



# Sligo.

## **Monthly Management Report**

**January 2025**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



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

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

Dear Councillor,

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for January 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 for the period from 19<sup>th</sup> February– to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was €201,069.

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

N/A.

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

### 2024-2025 Local Enhancement Programme4

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, which will be administered by Sligo LCDC, with a total allocation of €144,393. The scheme allows for applications for both current and capital expenditure.

Applications will be invited via the Councils online Portal which will be open from 10<sup>th</sup> February to 4.00pm on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

### Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2023 - 2027

As at 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Monthly Returns in the amount of **€150,863.73** for the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme have been received.

As at 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, **19** no. LEADER Projects have been approved for the amount of **€964,859.84**.



### 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.

In terms of KPIs it has been agreed with Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG that 2025 annual targets will remain as per 2024 i.e. KPI 1 - Annual Target - 50 and KPI 2 - Annual Target – 431.



## Sligo PPN

- Sligo PPN currently have 2 open tenders: Community Outreach and Sligo PPN Representatives Support mentor.
- Sligo PPN Secretariat had their first meeting of 2025 on 21 January. Key items for discussion were the agreement of the 2025 budget, proposed workplan for Q1 and upcoming Secretariat elections.



## Tourism

### Holiday World Show 2025

The Tourism section exhibited at the Holiday World Show in Dublin which welcomed 25,000 visitors over three days. This is the largest show of its kind in Ireland and represents an opportunity to showcase the very best of Sligo to people actively researching their next trips and holidays.

Strong collaboration with businesses and individuals involved in tourism in Sligo created a fantastic atmosphere on the Visit Sligo stand and allowed for maximum amplification of our messaging.



Visit Sligo branded merchandise was distributed along with marketing collateral from businesses represented on the stand each day.

### USA Travel Trade e-zine

Four Sligo businesses were featured in the Tourism Ireland USA travel trade e-zine. This is distributed to over 1,000 travel and tour operators in the USA who schedule products into Ireland.

### Sligo Chamber AI business breakfast panel

The Tourism Officer was invited by Sligo Chamber to speak at a business breakfast panel event that focused on the future of AI. The opportunities and threats of AI in terms of destination marketing were discussed collectively and this represented an opportunity to inform the wider Sligo business community of the work going on within the county in regard to tourism, festivals and increased destination marketing.

## Dedicated digital marketing training courses commence for tourism businesses

January saw the commencement of a six-week dedicated digital marketing training course for businesses, organisations and people involved in tourism in Sligo. An expert trainer was contracted to provide practical and relevant training on graphic design, AI, and social media management, social media paid. The tourism section collaborated with Sligo LEO who kindly supported this initiative.



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

### Financial Supports

- **Energy Efficiency Grants** – The EEG is a grant of up to €10,000 that supports the investment in technologies and equipment for business to improve energy efficiency. 2 grants were approved in January
- **Grow Digital** – Grow Digital offers small and medium businesses up to €5000 in financial support to embrace digital technology. 1 digital start was approved in the month

### Training & Events

- Start your Own Business
- Marketing for Tourism providers
- Employment Law for Small Business
- **'AI Unleashed'** – A seminar in partnership with Sligo Chamber on AI and how best to use it to benefit business took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- **'Sligo Women in Business –Breakfast networking'** took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January in The Model with Anna Marie Brosi Professional Development Coach. 72 Female founders and managers were in attendance.



Sligo Women in Business Breakfast networking event in the Model



- **'10x Northwest entrepreneurship exchange'** – Hosted by Sligo on 29 & 30 January this event was a partnership between the regional Local Enterprise Offices, Enterprise Ireland and Uderás and matched senior business leaders with entrepreneurs to help them scale their businesses.



Networking at 10x Northwest entrepreneurship exchange in the Radisson, Sligo

## Mentoring

- 30 mentoring assignments were made in January through one-to-one clinics, 3 hourly mentoring session and assignments of up to 15 hours.

## Consultancy

- Green for Business – 5 assignments were made in the month
- Digital for Business – 1 assignment was made

## Economic Development

**Night-time Economy** – Sligo County Council has received the 2025 funding allocation to meet the salary for NTE Advisor. Funding of €50k has also been allocated to support the development and implementation of an Action Plan. Funding of €5k and 3.5 k has been allocated to Culture Night and Cruinniú na nÓg respectively.

