



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council

# 2024-2029 Corporate Plan Progress Report

**November 2025**

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## Corporate Plan-Annual Progress Report 2025

This report is being presented to the Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The report sets out a summary of progress made in relation to commitments set down in the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2024-2029.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2029, together with the Capital Investment Programme 2025-2030, serves as the strategy to deliver and implement the ambitious goals and objectives that forms Leitrim County Councils' vision for an ambitious, thriving, vibrant, sustainable and connected Leitrim with opportunities for everyone over the five year term of the plan.

In reporting on the progress in 2025, it is recognised that there is a relationship and an inter dependency across the Strategic Goals as set out within the Corporate Plan 2024 - 2029. Services delivered in one functional area of the Local Authority may succeed in achieving the requirements of one or more of the Strategic Goals.

The Strategic Goals as defined within the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 are identified as follows:



The following pages set out notable achievements of 2025 and of the wider period of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 since it was adopted in November 2024.



# Sustain our Communities

## Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



## Active Citizenship

**Public Participation Network (PPN):** With 434 groups currently registered, Leitrim PPN engages with community, voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental organisations across County Leitrim.

**Engagement & Collaboration with Diaspora:** The Leitrim Gathering, a signature festival held in May 2025, marked a significant milestone in the implementation of the 2019–2025 Diaspora Strategy. The event was well received and served to highlight the county’s cultural heritage and the strength of its communities both within Leitrim and among those living abroad.

Work began on the development of the 2026–2030 Diaspora Strategy.

County promotion events involving Leitrim’s communities at home and abroad continued throughout 2025, reinforcing connections and celebrating shared heritage. In addition, the Leitrim Global Business Network was established during the year to engage experienced and knowledgeable members of the diaspora, providing a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing expertise, and fostering collaborative opportunities.

**Comhairle na nÓg Liatroma:** continued to benefit from the active support of all second-level schools and youth clubs in County Leitrim. The initiative empowers young people to conduct research and address key issues, including the development of a campaign to address the dangers of vaping and the enhancement of mental health services for young people in rural communities.

**Electoral Register:** Data Quality work on the Register of Electors continued throughout 2025, with PPSN, Eircode and Date of Birth data being gathered from electors to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the register in advance of the migration to a new register in quarter 2 2026.

**Community Safety Partnership:** Work commenced on the establishment of the new Community Safety Partnership with a view to holding its first meeting by year end.

## Healthy and Creative Communities

**Healthy Ireland Round 4:** Healthy Ireland was extended for a further year to the end of 2026 with an additional programme budget of €75,000. This is allocated to two outcomes, 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Leitrim' and 'Live Longer at Home' under the Healthy Leitrim strategy. Sixty Breastfeeding Friendly locations have been established, and Healthy Leitrim have supported over 2000 older people, with health programmes and digital literacy in partnership with Leitrim Libraries.

**The Leitrim Age Friendly Alliance and the Older Persons Council** continued to convene regularly throughout the year. As part of the Age Friendly Strategy the implementation of Age Friendly parking initiatives progressed across the county.

**Participation in the Arts:** In 2025 the Council continued to pursue the three priorities of the Council's Art Plan - Community Engagement; Children and Young People; and Professional Development, and in doing so to promote equality, diversity and inclusion, and to look to minimise our impact on the environment.

26 projects were completed as part of the 2025 Creative Ireland Open Call programme. Leitrim County Council in partnership with The Glens Centre and Leitrim Youth Arts Company continued to grow junior and senior Youth Theatre groups in Manorhamilton, Carrigallen and Leitrim village. Cruinniú na nÓg took place in June and included 32 local events across the county.

In 2025 Leitrim County Council advertised for three strands of festival funding at the same time – Arts, Tourism and Community. Adaptation Film Festival and Samhain Festival in Manorhamilton, the John McKenna Festival in Drumkeerin and the Written Word Weekend in Drumshanbo were supported under the arts strand.

In addition, the SPARK programme, in partnership with the Local Enterprise Office, fosters collaboration between artists and businesses continued in 2025.

**Culture Night** continued as a valuable platform for venues throughout the county to build their audience and to provide opportunities for people to try something new. In 2025, The Dock welcomed over 30,000 visitors to more than 300 performances, workshops and other activities.

**Leitrim Sports:** 2025 marked a year of rebuilding and expansion for Leitrim Sports Partnership (LSP), with a new team, refined governance structures and the rollout of community programmes across all age groups. A total of over 8,000 participations were recorded countywide between January and September 2025, reflecting growth across disability inclusion, active age, community sport, schools, and social innovation initiatives.

Leitrim Sports Partnership has re-established a strong and inclusive operational base in 2025, aligning local programmes with national participation frameworks (Get Ireland

Active, Sport Ireland LSP Strategic Plan, and Healthy Ireland). Delivery has prioritised equality, access, and well-being — particularly through the establishment of the Leitrim Sports Inclusion Hub and the expansion of Active Age, Disability, and ESF+ innovation initiatives. Bike Week continued in 2025, with a total of 27 events and 1267 participants.

## Inclusive and Safe Communities

**Emergency Services - Fire Services & Civil Defence:** The development of a new Fire Station in Manorhamilton progressed in 2025. The Fire Service acquired a new incident support vehicle for Carrick-on-Shannon Fire Station. Leitrim Civil Defence acquired a new drone a new water sonar system to assist in search and rescue and other such operations.

**Local Authority Integration Team:** The Local Authority Integration Team has provided support to 273 International Protection Applicants (IPAs) and 200 Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs). To date, 48 clinics have been held to offer direct assistance to these groups.

