



Sligo.

Management Report

**For Quarter Ending
30th June 2025**



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



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To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Sligo County Council

**Re: Chief Executive's Quarterly Management Report for
April – June 2025**

Dear Councillor

I set out hereunder Quarterly Management Report for April – June 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



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LIVE INVEST VISIT



BRÍAN FLYNN

Director of Services

Live Invest Visit & Borough District of Sligo Municipal District

HOUSING

Housing Assistance Payment Programme

There are 693 active tenancies, with 18 tenancies set up in 2025 to date.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

There are 232 active RAS tenancies in the Council.

Acquisitions, including Part V acquisitions

5 Units were delivered to include 1 Tenant in Situ unit and 4 Part V units. A further 2 Tenant in Situ units are at sale agreed stage.

C.A.S. and C.A.L.F. Acquisitions (Approved Housing Bodies)

C.A.S. – 1 no. units (Tenant in situ) delivered / 1 unit at sale agreed/ongoing discussion stage.

C.A.L.F. – No units have been delivered.

Voids Funding Programme 2025

This Programme supports the refurbishment of void/vacant Council properties. The Department have allocated €319,000 (€11,000 per property) to the Council. The net cost to the Council in 2025 is likely to exceed €1 million i.e. difference between Department funding and Council expenditure. The sum expended to date is €318,248.

Planned Maintenance Programme 2025

The Department have allocated €152,955 to the Council. €30,000 is in respect of stock surveys for between 100 and 200 houses and €122,955 is for planned maintenance works, which are identified by the surveys.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

No units have been delivered this year to date. See link below for details of the Scheme.

Repair and Leasing Scheme

<https://www.sligococo.ie/housing/Accommodation/HousingRepairandLeasingScheme/>

Private House Grants

The Grant allocation from the Department for 2025 is €2,102,325.00. Under the new Scheme, 85% of the allocation is by way of Department contribution, with 15% of the allocation being funded from the Council's own resources.

The applicable schemes are:

- Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability.
- Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.
- Housing Aid for Older People.

247 applications were received up to 17th June 2025, with €1,194,064.66 paid to applicants to date.

Housing Adaptation Works/Extensions/DPG'S 2025

The Grant allocation for adaptations from the Department for 2025 is €703,497. This figure includes funding for three extensions.

90% of the spend is by way of Department contribution with 10% being funded by way of local authority contribution from its own resources. The sum spent on adaptations to date is €368,805.

Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme 2025

The grant allocation from the Department is €1,258,000 in respect of 37 units. The Council has provided €173,125 from its own resources towards the Programme. Work has commenced on the 2025 Programme, as follows:

- Tranche 1 works to seven houses has been completed.
- Tranche 2 (twelve houses) was tendered in May 2025. 7 No. contractors tendered for the works. Tender recommendation is to be completed in June 2025.
- Tranche 3 (eighteen houses) is to progress when resources allow.

Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2025-2029

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025-2029 was adopted by members of Sligo County Council on 4th November 2024, in accordance with Circular 46/2023. The targets/achieved to date for the programme are set out below:

Accommodation Type	Target 2025-2029	Achieved 2025-2029
Group Housing	3	0
Specific Purchase	5	0
Upgrade of existing facilities	12	0
Council Tenancy	41	1
RAS/HAP	5	1
Voluntary Housing	18	2
TOTAL	81	4

Group Housing Traveller Accommodation Scheme at Glenview, Sligo - 3 no. new Dwellings

The Scheme is to be retendered due to the addition of decant site.

Ballyfree/Cloonamahon upgrades

Stage 2 application is to be submitted to Department this quarter, with Part 8 application currently being prepared.

North-West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2023-2028

Work is ongoing on implementing the Plan based upon annual priorities that are agreed by the North-West Joint Homelessness Consultative Forum.

There are 4 Shared Tenancy units operating in Sligo Town, governed by a licence agreement. This accommodates up to 13 single persons registered as homeless in furnished Council properties. It is hoped that another property will be made available for shared tenancy during 2025, following a review.

The Housing First programme continues to be implemented in Sligo with a target of 8 no. one bed properties to be met in 2025, accommodating those on the Housing First waiting list. Two new tenancies have already been commenced in 2025 with three others in train. It continues to be difficult to source or acquire additional one bed units. There are currently 19 tenancies in place in Sligo.

Four units in Sligo Town are now operational for families requiring intensive supports under an SLA with Focus Ireland CLG.

A family hub has been provided since September 2024 in a property in Sligo town and this accommodates up to 32 persons. There are two properties in Collooney (up to 17 beds) and Sligo Town (19 beds), which accommodate homeless singles who have low/no support needs.

There are currently 15 families in homeless accommodation and a total of 113 households who have a Notice of Termination expiring in the coming months and who are at risk of homelessness.

Sligo County Council is developing an Assertive Street Outreach Service to support and signpost those rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping due to the increase in numbers of people in this housing crisis. The proposed service has been tendered, and a Service Level Agreement is to be signed in the near future. This is the first time that the Council will contract such a service on a formal basis.

In 2025, there will be a focus on implementing actions in the National Youth Homeless strategy, in collaboration with Tusla and Department of Housing.

National Housing Strategy for Disabled People

The Sligo Housing and Disability Steering Group (HDSG), as part of the statutory response to the National strategy, meets quarterly to ensure implementation of the local Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2025.

A Communications Subgroup is being developed to compile a Communication Plan. The Disability Action Team is also a sub-group of this Steering Group and involves HSE, SCC and other advocates of those disability households who need either urgent support or housing.

Allocations

SCC allocates properties in accordance with its Allocations Scheme. See Table below for details of offers of tenancy in the year to date.

Offers of Tenancy	Accepted	Refused	Pending
38	33	4	1

Housing Assessment

There are 1,663 households on the housing list as of May 2025 - see table below.

No. of households approved for Social Housing Support	1,663
No. of households availing of HAP and approved for a transfer	630
No. of Council/RAS/AHB Tenants approved for a transfer	267
No. of remaining households i.e. Net Housing Need	766

121 valid applications for social housing support have been received in the current year.

Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme

70 no houses have been sold to date under this scheme, with a further 4 no. currently going through the legal process to be sold. 16 no applications have been received in the current year to date.

Local Authority Home Loans

6 no valid applications have been received in the current year to date, with 6 no. approved to date.

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

A target of 1,183 tenancy inspections was set by the Department for 2025. This includes student properties. 185 inspections (366 Tenancies) have been carried out in the year to date. The Council have also issued 83 Improvement Notices to landlords this year.

Breakdown of Inspections

74 no. HAP
 22 no. RAS
 3 no. AHB
 80 no. PURE – (Student Accommodation & PRTB)
 6 no Complaints

COMMUNITY

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

On Friday, 13th June, 2025, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer, announced the successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025. The Programme for County Sligo was overseen by Sligo LCDC with an allocation of €144,393 for County Sligo (€123,765 for capital related projects and €20,628 for current (operational) grants. 98 capital grants and 64 current grants were approved for County Sligo. The Community Section has commenced the process of issuing offers to successful groups.

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 is overseen by the Council's Festival & Events Oversight Committee who agreed parameters of the Scheme for 2025 namely:

- A direct allocation process for the categories: Burial Grounds, Tidy Towns and Seasonal Lights & Greening.
- An open call for applications under the Estates and Area Upkeep, Community Events and Community Heritage Projects and Events categories.

Following receipt of applications via the council's online grant portal, the Festival & Events Oversight Committee met on 23rd May to consider applications received and to agree a recommendation for approval of the Members of Sligo County Council at its June plenary meeting. At its meeting of 9th June, Sligo County Council approved the following:

Category	Budget	Awards Made
Burial Grounds	€30,040	62 applications
Estates & Area Up-keep	€32,470	72 applications
Tidy Towns	€30,000	22 applications
Community Events	€12,460	34 applications
Community Heritage & Biodiversity Projects & Events	€15,000	14 Applications

The process of notifying applicants has commenced.

