



Annual Report 2022

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Prepared in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.

Adopted by the elected members of Longford County Council at meeting held on 8 March 2023.

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Welcome by Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern



As Longford County Council Cathaoirleach, I am honoured to welcome this Annual Report for 2022. The report offers an opportunity to reflect on the work and achievements of Longford County Council throughout 2022.

With the lessening of the impact of COVID-19 in our lives, 2022 was a year to open up again. Not only did our local businesses and communities re-emerge, Longford as a county also opened its heart to people in dire need. Even as a cost of living crisis started to bite, I'm proud to say that the Ukrainian people who came here for sanctuary were welcomed with open arms, from unimaginable circumstances. I acknowledge the role that Longford County Council played in facilitating that, and also our local communities for their willingness to support, welcome and adapt.

As Cathaoirleach, I acknowledge the commitment of the Chief Executive, management team and employees of Longford County Council who strive to improve Longford as a place to live, work and do business.

I also thank my fellow elected members for continuing to put the people of County Longford first in all that they do.

Introduction by Chief Executive Paddy Mahon



As Chief Executive, I welcome this publication of the Longford County Council Annual Report 2022. It shows that Longford County Council continued to deliver a variety of diverse and excellent initiatives over the year including:

- Official opening of Edgeworthstown Community Library
- Longford Connected Regeneration project commenced in Longford Town
- The launch of the Longford Community Safety Plan
- A win for the eighth consecutive year at the All-Ireland Safety Awards
- Longford Text Alert launched for communities across the county
- Opening of Co:Worx Edgeworthstown and its European Enterprise Award win
- Continued to deliver on new social housing across the county
- Employee appreciation event recognising long service and dedication
- Urban Horse Project shortlisted at Excellence in Local Government Awards
- Civil Defence provided significant support to newly arrived Ukrainian refugees
- Delivered on the Roadworks Programme for 2022 to the value of €15,475,224
- Appointment of Community Warden to support Environmental Programme
- Publication of Residential Zoning Land Tax maps for County Longford
- County Longford Get Active in Nature booklet launched by Longford Tourism
- 'Iora Nua' arrived in multiple locations around Longford

I would like to thank all employees for their continued professionalism and dedication to Longford and its people. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support of Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern, his predecessor Cllr Peggy Nolan and all of the elected members for their hard work in serving County Longford.

2022 in Pictures...



...just some of what we got up to!



Elected Members of Longford County Council

Ballymahon Municipal District



Cllr Mick Cahill



Cllr Mark Casey



Cllr Gerard Farrell



Cllr Colm Murray



Cllr Pat O'Toole



Cllr Paul Ross

Granard Municipal District



Cllr Paraic Brady



Cllr Colin Dalton



Cllr Turlough McGovern



Cllr Garry Murtagh



Cllr PJ Reilly

Elected Members of Longford County Council

Longford Municipal District



Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi



Cllr Seamus Butler



Cllr John Browne



Cllr Gerry Hagan



Cllr Martin Monaghan



Cllr Peggy Nolan



Cllr Gerry Warnock

Ballymahon Municipal District

Meetings: Eight meetings took place, including an Annual General Meeting and a General Municipal Allocation meeting.

- Municipal District Works Programme for 2022

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paul Ross was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Gerard Farrell was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June.

Presentations to Elected Members:

- Age Friendly Healthy Home Programme
- Strategic Housing Development Application to An Bord Pleanála for 100 number residential units and associated site works at Bloomfield Park, Bracklin Road, Edgeworthstown
- Polling Scheme Review

Item Adopted by Members were:

- General Municipal Allocation 2023
- Community Grants 2022

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, estates and roads taken in charge, bye-laws adopted, Part 8s approved and Ballymahon Municipal District schedule of road works, see **Appendix One**.

Granard Municipal District

Meetings: Eight meetings took place, including an Annual General Meeting and a General Municipal Allocation meeting.

- Community Grant Support Scheme
- General Municipal Allocation 2023

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Colin Dalton was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Paraic Brady was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June 2022.

Presentations to Elected Members:

- Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme
- Polling Scheme Review
- Heritage projects

Item Adopted by Members were:

- Schedule of Granard Municipal District Works 2022
- Town Twinning 2022
- Broadband connection points costs
- Special Projects and Discretionary Fund 2022

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, estates and roads taken in charge, bye-laws adopted, Part 8s and Granard Municipal District schedule of road works, see **Appendix Two**.

Longford Municipal District

Meetings: Ten meetings took place, including an Annual General Meeting and a General Municipal Allocation meeting.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Gerry Hagan was elected Cathaoirleach, and Councillor Seamus Butler was elected Leas Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting in June.

Longford Connected public realm works took place at Market Square, Grafton Court and at the carpark at Tesco and Longford Library. Funded of €4 million is from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund 2018 and Longford County Council. Completion is expected in 2023.

Item Adopted by Members were:

- Draft Municipal District Report for inclusion in Longford County Council Annual Report 2021
- Taking in charge Leader Park

- Funding application under the 2022 Community Grant Support
- Schedule of Longford Municipal District Works
- Public Art Installation and Relocation
- 2023 General Municipal Allocation
- Longford Town Twinning application

Presentations to Elected Members:

- Age Friendly Healthy Homes Programme
- Longford Town Plan
- Sláintecare Healthy Communities
- Community Warden

For notices of motion discussed by elected members, estates and roads taken in charge, bye-laws adopted, Part 8s approved and Longford Municipal District schedule of road works, see **Appendix Three**.

Strategic Policy Committees

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) assist policy development, review the work of the Council, and are made up of elected members and sectoral representatives.

Climate Action and Planning SPC

Chair: Cllr Garry Murtagh (all meetings)

Met: Four times (21 January, 20 April, 20 July, 19 October)

Discussions included:

- River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027
- Presentation on energy usage
- Active Travel reporting
- Feasibility Study on Anaerobic Digestion and the Circular Economy
- Land Zoning Residential Tax

Policies adopted:

- Columbarium Wall Policy

Strategic Infrastructure SPC

Chairs: Cllr Turlough McGovern (February and April), Cllr Colm Murray (July and October)

Met: Four times (3 February, 21 April, 21 July, 20 October)

Discussions included:

- Action Plan for Homelessness
- Independent living and co-ordinating provision of housing for disabled people
- Supplementary Internal Guidance Policy on Private Housing Grants
- Affordable Housing Scheme

Policies adopted:

- Children at play signage
- Updated general information handbook and home maintenance handbook for tenants
- Strategic Plan for Disabled People 2022-2027

Strategic Policy Committees

Placemaking SPC

Chair: Cllr. Gerard Farrell (January and April), Cllr Paul Ross (July, October and December)

Met: Five times (31 January, 4 April, 18 July, 17 October, 14 December)

Discussions included:

- Local Economic and Community Plan guidelines
- Community Grant Support Scheme
- Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan 2024
- Sláintecare Healthy Communities
- Playground programme updates

Policies adopted:

- LECP Advisory Steering Group
- Local Enterprise Officer Plan for 2022
- Twinning policy
- Commemorative Plaques and Monuments Policy
- Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027

Governance SPC

Chairs: Cllr Mick Cahill (February and April), Cllr PJ Reilly (July and October)

Met: Four times (2 February, 26 April, 19 July, 18 October)

Discussions included:

- Corporate Plan
- Communication's Audit report
- Data Protection and information compliance work plan
- Representation policy discussion
- Freedom of Information Act review and public consultation
- Longford Digital Strategy 2021-2023

Policies adopted:

- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- Training and Development Plan for Councillors

Community Development

Longford Community Development Committee

Longford Community Development Committee (LCDC) is a committee of Longford County Council. It brings together the local authority elected members and officials, state agencies and those working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations. The LCDC work to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming.

Eight meetings were held in 2022. The main task of the LCDC is to develop and implement the Local Economic and Community Plan for the county. It also coordinates, plans and oversees local and community development funding.

Local Economic and Community Plan

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a six-year plan to support the economic and community development of County Longford. It is put together by Longford County Council, in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

During 2022, preparatory work was progressed on the development of a new LECP. An Advisory Steering Group was established to assist in this work. The Council published a draft Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals for public consultation. Three in-person public consultation events were held, one in each of the municipal districts in the County. Consultation was also held for targeted groups. In December 2022, a report on the public consultation process was considered by Longford LCDC and the Placemaking Strategic Policy

Community Development

Committee (SPC). The report noted that throughout the public consultation process, various community members, agencies and sector representatives engaged with the LECP. All feedback was taken into consideration and revised High-Level Goals were adopted to ensure greater clarification and simplicity of language and a stronger reflection of the priority areas identified during the consultation process. Further stages of the LECP will now be advanced. This will include the development of specific, measurable sustainable objectives, an outline of the desired outcomes and practical, time-bound actions, over the six-year period.

LEADER Programme

LEADER, a rural development programme, is administered by Longford LCDC in partnership with the Council and Longford Community Resources CLG. In 2022, 16 LEADER projects valued at €1,036,247.92 were approved by Longford LCDC. Following payment by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), the Council processed 46 LEADER grant payments totalling €1,595,953.77.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) to develop a local development strategy (LDS) for the delivery of the LEADER 2023-2027 programme was submitted by Longford LCDC to the (DRCD. This will be in partnership with Longford Community Resources Clg as the implementing partner and the Council as the financial partner. The EOI has been deemed eligible to progress to the Local Action Group selection process which involves the development of a Local Development Strategy for County Longford. This will be submitted to the DRCD by July 2023.

Community Development

Sláintecare Healthy Communities in Longford Launched

Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD launched Sláintecare Healthy Communities in Longford. This aims to support health and wellbeing with better access to services that promote healthier lifestyles.



A Local Development Officer has been employed to engage with communities within the programme area and with local organisations in working to address the wider determinants of health. For this programme, funding of €250,000 was secured for enhancement works at Ballyminion, Longford. This has been used to improve access to a medical centre, with new cycleways, public lighting and road crossings. Funding of €75,000 was secured for the ongoing delivery of the programme, including projects to be identified from engagement with the community.

Community Development

Also included under Sláintecare Healthy Communities work, upgrades were completed on a new community house in Ardnacassa. This will be a space for delivering activities and providing access to services. This work was in conjunction with other stakeholders, including Longford Local Community Safety Partnership.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusion. This is done through engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. The LCDC awarded Longford Community Resources Clg the contract to implement the programme in County Longford.

This implementation initially covered from 2018 to 2022, however the DRCD has approved an extension of one year to the end of 2023. The SICAP budget for 2022 was €584,865 plus a carryover of €22,146.86 from the previous year. Therefore, there is an overall budget of €607,011.86, paid to Longford Community Resources Clg. In addition during 2022, Longford Community Resources Clg received funding of €46,613 under the Ukrainian Support Fund.

Empowering Communities Programme

The DRCD developed a Empowering Communities Programme targeting areas experiencing challenges. €120,000 was allocated to the LCDC with this rolled out through Longford Community Resources Clg. A community development approach will be taken to support the local community in this programme.

Community Development

Longford Comhairle na nÓg

Chaired by Councillor Colm Murray, the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee held four meetings in 2022. In addition, 42 meetings of the full Comhairle and 12 subcommittee meetings were held. Members received training in committee skills, communication and presentation skills, facilitation, and team building. Comhairle also issued a digital quarterly newsletter on their activities to all post-primary schools.

Three key priority areas of work for 2022 were on climate change, mental health, and media and body image. In relation to climate change, members undertook a project engaging local secondary schools to collect plastic bottles to create a recycled plastic wheelchair-accessible bench. Called the **HOPE Bench**, which stands for Helping Our Planet's Environment, this project was done with help from the Environment Section. It was launched by then Longford County Council Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Paraic Brady on in April along the Royal Canal in Longford.



Community Development

Comhairle members help ensure young people's voices are heard and represented on the National Executive. In 2022, Comhairle members presented at an Oireachtas committee on environment and climate change. They also participated in national consultation forums such as the National Rural Youth Assembly, Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth Comhairle Five Year Development Plan, Senad na nÓg, and the EU Just Transition Fund. Members also participate on local committees. These include the Longford Westmeath Education Training Board Youth Work Committee, the Children and Young People's Services Committees Youth Forum. It also includes participating on local consultations such those held on the Local Community Safety Plan and the LECP consultations.

In November, Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern opened Longford Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting. Over 100 young people attended, representing all nine post-primary schools and youth services across County Longford.

Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI Organisations

Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI Organisations of €21,500 was secured following an application to the DRCD. Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre and Longford Community Resources Clg received funding. This funding helped to run art groups, psychotherapy, workshops, and information sessions to promote inclusion, acceptance, and respect of the LGBTI+ community.

Community Development

Community Development Programme

The DRCD allocated an annual budget of €125,000 to the Community Development Programme. This is delivered by Longford Community Resources Clg under the guidance of the LCDC. On International Roma Day, then Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan launched the programme.



The programme aims is to develop an autonomous community development project managed and run by members of the Roma. It hopes to to enable them to engage directly with decision-making structures and work in partnership with service providers. Longford Community Resources Clg. employs one full-time and two part-time community development workers which support the Roma community.

CLÁR 2022

In August, CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) measure one funding of €530,140 was approved. It helps fund small-scale infrastructural projects in areas with population decline. It is funded by the DRCD. It is delivered by local authorities, including Longford County Council, in consultation with schools and community groups.

Community Development

Community Activities Fund

Under the Community Activities Fund, Longford LCDC awarded €264,769 to 127 community groups. This fund supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas. It helps with their running costs, for example, electricity bills. It also helps with operating costs, for example rental and lease costs, and insurance bills.

Groups could also use the funding for repairs and improvements to their facilities, and for purchasing equipment, for example, desks, tools, signage, electronic equipment, and more.

Community Grant Support Scheme 2022

Under the Community Grant Support Scheme 2022, €54,840 was allocated to County Longford. In addition, €90,000 was allocated to Ballymahon MD, €65,501 to Granard MD and €93,728 to Longford MD.

This funding was awarded to various community groups in these areas for projects which focused on areas including the arts, community involvement, environment, heritage, among other areas. The fund aims to encourage, develop, support and sustain projects which make a positive contribution to County Longford. Visit Longfordcoco.ie for the list of awarded grants.

Intercultural Grants

In 2022, €20,000 was distributed in Intercultural Grants. This is to assist projects which support our new communities in County Longford.

Community Development

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland aims to create a society where good physical and mental health is enjoyed by all. The Healthy Ireland Fund supports innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects that support national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health. €40,000 was allocated under round three of the Healthy Ireland Fund, from 1 September to 31 December 2022 in the following areas:

- Delivery of activities in the health and wellbeing space that have been identified as a priority in 2022.
- A contribution to community health and wellbeing initiatives in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the County.

Period Poverty Initiative

The Department of Health provided funding of €10,000 for the Period Poverty Initiative pilot project. It aims to support the implementation of period poverty mitigation measures. This funding allowed Longford County Council to provide free period products across public buildings and facilities. Services who work with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups were also identified and arrangements were made for the provision of free period products to their services.

Longford Intercultural Strategic Plan

Longford Intercultural Working Group held two meetings in 2022. The aim of this working group is to provide a forum to share information, to promote interagency cooperation and to coordinate the delivery of local services.