In collaboration with partner agencies, the team has facilitated 13 integration events across the county, engaging 476 individuals from all sectors of the community.

Additionally, four community integration-focused events were organised, which welcomed 368 participants from diverse community backgrounds.

Leitrim County Council administers and chairs the Community Integration Forum (CIF), which convened four times in 2025.

## Resilient & Empowered Communities

**The Leitrim Volunteer Centre** continued to broaden its engagement in county Leitrim, with 120 organisations and 820 volunteers currently registered.

**Love where you Live Awards:** In 2025 over 77 Community Groups and Schools actively participated in the Annual Love Where You Live Awards, a county-wide initiative that formally recognises and celebrates exceptional contributions to community development. This is a joint initiative of Leitrim County Council and Leitrim PPN.

**Pride of Place:** Leitrim had two entries in the 2025 competition, Carrick on Shannon Tidy Towns and Bright Sparks youth theatre programme.

**PEACEPLUS Programme:** Rollout of the Leitrim PEACEPLUS Action Plan (€3,334,009) commenced in 2025. Six projects were advertised on eTenders; delivery agents have been appointed and project activities commenced in Qtr3 & 4 2025:

- Shannonside Recreational Campus
- SEUPB Fund (€15,342,366) Shannonside Peace Arena (SPA) Project and Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF): €3.3m.
- Carrick Arts & Community Centre (Colemans Building)

- Manorhamilton Youth Hub
- Drumkeeran NW Stop Play and Therapy Centre
- Ballinamore M.U.G.A.
- Lurganboy Church of Ireland Community Centre

**Community Recognition Fund:** In 2025, 16 projects supported by the €2.2 million Community Recognition Fund were progressed. Of these, three projects are on track for completion before year-end.

**Local Enhancement Programme:** Leitrim County Council received €102,037 capital funding to use towards repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects and purchase of equipment and a further €17,006 for running costs for community facilities.

**Champion Climate Action:** Leitrim County Council continued to support community climate action through the Department's Community Climate Action Programme for building low carbon communities. In Phase 1 the Council are assisting 12 no successful projects under Strand 1 to the value of €300,000 and 8 no successful projects under Strand 1a for cross border collaboration to the value of €618,403.67. Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme call opened in October 2025 for Strand 1 (€300,000).

In partnership with An Taisce, the Council coordinated Leitrim Climate Action Week between 13 – 19 October 2025. There were 18 no. events organised across the county in partnership with community groups to increase awareness, stimulate dialogue and participation among the Leitrim public under various themes of climate action.

**Carrick – Decarbonisation Zone status:** A Decarbonising Zone taskforce has been established involving a number of external leaders within Carrick-on-Shannon (Tidy Towns, Town Teams, Chamber, Hive, The Dock, Leitrim Residents Network) and has been registered as a Sustainable Energy Community called *Carrick-on-Shannon Climate Action* with SEAI. This group is meeting on a quarterly basis.

A DZ information video was created with Department funding as a basis for encouraging stakeholder buy-in.

# Grow our Businesses and Economy

## Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



## Economic Development

**Carrick Campus:** Leitrim Economic Growth & Capital Development DAC continued to move forward with the development of Carrick Campus. Two highly successful promotional events were held in conjunction with Leitrim County Council at the Business Campus:

- EmpowHer 2025
- Powering UP – Scaling for Impact

Work progressed on the development of the Carrick Campus to detailed design and tender documentation stage for both fit out with full mechanical and electrical upgrade, and for energy reduction works.

**Digital Placemaking Framework (Digital Strategy):** The Council launched Ireland's first Digital Placemaking Framework to support internet connectivity for businesses and communities across the county, expand online access to public services, and grow digital skills for everyone. The Strategy was unveiled at the Re-Imagining Rural Ireland Conference in Mohill in October 2025.

**Facilitation and Support to NBI Broadband rollout:** The Council continued to support the rollout of the NBI Broadband Plan.

**Sustainable mobility options to promote safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car usage:** Progress continued in advancing sustainable mobility options aimed at promoting safe, green, accessible, and efficient alternatives to private car use. In early 2025, Leitrim County Council participated in an Interreg peer review, engaging with other member states to share experiences and explore best practices in sustainable mobility, particularly in the context of rural challenges. Additionally, a new procurement process was undertaken for the shared e-car service in Carrick-on-Shannon, a facility that has been available in the town since 2024.

**Supporting the Creative Sector/Participation in the Arts:** Throughout the year Leitrim County Council's professional development programme for artists – Creative Frame –

continued to provide up-to-date information on events and opportunities in the sector for the network's membership of over 400 professional artists. Training provided included: Mentorship training, Financial and Tax Management; Child Protection Training and managing websites and social media.

The Creative Economy Investment Programme supported four creative enterprises - Tremolo Music Publishing, Drumnadubber Arts, Leitrim Design House and The Central Manorhamilton, while as part of the Internship programme, the Glens Centre and Dock Arts Centre were supported to provide valuable early career experience to two artists. Direct supports to artists included Individual bursaries for professional artists to further their development, Collective Bursaries for groups of artists working together, Mentorship bursaries to work with a leading professional over an extended period and three special bursaries in partnership with the Leitrim Sculpture Centre, the Irish Theatre Institute and the Centre Culture Irlandais in Paris.

**Creative Heartlands:** Leitrim County Council continued to lead the Creative Heartlands project with partner counties Sligo and Roscommon to support Film and Design enterprises operating in the region.

## Enterprise

**Local Enterprise Office:** In 2025, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continued to support micro-enterprises and foster entrepreneurship across County Leitrim delivering a comprehensive suite of targeted supports to start-ups and small businesses.

