



# Sligo.

## **Monthly Management Report**

**April 2025**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



**To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council**

**Re: Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for April 2025**

Dear Councillor,

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for April 2025, in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

**Martin Lydon**  
**Chief Executive**

## 1. RECOURSE TO OVERDRAFT FACILITY (NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH AND INTEREST INCURRED):

The overdraft interest and fees applied to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 was €2,327.45.

## 2. EMERGENCY CAPITAL WORKS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET (INCLUDING ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LIABILITY):

## 3. OPERATION/PROGRESS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

### Community & Voluntary Grant Scheme 2025

A budget of €130,000 is provided in the Council's Budget for the Community and Voluntary Grants Scheme 2025.

The Scheme opened to online applications for 3 categories on the 9<sup>th</sup> April:

- Estates & Area Upkeep
- Community Events
- Heritage Events/Projects

with a closing date of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April for receipt of applications.

The approach agreed by the Council's Grant Assessment Committee who met on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 included a direct allocation process to the categories of Burial Grounds, Tidy Towns and Seasonal Lights & Greening. Relevant Community groups in these categories have been notified of this process.

All applications received are currently under review and a recommendation will be brought to the Grants Assessment Committee on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

The Seasonal Lights & Greening category will be administered in the third Quarter of 2025, due to the nature of the projects undertaken.

### 2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As at 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 27 no. LEADER Projects have been approved by the LCDC / LAG to the value of €1,223,828.

LEADER claims approved in respect of 2 no. projects, in the amount of €156,856.

As of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, monthly returns in the amount of €188,026 for the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme have been received.



## Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028

The overall 2025 programme budget is €968,491. The 2025 general SICAP budget is €759,192 and the allocation for New Arrivals is €209,299. As of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 25% of the overall budget has been expended.

Progress under Annual KPI targets for both Goal 1 and Goal 2 is outlined in the table below:

Annual KPI Targets & Actuals			
	Target	Actuals	% Achieved
KPI 1	50	9	18%
KPI 2	431	189	18%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	18.00	27.51	



## PEACEPLUS

Work is ongoing preparing for the implementation of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme with the launch of the Programme scheduled for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May in City Hall.

As a focal part of the launch the International Red Dress Project will be exhibited in City Hall from 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May. It is envisaged that the exhibition will attract a wide audience and serve as an opportunity to promote the Sligo PEACE PLUS projects amongst the community.





## Healthy Sligo

The programme continues to promote Physical Activity and Mental Health activities around the county. By nurturing strong connections within local communities, Healthy Sligo helps foster inclusion, health, and a sense of belonging and the importance of Community Wellbeing. New programmes are currently being developed in collaboration with Aremoja Women's Group, Down Syndrome Sligo and Ballymote Family Resource Centre (FRC).



These bespoke programmes have helped to identify barriers to participation and opened up the conversation around Health.

The work undertaken by the Programme in Caltragh is focused on fostering community ownership and enhancing access to local spaces for physical activity and social connection. Together, these efforts reflect a strong commitment to inclusive health promotion and the empowerment of communities across Sligo.



## Sligo PPN

- Our collaboration with the Carmichael Centre training continues and a number of Sligo PPN members have been attending sessions across April.
- The PPN have commenced a PPN New Communities Ambassador initiative where the network working closely with a range of groups (including Aremoja Women's Group, Sligo Global Kitchen, Congolese Society, Integration Chorus and DR Congo NW) to ensure that marginalised groups are aware of and engaged with the PPN and that the PPN increases its diversity of membership to ensure we are reflecting the changing face of the local community.
- Sligo PPN have begun to liaise with Sligo Leader Partnership and Sligo Volunteer Centre to revisit the local community training partnership that was established in 2020, taking into account the recent DRCD publication on community training needs.



