

2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

WEXFORD COUNTY
COUNCIL

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MANAGEMENT TEAM 2025

To be passionate and ambitious in working for Wexford, delivering a vibrant Model County.

CATHAOIRLEACH'S INTRODUCTION

As Cathaoirleach, I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of Wexford County Council, which reflects a year of strong civic leadership, service delivery and tangible progress for communities across County Wexford.



A major highlight of the year was the success of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, which once again placed Wexford at the heart of Ireland's cultural life. The scale and quality of the event demonstrated Wexford's ability to host nationally significant occasions while delivering meaningful economic and social benefits. Its success was driven by the commitment of communities, volunteers, local businesses and Council staff, and it remains a source of immense pride for the county.

One of the most important achievements of 2025 was the delivery of social and affordable housing. Wexford County Council exceeded its Housing for All targets, achieving 182% of the annual delivery target, with homes provided through a combination of direct build programmes, Part V, Approved Housing Bodies, leasing and tenant-support schemes. Nearly 500 tenancies were allocated during the year, while initiatives such as the Radharc na Beannoige Affordable Housing development in Gorey reflect the Council's commitment to supporting sustainable home ownership and balanced community growth.

The Council also made important investments in public safety and emergency services during 2025. The completion of the Gorey Fire Station upgrade, fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, has significantly enhanced facilities for retained firefighters, improving training capacity, operational readiness and staff wellbeing. This investment, together with the delivery of new firefighting appliances and equipment, reinforces the Council's commitment to protecting communities and supporting frontline responders.

Community wellbeing was further strengthened through collaborative initiatives such as the establishment of the Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership, the first partnership appointed nationally under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. This partnership brings together elected members, statutory agencies and community representatives to address safety and quality-of-life issues in a joined-up and inclusive way.

Economic development continues to be a strong pillar of the Council's work. Local Enterprise Office Wexford delivered exceptional outcomes during 2025, supporting job creation, entrepreneurship, youth enterprise and women-led businesses, while promoting Wexford's food producers and enterprises at national and international level.

I wish to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the staff of Wexford County Council and to thank the Chief Executive for his leadership throughout the year. I also extend my sincere thanks to our communities, volunteers and partner organisations whose ongoing commitment continues to strengthen County Wexford.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTRODUCTION



I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report, which outlines a year of significant delivery, strategic progress and organisational achievement across Wexford County Council.

The successful hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in both 2024 and 2025 was a defining accomplishment for the organisation. Delivering two events of this scale in consecutive years required extensive planning, strong inter-agency collaboration and an exceptional commitment from staff across all Directorates. I wish to acknowledge the professionalism, flexibility and dedication of Council staff, the vital contribution of volunteers and partner

agencies, and the warmth and generosity of the people of Wexford, whose welcome was central to the Fleadh's success.

Housing delivery remained a core organisational priority. In 2025, Wexford County Council delivered 344 homes, significantly exceeding national targets. This achievement was supported through a range of delivery mechanisms and strengthened engagement with Approved Housing Bodies, including the hosting of an AHB Forum to support long-term planning and partnership working. These outcomes reflect a sustained commitment to addressing housing need.

Strategic planning and regeneration advanced substantially during the year. Variation No. 1 to the County Development Plan 2022–2028 was commenced to respond to revised national housing growth requirements and ensure adequate zoned land to support future development. Progress also continued under Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3, with a focus on revitalising vacant and derelict properties and supporting town-centre renewal.

A key component of the county's long-term development strategy is the Ballynagee Masterplan, which will deliver state-of-the-art second- and third-level education campuses alongside modern sporting and community facilities. This transformative project will support education, skills development and recreation, while acting as a catalyst for economic growth in Wexford Town.

In 2025, Wexford County Council also played a leading role in establishing the Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), the first of its kind nationally under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. This partnership provides a coordinated and inclusive framework for addressing community safety and wellbeing, bringing together key stakeholders to focus on local priorities and preventative action.

Climate action remains both a priority and a challenge. The Council is committed to achieving its statutory 2030 climate targets, including a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. While progress has been made across energy efficiency, retrofitting, active travel and fleet transition, the scale of change required remains significant. Continued investment, innovation and collaboration will be essential to meeting these targets.

Economic development and international engagement also featured strongly during 2025. The Council strengthened transatlantic links with the State of Georgia, building on the Sister City relationship with Savannah. This partnership was further enhanced through the redevelopment of the historic Adoration Convent with Georgia Southern University, creating a future-focused student campus in the heart of Wexford Town. Tourism and place promotion were advanced through the launch of County Wexford's International Sales and Marketing Plan.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge changes within the senior management team during the year. Ms. Jackie Carroll, Director of Services, concluded her tenure with Wexford County Council in September 2025. I would like to sincerely thank Jackie for her contribution to the organisation over

her period of service. Mr. Alan Quirke was appointed Director of Services in December 2025, and I am very pleased to welcome him to this role and wish him every success in his work with the Council.

Finally, I wish to thank the Cathaoirleach and elected members for their leadership and constructive engagement throughout the year. I also acknowledge the continued commitment and professionalism of all Council staff, whose efforts underpin the achievements outlined in this report. The 2025 Annual Report demonstrates Wexford County Council's capacity to deliver complex programmes while planning responsibly for future challenges and opportunities.

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COUNTY WEXFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

The five Municipal Districts of Wexford County Council—**Enniscorthy, Gorey-Kilmuckridge, New Ross, Rosslare and Wexford Borough**—continued to deliver a wide range of services, projects and initiatives that supported community wellbeing, economic development and the enhancement of towns, villages and public spaces across the county.

Strong collaboration between elected members, staff, local communities and key stakeholders underpinned progress in each district. Through effective use of Municipal District funding, including discretionary programmes, the districts advanced capital projects, enhanced public realms, supported cultural and community activity, and reinforced their roles as attractive places to live, work, visit and invest.

ELECTIONS

Elections took place following the Annual Meetings at each of the Districts.

Wexford Borough, Cllr. Garry Laffan was elected as Mayor and Raymond Shannon as Deputy Mayor.



Enniscorthy Municipal District, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Kehoe Leas Cathaoirleach. Cllr. Trish Byrne was co-opted following the election of Cllr. Cathal Byrne to Seanad Éireann.

New Ross Municipal District, Cllr. John Dwyer Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Fleming Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District Cllr. Donal Kenny Cathaoirleach, Cllr. A Donohoe Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Rosslare Municipal District, Cllr. Ger Carthy Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Lisa McDonald Leas-Cathaoirleach.

CIVIC HONOURS AND RECOGNITION

A range of Civic Honours, Awards and Recognition Events were hosted across the Municipal and Borough Districts. These events provided an opportunity to formally acknowledge the exceptional contribution of individuals, community groups, voluntary organisations and sporting bodies to the social, cultural, economic and sporting life of the county.

Wexford Borough District Civic Honours were awarded to mark the 40th anniversary of the Able Disable Club, the 30th anniversary of Access 2000, and the 60th anniversary of FDYS, acknowledging their sustained contribution to inclusion, advocacy and youth services.



Rosslare Municipal District held two Civic Award Reception in Johnstown Castle and were hosted by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Jim Codd and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ger Carthy respectively.



Enniscorthy Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception to honour the Wexford Football League following their success in winning the FAI Oscar Traynor Cup 2025. Led by Manager Willie Peare, the team's achievement was recognised as a significant sporting success.



Gorey–Kilmuckridge Municipal District held a Community Recognition Event at the Ashdown Park Hotel where Community Groups who recently received Amenity & Arts and Resident Association Grants were acknowledged for the countless hours undertaken by them in their communities. An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Oliver Walsh welcomed more than 150 people representing approximately 70 different Community Groups throughout the District to express his gratitude for the contribution they have made.



The district also hosted a Civic Awards Ceremony recognising individuals and groups from North Wexford who made outstanding contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of the region. The achieving sports men and women, community groups & individuals, historians and the many other organisations are all important Ambassadors for the district.

TIDY TOWNS



Wexford Tidy Towns achieved a Gold Medal for the 5th consecutive year in the National Tidy Towns Competition and was deemed the second tidiest town in the county. This is a fantastic achievement which recognises the ongoing work and dedication of the local Tidy Towns Committee and volunteers.

Enniscorthy Tidy Towns were delighted to retain their gold medal status in the National Tidy Towns awards. They were third overall in the County and picked up a regional award for the young person's category. The group works closely with the Enniscorthy Municipal District as well as engaging with stakeholders in the community including schools, Residents Associations, Sustainable Enniscorthy, Enniscorthy Community Allotments, Wexford Barn Owl project, Wexford Bat Group, Wexford Environmental Network, Wexford Volunteer centre, Enjoy Enniscorthy and Reimagining Enniscorthy to raise awareness of anti-litter initiatives and volunteers' work.



New Ross was awarded a Silver Medal in the 2025 Tidy Towns competition. This achievement marks a significant milestone, following the town's previous bronze medal win.

The Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District continued to work in partnership with **North Wexford Tidy Towns and Development Groups** in delivering the North Wexford 2K initiative. The programme encourages volunteers to "adopt" a 2 km stretch of roadway and maintain it litter-free during April. Volunteers maintained 80 roads, covering a total of 160 km, with roads assessed and awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze status based on litter levels

Gorey Tidy Towns achieved a historic milestone by being awarded a Silver Medal. The adjudicators praised Gorey as "a pleasure to visit, with a thriving local economy and many excellent gardeners and ecologists." The award reflects the commitment of the committee, volunteers, and TÚS and CE

workers, and recognises the support provided in recent years by former District Manager Philip Knight and his team, which helped progress the town from Bronze to Silver status

Blackwater Tidy Towns Group retained its title as the tidiest town in County Wexford for the sixth consecutive year. The group received both the County First and Gold Medal Awards.

Carrig-on-Bannow Tidy Towns received an award for Contribution to the Environment

North Wexford 2K Clean Initiative: The Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District continued to work in partnership with **North Wexford Tidy Towns** and Development Groups in delivering the North Wexford 2K initiative.. In 2025, volunteers maintained 80 roads, covering a total of 160 km, with roads assessed and awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze status based on litter levels.



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Festivals and events continued to play a vital role in supporting cultural expression, community engagement, tourism, and local economic activity across Wexford during the year. All five Municipal Districts worked in close partnership with community groups, voluntary committees, artists, and stakeholders to deliver an extensive and varied programme of events that celebrated local identity and strengthened community connections.

Collectively, these festivals and events enhanced town centres, supported local businesses, celebrated creativity and heritage, and reinforced the importance of community-led cultural activity across the county.

Wexford Borough District sustained a vibrant annual festival programme, reinforcing the town's reputation as a major cultural and tourism destination.

May Day Ceremony – 1911 Lock Out Gate – The Annual May Day Ceremony and wreath laying was held at the Lock Out Gate in The Faythe. Mayor Cllr. G. Laffan laid a wreath in remembrance of the leaders of the 1911 Lock Out and the 700 men and their families affected by the event.

Commodore John Barry Commemorative Ceremony
The 69th Annual Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony was held in June, with Minister James Browne, T.D. as Guest of Honour.

Mayor Cllr. G. Laffan and District Manager A. Bailey also attended a commemorative event in October aboard the USS New Jersey in Camden, marking the 250th anniversary of the US Navy.



Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025	St. Patrick's Day Festival	Wexford's Walled Town Medieval Day
Wexford Credit Union Night Run	Wexford Half Marathon	Wexford Stages Rally Ceremonial Start and Pairc Feirme
D.B. Daileys Motor Show	National Services Day	Wexford Opera Festival
Pecker Dunne Memorial Festival	Breakwater Music Festival	Wexford Festival Art Trail
Spring Moves Dance Festival	Culture Night	Wexford Spiegeltent Festival
Art in the Open	Coolcotts Halloween Fest	Fredrick Douglas Festival

Enniscorthy Municipal District supported a broad range of local festivals and events, aligned with the objectives of Wexford County Council's Corporate Plan, contributing to cultural vitality and economic activity across the district.

The National Play Day event was held in July in collaboration with FDYS and Creative Places Enniscorthy. An inclusive Play Event took place in the Orchard Peace Park emphasising the importance of play as a community building tool. The event was funded by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality under the National Play Day Funding Scheme 2025.

Commemorating the 109th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising



The Reserve Defence Forces provided a Colour Party at the Annual Easter Monday commemoration.

The event was attended by the Ballindaggin Pipe Band, Enniscorthy Historical Re-Enactment Society, Martina Leacy's School of Dance, Judy Heffernan, Anthony Nolan.

St. Patricks Day Parades	National Play Day 2025	Santa's Enchanted Experience.
Easter Monday Commemoration.	Street Rhythms Festival	Christmas Festivals
The Rockin' Food & Fruit Festival	Blackstairs Blues Festival	

Rosslare Municipal District also supported a wide range of events across the district, strengthening community connections, encouraging participation, and bringing people together through shared experiences centred on music, food, local traditions, and wellbeing

Embrace Your Inner St Brigid, Yoga at Skeater Viewing Point	Write by the Sea Festival	Grantstown 5k Walk
St Patricks Day Parade, Carrig on Bannow	Foulksmills Duck Race	Rosslare Harbour Maritime & Heritage Festival
Jazz Festival at Johnstown Castle	Rathangan Country Fair	Leo Carthy Weekend
Kilmore Seafood Festival	Taghmon Street Festival	Our Ladys Island Pilgrimage
Phil Murphy Weekend	Duncormick Street Festival	Taghmon Horse & Pony Club
Filling the Well Ceremony	Christmas Lights Events	Yola Language Development Project
Fuddlefest	Blackwater Céilí Band in St Martins Community Centre	Beartla Ó Flatharta Band & Supporting Acts in Our Ladys Island Community Centre



New Ross Municipal District The 2025 event schedule successfully balanced two key objectives: strengthening our established events and introducing initiatives to activate new public spaces. The focus on both high-quality events and improved accessibility demonstrate a clear commitment to enhancing the district's appeal.

Hook Lighthouse Arrow Ceremony	Flowers for Magdalenes	New Ross Guitar Festival
St. Patrick's Day Parade	AIMS Choral Festival	Tri the Hook
President's Day	Fringe Fleadh	Baginbun Norman Festival
Walkability Audit	Summer Sessions	Duncannon Summer Festival
Kennedy Summer School	New Ross Piano Festival	Culture Night
Make Way Day	Heritage Week	Eugene O'Neill Festival
Halloween	Remembrance Day	Nollaig New Ross & Sensory Santa at The Tholsel

Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District delivered a lively programme of festivals showcasing its rich cultural heritage, artistic talent, and strong community spirit, further enhancing the district's appeal as a place to live, work, and visit.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations	Fleadh Cheoil Loch Garman – 2025	Rás na mBan
Mercyland Songwriting Festival	Gorey Market House Festival	Culture Night
Polska Éire Festival	The Gap Arts Festival	London – Wexford Association Buffet:
Gorey Yellow Belly Comedy Festival	A Very Gorey Halloween	Christmas in Gorey



Mercyland Songwriting Festival



Polska Éire Festival



London – Wexford Association Buffet:

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

St Patrick's Day celebrations took place across all Municipal Districts and were very well attended. Local businesses, community and sports groups, bands, and dance groups participated in family-friendly parades throughout the districts, celebrating creativity, community pride, and cultural heritage through a range of fun and inclusive themes.



Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Lights Switch-On events took place across all Municipal Districts, attracting large crowds and celebrating the festive season through inclusive, family-friendly community gatherings.

In **Enniscorthy**, a large crowd attended the Christmas Lights Switch-On, which featured festive entertainment from Santa and accompanying characters, local performers, and a parade to Market Square. Free children's face painting added to the celebratory atmosphere.

The **New Ross Municipal District** hosted its largest-ever Christmas Lights Switch-On event, successfully bringing festive spirit to the heart of the town and drawing strong community participation.

In **Gorey**, Santa Claus officially switched on the Christmas lights, arriving with Mrs Claus on an elevated sleigh and travelling along Main Street to greet children. The event attracted the largest crowd ever recorded for a switch-on in the town. Entertainment was provided by Buddy the Elf, Gorey Ukes, and local youth groups, with support from Gorey Gardaí ensuring a safe and enjoyable evening.

A key feature of the Gorey event was the introduction of a **dedicated sensory viewing area**, developed in collaboration with Creative Communities, Local Authorities Ireland, and Creative Ireland. This initiative ensured the event was accessible and inclusive, with designated viewing spaces and an access guide developed to support children and families. The access guide will inform best practice for future events across the county.

To further enhance the festive experience, the **"Most Festive Business" Christmas Window Competition** was launched in Gorey, encouraging local businesses to showcase seasonal displays and highlighting the town's shopping, food, and hospitality offering



Christmas Enniscorthy



Gorey Christmas Lights & Window Competition



Fleadh Cheoil Na hÉireann

The successful hosting of **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for a second year in 2025** was a major highlight for Wexford. This was especially evident with a record attendance of 800,000 people over the course of the event. **All municipal districts delivered Fringe Fleadh events**, creating countywide engagement and setting the tone for the main festival. The events demonstrated strong organisational capacity and delivered significant cultural, social, and economic benefits, supported by the dedicated efforts of Council staff, volunteers, partner agencies, and local communities.

The Roads Department, in collaboration with **Wexford Borough Council**, led the Traffic and Pedestrian Management strategy for Fleadh Cheoil Na hÉireann.

Wexford Borough District held a window display competition encouraging shops to dress their windows in the theme of “a sustainable and environmentally friendly design”.

The winners were:

- Best Pub Visual Display – Maggie Mays Bar
- Best Restaurant or Café Visual Display – Wexford Coffee Roasters
- Best Retail Visual Display – Krafted
- Best Other Venue Visual Display – The Dulla Centre, Ard Aoibhinn
- The overall winners were Fortunes Chemist.



Launching a highly successful Seisiún by the Sea in Morriscastle, drawing an excellent attendance **Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District**, set the tone for this series of events designed to spread the spirit of the Fleadh throughout County Wexford.

In total, five events were organised as part of the Fringe Festival, with performances and celebrations taking place in venues across the district. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly in relation to the geographical spread of events across the county and the strong involvement of local Comhaltas branches.

Enniscorthy Municipal District brought a vibrant series of events in towns and villages across the district in the lead-up to Fleadh Cheoil 2025, inviting everyone to Feel the Spirit of the Fleadh & Join the Celebration. Events took place across a range of indoor and outdoor venues.



A major success of the year for **New Ross Municipal District** was the return of the Fringe Fleadh. This innovative series staged traditional Irish music and dance performances at significant heritage sites throughout the district, including Dunbrody Abbey, Duncannon Fort, and the Hook Lighthouse. This initiative extended the cultural footprint of our events and connected audiences with our unique historical assets in a dynamic new way.

Rosslare Municipal District also held Fringe Fleadh Events including

- Blackwater Céilí Band in St Martins Community Centre
- Beartla Ó Flatharta Band & Supporting Acts in Our Ladys Island Community Centre

They also supported the formation of a Rosslare Municipal District Community Choir who performed their 7-piece act on the Gig Rig during the Fleadh 2025



The Volunteer Co-Ordinator, supported by the Community & Sports Active Team, co-ordinated the recruitment and training of over 1,000 volunteers for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2025.



Following the Fleadh, a Civic Reception, hosted by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Sullivan was held to honour the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Volunteers. Over 400 volunteers who had participated during the Fleadh were welcomed to County Hall to celebrate the valuable contribution made by the volunteers to the success of the week.

Our **IT Department** provided technical support and set up networks for the Fleadh office and competition sites, together with phones lines for volunteer and attendee supports.

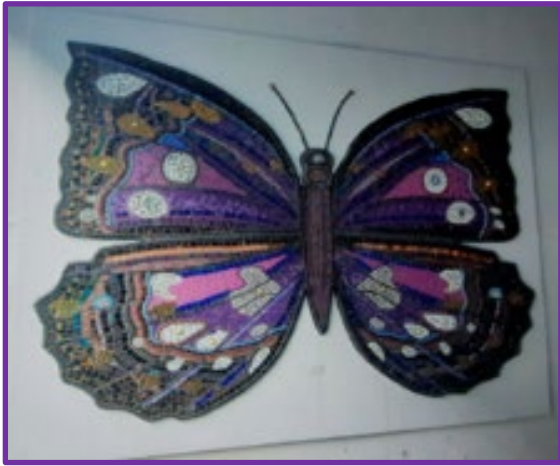
Fleadh Cheoil Loch Garman

For a second consecutive year, Wexford County Council and Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District proudly launched Fleadh Cheoil Loch Garman 2025 and Fringe Fleadh 2025 at a special event held in the Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey.



Wexford Municipal District - HIGHLIGHTS

Public Realm Improvements



Wexford Creative Laneways enhances the town through mosaic & painted artworks in partnership with **Wexford Tidy Towns**.

The “**Wings of Unity**” project transformed **Oak Lane**, making it more attractive & accessible.

The group won **Best New Group Entry** at the **Wexford Keep Beautiful Awards 2025**. The project was selected as Ireland’s **SeaLabHaus EU pilot**, securing mentoring support and EU networking opportunities in 2026.

Redmond Park

The Community Land Art Project, *Enchanted Ecologies* led by artist Mayumi Nakabayashi offered users of Redmond Park new ways to connect with the park through the biodiversity and natural materials found there. Mayumi delivered 14 workshops in the park throughout the year.



Community

The Amenity, Arts and Residents Association Grant Schemes provided 55 Amenity Grants (€53,250), 26 Arts Grants (€16,750), and 45 Residents Association Grants (€16,335), providing vital support to community, voluntary, and residents’ groups across the county.

Enniscorthy Municipal District - HIGHLIGHTS

St Johns Community Activity Garden

The Activity Garden was officially launched in September. The opening was performed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne T.D., supported by Minister Jennifer Murnane O’Connor T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy.



The Activity Garden was supported as a placement incentive by Wexford County Council's Culture and Creativity team and Age Friendly programme in partnership with the HSE, Creative Ireland, the Irish Architectural Foundation and Enniscorthy Men's Shed. Funding was provided through the Department of Rural and Community Development and Gaeltacht's Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The delivery of the Activity Garden has transformed an existing green space into a vibrant community hub that is safe, accessible and welcoming to people of all ages and abilities.

Pairc Na Gabhar, Bunclody

A development plan for the **Goats Field in Bunclody**, located between Termonbarry Housing Estate and the National School, was prepared following engagement between Wexford County Council and the local Community Development Group. A public consultation was held in **April**, and the proposal subsequently underwent redesign following planning feedback. A **revised Part 8 planning application** was lodged in **December 2025** and advertised on **31st December**.



Applications have been submitted for funding to the Community Recognition Fund Scheme and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

CCTV Schemes

The civil and electricity works on the Enniscorthy Town CCTV project are complete. The project is due to go live in early 2026.

Bunclody CCTV Scheme is awaiting approval from the Garda Commissioners Office.

Enniscorthy Walking Trails

Maintenance work on all walking trails continued throughout 2025. Work was carried out on the entrance to the Slaney Nature Trail to improve accessibility of this wonderful natural walking trail. In September Minister Dara Calleary announced funding under the ORIS Funding scheme for the Ringwood Lane Resurfacing Project and for the Blackstairs Recreation Trail Feasibility Study. Works are ongoing on design and planning to extend the trail network to link to the Ringwood and Borodale trails.

Vinegar Hill

Work continued on the production of two information panels for Vinegar Hill. The new panels will detail the experience of the battle of Vinegar Hill in 1798 in both Irish and English

Enniscorthy's New Community All Weather Astro Pitch

The official opening of the new All Weather Astro facility in Enniscorthy was performed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister James Browne and the Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Councillor Aidan Browne in February.

Wexford County Council signed a Management and Operations Contract, on a two-year pilot basis, with the newly formed community group, Wexford Football Alliance, which includes members of the Wexford Football League, Wexford Schoolboys League, Wexford Women's League including Schoolgirls and Wexford FC. The innovative approach of this facility is also supported by the FAI.



Tour de France Cycle City Officially Launched

In May the Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District Cllr. Aidan Browne officially launched the Tour de France Cycle City Label for Enniscorthy. The Cycle City label initiative was launched by the Tour de France in 2021 to support Municipal Authorities that have made commitments to supporting bicycle use, community engagement, environmental sustainability, and education. Enniscorthy was the first town in Ireland to achieve this status.



Pedal Together Project Officially Launched

Minister James Browne officially launched the county's first inclusive Bike Hub initiative, 'Pedal Together' project which includes adaptive cycles for rider of all abilities.