- **Financial Supports** - There was a significant increase in the uptake of Green and Digital for Business, Energy Efficiency and Grow Digital Grants reflecting strong interest in sustainability and digital transformation. Demand for core financial grants remained steady throughout 2025, with businesses continuing to access Feasibility, Priming, and Business Expansion supports to drive innovation and growth. The Market Explorer Grant also supported businesses seeking to expand internationally.
- **Training and Mentoring** - Over 1,100 participants received training in 2025 through programmes ranging from Start Your Own Business to leadership development. One-to-one mentoring supported over 250 businesses. Special development programmes for the creative sector offered targeted supports.
- **Regional Partnerships & Networking Events** - Regional partnerships and Networking initiatives included the Tri-County Women in Business event for International Women's Day in March, and the Leitrim Event in May, both delivered in partnership with LEO Longford and Westmeath. National Women's Enterprise Day in October, hosted by LEO Leitrim in Lough Rynn Castle attracted over 100 participants and was delivered in collaboration with LEO Sligo.
- **Student Enterprise Programme** - 145 students from across Leitrim took part in the Student Enterprise Programme. At the National Finals in May students from

Drumshanbo Vocational School achieved an outstanding double victory, winning the Junior Intellectual Property Award and 1st Prize in the Junior Category. St. Clare's Comprehensive School, Manorhamilton earned the National Runner-Up position in the Intermediate Category.

- **DS3- Peace Plus-** Leitrim County Council are a delivery partner on the PEACE PLUS peace plus funded project DS3 2025-2028. This is a unique 3-year cross-border initiative designed to help rural communities, businesses, and individuals across seven councils in Ireland and Northern Ireland embrace digital technologies to build more connected and sustainable places.
- **Re-imaging Rural Ireland- Smart Town and Village Conference:** Over 120 people attended the Smart Towns & Villages Conference 2025 at Lough Rynn Castle, Mohill on 13th October. Hosted by Leitrim County Council, the event explored how digital innovation and local leadership can transform rural Ireland. Keynotes, expert panels, and interactive sessions inspired ideas and stronger community connections.
- **Interreg Europe Digital Rural:** Leitrim continued its partnership under Interreg Europe. In October 2025 Leitrim hosted the project partners from Estonia, Latvia, Crete, The Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia.

**The Northwest Regional Enterprise Plan** 2020-2025 is concluded in 2025. Achievements under the objectives included:

- Developing entrepreneurship – Leitrim LEO in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, Donegal and Sligo LEOs, Údarás and the WDC participated in a 2 day entrepreneurship development course with 2 Leitrim enterprises.
- Promoting the region – Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal Chief Executives have collaborated on a project to develop a Northwest Vision for the region looking into the future.
- Developing the wind and marine industry – Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal County Councils have collaborated with Údarás to procure a consultant, with the intent of looking at the economic and enterprise opportunities that come from the significant amount of constrained energy in the region.
- Assisting enterprise transform to a green operational practice
- Developing skills in the region – NW REP working group chair, Regional Skills Manager, is participating in Leitrim Skills Strategy development.

## Sustainable Planning & Infrastructure

**Forward Planning and Development Management:** The joint Local Area Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon to include the village of Cortober was adopted by Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils, taking effect from 19th May 2025. A Local Transport Plan forms an integral part of the joint Local Area Plan. This completes the full set of statutory land use

plans required for the county. Work is underway at the time of preparing this report on a variation to the County Development Plan 2023-2029 to increase the extent of headroom of lands zoned for residential purposes to give effect to the objectives contained in the Section 28 Guidelines entitled *National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation – Housing Growth Requirements* published in July 2025 by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Residential Zoned Land Tax:** The Planning Authority published draft maps identifying the lands considered within scope of the (RZLT) on February 1st. The final map showing lands that will be liable to the RZLT will be published on 31st January 2026.

**E-planning:** Leitrim County Council went live for E-Planning in April 2023 whereby planning applications can now be submitted in electronic form. 93% of all applications received up to the end of October in 2025 were submitted in this manner.

**Pre Planning:** 85 no. formal requests for pre planning advice were received and processed up to the end of October.

**Planning applications:** Leitrim County Council received 205 no. valid planning applications in 2024 to the end of October (176 no. applications for the same period in 2024). There has been a considerable increase in the number of applications seeking to refurbish vacant and derelict dwellings including providing wastewater treatment systems to same as a result of the successful Croí Cónaithe Scheme.

**Planning Permission:** Planning permission has been granted with respect to 190 no. applications received (includes 50 no. seeking retention of planning permission and 4 no. seeking outline planning permission), with permission refused in the case of 3 no. applications to the end of October. Planning permission was granted for 129 no. houses / apartments – 100 no. units comprising of small schemes greater than 1 no. dwelling unit (36 no. Dromahair, 3 no. Kinlough, 4 no. Kiltyclogher, 11 no. Ballinamore, 11 no. Carrick-on-Shannon, 14 no. Mohill and 21 no. Dromod), 19 no. one off houses in the countryside served by individual wastewater treatment systems, 6 no. individual dwellings served by piped water services within or adjoining settlements and 4 no. replacement houses served by individual wastewater treatment systems. In addition, the Planning Authority estimate that 32 no. units which were vacant or derelict have been permitted to be refurbished / brought back into use through planning permissions granted this year.

4 no. decisions on planning applications have been appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála in 2025 whilst the Board has decided on 4 no. appeals decisions from Co. Leitrim to date this year.

**Public Consultations:** Two no. Part 8 Public Consultations were completed over the course of 2025, namely the refurbishment of the Town Hall in Carrick-on-Shannon and an Active Travel scheme in Mohill.