Community Development

Pride of Place

Pride of Place is a competition to recognise improvements by local communities which create civic pride in their area. The nomination process to the all-Island competition is undertaken through local authorities, including Longford County Council. Bridgeways Family Resource Centre in Ballymahon received a national Runners-Up Award, highlighting their excellent work in the Ballymahon area.

Africa Day 2022

Longford County Council secured funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Longford African Network to organise events for Africa Day. An event was held in May in the Temperance Hall with entertainment from local artists, dancers, and performers, as well as cultural displays.



Green Flag Award 2022

The Albert Reynolds Peace Park at Longford Mall retained the Green Flag Award in 2022. This mark of excellence is recognised throughout the world for publicly-accessible parks and green spaces.

Community Development

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) is a national pilot replacing the Joint Policing Committee in County Longford. In 2022, public consultation to assess community safety priorities was undertaken. Feedback included concerns and suggested improvements, as well as positive collaboration efforts between services and communities.

Based on this feedback, Longford LCSP developed the Longford Community Safety Plan. This was launched in September by Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD.



Longford LCSP received funding of €137,500 from the Community Safety Innovation Fund for five projects to support the implementation of the Community Safety Plan.

Community Development

Beyond Borders Community Safety Conference

Longford LCSP led the project team for the first all-island Community Safety Conference, a two-day event held in Newry and Dundalk in November. It included good practice visits for the pilot LCSPs and the Drogheda Implementation Board to Newry Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP).



The event was opened by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD. It also included An Garda Síochána Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Inspector Muir Clarke, podcast duo The 2 Norries, Cormac Russell and Dave Shea from the Scottish Community Safety Network.

Day one saw 80 partnership members in attendance from across the for structures. The second day of the event had 300 people from state agencies, community services and community members in attendance. There was a large delegation from Longford attending on both days.

Longford LCSP received funding of €19,000 from the Department of Justice to fund the event, which was co-funded by Newry Mourne and Down PCSP and the Department of Justice Northern Ireland.

Community Development

Longford Local Sports Partnership

Community Programmes: including Water Sports and the Trail Run Series

Forty-three community programme initiatives were undertaken in 2022, with 4,828 people participating. The programme included water sports initiatives and Longford Trail Run Series.

Water sports initiatives included introductory kayaking and other water-based activities, such as paddle boarding and canoeing, for primary and secondary school students. Participants could go on to complete Canoeing Ireland Level One: Kayaking Proficiency assessments. The activities took place at several locations throughout the county, with participants becoming aware of the scenic and largely under-utilised areas suitable for such sports, including the Royal Canal, the River Shannon and Inny, and many different lakes. Hundreds of school children and teenagers took part in these activities on the water.



Community Development

Longford Trail Run Series in conjunction with Longford Tourism was launched in 2022. Coillte and Center Parcs Ireland also provided support. The series aimed to encourage runners to use local trails in summer. This idea was developed by creating a social and inclusive community initiative for beginners and more established runners and joggers.

Taking place each Wednesday evening in August, the initiative helped people discover trails across Longford. Four local sports club provided both their facilities and volunteered. Almost 300 people took part, many taking part each week. It is planned that the Trail Run Series will be revisited in 2023.

Diversity Programmes: including the Sports Introduction Initiative

Twenty-one diversity programme initiatives saw 493 people taking part activities such as the Sports Introduction Initiative. Longford Local Sports Partnership worked with Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, Longford Traveller Primary Health Care Project, and Longford Leap Project for this 12-week programme.

It all kicked off in June, with children having the chance to explore sports they may not have been familiar with. These included parkour, swimming and dancing. It was targeted at children some from disadvantaged areas within County Longford or who were members of the Travelling community. The project gave participants a chance to better integrate into larger groups and sports teams and offered constructive outlet for their energy.

Community Development

FAI Football In The Community

The Council support the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) in the Community programme in Longford, managed by Longford Local Sports Partnership. The initiative has four pillars it works towards: 'player and coach development', 'football social responsibility', 'participation and retention', and 'club and league development'. Overall, 1,077 hours were invested in delivering the programme to 10,848 participants, including 3,067 females and 3,156 children aged between 6-14 years.



The FAI LEAP Into Soccer Programme was one such programme under the Football in the Community banner. This eight-week initiative was aimed at 8-11 year olds from minority groups or disadvantaged areas. It was in conjunction with Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, An Garda Síochána, Longford Traveller Primary Health Care Project, and the Longford Leap Project. It aimed to show the positive role An Garda Síochána play in the community, to help foster positive relationships, and to help social integration. Participants met local role model James Abankwah who played with Melview Football Club.

Community Development

GAA in the Community and Rugby in the Community

Longford County Council support the GAA in the Community and the Rugby in the Community, both managed by Longford Local Sports Partnership. The GAA programme has 25 initiatives with 4,733 participants, while the rugby version has eight initiatives with 2,376 people taking part.

Sports Inclusion Disability Programmes

Twenty-seven Sports Inclusion Disability Programmes took place with 671 people with disabilities participating. It was supported by the HSE, Healthy Ireland and Sport Ireland. Activities were run through disability services, schools, sports clubs.

Programmes for adults in disability services included horse riding, water sports, Pilates, Zumba, seated exercise classes and fishing trips. The services engaged with included St Christopher's, Rehab Care, Irish Wheelchair Association, and the Disabled People of Longford organisation. Activities for children included water sports, inclusive athletics, balance-ability, active games and Zumba.

Pulmonary Rehab Exercise Programme

The Pulmonary Rehab Exercise Programme is a social prescribing programme in which people with chronic pulmonary conditions were referred to the programme by physiotherapists. The 12-week programme had exercise which were performed near a chair, in a seated position or using a stationary bike. There were 11 participants in 2022. One participant said, "I get breathless very quickly when exercising, it makes me nervous to exercise but in this group I feel safe".

Community Development

Drumlish Sports Hub and Sports Hub Edgeworthstown

Drumlish Sports Hub ran 55 initiatives for 807 participants in 2022. This included the Men's Shed Programme, a six-week exercise class which gradually built up the fitness levels of participants. The programme included relaxation techniques concentrating on breathing, gentle stretching and balance. It also included light aerobic and strength exercises, and a boxing workout. Participants noted increased fitness and confidence, as well as now looking for more challenging exercises. Great friendships were also made from participating in the classes.



National Play Day in Drumlish Sports Hub

Sports Hub Edgeworthstown ran 68 initiatives for 1,183 people. This included an Older Adult Exercise Classes. For these classes, participants weight train, which is vital as people get older to help maintain muscle mass and improve mobility. Twenty people take part in the classes each week. Participants note an increase in their overall fitness. There are two wheelchair users who take part, with all exercises adaptable to suit all levels and abilities.

Community Development

Club Development and Participation Grant

The Club Development and Participation Grant supports not-for-profit organisations. In 2022, 38 such organisations secured grants of €22,890 to support their structures, coaching, education and target group initiatives. Organisations benefiting from this grant include many local GAA and football clubs, as well as other sports clubs.

COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme

The COVID-19 Club Small Grant Scheme was implemented through Sport Ireland and Local Sports Partnerships. It helped to support the sports sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Longford Local Sports Partnership were awarded funding of €68,715 which helped 57 clubs in County Longford.

Resourcing and Funding

Longford Local Sports Partnership secured €738,526 for sport and physical activity, with €631,093 in direct funding and €107,433 as benefit-in-kind. Funding includes:

- Sport Ireland core funding of €274,311 and Women in Sport funding of €9,000
- Healthy Ireland and Community Resilience Fund valued at €25,460
- Dormant Accounts funding of €189,921.33 for the two community sports hubs in Edgeworthstown and Drumlish; Sports Inclusion Disability Projects; Youth Leadership; Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative; and volunteer supports
- Benefit-in-kind of €107,433 from Longford County Council, various board members and other stakeholders

Community Development

Longford Public Participation Network

Longford Public Participation Network Membership

Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) registered 59 new member groups in 2022, bringing the total membership to 534. The nine-member voluntary PPN Secretariat continued to meet online, developing, approving and overseeing workplan items. In 2022 also, elections were held for a community vacancy on the County Longford PPN Secretariat, with one representative elected.

PPN Intercultural Forum

Longford PPN secured funding from the Council and Longford Local Community Safety Partnership for a temporary consultant to work with the intercultural representative on their workplan. Longford PPN Community Wellbeing Vision Statements are the basis for the plan. The consultant started work with the group in September. The PPN Intercultural Forum is supported by the Community and Enterprise Section of Longford County Council.



Community Development

Intercultural Women's Group

Longford PPN helped to fund and support the Intercultural Women's Group programme. The group participated in a photography exhibition during the Cruthú Arts Festival in July. PPN Pakistani Representative Sadia Butt spoke at the launch.

Ukrainian Support

Longford PPN and Longford Civil Defence collaborated for an appeal for emergency items for the people in Ukraine. It was supported by Lus Na Gréine Family Resource Centre in Granard and Bridgeways Family Resource Centres in Ballymahon. It was also supported by Longford Women's Link. Many PPN group members got involved in the appeal. Local transport company, Protrans delivered the donations to the boarder of Ukraine in April.

Operation Blue Light Santa

Longford PPN continued to support Operation Blue Light Santa in 2022. Funding was received from the Council and Longford Local Community Safety Partnership. This was used to publish the Operation Blue Light Santa children's book and Christmas cards.

An Operation Blue Light Santa family fun day was held in December in Longford Slashers GAA Club. This event was enjoyed by many families, including families from Ukraine now living in Longford. Additional supporting events held in December resulted in just under €9,000 being raised. The money benefitted charities supporting families in need.

Community Development

Accessibility

Longford PPN teamed up with Backstage Theatre in September to try to ensure inclusivity. Meetings held with members of different communities resulted in increased engagement and participation in the arts amongst many minority groups.

Public Participation Network Structural Review Submission

Longford PPN put forward a comprehensive submission to the Public Participation Network Structural Review in August 2022.

Representation on Decision-Making Boards and Committees

The first Longford PPN representatives meeting was held in July. Representatives from different boards and committees included Local Community Development Committee, various Strategic Policy Committees, Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, Longford Community Resource Centre Clg and more. Dr Harriet Emerson facilitated this first meeting.

National Public Participation Network Conference

Four members of the PPN Secretariat attended the Public Participation Network National Conference held in October 2022.

Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029

Preparation began for the Longford Local Economic and Community Plan in early 2022. Three PPN representatives sit on the LECP Advisory Steering Group, with one acting as Chair.

Community Development

Facilitation of Public Consultations

In March, Longford PPN facilitated Community Safety Coordinator Janine Bartley to hold four public consultations for the Local Community Safety Partnership Plan. These took place at the PPN MD meetings in Ballymahon, Granard, Longford and also through the PPN Intercultural Forum.

Corporate Services

Customer Services

Customer Services responded to approximately 9,000 calls during the year. In addition to this, there were also walk-in customers and customer emails sent to the dedicated customer services email. These emails were responded to through the new Longford County Council customer relationship management system, which was piloted in the Corporate Services Section throughout 2022.

Customer Services Charter

The Council's Customer Services Charter contains the standards of service our citizens, customers and elected representatives can expect from the Council. It contains new feedback and complaint forms, which are available on Longfordcoco.ie and in Council offices.



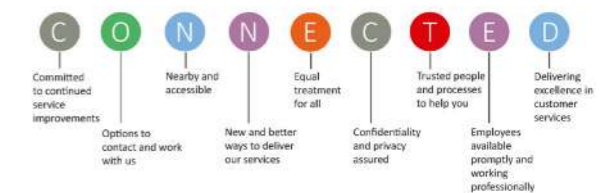
Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt
Longford County Council



Customer Services Charter

Customer Services Charter

Central to our Customer Services Charter is our aim to stay connected with all of our customers



Protected Disclosures Act, 2014


No protected disclosures were made to the Council under the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014 in 2022.

Corporate Services

Register of Electors

The 2022/2023 Register of Electors was published and came into force in February. The numbers registered to vote on the published 2022/2023 Register of Electors were:

Local Electoral Area	Registered
Ballymahon	11,074
Granard	9,913
Longford	12,323
	33,310



The passing of the Electoral Reform Act 2022 by the Dail in July was a significant milestone in electoral reform. With the introduction of the new 'rolling register', this published register was the final annual register which will be prepared by the Council. This rolling register now allows for registering online anytime. The Act also allows 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to be automatically added to the Register when they turn 18. Additionally, Personal Public Service numbers are now collected when registering to enhance identity checks, ensuring the accuracy of the Register.

In response to the significant reform and modernisation of processes around registration, Corporate Services developed and undertook a publicity programme to help inform citizens throughout the county. This included, advertising on social media, internal communications with employees, and elected members, public information desks at appropriate events and locations in Longford. This communication programme will continue in 2023.

Corporate Services

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

In October, a new section of the Act regarding advertising came into effect. It specifies that public bodies, which includes Longford County Council, must ensure at least 20% of advertising is in the Irish language, with 5% of advertising spend through Irish language media.

For this, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Irish Language Commissioners Office held online information sessions to advise public bodies of their new obligations under the Act. These were attended by Corporate Services and the Council's Irish Language Officer.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act Advertising Obligations	
Advertisements placed	753
Bilingual or Irish advertisements placed	215
Percentage bilingual or Irish advertisement placed	20.2% (target exceeded)
Advertisements in Irish language media	1
Percentage spend through Irish language media	5.8% (target exceeded)

Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge

Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge (COFG) is the Irish Language Development Officers Association. The Irish Officer attended a meeting organised by COFG in Dublin in May. Topics discussed included the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 and the content of COFG.ie, the organisation's website. This website aims to provide information and support to all association members.

Corporate Services

Council Meetings

At the Longford County Council Annual General Meeting on 29 June 2022:

- Councillor Turlough McGovern was elected Longford County Council Cathaoirleach
- Councillor Gerry Hagan was elected Longford County Council Leas-Cathaoirleach

Longford County Council and Municipal District (MD), Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) meetings and other meetings which took place in 2022 are as follows:

Longford County Council	12
Ballymahon MD	8
Granard MD	8
Longford MD	11
Finance	2
Placemaking SPC	5
Governance SPC	4
Climate Action and Planning SPC	4
Strategic Infrastructure SPC	4
Corporate Policy Group	11
Protocol and Procedures Committee	1
Meeting with Oireachtas members of Longford-Westmeath constituency	1

Council meetings included presentations by ESB Generation and Trading, Skaters Committee and the Council Franchise team on Electoral Register modernisation.

Corporate Services

Civic Receptions and Recognitions

Three Civic Receptions held:

- Civic Reception in honour of the Farrell Clan on 18 July
- Cathaoirleach Awards on 3 June
- Volunteer Recognition Event on 19 May



Cathaoirleach Awards

Other Civic Recognition event held in 2022 included:

- Welcome for Ballinamuck/ESSERT Twinning Committee to celebrate 25 years of the twinning agreement between the two towns
- Welcome for Longford Town/Noyal-Châtillon-sur-Seiche Twinning Committee
- Event to honour of the Longford Leader to celebrate their 125th anniversary
- 'Christians in Morocco: Living Together' exhibition launch in St Mel's Cathedral



Left: 'Christians in Morocco: Living Together' exhibition; Right: event honouring the Longford Leader.

