

TO: THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND EACH COUNCIL MEMBER

RE: DRAFT 2025-2030 CAPITAL BUDGET- KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires a report on capital projects to be prepared by the Chief Executive and presented to the elected council annually. Accordingly, this report gives details of the Council's proposed capital projects for the next six years. It has been agreed to extend the timeframe beyond three years to provide greater visibility on the funding requirements given the longer duration of many of the larger projects undertaken by the Council.

A summary of the draft Capital Budget for the period 2025 – 2030 is set out on Table 1 below. The total estimated expenditure over that period is €1 billion and the estimated match funding required is €104.6m (€91.7m excl housing).

		Table 1
Service Division	Project Cost €'000's	KCC Own Funds €'000's
Housing	624,915	12,900
Roads	121,952	27,935
Flood Relief	41,600	-
Recreation & Amenity	141,327	29,472
Community	34,583	8,241
Economic Development	41,400	17,900
Climate Change	7,707	6,154
General	2,000	2,000
Overall Total	1,015,484	104,601
Total Excluding Housing	390,569	91,701

In addition to the estimated spend of €1 billion a further €930m is estimated for roads projects which are 100% grant funded by TII as set out in Table 2.

Roads – 100% Grant Funded		Table 2
	Funded By	Cost
		€m
N24 Waterford to Cahir	TII	800
N25 Glenmore to Waterford	TII	110
N24 Carrick Road Mooncoin	TII	10
N77 Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee	TII	10
Total		930

Delivering on Social Housing targets and driving economic development continue to be two key strategic objectives for this Council. Significant projects have been delivered over the last six years throughout the City and County. The total expenditure over this period was €411.6m of which €228.7m was in housing.

Housing

Kilkenny County Council has delivered 1,194 social houses over the last six years resulting in a reduction in the housing waiting list by 25% to 1,400 applications including transfers.

The estimated expenditure on Social Housing over the next six years is €625m to deliver 1,670 units. This equates to an average of 278 units per annum. Approximately 1,100 units are planned to be delivered directly by Kilkenny County Council and another 580 units through approved housing bodies.

The Council will continue to retrofit existing stock to improve energy efficiency of these units.

The majority of the expenditure on housing is 100% grant funded. However, Kilkenny County Council will have to provide match funding for the delivery of affordable housing (€1.0m) and cost rental units (€11.9m). It is intended to arrange a separate long term loan finance facility for these projects.

Roads

The total estimated expenditure on roads projects over this period is €121.9m with a match funding requirement of €27.9m. Significant funding is available annually under Active Travel for projects in the City and County.

The City Northern Ring Road extension is being progressed with the procurement of design consultants underway.

Investment of €16.7m is required to complete the sustainable links in the Western Environs to provide a complete link from the Freshford Road to the Kilmanagh Road.

The URDF funded projects in the South of the County are being progressed through design.

The street and park project in the Abbey Quarter site is currently underway and is due for completion by the end of quarter 4 2026.

The contract to upgrade the public lighting across the County is ongoing and is due for completion by Q2 2026.

Flood Relief

Six flood relief schemes were announced for Kilkenny by the OPW in 2018. The Schemes approved are Graiguenamanagh, Ballyhale, Thomastown, Inistioge, Freshford and Piltown.

Completion of Stage 1 (Options Report) for Graiguenamanagh is almost complete. The Ballyhale Scheme is currently at Stage 3, detailed design and tendering process. Freshford and Piltown are included in a pilot scheme with the objective of fast tracking Stage 1 of the process for these schemes.

Recreation & Amenity

The estimated expenditure on recreation and amenity schemes throughout the City and County over this period is €141m with a match funding required of €29.5m. There are nine different national grant funding schemes available to fund various types of projects. There are approximately 63 different projects identified which are at various stages of progression. The single biggest scheme is the South East Greenway along with associated links totalling €44.9m. Almost 60% (14kms) of the main scheme has now been completed and a further 6kms due to be opened shortly bringing the total available for use by the public to 12kms.

The upgrade of the City Hall has commenced and is due for completion in early 2027 at a cost of €9m with grant support of €4.5m from Failte Ireland.