As in previous years it is intended to allocate the Seasonal Lights & Greening Category in Quarter 4 when groups are more focused on making seasonal applications.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2023-2027

As at 23rd June 2025, 32 no. LEADER Projects have been approved by the LCDC / LAG to the value of €1,448,742.70.

LEADER claims approved in respect of 3 no. projects, in the amount of €162,766.89.

As of 26th May 2025, Monthly Returns in the amount of €228,604.50 for the 2327 LEADER Programme have been received.



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

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

The overall 2025 programme budget is €968,491.00. The 2025 general SICAP budget is €759,192.00 and the allocation for New Arrivals is €209,299.00.

As of 23rd June 2025, 50% 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:

Key Performance Indicators

Annual Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target	Actuals	% Achieved
KPI 1	50	18	36%
KPI 2	431	273	63%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	18%	29.15%	



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

PEACE PLUS

The Sligo PEACEPLUS Local Community PEACE Action Plan was launched in City Hall on Thursday 15th May, 2025 with a 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 which will 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

The Red Dress Embroidery Project made its first visit to Ireland as a centrepiece of the PEACEPLUS Launch celebrations. A fitting example of collaboration involving 381 people from 51 countries, the red Dress raised the promotion of participation and engagement in the Sligo PEACEPLUS projects.



The Red Dress, Sligo City Hall



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

Project Implementation

Work continues in progressing the implementation of funded PEACEPLUS projects through 2 no. Partnerships with MSLETB Music Generation and the Hawkswell theatre.

Tenders are also being prepared to advance other projects, with one Tender entitled 'Cross-Border Friendship Soccer Tournament: Social Inclusion and Capacity through Soccer' published to eTenders in June. The Sligo Cross-Border Friendship Tournament is an ambitious project designed to cultivate peace, unity, and friendship among young boys and girls across County Sligo and neighbouring Northern Ireland. Centred around soccer/football, with prospects for expanding into additional sports, this tournament serves as a medium for creating a secure and inclusive space.

As per PEACEPLUS Programme and SEUPB guidelines, work is progressing on the appointment of the Financial Controller for the Programme financial oversight. This is at an advanced stage of procurement with the evaluation process completed and preferred bidder selected.



The Programme is a funding partnership between the European Union, the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Executive and will be administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Sligo Age Friendly Programme

Work continued on the Sligo Age Friendly Programme in Quarter 2 of 2025 with a review of membership and agency representation of the Sligo Age Friendly Alliance. A meeting of the Alliance was held on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025, Chaired by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree. The Alliance is a high-level cross-sector group, forming 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 An 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

Africa Day

Africa Day in Sligo was celebrated on Sunday 25th May 2025 in The Model with free festivities for the community to participate in. The celebration was entitled: Voices of Home, A Celebration of African Culture and Community.

Healthy Sligo

Healthy Sligo Programme: Empowering Communities Through Partnership

By nurturing meaningful connections within local communities, Healthy Sligo fosters inclusion, health, and a sense of belonging, while championing the importance of Community Wellbeing. It continues to play a vital role in supporting physical activity and enhancing the overall wellbeing of residents.

Several new collaborative initiatives have made an impact and have been developed in partnership with:

- Aremoja Women's Group
- Down Syndrome Sligo
- Ballymote Family Resource Centre (FRC)
- Sligo Traveller Support Group

Healthy Sligo's ongoing collaboration with the community in Caltragh continues to evolve. This work focuses on fostering community ownership and empowering local residents to take an active role in enhancing access to shared spaces for physical activity and social connection.

Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN)



- The first network meeting of our Representatives Support programme took place in June with a co-designed programme plan to follow.
- Sligo PPN have successfully sourced a facilitator to conduct our Community Outreach initiative, taking the PPN out on the road and into our member group meetings. The project will begin in August 2025.
- 3 new members have been elected to the Sligo PPN Secretariat; Amro Hamid (Social Inclusion), Wendy Lyons and Jennifer Van Aswegen (Community & Voluntary). The environment seat remains unfilled, and Michael Bell will continue in the role until a replacement is sourced.
- Our collaboration with the Carmichael Centre training continues and a number of Sligo PPN members have been attending sessions across April, May and June.
- The PPN began a New Communities Ambassador initiative in May. The project sees the PPN 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. The first range of events took place under the Street Feast banner over 24th and 25th May.
- 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/>.
- In June the Sligo PPN Network Manager was appointed to a newly formed national steering committee 'All Together for Population Health'.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

LAIT hosted 23 clinics in Q2 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 the Easter break, delivered by Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership.

LAIT supported the following events for Refugee week which took place on the week of 16th - 22nd June:

- Book launch on Tuesday 17th June in Sligo Library of 'Sharing Our Stories' a book created by children living in IPAS accommodation with support of Tusla, Diversity Sligo, Sligo Leader Partnership (SCIAP) and Mohil Family Support Centre.
- Storytelling and craft workshop on Wednesday 18th June with Diversity Sligo in Sligo Library with 4th class students from Carbury National School.
- Aremoja Women's Group and Diversity Sligo Symposium in Riverside Hotel on Friday 20th June
- Sligo Leader Partnership and Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership family fun day in ATU on Saturday 21st June.



Offer a Home

The current ARP scheme payment is €800 per month. This will be reduced to €600 per month on 8th July and this will be in respect of June payment and all other payments going forward.

Under the Offer a Home Programme Sligo County Council has:

78	Pledges withdrawn or not viable
50	Properties Allocated
3	Remedial works required or assessments being undertaken
1	Property awaiting allocation

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 experience 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. Overwhelmingly positive feedback was provided regarding the value of attendance.

Website refresh

The Visit section of 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.



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. 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](#).

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.

Launch of Ideas Engine

The tourism section launched a brand-new innovation which creates personalised itineraries for Sligo, based on interests and dates of travel. The new Ideas Engine is powered by local data, expertise and utilises AI to select experiences, attractions and accommodation options for Sligo.

All itineraries are aligned with the Sligo DEDP and promote our sustainability message and promotion of public transport. This is the first time this type of tool has been developed and deployed in Ireland and represents a new era in destination marketing nationally.

It has been designed with Sligo people in mind also and highlights all festivals and events along with Sligo walks as standard.



Commencement of social media paid campaigns

The Tourism section has commenced targeted promotional campaigns to highlight Sligo's festivals, events, and key attractions, organised around both geographical areas and thematic clusters. To support the execution of these campaigns—primarily on Facebook and Instagram—a dedicated social media agency has been engaged.

The audience segmentation is agreed after collaboration with festival organisers etc and these actions align with the Sligo DEDP and the recently published Sligo Festival Strategy.

Festival and Events

Regional Festival & Event Fund

The Regional Festival & Event Fund—comprising support from Fáilte Ireland’s Regional Festival and Participative Event Scheme and Sligo County Council—was allocated to 16 successful festivals and events across County Sligo. A total of 17 applications were received, with one redirected to the Heritage Grant stream. Offer letters were issued, and all 16 recipients have confirmed acceptance.

Festival & Event Strategy 2025–2029

The Festival & Event Strategy 2025–2029 was officially launched on 12th May. Developed by Bane Mullarkey Tourism Consultants, it recognises festivals and events as key drivers of tourism in County Sligo. Aligned with the Sligo Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP), festivals and events are now designated as Destination Enabling Projects, emphasising their important role in the county’s tourism growth. The strategy outlines a framework to identify and support high-potential events, fostering a sustainable and vibrant festival landscape in Sligo.