Corporate Services

Communications

Communications Team Expansion

The work of Communications was greatly enhanced with the addition of the Digital Communications Officer as well as a clerical officer to work alongside the Communications Officer.

Communications Strategy

The Communications Strategy was introduced to all employees this year. A number of the key actions in the Strategy have also been implemented across the organisation. These include:

- Establishing Communications Working Group
- Establishing new branding guidelines for roll out in 2023
- Social media training on content and management
- Audit of social media accounts and pages
- Website content management system training for relevant employees
- Website end-user accessibility and appearance enhancement
- Identification and coordination of further training opportunities required

Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group was established to increase regularity and efficiency in communicating work updates across the Council. The monthly meetings are attended by representatives from all departments. They allow the Communications team to proactively plan and prepare communications both internally and externally.

Corporate Services

Press releases

Communications issued 106 press releases in 2022. These included:

- Taoiseach Micheál Martin officially opens new social housing development in Longford
- Ballinamuck-ESSERT Twinning 25th Anniversary Celebrated
- Longford Community Safety Plan 2022-2024 launched by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD
- Longford County Council shortlisted at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022



Left: Taoiseach Micheál Martin opening new social housing development;
Right: Ballinamuck-ESSERT Twinning 25th Anniversary

Social Media

Throughout 2022, the Council's corporate social media pages continued to grow:

- Facebook: 6,056 (up 23%)
- Twitter: 3,325 (up 8.5%)
- Instagram: 1,450 (up 32%)

In 2022, the Council's corporate social media channels achieved the over 20% advertising in the Irish language, a requirement of the Official Languages Act.

Corporate Services

Media queries

In 2022, 104 media queries were processed and responded to.

Events

The members of the Communications team assisted with many Council events during 2022. This included:

- rebranding of the Dead of Night Festival which took place at Halloween
- the launch of Longford Sláintecare Healthy Communities
- the official opening of a social housing development by Taoiseach Michael Martin
- multiple ambassadorial visits to the county



Corporate Services

Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests	58
Internal review on FOI requests	0
Appeals to the Information Commissioner on FOI decisions	0
Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests	8
Internal review on AIE requests	1
Appeals to the Commissioner for Environmental Information on AIE decisions	1

Data Protection

Data Protection Compliance Monitoring Framework and Legal Requirements

The Data Protection Compliance Monitoring Framework, introduced in 2021, continued into 2022. All data protection legal requirements were adhered to with Data Protection safeguarding the privacy of Council customers and employees.

Data Subject Access Requests, Data Breaches, Queries and Complaints

Six data subject access requests were completed in 2022. There were five data breaches resolved. Eight data protection impact assessments were reviewed. Data Protection dealt with 100 data protection queries.

One complaint was received from the Data Protection Commission on behalf of a Longford County Council data subject and this was successfully resolved.

Corporate Services

File Management

Data Protection commenced a pilot project within the Corporate Section on the implementation of a practical and functioning file management system.

Compliance Reports

Twenty-eight Data Protection Compliance Reports issued with five recommendations provided.

Recommendation Reports Issued in 2022

Recommendation Reports Issued in 2022 included the following topics:

- CCTV, issued to Information Technology, Roads, Fire Services, Environment, Library Services and Facilities
- Data Processing outside the European Economic Area
- Guidelines on working remotely
- Transferring personal data to an outside organisation and internally

Policies Reviewed

Data Protection policies reviewed include the Data Protection Policy, Data Subject Rights Policy, Elected Representatives Representations Policy, Clean and Clear Desk Policy, and the Longford County Councils Privacy Statement.

Training and Awareness

Eight data protection campaigns were delivered to employees through Metacompliance, an innovative platform introduced by Data Protection to the Council. In addition, 12 news stories were uploaded onto data protection blog.

Corporate Services

Standard Operating Procedures Communicated

Standard Operating Procedures communicated to Council employees was procedures related to recording images at events.

Data Protection Inspection

Data Protection successfully closed a data protection inspection on Longford County Council's cookies on Council-related website.

Representing Longford County Council

The Data Protection and Information Compliance Officer attended 12 national Data Protection Officer (DPO) and regional DPO networks. They also take part in various steering and working groups representing Longford County Council on a national basis.

Health and Safety

Certification to ISO 45001:2018

This year, Longford County Council successfully maintained its ISO 45001:2018 certification, following a recertification audit. This audit was completed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). All Council sections were included within the scope of the audit. The NSAI did not report any audit findings for 2022, the first time the Council has achieved zero findings. This important certification demonstrates commitment to the management and continuous improvement of health and safety, making Longford County Council a safer place for all.

Corporate Services

Health and Safety Awards 2022

For the eighth consecutive year, Longford County Council won awards at the annual All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards, winning the Regional (Midlands) Award and the Continuous High Achiever Award this year.

The awards are run by the the National Irish Safety Organisation in conjunction with Northern Ireland Safety Group. They recognise how health and safety management in the workplace and are a positive recognition of all employees' hard work concerning the safety management system. This year's wins were based on submissions under 12 different sections, with evidence of compliance for each section backing up this entry.



Corporate Services

Employee Appreciation Day

As part of an employee appreciation day, Health and Safety acknowledged all employees following the successful re-certification to ISO45001:2018 and the success at the All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards. For this presentations were made to Council safety representatives, manual handling trainers and visual display unit (VDU) assessors to thank them for their contribution to the safety management system.



Health and Safety Inspections

One regulatory inspection was carried out by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). This was within Water Services. The inspector visited three treatment plants at Longford, Keenagh and Abbeyshrule. There was no report of inspection issued.

Three regulatory inspections were made on projects where Longford County Council undertook the role of 'client'. These projects included St Michael's Road housing development, with no report issue. It also included N63 Major's Well road project where two inspections took place, with a report of inspection was issued.

Corporate Services

Statutory inspections for lifting equipment are completed by Irish Engineering Services. Inspections such as harness inspection, weekly inspections of safety showers and eye wash stations and daily vehicle inspections are also carried out. Compliance is monitored through the safety auditing programme.

Summary of Accident and Incidents Reports for 2022

Reporting accidents and incidents is important for the safety management system and identifies areas for continuous improvement. In total, 57 accidents and incidents were reported in 2022.

The largest number of incidents were reported in relation to violence and aggression, numbering 25 reported instances compared to 14 in 2021. Five accidents and no dangerous occurrences were reported to the Health and Safety Authority.

Safety Statement

Updated Longford County Council and Fire Services Safety Statements were communicated to employees. The Longford County Council Safety Statement obtained the Plain English mark from the National Adult Literacy Agency. This was the first time such a report from a local authority received this mark.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are required for all work activities and buildings owned and/or operated by Longford County Council. In 2022, 30 assessments were completed.

Corporate Services

Safety Inspections Programme

Longford County Council's Safety Inspection Programme was carried out by each directorate at fixed and mobile work locations. There were 239 safety inspections in 2022. These inspections help determine compliance with health and safety requirements. A quarterly report on inspections is provided to the Management Team. Non-compliance or issues identified are added to an electronic action tracking system, ensuring all such issues are addressed and resolved within each Council section.

Health and Safety Auditing

Auditing of the health and safety management system continued, with 9 days of internal auditing completed in 2022. Audits were completed against the ISO 45001:2018 standard. Findings from audits are logged onto software that gathers all the corrective actions and tracks them until they are resolved.

As previously referenced to, the NSAI carried out two days of auditing, for the recertification of the ISO 45001:2018.

This year also, the Council introduced a Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) Audit and Inspection Programme on foot of the revised Chapter 8 manual to ensure compliance with TTM requirements. Council employees completed the TTM auditing and inspections. The Council also engaged the services of an external TTM consultant. Five days of TTM auditing were completed within the Roads and Water Services Sections.

Corporate Services

Communication and Consultation

Health and Safety consults and communicates with employees, including through the preparation of risk assessments and standard operating procedures, health and safety inductions, monthly safety reports, through safety representatives and a steering group. Health and Safety also communicate through meetings, including:

- **Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee meetings:**

Four meetings took place in 2022. Held in each directorate, safety issues are raised by safety representatives on behalf of employees, with issues discussed and addressed. Line managers, lead work representatives and the Health and Safety Officer are also in attendance.

- **Safety Management Committee meetings:**

Four meetings took place in 2022 and are held with the directors and the Health and Safety Officer. The meetings addresses issues raised by the Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee. Senior Officers, training officer, elected safety representatives, line managers, and lead worker representative also attend. The meetings also evaluate compliance with the health and safety legislation and to review progress on the annual programme of works.

- **Management Team meetings:**

Eleven meetings took place in 2022. For these meetings, the Health and Safety Officer provides an update on accidents and incidents operational issues and national developments in health and safety. Following the meeting, a safety report is prepared and circulated to employees. These meetings are an effective and efficient way of communicating health and safety information and contributes to the development of a positive health and safety culture with all employees.

Corporate Services

Contractors

Contractors working on behalf of the Council continue to be assessed in line with Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2013. Overall, 34 contractors were assessed in 2022. For this, every contractor completes a questionnaire assessed by the Council to determine their competency and compliance with requirements.

Human Resources

Appreciation Day for Past and Present Council Employees

In 2022, Longford County Council brought employees who retired since January 2020 and over the COVID-19 pandemic together to thank and show appreciation for their dedicated service to the people of County Longford.

This year also, the Council held an Employee Appreciation Day for thanking all employees for their continued service and hard work. Awards presented on the day included long service recognition awards and health and safety awards.

Graduates from the Open Learning Scheme were also recognised for their contribution and engagement in the development of a culture of lifelong learning at Longford County Council.



Human Resources

Recruitment and Selection

Recruitment and selection procedures are fair and transparent aligned with good practice, employment legislation and departmental guidelines. The 2022 recruitment programme included the following:

- Competitions advertised: 53
- Applications received: 1,066
- Interview days: 88
- Interview boards: 45
- New appointments to Longford County Council: 48
- Promotions within Longford County Council: 35
- Retirees from Longford County Council: 13
- Resignations from Longford County Council: 18

Learning and Development

Longford County Council enables continuous and lifelong learning. Training for 42 different competencies over 75 sessions was delivered during 2022, with 1,268 attendees. This training included skill development in areas such as leadership, management, business, information technology, legislation and governance.

Open Learning Scheme

Longford County Council's Open Learning Scheme supports employees to undertake studies in further education. Seven employees participated in this scheme for the 2022/2023 academic year. Graduates from the scheme were recognised at Longford County Council's Employee Appreciation Day.

Human Resources

Employee Health and Wellbeing

Employee health and wellbeing is delivered under the four pillars of mental, physical, social and financial wellbeing. This year, 35 health and wellbeing programmes were delivered. As part of the Safety Management System audit, the National Standards Authority of Ireland recognised the health and wellbeing programme as a strength within the organisation.

The programmes delivered included female hormonal and male prostate health screening, the 'Steps into Spring' walking challenge, and winter flu vaccinations. National No Smoking Day, National Day of Reading, Pride Month, Breast Cancer and Mental Health Awareness Months were also promoted through information sessions.

Statutory Health and Safety Training

Statutory health and safety training is required to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees and others who may be affected by Longford County Council work. In 2022, training for 65 health and safety competencies was delivered to 341 participants.

Statutory and Departmental Returns

Statutory and Departmental Returns were made submitted to the relevant government departments on time during 2022.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Edgeworthstown Community Library opened and Ireland Reads

Edgeworthstown Community Library was officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humpreys TD on Friday, 25 February. The opening coincided with Ireland Reads day, a national celebration of reading, with many library events taking place.

Since opening, several events have taking place in Edgeworthstown Community Library. These include the Threading the Tain Tapestry project, the Smallest Piece Completes the Puzzle art exhibition and the launch of the Fleadh Cheoil Longfoirt 2022.



Library, Heritage and Archives

My Open Library

My Open Library funding was secured in 2022. This has allowed the My Open Library network to extend to Lanesborough Library, as well as upgrades to the existing My Open Library offering in Ballymahon and Granard libraries.

My Open Library offers extended opening hours to library members on a self-service basis outside of normal opening hours service. My Open Library services reopened in Ballymahon after a COVID-19 related disruption. It is hoped that the service will open again in Granard, Edgeworthstown and Lanesborough in early 2023.

Bealtaine Festival

Bealtaine Festival took place in May and is a national celebration of the arts and creativity for older people. Several events were held. These include the launch of the festival with an ecumenical service, a dance held in Abbeyshrule organised with community Gardaí and Ballymahon Day Care Centre. This festival is part of Age Friendly, Longford.

Summer Stars Reading Adventure

Summer Stars Reading Adventure took place from June to August. Part of the Right to Read initiative, it is free for all children to encourage reading for fun during the summer holidays. Many in-person events and activities took place, including creative storytimes, crafts, dance, and music, with a reading challenge also.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Creative Ireland Longford

As part of Creative Ireland in Longford, the **Cruinniú na nÓg Festival**, which celebrates creativity in children and young people, took place in June. Many events took place in libraries across Longford, including a traditional Irish dance performance, rap music workshops, and puppet making. The celebrations also included an international family fun day with art, music, food and games celebrating those families who have made Longford their home.

Lakelands, a Longford film project produced by Harp Media, premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh in July to a full house. The film won two awards: Best Irish Film and the Bingham Ray New Talent Award for its lead actors Éanna Hardwicke and Danielle Galligan. This project was funded by Creative Ireland Longford.



Left: *Lakelands* at Galway Film Fleadh; Right: *The Sunflower Lion* book launch

As funded by Creative Ireland Longford, ***The Sunflower Lion*** book by award-winning Ukrainian children's author Halyna Budilova was launched. This bilingual compilation of poems and short stories about war was written for children and parents. Halyna has made Longford her home during the war in Ukrainian. The book is a partnership with local author Eileen Moynihan.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Making Music in the Midlands took place in Ballymahon Library. This was the County Longford venue for this collaboration between the Music Network and Age Friendly Ireland. It is funded through Creative Ireland Communities Fund. Encouraging older people to return to playing music, class tutors included local musicians Dan Brouder and Angelina Carberry. Music classes ran for eight weeks. The success of the project was such that further funding to extend the project into 2023 has been sought.



The development of a new **Creative Ireland strategy** took place in 2022. This work included a review of the previous strategy's actions. Stakeholder and public consultation sessions also took place. It is hoped that the new strategy will be adopted by Longford County Council early in 2023.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Reaching Out and the Community Forum

Longford libraries continued to reach out to migrant communities now living in County Longford. In 2022, this including the many Ukrainians people who came to live in Longford. Together with local and national agencies, Longford County Council led a community forum to assist and welcome people into our community.

As part of this reaching out, welcoming coffee mornings were held in Longford Library in April and in May. A local history bus tour to north Longford was also organised to show people around the area and learn about the history of the area.