**Planning Enforcement:** The Planning Authority opened 44 no. new enforcement cases in 2025 to the end of October (36 no. opened in 2024) with a significant number of active older cases still live.

**Maintenance and Development of County's Infrastructure & Road Network:** In 2025 circa €24 million was invested in the County's transport infrastructure. Notable achievements included:

- **N4 Carrick on Shannon Bypass & Traffic Management Scheme:** This Scheme has been progressed to detailed design stage
- **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme:** In 2025 works completed on 13 Bridges.
- **Local Improvement Schemes (LIS):** In 2025, 18 LIS's were completed.
- **Footpaths:** A 3 year programme of investment of circa €1.5 million in Footpaths across the county, commenced in 2024 and was progressed throughout 2025.
- **Climate Action & Resilience Works :** Works continued to be focused on remedial works for areas affected by climate change such as flooding and drainage. Works to alleviate flooding and improve roadside drainage are carried out at an annual investment of circa €350,000.
- **Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme:** The Hedge cutting Grant Scheme continued to be promoted to encourage the cutting of hedges and roadside trees by landowners. Approx. 81 applicants received a grant under the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme in the hedge cutting season 2024/2025.
- **Road Safety Strategy:** Phase 2 Road Safety Action Plan 2025 – 2027 was progressed during 2025. A Road Safety education event was held annually in conjunction with secondary schools in the County to promote and educate young people on road safety.
- **Low-Cost Safety Schemes:** Leitrim County Council completed 9 Low-Cost Safety Schemes on Non-National Roads in the County in 2025.
- **Upgrade of Public Lighting to LED:** 87% of our Public Lighting has been upgraded to LED.
- **Unprecedented Events:** In January 2025, Storm Eowyn caused widespread damage around the county with trees down on roads and widespread power outages. Leitrim County Council outdoor staff responded to this event to clear roads and liaised with other infrastructure providers such as ESB Networks/Eir. In October, Storm Amy also caused network disruption and a measured response from the outdoor crew removed all fallen trees from the road network.
- **Hartley Bridge:** Development of Hartley Bridge progressed to detailed design & tender documents stage.

**Active Travel:** The Active Travel programme continued in 2025. The following schemes have commenced:

- Mohill SRTS
- Kinlough Bus Shelters
- Hilly Road Pedestrian crossings
- Aghnasheelin AT

- Cycle parking infrastructure

**Provision of Amenities:** Development of a number Greenways, Blueways & Walking Trails and other amenities throughout the county were progressed as follows:

- **SLNCR Greenway – Sligo to Enniskillen**  
TII granted approved for Phase II – Options Selection Stage in August 2025 and gave approval to commence Phase III – Design and Environmental Evaluation. The Preferred Route corridor was made public on Wednesday 8th October 2025.
- **Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway**  
This scheme was progressed through Phase III – Design and Environmental Evaluation, with the objective of submitting a Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Quarter 4, 2025 / Quarter 1, 2026, subject to the completion of some aquatic surveys.
- **South Leitrim Greenway**  
A funding application was made to the TII and funding approval is being waited upon subject to TII funding budgets for 2026.
- **Cavan Leitrim Greenway – Corgar to Aghawillan**  
The Corgar to Aghawillan section of Greenway has been successfully completed. This Trail now provides an additional 2.9km greenway which results in a total extent of greenway of almost 6km – (from Ballinamore to Corgar to Aghawillan).
- **Narrow Gauge Trail Drumshanbo**  
Construction works were progressed with the trail open to the public in Q4 2025.
- **Fenagh Abbey Trail**  
Additional surveys were completed and a Part 8 process due to commence in Q4 2025.
- **Acres Lake Facility Centre**  
Construction works were progressed with the facility due to open in Quarter 4 2025.
- **Parkes Castle**  
Works were substantially completed on this project in 2025.
- **Carrick Public Parks upgrade**  
Works progressed on the design of the Carrick Public Parks upgrade with a Part 8 process due to commence in Q4 2025.
- **Glencar Amenity**  
An options assessment report has been compiled with a view to developing the amenity. An economic appraisal of these options was completed by an external consultant. Ecological Impact Assessment surveys and a traffic impact survey were also completed during the year.

**Playgrounds:** In 2025, the development of a new destination playground at Tullaghan's Access to the Sea was progressed. Playgrounds in Carrigallen and Glenfarne were upgraded in 2025.

## Tourism

In 2025, Leitrim County Council continued its strategic investment in promoting County Leitrim as a premier tourism destination. A two-year Leitrim Tourism marketing campaign was launched in partnership with the local tourism trade, aimed at maximising grant aid opportunities and enhancing the county's visibility.

Key initiatives delivered during the year included:

- **Implementation of a two-year domestic marketing campaign** to promote Leitrim, featuring television, radio, social media, digital advertising, media familiarisation trips, and video-on-demand content.
- **Ongoing collaboration with the tourism trade** to strengthen the promotion of County Leitrim and ensure alignment with industry needs.
- **Development and launch of a dedicated visitor information app**, providing up-to-date details on attractions, activities, and services across the county, encouraging visitors to explore more of Leitrim.
- **Participation in a regional partnership with Ireland West Airport** to target the German market. This initiative enabled local tourism providers to engage directly with German tour operators and travel agents.
- **Support for the operation of the Carrick-on-Shannon Tourist Office**, delivered in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, ensuring high-quality visitor services in the county's tourism hub.
- **Continued support for the Hidden Heartlands brand**, which complements the Wild Atlantic Way and reinforces Leitrim's unique positioning within Ireland's tourism landscape.