ENTERPRISE

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)



Financial Supports

- €80,213 was approved in Feasibility/Innovation, Business Priming and Business Expansion Grants during the quarter.
- 3 Market Explorer Grants were approved for €24,286.84
- 7 Green for Business supports, and 10 Energy Efficiency Grants were approved, amounting to €96,702.94.
- 8 Digital for Business supports, and 6 Grow Digital Vouchers were approved, amounting to €38,211.20.

Training, Events and Mentoring Supports

138 participated in Training and Events initiatives during the quarter which included:

- 2 x Start your Own Business Programmes
- A Practical Guide to Income Tax
- Generative AI for Digital Marketing
- Content Marketing & Planning for Social Media
- Sligo Tech Meetup
- Social Media Marketing for Startups
- SAGE Accountancy

70 mentoring assignments were made during the quarter. Assignments included:

- Business Advice Clinics
- Finance & Taxation
- Strategic Planning
- Digitising your Business
- AI for Marketing
- AI tools for Digital Marketing

Key events during the quarter included:

Sligo Women in Business

‘Connect, Collaborate, and Thrive’ event took place on 29th April in the Yeats Building. 45 female entrepreneurs were in attendance.

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 Brian Flynn

Sligo Tech Meetups Group

This Group, which is sponsored by the LEO, held a seminar focussing on tech supports available to small businesses in the North-West on the 1st May, with representatives of the enterprise agencies in attendance.



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.

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'.

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, Lawrence Engineering and Sleater Solutions.

SocoLAB

The Digital Hub in Strandhill has been rebranded as 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 & 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 September 2026. Fáilte Ireland are supporting a Sligo NTE marketing focused project in collaboration with Sligo Tourism Officer. Discussion 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. Cruinniú na nÓg Late took place on 7th June in the Crib with over 20 young performers.

Economic Forum

Sligo Economic Forum held its second meeting of 2025 in The Showgrounds on 20th June. Members received presentations from Sligo Rovers on their masterplan for the redevelopment of The Showgrounds. Presentations were also given on Sligo Rovers Football Social Responsibility (FSR) initiatives and the Night Time Economy Initiative.



CULTURE

LIBRARY SERVICE

Spring Into Storytime Events

Sligo Central Library held multiple Spring Into Storytime events. This included a craft workshop where children created adorable bunnies and other fun creatures using stray socks, as well as a special musical Toddler Time sing and dance along featuring Lisa Cannon.



The Word in April 2025, with Elaine Garvey in conversation with Úna Mannion

April's edition of *The Word* in Sligo Central Library featured Elaine Garvey in conversation with Úna Mannion. Felip Carbonell along with his daughter, Deia provided stunning music while ATU Sligo & ATU St Angelas student Susan Stewart facilitated the Open Mic. *The Word* is a collaborative event between Sligo Central Library and the BA in Writing & Literature course at Sligo ATU.

Special Edition of *The Word* – Tribute to Tommie Gorman

Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree opened a special edition of *The Word*, a tribute to Tommie Gorman, in Sligo Central Library on Wednesday 28th May. Leo Gray, former sports editor *The Sligo Champion*, and Niall Delaney of Ocean FM, joined moderator Adrian Eames, RTÉ sports commentator and producer, for a panel discussion covering Tommie Gorman's successful career as a journalist and correspondent, his life-long love of Sligo, Sligo Rovers FC, and his unwavering commitment to helping others throughout his life. The stories, memories, and music throughout the evening formed a fitting tribute to this remarkable Sligo man.



Seamie O'Dowd and Stephen O'Dowd provided musical accompaniment.

Digital Skills Classes with Sligo Leader

Sligo and Tubbercurry Libraries hosted a series of Digital Skills Classes in collaboration with Sligo Leader who provided tutor Yulia Melynk and ALONE, who support Older Adults to Live Independently.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library Events

Sligo Library staff joined Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership for one of their Activator Poles programmes. Activator Poles can be checked out with a Sligo Library Membership.



Sligo Library staff Michelle Brennan and Brenda Cawley at O'Boyle Park to join Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership for one of their Activator Poles programmes.

Sligo Central Library celebrated the Bealtaine Festival with a special HELLO, how are you Creative Writing workshop. Facilitator, Marie Clancy asked participants to create connections through creative writing, which created an atmosphere of creativity and sharing on a beautiful, Bealtaine day.



As part of HIAYL and Bealtaine, Louise Waters facilitated Chair Yoga in branches across the county including Ballymote Community Library, Tubbercurry Community Library, Enniscrone Branch Library and Sligo Central Library.

Poetry Day Ireland

Ursuline College students joined Sligo Central Library, along with their teacher Regina Gleeson to celebrate Poetry Ireland Day. Facilitator, Sarah O'Keefe provided a special Sestina method workshop, which the students embraced to create an impressive collection of work.

Biodiversity Week

Our Lady of Mercy Primary School 5th Class joined us at Sligo Central Library for a special Biodiversity Week workshop with Martina Kilian on "Trees and the Biodiversity They Support".

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

Cruinniú na nÓg: A Day of Youthful Creativity, funded by Creative Ireland, was celebrated throughout the Country on Saturday 7th June. Sligo County Council once again delivered a wide variety of events serving up a packed schedule in multiple venues around the County.

Sligo Library Service has the lead role in delivering Cruinniú and started the buildup with various creative workshops throughout the branch network from mid-April right up to the official day in June. The library service collaborated with Music Generation Sligo and Summerhill College students to create an original music composition especially for the day itself.

Mayor Cllr Tom MacSharry arrived in Central Library on Saturday morning to launch the festivities with arts and crafts workshops, badge making, green screen imagery, tote bag design, juggling and plate spinning, sensory play, musical performances, basketball skills, puppet shows, storytelling and much more taking place at multiple venues!

Refugee Week Ireland 2025

Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Bree joined 3rd class students from Scoil Náisiúnta Réalt na Mara, along Michael Yewlett of the Sligo County Council Integration Team to help launch Reading Together with Refugees Guide 2025. This specially curated selection of titles is produced by Children's Books Ireland and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

Summer Stars

Cathaoirleach Councillor Declan Bree launched the Summer Stars Reading Challenge 2025, in Sligo Central Library on 16th June. Representatives from Sligo Rovers Football Club and 3rd class students from Scoil Náisiúnta Réalt na Mara were also in attendance. Summer Stars is open to all children, with no restrictions on how many books must be read. For each visit to the library, children will receive a reward.

My Open Library

The RTÉ Six One News on Tuesday 3rd June featured a segment recorded in Tubbercurry Community Library, where Northwest news correspondent Shane Ó Curraighín spoke with a number of Leaving Cert students, who used the library for studying purposes. Tubbercurry Community Library recorded 1,556 My Open Library logins from April to June 2025.

CLIMATE & INFRASTRUCTURE



JIM MOLLOY

Director of Services

Climate & Infrastructure & Sligo-Drumcliff Municipal District

ROADS OPERATIONS

NON-NATIONAL SCHEMES ACTIVE TRAVEL

Footpath Schemes

Planning and Design works continue for improved Active Travel Footpath Schemes at several locations throughout the county including the following:

- **Ballygawley to Castledargan** – Part 8 Complete – Awaiting NTA approval to progress to Stage 5 detailed design.
- **Caltragh / Newtown Holmes** – Preliminary design ongoing – NTA Approval requested to progress to Stage 4.
- **Carrarow to Cuilbeg (GAA Pitch)** – Detailed design finalised. Negotiations with landowners completed. Part 8 being progressed.
- **Clarion Road** – Preliminary design ongoing.
- **Coolaney to Rockfield** – Part 8 Complete – Awaiting NTA approval to progress to Stage 5 detailed design.
- **Top Road Rosses Point** – Options assessment and preliminary design being completed.

