



Sligo.

Monthly Management Report

May 2025



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

Re: Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for May 2025

Dear Councillor,

I set out hereunder Monthly Management Report for May 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

Sligo.

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

The overdraft interest and fees applied to 16th 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

The Festival & Events Oversight Committee met on Friday, 23rd May, and recommended funding allocations for endorsement by Sligo County Council at its June Plenary Meeting.

2023 - 2027 LEADER Programme

As at 26th May 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 3 no. projects, in the amount of €162,766.

As of 26th May 2025, Monthly Returns in the amount of €228,604 for the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme have been received.



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

The 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 26th May 2025, 40% of the overall budget has been spent.

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

Annual KPI Targets & Actuals

	Target	Actuals	% Achieved
KPI 1	50	17	34%
KPI 2	431	223	52%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	18.00	29.15	



Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme

The Sligo PEACEPLUS Local Community PEACE Action Plan was launched in City Hall on Thursday 15th May, 2025 with the welcome address by Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree and official launch by Cllr Dónal Gilroy, Chair of Sligo LCDC and PEACEPLUS Partnership. Other notable speakers included Deputy Dara Calleary Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Deputy First Minister Emma Little Pengelly of the Northern Ireland Executive, Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive of the SEUPB and Kirstie McLeod, Creator of the Red Dress. The Sligo PEACEPLUS Local Community PEACE Action Plan contains 15 funded projects to be delivered by 2027.



Minister Dara Calleary, Oireachtas Members, MEP, Members of Sligo County Council, Rep of the NI Executive, funder SEUPB, Members of Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership and Sligo LCDC and staff from Community Department.

First Irish Exhibition of the Red Dress Embroidery Project

As part of the PEACEPLUS launch celebrations at Sligo City Hall, the Red Dress Embroidery Project made its first visit to Ireland. The dress is a fitting example of collaboration, involving 381 people from 51 countries and raising the voices of those who may be excluded from society. Its exhibition during the PEACEPLUS launch aimed to promote participation and engagement in the Sligo PEACEPLUS projects, which share the same collaborative ethos as the Red Dress.



The Red Dress at Sligo City Hall



Kerry McFerran, NI Executive, Minister Dara Calleary, Gina McEntyre CEO SEUPB with Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree and the Red Dress Embroidery Project

Exhibited at City Hall from 12th to 15th May, The Red Dress attracted a consistent stream of visitors, with around 600 individuals signing the visitors' book. While engaging with the exhibition, attendees were also able to explore the Sligo PEACEPLUS programme, with details of its 15 projects on display.



Healthy Sligo

Healthy Sligo projects are progressing steadily and continue to attract new participants. The first in a series of mindfulness walks recently took place in Hazelwood, fostering community connection and enhancing the everyday lives of people across County Sligo.

The programme's investment in early intervention mental health services particularly those aimed at young people and families has proven highly effective in improving mental health and wellbeing.

Demand for these services continues to grow, highlighting their importance in the community.

Healthy Sligo also remains committed to promoting physical activity throughout the county. Plans are actively being developed in collaboration with partner agencies and community groups to encourage greater participation in physical activity and support healthier lifestyles across County Sligo.



Sligo Age Friendly Programme

The Sligo Age Friendly Alliance met on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025, Chaired by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree. The Alliance is a high-level cross-sector group, which acts as a strategic partnership to develop and oversee the implementation of the Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026.



Sligo Age Friendly Alliance pictured at the May 2025 meeting with Cathaoirleach and staff of Sligo Council and representatives from Sligo Older Peoples Council, HSE, An Garda Síochána, Local Link, MSLETB, Sligo LEADER Partnership Co, Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership, ATU Sligo and Age Friendly Ireland

Sligo PPN

- The new facilitator for the Sligo PPN Representatives Support program has contacted all PPN representatives and is currently organising a network meeting in June.
- A number of Street Feast events took place across the county, supported by Sligo PPN on 24th and 25th May. The aim of the initiative is to bring communities together around food and conversation. As part of Street Feast, the first phase of the PPN New Communities Ambassador initiative began.
- The PPN has been working with Sligo DPO to create a range of templates to support community organisations to develop key governance documents in plain English and accessible language/format.
- The PPN and ATU have engaged a facilitator to undertake a national research programme exploring the pressures and challenges facing the community sector and how conflicting demands can limit the ability of the community to engage in positive climate action. The research will be rolled out across the entire PPN network in Ireland.
- The PPN Community Facilities booklet is complete. A series of printed copies will go to community centres, libraries and public buildings. There is also a searchable database on the PPN website that allows groups to search for community spaces based on specific criteria of need <https://www.sligoppn.com/community-spaces/>



- The Uisce Álainn festival took place on the 3rd May in partnership with PPN members Mebd's Dragon Warriors. The event featured the presentation of the Dragon Boats, a flower festival commemorating all who had been impacted by cancer, display stands, science experiments, guided walks, workshops and talks all focusing on the importance of our waters. Topics included local flora and fauna, water safety, biosecurity and citizen engagement.