- The PPN Secretariat met on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## Power to Change

- Under Power to Change, a tender call has been issued to source a researcher to undertake a piece of work exploring the pressures and challenges facing the community sector and how conflicting pressures can limit the ability of the community to engage in positive climate action.
- The PPN and Power to Change are working in partnership with SCC to support CADRA to pursue a range of plans developed under the mentor project to implement positive environmental actions within the local area.
- The PPN are building on their existing community map to align the work of our member groups with the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of the project will be to highlight how much is already happening in the community sector that isn't currently seen in terms of achieving the goals.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> April, Power to Change presented to the network of Irish Universities, highlighting the unique Third Level / Community partnership.

## Tourism

### Fáilte Ireland Meitheal event



The Tourism Officer attended the important tourism trade event Meitheal in Killarney. This Fáilte Ireland flagship event brings together the travel and tourism trade with businesses and experience providers and affords the opportunity to contract ongoing business.

Meetings took place with large group operators and a strong Sligo contingent showcased the county and its offerings. Tourism businesses and experienced providers represented, included Castle Dargan Golf Hotel, Sligo Oyster Experience, The Glasshouse Hotel, The National Surf Centre, Atlantic Sheepdogs, The Sligo Park Hotel and The Ocean sands Hotel.

### Social media agency invitation

Visit Sligo invited social media agencies in Ireland and beyond to submit responses to a request to manage paid campaigns on social media platforms. This new departure is an exciting evolution in the promotion of Sligo as a visitor destination and it is expected that paid campaigns will begin in May 2025.

### Website refresh

The Visit section of [www.sligo.ie](http://www.sligo.ie) benefitted from an upgrade, in regard to design, functionality and navigation. This work was designed and managed to create a high performing digital platform that is fit for purpose for the promotion of Sligo as a visitor destination.

Over 70 new pages have been added to showcase attractions, experiences and accommodation and this development represents the beginning of a new focus on digital activity for the promotion of the county.



## Festivals and Events

The Regional Festival & Event Fund with funding streams from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Festival and Participative Event Funding scheme and Sligo County Council's contribution to support Commercial/Tourism/Community Festivals was allocated to 16 successful festivals/ events.

There were 17 applicants in total with one event being referred to the Heritage Grant. Emails of offer were issued, and acceptance emails have now been received by all 16 festivals / events.

## Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- LAIT hosted 5 clinics in April within International Protection Accommodation Services.
- LAIT represented at the 'Behind Invisible Bars' conference delivered by the HSE which examined the health consequences of children living in congregated settings and explored inclusive collaboration and cross agency approaches to achieve better health outcomes for children in this region.
- LAIT supported the engagement of International Protection Applicants to attend "Wheels in Motion- Learn to cycle" camp over Easter break delivered by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership.

## Offer a Home

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

51	Properties Allocated – accommodating 201 individuals
78	Pledges withdrawn or not viable
3	Remedial works required or assessments being undertaken

The current ARP scheme payment is €800 per month. The Oireachtas approved a 12-month extension of the scheme. However, Minister Norma Foley has stated that a separate draft order will be introduced, proposing a reduction of the payment to €600 from June 2025, and is to be brought forward by the Minister for Justice after the transfer of functions, will require approval from both houses of the Oireachtas before it can take effect. If the motion for reducing the ARP proceeds as planned, the first payment affected will be made in July 2025 (retrospective payment for the month of June).

Since the above press release Sligo County Council has been contacted by a number of property owners displaying a reluctance to continue with the program as a direct result of the lower payment but have not made a full decision yet. 3 pledgers/property owners have officially notified that they will not extend contracts beyond July 2025.

## 4. PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICES BASED ON REPORTS TO ENTERPRISE IRELAND:

### Financial Supports

**Energy Efficiency Grant** – 2 grants were approved for businesses in the hospitality sector during the month amounting to €20,000. The grant supports the upgrading of equipment to energy efficient standards.

**Grow Digital** – offers small and medium businesses up to €5,000 in financial support to embrace digital technology. 1 grant was approved in the month.