**Tourism Strategy:** Leitrim County Council, in partnership with the tourism trade, is actively implementing the actions outlined in the County Tourism Framework. This strategic roadmap is guiding the development of Leitrim's tourism sector over the next five years, with a focus on sustainable growth, product development, and visitor experience.

**Slow Adventure:** The Council remains committed to the development and promotion of Slow Adventure experiences, offering visitors immersive, nature-based activities that highlight Leitrim's tranquil landscapes and authentic rural charm.



## Enrich our Places and Environment

### Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



## Housing

A cross departmental working group comprising key staff was established in 2025 with the aim to identify opportunities for the provision of quality affordable and social homes across the County. The Council continued to deliver additional social housing units and is on target to exceed the overall “Housing for All” target for Co. Leitrim.

Further improvements were made to existing Housing stock with planned maintenance programmes now being informed by data secured from recently completed Stock Condition surveys.

Through the ongoing efficient administration of the Private House Grant scheme Leitrim County Council helped ensure that the most vulnerable were supported in undertaking necessary home improvement works to extend the useful life of their houses.

Leitrim County Council carried out energy retrofit works on the maximum number of existing social housing units to meet our climate action and energy reduction targets. Secured and utilised increased financial resources from central government to provide temporary emergency accommodation for all those that entered homelessness with this figure supplemented by a significant contribution from Leitrim County Council resources.

The Council continued to ensure the quality of private rental accommodation in County Leitrim through the delivery of the annual private rental inspection programme encompassing 25% of the private market.

The targets for delivery under the 2025-2029 Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) were exceeded for Year 1 of the programme.

A total of 6 properties went sale agreed under the Purchase/Acquisition Programme with the majority being purchased for households that were at risk of homelessness.

The Council continued to provide a responsive housing maintenance service based on prioritisation of repair works during 2025 with particularly high demand for repair works arising from the damage caused by Storm Eowyn.

## Towns and Villages

**Town Regeneration:** A Town Regeneration Office was established within Leitrim County Council in 2023 to address the decline in the health of towns across the County and support measures to regenerate and revitalize them. The following initiatives have been undertaken in 2025:

- Through the Vacant Homes Officer, the Council continued to engage with the owners of specific properties that have potential to be brought back into productive use during 2025.
- In June 2025 an Information event “*Turning Vacant Properties into Cosy Homes*” was hosted by Leitrim County Council in the Landmark hotel which showcased to owners of existing and prospective properties the potential to transform vacancy properties into vibrant cosy homes. Almost 300 members of the public attended the event and 30 exhibitors attended.
- One Compulsory Acquisition Order was progressed on a derelict property in Dromahair during 2025.
- Manorhamilton Town Team received funding of €30,000 to prepare the second Town Centre First plan for the County and the plan was completed in November 2025.
- €130,540 was secured under the THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme) to procure a consultant to determine a future use for the Town Hall, Carrick-on-Shannon and bring the project through the planning process. The project was completed early in 2025.
- During 2025, the process of setting up 3 new town teams in Ballinamore, Dromahair and Kinlough towns was concluded with training provided for all 3 teams.
- Funding of €572, 334 was secured under RRDF Category 2 for the Arroo Centre Project in Kinlough. This project will see the development of a derelict property known as “Kerr’s Building” on Barrack Street, in the town centre into a Community Resource and Recreation Centre with associated public realm works in the centre of Kinlough town.
- In addition, Leitrim County Council supported town regeneration by advancing the Drumshanbo Exchange development and the Leitrim Village Community Facility.

**Croí Cónaithe:** Under the Croí Cónaithe Vacant homes grant, 325 applications have been received since the scheme commenced. A total of 95 applications were received since January 2025. During 2025, 43 grants have been paid out to the value of just under €2.3 million euro with a total of 86 having been paid out since inception to a value of just under €4.5 million. Therefore, in the last two years, 86 vacant/derelict properties have now become habitable under this scheme.

**Public Realm Works:** The following Public Realm projects were progressed in 2025:

- **Carrick on Shannon Urban Regeneration Scheme:** The Carrick on Shannon Urban Regeneration Scheme has been substantially completed.
- **Manorhamilton Public Realm Scheme:** Contract No 1 for public realm works on Main Street has been completed. Contract No 2 for works at Enterprise lands was advertised for tender and a contractor has been appointed.
- **Mohill Public Realm Scheme:** This project has been substantially completed.

## Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environmental Protection

**Leitrim County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030** is being developed in partnership with the Biodiversity Working Group who comprise of a range of key environmental stakeholders. The Draft Biodiversity Action Plan is currently open for public consultation.

**Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF):** Delivery and coordination of biodiversity conservation projects using LBAF funding from National Parks & Wildlife Service.

**Biodiversity Awareness & Education:** A programme of public awareness events was organised and delivered across Leitrim during National Tree Week, National Biodiversity Week, National Heritage Week & National Hedgerows Week and Climate Action Week 2025.

**Integration of Biodiversity into Council projects:** The Council's Biodiversity Officer is a member of the evaluation panel for projects considered for funding under the following schemes: ORIS, PEACEPlus, Participation Nation and has been consulted for other capital projects.

**Environmental Services:** Leitrim County Council continue to lead the shared service of the Connacht Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (CU WERLA) to deliver priority actions in line with Government policy and co-ordinate the waste enforcement efforts of local authorities in fulfilling their statutory waste enforcement obligations.

- Following the enhancement of the WERLAs in late 2023, and the amendments made to the Household Food Waste Regulations (as per S.I. 679 of 2023), the WERLAs continue to engage with household waste collectors to enforce the rollout of brown bins.
- The Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DCEE) have once again allocated €3 million in funding to WERLAs this year with a focus on four key areas: prevention, abatement, enforcement, and education and awareness.