The hub, located at the Learn to Cyle Park in Enniscorthy, provides adaptive bikes tailored for children and adults with disability and mobility difficulties making cycling a possibility for all members of the community.

Murphy Floods Redevelopment

The Murphy Floods Car Park opened to the public in August. The car park offers 37 parking spaces including 3 accessible parking bays for residents, visitors and businesses in the town.



Shopfront Painting & Flower Grant Scheme

This Scheme supported improvements to the external appearance of business premises across the district. A total of 75 businesses benefited from the scheme, with grants of €300 for shopfront painting and €150 under the Flower Grant Scheme, at a total cost of €13,268.

Recreation and Amenity Grants

The role of community groups in the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in the Enniscorthy District has long been recognised by Wexford County Council. In 2025 the Enniscorthy Municipal District further supported these worthy organisations by awarding funding in excess of €58,000 to local groups under the Amenity & Arts Grants Scheme 2025.

The Enniscorthy Municipal District also administered funding to Residents Associations to assist with planting and general estate improvements. €13,200 was given to Residents Associations throughout the district.

Enniscorthy Castle & 1798 Centre

The heritage sites of **Enniscorthy Castle**, **The National 1798 Rebellion Centre**, and **Vinegar Hill** continue to play an important role in supporting cultural engagement, heritage interpretation, and community participation within Enniscorthy and Wexford.

The popular **Santa's Enchanted Christmas in the 1798 Centre** saw 2773 visitors attending. The experience included **Sensory Tours** which were provided to accommodate visitors with additional needs by adjusting lighting, sound levels, and visitor numbers to create a more accessible environment. We also hosted "**Santa Paws**," a pet-friendly event that welcomed families and their pets to meet Santa.

A total number of 9,128 visitors came to Enniscorthy Castle in 2025 with 5,927 visitors recorded for the 1798 Centre.



Presentation Arts Centre

The visual arts programme saw a total of 31 visual artists from across Wexford and Ireland given support through exhibition opportunities, curatorial advice and funding guidance. A further 444 performance artists were supported through theatre shows and concerts. Exhibition launch attendees and overall gallery visitors reached 797 total. Meanwhile, events saw a total audience number of 2547



throughout the year. The centre supported over 647 rentals supporting local groups, workshop facilitators and artists. The centre also hosted 96 Council meetings and events.

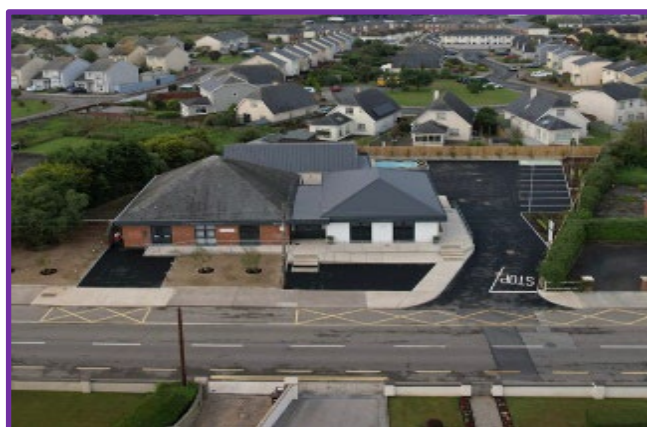
Rosslare Municipal District - HIGHLIGHTS

The Bank Community & Enterprise Hub

Located in the former Bank of Ireland building in Rosslare Harbour, this was completed and opened to the public in February, with the official opening conducted by Minister Dara Calleary in December. The project was delivered by Rosslare Municipal District in partnership with the Rosslare Harbour Development Board, supported by funding of €400,000 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and €256,665 through the Community Recognition Fund. The hub provides hot desks for remote working, office spaces, meeting rooms and other community facilities.



Minister Dara Calleary opening The Bank Community & Enterprise Hub



Youth Adds Value Project

Rosslare Municipal District set up a pilot initiative with Transition Year Students in Bridgetown College called “Youth Adds Value”. The aim of the initiative was to get the young people to come up with project ideas for the area.. The projects chosen were the installation of a pedestrian crossing from the Community Park to the shop, basketball court, Zebra crossing, picnic benches in the park, lights on astro pitch, community seating area, flower beds. A huge well done to all the students and teachers involved in this pilot project, for the impact they have made to their local community.



Getting Projects Shovel Ready Training Programme

The programme concluded in March 2025 with 8 community groups from the district represented. The aim of this training programme was to provide community groups with the relevant skills and information to assist them with developing plans for their areas and to ensure that they would be “shovel ready” when the relevant funding announcements are made.



Participants in the Getting Projects Shovel Ready Programme

Kilrane Boys

The unveiling of the memorial stones for the Kilrane Boys was attended by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Jim Codd, An Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ger Cathy as well as Minister James Browne TD and An Ceann Comhairle Verona Murphy. Several descendants of the Kilrane Boys attended the event, as did Mr. Juan Taccetti, Consular General, from the Argentinian Embassy and Mr. John Redmond, who spent 4 years working in the Irish Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Grant Schemes

Town & Village Renewal Fund

Carrig on Bannow Community Park —develop a community park in Carrig on Bannow to include a playground, walking track, playing field, sensory garden, picnic area and car park. - €247,590

Town & Village Building & Land Acquisition Measure

- Duncormick – purchase of old schoolhouse for community use - €80,000
- Taghmon – purchase of land adjoining TAG centre to allow future development of existing community resource campus - €80,000

Community Centre Investment Fund - Ballymittitty Community Centre – build a new Community Centre - €1,398,035

Community Recognition Fund

- Our Lady's Island GAA Club – New Community Gym - €144,990
- Rosslare Harbour Development Board CLG – The Bank - €56,665
- St Marys Day Care Centre – upgrade and renovation - €52,900

Community Monument Fund

- Killag Church – conservation repairs of €130,000
- Ballycogley Castle – conservation repairs of €100,000
- Lady's Island Castle – small scale works €29,908
- Kilmannan Graveyard Wall – emergency repairs €30,000

Historic Structures Fund - Rathaspeck Church – repairs to roof, rainwater goods and windows - €100,620

RRDF - Europe's Gateway to Ireland – Rosslare's Sustainable Tourism Experience –to get project shovel ready - €1,000,000



Cllr. Ger Carthy, Rosslare Municipal District & Mr Juan Taccetti, Consular General, Argentinian Embassy

ORIS

- Rosslare Harbour Cliff Walk Restoration - €35,905
- Taghmon-Carrigfoyle Cycle Trail - €36,000
- Our Lady's Island to Carne Phase 3 – €500,000
- Wellingtonbridge to Little Sea Trail - €200,000

Fishguard & Goodwick

On 1 November, a twinning agreement was formally concluded between Rosslare Municipal District and Fishguard & Goodwick, signed by the Cathaoirleach of the Rosslare Municipal District, Cllr. Ger Carthy, and the Mayor of Fishguard & Goodwick, Cllr. William Shaw.



Cllr. William Shaw, Mayor of Fishguard & Goodwick, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cathaoirleach Rosslare Municipal District & Cllr. Jim Codd



Bridgetown Students visit to Dunkirk

Twinning - This year's student exchange between Bridgetown College and Lycée de l'Europa, Dunkirk



Dunkirk Students visit to Wexford County Council

Blue Flags

A total of seven Blue Flags were awarded to Co. Wexford, three of which are in the Rosslare District. Carne & Rosslare Strand retained their Blue Flag, whilst Kilmore Quay retained its Blue Flag Marina for 2025. Eight Green Coast Awards were awarded to Wexford with four in the Rosslare District; Rosslare Harbour Beach, St. Helens Bay, Ballyhealy and Cullenstown Strand.

Green Flags

Community Green Flags were awarded to four parks in the Rosslare Municipal District at a ceremony held in November at Maynooth University, presented by Minister of State Jerry Buttimer.

- Foulksmills Park
- Rosslare Harbour Memorial Park and Gardens
- Murrintown Community Park
- Our Lady's Island Community Park



New Ross Municipal District - HIGHLIGHTS

Duncannon Fort Renovation

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme project at Duncannon Fort (**€500,000**), has reached a pivotal stage of completion, with substantial works successfully completed. This initiative has sensitively refurbished three key historic buildings, securing their fabric and adapting them for future public use.

Cushinstown

The Cushinstown TVR project (**€250,000**), continues to make headway, with construction on the new men's shed completed and internal fitout ongoing, and the restoration of a stone heritage building underway. Groundworks will commence once weather permits, with the project being fully finished by April 2026.

Rathgarogue TVR2023

The Rathgarogue TVR project is also advancing, with tenders currently being sought for installing underground service ducting before proceeding to tender for the construction works. This project is being delivered concurrently with a major Sports Capital Grant on the same site, maximising the impact and utility of the entire site. **€500,000 – works ongoing**

Quay Street Pedestrianisation RF0245

The Quay Street pedestrianisation project remains a cornerstone of the town's revitalisation efforts. Following an unsuccessful tender, direct quotes were sought for design & construction of the project, with Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers being appointed in Q2 2025. Their design proposals were approved by the elected members in December, and the project is now advancing to the construction tender stage. This next step moves us closer to creating a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly hub that will better connect the town centre to the South East Greenway. **€864,884.72**

CCTV Project

Phase 1 of the district's CCTV scheme is now complete and operational, with 42 cameras successfully installed at strategic locations throughout the town. Relevant footage is accessible from the Gardaí upon request. District staff, along with J&N Security Consultants Ltd., are currently preparing the final submission for approval to advance with Phase 2 of the scheme.

Motorhome Park

A planning application (LAC2502) was submitted, however a further environmental assessment was requested by the NPWS on this Natura 2000 site. A detailed Environmental Impact Statement will be compiled for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála in early 2026.

New Ross Courthouse Project

An application under the 2025 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, for the renovation of the old Courthouse building in New Ross has been submitted.

Outdoor Biodiversity Classroom

€17,000 funding was secured from the Biodiversity Officer to revamp the outdoor classroom in Pearse Park.

St Stephen's Cemetery Digitalisation Project

Mapping and digitalisation of the cemetery records is ongoing. A new online system provided by specialist company PlotBox is now live. This system will improve efficiency and record-keeping for the community.

Official Openings

Significant investment continued in the regeneration of New Ross through the delivery of two key public realm projects: Brennan's Lane and The Shambles. Both projects reflect a strong commitment to revitalising historic urban spaces and enhancing community amenity.

The refurbishment of **Brennan's Lane** was supported by a €500,000 grant from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, complemented by match funding from Wexford County Council, with the support of its elected members. This combined funding resulted in a total investment of €891,000. The project was officially opened in April.





The Shambles, one of New Ross's most historic locations, was reopened in December following an extensive regeneration programme that transformed the derelict site into a high-quality community and events space. Funding for the project was provided through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, alongside additional contributions from Wexford County Council, supported by its elected members.

Both projects were formally opened by **Minister Dara Calleary T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht**, and demonstrate the value of collaborative working between national and local government in delivering sustainable town centre regeneration.

Achievements & Awards

Green Flag Award

New Ross celebrated as two parks once again secured prestigious Green Flag Awards, Pearse Park and Library Park. This award is a recognition of excellence in park management, environmental standards, and visitor facilities.

Excellence in Local Government Awards Shortlisting

In September, the Great New Ross Riverwalk was shortlisted for an Excellence in Local Government Awards in the Supporting Sustainable Communities category.

Gorey - Kilmuckridge Municipal District - HIGHLIGHTS

Gorey Market House Thrive Project

The Gorey Market House Thrive Project is supported by **€7 million in funding** from the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027, with a further **€2 million** in match funding from Wexford County Council.

During the year, the project achieved significant national and European recognition, featuring at a range of high-profile events where senior council staff shared learning from the project and its application of New European Bauhaus principles, reinforcing Gorey Market House as an exemplar of heritage-led, sustainable town centre regeneration.

East Coast Sports & Activity Hub (St. Waleran's)

Following the 2024 announcement of **€4.9 million** in funding for this project, work has continued to advance the project to the next funding gateway.

Community Enhancement 2025 Highlights

Amenity & Arts and Residents' Association Grants totalling **€123,000** were allocated to **177** community groups across the Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District. Funded projects included small-scale village improvements, community development initiatives, promotion of local heritage and the arts, landscaping and planting works, and improvements to community facilities and the appearance of private housing estates.

In addition, **€185,000** was allocated under District Development Funding, comprising **€75,000** under the Members' Community Capital Works Grant Scheme and **€110,000** under the Members' Discretionary Grant Funding Scheme.

Roundabouts:

A substantial body of work was done to increase the visual amenity of the roundabouts around Gorey town this year. Roundabouts, particularly those on the outskirts of a town, act as a modern gateway and are the first glimpse that people have of the town's presentation.

Designing a Landmark for Gorey

The **Tubberduff Roundabout** has been transformed into a landmark welcome feature for Gorey, creating a strong sense of arrival for those entering the town from the Dublin direction. The design, developed through collaboration between the community, local business and Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District staff, reflects pride of place and partnership working.



The planting layout is based on the mapped outline of Gorey town and incorporates a resilient, low-maintenance planting scheme in the town's colours, ensuring year-round visual interest. A sustainable wooden welcome sign forms the centrepiece of the roundabout, providing a distinctive and welcoming gateway to Gorey.

Visiting Dignitaries

The Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E., Dennis King, met with local officials in Carnew and Gorey and attended a series of engagements to explore the enduring historic and cultural connections between these communities and Canada.

Mr King has become a strong advocate for enhancing bilateral ties through diplomacy, culture and trade. The visit, arranged by Deputy Malcolm Byrne highlighted the deep and long-standing relationship between Ireland and Canada.

Mr King was also welcomed to the town by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr.

Donal Kenny and local elected representatives with a Civic Reception at Gorey Civic Offices, where he was invited to sign the distinguished visitors' book.



FLEADH CHEOIL NA hÉIREANN 2025

The Comhaltas Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025 was held in Wexford town, for its second and final run, from August 3rd to 10th.

Officially opened by Uachtarán na hÉireann Michael D. Higgins to an estimated 100,000 people, the crowds were almost double that of the 2024 opening ceremony. It was clear that 2025 was going to be bigger and better, from the very start.

For the second year in a row, the sun came out in force for the duration of the festival, and the streets of Wexford Town were packed with music, life and the unmistakable sound of joy and laughter. Conservative estimates put the number of visitors at over 800,000 for the week, a significant increase on 2024.

Another successful Guinness World Record was achieved during this year's event – for the World's Largest Ceili Band. The event took place in Wexford Park on 7th August, with 1,018 participants involved. Unsurprisingly, given the previous year's success, the Tin Whistle was the most popular instrument on the day!



There was an expectation and a drive to ensure year 2025's event outshone the previous year, and the overwhelming feedback is that this was achieved. Hundreds of people and thousands of hours went into making the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann a safe, enjoyable and accessible event for the thousands of people – from tiny tots to the young at heart – who travelled from all over Ireland and abroad to join us in the world's largest celebration of Irish traditional culture. We even had an unexpected visit from Ed Sheeran!

There was an overwhelming sense of pride among the organisers of the Fleadh – a multi-disciplinary team incorporating the efforts of An Garda Síochana, the HSE, the Public Transport providers, Wexford County Council, Logistics, Health and Safety experts and Security advisors that the event achieved the highest standards two years in a row.

The event finished on the Sunday night in a blaze of fireworks with the much-anticipated Senior Céilí Band competition and an official handover ceremony to our friends in Belfast for 2026. Loch Garman Abú!



STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

The SPC system strengthens focus and enhances capacity for participation in policy formulation, review, and evaluation. It incorporates the expertise of relevant sectoral interests and is supported by the Director of Services

The SPC prepares policy proposals and groundwork, which are then considered and formally decided upon by full Council, including where appropriate, at Municipal District level.

Sectoral representation includes trade unions, the construction federation, environmental groups, community and voluntary organisations and the business community. At least one third of the SPC's membership must be drawn from sectors relevant to its work.

Collectively, these representatives constitute at least one-third of the SPC membership.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair, Councillor Frank Staples

There were 4 Planning and Building Control SPC Meetings held in 2025:

📅 28th April, 3rd July, 1st September and 24th November.

Members:

Cllr. Frank Staples - Chairperson	Cllr. Anthony Donohoe	Cllr. Garry Laffan
Cllr. Michael Sheehan	Cllr. Craig Doyle	Cllr. Pat Barden
Cllr. Ray Shannon	Anthony Neville	Mary Browne
Catherine Murray*	Sean Joyce	John Kirwan
Patrick Rochford		

*Catherine Murray replaced Ned Lyng as Agricultural Representative in October 2025.

The key items discussed during 2025 were as follows:

- Development Contributions Scheme Review and Draft Scheme 2026-2029
- Planning and Development Act 2024 Implementation
- National Planning Framework – Housing Growth Targets
- County Development Plan – Core Strategy Updates
- Local Area Plans
- Marine Planning Framework
- Heritage Updates
- Taking in Charge Programme Updates
- Building Control Updates
- E-Planning Updates
- Town Centre First Updates
- Derelict Property Updates

COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair, Councillor Darragh McDonald

There were 3 Community and Rural Affairs SPC Meetings held in 2025:

📅 25th March, 11th September and 20th November.

Members:

Cllr. Daragh McDonald	Cllr. AoifeRose O'Brien	Cllr. Frank Staples
Cllr. Marty Murphy	Cllr. Aidan Browne	Cllr. Nicky Boland
Michael Wall (Trade Union Pillar)	Elizabeth McDonald (Agriculture Pillar)	
Peter O'Connor (Community and Voluntary Rep.)	John Waters (Social Inclusion Rep.)	

Summary of issues discussed:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 25 th March, 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Draft Standing Orders▪ Presentations by Department / Section Heads▪ Discussion on the workplan was deferred pending clarification. |
| 11 th September, 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Economic and Community Monitor presentation▪ Library Development Plan – public consultation▪ Workplan – list of policy items presented▪ Schedule of meetings approved for 2025/6▪ Update on Sports Active Strategy▪ Draft Development Contribution Scheme Public Consultation for noting |

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Members:

Cllr. Jim Codd - Chairperson	Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy	Cllr. John Dwyer
Cllr. John O'Rourke	Cllr. Tom Forde	Cllr. Vicky Barron
Cllr. Mary Farrell	Cllr. Joe Sullivan	Mr. Michael Wall, Trade Union Rep.
Ms. Ruth Fitzmaurice, PPN Representative	Mr. Douglas Taylor, Construction Federation of Ireland Representative.	

There were five Housing SPC meetings held in 2025.

📅 27th February, 2nd April, 4th June, 3rd September, 5th November

Among the policies and programmes discussed by the Committee during the year were the following:

- Role of the SPC

- Homeless Support and Services
- Modular Homes
- Allocation Policy
- Approved Housing Bodies
- Housing disability services
- Housing Maintenance Policy adopted

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

There was a total of 3 Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meetings in 2025

📅 May, October & December

Members

Cllr. John Flemming - Chairperson	Cllr. Leonard Kelly	Cllr. Michael Sheehan
Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh	Cllr. Robbie Staples	Cllr. Donal Kenny
Cllr. Joe Sullivan	Cllr. Ger Carthy	John Kelly: Farming Pillar
Michael Bennett: Development/Construction Sector	Ernest Levingston: Business/Commercial Sector	Paula Roche: CEO County Wexford Chamber
Stephen Murphy: Trade Union Connect*	Roisin Markham: PPN - Environmental	Jamie Williams: PPN - Social Inclusion

*Stephen Murphy, Trade Union Connect, replaced Kevin Mellin, Forsa

During 2025 some key topics/themes were as follows:

- Implementation of Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2029
- 2027 European Year of the Normans programme
- Wexford Destination and Experience Development Plan 2025 -2030
- Transatlantic ties - Georgia Southern University & sister city Savannah
- County Wexford Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan 2026 – 2028
- Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2024 & 2025
- Invest Wexford
- Property Solutions
- Local Enterprise Office Policy Statement 2024 – 2030
- Local Enterprise Office – The 10-year impact (2014 - 2024)
- Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Dates for the Transportation SPC in 2025 were as follows:

📅 30th April, 7th November

The Transportation SPC has yet to adopt a work plan

Typical policy and items of discussion would be

- Update on major road projects such as Oilgate to Rosslare By-pass
- Maintenance of the county road network
- Public Lighting Projects
- Parking Operations
- Road Safety
- Speed Limits
- Active Travel initiatives
- Public Transport

Members:

Cllr. Brídín Murphy - Chairperson	Cllr. Pip Breen	Cllr. Jim Codd
Cllr. Ger Carthy	Cllr. Oliver Walsh	Cllr. Mary Farrell
Emer Ward (Trade Union)	Brian Byrne (CIF), Cleary & Doyle Construction Ltd	
Brendan Crowley MD, Wexford Bus		

CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Members:

Cllr. Barbara-Anne Murphy - Chair	Cllr. Lisa Mc Donald	Cllr. Jackser Owens
Cllr. Pat Kehoe	Cllr. Leonard Kelly	Cllr. Marty Murphy
Cllr. Patricia Byrne	Cllr. Catherine Walsh	Cllr. Aidan Browne
Jer O' Mahony (Agriculture)	J.P. Doyle (Construction)	Mary B. Walsh (Business)
Joe Ryan (Union)	Natasha Ariff (PPN)	Cathy Lee (PPN)

There were four meetings in 2025.

📅 4th April, 4th July, 26th September and 28th November.

The following items were discussed.

- Introduction & Overview of CCBDENV Dept.

- Dog Pound & Dog Breeders
- Slurry Spreading
- Smokey Fuel Inspections
- Biodiversity Action Plan & Funding
- Septic Tanks
- Litter Fines/CCTV Use/Illegal Dumping
- KIMO International Reports and Membership
- 2025 RMCEI Inspection Plan
- Designated Areas for Election Posters

Climate Action Update & Programme

- Biodiversity Matters Update and 4th National Biodiversity Plan
- Coastal Matters Update & Seaview Coastal Protection Scheme
- Our Lady's Island Lake Update, EPA Report & Collapsing Eco System
- Motion regarding Establishing Designated Areas for Election Posters
- Walking Trails, Wexford Mountain Areas and Related Issues
- Noise Management Issues, RMCEI Inspections & Noise Action Plan Working Group
- Annual Service Delivery Plan and SPC Work Programme
- Election Posters Update
- Biodiversity Plan and Draft actions
- New Ross Explosive Bye-Laws
- Water Matters incl. Our Lady's Island Update
- Waste Management Matters incl. CCTV
- Environment Education & Awareness, Activities & Events
- SPC Annual Works Programme 2026
- Coastal Matters Update
- Climate Action Update
- Report on Public Consultation for Use of CCTV
- NEPS Report 2024
- Our Lady's Island Lake Update

CORPORATE

Public Sector Duty

One of Wexford County Council's guiding principles in the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 is a commitment to the elimination of discrimination, the promotion of equality and protection of human rights for our service-users, employees, elected members and policy beneficiaries. Based on this commitment, we implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty as an integral part of our ongoing work across the organisation.

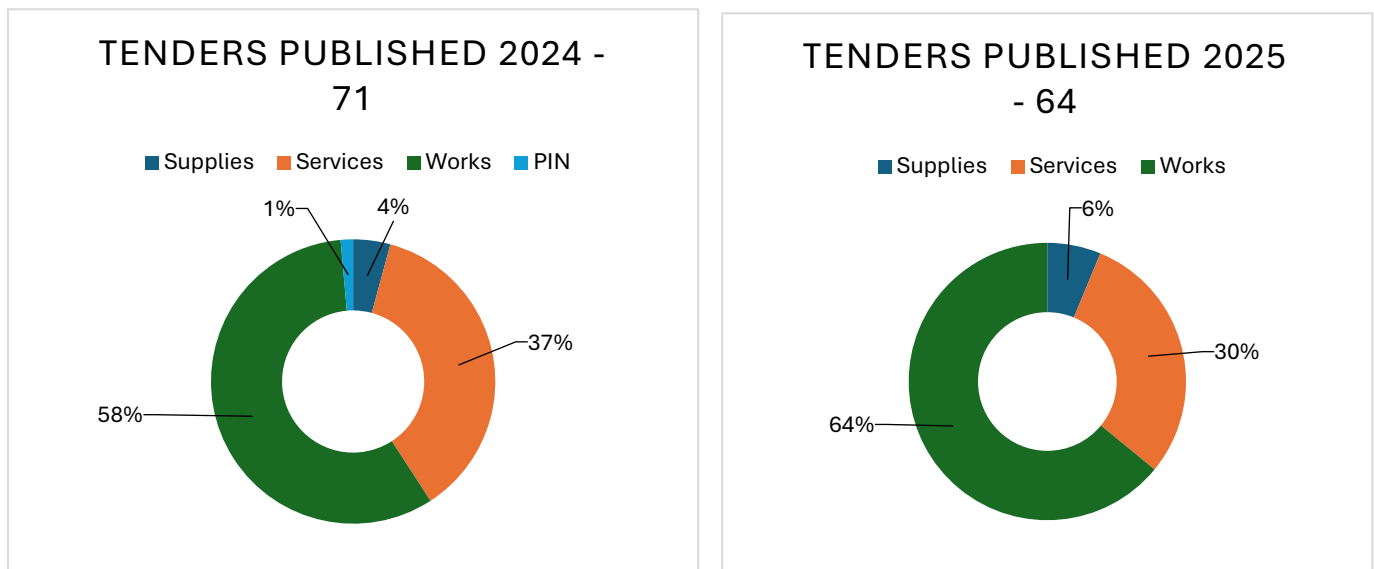
In April 2025 the Implementation Plan was approved by the Management Team.

