever *Town Centre First* (TCF) plans for 26 towns across every county. The Plans which were developed in consultation with local communities represent the vision of local people for their area and contain proposals for a diverse range of projects such as redeveloping derelict sites, creating community parks and walkways, boosting SME and tourism potential, and protecting historical landmarks.



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The Ministers were joined at the Launch by the Town Regeneration Officers who have been appointed in every Local Authority to drive implementation of the new plans with the support of Government funding through a range of funding schemes including the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Town Centre First Heritage Revival (THRIVE) Scheme and the Historic Towns Initiative.



*Pictured at the launch of the Town Centre First Plan for Baillieborough, in Adare Co Limerick on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 are, Brendan Jennings Director of Service Cavan Co Council, Caroline Brady Town Regeneration Officer, Cavan Co Council, Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell TD and Jim Maguire, Baillieborough Town Team.*

In 2024 a suite of supports under the Town Centre First Initiative were launched under three separate measures:

Under Measure 1, Town Centre Health Checks were completed by Queens University Belfast for both Cavan Town and Belturbet. Findings from the Cavan Town Centre Health Check will be used to inform Cavan Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan which will be prepared in 2025. Community Capacity Building sessions commenced in Belturbet, the purpose of which is to support the reestablishment and development of a work programme for a community development group in the town.

Under Measure 2, funding was provided towards the development of a Town Centre First Plan for Killeshandra, a Town Centre Health Check was completed for the town and the first round of public



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consultation on the new TCF Plan took place in September, with over 60 people in attendance. Feedback from the consultation will be used to inform the projects in the new TCF plan.

Under Measure 3 funding of €150,000 was secured under the Project Development Measure scheme, the purpose of which is to bring projects from concept stage to detailed design. Potential projects under this measure were identified in Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Belturbet.



*A full house in attendance in Killeshandra Community Centre, at the first round of consultation on Killeshandra's Town Centre First Plan.*

### **RIAI Hometown Architect Initiative:**

As part of the Town Centre First initiative in Bailieborough, an application for funding was submitted by Frank Cooney Architects in conjunction with the Town Regeneration Officer, Caroline Brady, under the RIAI'S Hometown Architect Initiative. The application was successful and €10,000 was awarded to prepare a design solution for a key site in the town core that was identified during the preparation of the TCF plan.

A number of community consultations took place over the summer months including an intergenerational workshop involving the local Active Age Group and the students from the local National School. A town centre walkabout also took place involving people from the local community, providing them with an opportunity to feed into the development of project proposals. The initiative concluded with very successful day long community engagement session in the town centre, inviting feedback to inform the regeneration of the town core. This feedback will be used to inform future funding applications for various projects throughout the town.



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*Frank Cooney, Cooney Architects, leads out the Town Centre walkabout with a number of community members as part of stakeholder engagement on the Reimagine Hometown initiative in Bailieborough.*

**THRIVE** – The Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme supports locally developed plans that take an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of our towns and locally selected projects that assist in creating town centres that function as viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community

Under Strand 1 of this scheme Local Authorities were invited to apply for funding of between €40,000 and €200,000 to support them with the planning and design phase of large scale projects that could then be submitted under Strand 2 of the THRIVE Programme. Strand 2 is also a competitive funding call with amounts of between €2m and €7m available towards the renovation and adaptive reuse of a vacant or derelict heritage buildings. In April 2024, Cavan County Council applied for funding under Strand 1 of the Programme and secured €200,000 towards the development of a new Integrated Urban Strategy for the area West and Northwest of Farnham St. in Cavan Town as well as for the development of an investment ready project proposal for a publicly owned vacant heritage building on Farnham St. with the aim to submit a Thrive Strand 2 application.



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*Representatives from Cavan County Council met with representatives from the NWRA to discuss their project proposals under strand 1 of the THRIVE funding scheme. Pictured are Brendan Jennings Director of Service, Nicholas O'Kane, Senior Planner, Ann Marie Ward, Heritage Officer, Caroline Brady Town Regeneration Officer, John Wilson Senior Engineer (Cavan Co Council), Catriona Meehan NWRA, Marice Galligan Senior Executive Planner (Cavan Co Council) and Patrick Devine, NWRA.*

**Cavan Chamber of Commerce:** Throughout the year the Town Regeneration Officer in conjunction with a number of local business representatives have been working collaboratively to rejuvenate Cavan Chamber of Commerce. In 2024 a new Chamber of Commerce commenced work on a number of key initiatives including the development of a new Strategy for Cavan Chamber of Commerce, the launch of Cavan Town Gift Card as well as rejuvenating the St Patricks Day Parade for 2025.



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## Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark



Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark is jointly managed by Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council under a Memorandum of Understanding. The Geopark Committee is made up of elected representatives and senior management from both Councils who meet on a quarterly basis with an AGM held annually in June. After a revalidation process in July 2023, the Geopark has in 2024 been ratified through Global Geopark Networks Council as retaining its UNESCO Global Geopark status until March 2028. UNESCO Global Geopark status is recognised worldwide and is awarded to sites that have internationally important geological heritage and are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development combined with an approach that empowers local communities and a commitment to directly benefit the local economy.

### Annual Irish Geopark Forum

The Geopark hosted the open meeting of the Irish Geoparks Forum on 7 & 8 November 2024 with the conference theme being 'the Language of Landscapes' with guest speakers including keynote speakers Bruce Misstar, Liam Ó hAisbéil and Anne O'Donoghue. The forum attracted over 100 attendees over two days from a variety of different sectors across the island of Ireland. Field trips to Geopark sites including Cavan Burren Park and Lough Oughter took place.



*Irish Geoparks Forum 2024*



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## Shared Island Funding

The Geopark was awarded €6 million from the Shared Island fund to support tourism through conservation with a focus on delivering a number of projects identified in the Cuilcagh Masterplan. Taoiseach Micheál Martin recently announced a Shared Destination project which included the €6m investment into Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark which will see conservation works and trail developments across Fermanagh and Cavan which will expand and connect the trail network throughout the cross-border region further elevating the area as a leading regenerative tourism destination. The funding will enable the delivery on key interventions identified in the Cuilcagh Masterplan including, conservation works on Cuilcagh Mountain and improvements to the Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail along with new interpretative signage, wayfinding infrastructure, and visitor amenities including a new community-based interpretative centre in Glangevlin. In 2023 the Geopark developed the Cuilcagh Masterplan, a cross-border masterplan for the area, through Shared Island local authority project development funding. This funding announcement will now see the Geopark bring that plan to fruition which will aim to have lasting benefits for local communities and the environment across Fermanagh and Cavan.

The Geopark was invited to take part in the Shared Island Forum in Dublin Castle as part of the Irish Government's Shared Island Initiative to engage with all communities and political traditions on a shared future on the island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The event hosted two panel discussions focusing on Arts and a reconciled future and Shared Island Investment.



## Shannon Pot/Cavan Burren Park Discovery Centre Official Sod Turning

The Geopark continues to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland under their Platforms for Growth: A Programme for Tourism Investment (2019-2022) for Platform 1: Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions in developing and delivering a world class visitor experience in West Cavan in the northern region of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (IHH) at Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park.

The official sod turning event for the Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park Project took place in June 2024. The project has received funding of €7.4m from Fáilte Ireland as well as €2.6m in match funding by Cavan County Council. The attraction will incorporate an exhibition, along with



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reception, café, retail shop, public amenities and a new 500-metre walking trail. The project will also see development of new facilities at nearby Cavan Burren Park, including an elevated walk through the trees, which will showcase the spectacular views around Ireland's largest neolithic relict landscape, provision of an outdoor performance space, and increased parking facilities. Once complete, the project is expected to drive over €30m visitor spend and attract over 600,000 visitors by 2036, while creating 10 new jobs in the region as well as supporting many ancillary jobs and businesses in the region. It is expected that both attractions will open to the public in 2026



*Shannon Pot Discovery Centre*



*Sod Turning at Shannon Pot, June 2024*



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The Geopark is currently undertaking Digital that Delivers programme through Fáilte Ireland. This programme includes one to one expert mentoring, webinars and grant support for development.