- The PPN supported member group, Parkinson's Ireland, Northwest branch in hosting a hugely successful awareness and fundraising event in the Hawkswell for Parkinson's support. The longer-term aim is to set up a network of Parkinsons community organisations in the North West.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

- LAIT hosted 18 clinics in May within state provided accommodation centres.

Offer a Home

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

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

Tourism

Sales mission to Italian travel market in conjunction with Tourism Ireland and Ireland West Airport, Knock

Sligo as a world class visitor destination was marketed directly to the Italian tour trade in Milan in May 2025. Representatives from our spectacular walks, outstanding golf experiences and amazing water based activities took part in a successful sales mission in partnership with [Ireland West Airport](#) and [Tourism Ireland](#).

They met with tour operators and outbound agents who are actively selling the west of Ireland in Italy and also got the chance to showcase what is available to travel journalists and media. The appetite for experiences that enrich visitors was extremely strong with strong anticipation that more visitors from the Italian market will visit Sligo via the fantastic route from Milan Bergamo.



Tourism Officer addresses European network for regions for sustainable and competitive tourism

Promotional work for Sligo continued in Milan with the privileged opportunity to address the [NECSTouR](#) AGM and take part in a round table discussion focusing on tourism communications and marketing with a digital focus.

NECSTouR is the European network for regions for sustainable and competitive tourism. Delegates heard of our world class destination that focuses on activity and adventure in our stunning landscape, our unique cultural rhythm and how Sligo is being transformed.

Our brand new innovative digital tool that creates personalised itineraries was showcased as an example of innovation in destination marketing.



Festivals and Events

On 12th May, the Festival & Event Strategy 2025-2029 was officially launched. Sligo County Council appointed Bane Mullarkey Tourism Consultants, to develop a strategy for festivals and events in County Sligo, particularly those seeking public financial support.



Launch of the Festival & Event Strategy 2025-2029

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

Financial Supports

Energy Efficiency Grant – 3 grants were approved for businesses in the hospitality sector during the month amounting to €28,090. The grant supports the upgrading of equipment to energy efficient standards.

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

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

126 people participated in training programmes as follows:

- Sligo Tech Meetup – 1st May
- Social Media Marketing for Startups – 9th May
- SAGE Accountancy – 7th May
- Start Your Own Business Programme – 13th May
- Content Marketing and Planning for social media – 14th May
- SWIBN May meeting and networking – 26th May

Mentoring

34 participated in mentoring activities in May which included the following:

- 1–3-hour Business Advice assignments
- Social Media One-to-One
- Generative AI for Marketing

Consultancy

5 Digital for Business, 2 Green for Business and 2 Lean for Business assignments were approved.

Sligo Women in Business

On 15th May Maria Walshe MEP held a round table meeting with local businesses in the Yeats Building to discuss issues facing small businesses and provide an update on European Parliament activities.



The SWIBN meeting took place on 27th May in the Southern Hotel, provided participants with networking opportunities and presentations from guest speakers.

National Enterprise Awards

The National Enterprise Awards took place in the Mansion House, Dublin on the 22nd May. Slick+, a Local Enterprise Office supported company, won the North-West Regional Award at the event.



Liam Kiely, Head of Enterprise, LEO Sligo, Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr. Declan Bree, Paul Connelly and Linda Hegarty, Slick+, Minister of State for Small Business and Retail, Alan Dillon T.D., Sligo County Council Chief Executive Martin Lyon and Director of Services, Sligo County Council Brían Flynn

BIA Innovator Campus

Staff from the Local Enterprise Office in Sligo were given a tour of the BIA Innovator Campus in Athenry which provides supports and services to start up and expanding food businesses.

Economic Development

AIM Centre

Local Enterprise Office partnered with the AIM Centre for a 'Lunch and Learn' with Gerry Duffy, highly sought-after speaker on leadership and performance who gave a talk on 'High Performance Leadership Insights'.

SocoLAB

Digital Hub in Strandhill has been rebranded [SocoLAB](#). The campus has developed a modern workspace designed to meet the requirements of digital enterprises. Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo ETB have recently launched their [XRHub](#) in SocoLAB which will provide Immersive Technology training and development.

Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan Implementation Update

Vision Development/Next REP Development – The Chief Executives from Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal are collaborating to develop a Northwest Region Vision which will feed into the REP development in 2025. A working group has been established to prepare a scope of work to develop this vision.