Several Designated Contact Persons have been trained. They play a key role in dealing with harassment, which covers the nine grounds of discrimination.

A webpage dedicated to the Duty was established on the Wexford County Council website.

A response to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commissions Public Sector Duty Monitoring Portal was submitted and acknowledged on 25th March 2025.

Procurement



FOI

Type	Number of Requests 2025	Number of Requests 2024
FOI Requests	130	139
Formal Complaints	40	27
Customer Complaint	372	224
Ombudsman Complaints	22	24
AIE Requests	9	15
Data Access Request	8	14
Total	581	443

Customer Service Unit

2025 Statistics

Emails	Phone Calls Handled	Website Edits
35,977	38,099	687

Housing, the CSU validates all Housing Applications and Change in Circumstance forms, logs all Housing Maintenance requests, and processes Homeless Service presentations.

Housing Applications Processed	Change in Circumstance Forms
1,564	336

Environment, 4469 cases were processed by CSU in 2025

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

Reporting Period: Year Ended 31st December 2025	
The number of Protected Disclosures made to Wexford County Council	1
The Action (if any) taken in response to those Protected Disclosures	N/A
Such other information relating to these protected disclosures and the action taken as may be requested by the Minister from time to time	N/A

Wexford County Council can confirm that Internal & External reporting channels and procedures are in place.

Wexford Women Together

Nollaig na mBan was celebrated by Wexford Women Together and were joined by staff of Wexford County Council to mark the day.

An event was held in Wexford County Council HQ to launch of Wexford Women Together (formerly the Women's Coalition) and to mark the historic occasion of there being eight female elected members on our Council.

A new strategy and action plan has been formulated, setting out core goals and objectives to inspire and empower women in Wexford to take part in everyday community life, whether that is through local activism, civic engagement or putting a name on a ballot paper. The goal is to increase the number of women involved in politics, starting at local government level.



Wexford Women Together

Left to Right:

Councillors Lisa McDonald,
Vicky Barron,
Aoife Rose O'Brien,
Barbara Anne Murphy (Chairperson of
Wexford Women Together),
Bridin Murphy,
Patricia Byrne,
Catherine Walsh,
and Mary Farrell.

Franchise Section

Work commenced on the Local Government Electoral Registration System which is being introduced to modernise how Ireland's electoral registers are managed and maintained.

This work is being carried out as part of a National Programme to:

- Improve accuracy and integrity
- Remove duplicate and outdated information
- Enable better data checks by capturing individuals' unique identifiers such as PPSNs, date of birth and Eircode's

The reforms are grounded in the Electoral Reform Act 2022, which modernised electoral registration law, enabling continuous registration, data sharing for identity checks, and the creation of the shared system LGERS.

Electoral and Register of Electors Activity

The Presidential Election took place in October 2025 which resulted in exceptional numbers of applications to register and update elector details on the Register of Electors.

Staff in the Franchise Section processed 5,197 applications during the year, requiring 14,285 individual transactions to be carried out in the Register Management IT System, iReg.

Local Electoral Areas	Local Government Electors
Enniscorthy	23,132
Gorey	23,017
Kilmuckridge	15,102
New Ross	23,581
Rosslare	18,646
Wexford	23,857
	127,335

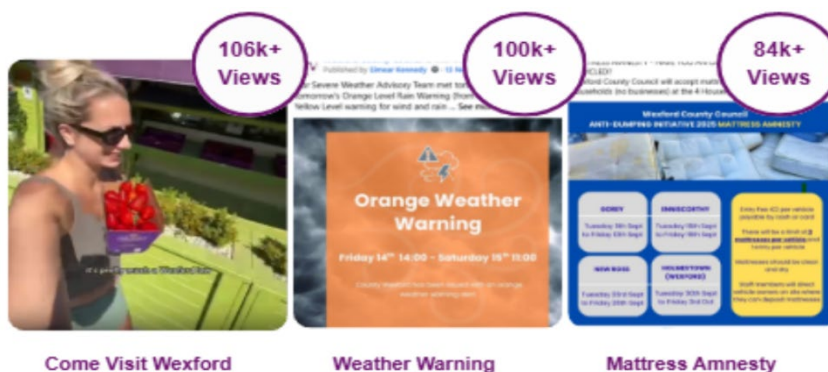
Communications

The Communications Team centrally manages content and the development of Wexford County Council's social media channels. 2025 saw continuous growth in followers across our main social media platforms.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann dominated socials during the summer with a surprise visit from Ed Sheeran topping the most views for a single Fleadh post at 100k.



Top 3 posts for 2025



The Communications Office also coordinates media interactions for the Council, including:

- Promoting the Council's achievements to the national and international media.
- Engaging with and responding promptly to journalist enquiries
- During 2025, 76 Press Releases were issued. More than 150 media queries were also received and responses issued.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

Corporate Services through the Irish Language Officer continued to support the delivery of services through the Irish language under the Official Languages Acts 2003 & 2021 and other legislation.

Wexford County Council adhered to its compliance obligations under Section 10(1A) of the Official Languages Act, which states that 20% of advertising placed by a public body must be in Irish and that 5% of a public body's overall advertising budget must be spent on Irish-language media. Wexford County Council achieved **51.23%** in terms of placement and **4.92%** in relation to the budget requirement.

Medium 2025	20% Audit Average	Spend
Print - Press/Magazine	19.96	
Social Media	19.75	
Radio	16.42	
Digital Display	100	
Television	100	
Indicative Average	51.23	
Total Spend		€220,256.59
Ad-Spend in Irish Language Media		€10837
% Spend Through Irish Language Media (Requirement under Act – 5%)		5%

HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOUSING DELIVERY

Wexford County Council has an ambitious 5-year capital programme under the **Housing For All Action Plan**. 155% delivery was achieved under our housing for all targets in 2024. This was exceeded in 2025 where we met 182% of the annual target. We are hopeful with approved and proposed projects, that we will surpass annual targets for the rest of the programme years.

Part V (Private & LDA)	Existing LA Landbank	LA Turnkey Development	LA Leasing	AHB CALF	AHB CAS	Total Homes delivered	DHLGH TARGET	Target V's Delivery
52	72	91	3	115	11	344	189	+155

AHB Forum - The aim of the Forum is to promote co-operation and develop partnership opportunities between Wexford County Council and Approved Housing Bodies to achieve our shared objective to deliver and manage homes for individuals and families who need support in meeting their accommodation needs.

Key Achievements in - Housing Delivery 2025

- 497 tenancies allocated – 352 local authority and 145 AHB.
- 52 new homes delivered through Part V.
- 126 homes delivered in partnership with AHBs through CALF and CAS in 2025
- 532 homes delivered in partnership with AHBs through CALF and CAS since Housing for All commenced in 2022.
- 175 new HAP units.
- 28 new RAS units.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE

Wexford County Council manages a housing stock of 5,290 Council owned housing units as at the end of December 2025. In addition, 180 leased units including Repair & Leasing are managed.

Key Achievements in 2025 - Housing Maintenance

- 9,210 Repair requests addressed at year end.

ENERGY RETROFITTING

The Housing Maintenance Section completed energy upgrades to 120 properties. The range of works included external wall and attic/wall insulation, new doors, new windows, blocking of fireplaces, low energy lighting and heat pumps. All properties received a minimum of a B2 BER rating once works were completed.

HOMELESS PREVENTION AND SUPPORTS

The Homeless Support and Services Unit plays a key role in the prevention of homelessness in the county.

This is a collaborative initiative by Wexford County Council working in partnership with the HSE and Focus Ireland.

The figures below represent the total number of calls to the HSSU - it is not reflective of the number of individuals/families as quite often the same client may make multiple calls to the HSSU.

There were 1,442 calls to the HSSU from 1st January to 31st December 2025, see below:	
1049 (73%)	Provided with advice and support in relation to housing and homeless prevention
155 (11%)	Supported with temporary, short, medium and long-term accommodation and tenancy sustainment support through Place Finder and Social Care Workers
222 (15%)	Ineligible at the time presentation for housing/homeless services. HSSU advised and assisted to regularise housing situation.
16 (1%)	It was not possible to complete a full assessment.

ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

Key achievements during the year include:

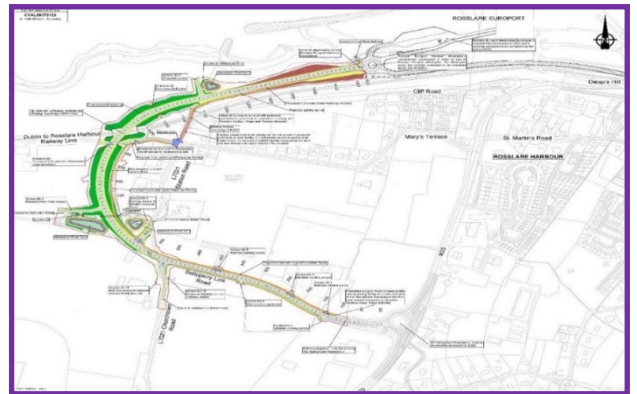
- Progress on major strategic road schemes linking Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour and improving access to Rosslare Europort on the N11 and N25.
- Continued maintenance of national primary & secondary roads supported by a grant allocation of **€1.8m**
- Completion of **106 km** of surface dressing and 84 km of road restoration works on local and regional roads.
- Expansion of the Winter Maintenance Programme to cover nearly **500 km** of national, regional and local roads across five salting routes.
- Just 1 Life Road Safety Programme was chosen as best Community Transport Initiative for the Local Authority Members Association's Community & Council Awards 2025.
- **€4.8m** in Active Travel funding drawn down to support sustainable transport initiatives.
- Progression of **24 Active Travel Schemes**, including cycle routes and safe routes to school projects.
- Continued growth of Wexford Local Link Service with passenger numbers increasing by 11% since 2024 to 453,000 trips in 2025.
- Completion of **8 Community Involvement Schemes**, supported by **€614,350** in grant funding, improving 8 rural lanes and approximately 22,763m² of road surface.

MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS

N25 Rosslare Europort Access Road (REAR)

The REAR Scheme forms a key component of the ongoing multi-modal transport investment at Rosslare Europort. The scheme will link the N25 directly to Iarnród Éireann's new port access infrastructure.

The project has progressed through Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) of the TII Project Management Guidelines, during 2025.



N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour

The **31 km route** from Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour together with the REAR, forms a critical strategic transport corridor linking Ireland with Europe and the UK.

During 2025 the project progressed through Phase 3 – Design & Environmental Evaluation in preparation for planning consent. The scheme includes:

- A new River Slaney crossing north of Wexford Town
- A mainline rail crossing
- Four major junction interchanges
- Multiple ancillary crossing structures.
- Active Travel infrastructure along the route is under detailed design
- The site for an on-line service area has been selected and is at design phase

NATIONAL ROADS

Pavement and safety schemes completed:

1. N30 South of Clonroche Safety Scheme (Leeches Bend) costing **€0.61m**
2. N25 Ballykillane to Ashfield Cross Phase 2 costing **€2.38m**

In addition, **€823,000** was allocated to essential maintenance works on the N11, N25, N30 and N80 national routes.

NON-NATIONAL ROADS - (REGIONAL & LOCAL)

€24.3m in grant funding was secured from the DoT for the maintenance and improvement of non-national roads. A total of **190 km** of roads were upgraded under the restoration improvement and maintenance programmes.

Restoration Improvement

Restoration improvement works strengthen existing pavements before resurfacing and resealing.

- €13.54m invested
- 84 km of regional and local roads improved
- Represents 2.4% of the network.
- Equivalent to a 1 in 41-year treatment cycle

At a number of locations, existing road materials were reused and recycled to minimise transport requirements and support climate and sustainability objectives.



Restoration Maintenance

Restoration maintenance works, commonly referred to as surface dressing, are carried out to extend the life of road surfaces.

- €3.109m invested
- 106 km of roads treated
- 3% of the network improved

Bridge Maintenance

The annual bridge maintenance programme saw **17 bridges** repaired or upgraded across the county during the year, supported by **€690,000** grant allocation.

Specific Improvement Grant

Six projects were progressed under the Specific Improvement Grant of **€651,500**, as follows: -

- R733 Embankment Repairs, Wellingtonbridge – stabilisation and drainage works.
- Deeps Bridge – completion of remediation works.
- Edermine Bridge – consultants appointed to progress bridge inspections and the design of remediation repairs.
- Wexford Bridge – consultants appointed to progress bridge inspections and the design of remediation repairs.
- Kildavin Bridge – consultants appointed to progress bridge inspections and the design of remediation repairs.
- R733 Safety Improvement Project – junction improvement, linemarking and driver awareness signage.

Climate Adaptation & Resilience

A further **23 climate adaptation schemes** were completed across the county using **€700,000** in grant funding. These works included drainage improvements, stormwater management and pavement resilience works.

ROAD SAFETY

Safety Improvement Schemes

13 low-cost safety schemes were delivered across the county, including:

- Pedestrian crossings
- Junction improvement measures
- Sightline improvements
- Driver awareness signage

Safety Schemes under the Active Travel Programme

An extensive programme of pavement, footpaths and pedestrian crossing upgrades was undertaken countywide in 2025.

Road Safety Initiatives

Wexford County Council's **Just 1 Life Safe Programme** was chosen as the best Community Transport Initiative at the Local Authority Members Association's Community & Council Awards 2025.



National Speed Limit Review

Phase 1 of the National Speed Limit Review is complete. The new Rural Speed Limit of 60km/h came into effect on the 7th of February 2025. This involved the installation of approx. 1,000 new poles and 2,000 speed limit signs.

The default speed limit of 80km/h was reduced to 60km/h on 3,000 kilometres of our Non-National County Roads.

Phase 2 of the National Speed Limit Review (Urban Speed Limits) is currently underway, and the assessment process is ongoing. New Bye Laws necessary for the implementation of the new Urban 30km/h speed limits will be in place by the end of 2026

ACTIVE TRAVEL

A total of **€4,806,456** was spent in 2025 on Active Travel projects consisting of new pedestrian crossings, new and upgraded footpaths, public lighting, junction upgrades, bus shelters, safe routes to school-works and Local Transport Plans for Enniscorthy and Wexford Town.

Active Travel Works completed 2025			
New footpaths	2956m	Pedestrian Crossings	36
Upgraded existing footpaths	729m	New public lighting columns	58
Junction tightening / upgrade	23	Bus stop shelters	8

Safe Routes to School Projects

- Ballaghkeene National School
- Kiltale National School
- Enniscorthy Vocational Community College
- Ballyroebuck National School

These initiatives aim to improve child safety, promote active travel and reduce congestion around school gates.

Pathfinder Projects – Cycle and Walking Schemes

The pathfinder programme supports implementation of the National Sustainable Mobility Policy

Active travel schemes included routes:

- From Barntown Roundabout to Wygram
- From Newlands Hospital Junction through to Beechlawn to Clonard
- From Drinagh Roundabout through Roxborough to Maudlintown

Phase 1 of the Newtown Road Scheme was completed and included 2 new accessible bus stops serving both local and national bus services.

Beechlawn to Clonard is another cycling and walking scheme which has progressed through the preliminary design stage. A public information session was held in November 2025 for the residents and businesses along the proposed route to view the drawings prior to a Part VIII planning application being lodged in 2026.

The Roxborough Cycle scheme progressed through preliminary design during 2025. This proposed scheme commences from the Drinagh Roundabout on the N25 through Roxborough and terminates at Maudlintown.

Area Based Transport Assessments

Transport assessments are currently underway in Wexford Town and Enniscorthy to establish baseline transport data and identify opportunities for modal shift. These studies will inform the preparation of Local Area Plans currently under review by the Planning Section.

Bike Week May 2025

A series of 23 cycling events were organised throughout the county in collaboration with schools, community groups and stakeholders to promote cycling and active mobility. The week catered for over 700 participants across all ages, from pensioners to pupils.



E-Bike And E-Scooter Sharing Scheme

The E-Bike and E-Scooter Sharing Scheme in Wexford Town continues to experience steady growth in demand. 50 e-bikes and 50 e-scooters are in operation throughout the town. 188,399 e-bike kilometres have been travelled since operations commenced in 2023, with 144,895 e-scooter kilometres covered since their introduction in 2024.

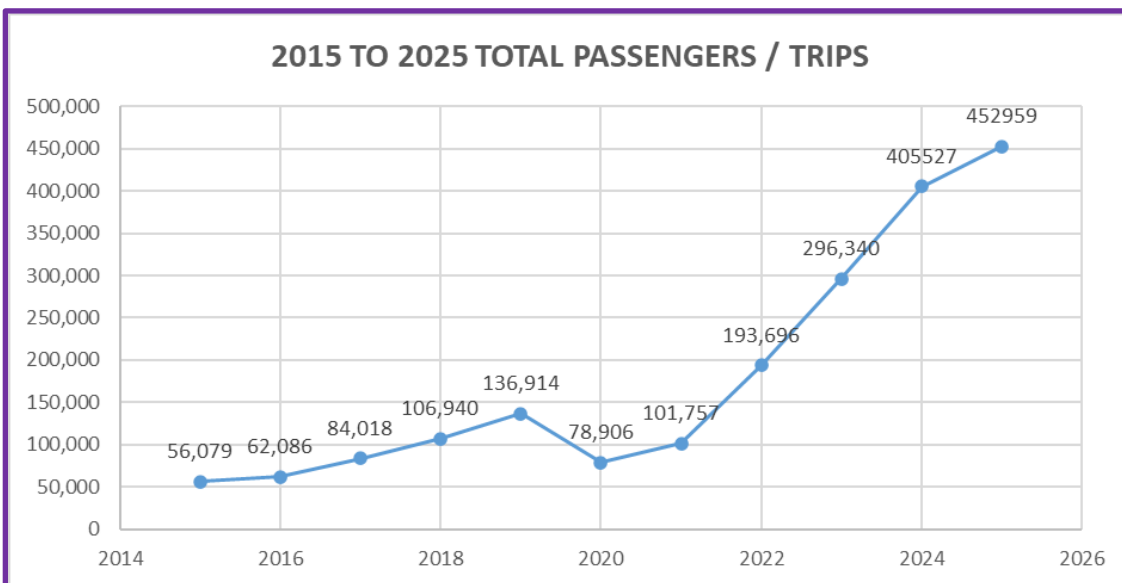
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

As part of this programme, a list of 29 proposed bus shelter locations has been proposed throughout the county based on usage numbers. This list is currently under review by Active Travel, Roads, Local Link and the NTA. 8 shelters were provided in 2025.

Wexford Local Link

Demand for public transport services continues to grow across the county. Passenger journeys on Wexford Local Link services **increased from 405,500 to over 452,959 in 2025.**



In addition to scheduled services, this service also provides:

- Demand Response Transport – Door To Door Services
- Social Inclusion Transport
- Seasonal Beach Services

Machinery Yard and Fleet Management

Continued investment in plant and machinery supports operational activities across all Wexford County Council departments. This includes the introduction of electric vehicles, higher capacity vehicles and facility upgrades at the machinery yard.

The machinery yard also delivers the winter maintenance programme. During 2025 season, salting operations were carried out across 5 routes covering 500 km of regional roads during periods of low temperatures.

Public Lighting

Currently we have over 16,264 lights on our asset register with 15,100 of which are LED lamps. This equates to nearly 94% of all public lights. An additional energy saving of 4.5kW and 10,200 kgs of CO2 was achieved in 2025 due to the continuing LED changeover.

Parking Management

Following a comprehensive review of parking infrastructure and systems in 2024/2025:

- New Pay & Display machines installed in four main county towns continue to operate efficiently.
- Service contracts for parking services & infrastructure remain the same going into 2026.
- The Wexford eParking cashless payment system has increased in use from 10% of overall payments received in 2024 to 15% in 2025.
- A countywide review of Parking Byelaws was completed with recommendations to be brought to the Municipal Districts in early 2026.
- Recruitment for the post of Senior Traffic Warden was completed. This post will further enhance and support the enforcement side of the Councils parking operations.

Community Employment Scheme

Wexford County Council sponsors a Community Employment Scheme employing 2 supervisory positions together with an assistant supervisor and 75 participants: across multiple locations including all the four major towns, Duncannon, Holmestown, Rosslare, Courtown, Library & Archive Services.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT 2025

Planning CSU

2,804 Callers to the Customer Service Unit

5,470 Telephone enquiries received

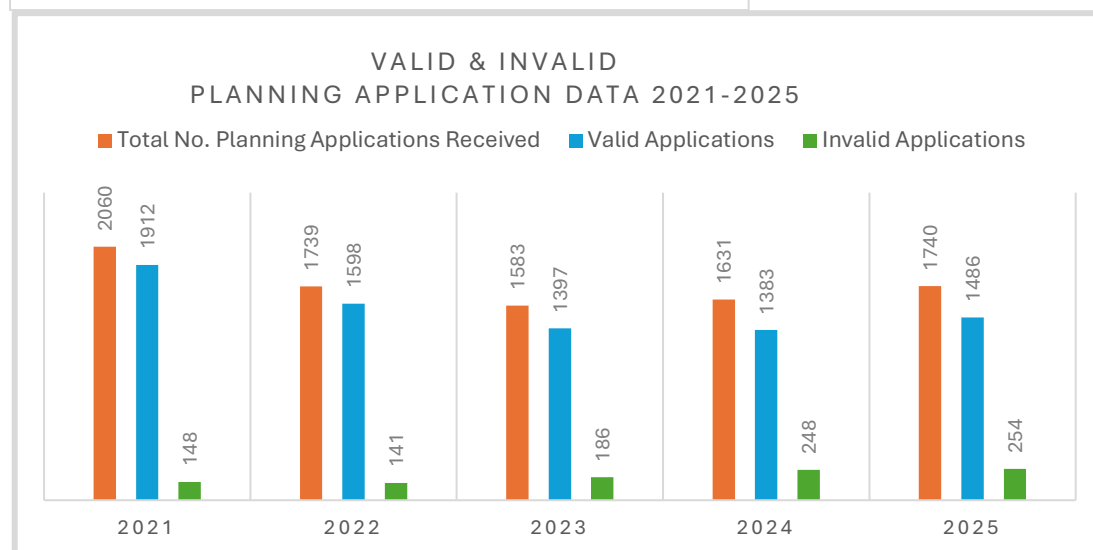
4,644 Email enquiries received



*Planning Applications only

(Permission, Permission for Retention, Outline Permission & Permission Consequent on the grant of Outline Planning Permission)

*Figures exclude Exempted Development, Extension of Duration & LAC's



1740 Planning Applications received

129 Exempted Development Applications received

37 Extension of Duration Applications received

502 Pre-planning Applications received

474 Pre-planning Applications closed

52 Major Pre-planning Meetings held

2025 Permissions granted for New Dwellings as at 31/12/2025

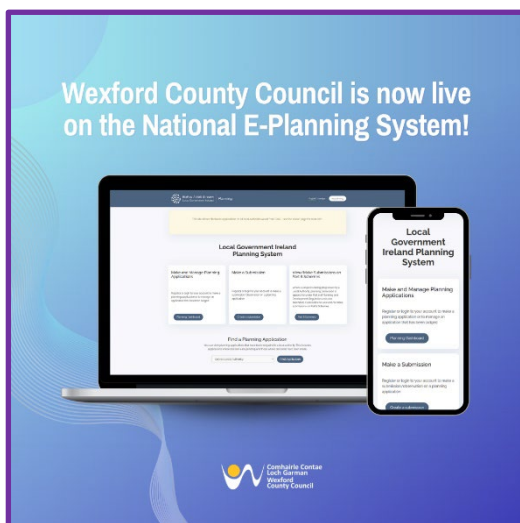
Housing Developments (Total No. of Units)	Apartments incl. Self-contained Dwelling Units (Total No. of Units)	One-off Houses	LAC's Local Authority Development	Total No. of permissions granted for New Dwellings
319	129	285	202	935

Notes:

Permissions exclude outline, retention, change of plans and continuation of use

Major Pre-planning Data - Figures to 31/12/2025

DISTRICT	No. of Meetings
Enniscorthy	4
Gorey	7
New Ross	9
Wexford	17
Rosslare	15
Total no. of meetings held to date	52
Commercial Development (approx. sqm)	14,440
Total No. of Housing Units	1,522



EPLANNING

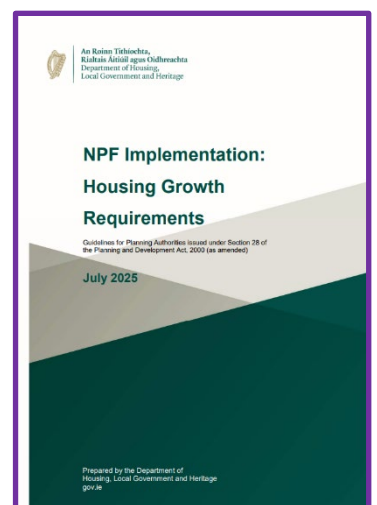
Wexford County Council went live on the National E-Planning Portal in July 2025. Over 80% of Planning Applications are now received online.