Completed the B2B and B2C Sales ready programme developing saleable experience documents for Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park are currently being developed through this programme.

### **Geopark Regenerative Tourism Network**

In 2024 the Geopark concluded its third Business Sustainability Training Programme for local tourism businesses. The programme covered topics such as energy and water conservation, Leave No Trace as well as accessibility. Participants also had the opportunity to undertake a learning journey to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, Co Clare to consolidate their continued learning. We were pleased to be joined by Councillor Anthony Feely (Chair of the Geopark Committee), Councillor John Paul Feeley (Vice Chair of the Geopark Committee), Senior Management of the Geopark, as well as Gráinne Cornally (Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Fáilte Ireland), and Jessica Hoyle (Tourism NI) for the accreditation ceremony in 2024. Belmore Court & Motel, Dowra Courthouse, Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism, Keenaghan Cottage, Killinagh House, Lough Erne Resort, National Trust Fermanagh, Slieve Russell Hotel, Trinity Island Yoga Retreat, and Trivia House Accommodation will now join other members of the Geopark's Business Sustainability Network. This programme was funded by Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with support from Fáilte Ireland and Tourism NI.

More recently the network voted to change their name to Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Regenerative Tourism Network.

The network currently has 32 business members with a new training programme to launch in Q4 2025 which will again be funded by Cavan County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland

In 2024 the Regenerative Tourism Network was shortlisted in Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards, Supporting Tourism Category.



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*Geopark Regenerative Tourism Network - 2024*

## **Review of Geopark Development Plan 2020-2030**

A mid-term review of Geopark Development Plan including examination of existing strategic pillars for the Geopark with a refocus and emphasis on regenerative tourism, community and conservation began in late 2024.

## **Funded Projects 2024**

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund continues to fund trail and recreation amenity development across the Geopark. Some examples of ORIS projects delivered in 2024 include;

**Cornagee Viewpoint** is a stunning vantage point showcasing Ireland's rich geological heritage. The name "Cornagee" originates from the Irish term for "rounded windy hill," a fitting description given the frequent breezy conditions. Perched at an elevated position, the viewpoint offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Through secured ORIS funding we recently have made significant improvements to the site.

Upgrade works to **Sean Eamon Ruarai Trail** included provision for upgraded amenity area, upgrades to trail, trail furniture and information panels to allow interpretation of local heritage, biodiversity at this designated Geopark site.



### Clár Funding Measure 1 - Developing Community Facilities and Amenities Applications

**Lough MacNea** Amenity Area awarded €49,253 and completed June 2024

Works complete at Lough MacNea amenity site included new welcome feature, changing facilities, picnic benches, outdoor shower, etc.



**Brackley Lough** Amenity Area awarded €55,692 and completed June 2024

Works completed at Brackley lake amenity site include new welcome feature, changing facilities, picnic benches, interpretation etc.

### ORIS Product Development Measure

#### Lough MacNea Canoe Trail and Angling Amenity Development

Project in conjunction with Leitrim County Council for development of Canoe Trail and angling facilities on Lough MacNea. Options identified and agreed with stakeholders and local community for progression.





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## **INTERREG Northern Periphery and Artic Funding**

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark has been awarded €124,163 as part of a €1,2 million project, in partnership with Geocamp Iceland, Visit Reykjanes, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Gold of Lapland Economic Association and Olemisen Balanssiary. The three-year Regenerative Tourism Project aims to build resilient communities and preserve unique heritage.

## **Shared Island Civic Society Fund**

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, in partnership with Ballyhoura Development Group, were awarded €31,964 funding in 2024 for an Engaging Sustainable Tourism Communities Project. The project aims to facilitate cross border learning and sharing of best practice and promote collaboration through the development of sustainable cross border civic relationships that can enhance tourism visibility and cooperation under the Fáilte Ireland Hidden Heartlands brand proposition for community and business beneficiaries.

## **Tourism Bodies Experience Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark**

In October 2024, Tourism Ireland held their annual conference at the Slieve Russell Hotel. Delegates enjoyed familiarisation trips across the region with many Geopark Sustainable Business Network members hosting the delegates. Familiarisation trips were also hosted for Landscapes NI forum and many other delegations throughout the course of 2024.

Tourism Ireland visit developments at the  
Shannon Pot Discovery Centre



## **Geopark Engagement**

The Geopark continues to offer a diverse programme of events and educational outreach across Geopark sites. These events are delivered by an accredited network of existing Geopark Guides. A new programme of Geopark Ambassador training will be delivered in 2025. Significant events for 2024 included the *Get to know your Geopark Day* at Killykeen Forest Park. Events were also held as part of Heritage Week and Science week 2024 as well as *Cruinniú na nÓg* events at Cavan Burren Park in June.



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The Geopark held 95 events across 2024 including sessions held as part of the Cruinniu na nOg festival. There were approx. 2502 attendees at these events, comprised of 971 adults and 1469 children. The Geopark education outreach met with 27 schools, and 827 pupils, offering predominately fossil and science workshops. There was engagement with an additional 300 students and teachers at various School Fairs. The Geopark also hosted 190 students from UCD for geology and archaeology related activities in 2024.

Social Media platforms continue to grow with an active Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and You Tube account for the Geopark @cuilcaghlakelands #cuilcaghlakelands

The Geopark also established a LinkedIn channel.

Facebook: 1,888 new followers, Instagram: 477 new followers, LinkedIn: 267 connections This is a 184% increase on last quarter



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## Conservation

### Cross Border Scoping Peatland Project

In collaboration with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development team, the Geopark have been successful in securing almost £271,000 funding to deliver a Cross Border Peatlands Scoping Project. The project, which has been funded by the NIEA through the Shared Island Peatlands Challenge Fund, aims to enhance opportunities for peatland restoration within Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council areas. Three specific areas of blanket bog focus have been selected Gortin Lakes, Cuilcagh Mountain and Cuilcagh Anierin within West Fermanagh and West Cavan. Baseline scientific surveys will be carried out to identify restoration opportunities. This information will be used to create Peatland Restoration Plans for each site and will include ongoing scientific monitoring. Community engagement and the development of citizen science, volunteering and peatland educational programme will also be undertaken on a cross-border basis. This will help to encourage skills development and raise awareness of the importance of our peatlands. The project is being delivered in partnership with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Cavan County Council, NIEA, National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte.

### Data Logging

Visitor and vehicle counters indicate that over 650,000 visits were recorded to Geopark sites. This data is recorded at Geopark sites where vehicle and pedestrian counters are located including Cavan Burren, Belturbet, Killykeen and Cuilcagh Mountain. A new data logging system has been rolled out across the entire Geopark and is establishing more real time data for monitoring, funding and conservation purposes. There are currently 35 data loggers at sites across the Geopark.

The Geopark continues to coordinate a dedicated cross departmental team who are responsible for the management, maintenance and monitoring of Geopark sites. Significant upgrades were undertaken to a number of key sites in the Geopark in 2024

### British Irish Parliamentary Assembly – Presentation to Plenary Committee.

The Geopark was invited to present at the 66th plenary of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly in Druid's Glen, Wicklow. The presentation which was titled '*Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark - Regenerative Tourism in a Shared Landscape*' was shared with the Assembly in April 2024. The British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) aims to promote co-operation between political representatives in Britain and Ireland for the benefit of the people they represent



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Brendan Smith TD, Chair of BIPA and Dr Steve Aiken MLA, Acting Vice Chair of BIPA.