Positive Age Information Day

A positive age information day was held in October, with over 120 older people in attendance. This was an Age Friendly Longford initiative, with a presentation by Age Friendly Ireland Chief Officer Catherine McGuigan. Motivational speaker Brian McIvor gave a keynote address and entertainment was provided by Age Friendly ambassador Declan Nerney.

Digital Skills for Older People

Also part of Age Friendly in Longford, courses in digital skills for older people continued in many libraries in 2022. These courses support older people and other communities who may find themselves needing help with digital technologies.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Dormant Accounts Funding Secured

We were also successful in securing Dormant Accounts Funding in 2022 for additional library supports for marginalised and disadvantaged communities. Initiatives included additional language learning and literacy supports and an art therapy programme which ran in Granard and Ballymahon libraries.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library Funding

Healthy Ireland at Your Library (HlaYL) funding was secured. This was used to enhance health-focused zones in County Longford libraries. It also was used to introduce play therapy sensory sessions. This showcased new sensory walls in Edgeworthstown and Granard libraries.

Heritage

Music project by historian Adrain Roche

Historian Adrian Roche, best known for The History Trail, was commissioned for a project on music in Longford. A database venues and musicians was created. Interviews were recorded with local people who are involved or knowledgeable on music. It established a historical record of music-related information, covering many genres, including traditional, country and the showband era.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 funding was secured and allocated to first-time applicant Oldtown House, Ardagh for roof and exterior walls repairs.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Heritage Week

Heritage Week pack in many events, including:

- Children's recitations, a talk on the Prophecies of St Colmcille, and music and storytelling in Corlea Trackway Visitors Centre
- Norman People event and the Michael Collins Commemoration, both at Knights and Conquests Visitors Centre
- 'Marching bands to showbands' talk by Adrian Roche in Longford Library
- Táin Tapestry exhibition in Edgeworthstown Community Library
- Ecumenical service at the site of the Church of Ireland, Drumlish
- Musical recital at St Paul's Church, Newtownforbes
- An open day at Corboy Presbyterian Church, Longford
- Granard Buttermarket opened
- Colmcille Ploughing and Heritage Day



Michael Collins Commemoration event

Library, Heritage and Archives

Continued Funding for Research Project on the invasive Quagga Mussel

Further funding was applied for and received under the Local Biodiversity Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This funding is for a nine cross-county research project on the quagga mussel. The quagga mussel is a freshwater, invasive species of mussel discovered in Ireland in 2021.

The mussel appears to be restricted to the area around Lough Ree to Parteen Weir on the River Shannon and this area is the initial research zone. At the early stages of invasion, it is important to target several key areas to understand where the species occurs, its life history and the risks of spreading through water-based activities. This is be a multi-year fund application until the research is completed.

Archives

County Longford GAA Archive Launched

County Longford GAA Archive was launched on 19 December. A partnership with County Longford GAA, this project aims to collect all records relating to the association in the county. There were four major deposits donated at the launch.

Requiem for the Big House Documentary Film

Requiem for the Big House documentary film was made in 2022. It explores historically-important country estates of the Anglo-Irish landed class in County Longford, with a focus on the Revolutionary period. Commissioned by the Decade of Centenaries programme, it was made by Dr Charles Lambert and Ronan Daly.

Library, Heritage and Archives

The North Longford Flying Column: The Clonfin Twenty-One Book Written

In 2022, Bernard Sexton finished his book The North Longford Flying Column: The Clonfin Twenty-one. The book provides biographies of the twenty-one Column members who took part in the Clonfin ambush. The work was supported through the Decade of Centenaries programme.

County Longford Grand Jury Books Now Online

The two manuscript books from County Longford Grand Jury (1759-1907), are now available online. This is part of Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury. Launched in Dublin Castle on 27 June, this is a landmark project seeking to identify archives that substitute for those destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922.

Digitisation

Several cassettes and video tapes were digitised this year, helping to improve access to these records. This includes interviews conducted as part of the County Longford Irish Countrywomen's Association Oral History Project.

New Acquisitions

Several archives were acquired by the Archive Section in 2022. These include:

- Scanned photographs of Ballymahon, from the 1940s-60s
- Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois religious examination reports, various dates
- Photographs from Ballycloghan National School, from 1977-2013
- A Home Rule Union resolution to Longford Town Commissioners, from 1889
- Items from the late Mrs Anne Byrne, of an Ardagh estate.

Library, Heritage and Archives

Conservation

The conservation of several archives was organised, including rough minute books from Longford Poor Law Union, Longford Urban District Council valuation books and Ballymahon No 2 National School collection.

Decade of Centenaries Events

Decade of Centenaries events which took place through the year Included:

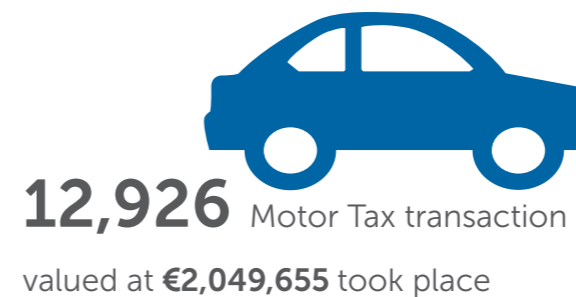
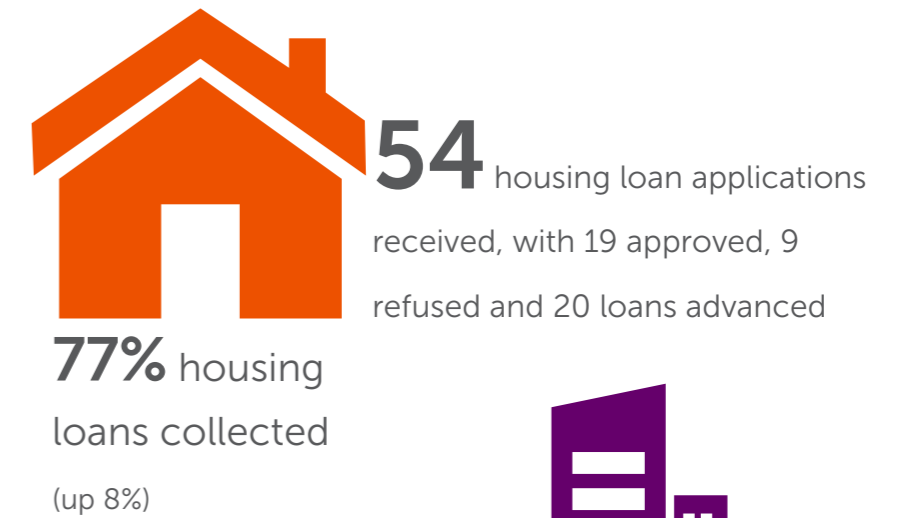
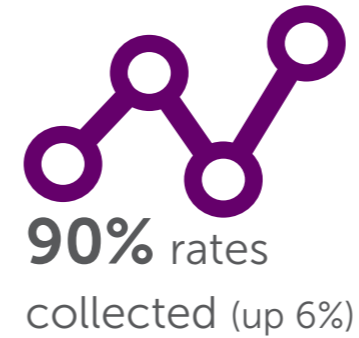
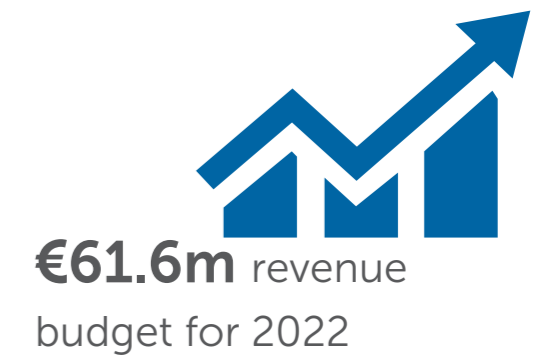
- Ceremony marking the centenary of the handover of Seán Connolly Barracks to the Irish Republican Army
- Opening of War of Independence exhibition in Longford Library
- Unveiling of 'The Circle of Courage' sculpture by Gary Robinson at Clonfin
- Premiere of the documentary Clonfin by Harp Media Ltd in Granard Community Library
- Unveiling a plaque commemorating Sir Henry Wilson at Currygrane, Ballinalee
- Marking of the centenary of An Garda Síochána, including an exhibition within libraries around County Longford



Left: 'The Circle of Courage' sculpture; Right: Unveiling a plaque commemorating Sir Henry Wilson

Finance

2022 in Numbers



Finance

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Year to Date Ending 31 December 2022

	Gross Expenditure 2022 (€)	Income 2022 (€)	Net Expenditure 2022 (€)	Net Expenditure 2021 (€)
Housing and Building	10,644,505	11,040,824	(396,319)	(559,541)
Roads, Transport and Safety	21,155,566	16,653,330	4,502,236	4,691,063
Water Services	4,433,823	4,220,537	213,287	378,860
Development Management	10,609,956	6,461,320	4,148,635	3,974,788
Environment Services	5,597,866	753,701	4,844,165	4,277,058
Recreation and Amenities	4,752,459	1,443,096	3,309,363	3,105,808
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	499,199	294,081	205,118	185,868
Miscellaneous Services	3,722,909	4,893,908	(1,170,999)	(715,259)
Total	61,416,283	45,760,797		

Finance

	Net Expenditure 2022 (€)	Net Expenditure 2021 (€)
Net cost of division to be funded from rates and local property tax	15,655,486	15,338,645
Rates	8,723,255	9,978,084
Local Property Tax	9,244,476	9,242,927
Surplus (Deficit) for Year before Transfer	2,312,245	3,882,365
Transfer from or (to) Reserves	(2,306,868)	(3,773,599)
Overall Surplus or (deficit) to year	5,377	108,766
General Reserve 1 January	359,729	250,963
General Reserve 31 December	365,106	359,729

This Statement of Comprehensive Income is unaudited as of May 2023.

Finance

Payments to Councillors in 2022

Payments made to Councillors under Section 142 of the Local Government Act

Mayor and Other Allowances	€65,541
Entertainment and Associated Expenses	€0
Representational Payments and Expenses	€679,653
Total	€745,194

Motor Tax

Motor tax transactions	2022 (No)	2022 (€)	2021 (No)	2021 (€)
Vehicle licence discs	10,069	1,867,435	7,446	1,446,698
Vehicle registration certificates, trade plates and other transactions	2,857	182,220	2,430	141,701
Total motor tax transactions	12,926	2,049,655	9,876	1,588,399

Information Technology

Broadband Connection Point VEX IQ

The Broadband Connection Point (BCP) VEX IQ robotics programme was launched nationally by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Munster Technological University. Mullinalaghta Community Centre BCP received a free VEX IQ robot and game elements and this programme was successful completed within the BCP.



OurKidsCode

OurKidsCode supports parents and guardians in engaging their primary-school children's interest and activity in computing. In Longford, a four-week OurKidsCode programme was held in the BCPs at Latin School Community Centre, Moydow Community Centre, Abbeyshrule Airfield and Mullinalaghta Community Centre. This is a project between Trinity College Dublin and the National Parents Council (Primary) and funded by a government grant from Science Foundation Ireland's Discover programme.

Information Technology

Longford Connected Communities

Longford Connected Communities includes Longford Text Alert, an platform to share updates with people in Longford from the Council, An Garda Síochána and community groups. It was rolled out to 14 community groups, with a further four groups in progress to be rolled out in 2023.

The project is between Longford County Council and Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, local community text alert groups and An Garda Síochána. It is funded by Longford County Council and Department of Rural and Community Development under Our Rural Future: Digital Innovation Programme 2021.



Connected Hubs Call 2022

Connected Hubs Call 2022 funding of €119,993 was secured, as applied for with the Regeneration Section. This funding was used to upgrade Ardagh Remote Working Hub and the Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) at Abbeyshrule Airfield, the Latin School Community Centre in Moyne and Moydow Community Centre.

Information Technology

Coding and Digital Skills Courses

Creative Ireland funded an Introduction to Coding course in Mullinalaghta and Moydow Community Centre BCPs. A Basic Digital Skills course in the Latin School Community Centre BCP. Longford Westmeath Education Training Board facilitated a Basic Digital Skills course in Mullinalaghta Community Centre BCP.

Computer Science in Secondary Schools

A secondary school breakfast briefing on computer science was facilitated at CO:WORX Edgeworthstown between the Council, local secondary schools teachers, and the Professional Development Service for Teachers.



Information Technology

Microsoft Dream Space

The Microsoft Dream Space 'den' was launched in Mullinalaghta Community Centre BCP. This is a space for science, technology, engineering and maths-based learning. Over 100 primary school children from St Colmcille's National School., Sacred Heath Primary School Granard, Mullinalaghta and Scoil Mhuire National School Aughnagarron attended the event. Longford is one of four counties to pilot this project.

Digital First Initiatives

In line with climate action objectives, increasing efficiency and user-friendliness, Information Technology (IT) uses a 'digital first' policy for new initiatives. In 2022, this included electronic submissions for the Community Activities Fund application process. This reduced waste, increased efficiency and improved access for people applying to this fund. Internally, the eService Planning project allowed senior employees to digitally enter and review service plans. Electronic Performance Management and Development System (ePMDS) was fully implemented and used by all office-based Council employees for performance management and planning.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022

Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022, funding of €49,950 was secured for to carry out a marketing and branding campaign for the network of digital hubs and remote co:working available in County Longford. This funding was applied for in collaboration with Local Enterprise Office.

Information Technology

Network Infrastructure

Network infrastructure works involves the ongoing management, maintenance and monitoring of the Council's information systems. In 2022, network infrastructure projects included:

- Customer Relationship Management pilot implemented in Corporate Services and then progressed with the Environment Section
- Cyber security gap analysis was completed with security improvements plan developed
- Updated security protocols to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of remote workings solutions was implemented. Security improvements were also implemented on Core human resources and payroll infrastructure and end user devices.
- Council chamber upgraded to facilitate enhanced hybrid meetings
- Upgrade of financial management system
- Data loss prevention policies implemented on email system
- Backup solution for Microsoft Office 365 procured and implemented.
- Cyber security awareness training plan developed and phishing simulations executed
- Software upgrades and procurement competitions carried out for licensing and hardware purchases.
- IT helpdesk resolved 6,896 issues in 2022

Blended Working

In 2022, further time and expertise was dedicated to implementing blended working. This included the use of infrastructure such as Microsoft Teams

Information Technology

and the development of new applications to be used by Council employees through the Teams platform. It also included support for remote meetings and the development of a digital blended working applications process. This use of blended working supported by IT has allowed for increased efficiencies and allowed the Council and its work to evolve post-COVID-19.

Geographical Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) allows for the storing and manipulating geographical information on computer. Notable projects in 2022 include:

- Developing and enhancing GIS web applications in different Council section to facilitate spatial data collection and analysis. This supports strategic decision making.
- Supporting Corporate Services in a polling scheme review, including analysis around polling districts and polling station provision.
- Help with preparing interactive web maps and mobile mapping applications for new Residential Zoned Land Tax maps for the Planning Section.
- Support for Longford Text Alert implementation and rollout
- Developing a community safety website map viewer
- Support of systems for COVID-19 Small Business Assistance Scheme.

