**Additional Information on the East Meath Civic Centre**

Meath County Council purchased three beachfront properties in the centre of Bettystown with the initial intention of creating public facilities and improving the public space at the entrance to the beach.

The people of East Meath were first served by a branch library at Laytown. This branch was the first purpose-built branch in the county and dated back to the 1950s. This building was demolished in 2006. Initially, temporary branch facilities were provided at Julianstown. Meath County Council then initiated a shared services project with Louth County Council and arranged for the mobile library service from Louth to include the Laytown/Bettystown area on their route. This service remained in place until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Design:**

The East Meath Civic Centre has four floors and is laid out as follows:

**Ground Floor:**

* Library entrance and large meeting room
* Public toilets
* Changing Places Facility
* Beach wheelchair storage
* Lifeguard Station / Beach Management

**1st floor:**

* Children’s Library
* Staff work area

**2nd floor:**

* Adult Library
* Sensory Room
* Meeting Room
* Study Hub / Exhibition area

**3rd Floor:**

* Three multi-functional meeting rooms

**Public Library Service**

The library service at the EMCC will offer services over five days during staffed opening hours Tuesday - Saturday, including all day Saturday and late evening opening on Tuesdays.

After the bedding-in process, it will also offer seven-day access for registered ***My Open Library*** users between 8.00am and 10.00pm daily.

The EMCC will offer access to:

* Free membership, no fines
* Extensive book, large print, audiobook, and DVD collections
* Lending and reference services for adults and children including access to the shared library catalogue of 330+ libraries nationwide
* Local studies collection
* Self-service lending
* Public access computers, Free Wi-Fi and eduroam
* Self-service printing, photocopying and scanning facilities
* Scan EZ Document Translation and Image Enhancement Service
* A Makerspace – an IT learning space including access to classes and workshops on 3D printing, coding etc.
* Multi-functional meeting rooms for community and library events and classes
* Sensory room for children with additional needs (first in Meath Libraries)
* ‘Magic Table’ – designed for use by people with dementia, autism and additional learning needs or a cognitive impairment.
* Large Civic space on top floor for community and cultural events
* Exhibition space
* Study spaces including a quiet family study pod for children with additional needs
* Access to Musical Instrument Lending Bank
* Programme of regular and seasonal events for adults and children
* Access to STEAM backpacks and kits, the ‘Toys, Technology and Training’ programme, Home Energy Savings kits
* Access to eResources such as eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, online learning classes and online language learning

Cruinniú na nÓg, the annual National Day of Creativity for Children, will also be celebrated in the EMCC on Saturday, June 7, 2025.

**Beach Management**

The East Meath Civic Centre will provide a new home for beach lifeguards and beach wardens, with an elevated position from which to survey the beach effectively.

There will be accessible hot shower facilities also in addition to public toilets for bathers.

The EMCC will also provide a new base for community events such as World Ocean Day and will be a new location for Beach Lifeguard courses, the first of which is taking place in April, allowing young people to upskill in lifeguarding and provide safety services at the beach.

It will also be a space for a Beach wheelchair service and there will be a changing room available for people with a disability.

**Details of the Beach Wheelchairs:**

The EMCC will feature two Beach Wheelchairs, and a pilot booking system is being developed for access to the chairs.

The **Terra Wheels Beach Wheelchair** is a durable wheelchair featuring two XL inflatable front wheels and two large rear castor wheels. It is easily propelled by an attendant using the push handle. The axle is made of stainless steel and its’ aluminium Terra Wheels accommodates all users from children to elderly people.

The **Hippocampe Beach Wheelchair** is a beach friendly wheelchair allowing users to go into the water and swim while the chair floats. The seat, the armrests, and the headrest are composed of a thick and hydrophobic foam that does not absorb water and dries quickly.