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## Economic Development Projects

### Cootehill Enterprise Park

Cavan County Council, under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund, completed the first phase of development of industrial lands owned by Cavan County Council, in Cornacarrow, Cootehill. A new access road and services has been completed and the first company PQE Engineering Ltd completed the construction of their new premises and began operations from there in 2024.



**PQE Engineering Premises, Cootehill Enterprise Park**

Cavan County Council is working with existing local manufacturing companies to progress the development of a further 4 services sites in the enterprise park. This will form part of the second phase of development of the lands and will require the construction of additional access roads and services.



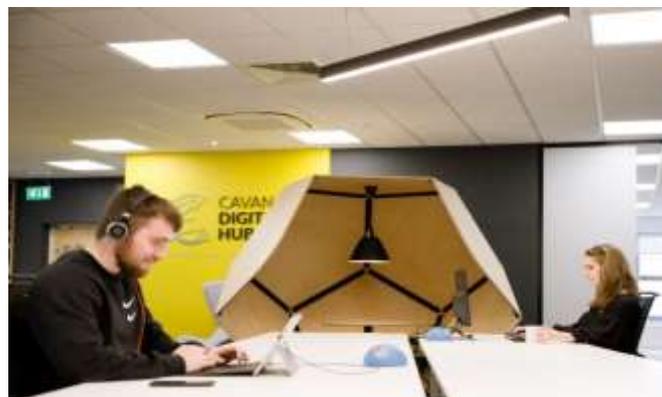
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### Cavan Digital Hub

An initiative of Cavan County Council, funded by the Regional Enterprise Development Fund under the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project in partnership with Leitrim and Longford County Councils, and the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Cavan County Council, Cavan Digital Hub opened in June 2019. Cavan Digital Hub has been operating successfully for the past 5 years. Over 100 skilled digital and technology roles are now being supported out of the facility.



Spanning 5 floors with a total floor space of 13,000 sq. ft, Cavan Digital hub provides a range of hot desks, dedicated desks, private offices and meeting rooms, as part of an overall work solution for digitally focused companies. Clients based out of the facility include digital start ups, established small-to-medium technology businesses and larger firms embracing a hybrid and regional working ethos and seeking a local base in Cavan. The firms specialise in all areas of the digital spectrum including artificial intelligence, software development, digital services and web solutions.

### Cavan County Council Economic Partnerships & Collaborations

Cavan Digital Hub (DAC) Ltd, Cavan County Council and IDA Ireland came together, to provide a pathway to attract and retain investment in the IDA Park, Killygarry for the development of an Advanced Technology Building (ATB). In the summer of 2024, construction on the development of this state-of-the-art manufacturing facility began. This new facility will have gross floor area of 35,000 sq ft.



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New IDA Advanced Technology Building – IDA Business Park, Killygarry

Cavan County Council partners with a number of agencies, including the IDA, with the aim of creating opportunities for employment, expansion of existing business and making County Cavan an attractive place for inward investment. To attract new FDI to the county along with other indigenous investment, there is a need for a sufficient supply of high-quality, marketable, serviced lands and premises.

The availability of such sites and the future requirement for same, is key to the future economic development of the county and indigenous and foreign investors are a critical element requiring a collaborative, streamlined approach in sourcing and developing appropriate lands and premises.

During 2024, Cavan County Council has been proactively developing plans in relation to lands that it owns at the IDA's Business Park in Killygarry. The Local Authority granted planning permission for a LEO Client - Fire Doors Ireland Ltd, to develop a new 20,000 manufacturing facility on its lands. This will lead to further job creation in the IDA Business Park over the next few years.



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**Outline of new enterprise /manufacturing space on Local Authority Lands, Killygarry**

## **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)**

Local Enterprise Office Cavan (LEO Cavan) plays an important role in facilitating and promoting sustainable economic growth and enterprise. We aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation by providing accessible high-quality supports for new and existing businesses. We promote and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups and small business, promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population, across all sectors of industry. We ensure that the promotion and provision of our services and supports are accessible to all citizens within the community, providing equality of opportunity to all and most importantly, we put the customer at the centre of our work and align our performance to meet our commitment under the LEO Customer Service Charter.



As part of Cavan County Council, we play a significant role in the economic activities of the Local Economic & Community Plan, the County Development Plan, and the Economic, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee. Our involvement is important in respect of the local authority's ambitions to provide suitable economic infrastructure and an appropriate enterprise focused environment for businesses to start and scale in the County.

We are the first point of contact for new entrepreneurs, and a supportive, knowledgeable contact for established entrepreneurs. This comes with a responsibility to deliver the right supports and provide



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the right guidance and direction. We want to ensure entrepreneurs with the greatest potential are encouraged and nurtured to start and scale successful, sustainable, and viable businesses, driving job creation and growth in our county.

The challenges of encouraging and nurturing quality start-ups remain a key priority for us, particularly in certain sectors such as information technology, which are not as strong as other more traditional industry sectors in County Cavan. As a LEO, we will strive to promote entrepreneurship through many platforms and collaborations, strengthening our involvement in Cavan Digital Hub, as a key incubator for digitally focussed start-ups. Adopting a streamlined and joined up approach to informing, encouraging, and creating green start ups and maximising opportunities for existing businesses in this sector, will be required on a regional basis, as well as on a county level. This will be explored through the Regional Enterprise Plan Committees which provide much opportunity for strategic project development to address regional and county imbalances.

Diversification and exploring new export opportunities remains key for our portfolio clients. Digitalisation and Sustainability were key priorities for support in 2024. The LEO Cavan Green for Business offering is paving the way to encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. In 2024, we approved 10 Energy Efficiency Grants across all sectors.

Similarly, the Digital for Business Programme is encouraging business to embrace new digital processes which can improve their efficiencies and competitiveness. The Trading Online Voucher offering concluded in December. This proved to be a very successful programme again during 2024. Our Digital supports have been extended in 2024 with the new Grow Digital Voucher which covers areas such as cybersecurity, customer relationship management along with Ecommerce website supports.

Through our training and management development programmes we provide business owners and managers with the opportunity to develop their skills. This enables them to grow and develop in the ever-changing business environment and in turn future proof their business.

When a challenge arises, that business requires specific, immediate assistance with, our one-to-one mentoring programme provides excellent support. Giving the business tailored advice from an experienced mentor to help them overcome the issue.



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**Pictured at Regional National Women's Enterprise Day Celebration in October 2024**

Networks and clustering provide SME's the opportunity to learn from their peers, collaborate and collectively grow and advance their businesses. This is something we continually encourage through the Cavan Women in Business Network and the Created in Cavan Food Network.

Promoting and highlighting enterprise and entrepreneurship as widely as possible is supported by national LEO initiatives such as Local Enterprise Week, The National Enterprise Awards and The Student Enterprise Awards Programme.



**Event 'Small Steps Big Impact' launching Local Enterprise Week 2024.**

The LEO's requirement to localise and adapt their offering to meet local needs, reflects the different



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geographic and socio-economic profiles of our counties and regions. LEO Cavan will strive to deliver the most appropriate supports to meet the needs of the business community in County Cavan, whilst forging strong collaborative partnerships and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the economic potential of our county and its attractiveness as a location to start up and grow a business.

We work collaboratively with key enterprise and strategic stakeholders to promote a strong enterprise focused environment contributing to the county achieving its economic potential. LEO Cavan engages proactively with the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee and collaborates with key stakeholders such as Enterprise Ireland, IDA, CMETB, Fáilte Ireland and LEOs in our Region, to identify possible leveraging of funds under upcoming Competitive Calls to further enhance the region as a location for business investment and growth.