Housing

Social Housing Capital Investment Programme 2022

Social Housing Capital Investment Programme (SHCIP) supports the delivery of social housing. Under SHCIP, 27 units were completed at: Campbell's Drive in Longford (two units), Alder Field, Farnagh Hill in Longford (one unit), St Michael's Court, Longford Town (14), St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck (eight), and Caislean Breac, Newtownforbes (two).



Top: Taoiseach Micheál Martin opening St Michael's Court social housing development;
Bottom: Minister of State Peter Burke TD opening Alder Field social housing development.

Housing

Energy Retrofitting Scheme

Under the Energy Retrofitting Scheme, €3.3m was allocated to the Council for the retrofitting of local authority-owned houses. For the scheme, 159 properties were approved.

Retrofitting work has been completed on 78 properties, in Ballinalee, Longford town and Ballymahon with 54 completed by the end of 2022. Condition surveys were completed on a further 60 units and works are ongoing on 20 properties in Glebe View, Longford Town. Retrofitting will reduce energy costs, while making these properties warmer and more comfortable to live in to the occupants.

Maintenance and Refurbishment

Under the Longford County Council Budget for 2022, €2,036,301 was provided for the maintenance and repair of Council properties. More than 2,535 repair requests were responded to. Pre-letting repairs were completed on 47 properties, ahead of new tenants moving into these properties.

Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Croí Cónaithe or the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant was announced. This is to support people to live in towns and villages with grants to refurbish vacant properties. A Vacant Homes Officer was appointed to Longford County Council to oversee the scheme. Twelve applications were received by end of 2022.

Housing

Voids Programme

Longford County Council received funding of €375,350 for 34 properties under the Voids Programme. This funding helps to prepare vacant local authority owned properties for re-letting. Funding of €11,000 was available per property, with a focus on undertaking minimum refurbishment works to comply with required letting standards.

Housing Grant Schemes

To meet the needs of people with accessibility issues, 200 housing grants valued at €1,153,126 were approved across the three categories:

- Mobility Aids with grants of €231,362.50 awarded
- Housing Adaptatio with grants of €412,970.25 awarded
- Housing Aid for Older People with grants of €508,793.46 awarded

This is a 28% increase on the number of grants issued in 2021.

Disabled Persons Grant Scheme

In addition, 28 adaptation projects were undertaken in 2022 to meet the needs of our tenants. For this, funding of €185,661 was provided under the Disabled Persons Grant Scheme. Work included making bathrooms accessible, installing stair lifts and other equipment to accommodate different needs.

This work improved the quality of life of people living in these properties and in many cases allowed these individuals to continue to live outside of care settings.

Housing

Private Rented Property Inspections

Longford County Council conducted 265 private rented property inspections in 2022. These inspections help to enforce standards in the private rental sector. A new digital application to support private rented property inspections was worked on during 2022 and will be rolled out to Council employees in 2023.

Social Housing Support

Social housing support is provided to people who are assessed as being unable to afford housing from their own resources. From the Approved Housing List, 228 applicants were allocated social housing in 2022. Social housing was obtained through various options including:

- tenancy of a Council property
- Rental Accommodation Scheme leases
- long-term social housing leases
- housing provided by approved housing bodies
- Housing Assistance Payment

There were 730 applicants on the Approved Housing List on 31 December 2022. In 2022, the numbers of units that were provided to first-time tenancies were:

- Second-hand property acquisitions: 12
- Social Housing Leases: 8
- Turnkey New Build Properties: 25
- Rental Accommodation Scheme Leases: 3
- Housing Assistance Payment Leases: 78

Housing

Traveller Accommodation

The Longford Traveller Accommodation Plan 2020-2024 was adopted by the Council in 2021. The includes agreed targets for the number and type of accommodation to be provided. Longford County Council continues to exceed targets set for standard local authority housing, Housing Assistance Payment, and Rental Accommodation Scheme and leasing targets.

The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) worked on progressing the development of a Traveller accommodation group housing project within the lifetime of the current Traveller Accommodation Plan. The LTACC visited a newly developed group housing scheme in Tullamore County Offaly in March. CENA, an Approved Housing Body, has been engaged by Longford County Council to conduct a feasibility study to support the development of a group scheme and a housing needs assessment with the Traveller population in Longford Town.

Homelessness

Homelessness is dealt with on a collaborative basis in the Midlands. Westmeath County Council is the lead agency, in partnership with Longford, Laois and Offaly County Councils. Advice and assistance are provided to those who present as homeless to Longford County Council. This year, 151 people presented as homeless, a 73.5% increase on 2021.

Planning

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

The implementation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 got underway in 2022, following its adoption at the end of 2021. The plan is available to purchase from Longford County Council offices. It is also available on Longfordcoco.ie.

Climate Change and the Lough Ree Biosphere

One aspect of the County Development Plan which was implemented in 2022 was in regard to a climate change strategy and policies. This now guides all work within the Planning Section.

Aligned to this and in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Planning progressed the tendering for consultants to prepare the application for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status for the Lough Ree. Environmental consultants will progress this work in 2023.



Lough Ree

Planning

Longford Town Local Area Plan

A review of the Longford Town and Environs 2016-2022 Local Area Plan and research into the preparation of a new Longford Town Local Area Plan started in late-2021. In 2022, an issues paper was prepared and put forward for public consultation. The Local Area Plan is to be informed by a Local Transport Plan, currently being preparation. As such, the Local Area Plan statutory process will start in 2023. Environmental and flood risk consultants have been secured for both the Local Area Plan and the Local Transport Plan.

Longford Town Local Transport Plan 2023

Engineering consultants were appointed in 2022 to prepare a new Longford Town Local Transport Plan. Along with this, a County Longford Active Travel Strategy will also be prepared. Both will need to be to the satisfaction of National Transport Authority. For these plans, environmental consultants were appointed in 2022. A combined scoping and screening report for strategic environmental assessment was worked on in 2022. This will be referred to environmental authorities in 2023.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Residential Zoned Land Tax is a new tax aimed at increasing housing supply by activating zoned, serviced residential development lands for housing. Greenfield and brownfield land identified and zoned for housing will be subject to tax from 2024. The tax is a commitment under the government's Housing for All. In 2022, public consultations took place on this tax. Draft, supplemental and final maps showing lands in County Longford that will be subject to the tax were prepared.

Planning

Part 8 Planning

Part 8 planning applications is when the local authority apply to themselves for permission for various projects. Such works can include developments including housing, roads and public amenities. In 2022, 13 Part 8 planning applications were advertised and adopted.

Planning Applications

Planning applications cover different types of developments including residential, employment, retail, agriculture and amenities. In 2022, 299 planning applications were received, 257 were granted, with 17 refused and 12 appeals to An Bord Pleanála.

Pre-Planning Consultations

Pre-planning consultations are integral to providing an informative and transparent planning service. There were 79 pre-planning consultations in 2022.

Development Contributions Scheme 2018-2022 Review

The Development Contribution Scheme 2018-2022 was reviewed in 2022, with a revised scheme to be brought before the Council in 2023. This scheme provides a legal basis for the process whereby developers and others are required to financially contribute towards the cost of providing public infrastructure and facilities. Overall, it has had a very positive impact on the delivery of infrastructure in County Longford since its introduction.

Planning

Planning Enforcement

Planning Enforcement Section involves investigating complaints from the public regarding unauthorised developments and non-compliance with planning permissions. In 2022, 33 new cases were opened, 52 warning letters were issued, and 16 enforcement notices were issued. There were seven referrals for prosecution and 43 files were closed.

National Housing Policy

Planning work with the Housing Section to identify suitable housing land to be developed under the New Housing Policy. This work includes site assessments, designs for several sites to determine the potential development. Planning also help to acquire sites, including preparing and implementing Compulsory Purchase Orders.

Regeneration

The Yard Hub Abbeyshrule

This year a lot of progress was made on The Yard Hub in Abbeyshrule. This work involved the conversion of several derelict outbuildings and canal stores into what will be a state of the art remote working hub. The project also provides a new purpose-built facility for the Abbeyshrule Canoe Club. The location of the hub along the Royal Canal Greenway will further open up the amenity for people working remotely. The hub is expected to open in early 2023.



Broadband Connection Points

The Regeneration Section supported the enhancement of Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) through funding received under the Connected Hubs Call 2022, which was applied for with the Information Technology Section of the Council. This funding helped to ensure that the BCPs are attractive spaces for remote working. It also supports the regeneration of our rural villages, enabling people to continue to live and work remotely. The BCPs enhanced in 2022 were in Moydow, Moyne, Abbeyshrule and Ardagh.

Regeneration

Longford Connected

Works progressed on the Longford Connected project and were substantially progressed at the Longford Shopping Centre, Grafton Court, Market Square and St. Mel's Road areas of the town in 2022. Project completion is anticipated early 2023. It will transform the town centre into a more pedestrian-friendly environment and a more vibrant and sustainable area into the future.

CO:WORX Edgeworthstown

CO:WORX Edgeworthstown opened in March. This former Ulster Bank building is now a state of the art digital and enterprise hub. It offers co-working and hot-desking spaces, as well as individual offices, a podcasting room and a dedicated training room. The transformation of this main street building has had a positive impact on the community and streetscape. It now hosts many events and was shortlisted for an award at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards in the Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship category.



Regeneration

Mid Shannon Wilderness Park Greenway

Work continued on the delivery of elements of the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park Greenway, including the provision of a car park at Knappogue. The car park and the enhancement of the trails through south Longford enhance the Royal Canal Greenway, Corlea Trackway Centre and nearby towns and villages. This work creates greater opportunities for both locals and visitors to explore and get active.

Pobal le Cheile, Ballymahon

The contract for consultants to design and construct the Pobal le Cheile project in Ballymahon were signed in 2022. This project involves renovating three historic town centre buildings: a former convent building, an old boys school and the former Dean Egan library. They will be transformed into a co-working space, a youth hub and a community centre. This will provide key services for the local community and have a significant and sustainable impact on social and economic development.



Regeneration

Moyne Amphitheatre

Funding was received under Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the development of an amphitheatre on the grounds of Moyne Secondary School. This will be used by the secondary and primary schools and the local community for events. The project has seen the transformation of an overgrown and unattractive site to an attractive and functional community space. The amphitheatre was constructed in 2022, with planting and canopy elements to be completed in early 2023.

Lanesborough Amphitheatre

Consultants were engaged under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to progress the Lanesborough amphitheatre. This is a community-led project at the quarry in Commons North. It will enhance the entertainment, amenity and tourism offers of the village. For this project, Part VIII documentation and associated environmental assessments are in progress for submission to An Bord Pleanála in 2023.

URBACT UrbSecurity

Regeneration, recognising the issue of urban security, continued their involvement in the UrbSecurity project under the URBACT programme. Working with project partners, UrbSecurity aims to plan safer urban spaces. An Integrated Action Plan was developed by each partner. This was developed in collaboration with their local stakeholder group. Within the plan there are actions identified to support a safer town centre.

Regeneration

Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail

The Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail is a 4km trail around the historic and heritage sites in Aughnacliffe. It will open up accessibility to the Dolmens with signage letting visitors imagine the deserted village as it was in the past. It opens up waterfalls, caves and mill races to the user. Work started on the Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail in 2022. The project is expected to be open to the public in mid-2023.



Newtownforbes Bog Walk

The Newtownforbes Bog Walk involved the construction of a 1.8km trail, which links into existing paths to create a loop around the village of Newtownforbes. It also opens up the rural environment, creating opportunities for the local community to discover the biodiversity around them. The trail takes the user through grasslands, bog and forest, with benches along the way allowing people to rest or to just enjoy their surroundings. The trail has very positively added to the recreational amenities in this area since opening.

Regeneration

Camlin Quarter Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

In 2022, there was extensive engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the Camlin Quarter Regeneration Urban Regeneration and Development Fund 2020 allocation. The final framework for this funding is expected to be issued early 2023.

Anaerobic Digestion and the Circular economy

To explore opportunities for the development of locally-based circular economic activities in the Lanesborough and wider county area, a feasibility study was progressed in 2022. With wide-ranging stakeholder engagement, the study was funded under the Just Transition Fund and a low carbon fund. It investigated the potential of renewable energy and sustainable economic activity in the context of climate action initiatives to drive economic, social and environmental development. The study timeframe extends into 2023 to ensure that the rapidly-changing policy environment in this area is appropriately reflected.

Roads

Roads Expenditure

Road expenditure for 2022 for County Longford was €15,475,224. As part of this, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) contributed €6,148,404 to Longford County Council for national roads in 2022. This included:

Improvement Works	€3,452,371
National Primary and National Secondary Maintenance	€253,980
Highway Design Pavement Renewals and Surveys	€2,341,620
Winter Maintenance	€100,433

The Department of Transport contributed €8,692,300 for non-national roads in County Longford in 2022. This included:

Specific Improvement Grant	€249,668
Restoration Improvement Works	€4,538,464
Restoration Maintenance Works	€1,216,513
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€1,295,346
Low-Cost Safety Improvement works	€231,960
Drainage	€322,599
Bridge rehabilitation	€253,517
Training Programme	€34,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€233,908
Cycle Signs	€2,000
Speed Limit Signage	€7,128
Climate Change Adaption and Resilience	€295,197
Pavement Survey Condition Index Survey Support	€12,000

Roads

National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes

National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes are selected on the basis of recent road condition surveys. Works carried out under this scheme in 2022 were:

- N4 at Newtownforbes: includes footpath improvements, undergrounding of electricity wires and new public lighting, works started in 2021 and were completed in 2022.
- N63 at Lanesborough: resurfacing of the road through the centre of Lanesborough village, works included extensive footpath replacements.
- N4 at Garryandrew: resurfacing scheme for 2km of the N4 road at Garryandrew
- N63 at Major's Well Road: design and tender for scheme, with works started in 2021 and substantially completed in 2022. Works includes reconstruction of 600 metres section approaching Longford Town, installing footpaths and cycle tracks, undergrounding of electricity wires and new public lighting



Roads

Capital Maintenance Pavement Repairs

Capital Maintenance Pavement Repairs were carried out at the N55 at Ballymahon. The Capital Maintenance Pavement Repairs, is the repairs of defects on national roads with a value between €50,000 and €250,000, funded by TII.

Restoration Programme for Regional and Local Roads

The Restoration Programme improved 60.18 kilometres (km) of regional and local roads through surface restoration and road reconstruction. This programme also helped to maintain 68.32 km of regional and local roads by use of surface dressing to protect the structural integrity of the roads.



Roads

Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants

The Low-Cost Safety Improvement Grants enable low-cost safety improvement works on regional and local roads. Work under this scheme included completion of junction improvement works at Purth Cross.

Also included were sightline improvement works at

- McGrath's Cross at Aghamore in Ballinalee
- Greagh Lane Junction in Drumlish
- Shanmullagh Lane Junction on R198
- Cloncallow junction
- Farannyoogan housing estate.

Community Involvement Schemes

Six approved schemes were completed under the Community Involvement Scheme in 2022. All schemes were in the Granard Municipal District. The schemes included a mix of sightline improvements at junctions and new footpath construction. Works were completed in conjunction with local community groups.