FORWARD PLANNING

Variation Number 1 to The County Development Plan 2022-2028

The National Planning Framework – First Revision, which was issued in April 2025, identified a need to provide 50,000 housing units per annum in the state. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage subsequently issued Section 28 Guidelines to implement this target. County Wexford has been allocated the fifth highest percentage increase nationally under the new HGR with an increase from 1,072 units to 1,622 units per annum for the period 2025-2034.

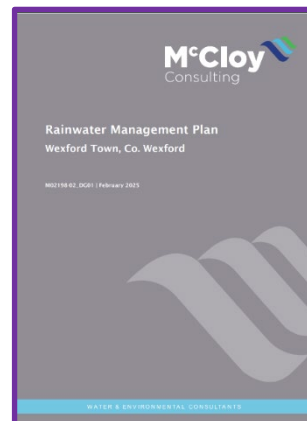
In order to implement the requirements of the Guidelines, Wexford County Council commenced a review of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) to examine whether the quantum of land zoned for residential purposes was adequate to serve the revised targets. It was determined that this should take the form of a series of variations to the CDP to increase the supply of zoned land.



Wexford Town Urban Area Plan

The emerging Wexford Town Urban Area Plan progressed well in the first half of the year but was temporarily suspended following the initiation of the abovementioned Variation. The Variation will increase the amount of land which will be proposed for zoning for residential purposes as part of the Wexford Town Urban Area Plan. A number of advanced strategies are being integrated into the plan and they progressed well in the first half of the year:

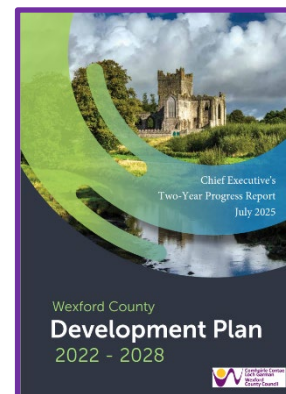
- A Rainwater Management Plan which plans for the increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events as a result of climate change.
- An Urban Design Strategy which sets out an overall development framework for the town and contains 10 separate Neighbourhood Framework Plans.
- A Town Centre First Strategy which is being led by the Town Team who, are preparing a strategy which employs the principles contained in the Town Centre First – A Policy Approach for Irish Towns.



The Ballynagee Masterplan has been developed alongside the Wexford Town Urban Area Plan and it will form part of that plan once adopted.

County Development Plan 2022-2028 – Monitoring

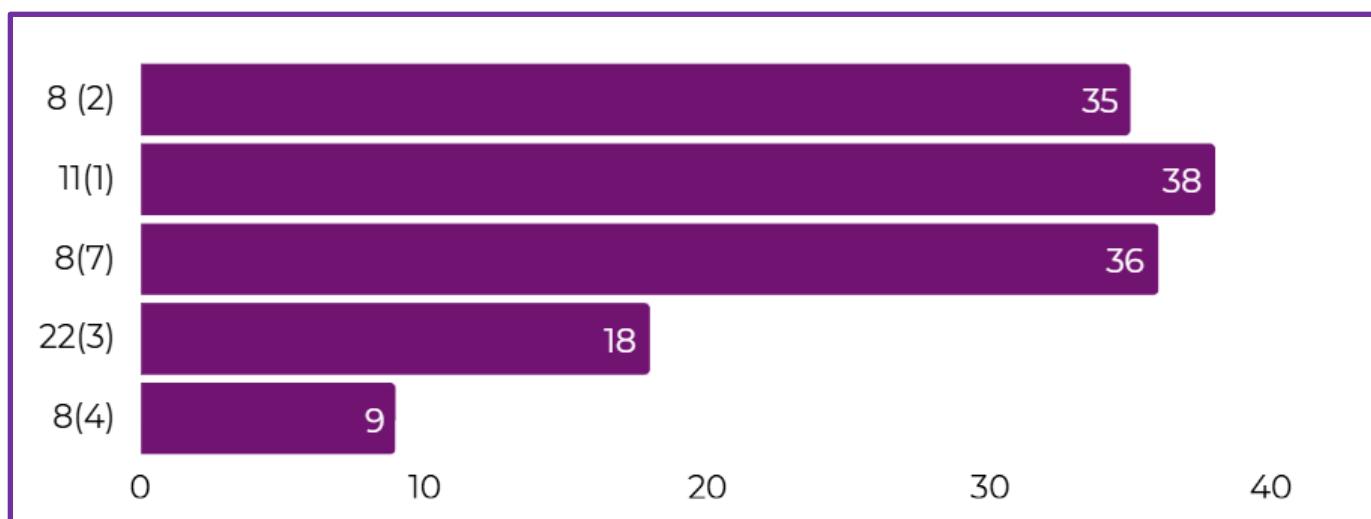
In accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a Chief Executive's Report was prepared which summarises the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 during the first two years of its implementation. This report examined the 1,200 objectives contained in the plan, the annual Core Strategy Monitoring Reports prepared for Year 1 and 2 of the Plan and also contains the monitoring required under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.



Derelict Sites & Dangerous Structures

136 Total Notices issued under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 in 2025

Breakdown of Derelict Notice Served under each section of the act:



- 386 site inspections were carried out
- 66 files were opened
- 42 cases were closed
- 300 live cases at the end of 2025
- 149 sites were on the derelict sites register at the end of 2025



- Section 8(2): Notice of intention of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- Section 11(1): A list of works required to be carried out by the owner within a timeframe
- Section 8(7): Notice of entry onto the Derelict Site Register
- Section 22(2): Notice of site valuation prior to the issue of Derelict site levies
- Section 8(4): Removal from the Register

9 Total Notices issued for Dangerous Structures and Places under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964.

- 7 Section 3.1 Notices - instructs the owner to carry out works to make the site safe within a timeframe
- 2 Section 3.2 Notices - the Local Authority carries out the works to make the site safe. The owner is charged the cost of works.

URDF Call 3 – Urban Regeneration Development Fund

URDF Call 3 (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) is a €150 million initiative by the Irish Government designed to tackle long-term vacancy and dereliction in towns and cities. Through this fund, local authorities acquire vacant or derelict properties and sell them to private individuals who commit to bringing them back into residential use.

The status of the URDF approved properties as of the 31st December 2025

- 32 Engagement with Property Owner Commenced
- 2 Process to Purchase Commenced by CPO
- 1 Process to Purchase Commenced by Agreement
- 3 Property Acquired by Local Authority
- 8 Advertised for sale - property owned by Local Authority
- 75 Brought back into use by Original Owner (closed case)
- 40 Property no longer vacant/derelict following review (closed case)
- 7 Being Dealt with Under Different Programme
- 6 Sold by local authority

174 properties were in the approved list – 21 additional properties were pending approval for inclusion by The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 19 of which have since been approved bringing the approved list to 193.

Planning Enforcement

299 formal complaints were received (an increase of 4.18% on 2024).

Complaints relate primarily to unauthorised development or non-compliance with Planning permissions.

476 Planning Enforcement cases remained open at the end of December 2025

A further 18 complaints were received where it was considered there was no role for Planning Enforcement.

421 Warning Letters were issued relating to 231 cases.

203 Enforcement Notices were issued relating to 90 cases. Enforcement Notices are issued following complaint investigation and site inspection.

238 Planning Enforcement cases were closed following the issuing of Warning letters, compliance with Enforcement Notices or the outcome of legal proceedings in District Court cases.

17 Planning Enforcement cases progressed to legal proceedings in relation to non-compliance with Enforcement Notices.

Building Control

Wexford County Council received 525 Commencement Notices for New Buildings.

National Guidelines recommend that 12-15% of new properties are inspected by a Local Authority to ensure that they comply with the proper building standards. 33% were inspected.

Six estates were taken in charge. This benefited 288 houses across the county, as Wexford County Council then becomes responsible for the maintenance of the roads, footpaths, services and public lighting in these estates.

Built, Cultural and Natural Heritage

Heritage Grant Awards 2025

Just over €1,000,000 in Heritage grants were allocated to Wexford projects. See below:

Grant	Amount
Community Monuments Fund	€430,866
Built Heritage Investment Scheme	€261,981
Historic Structures Fund	€230,620
Irish Walled Town Network Grant	€68,000
Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme	€46,774
Heritage Council's Heritage Plan Grant	€26,061
Total	€1,064,302

This funding facilitated a wide range of projects to be undertaken across the county, and these included:

Conservation Works on Medieval Buildings

Essential conservation repairs were carried out on five medieval structures including Clonmines church, Killag church, Lady's Island castle, Ballycogley Castle and Wexford's town wall.

Historic Church & Graveyard Audit

31 historic churches and graveyards were audited in the Gorey Municipal District. These monuments are an integral component of the county's ecclesiastical heritage and their conservation is a priority.

Conservation Repairs to Protect Structures and Vernacular Cottages

Funding provided by the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund allowed works to be carried out to eleven Protected Structures and five thatched cottages.

Heritage Week 2025

This was the largest Heritage Week in County Wexford to date with 60 events taking place.

Heritage Plan - Work began on Wexford's first County Heritage Plan.

Planning Advice - Heritage advice was provided for 72 planning applications.

ACCESS SECTION

Disability Access Certificates

Districts	Applications	Await Assessment	Further Info.	Granted	Refused
Enniscorthy	11	0	2	8	1
Gorey	20	0	2	17	1
New Ross	13	0	2	10	1
Wexford	37	0	0	36	1
Rosslare	9	0	2	5	2
2025 Totals	90	0	8	76	6
Invalidated DACs					11
Invalidated DACs resubmitted					05

Disability Proofing carried out as part of Wexford County Council Access activity

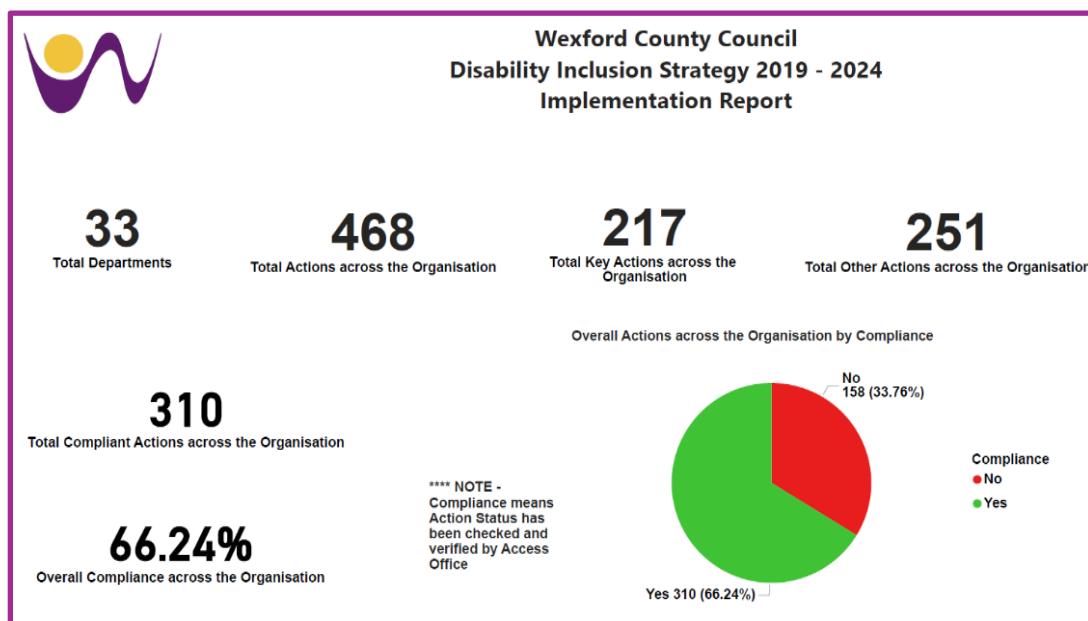
Referrals – Pre-assessments	Total
LAC /PLAC/LRD & General Planning Applications	139
Major Pre-Planning Event Days	10

Letters issued by Access Section on foot of FSC/DAC Comparison Reports (induction to possible enforcement)	Total
1st Jan 2025 to 31st December 2025	
Letters issued– (possible applications)	40

Response received to Letters as follows:	
DAC/Revised DAC Applications received on foot of letter	06
Replies – stating no DAC required (exemption or other)	15
No Replies to Letter issued	19
Replies stating “will submit application” but not submitted - included in the figure 15	03

Disability Inclusion Strategy Wexford

Significant Achievements



The JAM (Just a Minute) Card

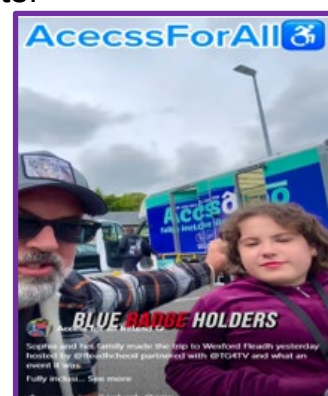
In July Wexford County Council adopted the Jam Card Initiative and officially became a JAM Card Friendly Council following in the footsteps of the Department of Justice.

This coincided with preparations and supports for Fleadh Cheoil 2025, staff and volunteers all participating to ensure another offering of support to people with disabilities for an inclusive Fleadh for All.

Fleadh 2025 Showcases Access for All and Inclusion for Outdoor Events.

Significant efforts were made to ensure the Fleadh was an inclusive and an accessible Fleadh for All.

- Pre Event information
- Communication Boards
- Shuttle buses
- Alternative pedestrian access route
- The provision of Changing Places Facilities
- Sensory Pods
- JAM CARD Friendly



The Changing Places Initiative

The provision of Changing Places Facilities is increasing within the County. The opening and launch of the Water Sports facility in Curracloe, now brings to a total of five the number of changing places facilities located within County Wexford. The Heritage Park, Min Ryan Park, Gorey Town Park, Curracloe Water Sports Hub and the High Meadows Community Hub in Clonard.

Complaints, Queries and Requests to the Access Section in 2025

A total of 94 complaints/requests were received. 86 have been addressed or completed.

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

COASTAL MATTERS

Seaview Coastal Protection project is nearing completion.

Fethard Harbour New Slipway and Beach Access - The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is finalising a decision on this project. The revised Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is being reviewed by the Foreshore License Section.

Ballyhack & Passage East Car Ferry Infrastructure: AYESA consultant has been appointed.

Rosslare Coastal Erosion Flood Relief Scheme: Public Participation Day will be Q1/ Q2 2026.

Cahore North Beach Rock Armour Enhancement: A Public Information evening was held, drawings to be updated and site marked out. Works due to be carried out Q3 2026.

Duncannon Old Pier – Truir construction Ltd appointed, works ongoing.

Operations – Pre-planning meeting held with MARA for the reconciliation application for New Ross Marina and debris boom.

Hydrographic Services contract awarded to Hydro Master Ltd.

Public Conveniences

- Cahore PC: Carpark surfacing, white lining and bollards completed by Contractor.
- Carne PC: Contractor completed the upgrade of toilet facilities.

Septic Tank Inspections:

NIP Grants 2025	44 applications received	Total €371,744.21 40 grants in total paid out	4 outstanding
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Verification Inspections = 91

Court cases

- 6 cases are currently in the court system for failing to comply with Advisory Notices
- 3 new cases have been issued
- 10 cases closed prior to court hearing as work was already carried out.

Ongoing Inspections

- 65 cases closed. 117 open cases. 125 new inspections carried out. 44 passed and 81 failed.
- There were 17 direct discharges to water and 10 discharges onto the surface of the ground noted.

Discharge Licences - There were 88 active Section 4 Discharge Licences with scheduled annual, biannual, quarterly, bi-monthly and monthly returns in respect of each individual Licence.

No. of Monitoring Submission Returns for the year was **103**

Low Smoke Fuel Areas - The 5 stations in Bunclody, New Ross, Wexford, Enniscorthy & Gorey have updated monitors to measure air quality and noise levels. A new, fully operational, station has been installed in Bunclody. 6 low-cost sensors will be reinstalled in Wexford Town in 2026. The Town Air Project to monitor gases NOx, SO2, CO is completed. This will be compared with 2016 levels taking during the SAFFIRE project, an update will follow. There were 15 inspections of premises / forecourts / shops who are all selling compliant products.

Air -Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

DECO Paints: Site inspections are ongoing, 8 re-certified. 3 Sites identified for enforcement. 1 un-registered site to be inspected.

Dry Cleaners: 5 Dry-Cleaners currently registered & certified. 2 non-registered are under assessment.

Petrol Stations - PVE emissions Stage 1 testing & compliance: 9 Inspections; 2 Stations have ceased trading. 5 re-certified. 2 Stations awaiting final assessment reports.

Agriculture - Farm inspections continued under the National Agricultural Inspection Programme. Our target remained at 271 inspections for 2025 concentrating in catchments such as Heathpark, Begerin, Owenduff, Boro, Lady's Island lake, Aughboy, Mangan and the Lask. The team undertook other agricultural inspections such as sludge use in Agriculture, complaints made by the public, initial and follow up inspections.

110 Agricultural related Planning Permission Applications were assessed in 2025 highlighting the continued investment in Wexford Agriculture and maintaining compliance with Good Agricultural Practice Regulations.

Waste/Litter Management

Year 2025	Dumping Incidents Reported	%Increase/ Decrease	Community Clean Ups	% Increase/ Decrease
	2441	Up 3%	981	Down 4%

All environmental complaints are logged by the Customer Service Unit on the DASH CRM system.

Incidents	Closed	Closure Rate
4419	3993	90%

Court Overview

Month	Heard	Outcome	Litter	Waste	Dogs
Jan-Dec	16	Total fines	€3100	€1875	€200
		Total costs awarded	€2000	€2425	€250

Litter/waste and control of dogs Overview

Jan- December 2025	
Fixed payment Notices issued	14
Litter fines issued	139
Fines paid litter	63
FPN paid	6
Successful prosecutions	7 litter, 7 waste, 1 control of dogs = 15
Legal proceedings in progress	17 from 2025, 2 2026= 19 cases
Amount collected in fines	€9469.50 litter, €1300 FPN €1200 dogs, Total €11,969.50
Dog fines issued	12

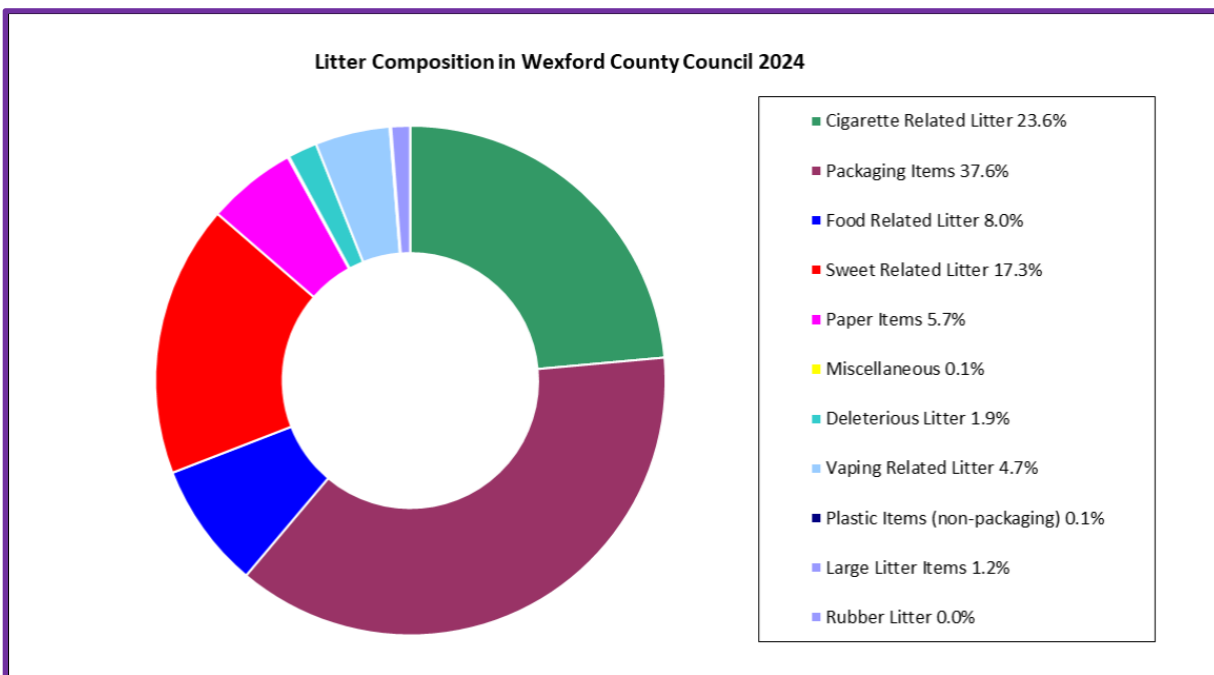
Mattress Amnesty:

As part of the anti-dumping initiative, 4 mattress collections points were located across the county with 2,200 mattresses collected.

Wexford Co. Council National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Results Litter Pollution Surveys 2004-2024.

Over 300 Litter surveys are carried out each year to determine how littered the County is – Litter Pollution Surveys and the makeup of litter surveyed – Litter Quantification Surveys.

Year	Litter free	Slightly littered	Moderately littered	Seriously littered	Grossly littered
2024	36.2%	56.7%	6.7%	0.5%	0%



This figure gives details of the most common items of litter in Co. Wexford with packaging items constituting 37.6% of all litter surveyed from the last completed report in 2024.

Control of Dogs & Horses - The Council employs two full-time wardens and Pets First Kennels in Ballycarney is our main pound.

Control of Dogs 2025			
Dogs collected	546	Dogs put to sleep	10
Dogs reclaimed	149	Dog Fines	12
Dogs re-homed/transferred	386		

Recycling Services:

Bring Bank Network WASTE CATEGORY	No. of Sites Dec 2025 (t)	Recycling out Dec 2025 (t)
Glass bottles	108	346.55
Aluminium Cans		3.14
Total	108	349.69

Household Recycling Centres - Summary of Activities Jan - Dec 2025				
Waste Category	Enniscorthy	New Ross	Holmestown	Gorey
	Recycling out Dec 2025 (t)	Recycling out Dec 2025 (t)	Recycling out Dec 2025 (t)	Recycling out Dec 2025 (t)
Total Recycling out	50	50	70	46
Total Domestic Waste in	N/A	N/A	265	N/A
Daily Average Customers	86	116	162	83

Rapid Response Crew - Our Rapid Response Crew operates out of Holmestown, with two crews servicing Enniscorthy/ Gorey MD's and Wexford / New Ross /Rosslare Municipal Districts.