At a cross border and European level, the LEO is fully engaged in several activities aimed at stimulating and supporting enterprise and economic activity. LEO Cavan successfully partners and collaborates with other LEOs and Local Authorities in the region in the delivery and roll out of initiatives and programmes aimed at providing value added supports and services to its client base.

Throughout 2024 LEO Cavan continued to promote the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to facilitate linkages and potential business partnership and trading opportunities across the EU.

LEO Cavan contributes to the Council's corporate plan objectives to maximise investment and improve the county's infrastructure to stimulate development opportunities for job creation and enhanced quality of life. The LEO collaborates with colleagues and stakeholders (on the development of enterprise incubation space and planning for future enterprise and industrial developments that will encourage and support enterprise start-ups and expansion in the County. Developing initiatives such as Cavan Digital Hub is an example of LEO Cavan's contribution on the objective to promote the development of stronger towns and villages to enable them act as key drivers of economic, social and community development across the county. The continued phased development of Cootehill Enterprise Park, coupled with future enterprise park developments in Virginia and other key strategic county locations, addresses the infrastructural gap and provides a critical pathway for our business community to grow and scale.

Innovation, efficiency, value for money and a high standard of customer service remain a key priority for LEO Cavan. LEO staff are fully committed to the Local Enterprise Office Customer Service Charter which ensures quality service delivery at all times to the customer.

All LEO operations are governed by the LEO Procedures Manual in partnership with Enterprise Ireland to ensure consistent best practice in the delivery of LEO supports. LEO Cavan works with Internal



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Audit, Health and Safety and Procurement sections to ensure compliance at the highest operational level with all requisite procedures, processes, and legislation, as determined by the Council's Corporate Plan.

### **Key Strategic LEO Enterprise Activities 2024**

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Local Enterprise Week took place from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This National Initiative saw a hybrid approach with a variety of online and in person events being held across the LEO Network.
- During Local Enterprise Week events hosted by LEO Cavan had over 200 people in attendance.
- In 2024, LEO Cavan approved €477,000 in Business Expansion Grants to 10 businesses.
- A total of €126,000 was approved to four businesses in Priming Grants.
- €60,000 in Feasibility Grants was approved to 4 businesses.
- €81,880 was approved for 10 businesses under the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme.
- In 2024, 1 business was approved €30,000 under the Grad Start initiative.
- Under the Trading Online Voucher Scheme, LEO Cavan approved a total of 35 vouchers, valued at €74,251.
- 8 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters Grants were approved to value of €73,748
- 61 enterprise related training programmes and network events/seminars were delivered (both virtually and in person) by LEO Cavan and attended by 1,126 participants availing of knowledge-based learning and information.
- 242 business owners / managers received one-to-one mentoring.
- 12 businesses were approved for the LEAN for Business Programme.
- 27 businesses received approval for the Green for Business Programmes in
- A joint regional event with our colleagues in Monaghan LEO to Celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day saw over 180 in attendance.
- The Student Enterprise Programme had 9 schools participating with over 580 students participating in the programme. The County Final was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March in Hotel Kilmore, Cavan.
- The winner of the County Cavan Enterprise Awards 2024, My Farewell Wishes, represented Co. Cavan at the National Enterprise Awards Final in the Mansion House, Dublin in June 2024.



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### **Pictured at the Country Enterprise Awards 2024:**

Back Row: Conor Craven, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Cavan; Cllr Peter McVitty; Cllr Philip Brady, Cathaoirleach Cavan County Council; Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick; Brendan Jennings; Director of Service  
Middle Row: Cllr Carmel Brady; Shane O'Reilly, I/O Electrical; Robert Beattie, BT Bro-tech Ltd; David Beattie, BT Bro-tech Ltd; Cllr Clifford Kelly; Cllr Paddy McDonald; Cllr Sarah O'Reilly; Cllr Trevor Smith.  
Front Row: Cllr Winston Bennett; Cllr John Paul Feeley; Sandra Thompson, I/O Electrical; Colm Kieran, My Farewell Wishes; Paddy Colwell, Colwell Brothers Ltd; Cllr Madeline Argue.

### **Cavan Dublin Business Network Event September 2024.**

Cavan County Council, LEO Cavan and the Cavan Dublin Network organised a very successful Cavan Dublin Business Networking Event in at the Alex Hotel in Central Dublin to promote networking opportunities for Cavan Business People in Dublin and the Business Sector in Cavan. The event which took place in September highlighted the strategic transformative projects being undertaken by Cavan County Council. The event also showcased the dynamic and successful enterprise journeys of Kieran Callaghan, Callaghan Electrical LTD Stradone, Therese Melanaphy, M-TEC Engineering Swanlinbar and Keelan O'Connell, Nualach Automation Virginia. More than 80 people were in attendance at the event.



Pictured at the Cavan Dublin Business Networking Event in the Alex Hotel, Conor Craven, LEO Cavan, Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council, Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Cavan County Council, Cllr. TP O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council, Therese Melanaphy, Kieran Callaghan, Keelan O'Connell, Cllr. Winston Bennett.



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## Created In Cavan

The 2024-2027 Food & Drink action plan was launched April 2024 with the vision 'To be a leading county in Ireland known for its successful local food and drink ecosystem through accessibility, sustainability, commerciality and collaboration' delivered through a stakeholder owned network which excel at 'inter member support' with the delivery of commercial business opportunities, knowledge sharing and unique food tourism experiences.

Created In Cavan network membership increased by 6% to 62 members in 2024



**Launch of the 2024-2027 Food & Drink Action Plan in April 2024.**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) Agri-Tourism measures awarded Cavan County Council €23,808.78 to support the completion of the selected projects within the action plan:

- To develop 'Created in Cavan' display units to be offered to local retailers & visitor sites to highlight Cavan ranges.
- To further develop the producer directory (handbook) & distribute to the hospitality industry within the County.
- To hold a Street Food Festival in Cavan Town, to highlight the quality food & drink producers in the County.
- To work with Cootehill Chamber on incorporating a street Christmas Food Market showcasing our wonderful producers.
- To develop an Interactive Digital Food Trail for the Created in Cavan website.
- Production of vertical videos to promote our network members.
- To deliver the 'Created in Cavan' National Schools Programme, following on from the pilot programme in 2023.
- To host an event to launch the new Cavan Food & Drink Action Plan 2024 - 2027, promote the members within the network and their products.



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- To attend shows en masse under the one umbrella 'Created in Cavan' – Virginia, Tullamore, National Ploughing Championships & Gifted.

All projects were successfully completed in 2024, costing €34,012.

The Summer & Christmas markets in Cavan Town and DineYard by the Lake food tourism event at Annagh Lake was held in conjunction with the Cottage Market.

The Blás na hEireann awards took place in Dingle on Friday 5th October, with 7 producers winning awards. Cully's bakery was recognised for 'Best In Cavan' award.

### **Cavan Craft Network**

In October 2024, Verling Consulting undertook a Cavan Craft Feasibility study initiated by the Local Enterprise Office Cavan as the first step in the process in exploring developing a craft collective for Cavan. After positive feedback an interim steering committee developed a network constitution, aims & objectives, with the Network application process opening Q1 2025.



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## Finance, Information Technology and Emergency Services

### Finance

The provision of accurate and timely financial information in respect of all Council services and ensuring appropriate effective internal control procedures are in place. The Finance Department plays an important role in the support and delivery of services. It deals with the financial management and financing of the Authority's operations, both of a revenue and capital nature, across all Service Divisions.

The primary objectives are to:

- Achieve the financial objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan
- Provide and promote the best financial management and practices throughout the Council
- Manage the financial affairs of the Council
- Ensure that statutory and financial accounting principles which apply to all County Council financial transactions are complied with
- Ensure that adequate internal controls are in operation to safeguard the assets of the Organisation and ensure the accuracy and reliability of the accounting records
- Ensure that value for money is achieved throughout the Organisation

### Loans

In 2024 Cavan County Council had 141 loans to customers, which resulted in mortgage payments of €461,737. Cavan County Council continued to proactively engage with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions.