Local Improvement Schemes

In 2022, the Council was allocated €403,581 under the Local Improvement Schemes, with 18 schemes completed across the county. This scheme allows for non-Council roads to be repaired at a relatively-modest cost. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Roads

Public Lighting

Of the 5842 public lights taken-in-charge by the Council, 4323 are now upgraded to more energy-efficient LEDs. The Council will continue upgrading public lighting to LEDs in 2023.

Climate Change Adaption and Rehabilitation

Under a Climate Change Adaption and Rehabilitation allocation, three projects were constructed. They are:

- R198 road at Tawnagh: works included embankment stabilised and widened with additional piped drains installed.
- R198 road at Gaique: works included embankment stabilization and widened, with additional piped drains installed.
- Saints Island Causeway Stability: works included installing rock armour to prevent the erosion of the causeway road during high water levels on Lough Ree

Road Safety

County Longford Local Road Safety Action Plan

The new Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 was launched in late 2021. Following this, each local authority Road Safety Officer liaised with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) to discuss and develop plans for local road safety action plans.

In Longford, the Longford Road Safety Working Together Committee developed a County Longford Local Road Safety Action Plan, aligned with the national

Roads

strategy. This committee was made up of representatives from different agencies involved in road safety. It was designed to ensure a coordinated, collaborative and consistent approach to improving road safety for all road users. The committee includes representatives from:

- Longford County Council, including those involved with road safety, road design, active travel, Local Sports Partnership and the Fire Service
- An Garda Síochána
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Road Safety Authority

The new Local Road Safety Plan 2022-2024 adopts a 'safe system' proactive approach. This tries to guide safe behaviour while assessing risks and identifying priority interventions to prevent fatalities and serious injuries. Time-limited targets and performance indicators aiming to reduce serious injuries and fatalities with a phased approach is outlined within the plan. The committee will meet quarterly to discuss road safety. An annual review of the plan will be conducted to monitor its implementation.

Road Safety Authority Leading Lights in Roads Safety Awards 2022

The Road Safety Authority Leading Lights in Roads Safety Awards 2022 were held in Croke Park, Dublin in December. Twelve Road Safety Officers representing local authorities including Longford County Council were awarded with a joint-Special Recognition Award. This was for their role in recent road safety campaigns. Some of the road safety campaigns the Roads Section helped to promote included Road Safety Week in October and Bike Week in May. This was promoted through

Roads

engaging with local primary schools. National Slow Down Day, run with An Garda Síochána, was also promoted, as was World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims, which took place in November.



Parking Fines

Longford County Council issued 1,332 parking fines, also called fixed charge offence notices, in 2022. These fines help to tackle careless or illegal parking. There were also 511 fines issued for not displaying a of tax disc.

Roads

Parking Permits

The Council issued 48 quarterly permits for off-street car parks, 55 resident permits, six over-65s permits and 302 Council employee carpark permits.

Road Opening Licenses

The council operates the map Road Licensing system and issues licenses for works by statutory undertakers and others through this system supporting the improvement of service infrastructure and the rollout of broadband throughout the County.

Active Travel

Funding

Following the setting up of an Active Travel team in the Council in 2021, in 2022, there were 14 allocations for 20 individual projects with funding of €2.4 million allocated. This funding is allocated to successful individual project applications submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) at the start of the year.

Projects

Projects can be divided into larger pedestrian and cycle infrastructure or smaller scale quick delivery projects, for example, pedestrian crossings. In 2022, concentration was on smaller scale quick delivery projects. Larger pedestrian and cycle infrastructure schemes are expected to start in 2023.

Roads

Completed projects for 2022 include:

- Harbour Row and Killashee road footpath scheme, with NTA funding of €100,000
- Royal Canal link at Farranyoogan, allocated €25,000 NTA funding
- Cloone Road Drumlish footpath scheme with NTA funding of €120,000
- Light segregation cycle schemes at Legan, Granard road in Edgeworthstown and lower Battery Road, which were funded by the NTA for €142,000



Water Services

Water Services Budget

In 2022, Longford County Council Water Services section had an annual operations budget of €6.3m and capital spend of €2.5m.

Annual Service Plan

The Council continued to deliver the Annual Service Plan in 2022. This sets out targets covering water quality, wastewater, expenditure, procurement, achieving efficiencies, value for money and more. Assisting against these targets, Water Services ensured that all water supply zones operated at maximum efficiency levels.

Meetings between Longford County Council and Irish Water were held quarterly to monitor compliance with the Annual Service Plan. The Council continued to demonstrate strong compliance throughout 2022 in the deliver of the Annual Service Plan

Capital Maintenance Projects

Water Services continued to invest in Capital Maintenance Projects in 2022 in water treatment plants and networks across County Longford.

Irish Water, in consultation with Longford County Council, continued the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Programme into 2022. This national programme aims to carry out appropriate improvement works at water treatment plants throughout the country to ensure the continued delivery of safe drinking water.

Water Services

Find and Fix

The Find and Fix team achieved monthly leakage targets set by Irish Water throughout 2022. Significant water leakage repair savings of approximately 40,000 litres per hour have been achieved through leak detection activities.



Targets were met by finding and fixing leaks including at Newtownforbes, Longford Town South, Ballinalee, Longford Town North, Smear-Moyne, Turreen-Clonmee, Edge-Castlepollard, Abbeyderg-Kenagh, Bunlahy, Granard, Mastertech-Townspark.

Irish Water Transition

In June 2022, the *Framework for future delivery of water services* was agreed and published. This agreement sets out how to ensure a stable operational

Water Services

environment is maintained as Water Services transitions to a national water services authority. It is based on the full integration of public water services within Irish Water.

In September, Irish Water gave a presentation to all Longford County Council Water Service employees setting out how the transition would work. This included information on opportunities for those who would like to move to Irish Water, as set out in the Framework.

In order to facilitate the transition, a master agreement and a schedule of service agreement was being prepared nationally. It was expected to be published in the first quarter of 2023. The transition date for all local authorities is planned for the end the second quarter of 2023.

Environment

National Spring Clean and Longford's Green, Keep it Clean

National Spring Clean 2022 and Longford's Green, Keep it Clean campaigns helped to collect over 30 tonnes of waste from across the county. For this, the Council handed out litter pickers, gloves, bibs and bags to over 200 local people and groups who cleaned up their area. The Council then collected this waste.



National Tree Week

Taking place in March, National Tree Week was organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and supported by Coillte and Longford County Council. For this, community groups, Tidy Towns groups and other organisations are encouraged to plant young trees around their communities. Over 300 free saplings were given out to over 25 community groups and 15 individuals.

Environment

Green Schools

During 2022, eight schools in County Longford renewed their Green Schools Green Flags. This recognised the work of these schools to tackle litter and waste, and to improve energy and water conservation. It also recognised their raising of awareness of the impact of travel, biodiversity and global citizenship.



Waste and Litter Management and Enforcement

During 2022, 1,594 waste and litter complaints were received and investigated, and 1,589 complaints resolved. Please note, this figure includes outstanding complaints from 2021.

Seventeen prosecution for non-payment of litter fines were initiated in 2022. Fines and costs awarded by the courts to Longford County Council amounted to €4,519. Environmental investigations into illegal dumping led to the removal of 62.19 tonnes of waste. Street sweeping and servicing of litter bins in towns and villages took place, costing €616,119.

Environment

Anti-Litter Awareness Grant 2022

The Anti-Litter Awareness Grant 2022 of €22,800 was divided between community groups, school workshops, anti-litter advertising and materials. Thirteen local groups received €13,000 in funding for local litter projects.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2022

Longford County Council undertook two large clean-ups on fly-tipping black spots. 14.72 tonnes of waste was collected. This work was helped by local household waste surveys and awareness and preventative measures.

Waste Collections

One large goods collection and one hazardous waste collections were held in Longford. It led to 8.56 tonnes of hazardous waste and 9.28 tonnes of general waste and recyclable materials being collected.

Pollution Control and Water Quality Management

Under pollution control and water quality management, 16 investigation of water pollution incidents and nine farm inspections took place. Also this year there were:

- Inspections relating to licenses for discharging to waters: 24
- Samples from small private and group water supplies: 38
- Monitoring activities occurred for rivers and lakes: 73
- Inspections of historic landfills: There were 4 rounds of monitoring on 3 historic landfills.
- Septic tank inspections: 8

Environment

Environment facilitates a catchment focus group which includes representatives from Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme and other stakeholders. This group investigates causes of high levels of the acid herbicide MCPA in the Lough Forbes catchment area. This catchment area is the source of Longford's largest public water supply. This group met four times in 2022.

River Basin Management

Catchment inspection work was coordinated with the National Local Authority Water Community Office. Work was undertaken in River Black (Edgeworthstown) catchment area to improve water quality. Water quality in rivers and lakes was monitored in line with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027.

Invasive Species

The treatment of Japanese knotweed continued, with €34,000 in funding received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for a countywide treatment programme along the county's road network. Over 380 sites were treated, with 10 new sites identified during 2022. This work will continue in 2023.

N4 Bypass and Roundabout Pollinator and Biodiversity Project

The N4 Bypass and Roundabout Pollinator and Biodiversity project continued with four of the five roundabouts populated with pollinator-friendly perennial plants and flowers. Native Irish trees have also been planted on the roundabouts on the recommendation of TII.

Environment

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections Plan

The Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan 2022 outlines correct procedures for environmental inspections. Mandatory reporting to the EPA is in place also. Environment must annually compile an inventory of all waste data for County Longford for submission to the EPA.

During 2022, the Council's routine waste inspections focused on three priority areas of waste, water and air. Areas and actions under these priorities include:

- Waste: Tackling significant illegal waste activity, household and commercial waste collection, and tracking waste flows.
- Water: Farm inspections, monitoring regular private water supplies, septic tank inspections, river and lake sampling programmes, investigation of water pollution complaints and incidents.
- Air: Inspections relating to compliance with Solid Fuel Regulations, investigating air and noise complaints, implementation of Petroleum Vapours, Deco Paints and Solvent Regulations.

Veterinary

Longford County Council's Veterinary section focuses on food safety, and dog and horse control.

Food Safety

Under its food safety remit, the council has a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. As part of this work, food manufacturing businesses are inspected for compliance with food safety legislation.

Environment

County Longford's four approved small meat-manufacturing premises and a number of registered premises are inspected and monitored on a regular basis. Veterinary employees carried out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections on animals slaughtered at the two abattoirs in the county, as well as overseeing general conditions of operational and structural hygiene.

There was a significant increase of 25% in the throughput of small slaughterhouses in County Longford in 2022. This compared to a 10% decrease in 2021 attributed to COVID-19 restrictions.

Veterinary also continued to work with Longford Local Enterprise Office to assist food production businesses, both large and small.

Dog Control

People can now buy dog licenses online at licences.ie, as well as via An Post. The number of stray or unwanted dogs in 2022 was 319, an increase from 122 in 2021. Of those which came under the care of the Council in 2022, eighty one were re-homed, eight were reclaimed by their owners and 202 were transferred to dog welfare groups.

There were eight incidences of livestock worrying dealt with by the Council in 2022. Inspections of dog breeding establishments continued in 2022 under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act. The Council's Dog Control Service providing significant assistance to An Garda Síochána, in relation to the control of restricted breeds of dogs.

Environment

Horse Control

Nine horses were seized during 2022, this is a significantly reduced figure from 2021 when 22 horses were seized. Throughout the year, the Council cooperated with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on a plan for an Urban Horse Project. This project teaches young people proper horse management and explores different job prospects for working with horses.



The fifth pony riding and animal welfare project for training young people in responsible horse ownership took place. Longford Local Sports Partnership and Longford Community Resources Limited supported this education project for the young people in County Longford.

Community Warden

The environment awareness and enforcement team was enhanced during the year, with the appointment of a Community Warden on a pilot basis in Longford Town. The warden works with local schools, communities, businesses and

Environment

agencies to improve the physical environment of the town. This is done through education, enforcement, and local action.

The warden were out and about on the streets, open spaces and parks providing reassurance and a visible point of contact for people, business and groups. He also provided a physical presence at schools, including before and after school and during lunch breaks. This aided traffic management and other issues that arose.

The role also supports local festivals, sporting, and community events. In addition, he worked with the Environmental Awareness Officer on various education programmes such as Green Flags, Spring Clean, Tree Week, biodiversity projects and dog control.

Fire Service

Fire Stations and Firefighters

The Fire Service have fire stations in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough and Longford Town. In 2022, these stations were manned by 48 retained firefighters who respond to both fire and rescue incidents. Recruitment, however, is an issue as nine firefighters left the service in 2021 and 2022, with these posts largely remaining vacant.



Callouts

There were 397 callouts in 2022.

Building Control and Fire Certificates

As part of building control, there were 29 fire certificates processed in 2022.

Fire Services

Operation Costs

Longford Fire Service cost €2,245,000 to operate in 2022. This covers both its operational response and mitigation works. This is lower than the estimated cost for the service due to ongoing firefighter vacancies, a senior officer vacancy, and a lower than predicted number of callouts.

New Fire Road Traffic Collision Van

A new fire road traffic collision van costing €48,000 was purchased for Lanesborough Fire Station. Funding was provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for this vehicle.

Training and Drills

The firefighter training and drill programme was completed in accordance with the Fire Service Annual Operational Plan 2022. Crew members in each station attend 40 drill nights throughout the year.



Civil Defence

Duties and Tasks

Longford Civil Defence completed 103 duties and tasks in 2022. Overall, 1,965 volunteer hours were provided to communities in County Longford in 2022.

These duties and tasks included 43 tasks related to the Ukrainian crisis. This work includes setting up of an emergency rest centre, and assisting in the running of and then the decommissioning of the centre.

Civil Defence also attended at 29 sporting events, eight Council events and 14 community events. Some community and sporting events covered include Longford Town Football Club soccer games, the Longford marathon, St Patrick's day parades, Darkness into Light events, community games, and Council civic reception events.



Civil Defence

Nine welfare-related tasks were also achieved. This includes administration and welfare cover at the Irish blood transfusion service blood bank clinic.

In addition, volunteers took part in the national radiation exercise. This involved taking grass soil and air samples and transporting them to the Environmental Protection Agency laboratory.

Cardiac first responder training was also provided to Longford Men's Shed.

Volunteers Recognised

Volunteers attended a ceremony in Croke Park where they received a specially-commissioned medal to recognise the service that was provided to the community during COVID-19. An awards evening was held which saw two volunteers receive long service medals. Certificates for training and promotions were also presented. Civil Defence were also recognised during Volunteers Week by the Council.



Civil Defence

Policy and Operations

The new volunteer equipment management system being designed by the Department of Defence is underway. Training will be provided to Civil Defence Officers in early 2023.

Also in 2022, updated Risk Assessments were communicated to volunteers and statutory inspections of equipment were carried out. The Civil Defence Officer also attended Community Forum meetings.

Climate Change

Two bicycles were purchased for use during smaller duties, such as local running events. This will enable Civil Defence to provide basic first aid at events without using a 4x4 jeep. In addition under climate change actions, Civil Defence is continuing to go paperless where possible.