Total Bring Site Inspections 860

Total Illegal Dumping/ Clean Ups: 175

Gorey	Enniscorthy	Wexford	New Ross	Rosslare
25	77	34	30	9

Environment Education and Awareness

Our aim is to promote awareness and active participation in a range of environmental initiatives.

Green Schools: Over 90% of Primary and Secondary Schools in the County are participating in the Green Schools Programme.

School Workshops: Since 2020, 225 classrooms from 100 different schools have taken part in the Picker Pals Programme. This represents 97% of all primary schools in the county.

Environment Awards: The Wexford County Council Annual Environment Awards were held in November. There were presentations and awards to 13 schools, 57 community groups and 3 individuals.



Let's Fix Fashion: 3 secondary schools registered to participate in 'Lets Fix Fashion' programme. The programme is all about empowering students to think twice about the clothes we wear and the impact they have on our world.

Relove Fashion: The Environment Section is supporting the National Relove Fashion competition which is open to young people aged 12 – 19.

Entrants are challenged to explore their creative design skills to create a sustainable and wearable outfit using clothing from the treasure troves of charity shops, swap shops, or reused textiles already available at home.

Rubbish Film Festival 2025: St Mary's Secondary School New Ross was awarded Best Film for their film entitled 'One Foot in the Grave'. Best Runner Up Film went to St Peter's College for 'Earth Alert'. Coláiste an Átha won Best Poster for 'Change Your Tune'.

Bag It Bin It Educational Resource Presented to Scoil Ghormáin Naofa



The Bag It Bin It education pack, which has been distributed to all primary schools across County Wexford, aims to bring the topic of dog fouling into the classroom through a range of engaging lesson plans and interactive activities. The resource helps children to understand the environmental, health and community impacts of dog fouling, while encouraging responsible attitudes and behaviours around cleaning up after pets.

Trees For Wexford Scheme: 147 applications received their allocation of trees.

Annual Christmas Decoration Competition: 65 students and their families attended the Christmas Decoration Competition Awards. An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Sullivan presented prizes and all **198 decorations received** were displayed in County Hall.. The overall primary school winner entitled 'Luke's Lantern' was created by Luke Waters, 3rd class, St Garvan's National School, Caroreigh. The Overall Runner Up was an entry entitled 'Pandy' by Emily Tobin, 1st class, Mercy School, John's Rd, Wexford.

Circular Cups for Community Events: This initiative is Ireland's first of its kind programme designed to eliminate single use waste at local, not for profit community events. This pioneering initiative was developed by the Southern Region Waste Management Office in partnership with local authorities across the Southern Waste Region and IRD Duhallow. It was officially launched by Minister of State Alan Dillon TD. and is available to a wide variety of not-for-profit organisations within the Southern Waste Region, including local sports clubs, schools, youth groups, craft markets, and community festivals.



A shared stock of reusable cups is available. The main goal is to significantly reduce single use waste at community events, empower communities to embrace sustainable practices, and drive Ireland's national circular economy ambitions forward.

Christmas Tree Shredding: Tree shredding took place in 7 locations throughout the county.



Community Clean Ups: 984 clean ups in 2025

Climate Action

Over 50 staff members are involved in updating the progress of actions in the Wexford County Council Climate Plan

An Implementation report on the Climate Plan is currently being prepared for the elected members.

ECO Driving - Nineteen fleet drivers have completed this training.

Pathfinder Retrofit Programme Update:

- **Apex Leisure Centre, New Ross** was officially signed off during the year. The €1.6 million energy retrofit, funded through the **SEAI Pathfinder Programme** with match funding from **Wexford County Council**, focuses on decarbonising heating systems, improving energy efficiency, and reducing operational costs. This project is the first delivered under the Council's SEAI-funded Pathfinder Programme.
- **Ferrybank Leisure Centre – Emergency Enabling Works:** SEAI approved 50% match funding for the emergency replacement of the air handling unit at Ferrybank Leisure Centre, with the works awarded to **Aircon Mech Ltd**.

Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP)

Wexford County Council has been allocated a further €669,000 under Phase 2 for not-for-profit organisations to undertake Community Climate Action projects

36 applications were received for phase 2, totaling €1.46 million. The applications were spread across the five municipal districts. **15 small-scale, 13 medium scale** and **8 large-scale** funding.

Biodiversity

The **Wexford Draft Biodiversity Action Plan** was screened for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment, confirming no significant adverse environmental effects and enabling progression to **public consultation**.

The **Hare's Corner initiative**, led by **Burren Beo Trust** and supported by the Biodiversity Office, received over **124 applications**, promoting small-scale habitat creation with benefits for biodiversity, climate action, and wellbeing.

WEXFORD FIRE SERVICES

Facilities and Equipment



Wexford County Fire Service maintains five retained fire brigades located in the main towns throughout the county with a fleet of 28 vehicles and 80 retained firefighters.

During 2025, upgrade works to Gorey Fire Station were completed. This created a canteen, lecture room and office at first floor level with the ground floor reconfigured and the facilities upgraded. The total cost of the project was €971,000 fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



The operational capabilities were further enhanced with the delivery of a new Class B Fire appliance and a High Reach ladder funded by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management

Operations – Incidents

The fire service attended 1,221 incidents in 2025, an increase of 16% on the previous year. The following is a breakdown of incidents attended by each Fire Brigade:

INCIDENT TYPE			
Fire Classification	Number	Fire Classification	Number
Chimney Fire in House	47	Place of Public Entertainment - Dance Hall, Disco, Cinema, Theatre, Bingo Hall	3
Other Fire in House	74	Public House	1
Caravan/Mobile Home	1	Motor Vehicle	64
Flats: Local Authority	6	Unoccupied Building	3
Flats: Privately Owned	11	Agriculture Business	8
Other Institution	6	Forest/Bog/Grass	106
Factory	14	Ship/Aircraft	2
Storage Building/Warehouse	14	Miscellaneous	29
Shop/Supermarket	5	Outdoor Storage	10
Office	5	Outdoor Rubbish	61
Hotel/Guesthouse/Boarding House etc	1	TOTAL	471
Special Service Classification	Number	Special Service Classification	Number
Entrapment	38	Other rescue	102
Gas/Chemicals	11	Rescue/Removal of persons from water	1
Hazardous Substances non-Transit	1	Road traffic accident	250
Miscellaneous	53	Water pumping/flooding	15
		TOTAL	471
False Alarm Classification	Number	False Alarm Classification	Number
Good Intent	274		
Malicious	5		
TOTAL	471	OVERALL TOTAL	1221

Operations – Training

A competency-based training programme continued with 78 training courses organised.

The Fire Services Health & Safety Management System is under constant review and improvement. The Health & Safety Management System in place conforms with all requirements of ISO 45001:2018 and the current certification is valid to 2027.

Major Emergency Management

The Major Emergency Development Programme was maintained with monthly meetings and exercises by the Development Committee. Several exercises were carried out during the year to ensure the organisations preparedness for any major events that may occur.

The dedicated local coordination centre was maintained throughout the period to cater for a major emergency response. Wexford County Council staff participated in several internal exercises including hazardous materials, coastal pollution, flooding and severe weather preparedness to ensure a state of readiness.

Fire Safety

Wexford County Fire Service promotes fire safety with a view to reducing the incidence and effect of fires in the home and other buildings. Wexford County Fire Service has an extensive Community Fire Safety Plan and runs eight Community Fire Safety Programmes:

- Primary Schools Programme
- General Fire Safety promotion
- Seasonal Fire Safety campaigns
- Traveller Fire Safety
- Home Fire Safety Visits
- 'Hot strikes' smoke alarm installations at incidents
- False alarm intervention
- Remote Areas Priority Programme

215 Fire Safety inspections were carried out on a broad range of premises types. With Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann taking place in Wexford Town additional inspections were carried out in the public houses within the town and also during the Fleadh to ensure fire safety provisions were maintained.

The following Community Fire Safety activities were completed:

- The “Fire Safety in the Home” programme was delivered to third class students in 63 Primary Schools
- 22 Fire Safety Talks - various groups
- 45 group visits to the Fire Stations
- 33 Events attended by the Fire Service
- 384 Home Fire Safety Visits
- 22 Hot strikes at incidents.

Wexford County Fire Service was notified of **161 relevant applications** to the District and Circuit Courts for Music & Singing, Dance, Club and Transfer of licences and Lottery and Gaming certificates.



157 Fire Safety inspections were carried out on a range of premises. With Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann taking place in Wexford Town additional inspections were carried out in public houses within the Town and also during the event to ensure fire safety provisions were maintained.

130 fire safety certificate applications were received in 2025.

ARTS OFFICE

Music Generation Wexford is a partnership between Wexford County Council, Wexford & Waterford ETB, and Music Generation. **27 schools** took part, offering Vocal and Instrumental programmes with over **3,800 school children participating**.

Additional youth programmes for 150 teenagers ran in partnership CAMHS, Wexford Local Development, and venues like the National Opera House and community hubs: Bunclody, Music Hub, Gorey Youth Jam, Wexford youth Opera, Yellow Bellows singing group, Wexford jammers, Uke N Play and Bunclody Travellers Singing groups.

Living Arts in Schools Programme delivered as a partnership between Wexford County Council Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre, took place in four primary schools across the county involving 218 primary school children.

The County Wexford Youth Film Project based at St. Michael's Theatre, provides training and creative opportunities for young people aged 13–20 in the art of filmmaking. A total of 28 young people participated in the project.

County Wexford Youth Theatre (CWYT) facilitated by Bare Cheek Theatre Company and based in Wexford Town, CWYT provides training to over 20 young people aged 12 – 18yrs in all aspects of theatre production, including acting, writing, directing, stage management, and technical theatre.

Creative Places Enniscorthy: is a three-year arts programme designed to engage communities and artists in Enniscorthy, making the arts more accessible and encouraging community participation in creative processes.

Support social inclusion, mental well-being and diversity and equality in partnership with key stakeholders

Arts In Health Care – Art Ability Programme running since 2003, the Arts Ability Programme provides long-term access to high-quality creative experiences in visual arts, creative writing, and music for people with mental health challenges or intellectual disabilities.

Cultural Companions brought adults of all ages together through arts and culture, reducing social isolation across the county.

Highlights

Guided tours, Wex Walks, poetry evenings, a bat walk, and a story house performance.

Bealtaine Festival 2025 Wexford Arts Department partnered with the libraries on delivering a programme of seven events for the Bealtaine festival – a festival that celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. Over 120 people attended.

Artist in the Community Programme 2025 Open Call took place in January 2025 and the scheme was open to all community groups that are members of Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) and/ or as well as community groups of place and interest, that are interested in working on an arts project with an artist from our Artist In the Community Artists Panel. The maximum award was €3,000 and a total of 15 projects were funded in March.

Community Dates for National Opera House 2025/26 Through an open call in September 2024, Wexford County Council and the National Opera House invited local community groups, arts organisations, and schools to apply for subsidised community dates. These dates provide an

opportunity to host events with a community or fundraising focus, supporting local arts initiatives in a world-class venue. In 2025, the following groups participated:

- The Purple & Gold Writers' Collective
- Bridge Drama
- Wexford Mental Health Association
- Local Artists
- The Ballet Academy
- HFC Concert Band Wexford
- Wexford Festival Singers
- Scór Loch Garman/Rackard League



Support artists and creatives in their careers

Artlinks Artists Bursaries offers annual professional development support to emerging and established artists in the Southeast region, in collaboration with the arts offices of Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, and Waterford.

Westgate Heritage Centre Arts Space and Music Rehearsal space Management of Westgate Heritage Centre and adjacent computer centre was taken over by the Arts office as artists workspaces accommodation visual artists and musicians. A new Music Rehearsal Space at back of Heritage centre opened for booking in February.

Gorey School of Art – Artists Workshop programme Wexford Arts office partnered with Gorey School of Art on a series of free professional development workshops for artists in any art form.

Tyrone Guthrie Artists Residencies 2025: Artists, Eve McDonnell and Joe Brennan, were awarded bursaries to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Monaghan.

Drama League of Ireland Scholarships 2025: were awarded to Sinéad Rafter from Buí Bolg Youth Arts/Bridge Drama and Amy Redmond from Gorey Youth Theatre for the Drama League of Ireland's Residential Summer School.

The Irish Writers Centre National Mentoring Programme the Arts Office funds the literary mentorships along with the Arts Council of Ireland. Two Wexford writers Sasha Wilson and Shane Murphy were selected to take part.

Cowhouse Studios Parenting Artist Residency supported by the Wexford County Council Arts Office; offers an annual two-week residency specifically for parenting artists.



The Arts Office supported the **ISACS LIFT Residency**, delivered by Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network in partnership with Arts Council of Ireland. 2025 marked the third year of hosting the residency with artists, Ken Fanning and Tina Segner of Tumble Circus, developing their new show Won't Be Told during their residency.

International Residency Opportunities

Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris (CCI)

Arts Office partnering with CCI Paris in 2025 to support fully funded artist residency for a Wexford based artist répétiteur and collaborative pianist Rebecca Warren.

Residency for Emerging artists Wexford based Artists Larry Dunne and Luca Consentino were selected for a three-month residency in partnership with Capacity Ireland and Carlow Arts Office to Crete, Greece from early June.

Breaking the Patterns' Exhibition of Irish and European Artists Wexford County Council Arts Office participated in Breaking the Patterns, a Creative Europe exhibition led by Capacity Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland and local authority arts services of Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford. The exhibition opened at Farmleigh, Dublin.

Emergence Award 2025 Wexford County Council Arts Department and Wexford Arts Centre, in partnership with South-East Technological University, selected Marie Farrington as the 2025 EMERGENCE Visual Art Award recipient..

Theatre Forum Bursaries to Wexford artists Sligo Gathering 2025 the Arts Department with Theatre Forum awarded two bursaries for professional theatre practitioners based in Wexford to attend the Theatre Forum Gathering in Sligo. Tony McClean Fay and Vivian Brodie Hayes were selected.

Free information clinic by the Creative Europe Desk Wexford Arts Office supported this free clinic at the National Opera House in Wexford. At this regional meeting visual artist Aine Ryan shared how Culture Moves Europe provided the support for her residency in Germany. Aoife Tunney from the Creative Europe Desk Ireland was there to share the opportunities available under Creative Europe and Culture Moves Europe for both artists and organisations.

Small Arts Festival & Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant Scheme 2025

A total of **€44,700 was awarded to 20 festivals**. Grants ranged from €1,000–€3,000 and were divided into two strands:

Strand 1: Small Arts Festival Grant

Strand 2: Fáilte Ireland Festival Grant

Culture Night County Wexford took place in September and was one of the largest to date with almost **60 free events** taking place across the 5 municipal districts.

County Wexford Art Collection established in 1994, now includes over 500 works acquired through purchases, donations, and loans.

County Hall Exhibition Programme

Timelines: Growth and Catastrophe Tapestry Exhibition was opened in May by Cathaoirleach Pip Breen. This captivating exhibition, which toured nationwide, showcased the third collaborative work from the Timelines Tapestry Group, a talented collective of weavers and tapestry artists.

Sidelong Glances: An Oblique Look at the Sea Exhibition was presented by the Arts Office in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre and officially opened by Christina Kennedy, Senior Curator and Head of Collections at Irish Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition featured works from IMMA's National Collection alongside invited Irish and international artists.

Screen Wexford

This strategic partnership between the Arts and Economic Departments of Wexford County Council is aimed at fostering film development in County Wexford. Its goal is to increase local and international film production while providing training and support for new and existing talent in the film and screen sector.

- **The Shadowing Fund** enabled local crew to learn from professionals, including Ethan Ryan on *Faithless*
- **The Film Professional Development Fund** awarded €500 bursaries to Zoe Nolan (Festival Entries) and Barry Murphy (Post-Production).

Other key events included Animation & VFX workshops, “Lights, Camera, Access,” crew networking, and a Smartphone Filmmaking workshop.

Highlights included:

Being shortlisted for the Emerging Location Award at the Cannes Film Festival, giving Wexford international recognition as a filming destination.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

Year one of the two-year Implementation Plan has been completed. Actions are being monitored to ensure that priorities set with the LECP are met.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) & Local Action Group (LAG):

The LCDC held 4 meetings in 2025.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

This Programme was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and was designed to support small scale projects for not-for-profit community or voluntary groups. Wexford County Council, in conjunction with Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), invited applicants at the beginning of 2024 to provide submissions.

A total of **€253,227** was provided to Community groups to date. **€217,051 for capital funding** and **€36,175 for non-pay running costs**.

SICAP - Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

SICAP 2024-2028 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

Community Recognition Fund

The Community Recognition Fund, supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG), is delivered by Wexford County Council on behalf of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), at a local level.

A total of **€1.5M was allocated to County Wexford** through the DRCD Community Recognition Fund 2023 (CRF23), for 27 no. Community Group and Municipal District projects, with the funding being distributed during 2024/25. As of end of year 2025, €1.3M of the fund had been claimed, with 89% of projects completed.

A further €1.7M was allocated by the DRCDG in the next round of the CRF24 fund and was awarded across 3 no. funding windows, to 22 no. projects across the five municipal districts.

CRF23 Progress to date	
Total Fund	€1,509, 869.00
Total fund expenditure to date (86%)	€1,291,978.69 (incl. WCC Admin)
Works complete (24 no. of 27 no. projects)	89%
Works in progress (0 no. projects)	0%
Projects to be started (2 no. projects – <i>DRCD granted extensions to April 2026</i>)	7%
Kilmuckridge Playground, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 <i>new extension</i>	

Riverchapel Community Complex, (Gorey Kilmuckridge MD) – April 2026 <i>new extension</i>	
Projects cancelled by Community Group (1no. funding decommitted)	4%
Fethard Community Development Assoc. (New Ross MD)	
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,099,751.90 (73%)
CRF24 Progress to date	
Total Fund	€1,703,377.00
Total fund expenditure to date (67%)	€1,138,539.10 (incl. WCC Admin)
Works complete (8no. projects of 22no. projects)	36%
Works in progress (7no.)	32%
Projects to be started (7no. projects)	32%
Total of fund claimed to Q4 2025 from Dept.	€1,077,692.24 (63%)

Comhairle na nÓg

The annual AGM was held in the Wexford Council Chamber in October, with participation from secondary schools and youth projects. Over the year, Wexford Comhairle na nÓg completed research training, designed and promoted a youth health survey, and **engaged 667 young people**. A report and recommendations were developed to improve youth health outcomes and make services more youth-friendly, which were presented to Senator Cathal Byrne at Leinster House.

Wexford Local Community Safety Partnership

Officially established by Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Mr. Jim O' Callaghan T.D. in September, this was the first Partnership to be appointed nationally in accordance with the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.

29 members were appointed, 7 County Councillors, 2 members of An Garda Síochána, 1 senior member of the HSE, TUSLA, Wexford County Council, and 17 members from the community. Mary Farrell is the Chair and Councillor Ger Carthy is Vice-chair.



Members of Wex LCSP at its inaugural meeting held on 30th Sept 2025 Wexford Council Chamber

Wexford Traveller Interagency Group (TIG)

The group continued its work to ensure that the relevant statutory agencies and state supported initiatives involved in providing the full range of services to Travellers would focus on improving the integrated practical delivery of such services.

Healthy Wexford

The Vision for a Healthy Wexford is where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

2025 Highlight Activity

- Age Friendly Wexford – Let's Get Moving Physical Activity Programmes for Older People both in Community and Nursing Homes
- Social Farming Placements for People with Disabilities encouraging increased physical activity
- Support for development of Playful Spaces with Maudlintown Games Area and Wexford Library Cubbie delivered in 2025 and Gorey Park Play Tables Project due for completion.

Wexford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP)

The Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme supports communities experiencing disadvantage by improving the factors that affect their health and wellbeing.

2025 Seed Funded projects included Taghmon Grow It, Cook It, Eat It" - A practical food education and horticulture course for Taghmon national school children, teaching growing, cooking, healthy eating, with visits to farms, local food producers and intergenerational parent-child nutrition and cookery classes

Highlights of 2025:

Podcast Training with Youth Workers

- Successful Enniscorthy FRC application
- Ferndale Street Soccer programme expansion with FDYS & local Gardaí
- Exam success for students attending grinds in Taghmon FRC
- Rollout of Podcasting Training for Youth Workers
- New community gym in Enniscorthy & free Teen Gym Training classes
- Targeted Community Outreach Work in partnership with Community Safety Partnership in estates affected by anti-social behaviour
- Taghmon Community Car continued success with over 500 trips undertaken
- 'Opera For All' community outreach and opera visits
- Georgia Southern University and partners collaboration



Wexford Age Friendly Programme

Work on the Age Friendly Programme continued with the focus on extensive interaction with older people and organisations that represent them. Our partners in the Age Friendly Alliance continued to make progress in their themed areas including Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, Community Support and Health Services and Safety and Security."

Older People's Council

The Older People's Council Wexford held 4 meetings in 2025 during which they identified priority areas of need for older people, raised issues of importance and informed and influenced the decision-making process of the Age Friendly Programme."

Wexford Age Friendly Alliance

Four meetings were held during which the partners reported back on progress on the action plan and other age-related initiatives or projects.

Events included:

- **Walkability Audit, Gorey & Wexford.** – Walkability audits of the town centres in Gorey and Wexford were conducted to assess the safety and accessibility of pedestrian routes for older people.
- **Therapy Dough Sessions** – helps improve muscle memory in the hands, strengthen the muscles in the fingers and hands, and reduces anxiety and the heart rate by refocusing the mind on the hands.
- **Social Dancing** – was organised by Age Friendly Wexford in different locations in the County.
- **Living Well Ageing Smart Exposition** – Age Friendly Wexford, the Wexford PPN and Healthy Age Friendly Homes organised this exposition in Killanierin Community Centre.

The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAIT)

The Team has continued to actively support meaningful integration and community engagement across the county. Through a range of collaborative initiatives, we have worked to promote understanding, inclusivity, and connection between people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. The projects outlined below reflect our commitment to building a cohesive and welcoming Wexford — where difference is celebrated, commonality is highlighted, and everyone has a place.

LAIT Highlights:

- Held 50 Information 'Clinics' countywide.
- Conducted 73 Centre Visits.
- Facilitated 135 one-on-one appointments with people living under International Protection.
- Held 64 group clinics that focused on providing information and guidance in group format to individuals and families in state-run accommodation centres.
- Assisted 562 individuals
- Performed 64 follow ups with individuals to ensure they received the necessary support.



Ukrainian Response Unit

Accommodation - The team continued to place displaced Ukrainian families who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) in properties across County Wexford, through the Offer A Home scheme. The scheme has been hugely successful due to the generosity of the homeowners of Wexford pledging accommodation.

Pledge Type	Number of Properties	Number of People Placed
Offer a Home	285	838
Irish Red Cross	32	102

Ukraine Refurbishment Programme - All six Refurbishment Programme properties are now open and operational. These properties have offered safe accommodation to families, while also allowing them to integrate into the local communities.

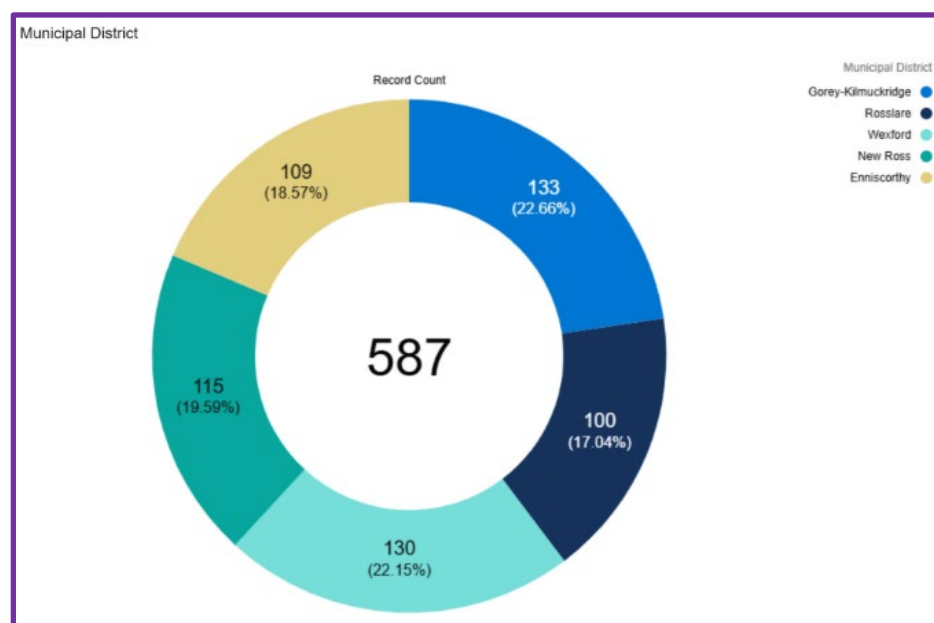
Name	Occupancy	Capacity
Carne Accommodation Centre, Carne	46	68
Unity Court, Wexford	39	57
Michael Street, Wexford	8	19
Borrmount Lodge, Enniscorthy	5	37
Rafter Street, Enniscorthy	6	15
Ryland Road, Bunclody	3	21

Community Integration Forum - The forum facilitates discussion to ensure that all groups operating locally can work together to achieve the best outcomes for those in need of support. The Forum meets every quarter and is chaired by Wexford County Council CE, Eddie Taaffe.