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School Schemes are ongoing and are at various stages of feasibility and preliminary design for:

- **Scoil Ursula, Knappagh Road, Sligo** – Statutory Process. Part 8 publication in July 2025.
- **St Johns N.S., Temple Street, Sligo** – Section 38 process shall commence in July 2025.
- **Scoil Náisiúnta Réalt na Mara, Rosses Point** – Options Assessment report with NTA for review. Awaiting approval to progress to stage 3 Preliminary Design.

Pathfinder Schemes

Carraroe to City Centre Active Travel Corridor

Now at stage 4 - public consultation and engagement with stakeholders. Detailed discussions with the NTA have been completed.

Sligo City to ATU Sligo (Active Travel Corridor incorporating contraflow cycle lanes at Bridge Street / Stephen Street / The Mall)

Preliminary Design nearing completion.

Regional & Local Roads Programme

The 2025 programme includes works at approximately 250 locations across the county. Planning, procurement, and commencement of works has been ongoing during Q1 & Q2, Q3 and Q4 of 2025. The programme includes the following works:

Programme	Description	2025 allocation €	Progress
Restoration Maintenance & Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	Surface Restoration	2,187,000	71 schemes totalling 101km. 90% complete.
Restoration Improvement	Road Strengthening	9,290,000	69 schemes totalling 59.1km 45% complete.
Discretionary Grant	Maintenance & Improvement	2,298,000	2,650km RLR Countywide network including road surface repairs and general maintenance works, advance preparatory works for road strengthening at a number of locations in Sligo Borough MD. Surface and bridge repairs, drainage, signage works, winter maintenance and surveys etc. Works Ongoing – 56% complete.

Climate Adaptation Grants	Road improvement Works to mitigate the impact of Climate Change	463,000	12 schemes will be progressed in 2025. Works ongoing.
Drainage Grants	Improvement of road drainage systems in response to severe weather events	516,000	This fund will tackle a number of drainage initiatives throughout the county. Works ongoing 15% complete.
Community Involvement Schemes	Improvement works on mostly Class 3 Roads, part funded by community		Allocation confirmed. Offers in relation to works being finalised.
Local Improvement Schemes	Improvement works on non-public roads serving public amenities and/or agriculture.		Allocation confirmed. Offers in relation to works being finalised.
Clár Schemes	Investment programme which provides funding for small-scale – infrastructural projects in rural areas		Applications received – priority list of 16 has been issued to the Department.

Eastern Garvoge Bridge and Approach Roads

Advance Works to assist in the completion of the detailed design is ongoing. The detailed design of the project will be completed in Q4 2025. The initial step in the procurement process has been initiated. The Prequalification questionnaire (PQQ) was published on eTenders on Wednesday 4th June.

The closeout of Landowner Agreements and Accommodation Works is progressing.

MCR to Burton Street Link Road

The tender process for a civil contractor has been concluded. A preferred contractor has been identified. The Department of Transport have indicated that they have no objection to the appointment of the preferred contractor. It is anticipated that the contractor will be formally appointed in Q3 2025.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund

A total of €163,000 has been allocated to community groups out of a total of €445,000.00 at end of Quarter 2 2025.

SEAI Pathfinder 1.0 and 2.0

Rhatigan Architects are working on a detailed design report for County Hall and Sligo Fire Station.

Review of project management structure underway for energy retrofit of the Sligo Regional Sports Centre.

Decarbonisation Zone

Two number EU funded projects are underway:

- EUI-NatUR-W (Lorca) project (Nature Based Solutions)
- Interreg Europe SmartForm project (Engaging DZ Stakeholders).

PARKS

Cleveragh Regional Park

Following completion of final design reviews and environmental screening reports in April and May, a Part 8 Planning for Cleveragh Regional Park was advertised on Wednesday 18th June. Plans and full particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection online at Sligo County Council's Consultation Portal consult.sligococo.ie during the period from Wednesday 18th June to Wednesday 16th July 2025 (both days inclusive). Submissions or observations close at 4pm on Friday 1st August 2025. Following completion of all statutory processes, a Part 8 report will be prepared for Council consideration of approval.

Parks are awaiting the outcome of a submitted funding application to the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) seeking €81,500 balance funding for the delivery of the Learn to Cycle Facility at Cleveragh. Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership (SSRP) has previously allocated €43,500 to SCC towards the learn to cycle project.

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The launch of the Outdoor Recreation Strategy has been delayed pending additional support funding discussions with Sports Ireland regarding emerging environmental assessment requirements for the final report.

DCEDIY playground funding

Further to a grant funding application to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2025, a funding award of €15,835 was announced in May 2025 with 25% match funding required from Sligo County Council. The funding will target the expansion of sensory musical play equipment for Doorly Park playground. Tenders have been issued and close on 4th July 2025. It is intended to finalise the works by December 2025.

Sligo Cemetery

Construction works for Sligo cemetery extension were completed in April 2025. The project is complete, apart from some minor safety railing works.

Participation Nation Funding

Working in association with Sligo Sports and Recreation Partnership, sports infrastructure rehabilitation works at O'Boyle Park, Forthill were completed in May 2025 at a cost of €26,880. Works included relining and repainting of the running track, replacing four basketball units, remarking of all basketball courts and football court.

In late June 2025, under the Sports Infrastructure rehabilitation component of Participation Nation funding, a contractor has been appointed to progress works at Doorly Park to repair and upgrade the existing Multi Use Games area. It is intended that works will be completed in Quarter 3, 2025.

Finisklin Park / Waste Management

Tender documentation was developed and issued in May 2025 for Finisklin Park landfill rehabilitation work involving primarily land shaping, topsoiling and seeding. Tenders closed on 23rd May 2025. A preferred contractor for the works has been appointed and a contractor commenced works on site in June 2025. It is expected that rehabilitation works will be complete in Quarter 3, 2025.

Environmental monitoring at Finisklin landfill site was undertaken in Quarter 2, 2025.

WATER QUALITY

RMCEI Plan

During Quarter 2, implementation of RMCEI inspection programme for 2025 was ongoing. NEMIS returns for Quarter 2 2025 are being compiled for return to the EPA.

Drinking Water

Implementation of the drinking water monitoring programme for public water supplies continued in Quarter 2 in accordance with the annual monitoring programme and Uisce Éireann (UE) requirements. Private water supply monitoring programme was also ongoing during the second quarter of 2025. The Environment Section continue to liaise with the HSE, GWSS and SPS in relation to the provision of drinking water in GWSSs and SPS and drinking water non-compliances.

Bathing Water

The Bathing Water Monitoring Programme for 2025 commenced on 26th May and will be ongoing until the second week in September. During Q2, sites were monitored in accordance with the monitoring programme. There have been no exceedances recorded to date with no requirement to issue any advisory or prohibition notices.

Surface Water Monitoring

Implementation of the annual river and lake monitoring plans prepared in accordance with the national WFD monitoring programme continued during Q2. The EPA carried out an audit of sampling procedures in May 2025 and awaiting feedback on the audit. Any recommendations issued by the EPA will be implemented in the sampling programme.

Investigative River Sampling

Additional investigative monitoring is proposed during 2025 in some catchments throughout the county. This work supplements monitoring under the WFD monitoring programme and additional credit will be given by the EPA in annual RMCEI assessment for 2025 for carrying out this work. Quotes were assessed during the second quarter 2025 and this work will commence in the third quarter of 2025.