Civil Defence

Vehicle Fleet

Works continue on a new Civil Defence communications vehicle. It is hoped to have the vehicle operational early in 2023. In addition, a Road Safety Authority inspection took place on the vehicle fleet.

Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Job Creation

Over the course of 2022, 75 new jobs were created with the help of LEO Longford.

Local Enterprise Week 2022

Local Enterprise Week in Longford took place. It highlights LEO supports and puts a spotlight on local businesses and entrepreneurs. Many events took place across the week, including local and national spotlight events.

County and National Enterprise Awards

The County Enterprise Awards took place during Local Enterprise Week in March. Finalists included local businesses, the Happy and Health Veterinary Hospital and GreenQube. Overall winners were Cirtex, a company involved in the upcycling of discarded mattresses. Cirtex went onto the National Enterprise Award in Dublin in May. There they won in the Sustainability category at the national awards.



Local Enterprise Office, Longford

National Women's Enterprise Day and Women in Business Events

National Women's Enterprise Day also took place later in the year. This day celebrated female entrepreneurs and female-owned businesses. Many Women in Business networking events were organised.



Delivering Business Training

LEO Longford provided 57 business training courses in 2022, the majority of which were delivered online. These courses had 945 employers and employees in attendance. There was a strong demand for courses in finance, digital marketing, and productivity.

Night-time Economy in Longford Town

The LEO office was also involved in a successful application to help develop a Night-Time Economy in Longford Town. This will roll-out during 2023.

Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Financial Supports

Financial supports on offer for new or expanding businesses allowed 17 businesses to qualify for €300,000 in financial assistance. This support is linked to investment in an enterprise that has the ability to create new employment opportunities.

LEO Longford also assisted 10 businesses to successfully apply for funding from Microfinance Ireland.

The Business Incentive Scheme incentivises the occupancy of vacant industrial units. The Shop Front Scheme which encourages business owners to enhance the front of their properties. Both schemes continued in 2022.

The Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021 concluded during 2022. There were 30 businesses in Granard, Lanesborough and Drumlish which availed of the scheme throughout the year. They were supported to enhance the front of their properties. The 2022 version of the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme was launched towards the end of the year. For this, Granard was chosen as the qualifying town.

The COVID-19 Stimulus Support Fund concluded in 2022. This scheme helped businesses by offering intensive consultancy support to help deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ukrainian Community Response Fund was introduced to help firms deal with the dramatic increase in energy costs. This scheme will continue into 2023.

Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Student Enterprise Programme

The Student Enterprise Programme introduces young people to entrepreneurship. In 2022, 90 students from seven secondary schools participated in the programme. Exceptional quality was seen in the County Final held in March with three projects proceeding to the preliminary rounds of the National Finals:

- CMG Skinny Bottoms and Halfzips from Cnoc Mhuire, Granard (Senior)
- Saoirse's Bakes and Cakes from Moyne Community School (Intermediate)
- Naddy Bot from Cnoc Mhuire, Granard (Creative Video Competition - Senior)



Going Digital and the Trading Online Voucher Scheme

Going digital also proved popular in 2022, with six businesses availing of consultancy support in this area. The number is expected to grow significantly in 2023. Evidence of this, is the 15 businesses who developed their online offering with a Trading Online Voucher Scheme from LEO Longford.

Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Economic Development

Part of Longford County Council, LEO Longford supports the wider economic development of County Longford. For this, LEO worked closely with local and regional stakeholders to promote Longford as a viable location for inward investment.

Examples of this work include the opening of CO:WORX Edgeworthstown, a project which LEO Longford was heavily involved with. Opened in March, CO:WORX offers remote working and office space, as well as other facilities for entrepreneurs in the area. LEO Longford also continues to work with a local community group in Lanesborough to deliver a new food campus for the town.

LEO Longford was represented on the Midlands Region Transition Team Steering Group. This group coordinates the administration of Just Transition and territorial plan funds. LEO also sits on the Midland Regional Enterprise Plan Committee which implement actions benefiting the Midlands.



Local Enterprise Office, Longford

LEO is also involved with the local action group administering the LEADER programme. LEO also supports the formation of the new Local Economic and Community Plan that will be launched in 2023.

Green for Micro

Green for Micro delivered consultancy to 12 local businesses. This helped these businesses with creating environmentally-sustainable business practices in 2022.

Start Your Own Business

The Start Your Own Business programme continued with 120 participants in 2022. This is a core offering from LEO Longford. It helps people view to starting their own enterprise now or sometime in the future.

Business Mentoring

Mentoring involves experts from different disciplines offering guidance to individual businesses. It continues to prove popular with 70 business owner and managers availing of this support.

Supporting Small Business post-COVID-19

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continued to deliver business supports to the small business community in County Longford. The year was critical for small businesses who looked to recover following the COVID-19 pandemic. To help support small business, LEO Longford deliver targeted government supports.

Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Minister Damien English visits LEO Longford Businesses

Then Minister Damien English of State with responsibility for Employment Affairs and Retail Business and the Department Social Protection visited LEO Longford in April. When in County Longford, Minister English met with employees from several LEO client companies.



Showcase Ireland

Local businesses met with buyers from across the world at the Local Enterprise Showcase 2022. The three-day event held in the RDS in Dublin, gave an opportunity for retailers to secure new sales and partners for the year ahead.

Longford companies at the event included Wendy Louise Designs, a milliner producing bespoke hats and headpieces using traditional skills.



Local Enterprise Office, Longford

Shop Longford

Towards the end of the year and in the run up to the Christmas season, LEO ran a Shop Longford local campaign that was very successful. For this, over 230 local retailers engaged directly with the campaign to promote this businesses. It was well received by people demonstrating their wish to shop locally.



Longford Tourism

The Royal Canal Greenway Award and First Year Birthday

The Royal Canal Greenway was awarded European Cycle Route of the Year 2022 by leading Dutch Walking and Cycling Magazine Fiets en Wandelbeurs in April. The awards are judged by leading, activity, tourism and journalist experts from across the Netherlands.



The Royal Canal Greenway also celebrated its first birthday this year by announcing that over 600,000 visits had taken place since its launch in March 2021. This is estimate to have brought €17.2m for the local economy. It was developed by Waterways Ireland in partnership with the four Local Authorities of Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Longford.

Longford Tourism

The Longford Hamper

The Longford Hamper, filled with local produce and products was introduced in 2022. An great gift for anyone with a connection to County Longford, it is a project between Longford County Council, Longford Tourism and Wilder and Gold, a local Ballymahon business where it is available to purchase. launched The Longford Hamper.



The Farrell Clan Brochure and Rally

A new tourism brochure was launched with help from the Farrell Clan, showcasing the rich heritage and ancestry of the clan. It was launched ahead of the Farrell Clan Rally which took place in July. This five-day gathering seen Farrells from every corner of the globe come together in celebration of their shared ancestral roots.



Longford Tourism

County Longford Get Active in Nature: Out and About Booklet

A new booklet entitled County Longford Get Active in Nature: Out and About booklet was launched. Readers can find out how to navigate the county's many tracks, trails and waterways, with a detailed maps for 'Rebel', 'Literary' and 'Mid Shannon' routes. Filled with activities, it can also be used to help spot native flora and fauna. Funded by Healthy Ireland, the booklet aims to encourage activity among all people. It is available from Longford Tourism and on Longford.ie.



Longford Tourism

EZxploring Games and Playground Passport

EZxploring games are self-guided maps of County Longford walking trails was launched in 2022. It includes Ardagh, Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough, Longford Town, the Royal Canal Greenway and National Famine Way. The maps include seek and find activities with unique story of each location for all the family.

The EZxploring Playgrounds Passport encourages children to visit all of the 24 playgrounds in the County. All maps are available from local libraries and local attractions in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesborough, Ardagh and Longford Town.

Promoting County Longford through Podcasts

Longford Tourism commissioned the company In Hand Guides to record a series of podcasts with Tourism businesses in County Longford. With 12 podcasts in the series currently, businesses who took part include Backstage Theatre, Corlea Trackway Heritage Centre, Knights and Conquest Heritage Centre, Maria Edgeworth Centre, and St Mel's Brewery. The podcast can be listened to on Longford.ie, on Acast and on Spotify.

Journalist and travel blogger Fergal O'Keeffe spotlighted Longford on his popular Travel Tales with Fergal podcast. This was coupled with promotional articles on on Tipp FM, Clare FM and in the Nationalist newspaper.

Longford Tourism

Longford Rebel Trail Audio Tour Launched

Longford Rebel Trail Audio Tour was launched in November. It helps people to explore County Longford's unique history of involvement in insurrections and rebellions from the Normans up to the War of Independence.

Built around and enhancing the existing 71 kilometre Longford Rebel Trail, this audio tour stops at many locations including Longford Town, Drumlish, Ballinamuck, Moyne, Aughnacliffe, Dring, Granard, Clonfin and Ballinalee. It includes interviews from local people and actors from Backstage Theatre covering County Longford history. It is available in multiple languages from Longford Tourism, Longford.ie, and via QR codes at each stop on the tour.

Funding for Events in Longford

Longford Tourism provided funding for the Longford Trail Run Series. This is in conjunction with Longford Local Sports Partnership and Longford Athletics Club. It promotes use of trails throughout the county for walking or running by all age groups.

Funding towards the Marquee in Drumlish festival was also provided. Crowds of people came to enjoy the music and dancing when it returned after three years due to a COVID-19 hiatus.

Longford Arts

Faoin Speir

As part of the Faoin Speir Longford Programme 2021-2022, two ambitious art projects were undertaken in Connolly Barracks: The Light Brigade and Short Stories and Long Tails.

The Light Brigade

The Light Brigade was a lantern installation public art project. It was created by Tom Meskell, in association with ten community groups in County Longford. The project culminated in an ambitious art installation of 26 lantern horses and an additional 100 memory lanterns that explored the heritage of the Connolly Barracks and Longford peoples' love of horses.



Short Stories and Long Tails

Short Stories and Long Tails was a children's theatrical piece written and directed by Andy Crook. It celebrated the historical and contemporary connections of Longford Town with the wider world through inward and outward migration. The performance involved the telling of three stories from Poland, Ireland, and Nigeria. Music for the piece was created and performed by local music artists Kmuni + ND.

Longford Arts

Iora Nua Launched

In May, then Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan officially unveiled three Iora Nua squirrel sculptures at the Market Square in Longford Town.

Iora Nua is a public art project enhancing towns and villages with colour and fun brought to the built environment. The squirrel was selected as a cultural mascot for County Longford for reasons including the contested history with its American cousin, the grey squirrel, who visited Newtownforbes in 1911.



A three-year project involving Mide Arts Group and Sculptor Tom Duffy, the 'Mr. Nuts' squirrel sculpture first appeared in Newtownforbes in February. Three new squirrels were commissioned by artists Mary Fleming, Phil Atkinson and Kevin Flood. They are named Myth & Legends, The Mythic, and the T-1911.

The sculptures are permanently placed in Granard, Ballymahon, Longford and Newtownforbes. This project is a partnership project with Longford Arts Office and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Longford Arts

Longford Landscapes

In March, Longford Landscapes, a book of photographs of natural and urban landscapes from across the county was launched. The book showcases many well-known and loved locations, such as Corlea Bog Walk, Cairn Hill, and St Mel's Cathedral, as well as including some of the county's best kept secrets.

Longford Live and Local Programme

Longford County Council supported 119 local musicians to get back on stage with the Longford Live and Local performance programme in 2022. Over 43 local community organisations accessed the programme to re-activate cultural events and activities. Events were held in almost every town and village across the county. Its success can be measured by the number of artists, musicians, and creatives, who were employed, and cumulatively entertaining over 18,890 people. The initiative was funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Local Live Performance Programming Scheme.

Cruthú Arts Festival 2022

Longford's premier Cruthú Arts Festival 2022 re-emerged from the Covid years with its best festival yet. The seven-day festival brought multi-disciplinary arts events to the streets of the County town. Longford County Arts Service supported the festival through the temporary refurbishment of the old Providers Building to facilitate a large visual art gallery and music venue for the duration of the festival. The gallery generated more than 3,000 visits and benefited both local and visiting artists through the sale of their work.

Longford Arts

Culture Night

Longford Culture Night is an annual event which is supported by the Arts Council. Friday, 16 September was chosen as a national moment which celebrated culture, creativity and the arts. This actively promotes the rich and varied culture which is alive in the county. Twenty-two events took place across the county, including an African Irish Carnival, with Daddy Showkey and 4Degrees West performing, Youth Music Recital and art exhibitions.



Souvenirs from the Flatlands Exhibition

The 'Souvenirs from the Flatlands' exhibition, opened in November in the Providers building in Longford Town. The exhibition showcased a collection of works from Emily and Grace Brennan, who hail from Lanesborough. County Longford is seen consistently throughout the exhibition with explorations of place. Emily offered an examination of local systems and environmental impacts, while Grace's works concentrated on landscapes, childhood and memory.

Longford Arts

Micheal Croghan: Portrait in Time Photography Exhibition

Photographer Michael Croghan launched a new exhibition in the Providers Gallery Space on 7 October. The exhibition was a visual representation of Longford from 2012-2022. It comprised of over three hundred portraits and selected works from the photographer's archival collection. These works provided a faithful portrayal of Longford over the last decade as a place rich in diversity and landscape and showcased aspects of Longford culture, with a focus on the local community.



Moroccan Embassy Exhibition at St Mel's Cathedral

The 'Christian Presence in Morocco: Living Together' exhibition was launched in St Mel's Cathedral in November. The exhibition showed a retrospective look on some unknown episodes of history, tracing 800 years of Christian presence in Morocco. The exhibition was opened by Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Turlough McGovern and was attended by His Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco Lahcen Mahraoui. The exhibition was organised by the Council and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Longford Arts

Longford Arts Strategic Plan 2023-2027

In November Longford Arts Office began work on its strategic plan 2023-2027 with a series of public consultations in November (Longford, Granard and Ballymahon). The consultations were very well attended with a broad spectrum of arts disciplines represented from artists and arts organisations. The feedback from the consultations will inform the strategic planning development in 2023.

Ukrainian Response

Establishment of Ukrainian Response

A Ukrainian Response team was established in June 2022 under acting Director of Services Michael Nevin. The team is responsible for ensuring a co-ordinated response to the large numbers of refugees from Ukraine that arrived in Ireland during 2022.

Ukrainian refugees were granted 'beneficiaries of temporary protection status' and dispersed to counties all over Ireland depending on the availability of accommodation to meet their needs. Over 400 Ukrainians were accommodated in Longford by the end of the year. The Ukrainian Crisis Response team in Longford County Council has several areas of responsibilities, specified below.

Lead for the Community Forum

Longford County Council's Ukrainian Response team is a lead coordinator for the Community Forum. This group meets regularly and comprises representatives from all the agencies and volunteer groups that have capacity to support the Ukrainian community in County Longford.

Longford County Council Contact for the National Response

Ukrainian Response team is the leading point of contact in County Longford for the Government departments involved in the Ukrainian crisis. These departments particularly include the Departments of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Both departments coordinate the Ukrainian refugee response at a national level.