**RMCEI Plan:** Leitrim County Council submitted the 2024 report along with the 2025 RMCEI planned target inspections to the EPA. The RMCEI programme proceeded largely on target.

**National Inspection Plan on Domestic WasteWater Treatment Systems (DWWTS):** Due to shortfalls in inspections completed during 2023 and 2024, Leitrim County Council was requested to carry out 22 No. new National Inspection Plan (NIP) inspections during 2025

to make up for the shortfalls in the two preceding years. All 22 new NIP inspections have been carried out for 2025. A total of 29 verification inspections also been carried out during 2025 – these verification inspections have included old open advisory notices.

**Drainage & Flooding Measures:** The following Drainage & Flood Defence projects were progressed in 2025:

- **Carrick On Shannon Flood Relief Scheme:** The Environmental Impact Assessment Report is well advanced with a view to having the Planning Application lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála early in 2026.
- **Leitrim Village Flood Relief Scheme:** The design has been finalised, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been progressed, and it is anticipated that a planning Application will be lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála in Quarter 2 2026
- **Mohill Flood Relief Scheme:** The hydraulic analysis and economic feasibility on this project is substantially completed in conjunction with the OPW. We are now awaiting OPW approval to advance the scheme to design and planning.
- **Dromahair Scheme Minor Flood Scheme:** Planning consent received from An Coimisiún Pleanála in Q2 of 2025. Detailed design is being undertaken with a view to going to tender in Q1 2026, subject to OPW approval.
- **Leitrim Village (Keadue Road Scheme) Minor Flood Scheme:** The scheme is substantially complete.
- **Manorhamilton Minor Flood Scheme:** This scheme is substantially complete

**Facilities, Energy and Assets:** The Council continued to manage the organisations portfolio of facilities and assets and to respond to the national 2030 and 2050 energy targets as set out in the Climate Action Plan. Key achievements for 2025 include:

- **SEAI Pathfinder Programme:** Under SEAI's Pathfinder Programme the IT Lodge, Infirmary Building, and Main Aras building (including the Old Gaol and Governor House) are selected for Energy Upgrade works and the project is now progressing through detailed design stage. Mosart Architects are appointed as lead design consultants with the project due to go out to Tender in early 2026. As part of SEAI's subsequent Pathfinder 2.0 Programme a number of other LA buildings shall be selected to apply for Energy Upgrade funding, and this process will progress into 2026/2027.
- **Border Region Energy Unit:** As part of the Border Region Energy Unit, Leitrim County Council continues to collaborate with SEAI, and Monaghan and Cavan County Councils to pool resources and maximise funding opportunities to reduce energy usage and emissions by 50% by 2030 and improve energy management within the organisation.
- **Energy Management:** Leitrim County Council entered a 6-month trial period with 'Energy Elephant' - an energy management company which provide a software platform for monitoring and analysing energy usage and enhancing decision making towards energy usage within the organisation.

## Heritage

**The Leitrim Heritage Outreach Project** included a series of heritage events, six new episodes of the Leitrim Memory Meitheal's podcast, which forms part of the Connecting Through Heritage Podcast series, and five new videos have been produced for the Connecting Through Heritage YouTube channel to tell various aspects of the O'Rourke's of Leitrim story.

**The new Leitrim Heritage Plan 2026-2031** has been developed throughout 2025. In April a pre-draft public consultation entitled 'What's Your Leitrim Heritage?' was launched seeking the public's input into the new plan.

**The Leitrim Heritage Forum** meet throughout the year to develop the plan's objectives and actions. At present the new plan is in draft form and will go out for public consultation in the New Year.

**Heritage Week** took place from 16th to 24th August with 31 no. events having taken place across County Leitrim.

**Heritage Funding:** Successful applications were also assisted through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, the Historic Structures Fund and Community Monuments Fund.

**Leitrim Library Service** continued to demonstrate measurable progress in community engagement, creativity, and digital innovation. Guided by the Library Development Plan 2023–2027, the service remains a cornerstone of community development—fostering learning, creativity, inclusion, and wellbeing across the county.

Through the ongoing implementation of actions identified in the five-year plan, the Library Service delivers an extensive range of programmes and services that ensure every community has access to an inclusive and welcoming learning spaces.

We remain committed to providing an accessible, responsive, and people-centred library service, with a continued focus on lifelong learning, recreation, and equitable access to information for all.

**Opening of Dromahair Library:** A key milestone was achieved with the official opening of Dromahair Library in April 2025. This modern, fully accessible facility provides:

- Multi-purpose community space for cultural and educational activities.
- Technology-enabled learning zones; and
- Flexible study and meeting areas supporting collaboration and inclusion.

**MOL offering:** Leitrim Library has progressed the My Open Library model for Dromahair and Drumshanbo Library to near completion which will extend opening hours and accessibility ensuring broader community access across the county

**Development of a Makerspace:** In 2025, the first Makerspace within Leitrim Library Service was developed and launched at Dromahair Library in collaboration with the Creative Heartlands Project. The Makerspace provides access to digital fabrication tools such as 3D printers and creative technologies, empowering users to explore digital

making, coding, and innovation. This initiative promotes digital inclusion, creative entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

- **Makerspace Workshops** - A series of hands-on was delivered by Fab Lab Sligo through Creative Ireland funding, helping participants develop new competencies. These workshops nurture innovation and confidence, providing participants with practical, transferable skills for work and everyday life.

**“Skills for Life” Programme:** The Skills for Life programme continued to be delivered across Leitrim’s library network through digital literacy sessions, workshops and awareness programmes. Digital skills sessions funded through Healthy Leitrim was delivered across our branch network, these sessions provide free, one-to-one support to help individuals gain confidence in using technology in their daily lives. The programme ensures every person can participate fully in an increasingly digital society.