**AIM Centre** – The centre secured €1 million of Smart Regions funding from Enterprise Ireland, to launch a mobile AI Studio. This groundbreaking initiative is designed to support manufacturing SMEs across Ireland and will empower businesses with cutting-edge AI solutions through:



An AI generated image of an AI Studio

- AI Demonstration Projects: Showcasing real-world AI applications.
- Accelerator Programme: Launching in Q2 2025 to help businesses develop AI strategies.
- Training & Workshops: Hands-on support for upskilling.
- A Travelling AI Studio: Bringing AI technology to your region.

**Arctic Edge NPA** - The Arctic Edge Project reached the end of its first reporting period with Communications and Technical Deliverables complete for the next phase of implementation and wider engagement.

**Sligo Food & Drinks Strategy** – Research and consultations have commenced as part of the first stage of developing a Food & Drinks Strategy for County Sligo 2026-2030. The Strategy is scheduled for completion by end of April 2025.

**Christmas Support Allocation** – All financial transactions were completed for 14 successful projects across County Sligo including support of Sligo on Ice, which attracted over 20,000 visitors.

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

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February

10.00 am

Sligo County Council February Ordinary Meeting

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

9.30 am

Meeting of SPC 3 - Live Invest Visit





## LATEST NEWS

### COUNTY SLIGO LAUNCHES OUTDOOR RECREATION CONSULTATION FOR 5-YEAR PLAN



**SLIGO COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

Outscape is facilitating the development of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan for county Sligo in Partnership with key outdoor recreation stakeholders. Key stakeholders include you - the public, activity providers, educators, outdoor recreation clubs, the land-owning community, and visitors to the county. You are invited to contribute to steering county Sligo's outdoor recreation priorities by attending one of three public meetings in January 2025:

- ④ **ENNISCRONE:** Monday 13th January 7:00 - 8:30pm  
West Sligo Family Resource Centre (public meeting - please arrive promptly at 7:00pm)
- ④ **TUBBERCURRY:** Tuesday 14th January 3:30 - 5:00pm  
Family Resource Centre (drop-in any time between 3:30 - 5:00pm)
- ④ **SLIGO TOWN:** Tuesday 14th January 7:00 - 8:30pm  
Sligo Park Hotel (public meeting - please arrive promptly at 7:00pm)

So that we can manage numbers attending, please register your intention to attend the event. You can do this by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera. This will direct you to a short registration form.

Scan to register

**Outscape**  
Facilitating Outdoor Recreation

Sligo County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

**SLIGO LEADER PARTNERSHIP**

**Fáilte Ireland**

**COILLTE**  
Central Forestry Development Authority

**SLIGO SPORT & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP**  
SPORT RELAY

Following the launch of 'Embracing Irelands Outdoors', the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027, Sligo will, for the first time, embark on a journey which will result in the development of a 5-year County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

[View full story](#)

### STORM ÉOWYN - EMERGENCY RESPONSE HUBS & HELPLINE



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

**Sligo.**

**Storm Éowyn Response**

Community Response Support Helpline:

☎ **071 911 1013**

✉ **communications@sligococo.ie**

**Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm**

The Sligo County Council Local Coordination Group has been working, liaising with key agencies such as the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Sligo LEADER and Sligo Civil Defence to coordinate available resources and ensure the needs of the citizens are promptly addressed.

[View full story](#)

# RECRUITMENT

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

**Sligo.**

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**ROLLING COMPETITION**

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

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

**APPLY NOW**

## 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**  
**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Sligo.**

**TEMPORARY BEACH LIFEGUARD & TEMPORARY BEACH WARDEN**

**APPLY NOW**

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

Via Email Only: [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie)

Closing Date: 4.30 pm Thursday 6th March 2025

## Temporary Beach Lifeguard and Temporary Beach Warden

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie) not later than 4.30 p.m. on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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

**Sligo.**

**SCHOOL WARDEN (PART-TIME)**

**ROLLING COMPETITION**

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

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

**APPLY NOW**

## 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.



**Sligo.** COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH  
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
GRADE VII**

**APPLY NOW**

**CLOSING DATE:**  
4:30pm Thursday 20th February 2025

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

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

### Administrative Officer (Grade VII)

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to [jobs@sligococo.ie](mailto:jobs@sligococo.ie) not later than **4.30 p.m. on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**