### Payroll Function

Payroll involves the processing and payment of wages including deduction of P.A.Y.E., P.R.S.I., other statutory, non-statutory deductions and completion of all relevant returns.

In 2024 payroll managed payments to over 550 individuals which included full and part time staff, retained firefighters, elected members and pensioners. The total cost of payroll was 37.8m.

### Rates

A total of 2,468 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2024 which resulted in a total levy of €17,704,289.54. The effective valuation in Co. Cavan in 2024 was €80,073,675 and the multiplier set by the elected members for 2024 was 0.2211. An amount of €17,662,406 was receipted in respect of commercial rates for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The overall collection percentage for commercial rates was 81% for the year-ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.



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The Small Business Rates Incentive Scheme was introduced during 2022. The Scheme is a credit of 5% of the annual rates liability for all businesses who pay their annual rates liability by 31<sup>st</sup> October each year or have complied with an agreement to discharge their rates liability in full by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The discount is applied to the rate account at the end of the financial year which will result in a credit on the customer account. There is no application process for this incentive.

The objectives of the Scheme are:

- To reduce the operational overheads of businesses in County Cavan.
- To provide a cash flow advantage to businesses that pay the annual Commercial Rates Liability early.
- To provide a targeted support for the SME sector in relation to Commercial Rates.
- To demonstrate the Council's commitment to the economic development and regeneration of County Cavan.

The incentive applied to businesses in County Cavan who have an annual Commercial Rates Liability of less than or equal to €10,000 per rated property for 2024. An amount of €144,944.21 was paid out under the Scheme in respect of 1,357 rated properties.

In relation to write offs for vacant properties, the proportion of write off for vacant properties remained at 90% where the property was vacant for more than 12 months at 31/12/2024.

### **Procurement**

#### **Our Mission Statement**

“To ensure that Cavan County Council's Procurement function is discharged with probity, transparency, and accountability, adheres to EU/National Law and National guidelines, and operates in the most efficient and effective way to support value for money purchasing while achieving the required standards to deliver quality services to the citizens of County Cavan”.

#### **Procurement**

The Council's procurement function continues to operate in accordance with the principles and proper foundation of the current Corporate Procurement Plan 2023 – 2025 (Version 2) which was launched in April 2023, while also remaining intrinsically linked to the principles and strategic objectives of the organisation's Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Procurement Plan Strongly promotes the use of Sustainable Public Procurement practices through the appropriate and suitable use of Social Considerations and Green Public Procurement measures.



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The New Version of the Councils Procurement Procedure Manual (Version 9) came into effect from the 01/01/2024. The manual provides guidance to staff on the day-to-day procurement operational issues and is updated in line with the new OGP Public Procurement Guidelines for Goods and Services Version 3.

The roll out of the new eTenders system continued into 2024. The Procurement Officer and members of the Central Tendering Administration Unit (CTA Unit) continued to manage the new system and administer tender competitions through it as well as managing the old eTenders portal.

The CTA Unit completed the process of archiving all the tender competitions on the old eTender portal to secure council electronic folders. The old eTender portal is due to be closed for good in May 2025. (This deadline was extended from May 2024).

The councils proposed Green Public Procurement Strategy was drafted and is awaiting the outcome from the DPENDR Consultation process currently underway to replace Circular 20/2019 in light of the DECC Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 document. It is envisaged that the Councils Draft GPP Strategy will have to be amended in line with the relevant outcome and then presented to the SMT and CE for further consideration.

New EU Procurement Thresholds came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and are revised every 2 years. The New EU Thresholds are:-

- €221,000 ex VAT for (Goods) Supplies and / or Services
- €5,538,000 ex VAT for Works

During 2024, substantial challenges also remained in respect of supply difficulties and delays, price inflation, increase in fuel and energy costs etc. Throughout the year the Procurement Officer and Members of the CTA Unit continued to champion procurement protocols and procedures and provided management and staff with the relevant procurement advice and support as and when required.

Procurement guidance and training was provided to council staff through various support tools, updated Procurement Procedure Manual and Procurement Training/Information Tutorial videos. In addition to this the Procurement Officer delivered inhouse procurement training to staff members across various Sections and Departments. The Procurement Steering Group also continued to hold their quarterly meetings online throughout the year.



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The Procurement Officer continued to manage Cavan County Council's new electronic Quarterly Public Procurement Monitoring Report App, which is used to provide the Chief Executive with a quarterly report on the procurement compliance of all Departments within the organisation.

Procurement assistance was provided to all Departments and Sections throughout the Organisation. In 2024 - **196** Procurement Competitions were advertised by the CTA Unit. This was a **10%** decrease on the previous year. **121** of these were through the etenders portal (**49** Quotation Competitions and **72** Tender Competitions) and a further **75** Tender Competitions through the Supplygov system.

### Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

In 2024 the Procurement Officer also coordinated, compiled and submitted the Cavan County Council's Quality Assurance report for 2023 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

The report noted that the checklists completed by Cavan County Council showed a high level of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the in-depth checks carried out on a selection of projects / programmes revealed no major issues which would cast doubt on the Council's compliance with the Code.

Cavan County Council's report coordinated by the Procurement Officer contained: -

- An inventory list for 2023 (totalling **€977,824816.96**) identified **143** Projects / Programmes (**40** Current Expenditure and **103** Capital Expenditure), whose expenditure / estimated lifetime cost exceeded €0.5m.
  - Out of the **143** Projects/Programmes: -
    - **31** projects / programmes were being considered in 2023.
    - **104** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2023.
    - **8** projects / programmes ended in 2023.
- A summary of all procurements above €10m listed **2** projects, however there were **no** new projects in 2023.
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **18 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **30%** of the total value of relevant expenditure in the 2023 inventory list.
- A summary of the Internal Auditors in-depth checks representing: -
  - **1%** of the total value of all Current (revenue) Expenditure projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2023 and



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- **28%** of the total value of all Capital Expenditure projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2023. (The Average % over the 3-year period (2021-2023) of Capital Projects / Programmes selected for In-Depth Check(s) (based on value) was **12%**).

### Internal Audit

Internal Audit provides an independent appraisal function charged with conducting reviews on the policies, plans, procedures and performances of the organisation. The prime objective is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls within Cavan County Council. The role of Internal Audit contributes to the economic and efficient use of resources and is very much a core element of good corporate governance which is pivotal to achieving the main priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The core control areas examined include:

- Accounting and management systems
- Compliance with internal controls
- Adequacy and integrity of the financial data produced
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Exposure to fraud and / or corruption
- Effective use and safeguarding of assets
- Economic, efficient and effective use of resources

It is the policy of Cavan County Council to maintain and support a professional Internal Audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter. All Council's activities and services fall within the remit of Internal Audit function. The Internal Auditor reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

### Value for Money

Local Authorities including Cavan County Council operate in an environment that requires accountability and transparency of all management decisions taken. The Council must ensure that all services operate in an economical, efficient and effective manner with an increased emphasis placed on achieving Value for Money and maximising performance levels throughout the organisation.

### Annual Audit Plan 2024

The Annual Audit Plan for 2024 as approved by the Executive of the Council sets out specific audit reviews to be undertaken based on the availability of staff resources and the potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee the Local Government Auditor and risk areas highlighted by the LGIAN.



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As the priorities of the Local Authority evolve Internal Audit's work practices and audit techniques ensure it operates in the most professional and effective manner possible to provide maximum audit coverage and assurance to Senior Management and the Audit Committee.

### **Internal Audit Work - 2024**

During 2024 the audit work programme incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Customer Service Desk and Cavan Town Hall.