Burial Grounds - The Community section manages **12 open burial grounds** and over 112 closed vested burial grounds across County Wexford in accordance with the Burial Ground Maintenance and Development Strategy 2017, and all relevant legislation including the updated Bye laws for the Regulation of all open burial grounds within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council.

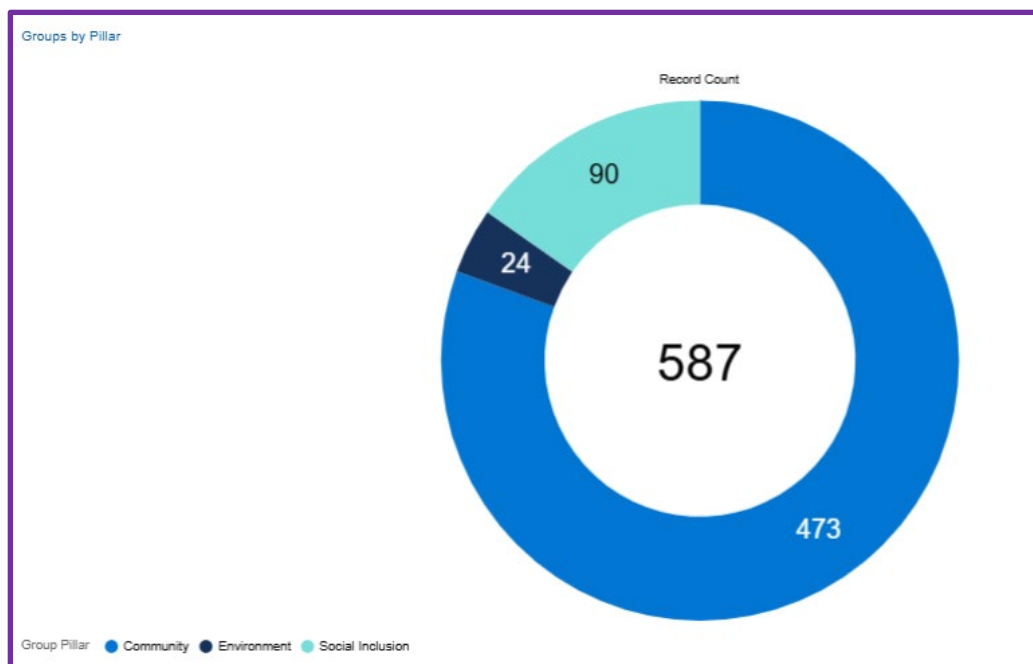
Community Buildings - The Community section manages **13 community buildings** across the county.

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)



This is a network of not-for-profit volunteer led groups spread across County Wexford who are involved in informing, developing and representing members.

We currently have a total of **587 groups registered** with Wexford PPN spread across the five municipal districts as shown in the graph below.



Members are represented through three pillars - Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental, across the 5 Municipal Districts.

In 2025 we:

- Continued to grow our membership by 64 new member groups in 2025.
- Community Growers – (Supported by Healthy Wexford) Wexford PPN ran a field trip to Delta Sensory Gardens to provide inspiration for our growers for their own community gardens and growing spaces.
- Living Well - Ageing Smart Expo's - Joint collaboration with Age Friendly Ireland Healthy Age Friendly Homes and Age Friendly Wexford. Expo's were held in New Ross, Enniscorthy and Kilanerin, highlighting the many free supports and services available in County Wexford.
- Collaboration with Southeastern Regional PPN's – In person PPN Representatives Workshop and Networking event held in Kilkenny.
- Celebrated 10 years of Wexford PPN at our Winter Plenary Meeting in November.

Sports Active Wexford (Local Sports Partnership)

The Sports Active Wexford (LSP) continues to play a vital role in promoting sports participation and physical activity within the community. This report summarizes the achievements and outcomes of the 2025 programme year, highlighting the breadth of delivery and participant engagement across all age groups, Programme Delivery, Events and Programmes.

A total of 2,689 events and programmes were delivered throughout 2025. This represents a comprehensive portfolio of sporting opportunities designed to engage diverse participant populations and support inclusive sports development. This includes the Co funded programmes with Leinster Rugby, The FAI, Wexford GAA and Leinster Cricket

The programmes delivered across all sport types reflect the Partnership's commitment to:

- Accessible sports opportunities
- Youth athlete development
- Adult participation pathways
- Community sports engagement

Participation Overview

Participants reached **71,560 this year**, demonstrating significant community engagement with sports and recreational activities. **Youth participants: 20,079**

Adult participation represents the largest segment of the Partnership's engagement, with **51,481 adults** participating across all demographics. This data reflects excellent gender balance, with nearly equal participation from male and female participants. This demonstrates the Partnership's success in promoting inclusive sports participation across gender categories.

Key Achievements

- Successfully delivered 2,689 events and programmes
- Maintained consistent participation opportunities across all sports types
- Supported inclusive access for diverse demographic groups
- Reached 71,560 participants across adult and youth sectors
- Achieved near-equal gender balance in adult participation (48.6% male, 45.6% female)
- Engaged 20,079 young people through youth programming
- Provided equitable opportunities for male and female participants
- Developed programming accessible to all age groups
- Maintained commitment to accessible, community-based sports



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE

Strengthening Transatlantic Ties

Wexford County Council Welcomes Delegation from the State of Georgia, USA

Wexford County Council hosted a distinguished delegation of Legislators led by Speaker of the House Jon Burns from the Georgia House of Representatives in May as part of a growing transatlantic partnership that is delivering cultural, educational, and economic value to County Wexford. The delegation was accompanied by senior officials from Georgia Southern University led by Dr. Kyle Marrero.

Since the signing of the Sister City Agreement with the City of Savannah three years ago, the relationship between Wexford and Georgia has grown in scope and impact. The recent opening of the Wexford Hub at Henderson Library on the Georgia Southern Statesboro campus has given Wexford a cultural home in Georgia, showcasing its rich literary and historical tradition. Economically, the partnership has begun to yield tangible benefits through initiatives such as the Tradebridge programme, aimed at enhancing trade and investment between the regions.

Ground-breaking Ceremony Marks Redevelopment of Historic Adoration Convent into Student Facilities

In September, Wexford County Council and Georgia Southern University celebrated the official groundbreaking for the redevelopment of the historic Adoration Convent on Bride Street, Wexford. This was followed by an official Signing Ceremony in Wexford County Council. The €6.5 million project, delivered in partnership between Wexford County Council and Georgia Southern University, will see the full refurbishment of the former Adoration Convent into modern student accommodation. When complete in early 2027, the building will provide housing for up to 56 students from Georgia Southern University, with study, recreation, cooking, and laundry facilities, creating a vibrant international student hub in the heart of Wexford Town.



Georgia Southern University Wexford Campus

During 2025, **133 students from the United States** travelled to study at the **GSU Learning Campus in Wexford**. Students also participated in educational field trips across the county and undertook work-study placements.

IDA Advanced Technology Building – Enniscorthy Technology Park

The design process has been completed and agreed with IDA for 2,500 sq. metre advanced technology building and planning permission application was submitted in December 2025.

High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA) hosts Delegation from Green Building Alliance, Pittsburgh

The HPBA (an initiative of Wexford County Council and WWETB) hosted a delegation from fellow UN Centre of Excellence, the Green Building Alliance, Pittsburgh in September comprising delegates from Local Government, architects, academics, HR directors and CEOs from the sustainable construction sector. The tour provided an opportunity to showcase the sustainable built environment sector in Ireland and involved many of the board members organisations, such as Wexford County Council, Irish Green Building Council and WWETB.

Local Enterprise Office

Highlights

- LEO Wexford in **top 3 performers** nationally with **391 new jobs & a net employment gain of 246**.
- Showcase 2025; **5 clients** exhibited Céadogan Rugs, Deborah Cogley Art, Eoin O'Connor Art, Weird Watercolours and Holos Skincare
- Local Enterprise Week– series of events targeting all stages of business growth cycle.
- International Women's Day event with keynote speaker Bevin Mahon, Dentaltech Group.
- National Enterprise Awards – Felix Oster, Mór Taste represented Wexford at Awards Ceremony in the Mansion House Dublin.
- Student Enterprise Awards – **1,726 students participated** – highest number recorded for the county.
- Fashion Connect wins best Start-up Business of the Year Category sponsored by LEO Wexford and the County Wexford Chamber Business Awards.
- National Enterprise Day – over **80 business women** attended the event, celebrating the economic impact of female entrepreneurship with keynote speaker Ruth Larkin.
- Blas na hÉireann Irish Food Awards - **31 awards** to food producers in County Wexford.
- LEO Wexford partnered with SETU under the TU Rise Programme to deliver a series of targeted business support clinics for rural enterprises in the Rosslare District.

WEXFORD KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS 2025

**246 NET NEW JOBS CREATED
BY LEO SUPPORTED COMPANIES**

15	Business Expansion	€747,980
6	Priming	€181,040
12	Feasibility/Innovation	€126,458
1	Over 10's	€50,000
3	IP Start	€6,480

1	GradStart	€30,000
1	Research Development & Innovation	€109,030
3	Market Explorer	€11,331
2	Lean for Business	€11,070
34	Green for Business	€75,276
78	Digital for Business	€198,537
17	Energy Efficiency	€131,047
29	Grow Digital	€68,545

APPROVED IN GRANT AID **€1,746.794**

**116 TRAINING
PROGRAMMES** with
1,183 participants

**6 START YOUR
OWN BUSINESS**
course with **141**
participants

352
businesses approved
MENTORING

**47 OWNER/
MANAGERS** participated
in **MANAGEMENT
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMMES**

**17 LOAN
APPLICATIONS** processed
for **MICROFINANCE**
IRELAND totalling
€151,500

1,748
STUDENTS across **21**
SCHOOLS participated in
**STUDENT ENTERPRISE
PROGRAMME**

TOURISM

Launch of County Wexford's International Sales & Marketing Plan

Wexford County Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and Visit Wexford launched their 5-year international sales and marketing plan to harness and maximise the potential of destinations throughout the county in attracting international visitors and increasing their dwell time.

Le Cotentin Fête l'Irlande



As part of the Le Cotentin Fête l'Irlande, a "Wexford Takeover Weekend" took place in Cherbourg. A Gaelic football challenge game and a Wexford hurling final took place in the city. The New Ross Pipe band performed at various locations including the Cherbourg Market, which attracts large numbers of people.

Visit Wexford had a stand at the Cherbourg Market and at Stade Maurice Postaire during the weekend where they promoted both our tourism and culinary tourism sector. In addition, a County Wexford promotional showreel has been installed on digital screens throughout the terminal building at Cherbourg Port, ensuring ongoing visibility of the county to a significant volume of international travellers.

Launch of Wexford Destination and Experience Development Plan 2025 -2030

Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland launched The Wexford Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) 2025 -2030 in July.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health and Safety Section continued to deliver a targeted corporate improvement programme, ensuring the continued health, safety and wellbeing of our employees, contractors, and members of the public. No enforcement action was taken against Wexford County Council by the Health and Safety Authority and the overall accident trend continues to reduce.

ISO 45001 (Health and Safety Management System)

In 2025, the health and safety section was successful in full recertification of the management system to the ISO45001 standard after a six-day audit by an externally accredited body. The organisation demonstrates a structured and managed approach to health and safety with a commitment to monitored continuous improvement. Wexford County Council had a robust internal audit programme in place throughout the year.

Violence and Aggression

Wexford County Council continues to be challenged by incidents of violence and aggression towards our employees. The Health and Safety Section continued to monitor and intervene in such cases, working closely with the County Secretary. Incidents of violence and aggression increased during 2025 and is the focus of an ongoing campaign, with increased training and procedures available to our staff. Wexford County Council works closely with other agencies, such as the Gardai, to ensure that our employees are protected at the same time as providing an effective service to our customers.

Events Management

Events across County Wexford continue to increase year on year. Major events processed and assessed by our section included The Market House Festival, Gorey, St. Patrick Day Parades, The Rocking Food Festival, Enniscorthy, The Opera Festival Fireworks and the Wexford Stages Rally. The Health and Safety Section provided support for Event Control throughout the successful Fleadh Event.

ICT Department

The following projects were completed as part of the work programme for 2025.

CRM & ONLINE SERVICES

The team continues to develop online access to Council services in line with the commitments in *Connecting Government 2030*, promoting a '*Digital-first but not Digital-only*' approach to business process improvement for members of the public, staff and elected representatives.

Services to the public are published on the **My Online Services** portal, where almost 8,400 users have now registered

Some of the high-usage services included:

Grant Schemes, including: ▪ Amenity and Arts Grants ▪ Local Enhancement Programme
Member's Portal (Councillors raising cases on behalf of constituents)
Residential Parking Permits
Housing Rents Change of Circumstances
Illegal Dumping Reporting
Roads Fault Reporting
Sports Active initiatives (Fun in the Sun)
Roads and Services (Taking in Charge)
Home Fire Safety Check Applications
Make a Complaint
Contact Us
Fleadh Cheoil Parking Permits
Slip Permits
Rates Transfer of Interest

New online services developed include:

- Housing Adaptation Grants
- Community Development Local Enhancement Programme
- Artist In the Community Programme
- Affordable Housing Expression of Interest
- Acknowledgements System - supporting documents handed in at Reception and district offices for applications to Housing sections.
- Outdoor Event Application
- Abnormal Loads
- Closed Vested Burial Ground Maintenance Grant
- Energy Meitheal Upgrade EOI
- Returning to Nature – Wexford
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Database Migration - All databases used by the CRM were migrated to a new server hence improving performance and resilience.
- Business Intelligence Reports - were developed to assist business areas with reporting and informed decision making.

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS AND GIS

The Business Applications team deliver and support new and existing business software solutions. They deliver data analytics and business intelligence reports to support decision making at all levels.

Integration with National e-Planning Portal

Wexford County Council's APAS planning application system was successfully integrated with the national e-Planning portal. This now enables the Planning staff to process electronic planning applications submitted via the national e-Planning portal (<https://planning.localgov.ie>).

The project also included:

- the roll out of a new Citizen Portal to allow the public to search planning applications 24/7.
- the migration of planning related documents and metadata to a SharePoint On-Line Document Management System (DMS)

Centros Business Applications

The ICT section provided support for the following Centros Business Applications: Rates, Rents, Grants, Loans Payable, Loans Receivable and Travel Expenses. Support was also provided for the following financial interface processes BillPay, Household Budget, and Bank Standing Orders.

The *Centros FMS and Bespoke Upgrade Project* started in 2025. The project included:

- Migrating from Oracle to SQL Server
- Upgrade and modernisation of the Commercial Rates application
- Upgrading the Loans Receivable application
- Implementing the Rents Assessment Module in iHouse
- Replacing a legacy Bank Statement Files process with an inhouse FME developed solution

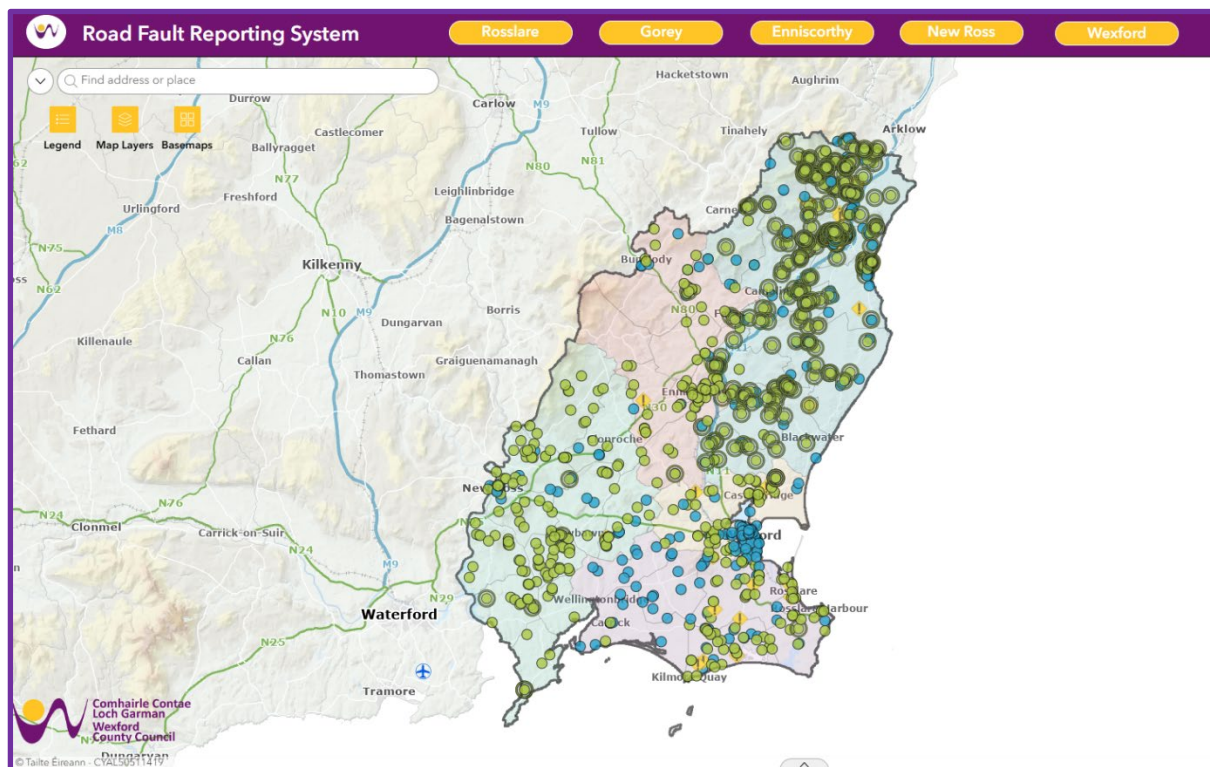
Microsoft Power Platform

During 2025 the department continued to utilise the MS Power Platform suite of tools to build custom business applications and assist with the analysing and visualisation of data. Solutions, due to go live early 2026:

- Contract Management System – Designed to help manage council contracts, the solution includes:
 - Centralised and searchable storage for all contracts.
 - A front-end application allowing each section to manage their own contracts.
 - Procurement benefit from a unified view of all contracts
 - Automated email notifications and reminders based on specific business rules e.g. contract renewal dates
 - Power BI report module included.
- HR Historical Data Lookup – an in-house developed power platform solution to allow HR to query historical Wages and Salaries data.
- Employee Leave Balances Power BI report
- Employee Sick Leave Balances Power BI Report
- Housing Void Maintenance Report – report on vacant properties, with automatic refresh daily.

GIS (Geographic Information System)

The GIS Team use mapping software (ArcGIS Online and ArcPro) to capture and analyse spatial data, design digital and hardcopy maps and create GIS applications.



Strategic Mapping for Housing Construction and Acquisition

Work began in 2025 on a GIS Application which will allow the creation of a Strategic Housing Mapping plan for Wexford and its Municipal districts.

This solution allows for more visibility on what Wexford County Council have currently under construction, on site build and approved for acquisition in the future.

This combined with the Development Plan updates and other infrastructure maps such as roads and water services, which were already available, will allow decision makers to see, per municipal district, the areas of saturation or over/under development in real time. It will give a better visual when considering proposals for development and lands available on which to build.

SharePoint

This project was completed for all directorates and included the following:

- The cleansing and migration of data from an on-premise file server to a cloud- based SharePoint solution.
- Working with each section to design new section file structures, Sharepoint sites and libraries.
- SharePoint user training for 583 council staff
- Development of training material – user guides and videos

During 2025 the GIS and Business Applications team continued to provide support services, including the upgrading of business systems based on update and service release patterns of our software suppliers, for the following systems:

- **Canto:-** a digital asset management system used to centralise and organise digital assets.
- **MapAlert:-** provides geographical based alerts and notifications to the public.
- **Choice Based Letting:** a housing system that allows applicants to express an interest in available properties.
- **iHouse:** The Housing section of Wexford County Council uses the iHouse System to manage Housing Applications/Allocations and Property Management.
- **iReg Support:** The iReg system is a national system used by Local Authorities to manage register of elector related information. ICT are responsible for the day-to-day support of the system.
- **GeoPal Field Worker** is used to provide data capture functionality for field workers. Using GeoPal helps to ensure consistent data collection and reporting, simplify processes for field workers, saving time, and improve the accuracy of data collected in the field. ICT continued to support the 79 templates and 165 users of GeoPal during the year.
- **CORE:-** HR & Payroll Management system.

Application Upgrades

- Archived Cottage Files DMS
- Upgrade GIS Applications to Web Experience
- iHouse
- iReg – two upgrades in 2025
- APAS Upgrade to V81.2

TECHNICAL SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE & OPERATIONS

Upgrade of Network Switches

The upgrade of the aging network infrastructure involved replacing legacy equipment and implementing full network segregation across the organisation. This improves security by limiting the spread of malware, enhances performance through better traffic management, and provides ICT with full visibility and control of all network activity. This upgraded network design establishes a more resilient and secure foundation for all future ICT services.

Managed Print Service Rollout

The managed print tender involves outsourcing print services to a managed print service provider, which reduces printing costs through efficient management, ensures reliable and high-quality printing services, and provides staff with support and maintenance for printing needs. All printers required for this phase were installed and configured.

Migration from On Premises File Server to SharePoint

The migration from the on-premise file server to SharePoint allows staff to access corporate data from any managed device and from any location. This move supports secure remote working, improves collaboration through real time document sharing, and reduces reliance on local hardware. The transition also enhances data governance, version control, and overall productivity across the organisation.

Upgrade of All PCs, Laptops to Windows 11:

All PCs and laptops were upgraded to Windows 11 improving system performance and user experience, provides enhanced security features, and ensures compatibility with the latest software and applications.

Councillor Support

Providing IT support specifically for councillors ensures they have the tools and support needed to perform their duties efficiently, offers dedicated support for quick issue resolution, and enhances councillor satisfaction with IT services.

End-User Support:

General IT support for all staff providing assistance with technical issues and questions, ensures staff can work efficiently without technical disruptions, and offers training and resources to help staff use technology effectively.

Mobile Device Support :

Providing support for mobile devices used by staff supports those who work remotely or on the go, ensures mobile devices are secure and compliant with policies, and helps staff stay productive with reliable mobile device support.

CYBERSECURITY

Training and Awareness Sessions

Cybersecurity Awareness Training Session held in February for all staff and Elected Members. Guest Speaker was Detective Garda Inspection Eoin O'Connell who highlighted the importance of cyber hygiene in one's personal life and in the workplace. The event was well attended and attendees found it beneficial.

A Breakfast Briefing was held for Outdoor staff at which they were given a presentation regarding the importance of their personal online security.

Ongoing training sessions and simulated phishing tests were provided throughout the year to improve awareness.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND CREATIVE IRELAND

Supporting Communities Through Inclusion, Learning and Sustainability

Wexford County Council Library Service continued to play an important role in community life across the county. In five branches and the mobile library service, libraries supported reading and literacy development, lifelong learning, climate awareness, health information, and cultural engagement for people of all ages.

Library Capital Programme

Detailed design progressed on the newly extended public library in New Ross with detailed design drawings displayed at an open meeting in October.

A tender process was begun for the purchase of a new mobile library for north County Wexford.

Reader Development

Wexford Libraries Stats 2025



NEW ROSS LIBRARY

 Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council



Entrance View



Side View



View from the park

HALL BLACK DOUGLAS

Banville at 80

Wexford Public Library Service delivered a series of events throughout late summer and autumn to celebrate the exceptional literary achievements of Booker Prize winning author John Banville as he marked his 80th birthday. The programme acknowledged both his international standing and his strong personal connection to Wexford as his birthplace, attracting considerable interest from readers and the wider community. Events included talks and discussions that highlighted the depth and influence of Banville's work. The celebrations concluded with a well-attended conversation between Banville and Professor Derek Hand at Wexford Library.