**Reading and Literacy Promotion:** Leitrim Library Service continued to promote reading and literacy through national campaigns such as our summer stars programme, Family time at your library, My Little Library initiative including participation in Ireland Reads Day 2025, encouraging people of all ages to “Squeeze in a Read.” The service also delivered Kids Code Workshops during summer 2025, introducing young people to the principles of coding and digital creativity.

**Local Studies and Heritage:** The Local Studies Collection continues to showcase its extensive collection celebrating Leitrim’s culture and heritage through exhibitions and events such as ‘*Leitrim Gaelic Games – Reflections and Memories*’ Exhibition which was launched in May 2025. The Young Historian Awards continued to thrive, with Transition Year students from schools across the county taking part in research and presentation projects that celebrated local history and identity.

**Climate and Biodiversity Learning:** Library programming continues to integrate climate education, biodiversity awareness, and sustainability learning into events and displays.



## Enhance our Organisation

### Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals



### Supporting our Elected Members:

- As part of the St. Patrick's Day Celebrations the Cathaoirleach travelled to New York, to engage with and foster links and bonds with the Leitrim diaspora. As part of the trip, the Cathaoirleach met with representatives from Tourism Ireland and the IDA to promote Leitrim as a place to visit and do business.
- The Municipal Districts of Ballinamore, Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton continued to operate in 2025 with meeting held on a monthly basis.
- The new Strategic Policy Committees of Social Development, Local Development, Physical Development and Economic & Enterprise held quarterly meetings. Induction training for the new chairs of each SPC was provided.
- The Members participated in a study trip to Cookstown in May 2025 where they had the opportunity to experience first-hand projects and amenities developed by a peer Local Authority and gain an understanding and knowledge of what has worked well from an economic development and promotion perspective.
- A NOAC Validation Visit took place on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- A meeting with Oireachtas members was held in quarter 1 of 2025 with a further meeting scheduled in quarter 4.
- Leitrim County Council received visits from international delegations from The Regions and Island Committee from the Danish Parliament and from a Panda Conservation group from China.
- In recognition of Carrick on Shannon winning the Overall National Tidy Towns Award in 2025, the Elected members proposed a Civic Reception to honour the Tidy Towns Committee and its volunteers.

### Support our Workforce

- A Strategic Workforce Plan aligned to the Corporate Plan, recognising the importance of our workforce, our workforce capacity and competence in responding to the changing needs of our organisation and delivering on our strategic objectives was developed in 2025.

- In excess of 150 staff were approved for Blended Working arrangements in 2025 in line with our Blended Working Policy provisions.
- Whole range of family friendly initiatives were availed of across 2025 including Workshare, Shorter Working Year, New Parent, Parents, Parental, Carers leave etc.
- Reasonable work accommodations continued to be provided to facilitate staff with disabilities in taking up / returning to work.
- Significant training programme was delivered including continued Leadership Development training and Coaching training to facilitate the roll out of a Coaching Programme.
- 40 Recruitment Competitions were advertised to date in 2025, with a further pipeline of Competitions to be progressed. PAS also undertook 3 competitions for senior level posts on our behalf during 2025.
- The Council is participating in the national Local Authority Graduate Programme with 1 Graduate already in place. A further Graduate is in process under the national Graduate Planner Programme and an existing staff member has recently commenced an ICT Apprenticeship programme.
- A total of 51 new staff were recruited to various positions across the organization during 2025 to date, with an additional 30 staff promotions.
- A total of 29 staff left the organization to take up alternative opportunities during 2025, including 8 Water Services staff moving across to Uisce Éireann, with an additional 10 staff retirements to date.
- Significant review project was completed to facilitate our superannuation services moving to a shared service through MyPay from end June 2025.
- Stable Industrial Relations were maintained during 2025.
- Engagement with the Employee Assistance Service continued to provide free and confidential counselling service and supports to staff and their immediate families.

## Service Delivery

**Public Sector Equality and Human Rights obligations:** The Council's Public Sector Equality and Human Rights obligations are reflected in the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 in our vision for the County: *An ambitious, thriving, vibrant, sustainable and connected Leitrim with opportunity for everyone.*

Throughout all its services and functional areas Leitrim County Council is cognisant of the need to ensure that everyone has the necessary resources, support, and opportunities to actively and equally take part in all areas of life in Leitrim.

**Customer Services:** The Customer services desk continues to operate as a single point of contact for all customers, clients and visitors accessing Áras an Chontae. A range of services are provided through the Customer Services desk with Motor Tax transactions

and payment of Local Authority rents and service charges being the most widely used services by members of the public. As more of these payment transactions move towards online platforms over the term of the Corporate Plan it is envisaged that additional services and enhanced levels of service will be provided through the Customer Services desk.

In collaboration with the ICT Department a new Customer Relationship Management tool is being developed by Abavus, which will facilitate an enhanced level of customer report logging, payment of service charges and reporting. It is envisaged that this product will be available to customer in 2026.

Leitrim County Council continued to transform as an organisation in 2025, and it strives to further enhance a customer focused approach, and creative culture within the organisation.

**Data Protection:** The Data Protection Officer continues to assist and advice business units across the organisation in complying with GDPR and Data Protection legislation. As necessary and appropriate, the DPO engages with the LGMA and the Data Protection Commissioner to ensure issues of concern are addressed appropriately and matters of concern are brought to the attention of business units across the organisation.