Specific audits reviews covered the Council's, the Roads Discretionary Grants Programme 2020 – 2022, Oversight of the Associated / Subsidiary Companies, the Travel and Subsistence Payment Scheme 2022, the IPB Insurance Claims Processing Procedures, the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme – ORIS, the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant - Croi Conaithe (Towns) Fund, Governance of the Fire Charges System, Operation of Public Art Per Cent Scheme 2023, the Financial Operations & Control Procedures of the Machinery Yard and the Stores Facilities, Management of Corranure Landfill Site, the Part V Social Housing Plannings Conditions Procedures, the Annual Review of SICAP- the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme for 2023 as managed by the Programme Implementor on behalf of the LCDC.

As part of the Annual Public Spending Code In-depth Review Process one capital project and one revenue expenditure programme were assessed. These included 1) of the Proposed Capital Programme - N3 Virginia Bypass Roads Capital Project - Expenditure Incurred Est Lifetime Project Value €250 million 2) the Current Revenue Expenditure Programme A05 - Administration of the Homeless Service - Expenditure Incurred Est Lifetime Project Value €832,603.36.

Internal Audit also undertook the necessary Article 48 Leader Funding Checking Procedures on behalf of the Council covering 9 project applications valued at €675,437 and 6 expenditure claims amounting to €257,518.

Various audit requests from the Local Government Auditors were processed with the effectiveness of Internal Audit considered as a key factor in the Local Government Auditor's assessment of the controlled environment of the Local Authority.

### **Audit Committee**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided statutory effect to the Action Programme for effective Local Government and re-stated the legislative provisions relating to audit committees.



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The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of Cavan County Council.

The current Audit Committee was established by resolution upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group of the Local Authority and following consultation with the Chief Executive. Their term of office is concurrent with that of the elected Council which commenced on 1st June 2024 and will terminate on 31st May 2029.

The (AC) Audit Committee members are as follows:

<b><i>New AC June 2024 – May 2029</i></b>
• Sonia McEntee (Chairperson)
• Gerard Kelly
• Sean Corcoran
• Cllr Carmel Brady
• Cllr Philip Brady

The Audit Committee met on four occasions in 2024. They have a crucial role in the governance framework of Cavan County Council, particularly in the context of scarce resources, risk management, and public sector accountability.

During the year the committee met with the Chief Executive Mr Eoin Doyle and various line managers to discuss a broad range of issues. Areas of priority included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, the Internal Audit Charters, the Annual Internal Audit Work Programme and the Council's Annual Performance Indicators.

## **Internal Audit Overview**

Internal Audit is proactively working with management to provide assurance that the existing internal controls and processes are sufficient to optimise the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. This annual report highlights some of main activities performed by Internal Audit in 2024 that were key to identifying and addressing any significant risks facing the Council.

As always Internal Audit is committed to responding to the changing demands of Cavan Local Authority and will endeavour to optimise its governance contribution to the organisation in accordance with the Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

Based on the audit reviews undertaken reasonable assurance was provided to all relevant stakeholders that the operations and governance structures of the organisation incorporate best management



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practices, value for money principles, accountability and transparency that ensures maximum efficiencies are achieved.

## Motor Taxation

Cavan County Council's Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

- Issue of Vehicle Licence
- Issue of duplicate Registration Books, Receipts and Trade Plates for motor traders
- Processing change of ownerships and refunds.
- Issuing S103's and CT53's Certificates

There was an increase in the number of public attending the Motor Tax Office in 2024 to conduct their business. This was reflected in an increase in the revenue intake of €3,061,125 reporting an increase of €38,491 on 2023 figure (€3,022,634).

### Breakdown of income and transactions:

Category	Total Transactions	Total Income
Vehicle Licences	13,941	€2,711,261
Trade Licences	72	€25,416
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,749	€20,376
Arrears	3,377	€304,072
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,139</b>	<b>€3,061,125</b>

### Motor Tax Online:

In addition, 75,143 transactions were processed online. The Motor Tax Online Service is available to owners of private cars, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles, motor caravans and commercial vehicles for renewal. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie).



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## Service Indicators

<b>M.1 Number &amp; Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number which are dealt with over the counter	14,955
Number which are dealt with by post	3,547
% which are dealt with over the counter	80.83%
% which are dealt with by post	19.17%
<b>M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications</b>	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3469
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	61
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	3
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	14
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	97.80%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	1.72%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	0.08%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	0.40%
<b>M.4 Public opening hours</b>	
Average number of opening hours per week	27.5



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## Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Section reports to the Head of Finance & IT and provides Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services for Cavan County Council while also playing a role in process improvement across the organisation.

During 2024 the IT Dept worked on a number of key infrastructure, systems, digital and security projects. We also continued to provide user support to our workforce in the new hybrid working environment. Our support desk processed an average of over 430 calls per month during the year which is an increase of just over 30 calls per month.

### Geographic Information Systems.

The Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) continued to enhance our range of geospatial data and to support the business areas with the provision of mapping related technologies:

- CadCorp software upgrade.
- The development and enhancement of GIS web applications within the business areas to facilitate spatial data collection using desktop and mobile application.
- Osi Mapgenie integration to new applications.
- Supporting Corporate Services with Register of Electors review.

### Network Infrastructure.

The Council's network infrastructure is vital to service delivery and the IT Dept work to ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Projects in this area included:

- Firewall replaced and new firewalls installed in a high availability configuration.
- Upgrade of domain controller servers.
- Migration of legacy phone system to cloud hosted unified communications system.
- Corporate WiFi Network provisioned.
- Configuration and onboarding of Civil Defence building to corporate LAN.

### Digital Communities.

The section continued to play a major role in the promotion of the digital agenda within the wider County. During 2024, some notable projects and work completed included:

- 14 VEX Robotics workshops in local schools and two regional competitions.
- 2 Day OurKidsCode event held and 4 workshops.
- Successfully completed implementation of NAVIT for 360° tours of 6 Broadband Connection sites.
- Launch of Cavan Connects website and information portal.



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## Digital Transformation

The Digital Transformation function is the integration of digital technology into all areas of our business, fundamentally changing how we operate, with an overall goal of improving efficiency and online customer service delivery.

- Migration of paperless meetings to Sharepoint.
- Online consultation platform introduced for public consultations.
- Updates to Cavan Museum and Cavan Sport websites.
- New internal meeting room booking system for staff.
- 96% Average Score on National Disability Authority Web Accessibility Index for Cavan County Council Website.

## ICT Security.

ICT security ensures the safety and security of our data and systems and is one of the most critically important functions of the IT Department. IT security includes the technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programmes, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access.

- Full implementation of SOC-SIEM solution.
- Implementation of SOAR service to support SOC-SIEM.
- Garda Siochána information session for staff and members
- Install and configuration of privileged access management solution.

## Operations.

The operational area of the IT Dept is responsible for the day-to-day technical support to all staff users and elected members of Cavan County Council.

- Software upgrades and procurement competitions carried out for licensing and hardware purchases.
- Full replacement of print & copy fleet.
- ICT services and support to Local Election 2024.
- Ongoing upgrade of end user devices from Win 10 to Win 11.
- 5,200 Support requests logged.



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## Emergency Services

### Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 112 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2024. During 2024, four Firefighters retired from the Fire Service and an additional 24 retained Firefighters were employed.