**Market Explorer Grant** – 1 grant was approved during the month. Market Explorer Grants offer 50% support up to €10,000 towards businesses developing new export markets.

### Training & Events

42 people participated on training programmes as follows:

- Start Your Own Business Programme
- A Practical Guide to Income Tax
- Generative AI for Digital Marketing

### Mentoring

40 participated in mentoring activities in April which included the following clinics:

- Business Advice
- Social Media One-to-One
- Tax Management for Small Business one-to-one(x2)
- Business Website Review



## Sligo Women in Business

'Connect, Collaborate, and Thrive' event took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Yeats Building. 45 female entrepreneurs were in attendance.



## Consultancy

3 Digital for Business, 4 Green for Business and 2 Lean for Business assignments were made.

## Economic Development



### AIM Centre

The Interreg funded Nordic Bridge project was officially launched in Sligo. The AIM Centre is partnering with EU stakeholders which includes Sligo County Council. This collaborative initiative brings together partners from across academia and industry, with the ambition to co-develop a challenge-based platform to solve specific problems from public and private entities.

## Mentor, Ohio Economic Development Delegation

Sligo County Council's Local Enterprise Office welcomed a delegation from Mentor, Ohio. The visit included a tour of the AIM centre and meetings with NNIT (formerly SL Controls), Verus Metrology, Laurence Engineering and Sleater Solutions.



## Strand Campus

Strand Campus has been rebranded as 'SocoLab – Sligo's Creative Innovation Lab'. Local Enterprise Office is engaging with the centre on a number of initiatives.

## Sligo Food Hub

Following a tender process, work has commenced on first phase of research pertaining to a Sligo Food Hub Network Feasibility.

## 5. PROGRESS IN PREPARING REPORTS/MATERIAL REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL.

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Meeting of CPG  
10.00 am Sligo County Council May Ordinary Meeting

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

- 12.00pm PEACEPLUS Launch event, City Hall

### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May

- 6.00pm Civic Reception for Coolera/Strandhill Junior Ladies Team and Senior Men's Team – City Hall

### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.30am Sligo - Drumcliff MD Meeting  
10.00am Borough District of Sligo MD Meeting  
2.00pm Ballymote-Tubbercurry MD Meeting

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

- 10.00am SPC 3 Live Invest Visit

### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

- 10.00am Special Council Meeting

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

- 6.00pm Special Edition of The Word, Sligo Central Library

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.30am Sligo LCDC / LAG Meetings

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.30am Procedures Committee Meeting



## LATEST NEWS

### SLIGO CELEBRATES 10TH PURPLE FLAG AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY



Sligo Town is delighted to announce that it has been awarded its 10th Purple Flag, a prestigious recognition for excellence in creating a vibrant, safe, and thriving evening and night-time economy (ENTE).

[View full story](#)

### SLIGO AWARDED OVER €370,000 TO PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS



122 projects to be awarded €7.5 million in funding under the 2025 Community Monuments Fund.

[View full story](#)



# RECRUITMENT

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Sligo.**

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**APPLY NOW**

**ROLLING COMPETITION**

**APPLICATIONS:**  
[www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/](http://www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/)

**VIA EMAIL ONLY:** [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

## Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer

Completed application forms for the above positions must be returned to the Human Resources Section via email only to [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

Please note there is no closing date for these competitions and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
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**TEMPORARY BEACH LIFEGUARD**

**APPLY NOW**

**ROLLING COMPETITION**

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**VIA EMAIL ONLY:** [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

## Temporary Beach Lifeguard

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

Please note there is no closing date for this competition and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

**Sligo.** **COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
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**SCHOOL WARDEN (PART-TIME)**

**APPLY NOW**

**ROLLING COMPETITION**

**APPLICATIONS:**  
[www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/](http://www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/)

**VIA EMAIL ONLY:** [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

## School Warden (Part-Time)

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

Please note there is no closing date for this competition and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.