Inclusive Services at the Library

Inclusion and accessibility remained at the heart of library service delivery in 2025. The **STAR (Sensory Toys and Assistive Resources)** collection continued to expand, enhancing support for children, young people and adults with additional needs. Inclusive programming ensured that collections, spaces, and events remained welcoming and accessible to all.

The availability of the JAM (Just a minute) card was promoted throughout the branch network. The JAM Card© is a simple and discreet way to break down barriers, making it easy for people with non-visible disabilities to let others know they need 'Just A Minute' of patience and support. The JAM Card© is available for free in card or app form.

Outreach

Wexford Library Service staff visited schools, early learning centres, day care and community centres and festivals to reach non library users and to promote the services provided by the library service to the wider community.



Pop-up Library JFK Memorial Park and Arboretum, New Ross

Climate Action in the Library

LEAF, the literacy and food education programme, is a partnership between GIY (Grow it Yourself), Wexford Libraries and Libraries Ireland. The programme aims to establish community growing initiatives in every locality, transforming libraries into central hubs for food growing. The pilot programme concluded in September.

Libraries hosted events for Sustainable Development Goals Week on themes of recycling, sustainability and growing during this week and over the course of the year.

In person one to one Energy Advice Clinics with the Community Energy Hub were also held in library branches.

Circular Economy

Libraries continue to expand the “Library of Things” Collection with participation in the Vodafone HiDigital Tablet Loan Scheme for the over 65s. A biodiversity kit is available to borrow from Wexford Library. The Home Energy Saving Kits, activator poles and Digital Radon Monitors are also available to borrow for three weeks with a library membership card.

Libraries introduced community plant, costume and board game swap events to facilitate sustainable reuse and the circular economy. Libraries partnered with Fashion Connect Ireland to provide sewing skills and clothing repair workshops.



Costume and Board Game swaps in Gorey Library

The ‘Healthy Ireland at Your Library’ programme centres on supporting people to become informed in managing their health, by providing a dedicated Healthy Ireland book collection, and digital resources including magazines, eBooks and audiobooks.

Wexford public libraries held a variety of talks, discussions and workshops throughout the branch library network, including Diabetes, Fitness and Exercise, Sensory Play Therapy sessions, and Gut Health.

A series called Healthy Living for Everyday Life took place from September to December in Wexford Public Library branches, topics covered Alcohol Awareness, Everyday Movement and Physical Activity, Understanding Smoking and Vaping, Healthy Eating, Cancer Risk Reduction, and Mental Well-Being - the five ways to well-being. This programme was an initiative of the HSE Health Promotion and was funded through the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy.

Right to Read at Your Library

The Right to Read Programme aims to support literacy and reading development across all local authorities through an integrated, community-focused approach, ensuring coordinated and integrated delivery of services for individuals, families, and children. Right to Read promotes literacy for people of all ages and backgrounds.

The My Little Library initiative supported children transitioning to primary school, with 81% of the allocated My Little Library book bags distributed across the county.

Wexford Women's Refuge

Wexford Library Service continues to develop its relationship with Wexford Women's Refuge. The library service loaned a special collection of child psychology, therapeutic books and workbooks to support staff who work with children who are resident at the refuge.

STAR Bibliotherapy book collection

A collection of books has been developed to help support children with health and wellbeing issues e.g. ADHD, Bereavement, Divorce, Friendship, Worry/Anxiety etc.

Children' Book Festival

Thirty events delivered by the best of Irish authors and illustrators were attended by **1,360 children** in October. Eight hundred children attended online learning about Eilish Fisher's books and enthusiastically engaging in story development and creative writing activities.

Tiny Little Library

A collection of board books has been established for parents of babies in Wexford General Hospital's neonatal special care unit to share with their babies. Studies show that reading, talking, singing songs and reciting rhymes helps parents to bond with their babies and that the sound of a parent's voice calms babies, lowers heart rates and encourages early brain development.

Skills for Life

The Skills for Life programme is a new nationwide initiative delivered across all 30 local authority library services, designed to equip people with key skills for modern life. The programme focuses on six priority areas: Digital Skills, Financial Literacy, Media Literacy, Business and Employment Skills, Health Awareness, and Sustainable Lifestyles. Its aim is to provide equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities that support confidence, wellbeing, and active participation in everyday life.

Wexford Libraries delivered **371 Skills for Life events**, attracting **3,901 participants** across all five branches. Digital skills classes, e-resource training, using the Library App, and health literacy sessions were delivered throughout the year in all libraries, providing continuous support for adult learners of all abilities..

Age Friendly Libraries

Events were held across all branches with a **total attendance of 4644**. Events included, Digital Ambassador Clinics, Movie Clubs, Book Clubs, Wreath Making workshops, health and wellbeing workshops. Libraries also continue to provide supportive equipment in each branch as well as large print and audio books, both physically in branch and with our online offering through Borrow Box.

Commemoration 2025

Under the national Commemoration Programme, Wexford County Council supported projects reflecting on the legacy of 1925 and its local significance. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media supported the programme.

The Arts Department of Wexford County Council announced two Art Bursaries themed around commemoration of the 1925 period. The successful artists and projects were John Busher - "Fallow Bridge" visual arts project and Crannóg Media - "Where the Slaney Remembers, tales from a riverbank" film

Historian in Residence Programme

Historian in Residence Paul Byrne held talks in library branches based on the events of 1925 and the following years. The residency also raised awareness of the resources available through Wexford County Library and Archive.

Public Lecture Programme

Wexford Libraries held the following lectures:

"Hotel Lux: A Wexford Woman's Life in 1920s Moscow" with Dr Maurice Casey and "The end of the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1922 and its aftermath" with Dr Brian Hughes

Archives

Important historical collections continue to be acquired by and deposited in Wexford County Archive. A total of **19 collections were deposited**, some of which complement existing holdings. Acquisitions included an early 19th century map of Wexford town showing the extensive property held by Villiers Hatton, an Irish Whig MP for County Wexford; an autograph book owned by William Cullimore of Talbot Street, Wexford and compiled by him during his internment in Ballykinlar internment camp in Co. Down during the War of Independence. Other acquisitions included a set of rentals and watercolour maps relating to part of the Earl of Courtown estate (1813-50); an important 17th century letter written by Onesiphorous Phaire, owner of an ironworks near Enniscorthy; the archives of Duncannon ICA; and a collection of handwritten diaries (1930s-80s) from a member of the Traveller community documenting his family genealogy and working life across the UK, the US and Asia.

Digitisation is undertaken by the Archive on a phased basis each year to provide enhanced public access to some of its frequently requested collections. The first 24 volumes of minutes for Enniscorthy Town Commissioners (1855-1899) and Enniscorthy Urban District Council (1899-1956) and 8 volumes from the Gorey poor law minute book series (1883-87) were digitised and uploaded to the Archive's website where they are now freely accessible for research.

To showcase some of the Archive's important holdings to a wide audience, three loan agreements were drawn up during the year so that items could be placed on public display in suitable venues across the county. A large collection of maritime objects was provided on loan to Enniscorthy Castle for its themed exhibition, *From source to sea – stories from the waters of life* in May. Objects included a figurehead and associated items from the 'Pomona', a large model of a three-masted vessel, the 'Mary-Ann' of Wexford, pieces of whalebone and a series of small maritime objects. The exhibition will remain in the Castle until April 2026.

A framed replica of a highly decorative handkerchief in flat point lace from the world-famous lace school run by the Sisters of Mount Carmel in New Ross (c. 1833-1914) was presented on long-term

display to the Kennedy homestead in July. The original piece was gifted to President John F. Kennedy for his wife, Jacqueline during his historic visit to New Ross on 27 June 1963.

Artefacts, maps and documents from the Archive's holdings on Duncannon Fort were given on loan to a new display in the Fort for its opening in July.

Outreach is an invaluable means of publicising the Archive and its historic and varied holdings. In September, the Archive liaised with Kilmore Quay Heritage Group to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of St Peter's church in Kilmore Quay. A large manuscript dated 1871 from the Archive featured in an article by Seamus O'Brien in the Kilmore Parish Journal.

The Archivist researched and produced an exhibition, *Plucky Ladies – female representation in local elections in County Wexford, 1899-2024* to mark the recent 125th anniversary of local government in Ireland in 2024. The exhibition comprising nine panels identified and commemorated those women from all walks of life in County Wexford who were elected or co-opted to the local councils. The launch which took place in Wexford County Council, Carricklawn on 25 November was performed by Dr Aodh Quinlivan, senior lecturer in the Dept. of Government & Politics in University College Cork following his lecture *Barriers and Breakthroughs: Women's Political Leadership in Irish Local Government*. Three former elected members – Avril Doyle, Helen Corish and Kathleen Codd Nolan spoke briefly on their experiences as women in local politics at the event. The exhibition will tour across several public venues in the county during 2026.



Opening of "Plucky Ladies" exhibition in County Hall November 2025

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland's Creative Communities programme supported community-based creative projects across County Wexford, fostering inclusion, cultural participation, and wellbeing. The Creative Ireland Programme in County Wexford placed strong emphasis on **community creativity**, **Irish-language support**, and placemaking.

Creativity in the Community – Rural Connections

The Rural Connections project worked with five community venues across the county, including Marshalstown Community Centre, Ballyfad Community Centre, The Bank Community and Enterprise Hub in Rosslare, Castlebridge Community Hall and The Colclough Memorial Hall in Saltmills. This project aimed to enhance communication and maximise the impact of cultural activity in these rural venues.

Irish Language Creative Projects

A key focus for 2025 was a suite of **Irish-language projects** aimed at embedding the language in everyday community life through cultural activity. The projects were selected through an open call and designed to foster meaningful, creative engagement with the language.

The projects included:

- **Subh Dubh** foraging and cooking workshops.
- **Éist A storytelling project** inviting young people to co-create a new Irish-language story for radio.
- **Two Irish-language editions** of Stephen James Smith's spoken word night So Say So.
- **Aistear** A programme to **upskill artists** from multiple disciplines to incorporate Irish into their work.
- **Imeartas Focal** explored the Irish language through the creative concept of playing with words.
- Focusing on the theme of Irish birds, this biodiversity project entitled **Ag Giolcaireacht** saw the Tomhaggard Women's Shed form a choral ensemble while singing in Irish.

Cultural and Community Projects

Wexford County Council's Culture Team delivered community-focused projects supported through Creative Ireland, including:

New Ross MD: *Small Things Like These* Community Documentary

Rosslare MD: Yola Today Project

A heritage-language drama initiative exploring the **Yola language** of the Forth and Bargy baronies.

Enniscorthy Municipal District: Bunclody: A Community-led Placemaking Vision connected the people of Bunclody with the history and heritage of the town's built environment and creatively explores the potential of future local developments.

Gorey Municipal District: Upon Landing Neurodiversity Project

This inclusion and wellbeing project investigated a better understanding of access and welcome for neurodivergent audiences, artists, volunteers and organisers at County Wexford's festivals.

Wexford Municipal District: Enchanted Ecology - Redmond Park Land Art Project

Enchanted Ecology explores the connections between biodiversity and community in Wexford Town's Redmond Park.

Shared Island: Echoes and Horizons

Shared Island, Shared Futures: Echoes and Horizons was a series of 'best practice' exchanges that build further connection between existing Shared Island partners: Gorey School of Art, Wexford Arts Centre, Ulster University and The MAC, Belfast.

Cruinniu na nÓg 2025

This national day of creativity for children and young people was held in June. The programme featured over 50 free events for children across Wexford's five libraries and cultural venues, including the National Opera House and Wexford Arts Centre.

The Sessions Summer 2025

The Sessions were delivered across Wexford's four nursing homes: New Houghton, New Ross; Gorey District Hospital; St Johns, Enniscorthy; and Abbeygale, Wexford Town.

Historical Landfill Consultations

This placemaking initiative sought the input of local communities to shape the future of four landfill sites. To gather feedback and ideas, cultural producer Karla Sanchez led a series of consultation workshops.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Enniscorthy Technology Park, Killagoley

Wexford County Council is developing the lands (approximately 14.5 HA) as a technology park with associated services infrastructure to facilitate investment by the science and technology sectors. The site is located alongside the old N11 to the south of Enniscorthy.

Phase 1 - The development of three serviced sites and construction of first building is complete.

Phase 2 - Access Road - Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing.

IDA Advance Factory Building

Site investigations are complete, and design work is ongoing. It is now expected to lodge a planning application for a proposed advance factory building in Enniscorthy Technology Park in January 2026.

TRINITY WHARF



Construction of the access road is substantially complete. Irish Rail works are ongoing to construct a new automated level crossing.

John Street Building Regeneration Project

Wexford County Council was previously successful in securing RRDF funding to advance the design a redevelopment of the old grain stores at John Street, New Ross. This proposed project will see the conversion of the Grain Store into a high-quality town-centre hub, with offices, community space and a destination café/restaurant.

Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy

ODKM Architects have been appointed to undertake concept master planning design services for the Templeshannon Regeneration Project.

Esmonde Street Public Realm Improvement Project

The aim of this project is to provide an upgraded public realm to Esmonde St. Gorey, that undergrounds the overhead services on the street, improves accessibility to individual shop units on

the street, as well as between Main St. and Esmonde St. to enhance the public realm thereby encouraging retail opportunities on Esmonde St.

It is anticipated that construction will commence on-site in Q1 2026.

Mechanics Institute, Wexford

Tenders have been received and assessment for works to renovate the Mechanics Institute to bring the building back into community use. Works commenced in October & are expected to be completed at the end of March 2026

Carrigfoyle

This site was identified for the construction of an Activity Centre in conjunction with Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board. The centre will provide recreational, social, health and wellbeing activities for locals and visitors.



Phase 1 – Trails and Carpark- (access road, car park, trails, and services) of this project is complete.

Phase 2 - Activity Centre Building:

Awaiting further instruction from the WWETB before commencing the next phase.

WEXFORDIA – Irish National Heritage Park (INHP), Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects

The ambition is to develop a strong cluster of tourism projects within the county to maximise the economic impact of these attractions on the local economy.

Irish National Heritage Park: INHP

The tourism and environmental design teams for the INHP have commenced work on a preliminary design and the environmental assessments for the expansion of the Visitor experience at the INHP. The preliminary design has been extended to include a design to mitigate against future flood events.



Hook Lighthouse

The ambition is to develop Hook Lighthouse and the lighthouse site as a long-term sustainable tourism experience capable of attracting significantly more paying visitors and improving the economic output of the peninsula and region; and the creation of a “must see” destination within Ireland, Ireland’s Ancient East and the Hook peninsula celebrating the region’s unique landscape and heritage that will appeal to domestic and international audiences.

Feasibility assessments are taking place on the management of visitors to the Hook Lighthouse. An Integrated Design Team led by Architect Hall Mc Knight has been appointed and the concept will now be further developed and finalised.

Wexford County Council secured RRDF Category 1 (Construction Stage) funding for the following tourism projects within the county

New Ross Tourism Project

The renovation of the Dunbrody Visitor Centre exhibition experience is now complete and open to the public. The renovated centre is expected to generate €9 million euros for the local economy and 36 jobs in the next 10 years.



Norman Themed Visitor Centre

The Norman Centre, to be based in two prominent vacant properties, the Bank and Murphy Furniture buildings on the Quay, New Ross will focus on the Norman story of New Ross and Ireland and will include the Ros Tapestry.

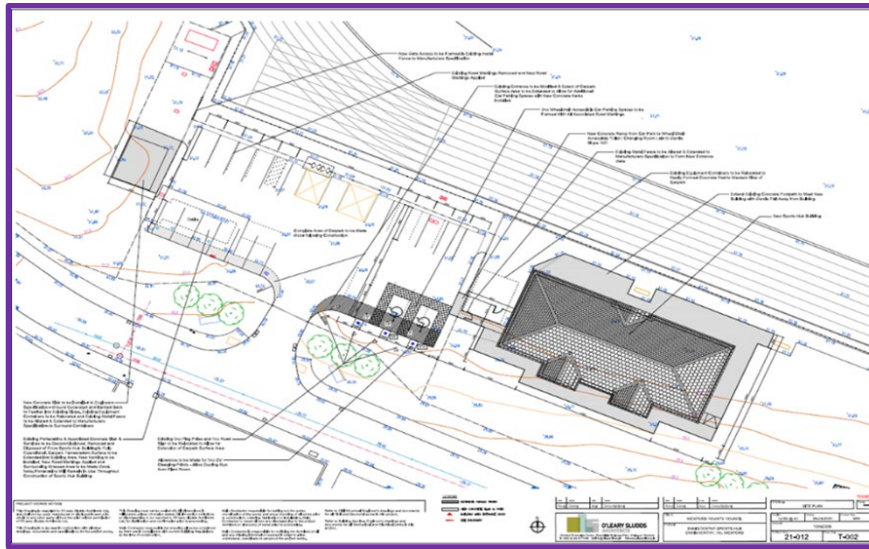
The site investigation works contract is complete. The works tender process has commenced. The Norman centre will be an important element in the European wide celebration of the 1000th Anniversary of the birth of William the Conqueror, the first Norman King of England.



The centre is expected to generate €25 million & 70 jobs over 10 years for the local economy.

Enniscorthy Sports Hub

Works commenced onsite in August and currently on programme for completion in September 2026.



Enniscorthy Town Centre Regeneration Project

The Part 8 process for the Market Square project is complete, with the Council approving the scheme to include street enhancement works in the town centre area, as well as the pedestrianisation of Market Square.

Preliminary design work on the Enniscorthy Castle Quarter project is ongoing.

Gorey Market House

Technical Consultancy Services Contract/s have been awarded for Architect led integrated design team for detailed design, procurement & construction supervision services (Stage (ii) to (v)) in April 2025. Surveys to inform the detailed design are currently underway. Stage 1 (prequalification) of main works tender was published in September 2025; it is anticipated that evaluation and shortlisting of submissions will be completed and tenders will be invited in January/February 2026.

Gorey Relief Road – Ballytegan Avenue

Design work has commenced; site investigation works are nearly complete.

Ferndale Gymnasium and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), Wexford

The works are now substantially complete and in use by the public.

Adoration Convent Wexford

This project will see the conversion of the old convent into accommodation for students of Georgia Southern University Wexford campus.

Works are progressing well & completion is scheduled for January 2027.



South East Greenway

The Southeast Greenway is under construction on the disused rail corridor that extends from Mount Elliot, north of New Ross, to Ferrybank in Waterford running through South Kilkenny. It will, in conjunction with the North Quays projects and the Bilberry Greenway in Waterford, connect the Southeast Greenway with the Waterford greenway creating a 72km greenway that will attract both domestic & international visitors to the area & will act as an economic driver for the region.

Phase 2, the 7km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore is completed construction and is scheduled to open to the public in late March 2026.



Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand & Rosslare Strand to Rosslare Harbour Greenways

Ecological Assessments to inform the Environmental Evaluation for both projects are ongoing.

Consultations with Iarnród Éireann, CIE, NPWS, and Mara are still ongoing.



Curragloe Water Sports Activity Facility

Wexford County Council received grant funding of approximately €1.2m from Fáilte Ireland for the development of facilities to support water sports activities at Whitegap, Curragloe. The project includes showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers.



Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

An application for RRDF funding was submitted in April and was unsuccessful. The MAC application was submitted to MARA in November 2025. It has been agreed to include an outdoor saltwater swimming pool into the scheme.

Enniscorthy Flood Defence Scheme

Flood Relief Scheme – Phase 1

Wexford County Council is progressing the planning consent for Phase 1. This phase of the project will include the construction of the new River Slaney Bridge, the removal of the Seamus Rafter Bridge and the construction of a new pedestrian bridge in the town centre. The baseline data for this phase has been updated. Traffic surveys are complete, ecology survey reports are complete. Multi criteria analysis of the bridge options is currently in progress. Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Kevin Moran met with local Councillors in Enniscorthy in April. The Minister confirmed his commitment to providing a Flood Relief Scheme for Enniscorthy and that funding is in place for the scheme. A public consultation for the pedestrian bridge was held in November.

Wexford Flood Relief Scheme

A preliminary cost estimate of €9.52m has been approved by the OPW for scheme, which will be fully funded. The scheme is currently in Stage 1 Option Assessments, Scheme Development and Design. Ecological surveys are continuing.

Surveying in culverts, rivers and bridges is complete. Modelling of the current conditions is almost complete. The optioneering stage of the scheme has commenced.

Ballast Office

This tender process was completed in September. The contract for the works has been awarded to Mythen Construction. Construction works to commence in 2026.

Riverchapel Community Centre

Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Riverchapel Community Complex CLG is developing a new build multi-functional Community Centre in Riverchapel. Funding in the sum of €1.8m has been approved by DRCDG under the Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF).

DRCDG Capital Delivery Team

A new Capital Delivery Team funded by Department of Rural & Community Development & the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) was established in Special Projects. The Team are tasked with the administration of DRCDG funded schemes, specifically RRDF, ORIS and TVRS.

Details of successful applications:

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

ORIS Measure	Project:	District
M1	Rehabilitate Cliff Top Walk, Rosslare Harbour	RMD
M1	Vinegar Hill Links	EMD
M1	Morriscastle Beach Access	GKMD
M1	Taghmon-Carrigfoyle Cycle Route	RMD
M1	Sweetwalk Trail, Ramsfort	GKMD
M1	Crory Lane Link to Edenvale Walking Trail	WBD
M2	Kellyswood Trail Link	NRMD
M2	Coolgreany to Ballyfad Walking Trail	GKMD
M2	Wellintonbridge to Little Seas Walking Trail	RMD
M3	Our Lady's Island Trail (Ph 3)	RMD
M4	Blackstairs Recreation Trail Feasibility Study	NRMD/EMD

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

€1m RRDF (Cat 2) funding approval for **Europe's Gateway to Ireland - Rosslare's Sustainable Tourism Experience** was announced by Dara Calleary, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht in October.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025 - The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD announced the successful applications under TVRS

District	Project Brief:	Allocation:
Enniscorthy	Ballyhogue Old Post Office - develop as a multi-purpose community facility that will offer a wide range of facilities and services to all age groups.	€300,000
Wexford	Castlebridge House, Castlebridge - Heritage Project- Renovate derelict buildings on the grounds for creative hub for artisans, coffee & resource hub & public realm	€300,000
New Ross	Courthouse, New Ross - The refurbishment of the old courthouse in New Ross, a historic building currently unused, into a multifunctional community space and office hub.	€500,000
Gorey/ Kilmuckridge	Ballycanew / Ballyoughter - Prepare detailed designs, planning and procurement documentation for the development of a community park in the village.	€50,000
New Ross	Rathnure - Research and plan comprehensive development of the vacant schoolhouse in a creative community hub incorporating community café, exhibition space, event venue, and multi - purpose arts, heritage & cultural building.	€50,000

TVRS (Building/Land Acquisition measure)

District	Location	Acquisition
Rosslare	Duncormick	Purchase of Old Schoolhouse for Community use
Rosslare	Taghmon	Purchase of land adjoining TAG Centre to allow future development of existing community resource campus
Enniscorthy	Bunclody	Purchase of Land for the provision of Public Park

TOWN REGENERATION UNIT

The regeneration unit has a strong focus on town regeneration and deals specifically with the town centre first and the vacant homes function within Wexford County Council.

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

The Town Centre First (TCF) Policy aims to create Town Centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

We have town centre first teams active in 7 towns in county Wexford with each town at different stages of the Town centre first journey.

We have 3 Town Centre First Plans now in Place in Co Wexford namely New Ross Town, Enniscorthy Town and in Sept 2025 the Courtown/Riverchapel TCF Team approved the Courtown/Riverchapel Town Centre First Plan. The core concepts of Town Centre First are consultation, understanding the place, defining the place and enabling the place with community engagement a critical element of the process.



Picture of Wex TCF Consultation Event “Super Saturday”

Measure 1 - Under this measure we have successfully established town teams in Taghmon, Bunclody and Castlebridge and completed health checks for all towns after extensive consultation.

Measure 2 - Following the establishment of the Courtown/Riverchapel Town Centre First Team we had extensive consultation in and around Courtown/Riverchapel in relation to the Town Centre First Plan.

Measure 3 - Using funding provided by DRCDG of €100,000 (2*€50,000) under this measure the Regeneration unit worked with 2 local communities in bringing projects from ideas to more detailed design proposals.