### Service Indicators

#### ***F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service***

Cost per Capita of the Fire Service €70.79

#### ***F2: Service Mobilisation***

	Fire	Non-Fire
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades	6:23	7:06

#### ***F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes***

	Fire		Non-Fire	
	%	No.	%	No.
First attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	24.36	38	23.88	107
First attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	59.62	93	53.58	240
First attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	16.03	25	22.54	101

### Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Chimney fires in Houses	47	32	35	36	37	29	16	31	23
Other Domestic Building Fires	33	41	44	30	34	30	23	25	24



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Other fires	47	45	47	39	36	32	38	34	51
Bog/Forest Fires	17	39	18	9	34	6	11	11	6
Motor Vehicle Fires	19	20	21	16	10	24	20	19	19
Road Traffic Accidents	69	58	67	72	52	61	70	118	118
Flooding	4	14	11	28	28	9	18	8	5
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	3
Special Services (Other)	244	338	377	261	335	213	240	279	440
False Alarm (Good Intent)	51	36	50	57	57	68	108	109	70
False Alarm (Malicious)	2	2	2	6	3	5	3	4	3
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>762</b>

The Fire Service had 871 responses to 762 incidents in 2024, which is a 21% increase compared to the 720 responses in 2023.



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*Firefighters from Ballyjamesduff and Virginia bring a fire in an industrial premises under control.*

### **WRC Agreement**

Following the intervention of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), an agreement was reached between both Union and Management in 2023. This agreement involves a restructuring of pay for firefighters and changes to their Terms of Employment to facilitated structured time off and greater promotion of Community Fire Safety. To facilitate these changes, Cavan County Fire Service will increase the number of firefighters by 30%. (i.e. from 93 up to at least 120 – bring the numbers in each of the 10 Fire stations from 9 up to 12 ) and an increase in individual retainers up to 32.7%. Following a recruitment Campaign for all the stations in the County, 24 additional firefighters were recruited during 2024 and are now in operational service following completion of core training.



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*Class of 18No. enthusiastic Cavan County Recruit Firefighter's who completed their three week initial firefighting skills course in September 2024 which was undertaken at Castle Saunderson International Scout Centre.*

## Capital Programme

During 2024 work was on-going on the design , specification and procurement of a new 10,000 litre capacity Water Tanker with suitable firefighting pumping equipment and ancillary storage dam in addition to spray bar system. The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management approved grant assistance for the purchase of the new Water tanker.

Cavan County Fire Service was allocated two Class B appliances as part of the Fire Appliance Procurement Programme 2023 – 2025. The Two Scania Chassis for these new Fire appliances were purchased during 2024 and are now with the specialist bodybuilders for construction of the Fire appliance body and installation of ancillary equipment.

The new fire station in Ballyjamesduff became operational on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Following final claim submission a final grant payment of €408,407 was paid in November 2024.



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An application for capital funding for extension and upgrade works at Kingscourt Fire Station was submitted to the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management. Following their review, recommendations were made to incorporate modifications to the proposed initial design to allow for greater diversity within the staffing structure. During 2024 revised design options have been prepared by Malachi Cullen Consulting Engineers Ltd and Cavan County Fire Service have had consultations with other sections in the Local Authority to review the feasibility of the options.

## **Major Emergency Planning**

The first Cavan County Council Major Emergency Plan under the 2006 Framework for Emergency Planning was issued in September 2008 and the latest Plan was revised and issued at the start of 2016. The appendices to the plan were revised during 2024 to reflect staff changes.

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a Major Emergency in the County.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Cavan County Council's Crisis Management Team undertook training at the Command Development Training Suite in Clonmel Fire Station. The training simulated a severe weather based event in the County with the aim of enhancing the abilities of Crisis Management Team members to explore critical decision making relating to their role in the event of a Critical Incident / Major Emergency.



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Members of Cavan County Council’s Management Team participated in both steering groups and working groups with members of the principal response agencies in the Northeast Region.

The Cross Border Emergency Management Group developed a comprehensive Operational Plan for 2022 – 2025, the vision of which is to enhance cross border co-operation and resilience in emergency management and civil protection consistent with the principles underpinned in the framework documents of both jurisdictions, the Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework and the Major Emergency Management Framework. Cross Border Working Group meetings continued in 2024.

## Training

In 2024 dedicated training courses were provided in a wide range of potential activities that fire service personnel may encounter during the course of their employment, these included: Breathing Apparatus Refresher and Initial Wearers, Compartment Fire Behaviour, Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Emergency Traffic Management, Advanced Driver Training in preparation for assessment by RSA Testers for compliance with the Emergency Services Driving Standards, Chainsaw Operator Refresher, Hydraulic Platform, Emergency Fire Responder, Health & Safety, National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management Courses for both Junior & Senior Fire Officers.



*Cavan County Fire Service recruits during training exercise on a 3-week QQi Fire Fighting Skills Course during September 2024*



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*Members of Cavan County Fire Service during a training exercise on a Module 1 Course - Managing Fire Service Incidents during June 2024*

## **Fire Prevention**

Public houses, Hotels, restaurants, community halls, clubs, petrol stations and other premises were inspected throughout the year in response to legislative requirements and the processing of applications for liquor licences, dance licences, club licences, dangerous substance licences and Gaming and Lottery Licences.

Cavan County Fire Service also undertook a number of pre-incident preparedness planning familiarisation visits to a number of institutional, residential, industrial and commercial premises throughout the year. The purpose of these visits in consultation with the owners and managers of the premises is to facilitate better co-ordination and preparedness planning in order to enhance fire safety and enable the persons at the premises and the Fire Service to respond more effectively and safely during an emergency incident.

Cavan County Fire Service's community fire safety, primary schools and smoke alarm programmes resulted in a variety of opportunities to successfully promote fire safety messages with the local community during 2024.



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Kingscourt Fire Brigade highlighting the consequences of mistakenly putting a cup of water onto a Chip pan fire instead of smothering with Fire blanket or wet cloth and a future recruit tries out a BA mask for size during a family fun day in Kingscourt as part of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

Under the Building Control Regulations Fire Safety Certificates are required prior to the construction, extension or material alteration of most buildings excluding dwelling houses and agricultural buildings. A total of 87 applications for fire safety certificates, revised fire safety certificates and regularisation certificates were received in 2024.



*Community Fire Safety events in Cootehill and Ballyconnell during 2024*



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## Health and Safety

Health and safety considerations form an integral part of all Fire Service activities and functions. Every year there are numerous on-going inspections and checks carried out on operational equipment, plant, vehicles and buildings to ensure that they remain functionally effective and safe to use.

Responding to emergency incidents incorporate a level of inherent risk to firefighters due to the nature of the work and the unpredictability around some of these incidents together with the potential for unforeseen hazards. In order to manage these risks Cavan County Fire Service provides on-going comprehensive training and require personnel to follow safe systems of work in the form of standard operational procedures, instructions and guidelines. Notwithstanding this, when the Officer in Charge arrives at an emergency incident they can be faced with making critical timely tactical decisions based on an evolving situation with limited information. The Fire Service uses the National Incident Command system to help manage the risks presented during these type of incidents and requires the OIC to undertake on-going dynamic risk assessments of the incident in order to develop and where needed modify the tactical response plan.

The County Council has an Occupational Health Scheme and the Firefighters undergo medical examination under the National Firefighters Agreement.

All vehicles are independently checked and tested to ensure that they are roadworthy.



*Command Support recording information, DRA & decisions on an incident command board and Fire Service personnel undertaking a dynamic risk assessment at a tree down incident during 2024*



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## Retirement and Resignations of Fire Service Personnel

The following personnel left Cavan County Fire Service during 2024:

- John Ryan, Driver/ Mechanic, Bailieborough Fire Brigade, retired in February 2024, having given more than thirty five years of service.
- John Farrelly, Sub-Station Officer, Cootehill Fire Brigade, retired in May 2024, after over 21 years of service.
- Christian Fluglsang, Firefighter, Kingscourt Fire Brigade, resigned due to change of residence in September 2024 after almost four years of service.
- Dyrll McNulty, Firefighter, Ballyconnell Fire Brigade, resigned due to change of residence in January 2024 after near 3 years of service.