**Freedom of Information:** Levels of activity in relation to Freedom of Information remain consistent with prior years.

**Communications:** Leitrim County Council continued to promote its activities through the local media, the Council's website and our social media channels. By maintaining a profile on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) YouTube and LinkedIn, the Council has a following of more than 20,000 people, which continues to see a yearly growth of the order of 7%. Approximately, 70 native social media posts are published across these channels each month. A newly developed suite of templates gives Leitrim County Council's social media posts, internal documents and publications a consistent, strong, clearly defined and easily recognisable brand. Relationships with local printed media and radio continues to be fostered and maintained as important channels through which to publicise the activities of the council. Approximately 55% of all queries (15-20 per month on average) are received from local media.

**Irish Language:** During 2025, the Council continued to promote our services and activities through the Irish Language and engaged with customers through Irish as required. The Council continues to meet its requirements as set out in Irish Language legislation.

**An Gaeilge:** Le linn 2025, lean an Chomhairle de bheith ag cur ár seirbhísí agus ár ngníomhaíochtaí chun cinn trí mheán na Gaeilge agus rinne sí cumarsáid le custaiméirí trí mheán na Gaeilge de réir mar is gá. Leanann an Chomhairle de bheith ag cloí leis na ceanglais atá leagtha amach i reachtaíocht na Gaeilge.

**Management of financial resources:** Leitrim County Council continued to ensure financial resources were managed prudently and aligned with the strategic priorities, while maintaining strong governance, value for money, and statutory compliance.

- Enhancement of systems and procedures to ensure continued compliance with the Revenue Commissioners.
- AFS 2024 prepared and submitted to the Department.
- The annual audit was completed
- The Budget Meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.
- Strong performance was maintained in Revenue collection across the income streams of Commercial Rates, Rents and Housing Loans, supported by proactive engagement with ratepayers.
- Continued compliance with Procurement regulations and delivery of a procurement support service to the organisation.
- Leitrim County Council maintained a strong focus on governance and internal control throughout the year. The Internal Audit function completed a number of modules during the year, which have been presented to the Audit Committee.

## Transform our Ways of Working

**Climate Action:** In accordance with Action GL4 of the Climate Action Plan, the preparation of the Corporate Plan was mainstreamed for climate action to ensure it was embedded as an integral component in the making of the Corporate Plan.

Leitrim County Council established a whole-of-Council team called a Climate Action Committee. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis.

Below is a summary of progress as on Climate Action Key Performance Indicators as outlined in the Climate Action plan.

Total Number of Actions	206
Recurring Actions	103
Adaption	21
Mitigation	79
Combined	106
Not Started	42
In Progress	53
Completed	111
Number of completed actions that are recurring annually	91

There are a number of working groups established such as an Energy WG with a central focus on the mandatory emissions reduction target of 51% by 2030 across organisation activities and assets (heat, fleet and electricity).

**Health & Safety:** The Council's continued its commitment to workplace health and safety.

- There were three lost-time accidents recorded throughout the year.
- Comprehensive safety inspection regimes continued to be conducted across all operational areas.
- Strong safety leadership has been demonstrated at all levels across the organisation.
- A range of tailored health and safety training programs were delivered across the organisation to staff at all levels.

**Information and Communication Technology:** Leitrim County Council continued to invest in technology software and systems to deliver transformative and operational efficiency. Initiatives progressed in 2025 included:

- Implementation of Government 2030 “cloud first” policy which will see the movement of services to more secure, modern and cost-effective cloud-based computing. Leitrim County Council ICT has procured a CRM ‘Customer Relationship Management’ solution. This solution incorporates online forms/online Payments, and a customer self-service web portal. This solution will allow citizens to apply, report and pay for council services online.
- Leitrim County Council continue to improve their **Cyber Security posture** in 2025. The focus on improving Leitrim County Councils Cyber security posture aligns to the NIS2 directive released in October 2024 as well as the National Cyber Security Framework standards and the National Cyber Security Bill. All staff take part in ongoing cybersecurity training and phishing simulations to stay alert and informed. Leitrim County Council ICT continue to monitor and measure their cyber security posture and that of our third-party vendors. Leitrim County Council have maintained a top-level A rating which is the highest mark achievable.
- **Starlink –Emergency response plans** – Leitrim County Council strengthened its ability to respond to major incidents such as storm-related outages, by introducing a mobile connectivity solution using Starlink satellite technology.
- **Development of Disaster Recovery & Incident Response Plans.** This progressed in 2025 as new technology emerges and is implemented within the Council.
- **Teams Telephony** – Leitrim County Council ICT continued to build on the implementation of a cloud-based telephony solution replacing desk phones.

## **Conclusion**

The achievements highlighted in this report were achieved due to the combined efforts of the Elected Members and all staff of this Local Authority and, with the collaboration of numerous voluntary and community organisations with whom the Council interacts. It is with gratitude, that I acknowledge their dedication and commitment to the continued delivery of our vision, mission and strategic goals in 2025.

In a work environment that is constantly evolving, with new and emerging challenges presented through matters such as cyber security threats, technological enhancements, or legislative and compliance change, both the Elected Members and Executive continue to develop and adapt to meet these challenges with ambition and deliver dynamic, innovative, sustainable and responsive solutions for all our people and communities, making Leitrim the best place to live, work, do business, and visit.

I, and the Executive look forward to continuing this work with the Elected Members over the remaining term of this Council, and with other stakeholders, as we work towards the continued sustainable growth of this county through the delivery of high quality services and working to make Leitrim an ambitious, thriving, vibrant, sustainable and connected place with opportunity for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



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**Joseph Gilhooly**

**Chief Executive**

**November 2025**



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma**  
**Leitrim County Council**



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma**  
**Leitrim County Council**

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