Agriculture

Four members of staff have now completed the new certified agricultural training course relating to the implementation of the NAIP. Ten agricultural inspections under the NAIP have been completed with a further seventeen scheduled in the coming weeks. The target under the NAIP is seventy-nine inspections for 2025.

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems

Work is ongoing to close off existing open files under the national Domestic Wastewater Treatment Regulations. 94% of all files opened have been closed off in the EPA inspection system. Six number files remain open as of the second quarter of 2025. Queries received to date in 2025 relating to the HSOCA grant scheme are being addressed.

Ríocht Na Sí WwTP Ballygawley

Wastewater treatment plant has been put back in action - desludging, EPS mechanical repairs and new air blower supplied. Site fencing and site works to be provided under Health and Safety.

Meeting for RBMP/LAWPRO Engagement

Staff attended an online meeting regarding progress with implementation of the Water Action Plan 2025. LAWPRO are currently focussing on the Owenmore River/Templehouse Lake Catchment Area during 2025.

MARINE AND COASTAL

Piers and Harbours

Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM) awarded 75% grant funding in May 2025:

- **Enniscrone Pier €247,500** project involving installation of seasonal pontoon, masonry repairs and new navigation light
- **Mullaghmore Harbour €68,000** project involving masonry wall repairs and installation of replacement pedestrian lighting
- **Raghly Harbour €18,500** project primarily involving masonry wall repairs

PLACEMAKING



EMER CONCANNON

Director of Services

Placemaking & Ballymote-Tubbercurry Municipal District

SLIGO REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Project

The new N16 Lugatober road and its associated active travel facilities are now open to the public. There are some outstanding elements and works of a seasonal nature. This work will be completed over the coming months. On completion, the project will be entering Phase 7 – Close Out and Review.



N16 Mainline at Lugatober



New Active Travel Facilities at Drum Road Roundabout

N17 Knock to Collooney Project

This project is currently at Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Management Guidelines. In 2024 work on the project was confined to the Tubbercurry and Charlestown Bypass elements of the scheme in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Minister under Section 24 of the Roads Act as part of the 2024 TII Grant Allocations.

The 2025 TII grant allocations were released on the 28th March 2025 and contained no such condition, and as a result, the Regional Design Office is advancing works for the entire preferred corridor of the project, from Ireland West Airport Knock to Collooney. Tender documents are currently being prepared for topographical and hydrographical surveys for the sections previously restricted in 2024, specifically:

- Ireland West Airport Knock to Charlestown
- Achonry to Collooney

In addition to these works, the Regional Design Office is preparing tender documents to run a procurement process in late 2025 for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary consultancy to assist with the delivery of the project through:

- Phase 3: Design and Environmental Evaluation
- Phase 4: Statutory Processes (Planning Application)

Further details are available at the project website address provided below.

N17 Knock to Collooney Project website

<https://n17knockcollooney.ie/>

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Project

Tender documents for procurement of contractors to complete (1) outstanding civil, fencing and remedial works and (2) landscaping works were completed and advertised on eTenders. However, no contractor was successfully engaged. These works are now being combined into one set of tender documents for advertising on eTenders in Q3, 2025.

N16 Sligo to Drumkilsellagh Project

The project has moved into Phase 2: Option Selection. The appointment of Environmental Specialists is ongoing with their appointment expected to be completed by the end of June 2025. Environmental Surveys and the development of Route Options, in conjunction with public and stakeholder consultation will continue through 2025.

Greenway and Active Travel Schemes

Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy

The Sligo Greenway project is being progressed through Phase 2, Options Selection. An Emerging Preferred Corridor was identified. Phase 2 deliverables are currently being finalised for submission to the TII. This project is following the TII's Project Management Guidelines process. The Technical advisors (Arup) are currently contracted to take the project from Phase 1 to the end of Phase 4 as outlined in blue.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy Project website

www.sligogreenway.ie

SLNCR Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway

An Emerging Preferred Corridor was published for public viewing and comment in Q2 2025. This project is following the TII's Project Management Guidelines process and is being led by Leitrim County Council. The Technical advisors (Arup) are contracted by Leitrim County Council to assist with bringing the project from Phase 1 to the end of Phase 4 along with elements of Phase 5. Sligo County Council is providing the services of a Project Liaison Officer for the Sligo section of the project.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

SLNCR Sligo to Enniskillen Greenway Project website

www.sln-cr-greenway.com

Collooney to Toberbride Active Travel

This project is following the TII's Project Management Guidelines process. It is currently progressing through Phase 2 Options Selection. Various surveys are ongoing which will assist with the progression of this project through Phase 2 and with the identification of the emerging preferred corridor. Technical advisors (DBFL Consulting Engs) are contracted to assist with bringing the project from Phase 2 to the end of Phase 4.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

N4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin

This project is following the TII's Project Management Guidelines process. It is currently progressing through Phase 2 Options Selection where an Emerging Preferred Corridor will be chosen and will be published for public viewing and comment in Q3 2025.

Public Consultation No. 3 for the Emerging Preferred Corridor is planned for July and August 2025. The Technical advisors (DBFL Consulting Engs) are contracted to assist with bringing the project from Phase 2 to the end of Phase 4 as outlined in blue.

TII Project Phase	Status
Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal	Completed
Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility	Completed
Phase 2 Options Selection	Ongoing
Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation	Yet to Start
Phase 4 Statutory Process	Yet to Start
Phase 5 Enabling and Procurement	Yet to Start
Phase 6 Construction and Implementation	Yet to Start
Phase 7 Close out and Review	Yet to Start

N4/N16 Sligo Urban Active Travel Scheme

O'Connor Sutton Cronin and Associates Ltd. are assisting Sligo Regional Design Office with the progression of this scheme by assessing, identifying, and proposing various Active Travel interventions for vulnerable road users along the N4 and N16 in the Sligo Urban Area.

Active Travel interventions have been proposed by OCSC, and it is intended to carry some of these proposals forward through the TII Project Management Guidelines process subject to TII approvals.

Further Active Travel Schemes

The following Active Travel schemes are in the early stages of project development:

- N15 Grange Active Travel Scheme
- N17 Curry Active Travel Scheme
- N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Scheme

Tenders were sought for the procurement of technical advisors to assist with the progression of both the N15 Grange and the N59 Ballysadare Active Travel Schemes. The N17 Curry Active Travel Scheme is being progressed internally by the Sligo Regional Design Office.

National Road Pavement (PARR) Schemes

N16 Lugatober to County Boundary Pavement Resurfacing Scheme

The tender process and tender assessment report for the construction contract was completed, followed by a formal request for funding approval submitted to TII. Approval is awaited. Subject to funding and resource availability, the contract award and project delivery is scheduled to take place during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, 2025.

The N4 Inner Relief Road Pavement Resurfacing Project

The tender assessment for the construction contract was completed and a funding approval request was submitted to TII. TII responded confirming no objection to awarding the contract. The official contract award is expected within Quarter 2, pending submission of requested information. A Temporary Traffic Management Stakeholder meeting was held, with additional meetings planned to ensure coordination with stakeholders and emergency services. The resurfacing work is expected to be completed in Q3, 2025.

In house design work is ongoing for the N59 Tullylin to Fiddaun pavement scheme, which is scheduled for delivery in 2026, subject to funding and resources.



N4 Inner Relief Road – Pavement showing rutting and cracking in wheel tracks, with significant wear on antiskid surface.



N16 Lugatober to Co. Boundary – Significant structural distress in the nearside edge and wheel track.

In house design work is ongoing for the N59 Tullylin to Fiddaun pavement scheme, which is scheduled for delivery in 2026, subject to funding and resources.