We thank John Ryan, John Farrelly, Christian and Dyrll for everything they did for Cavan County Fire Service and their years of commitment to the people of County Cavan.

## Civil Defence

### Introduction

In 2024 Cavan County Civil Defence continued to provide community support to local events and to the Principal Response Agencies. Weekly classes continue in First Aid, Boating, Rope Rescue, and Auxiliary Fire Service with 13 classes in 9 centres across the County.

Currently we have 120 volunteers having recruited and trained 9 new volunteers with 9 volunteers who left or became inactive throughout the year

### Duties

Cavan County Civil Defence volunteers completed 144 taskings during 2024, in March there was a short period of severe weather and Cavan County Civil Defence assisted the HSE staff, both District Nurses and Hospital Staff and Dialysis with transport. They also assisted the Blood Transfusion on numerous dates throughout the year and assisted the Garda with several searches.

Most of the duties were providing ambulance cover for various community events and football matches and on a few occasions with boat cover at charity swims, including a two-day event for Ramor Watersports Club for Water Inclusion Games on water Activities.



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*Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers working with Cavan County Fire Service recovering car from water.*

## Training

Cavan County Civil Defence held a very successful exercise for all volunteers in Belturbet in May, during the first half of the day there was a scenario-based competition and in the afternoon, there was a series of workshops highlighting the variety of skills covered by Civil Defence volunteers including Rope Rescue, Boating on water Rescue, the use of Communication equipment via a Radio Exercise. The day concluded with a meal in the Slieve Russell Hotel. This event provided a culmination to the training year, only boat training continued for the Summer months, normal classes resumed in October. This training season, (24-25) Auxiliary Fire Service training has recommenced after a lengthy absence.

Cavan County Civil Defence provided several First Aid and First Response courses for both Council Staff and Community Groups and Secondary Schools and National Schools Staff throughout the year.



*Civil Defence Volunteers at the County Exercise in Belturbet May 2024.*



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## **New Headquarters and Training Centre**

In April 2024, Cavan County Civil Defence officially opened their new Headquarters and Training Centre at Pullamore Business Park in the presence of Peter Burke Newly appointed Minister for Trade & Enterprise, Chief Executive Eoin Doyle, Cathaoirleach Philip Brady and other Public Representatives. Many of our Volunteers and Senior staff from the Civil Defence Branch were also in attendance. Classes and all operations are now delivered from the New Centre.

Cavan County Council and Stranorlar Regional Training Centre continue to use the Training Room in the building extensively.



*Volunteers attending training at Civil Defence HQ.*

## **Vehicles**

The Department of Defence supplied Cavan County Civil Defence with a grant of €43,000.00 from the Dormant Account Funds for the purchases of a New 5.2 Meter Rigid Body Inflatable Boat, this boat has been commissioned and built in Donegal.

## **Conclusion.**

Cavan County Civil Defence continue to assist the People of the County and the Principal Response Agencies and the Volunteers continue to give freely of their time and expertise to deliver whatever assistance is required.

We have no words to express our gratitude to all our wonderful volunteers without whom we could not continue this service.



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*Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer welcoming Minister Peter Burke to the Official Opening of Cavan County Civil Defence H Q.*



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## Appendices

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cavan County Council - AFS2024 Un-audited (15.04.2025)

#### SUMMARY OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2024

	2024	2023
	€'000	€'000
<b>Expenditure (A)</b>	<b>109,191</b>	<b>94,085</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
State Grants	59,813	47,533
Good & Services	19,063	18,632
Commercial Rates	17,622	17,695
Other Local Authorities	306	182
Local Government Fund	12,386	10,043
<b>Total Income (B)</b>	<b>109,191</b>	<b>94,085</b>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus (B-A=C)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opening Revenue</b>		
Balance as at 1st January (D)	1,744	1,744
Closing Revenue		
<b>Closing Balance as at 31st December (C+D+E)</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>1,744</b>

#### Revenue Expenditure 2024

	€'000	% of total Expenditure
Housing and Building	16,904	15.48%
Road, Transport and Safety	31,813	29.13%
Water Supply and Sewerage	12,309	11.27%
Development Incentives and Control	16,686	15.28%
Environmental Services	11,665	10.68%
Recreation and Amenity	9,318	8.53%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	751	0.69%
Miscellaneous	6,409	5.87%
Transfer to Capital	3,337	3.06%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,191</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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## Revenue Income 2024

	€'000	% of total Income
Housing and Building	17,857	16.35%
Road, Transport and Safety	23,156	21.21%
Water Supply and Sewerage	12,174	11.15%
Development Incentives and Control	11,363	10.41%
Environmental Services	4,412	4.04%
Recreation and Amenity	2,700	2.47%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	636	0.58%
Miscellaneous	6,886	6.31%
Rates	17,622	16.14%
Local Government Fund	12,386	11.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,191</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2024

	2024 Expenditure €'000	2024 Income €'000
<b>Programme Group</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Housing and Building	32,535	32,529
Road, Transport and Safety	20,644	19,955
Water Supply and Sewerage	436	807
Development Incentives and Control	3,698	7,689
Environmental Services	812	1,427
Recreation and Amenity	5,003	3,177
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	0	0
Miscellaneous	5,150	2,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,278</b>	<b>68,151</b>

	2024 €'000
<b>Opening Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 1st January</b>	21,025
Expenditure	68,278
Income	68,151
Transfers to Revenue	1,852
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	4,818
<b>Closing Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 31st December</b>	<b>23,864</b>



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An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



## CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

### STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

#### Introduction

I, Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive (CE) of Cavan County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the unaudited financial statements of Cavan County Council for the year ended 31 December 2024, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage. They are currently being audited by the Local Government Auditor. The Audit is expected to conclude by June 2025.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Cavan County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines Cavan County Council's overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2024.

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

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

	2024 €	2023 €
Goods & Services	19,063,151	18,632,427
Grants & Subsidies	59,813,313	47,532,832
Contributions from other Local Authorities	306,442	182,215
Rates	17,622,406	17,694,942
Local Property Tax	12,385,685	10,043,051



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

	2024	2023
	€	€
Income	109,190,997	94,085,467
Expenditure	105,854,179	90,145,682
Transfers to Capital/Reserves	3,336,517	3,939,489
Exceptional Item	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	301	295
Prior Year Adjustment	-	-
Opening Revenue Reserve	1,744,212	1,743,916
Closing Revenue Reserve	1,744,513	1,744,212

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Cavan Council at the end of 2024 total € 1,698,974,943 and are as follows:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Fixed Assets	1,614,121,797	1,590,579,656
Works in Progress	64,501,615	44,876,581
Long Term debtors	19,154,353	17,927,392
Current Assets	46,192,990	41,582,598
Current Liabilities	17,569,711	16,269,886
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	28,623,279	25,312,712
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	27,426,100	26,141,121
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	1,698,974,943	1,652,555,220

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

## System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of Cavan County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Cavan County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Cavan County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.



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### Financial control environment

As CE of Cavan County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

### Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of Cavan County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

### Procurement compliance

Cavan County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

### Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Cavan County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Cavan County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Cavan County Council has an effective Audit Committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;



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- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Cavan County Council.

### **Risk and control framework**

Cavan County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council Members and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2025.

Signed by:

Dated:

  
Chief Executive

4/6/25



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## Governance Statement

*[for transitional use only in advance of full implementation of the Code]*

### Purpose

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

### Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

### Good Governance Principles

**CORE PRINCIPLE 1** - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 2** - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 3** - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 4** - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 5** - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 6** - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

**CORE PRINCIPLE 7** - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.



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## Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach/Mayor and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.

  
Cathaoirleach/ Mayor

Date: 4/6/25

  
Chief Executive

Date: 4/6/25