West/Northwest Renewable/Wind energy working group – The Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan hosted the DETE Offshore Wind team in Oweninny Wind Farm for a quarterly joint meeting.

Regional marketing – As part of a collaboration between the WDC and NW REP a regional marketing tool is being developed that will map the various enterprise elements within the ecosystem which will highlight the strengths of the county. It is anticipated that it will launch in Q3.

Sligo Night Time Economy Pilot Update

It has been confirmed by the Department that the NTE pilot will be extended to Sept 2026. Fáilte Ireland are supporting a Sligo NTE marketing focused project in collaboration with Sligo Tourism Officer. Discussion is ongoing with OPW on using the Abbey for a late-night concert with Sligo Music Development. 14 projects were awarded funding under the NTE events grant.

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

Chief Executive's Diary attached.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Friday 6th June

10.00 am Sligo County Council June Ordinary Meeting

Saturday 7th June – Tuesday 10th June

Trip to Crozon – 45th Anniversary

Wednesday 11th June

11.30am SPC 1 Housing & Corporate Governance Meeting

Monday 16th June

8.00pm Cathaoirleach's Reception - Sligo Town Branch CCÉ

Tuesday 17th June

11.00am SPC 4 Placemaking Meeting

Friday 20th June

9.30am Sligo Drumcliff MD AGM

Friday 30th June

3.00pm Sligo County Council AGM

Monday 7th July

9.00am CPG Meeting

10.00am Sligo County Council July Ordinary Meeting

3.00pm Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD AGM

Sunday 13th July

1.30pm National Day of Commemoration Ceremony

Monday 14th July

10.00 Borough District of Sligo MD AGM



LATEST NEWS

DR. ÚNA MANNION HONOURED WITH CIVIC RECEPTION



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Declan Bree, hosted a special Civic Reception on Monday last, to honour Dr. Úna Mannion, the internationally acclaimed author, for her exceptional literary achievements, most notably winning the prestigious CWA Gold Dagger Award for her novel, *Tell Me What I Am*.

[View full story](#)

LAUNCH OF SLIGO PEACEPLUS CO-DESIGNED LOCAL COMMUNITY PEACE ACTION PLAN



The launch of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plan took place in City Hall on Thursday 15th May 2025.

[View full story](#)

COOLERA/STRANDHILL FOOTBALL TEAMS HONOURED WITH CIVIC RECEPTION



Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr. Declan Bree, hosted a Civic Reception on Friday evening last at City Hall to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the Coolera/Strandhill Junior Ladies Football Team and the Coolera/Strandhill Senior Men's Football Team

[View full story](#)

BLUE FLAG AND GREEN COAST AWARDS 2025



Rosses Point and Enniscrone have been awarded Blue flag status and also Green Coast Awards, while Dunmorán Strand and Streedagh Beach were awarded Green Coast Awards.

[View full story](#)

EXHIBITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED DRESS EMBROIDERY PROJECT



Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Declan Bree welcomed to welcoming the first visit to Ireland and Sligo of the award winning International Red Dress Embroidery Project which was a centrepiece to mark the launch of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Programme.

[View full story](#)

CELEBRATE NATIONAL BIKE WEEK 2025: EMBRACE THE JOY OF CYCLING



Sligo County Council and Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership announced a series of free events across the county to celebrate National Bike Week 2025, which runs from 10th – 18th May.

[View full story](#)

CATHAOIRLEACH WELCOMES KEMPTEN STUDENTS TO COUNTY HALL



The enduring bond between Kempten and Sligo, twinned since 1990, witnessed a remarkable celebration of cultural exchange and friendship as Kempten Secondary School students and Kempten University students visited County Hall recently.

[View full story](#)

RECRUITMENT



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

ARCHIVIST (GRADE VI)

APPLY NOW

CLOSING DATE:
4.30 pm Thursday 26th June 2025

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY:
jobs@sligococo.ie

Archivist (Grade VI)

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Section **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

Closing date for completed applications is no later than **4.30pm on Thursday, 26th June 2025**.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

HALTING SITE CARETAKER

APPLY NOW

CLOSING DATE:
4.30 pm Thursday 26th June 2025

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY:
jobs@sligococo.ie

Halting Site Caretaker

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Section **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

Closing date for completed applications is no later than **4.30pm on Thursday, 26th June 2025**.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

APPLY NOW

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY:
jobs@sligococo.ie

Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Section **via email only** to 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

APPLY NOW

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY: jobs@sligococo.ie

Temporary Beach Lifeguard

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie

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



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

SCHOOL WARDEN (PART-TIME)

APPLY NOW

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY: 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

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