National Road Safety Improvement Schemes

Design and planning work is ongoing for the following 4 No. National Road Safety Improvement Schemes:

- **N15 Shannon Eighter (HD15) Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
Design Report is drafted, and Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is currently being procured.
- **N17 Tubbercurry (HD15) Pedestrian Crossings Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is complete, and Design report has received TII approval, preparation of construction tender documents has commenced.
- **N59 Ballisodare Pedestrian Crossing Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
Design Report is drafted, and Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is currently being procured.
- **N17 - L 8319 Curry Road Safety Improvement Scheme:**
Combined Stage 1 / 2 Road Safety Audit is complete, and Design report has been submitted to TII, awaiting approval.

PLANNING & HERITAGE

PLANNING

Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

The Draft Direction issued to Sligo County Council on 8 November 2024 by the Minister for Local Government and Planning has not yet been finalised.

Before giving a Direction, the Minister must determine whether strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and appropriate assessment (AA) are required to be carried out in respect of the material alteration, i.e. rezoning of certain lands currently zoned in the County Development Plan. No such determinations had been published by 30 June 2025.

Proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan

The Planning and Development Act 2024, which is being commenced in “blocks” (consisting of 10 Parts or more), contains provisions for the preparation of Urban Area Plans instead of Local Area Plans.

The Development Planning Unit is currently working on an Issues Paper to inform non-statutory pre-draft consultation on a proposed Sligo Town and Environs Urban Area Plan. It is envisaged that this consultation will take place in Q3 2025.

E-Planning update

97% of applications received so far this year are E-Planning applications compared to 89% for the same period in 2024 (and 67% in 2023)

Land Activation Measures

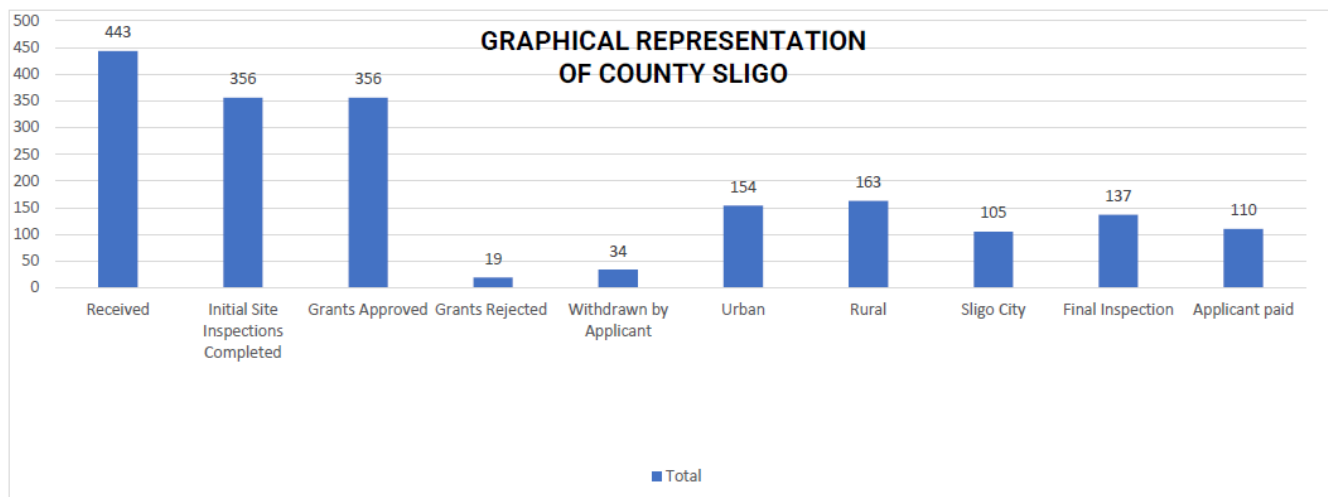
Derelict Sites

There are 41 properties presently on the Derelict Sites Register. A demand for the payment of derelict sites levies due on several of these properties has been issued. The update of our derelict sites database is complete with a total of 277 identified throughout the County. Our derelict sites team will continue the process of identifying and engaging with the owners of the new properties added to the list to bring the properties back into use

Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund (Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant)

There is a significant uptake of this scheme in Sligo with 443 applications received to date. The graphical representation below gives the breakdown of applications received in each MD and details of progress in each stage of the process.

Municipal District	Received	Initial Site Inspections Completed	Grants Approved	Grants Rejected	Withdrawn By Applicant	Urban	Rural	Sligo City	Final Inspection	Applicant paid
Borough District of Sligo	126	105	105	7	7	19	0	105	47	38
Sligo / Drumcliff	117	96	96	4	8	62	40		38	32
Tubbercurry / Ballymote	200	155	155	8	19	73	123		52	40
Total	443	356	356	19	34	154	163	105	137	110



Enhanced Defective Blocks Scheme

The online application process went live on the Sligo County Council website on 1st April 2025. The DCB team held information clinics in Enniscrone, Ballymote and Tubbercurry providing one to one assistance and advise on the application process. It is our intention to hold a further clinic in the North Sligo area in the coming weeks.

It is important that any affected house owners engage a suitably qualified professional to prepare a Building Condition Assessment report as this will need to be included with the initial application. Three applications have been received to date, which have been validated and forwarded to the Housing Agency for assessment.

HERITAGE, CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY, WORLD HERITAGE

County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030

Implementation of the County Sligo Heritage Strategy 2023-2030 is underway. Delivery of the strategy is led by the Heritage Office, with oversight from Sligo Heritage Forum which meets quarterly. Sligo Heritage Forum held its second meeting of the year on the 13th May 2025.

Community Monuments Fund 2025

On 17th April 2025, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the five Sligo projects that were awarded funding under the CMF for 2025 as follows:

- **Aghanagh Church, Ballinafad** – €100,000 for phased conservation works.
- **Moygara Castle** – €100,000 for emergency stabilization works to the southwest tower.
- **Enniscrone Castle** – €118,671 for phase 2 conservation works to complete essential structural repairs.
- **Court Abbey, Lavagh** – €30,000 for the preparation of a conservation management plan for the site.
- **Killaspugbrone Church & Graveyard** – €22,263 for the preparation of a conservation management plan for the site.

Preparation of Biodiversity Action Plan

The Draft County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2025–2030 has been developed in collaboration with the Biodiversity Working Group. It was presented to SPC4 on 17th June and will proceed to public consultation following approval by Sligo County Council in July. The Plan outlines 52 actions across five key themes: **Knowing, Acting, Promoting, Practicing, and Partnerships**.

Artificial Lighting for Local Authorities

The Connacht-Based Biodiversity Officer Network hosted two workshops on Artificial Lighting for Local Authorities – in Galway on 7th April and in Sligo on 8th April. Five expert speakers delivered engaging talks on restoring natural nightscapes through partnerships, policy development, and responsible lighting practices, including how to better share the night sky with bats and other wildlife.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund

Funding of just under €100,000 has been confirmed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the delivery of biodiversity projects in County Sligo. Provided through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF), this support enables local authorities to implement key actions that contribute to the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Projects funded in County Sligo include a county-wide Barn Owl survey, a Conservation Management Plan for Killaspugbrone Dunes, and measures to address invasive alien species. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has issued the attached press release, which highlights two additional Sligo-based initiatives: the Hare's Corner project and Artificial Lighting Training for Local Authorities in Connacht.

National Biodiversity Week

National Biodiversity Week took place from Friday 16th to Sunday 25th May, celebrating the rich natural heritage of County Sligo. The Sligo County Council Biodiversity Officer, in collaboration with wildlife NGOs, scientists, ecologists, and dedicated volunteers, delivered a county-wide programme of events. A diverse range of walks, talks, workshops, and citizen science activities explored topics such as bats, wolves, barn owls, dark skies, and woodland restoration. The week concluded with a Biodiversity Bioblitz in partnership with Mullaghmore Active, Woodrow Sustainable Solutions, and Field Studies Ireland.