A total provision of €32.2m has been made in this Programme for future projects funded through ORIS, Sports Capital, Town and Village and RDRF Schemes. Match funding of €5.4m will be required. Provision has also been made for other projects in Woodstock, Castlecomer, Urlingford, Piltown, Graiguenamanagh, Thomastown and Kilkenny City.

Community

The community heading provides for expenditure of €34.5m on various projects over the next six years with match funding required of €8.2m. The single biggest project in this category is the development of the new Fire Station and Civil Defence building in Kilkenny City. The process of identifying a suitable site for both buildings is ongoing. Kilkenny County Council will have to provide funding for the site cost and for the cost of the Civil Defence building. The construction and fit out cost of the Fire Station will be fully grant funded.

Provision is also made for the development of the Callan Friary building amounting to €11m with estimated match funding of €2.2m required. A grant application will be made for grant funding under the RRDF Scheme once the plan has been finalised.

An allocation of €3.85m has been included to provide for the regeneration of the Butts Area within Kilkenny City.

The community budget also includes an allocation of €1.5m to support smaller projects under the Council's own CCFCs Scheme. A total of 43 projects throughout the County have received funding under this Scheme since 2019.

Economic Development

The total estimated expenditure under Economic Development is €41.4m with match funding of €17.9m required. As part of the Government initiative to tackle vacancy and dereliction in towns and cities, €6m funding has been secured under URDF call 3 for Kilkenny City. Good progress has been made to date on bringing a number of properties in Kilkenny City back into use.

This programme also provides a total fund of €3m to address vacancy and dereliction in towns and villages throughout the County.

The provision of €400k to support the runway extension in Waterford Airport has been retained in this Capital Programme.

Provision of €4m has been made for road re-alignment in Belview which will be fully grant funded.

A provision of €2m has been included for further investment in the Kilkenny Abbey Quarter Development Partnership. The level of future contributions will depend on the nature of delivery of development on the various plots.

Kilkenny County Council has recently acquired a building adjacent to the Abbey Quarter from Diageo. The intention is to develop this building into a "landing space" for new businesses coming to Kilkenny. A feasibility study has been prepared by the Local Enterprise Office and it is intended to apply for grant funding under the Enterprise Ireland Smart Regions Scheme.

A provision of €8.5m has been included in the draft Capital Programme for the redevelopment/extension of the Meubles building on John Street. The intention is to develop office space for Council own use. The cost to finance the development will be part funded from savings in office rental.

The Economic Development budget also makes provision for the development of a mobility hub/car park on a portion of the Sweeney's Orchard site. Work is ongoing on the development of options for this facility.

Climate Action

Kilkenny County Council will make a significant investment in the next six years in a number of Climate Action measures to reduce the carbon footprint.

The project to upgrade all of the public lighting to LED in the City and County is underway and is expected to be completed by quarter 2 2026.

Both County Hall and the Watergate theatre have been approved for retrofit projects under the Pathfinder Programme costing €3.1m with match funding of 50% required.

It is also planned to replace 20 Council vehicles with electric alternatives costing €1.1m. A separate finance leasing facility will be arranged for this expenditure.

In summary the total estimated expenditure on capital projects throughout the City and County in the next six years is estimated at €1 billion with a match funding required of €104.6m. 62% (€625m) of this total expenditure will be incurred in the delivery of 1670 Social Housing units.

The balance of €391m will be spent on roads/recreational community projects, economic development and climate change initiatives over this period. The total match funding required is estimated at €91.7m. €47m of this requirement is already committed in that the relevant projects are at an advanced stage. The capital reserves set aside to date amount to €24m. Term loans already approved by Council but not drawn down amount to €8.5m. This brings the total funding available to €32.5m.

This leaves a funding shortfall remaining of €59.2m. A significant portion of this shortfall will be funded from development contributions. Opportunities for additional grant funding will also be explored. Not all of the projects listed will be completed within the six-year timeframe.

The Council is obliged to have identified funding sources for each project before the final commitment is made to proceed with a project.

The Capital Budget will be reviewed on an annual basis should the budgeted funding not meet projections. The programme will need to be adjusted accordingly and Members will be advised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin Prendiville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and last name "Prendiville" clearly distinguishable.

Martin Prendiville.
Director of Finance.

15th July, 2025