St Michaels Theatre: Working with the board and Theatre Director of St Michaels Theatre we developed full plans and drawings for renovation/improvement works to this historic and culturally significant institution in New Ross Town.



VACANT HOMES

The Vacant Homes grant of up to €70,000 provides vital support in returning derelict properties to active use, with the Vacant Homes Team available to assist applicants throughout the process. In addition, a countywide vacancy survey commenced in 2025, providing valuable data to analyse vacancy levels across Wexford.



Before



After

Croi Conaithe Applications as of 31st Dec 2025.

Application Received	553
Applications further info Requested/Withdrawn etc.	146
Applications Approved	407
Value of Applications Approved	€23,207,852
No. of Cases where funding issued	152
Total Funding Paid	€8,762,774.90

CIVIL DEFENCE

2025 was a year of sustained operational delivery, enhanced capability, and strong community engagement for Civil Defence.

The organisation maintained a consistent presence at community and sporting events, providing ambulance and first aid cover while ensuring public safety. A significant highlight of the year was the successful delivery of the Fleadh Cheoil, which required extensive planning, multi-agency coordination, and large-scale deployment of personnel and resources.

Training remained a cornerstone of operational effectiveness, with weekly sessions across all units and multiple county-wide training exercises delivered. Volunteers completed a wide range of certifications and participated in national exercises, ensuring continued readiness for complex incidents.

Civil Defence also maintained its commitment to community support through patient transport services and ongoing assistance to Ukrainian refugees and integration programmes. Emergency response capability was demonstrated through flood response operations and missing person search support.

The year also marked the 75th anniversary of Civil Defence, celebrated through national and local events recognising the dedication and service of volunteers past and present.

Operational Delivery:

- 80+ civic duties supported including sporting events, festivals, and national celebrations
- Major multi-day deployment successfully delivered: Fleadh Cheoil 2025
- Ongoing inter-agency cooperation including missing persons and emergency response operations

Training & Capability:

- Weekly training delivered across Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and New Ross units
- 2 national radiation exercises completed
- Multiple county-wide training days conducted
- Certifications achieved in CFR, CFR Advanced, Food Safety (Levels 1–3), Manual Handling, and specialist rescue training

Volunteer & Organisation:

- 35+ recruitment applications received during national campaign
- Successful induction and training of new recruits
- 75th Anniversary celebrated through national and local events
- Continued volunteer recognition through awards and service medals

Operations Overview



Civil Defence volunteers providing safety and event support at Wexford Half Marathon, 2025.

Major Operation: Fleadh Cheoil 2025



FINANCE

MOTOR TAX

Following the successful completion of the Motor Tax Office reconfiguration works in August, which separated and modernised the department, the new Motor Tax Office and new Receipts Office reopened operations with their new respective public opening hours.

The Motor Tax team now offers a focused and dedicated service to in-person public counter applications during the public counter opening hours of 09:00 – 13:00hrs, whilst our afternoon back-office operations are solely dedicated to trade applications and postal applications.



Wexford Motor Tax Office consolidated its position as the **sixth busiest nationally, with 44,176 transactions** processed in the office generating an income of €7,024,957.00, whilst also dealing with approximately **15,500 telephone queries**.

In 2025, on-line business for original tax discs in Wexford increased to 83.92%, which equates to 178,757 transactions for the year.

APPENDICES

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING ATTENDED BY ELECTED MEMBERS

Date	Attendees	
30/31 January LAMA Spring Seminar – Kilford Arms, Kilkenny.	Pip Breen John Fleming Donal Kenny	Garry Laffan Frank Staples Joe Sullivan
5/6 February Association of Irish Regions (AIR) Annual Training Seminar, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.	Pip Breen John Fleming Donal Kenny Pat Kehoe Garry Laffan	Barbara Anne Murphy Frank Staples Joe Sullivan Oliver Walsh
20 February AILG Module 1 Training, “An overview of Wind Energy: contribution to economy, climate action and future potential”. Dundalk, Co. Louth.	John Fleming Pat Kehoe Donal Kenny	Garry Laffan Michael Sheehan
22 February AILG Module 1 Training, “An overview of Wind Energy: contribution to economy, climate action and future potential”. Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny		Nicky Boland Joe Sullivan
20 March AILG Module 2 Training “Embracing Equality – Cultivating Inclusive Local Communities”, The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.	Nicky Boland Craig Doyle Pat Kehoe	Garry Laffan Joe Sullivan
22 March AILG Module 2 Training “Embracing Equality – Cultivating Inclusive Local Communities”, Clayton Hotel, Galway		Leonard Kelly Michael Sheehan
2/3 April AILG Annual Training Conference – Limerick Strand Hotel	Nicky Boland Craig Doyle John Fleming Pat Kehoe Donal Kenny	Garry Laffan Michael Sheehan Frank Staples Joe Sullivan Oliver Walsh
24 May AILG "Emergency Response - Council's Supporting Communities in Weather Crisis" - Rose Hotel, Tralee	Garry Laffan Donal Kenny Craig Doyle	Joe Sullivan John Fleming Oliver Walsh
29 May AILG Elected Member Induction Training Day - Athlone Springs Hotel		Craig Doyle
19 June AILG "A new approach to Planning" Radisson Blu, Cork	Garry Laffan Donal Kenny Craig Doyle Joe Sullivan	Nicky Boland Pat Kehoe Michael Sheehan
21 June		John Fleming

AILG "A new approach to Planning" OUT OF REGION - Monaghan		Pip Breen
Date	Attendees	
02 September AILG SPC Chair Training – Portlaoise (Out of Region)	Jim Codd	
03 September AILG SPC Chair Training – Kilkenny	John Fleming	
17/18 September AILG Autumn Training Seminar, Westport, Co. Mayo.	Joe Sullivan Frank Staples Nicky Boland Garry Laffan Pip Breen	Michael Sheehan Craig Doyle Pat Kehoe Pat Barden Donal Kenny
11 October AILG Module 5 Training "Local Authority Finance & Budget Process", Horse & Jockey, Tipperary	John Fleming Michael Sheehan	Pat Kehoe Oliver Walsh
16/17 October LAMA Autumn Seminar – Amber Springs, Gorey, Co. Wexford.	Nicky Boland Pip Breen Craig Doyle Mary Farrell	John Fleming Garry Laffan Donal Kenny Joe Sullivan
13 November AILG Training – Overview Evolving Planning Context and New Section 28 Ministerial Planning Guidelines, Ravenport, Wexford.	John Fleming	
15 November AILG Training – Overview Evolving Planning Context and New Section 28 Ministerial Planning Guidelines, Ravenport, Wexford.	Donal Kenny Pip Breen	Joe Sullivan BA Murphy
9/10/11 April Irish Planning Institute Annual Planning Conference 2025 – Salthill, Galway	Leonard Kelly	
17/18/19 July McGill Summer School, The Glenties, Donegal.	Donal Kenny Garry Laffan Michael Sheehan	John Fleming Pip Breen
10/11/12 October Celtic Conferences "A Practical Guide to Budget 2026" - Carlingford, Co. Louth	John O'Rourke Frank Staples	
7/8/9 November Celtic Conferences – The Evolving Role of AI in Public Relations, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	Mary Farrell Craig Doyle	Nicky Boland

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The purpose of this governance statement is to provide relevant information on the governance structures and governance arrangements within the local authority including on council, committees, senior management and related areas. It demonstrates our commitment to effective governance, recognises key legislative and good governance requirements and affirms the Council's compliance with the Local Government Code of Governance obligations.

Good Governance

Fundamentally, good governance in the local government sector and wider public sector is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in the public interest, in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory and government policy obligations. Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes by which the local authority is directed, controlled and held to account and whereby authority within an organisation is exercised and maintained. It encompasses authority, accountability, stewardship and leadership, direction and control.

Good Governance Principles

CORE PRINCIPLE 1 - Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the authority, on outcomes that deliver sustainable economic, community and wider societal benefits and on implementing a vision for the local authority.

CORE PRINCIPLE 2 - Good governance means promoting and demonstrating public service values through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

CORE PRINCIPLE 3 - Good governance means members and officials working together to achieve a common purpose within a framework of clearly defined functions and roles.

CORE PRINCIPLE 4 - Good governance means developing the organisational capacity and the leadership capability and competencies of members and officials to operate effectively and fulfil the purpose of the organization.

CORE PRINCIPLE 5 - Good governance means taking well-informed and transparent decisions and managing risks and performance.

CORE PRINCIPLE 6 - Good governance means engaging openly and comprehensively with local people, citizens and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

CORE PRINCIPLE 7 - Good governance means actively contributing to the furtherance and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by delivering on the priorities and actions within the Climate Action Plan and the provisions of the Climate Act.

Our Commitment to Good Governance

As the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive of the council, and on behalf of the elected members, management and staff we confirm that;

1. We have adopted the governance principles as the fundamental bedrock and philosophy on how we operate as a governing body and as an executive.
2. The Local Government Code of Governance has been adopted and the extent to which the Council is in compliance with the Code has been reviewed and assessed.
3. The Statement of Internal Financial Control is submitted by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members and to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviews the SIFC and provides an assurance on an annual basis to the Elected Members. Mechanisms are available to the Audit Committee to notify the Elected Members of any issues that arise outside of the normal annual reporting.
4. Compliance with legal and regulatory obligations are acknowledged and adhered to.
5. There is clarity of roles and responsibilities based on the reserved and executive functions and based on committee terms of reference.
6. Codes of Conduct and ethics declarations for members and employees are in place.
7. Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and confirmation that the annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published.
8. The Council and Committees review their own performance on a periodic basis.
9. We have instituted appropriate governance oversight arrangements in respect of subsidiary, associated and related companies.
10. As part of our commitment to effective oversight and accountability, we have developed and continue to enhance our overall assurance framework utilising external and internal assurance sources to ensure good performance as part of our governance culture.



Chief Executive



Cathaoirleach

ELECTED MEMBERSHIPS OF OTHER BODIES

Body	Jan–May Representatives	Jun–Dec Representatives
Age Friendly Alliance	Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio	Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio
Apex New Ross Sport & Leisure	J. Dwyer, M. Sheehan	J. Dwyer, M. Sheehan
Association of Irish Local Gov	G. Laffan, P. Kehoe, O. Walsh	G. Laffan, P. Kehoe, O. Walsh
Drugs & Alcohol Task Force	J. Codd	J. Codd
High Performance Building Alliance	G. Laffan	G. Laffan
Hook Heritage	B. Murphy, M. Sheehan	B. Murphy, M. Sheehan
IPB Insurance	B.A. Murphy	B.A. Murphy
JFK Trust	J. Fleming	J. Fleming
KIMO	L. McDonald	L. McDonald
LAMA	D. Kenny	D. Kenny
Model County Enterprise	D. Kenny	D. Kenny
1798 Centre	B.A. Murphy, P. Kehoe	B.A. Murphy, P. Kehoe
Regional Health Forum	J. Sullivan, J. Fleming, F. Staples, C. Byrne	J. Sullivan, G. Carthy, J. Fleming, F. Staples, V. Barron
SE Drugs Task Force	J. Codd	J. Codd
SE Energy Agency	F. Staples	F. Staples
River Basin Council	B.A. Murphy	B.A. Murphy
Southern Regional Assembly	P. Breen, O. Walsh, B.A. Murphy	P. Breen, B.A. Murphy, O. Walsh
Sports Active Wexford	G. Laffan	G. Laffan
St Michael's Theatre	B. Murphy	B. Murphy
St Stephen's Cemetery	B. Murphy, J. Dwyer, J. Fleming, M. Murphy, M. Sheehan, P. Barden	B. Murphy, J. Dwyer, J. Fleming, M. Murphy, M. Sheehan, P. Barden
Comhairle na nÓg	Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio	Cathaoirleach Ex-Officio
Wexford Heritage Trust	B.A. Murphy, G. Laffan	B.A. Murphy, G. Laffan
WWETB	J. Codd, A. Browne, D. McDonald, B. Murphy, P. Kavanagh, M. Farrell, M. Sheehan	J. Codd, A. Browne, D. McDonald, B. Murphy, P. Kavanagh, M. Farrell, M. Sheehan
Wexford Monument Trust	J. Fleming	J. Fleming
Swimming Pool Ferrybank	C. Walsh, R. Staples	C. Walsh, R. Staples

ANNUAL ALLOWANCES PAID TO ELECTED MEMBERS WHO HOLD PARTICULAR OFFICES

Payments to Elected Members (2025)

Description	Amount
Total Representation Payments	€ 1,047,063.75
Total Annual Expenses Allowance Payments	€ 153,120.02
Total Local Representation Allowance Payments	€ 83,359.84
Training Events Expenses	€ 36,547.33
Conference & Other Events Expenses	€ 14,358.50
Conference & Training Fees	€ 4,170.00
Events Abroad Expenses	€ 69,574.39
Members Security Allowance	€ 71,491.60
Chairperson WCC Allowances	€ 33,072.61
Vice-Chairperson WCC Allowances	€ 6,002.47
SPC Chairperson Allowances	€ 47,467.88
MD Chairperson Allowances	€ 24,342.94
Borough (Mayoral) Allowances	€ 12,464.92

Chairperson's Allowances Payable (2025)

Description	Amount
Chairperson of Wexford County Council	€ 30,000.00
Vice-Chairperson of Wexford County Council	€ 6,000.00
Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson	€ 6,000.00
Municipal District Chairperson	€ 6,000.00
Borough District (Mayoral) Chairperson	€ 12,000.00

COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS 2025

Title	Purpose	Members Jan–May	Meetings Jan–May	Members Jun–Dec	Meetings Jun–Dec	Total
Wexford County Council	Including special meetings	34	6	34	9	15
Enniscorthy Municipal District	Including special meetings	6	5	6	7	12
New Ross Municipal District	Including 1 special meetings	6	6	6	8	14
Wexford Borough District	Including special meetings	7	6	7	7	13
Gorey-Kilmuckridge Municipal District		10	5	10	7	12
Rosslare Municipal District		5	5	5	7	12
Corporate Policy Group (CPG)	To act as a mini-cabinet for Council Business, to link and co-ordinate the work of the different SPCs and to provide a forum where policy positions affecting the whole Council can be discussed and agreed for submission to the full County Council.	7	4	8	6	10
Transportation and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)		9	1	9	1	2
Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)		15	1	15	2	3
Planning and Building Control Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)		13	1	13	3	4
Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)		10	2	10	3	5
Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)		15	1	15	3	4
Community & Rural Affairs SPC		9	1	9	2	3
Protocol Committee		7	1	7	1	2
Protocol Committee WBD		4	2	4	2	4
Local Traveller (Accommodation) Consultative Committee	To advise in relation to the preparation and implementation of any accommodation programme for the functional area of the appointing authority concerned.		0	12	2	2

Title	Purpose	Members Jan–May	Meetings Jan–May	Members Jun–Dec	Meetings Jun–Dec	Total
Audit Committee	To review the Council's financial reporting practices and procedures; To foster the development of best practice in the local authority internal audit function; To review the Council's financial reports and report to that authority on it's findings; To assess and promote efficiency and value for money; To review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.	5	1	5	3	4
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	To have primary responsibility for co-ordination, governance, planning and oversight of local development spend, whether that spend is delivered by local authorities or on behalf of the State by other local development agencies and structures; To bring a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, seeking to ensure an integrated approach to local community and local development services between providers and delivery structures; To develop approaches that focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between practice and policy development; To explore and pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for the area, wheter Exchequer, EU, private or other resources.	18	2	18	2	4
Joint Policing Committee (JPC) New Ross Municipal District		11	2	11	2	4
Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District		12	1	12	0	1
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	To monitor and advise on the development and implementation of policy in relation to the locally devolved rural water programme.	15	1	15	2	3
Budget Working Group				11	1	1
Budget Meeting				34	1	1
Local Community Safety Partnership				28	1	1

FOREIGN TRAVEL 2025

Australia – 27 February 2025 to 07 March 2025

Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. Aidan Browne, Claire Lawless WCC

New York – 12 March 2025 to 19 March 2025

Cllr. Ger Carthy, Eamonn Hore WCC, Michael Drea WCC

Savannah – 12 March 2025 to 21 March 2025

Cllr. Pip Breen, Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Cllr. Bridin Murphy, Cllr. Catherine Walsh, Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy,
Cllr. Frank Staples, Eddie Taaffe WCC, Elizabeth Hore WCC, Breege Cosgrave WCC

Harteford, Connecticut - March 2025 (New Ross MD)

Cllr. Pat Barden, Cllr. John Fleming, Mick McCormack WCC

Cherbourg, France - 20 March 2025 to 24 March 2025

Cllr. Garry Laffan, Cllr. Pat Kehoe, Billy Byrne WCC, Angela Lawless WCC

KIMO Board Meeting, Aalborg, Denmark - 13 May 2025 to 15 May 2025

Cllr. Lisa McDonald, Michael Mahon WCC

Dunkirk, France – 21 – 24 May 2025 (Rosslare MD)

Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr. Lisa McDonald, Eamonn Hore WCC, Noirin Cummins WCC

Fishguard & Goodwick Council - 23-25 May 2025 (Rosslare MD)

Cllr. Jim Codd

Danville, California – 11 to 18 September 2025 (New Ross Municipal District)

Cllr. Bridin Murphy, Cllr. John Fleming, Eamonn Hore WCC, Alan Fitzhenry WCC

Caen, France – 9th October 2025

Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Liz Hore WCC, Billy Byrne WCC

New Jersey (USA) - October 2025 (Wexford Borough District)

Cllr. Garry Laffan, Anthony Bailey WCC

London Wexford Association Event, Cricklewood – October 2025 (Districts)

Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr. John Dwyer, Cllr. Craig Doyle, Cllr. Ray Shannon, Anita McLoughlin WCC,
Claire Lawless WCC, Alan Fitzhenry WCC, Anthony Bailey WCC

Philadelphia, USA – 01 to 05 October 2025 (Wexford Borough District)

Cllr. Garry Laffan, Cllr. Anthony Bailey WCC

Wexford County Council

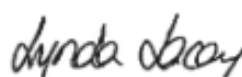
Certificate of Chief Executive & Head of Finance

For the year ended 31st December, 2025

- 1.1 We, the Chief Executive and Head of Finance, are responsible for preparing an annual financial statement in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under Section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.
- 1.2 We are responsible for maintaining proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the local authority and enable it to ensure the financial statements prepared comply with the statutory requirements.
- 1.3 We are responsible for the safeguarding of assets of the local authority and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.
- 1.4 When preparing financial statements we have:
- Stated that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and the accounting policies have been applied consistently; and
 - Made judgements and estimates that are responsible and prudent.
- 1.5 We certify that the financial statements of Wexford County Council for the year ended 31st December 2025, as set out on pages 10-24, are in agreement with the books of account and has been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements as directed by the Minister for the Housing, Local Government and Heritage



Chief Executive



Director of Finance

30th March, 2026

Date

30th March, 2026

Date

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure By Division	Note	Gross Expenditure 2025 €	Income 2025 €	Net Expenditure 2025 €	Net Expenditure 2024 €
Housing and Building		53,208,920	57,235,011	(4,026,091)	(4,931,993)
Roads, Transportation & Safety		44,888,921	31,365,799	13,523,122	13,738,071
Water Services		12,683,317	10,563,052	2,120,265	1,728,433
Development Management		17,972,650	6,721,638	11,251,011	11,053,906
Environmental Services		22,113,472	6,749,193	15,364,278	13,666,391
Recreation & Amenity		12,621,177	1,512,569	11,108,608	11,109,259
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		2,797,858	1,215,836	1,582,022	1,553,741
Miscellaneous Services		11,528,383	15,848,159	(4,319,776)	(2,256,375)
Total Expenditure/Income	15	177,814,697	131,211,258		
Net Cost of Division to be funded from Rates and Local Property Tax				46,603,440	45,661,432
Rates				43,097,303	41,603,065
Local Property Tax				17,051,611	16,985,610
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfer				13,545,474	12,927,243
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(13,484,627)	(12,869,288)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	16			60,847	57,955
General Reserve at 1st January				192,891	134,937
General Reserve at 31st December				253,738	192,891

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed Assets			
Operational		1,113,640,938	1,053,551,390
Infrastructural		1,786,793,371	1,785,831,520
Community		65,544,165	65,352,891
Non-Operational		16,719,052	16,719,052
		2,982,697,526	2,921,454,852
Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	64,794,384	63,839,044
Long Term Debtors	3	142,163,239	130,581,944
Current Assets			
Stock	4	542,277	545,234
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	24,010,443	44,130,258
Bank Investments		55,397,178	48,767,178
Cash at Bank		25,629,668	4,023,049
Cash in Transit		2,655	2,900
		105,582,222	97,468,619
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft			
Creditors & Accruals	6	45,452,185	44,783,565
Finance Leases		305,492	
		45,757,678	44,783,565
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)		59,824,544	52,685,054
Creditors (Amounts due greater than one year)			
Loans Payable	7	137,565,420	140,810,792
Finance Leases		924,134	
Refundable Deposits	8	16,497,078	13,767,078
Other		85,104,811	69,253,113
		240,091,443	223,830,983
Net Assets / (Liabilities)		3,009,388,251	2,944,729,911
Represented By			
Capitalisation	9	2,982,697,526	2,921,454,853
Income WIP	2	58,325,840	59,464,538
General Revenue Reserve		253,739	192,891
Other Specific Reserves		1,265,014	1,141,714
Other Balances	10	(33,153,868)	(37,524,085)
Total Reserves		3,009,388,251	2,944,729,911

STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

		2025	2025
	Note	€	€
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from Operating Activities	17		20,852,240
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		61,242,674	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(1,138,698)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	4,787,359	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			64,891,335
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(61,242,674)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(955,340)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	1,682,320	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(60,515,693)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan & Lease Financing	20	2,254,657	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	(1,976,162)	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities			278,495
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			2,730,000
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		28,236,376

STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive (CE) of Wexford County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Wexford County Council for the year ended 31 December 2025, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Wexford County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Wexford County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2025.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the Wexford County Council.

The key sources of income for Wexford County Council are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Goods & Services	41,119,303	42,506,654
Grants & Subsidies	89,469,943	93,552,057
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	622,011	526,134
Rates	43,097,303	41,603,065
Local Property Tax	17,051,611	16,985,610

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2025 is as follows:

While activity increased across most divisions in 2025 compared with the previous year, overall expenditure and income were lower than in 2024. This is predominately due to the following:-

- once-off grants of €15.5m in 2024 for certain cohorts of the commercial rates sector were not repeated in 2025 and
- the ongoing full transition of public water services to Uisce Eireann, which resulted in a reduced level of activity in the Water Services Division with a corresponding reduction in the SLA funding agreement. Expenditure and Income will continue to decrease in this area until the full transition is complete by the end of 2026.

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Income	191,360,172	195,173,520
Expenditure	177,814,697	182,246,277
Transfers to Capital	13,484,627	12,869,288
Exceptional Item	0	0
Surplus (Deficit) for	60,847	57,955
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0
Opening Revenue Reserve	192,891	134,937
Closing Revenue Reserve	253,738	192,891

The performance of the operational/revenue account during 2025 resulted in €60,847 surplus being reported for the financial year. This was largely achievable by the financial support from Central Government in respect of the FEMPI allocation which assists with the increased pay costs arising from the National Pay Agreements. The ongoing support of this grant is imperative to ensure that non-discretionary costs do not negatively impact on service delivery for the County.

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets

- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets Wexford County Council, at the end of 2025 total €3,009,388,251 and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Fixed Assets	2,982,697,526	2,921,454,852
Works in Progress	64,794,384	63,839,044
Long Term Debtors	142,163,239	130,581,944
Current Assets	105,582,222	97,468,619
Current Liabilities	45,757,678	44,783,565
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	59,824,544	52,685,054
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	240,091,443	223,830,983
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	3,009,388,251	2,944,729,911

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As Chief Executive of Wexford County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Wexford County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Wexford County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system

of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial Control Environment

As Chief Executive of Wexford County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As Chief Executive of Wexford County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

Wexford County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Wexford County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Wexford County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Wexford County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- i. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- ii. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- iii. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- iv. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- v. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Wexford County Council.

Risk and control framework

Wexford County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is currently a work programme in place to develop risk registers for each service division and those will be reviewed and updated, when fully complete, on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk registers which detail the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April each year and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June each year.

Signed by: 

Chief Executive

Dated: 25th May, 2026