A full press release is available at: <https://www.sligococo.ie/News/SligoBiodiversityWeek2025/>

UNESCO World Heritage Bid – The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo

Sligo County Council continues to liaise with the World Heritage Unit, at the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to progress the World Heritage bid.

HOUSING CAPITAL

Work progressed on Sligo's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 as follows:

Social Housing Construction Contracts – 5 contracts in construction

Maugheraboy, Sligo

Work is progressing on the construction of a new estate of 62 units.



Camross, Ballymote

Work is progressing on the construction of 39 new dwellings, using modern methods of construction (steel frame construction).



Carney

Work is progressing on the construction of a new estate of 25 dwellings.

Southern Court, Knappagh Road, Sligo

Work is progressing on the construction of 4 new apartments.



Cranmore, Sligo

Work is progressing on the construction of 30 new dwellings across 2 sites: Benson Drive and Geldof Drive.



Ongoing Projects in development

Department Approval

Department Approval was received to award the contract for the construction of 47 new units at Finisklin, Sligo.

Tenders Assessments

Tender Assessments are progressing for new contracts at:

- Dromore West and Easkey – 25 units
- Grange – 5 units

Part 8 process was launched for 2 new housing schemes

- Pirn Mill Road – 20 units
- Collooney – 31 units

Projects in development by SCC

- Carrowbunaun – 51 units
- High Street Sligo – 5 units
- Rathellen, Finisklin, Sligo – 63 units

SCC are reviewing options for progress of the scheme at Rathellen, Finisklin, following the Government decision in June 2025 to cancel the PPP (public private partnership) process.

Procurement

SCC has commenced a procurement process for a mixed tenure housing scheme for Cairnsfoot Field, Cranmore Road, Sligo.

Ongoing Projects in development by Approved Housing Associations

- Sofia: Summerhill Tubbercurry – 10 units
- Tuath: Adelaide Street, Sligo – 37 units
- HAIL: Kazelain House, Sligo – 12 units

CAPITAL PROJECTS

RURAL CAPITAL DELIVERY TEAM

Watersports Enhancement Facilities

The Water Sport Enhancement Facilities in Rosses Point and Enniscrone will bring facilities including lockers, showers, toilets and changing areas to these beaches. An exemplar design has been developed and will be delivered to 19 sites across the country.



A single point design team, led by Jennings O'Donovan has been appointed, and the detail design progressed in Q2. The FSC (Fire Safety Certificate) was granted in Q2 and the DAC (Disability Access Certificate) decision is due imminently. Construction on site is expected to commence in Q4 2025 with delivery Q3 2026.

Consultation is ongoing in relation to universal access to the beaches with NPWS and communities. Sligo County Council expect to apply for funding for accessibility upgrades at both beaches in Q3 (this may include beach mats, wheelchairs, ramps etc.)

Enniscrone RRDF – Cliff Bath Project

The Enniscrone RRDF project encompasses a new pavilion building, upgrades to the public realm and bringing the Cliff Bath House back into use. The pavilion will include public WC facilities, café, community space and lift and stair access from Cliff Road to the Hollows carpark. Public realm upgrades will allow for new landscaping, ramped access, outdoor performance space and seating. The Cliff Bath House will be upgraded to facilitate its re-use as a spa.



Planning permission has been granted, and tenders for the single point design team were completed and published in Q2. Enabling works inclusive of demolition of the old pavilion building took place in Q1 2025.

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS

Implementation of Sligo Public Realm

Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Rockwood Parade / Water Lane / Tobergal Lane

Following Departmental approval, the scheme was advertised for Tender for Construction.

“City Campus - Sligo's Cultural and Learning Hub” project (Connaughton Road / Stephen Street / Holborn Street / Lake Isle Road)

Procurement of consultants for the development of a Masterplan for the City Campus was tendered.

Sligo Harbour Masterplan

Public consultation workshops on the preparation of the Sligo Harbour Masterplan undertaken with the draft Masterplan expected to be completed at the end of Q3 2025.

GOVERNANCE



MARIE WHELAN

Director of Services

Finance and Corporate Governance

FINANCE

MAJOR EXPENDITURE AND INCOME LINES FOR EACH SERVICE DIVISION (INCLUDING PERFORMANCE AGAINST FIGURES PROVIDED IN THE ADOPTED ANNUAL BUDGET AND AGAINST EXPECTED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE PROFILES);

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Year to Date to Quarter End 31/03/2025

	EXPENDITURE					INCOME					NET	
	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Remaining 2025	% Spent 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Not Rec'd 2025	% Rec'd 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Variance 2025
	€	€	€		€	€	€	€		€	€	€
A Housing & Building	4,080,574	17,369,641	13,289,067	23%	15,580,504	3,638,256	14,872,455	11,234,198	24%	13,936,847	(442,318)	2,054,869
B Road Transport & Safety	4,242,319	24,753,129	20,510,810	17%	28,038,582	2,238,586	17,633,874	15,395,288	13%	21,147,099	(2,003,733)	5,115,523
C Water Services	1,037,077	4,147,434	3,110,357	25%	4,467,384	941,811	3,996,309	3,054,498	24%	4,391,898	(95,266)	55,859
D Development Managem€	2,384,242	8,968,853	6,584,611	27%	12,831,186	726,644	2,738,694	2,012,050	27%	8,313,674	(1,657,598)	4,572,561
E Environmental Services	2,516,400	10,149,579	7,633,179	25%	8,945,241	819,528	2,809,876	1,990,348	29%	1,643,399	(1,696,872)	5,642,830
F Recreation & Amenity	1,601,244	6,375,508	4,774,263	25%	6,486,192	141,403	791,725	650,321	18%	738,635	(1,459,841)	4,123,942
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	221,178	906,822	685,644	24%	876,077	128,819	372,243	243,424	35%	435,541	(92,359)	442,220
H Miscellaneous Services	1,925,876	8,227,473	6,301,596	23%	9,775,533	2,246,899	9,488,332	7,241,433	24%	9,627,449	321,022	(939,837)
LG Local Property Tax	-	-	-	-%	-	3,109,517	12,438,066	9,328,550	25%	12,419,708	3,109,517	(9,328,550)
RA Rates	-	-	-	-%	-	3,961,789	15,756,861	11,795,072	25%	14,733,932	3,961,789	(11,795,072)
	18,008,911	80,898,438	62,889,527	22%	87,000,698	17,953,252	80,898,433	(62,945,182)	22%	80,274,402	-55,659	-55,655

Capital Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Year to Date to Quarter End 31/03/2025

	Opening Balance	Expenditure	Income				Transfers			Balance at 31/03/2025
	Balance at 01/01/2025	Expenditure YTD	Grants	Loans	Other	Total income YTD	Transfer from Revenue	Transfer to Revenue	Internal Transfers	
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
01 Housing & Building	217,037	8,038,153	(7,767,760)	-	(283,500)	(8,051,260)	-	-	-	203,930
02 Road Transport & Safety	(648,163)	1,541,626	(1,431,254)	-	(22,067)	(1,453,321)	-	-	-	(559,858)
03 Water Services	23,521	339,429	(264,717)	-	(75,690)	(340,407)	-	-	-	22,543
04 Development Management	(6,154,321)	4,268,319	(3,461,741)	-	(297,702)	(3,759,443)	-	-	-	(5,645,444)
05 Environmental Services	(63,506)	120,189	(132,993)	-	(45,140)	(178,132)	-	-	-	(121,450)
06 Recreation & Amenity	(1,487,641)	76,142	(12,833)	-	(27,532)	(40,365)	-	-	-	(1,451,864)
07 Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	(152,115)	-	(50,000)	-	-	(50,000)	-	-	-	(202,115)
08 Miscellaneous Services	(1,283,965)	61,012	-	-	(424,037)	(424,037)	-	-	-	(1,646,990)
Total	9,549,153	14,444,871	13,121,298	-	1,175,667	14,296,965	-	-	-	9,401,247

PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REVENUE COLLECTION LEVELS (INCLUDING AGED DEBT ANALYSIS);

Analysis of Debtors - Period 01/01/2025 to 31/03/2025

	Opening Balance 01/01/2025 €	Current Debtors Movement					Gross Closing Balance €	Bad Debt Provision €	Net Closing Balance 31/03/2025 €
		Invoices €	Receipts €	Refunds €	Write Offs €	Waivers €			
Trade Debtors									
Government Debtors	9,132,874	22,138,601	16,822,813	-	-	-	14,448,662	-	14,448,662
Commercial Debtors - Rates	6,747,180	15,847,157	3,975,317	-	34,126	32	18,584,863	4,740,072	13,844,791
Commercial Debtors Other (including PEL & IW)	(155,300)	754,109	591,149	-	-	-	7,660	-	7,660
Non-Commercial Debtors	1,460,200	2,070,561	1,962,938	-	-	-	1,567,823	1,311,029	256,794
Other Services	662,317	1,325,477	590,098	-	24,363	3,563	1,369,771	290,626	1,079,145
Other Local Authorities	29,305	154,240	124,803	-	-	-	58,742	-	58,742
Sub-Total	17,876,577	42,290,143	24,067,117	-	58,489	3,594	36,037,520	6,341,727	29,695,793

Other Debtors									
Development Levy Debtors (Current Only)	320,997						251,217	128,456	122,761
Other	-						-	-	-
Current Portion of Long Term Debtors	1,457,239						1,457,239	-	1,457,239
Prepayments	605,588						900,522	-	900,522
Sub-Total	2,383,824						2,608,978	128,456	2,480,522

TOTAL DEBTORS	20,260,401						38,646,498	6,470,182	32,176,316
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APPENDIX 7

Summary of Major Revenue Collections for 2025

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Debtor Type	Opening Arrears at 01/01/2024	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustment	Write Offs	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection =(B+C-D-E-F)	Amount Collected	Closing Arrears at 31/09/2024 =(G-H)	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collec =(H)/(G-J)
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Rates	6,747,180	15,847,157	19,728	14,398	32	22,560,179	3,975,317	18,584,863	3,219,906 *	21%
Rents & Annuities	1,222,318	1,819,552	-	-	-	3,041,870	1,693,635	1,348,235	-	56%
Housing Loans	478,674	1,008,822	-	-	-	702,512	262,842	439,670	-	37%

*Specific doubtful arrears = (i) Vacancy applications pending/criteria not met & (ii) Accounts in examinership/receivership/liquidation and no communication

RECOURSE TO OVERDRAFT FACILITY (NUMBER OF DAYS PER MONTH AND INTEREST INCURRED);

The overdraft interest and fees applied from 16th February 2025 to 25th May was €4,603.88.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

1st July

11.00am SPC2 Climate & Infrastructure Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

7th July

9.00am CPG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10.00am July Plenary Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

3.00pm Ballymote/Tubbercurry MD AGM, Members Room, County Hall

9th July

9.30am Sligo LCDC/LAG Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10th July

9.30am Northern & Western Regional Assembly Meeting, Members Room, County Hall

13th July

1.30pm National Day of Commemoration Ceremony, City Hall

14th July

9.30am Sligo-Drumcliff MD Meeting, Council Chamber, County Hall

10.00am Borough District of Sligo MD AGM, Council Chamber, City Hall

21st July

10.00am Borough District of Sligo MD Meeting, Council Chamber, City Hall

LATEST NEWS



COUNCILLOR DÓNAL GILROY ELECTED CATHAOIRLEACH OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Dónal Gilroy has been elected Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council at its AGM held on Monday, 30th June.

[View full story](#)



COUNCILLOR MARIE CASSERLY ELECTED CATHAOIRLEACH OF SLIGO-DRUMCLIFF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Councillor Marie Casserly has been elected Cathaoirleach of Sligo-Drumcliff Municipal District at its AGM on Friday 20th June.

[View full story](#)



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP IN SOCIAL HOUSING

Sligo Council are conducting a survey on Dog Ownership in Social Housing



completed surveys to:
housingurvey@sligococo.ie



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

FOCUS ON RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP IN SOCIAL HOUSING

Sligo County Council, which owns and manages over 2,400 social housing properties across every town and village in the county, is stepping up efforts to promote responsible dog ownership in Council tenancies.

[View full story](#)



CEILIÚRANN COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH ÉACHTAÍ FOIRNE I BHFOGHLAIM NA GAEILGE

Bhronn Comhairle Chontae Shligigh teastais ar na mallaibh ar bhail foirne ar éirigh leo cúrsa Gaeilge Gaelchultúr a chríochnú go rathúil.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EPA REPORT ON PEAT EXTRACTION

Sligo County Council acknowledges the Environmental Protection Agency's report on large-scale illegal peat extraction published on 26th June 2025..

[View full story](#)



SLIGO AND CROZON CELEBRATE 45 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND TOWN TWINNING

A delegation from Sligo travelled to Crozon recently to mark a remarkable milestone – the 45th anniversary of the town twinning between the two communities.

[View full story](#)



'BIN YOUR GUM WHEN YOU'RE DONE!' – GUM LITTER TASKFORCE BRINGS ITS SUMMER ROADSHOW TO THE CANOPY SHOPPING CENTRE

The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) took to The Canopy Shopping Centre, to promote positive gum litter disposal.

[View full story](#)



NATURE TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN COUNTY SLIGO FOR NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY WEEK 2025

This year Sligo County Council, alongside wildlife organisations, scientists, ecologists and volunteers, came together to celebrate the rich biodiversity of County Sligo.

[View full story](#)



SLIGO TOWN BRANCH CCÉ HONoured AT SPECIAL RECEPTION CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MUSICAL TRADITION

A warm and celebratory atmosphere filled Sligo City Hall, as Cathaoirleach Cllr. Declan Bree hosted a special reception in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Sligo Town Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ).

[View full story](#)



AN Taisce Report - IBAL Anti-Litter League

Sligo County Council is delighted to announce that Sligo town has achieved 6th position out of 40 towns / cities surveyed in the Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL) league.

[View full story](#)

Community Recognition Fund 2024

€323,539
allocated for
SLIGO
projects

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

An Rann Feachnais
Taiscile agus Faisc
Department of Rural and
Community Development

An dTaiscile
Taiscile
Our Rural
Future

OVER €300K IN FUNDING ALLOCATED TO 5 SLIGO PROJECTS UNDER THE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

Over €17 million for 212 community projects across the country, including funding of over €300k for 5 Sligo projects has been announced.

[View full story](#)

RECRUITMENT

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

**ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
(GRADE IV)**

CLOSING DATE:
4:30 p.m. Thursday 17th July 2025

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY: jobs@sligococo.ie

APPLY NOW

Assistant Staff Officer

Completed application forms must be returned to the Human Resources Department **via email only** to jobs@sligococo.ie not later than **4.30 p.m. on Thursday 17th July 2025.**

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo.

**SCHOOL WARDEN
(PART-TIME)**

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY: 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

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.

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

ROLLING COMPETITION

APPLICATIONS:
www.sligococo.ie/jobvacancies/

VIA EMAIL ONLY: jobs@sligococo.ie

APPLY NOW

Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer

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 these competitions and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY HALL
RIVERSIDE
SLIGO
F91 Y763



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Sligo.