

**Rory Hopkins**

**Kildare County Council**

**The journey to building a strong  
cybersecurity posture in Ireland's  
Local Government sector**



**IVI Summit 2026**

**20 Years of Impactful Research – What's Next?**



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

# The journey to building a strong cybersecurity posture in Ireland's Local Government sector

---

IVI CONFERENCE - 10<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2026

# What is the role of the Council? (Service Catalogue)



<b>Arts and Culture</b> 58 services		<b>Business and Economy</b> 47 services		<b>Community</b> 109 services	
<b>Emergency Services</b> 39 services		<b>Environment</b> 150 services		<b>Finance</b> 50 services	
<b>Governance and Administration</b> 68 services		<b>Heritage and Conservation</b> 89 services		<b>Housing</b> 90 services	
<b>Human Resources</b> 9 services		<b>Information Technology</b> 19 services		<b>Leisure and Recreation</b> 36 services	
<b>Libraries</b> 98 services		<b>Planning and Building</b> 89 services		<b>Roads and Transport</b> 106 services	
<b>Tourism</b> 10 services		<b>Veterinary</b> 22 services		<b>Water</b> 16 services	

# Some facts about Kildare

## Kildare County Council Total Population Distribution, 2022 (Preliminary)

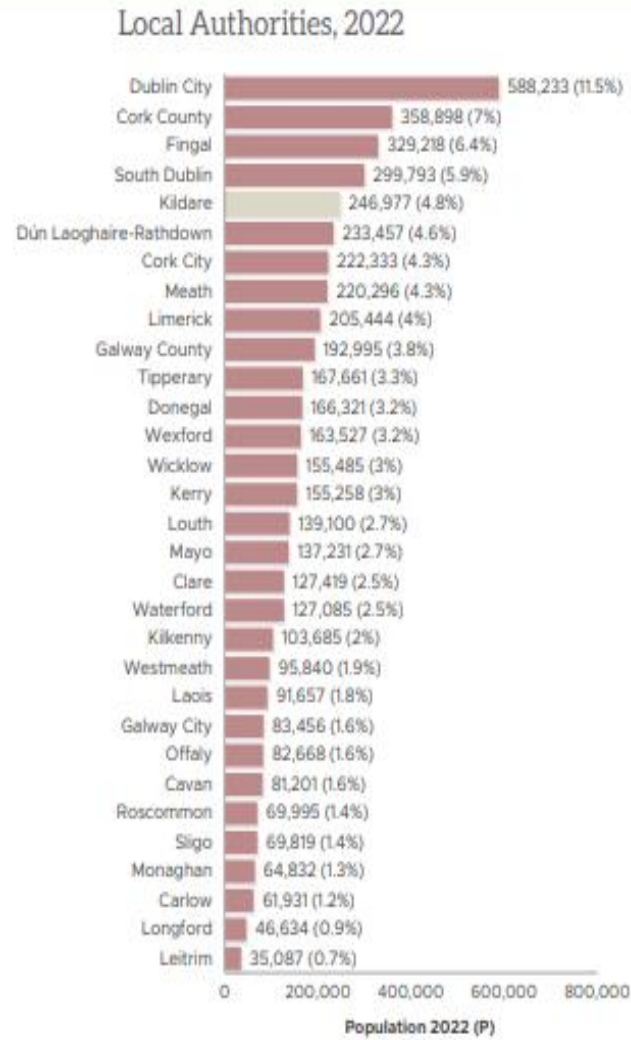


Figure 1.1 - Total Population 2022, by Local Authority, 2022 (Source: CSO)

**Kildare is now the fifth largest Local Authority by population**

**Population grew by 11% or 25,270 since the last census in 2016**

**Highest proportion of young people from 0 to 24 in the state at nearly 37% - that's 81,000 young people**

**Second to Meath with only 34% of the residents of the county were born in Kildare.**

**Population to increase by 40,000 by 2040**

As of 2022 - an overview of cyber security incident management across the Local Government sector

---

Very strong **culture of collaboration** among the 31 Local Authorities in the areas of IT

---

**No** formal processes for dealing IT Cyber events

---

**No** dedicated cyber security staff – Cyber was dealt with in a part-time capacity

---

**No** formal communications channels to report cyber issues

---

**No** groups focused on dealing with Cyber issues

The Local Government sector setup an Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (ISAC) in collaboration with IVI, LGMA & NCSC.

An **ISAC** (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) is a collaborative, non-profit organization that helps industry members and governments securely exchange cyber threat intelligence. By sharing real-time data on vulnerabilities, incidents, and defensive tactics, ISACs allow organizations to proactively defend against digital threats and protect critical infrastructure.

[www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/cybersecurity-of-critical-sectors/information-sharing-and-analysis-centers-isacs](https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/cybersecurity-of-critical-sectors/information-sharing-and-analysis-centers-isacs) – accessed June 2026

# Establishment of the Irish Public Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Centre in 2022

## Mission Statement:

*“To improve the cybersecurity and resilience of the Irish Local Authority infrastructure through a community of stakeholders, trust-based security data and proactive information sharing and analysis on threats, vulnerabilities, incidents, solutions and opportunities, allowing its members to take their own effective measures”*



**ENISA recommended 2021 Dutch ISAC competency framework**

Established in January 2024 creation of Cyber Co-ordination Groups (Cores) – the existing Local Government ISAC was subsumed into the new NCSC LG-Core group



As of February  
2026 - an  
overview of  
cyber security  
incident  
management  
across the Local  
Government  
sector

---

**Very strong culture of collaboration** continues among the 31 Local Authorities in the areas of IT

---

Formal **processes for dealing IT Cyber events** – creation of a dedicated Central Security Unit in the LGMA.

---

At least **2 dedicated IT Security staff** in each Local Authority (Grade 7 & Grade 6)

---

**Signal group setup** for LG-Core with a direct link into the NCSC. ( Daily communication between LG-Core and NCSC)

---

**Security Officers group** in place comprising technical staff from each Local Authority – focusing on cyber operational issues. **LG-Core group** comprising Heads of Information Systems from each LA, strategic focus

# ISAC Milestones (LG-Core)