Ukrainian Response

Provision of Accommodation

The Ukrainian Response team is a conduit for the provision of accommodation solutions for Ukrainians arriving in Longford. This includes vacant and shared property solutions.

The team also provides guidance to developers of multi-occupancy centres that may increase accommodation capacity for Ukrainian refugees within County Longford. The team also works to deliver multi-occupancy solutions from properties that are under the ownership of Longford County Council

The team also works with the Office of Public Works to find local solutions to support the Government's Rapid Build Homes Programme.

The team also worked within an emergency rest centre which was stood up on two occasions during the year. This work included a subsequent rehousing of people in these centres in longer-term properties within County Longford.

Looking Forward to 2023

The team considers it a privilege to work with the Ukrainian people who have made County Longford their home. The support and collaboration with all partner agencies has helped greatly with these challenging circumstances to help the Ukrainian community. It is hoped that 2023 will bring continued integration between the Ukrainian and their local communities.

Appendices

Appendix One: Ballymahon Municipal District Annual Report 2022

Notices of Motion discussed by Elected Members were:

- Provision of public lighting at the kayak club car park on Thomond Road, Ballymahon
- Inclusion of L1131 Rathmore to Shrulle in the next roads speed limit review
- Upgrade of windows in houses at Foxhall Crescent, Legan
- Review of Ballymahon playground re maintenance and location
- Extension the footpath on the Creevaghbed Road
- Updating signage and safety measures at Lanesboro National school and Fermoy National school.
- Lanesborough Tidy Towns supported in securing funding for a bronze sculpture at the N63 junction
- Upgrade the road markings on Main Street, Edgeworthstown at the park house junction
- Possibility of a staff member available to assist Lanesborough Town Team, if required
- Funding for repair and replacement of lights under the bridge in Lanesborough
- Erect a boundary wall or fence at the new housing estate on Carton Road, Kenagh
- Verge improvement works along the L-5196 from Bawn Mountain to Ardagh
- Extend public lighting on the N55 Edgeworthstown road, Ballymahon from Leo Casey GAA Grounds to the L5225Ballybrannigan road
- Draw up guide map indicating where pipes are located on Main Street, Ballymahon and adjoining roads
- Civic reception for the Ballymahon Vocational School Under 19 Basketball

Appendices

Team

- Installation of fast charging point at Lanesborough carpark
- Upgrade play area to sensory garden in Lanesborough
- Provide additional parking spaces in front of the houses at Knock Manor Lanesborough and address drainage issue
- Provision of Bus Shelters at bus stops in Ballymahon
- Consideration of weight restrictions on the L1131 at Rathmore Ballymahon
- Provision of speed ramps in the Creevaghbeg Estate off the Mullingar Road Ballymahon
- Erect signage to clearly signal and promote the new free car park in Edgeworthstown behind the library
- The installation of the new streetscape in Edgeworthstown
- Bus parking lines in Ballymahon town be repainted
- Installation of pedestrian crossing at the Bracklyn Road / Park House Hotel junction in Edgeworthstown
- Installation of public lighting on the footpath outside Ballycloughan Hall
- Replace the footpaths in Devine Crescent
- Replace Water Supply Pipes on the N55 Ballymahon to Carrickboy
- Consideration of a Low-Cost Safety Scheme on the L52341 at Darogue Ballymahon
- Erection of mesh wire fence along the boundary of the Ballymahon 1916 Commemorative Garden and the Inny River
- Provision of Public lighting in front the Recently Refurbished Community facility in Ballycloghan
- Issue with increasing number of Water Bursts in the Ballymahon water supply

Appendices

- Assistance with purchase of pump re Saints Island Graveyard
- Drainage at Cashel GAA grounds
- Request for Lanesboro to be nominated for Streetscape Enhancement
- Construction of footpath on the Moigh Road, Ballymahon.
- Extension of footpath on Creevaghbeg Road (L5-229)
- Provision of a footpath on the R392 from Peter Hanley Motors in Terlicken to the Longford Bridge at Drinan
- Removal of Traffic Lights at Pound Street Edgeworthstown
- Discussion re implementation of Traffic Calming Measures at the approach to St John's National School
- Discussion re implementation of Traffic Calming Measures at St Mary's National School
- Feasibility of putting a pedestrian/zebra crossing on the R392 (Main St, Ballymahon) from the Community Library across to SuperValu

Estates Taken in Charge

There were no estates taken in charge in Ballymahon MD in 2022.

Roads Taken in Charge

There were no roads taken in charge in Ballymahon MD in 2022.

Bye-Laws Adopted

There were no bye-laws adopted in Ballymahon MD in 2022.

Appendices

Part 8s approved:

No Part 8s were approved in 2022.

Ballymahon Municipal District Road Works Programme 2022

The Ballymahon Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 70km of Regional Road, 519km of Local Road 46km of National Road.

The below Road Works Programme 2022 was approved by the Municipal District.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland Grant	
N4 Garryandrew	€700,000
N63 Agnaskea Bridge	€250,000
N55 Ballymahon Traffic Management	€500,000
N55 Ballymahon Street Pavement Strengthening	€1,000,000
N63 Lanesborough Pavement	€500,000
N63 Gowlan	€600,000

Restoration Improvement Grant	
Ballymahon Regional Road	€347,250
Ballymahon Local Road	€1,416,466.50

Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Ballymahon Regional Road	€48,956
Ballymahon Local Road	€223,137.25

Appendices

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Ballymahon Regional Road	€38,458
Ballymahon Local Road	€175,343.25

Discretionary Grant	
Local Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€304,094.50
Regional Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€111,883.50

Low-Cost Safety Scheme	€130,000
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Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	€74,000
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Specific Improvement Grant	€550,000
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Drainage Grant Allocation	€110,696.33
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Active Travel Allocation carried forward from 2021	€15,040
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Climate Adaption Allocation	€100,000
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Appendices

Appendix Two: Granard Municipal District Annual Report 2022

Notices of Motion discussed by Elected Members were:

- Fix date and time of Granard Municipal District meetings
- Consideration of one nominee for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Cathaoirleach Awards
- Proposed projects and expression of interest
- Upgrade of existing watermains following outages in the Granard area
- Safety concerns to the N55 road from Granard to Edgeworthstown at Tonywarden
- Colmcille Terrace, Granard
- Public lighting at Barrack Lane, Granard
- Realignment of the junction at Macken's filling station Granard on the N55 leading on to the R194
- Safety measures on the hill in Ballinalee village
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Ballingall Cross on the approach to the main Gowna to Granard road and signage at The Pipers Cross
- Yellow box junction outside Granard Credit Union on Tromra Road
- Provision of extra wheelchair assigned parking bays in Granard Town
- Upgrade of lighting in Drumlish village for Marquee Festival
- O'Hara's building on Main Street, Granard
- Installation of solar driver feedback signs on the N55 approach into Granard town and on the R194 approach from Ballinalee into Granard town
- Viability study of the derelict building on the former Matthews' site in Granard
- Public car park at the rear of Granard Garda Station
- A new bench in the playground in Ballinalee village

Appendices

- Road crossing on the Granard road in Ballinalee to accommodate children from Ballinalee National School to link up with new walkway and football pitch
- Footpath on the main Abbeylara to Coole road to provide access to the new sensory garden
- Upgrade facilities at Dring car park, bins and signage.
- Low-cost safety scheme at Doherty's Cross, Esker, Ballinalee
- Hosting of a Civic Recognition for our local All-Ireland Winner in the recent Fleadh Cheoil, Aoibhinn Ni Loinsigh, CCE John Duggan
- Low-cost safety scheme at Mallon's Cross, Derrynacross, Ballinalee
- A pedestrian crossing outside Sacred Heart Primary School on Lower Barrack Street, Granard
- Taking-in-charge Barrack Lane road from the Eircom building to the T-junction at the top of said road
- Raised pedestrian crossing in Drumlish from playground on the Mill Road.
- Road markings from Ballinalee to Aughnacliffe and to also refresh road markings from Esker Cross to Doherty's Cross.

Estates Taken in Charge

There were no estates taken in charge in Granard MD in 2022.

Roads Taken in Charge

There were no roads taken in charge in Granard MD in 2022.

Appendices

Bye-Laws Adopted

There were no bye-laws adopted in Granard MD in 2022.

Part 8s approved:

- No 92 Proposed construction of a single storey dwelling, etc. at Lettergeeragh, Drumlish
- No 93 Aughnacliffe amenity heritage trail
- No 94 Construction of Granard Urban Greenway at Granard
- No 99 Ennybegs Cyclist and Pedestrian Improvement Scheme
- No 96 - Car Park at Granard, County Longford

Granard Municipal District Road Works Programme 2022

The Granard Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 59km of Regional Road, 636km of Local Road and 13km of National Road. The below Road Works Programme 2022 was approved by the Municipal District.

Restoration Improvement Grant	
Granard Regional Road	€298,970.85
Granard Local Road	€1,761,381.15

Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Granard Regional Road	€59,890.72
Granard Local Road	€257,965.28

Appendices

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Granard Regional Road	€48,579.27
Granard Local Road	€201,180.73

Discretionary Grant	
Local Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€314,665.30
Regional Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€141,909.10

Low-Cost Safety Scheme	€80,000
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Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	€290,269.00
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Drainage Grant Allocation	€110,696.33
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Climate Adaption Allocation	€195,000
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Appendices

Appendix Three: Longford Municipal District Annual Report 2022

Notices of Motion discussed by Elected Members were:

- Low-Cost Safety Scheme on the Micknagh to Drumhaughley Road
- Redesign of recently installed ramp beside The Mall
- Hedge cutting along Cartron Road in direction of Cullyfad
- Inspection and upgrade works on footpaths in Glack
- Extension of CCTV network in anticipation of the Royal Canal Spur Gateway Project developments
- Funding for footpath on Demesne Lane
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme along the Ballinalee road
- Migration to a parking app system within the municipal district
- Implementation of bike-sharing scheme
- Longford Town twinning possibilities with Mullheim Am Main, Germany
- Protocols for temporary posters for events and other purposes
- Repairs/replacement of pavement slabs on New Street and Dublin Street
- Redesign of Council owned car-park bays to accommodate adapted vehicles
- Extension of public lighting at Ballymakeegan onto Lisduff Cross, and Lisduff Hill to Glebe
- Remedial works on footpaths in Foynescourt area
- Temporary replacement pedestrian crossing on Ballinalee Road during works
- Installation of sensory room in Longford Library
- Updating of road markings in Farranyhoogan Estate
- Proposal to take in charge the sewerage plant that services houses in Radharc na Coille, Cullyfad
- Low-Cost Safety Scheme at the crossroads at Kiernan's Forge

Appendices

- Tidying of bushes and shrubbery in car park on St Mel's Road
- Proposal to name roundabout at Carriglass in honour of Tom Reddington
- Review of all storm drains in Longford Town area

Estates Taken in Charge

There were no estates taken in charge in Longford MD in 2022.

Roads Taken in Charge

Roads, footpaths and green areas of Leader Park in Longford Town were taken in charge in Longford MD in 2022.

Bye-Laws Adopted

There were no bye-laws adopted in Longford MD in 2022.

Part 8s approved:

- No 89 Proposed construction of semi-detached two-storey three-bed unit at 24 Congress Terrace, St Michael's Road, Townparks, Longford
- No 91 Conversion of existing former healthcare facility to two number two-bedroom dwellings and all ancillary works at 2 Woodview, Newtownforbes
- No 95 Proposed development to consist of street and public realm improvement works along the N63 Ballinalee Road between the junction of Ard Michael estate and the N63/N4 junction

Appendices

- No 101 Shared Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge over River Camlin at Abbeycartron and Templemichael, Longford Town
- No 97 Construction of storage room, changes to layout of first floor and works to the changing rooms to the Leisure Centre, Albert Reynolds Peace Park, Longford
- No 100 Proposed skatepark with Royal Canal Greenway connection at the Old Greyhound Track, Townparks, Longford

Longford Municipal District Road Works Programme 2022

The Longford Municipal District has responsibility for the maintenance and repair of 25km of Regional Road, 238km of Local Road and 37km of National Road. The below Road Works Programme 2021 was approved by the Municipal District.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland Grant	
N4 Longford Bypass (Phase 1)	€1,400,000
N4 Sraid	€100,000
N63 Majors Well	€50,000
N63 Farranyhoogan	€1,300,000
N63 Farranyhoogan	€400,000

Restoration Improvement Grant	
Longford Regional Road	€110,376
Longford Local Road	€664,555.50

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Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Longford Regional Road	€17,028
Longford Local Road	€102,522.75

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance Grant	
Longford Regional Road	€13,380
Longford Local Road	€80,558.75

Discretionary Grant	
Local Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€116,289.35
Regional Road Maintenance (includes patching, repair, drainage, verge trimming, culverts road markings)	€59,751.20

Low-Cost Safety Scheme	€35,000
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Bridge Rehabilitation Grant	€115,909
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Specific Improvement Grant	€100,000
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Drainage Grant Allocation	€110,696.33
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Appendices

Appendix Four: Council Membership of Committees

Committees	Councillors
Appointment of nominee of Longford County Council to attend annual meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Colin Dalton
Association of Irish Local Government	Mick Cahill, John Browne, Paraic Brady
Board of Backstage Theatre	Director: Colm Murray
Members: Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross	
Creative Ireland Culture Team	Martin Monaghan, Pat O'Toole and Paraic Brady
County Longford Heritage Forum	Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross and Turlough McGovern
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	John Browne, Colm Murray
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin-mid Leinster	PJ Reilly, Paraic Brady, Paul Ross
Joint Policing Committee	Seamus Butler, Pat O'Toole, PJ Reilly, Martin Monaghan, Uruemu Adejinmi, Turlough McGovern, Peggy Nolan, Paul Ross, Gerry Hagan, Garry Murtagh, John Browne, Colin Dalton, Gerry Warnock
Local Authority Members' Association	Gerard Farrell

Appendices

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Seamus Butler, Colm Murray, Colin Dalton, Paraic Brady
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Martin Monaghan, Uruemu Adejinmi, John Browne, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Warnock
Longford Community Resources Ltd	
Longford County Council Audit Committee	
Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd	Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Colin Dalton
Longford Pool Construction Ltd	Gerry Hagan, Gerry Warnock, Martin Monaghan
Longford/Westmeath Education and Training Board	Pat O'Toole, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Hagan, Garry Murtagh
Longford/Westmeath Rural Community Transport Association	Paraic Brady
Regeneration Committee	Paul Ross, Gerry Warnock, John Browne, Uruemu Adejinmi, Martin Monaghan, Gerry Hagan, Peggy Nolan and Seamus Butler, Gerard Farrell, Paul Ross, Mick Cahill, PJ Reilly, Turlough McGovern, Paraic Brady

Appendices

Appendix Five: Conferences attended by Elected Members

Date in 2022	Conference	Location	Attendance
4, 5 and 6 March	Celtic Conferences Tourism and Digital Marketing	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Couty Louth	Mark Casey
23 and 24 March	AILG Annual Conference	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Inishowen, County Donegal	PJ Reilly, Mark Casey, Uruemu Adejinmi, Peggy Nolan, Garry Murtagh, Colm Murray, Paul Ross, Paraic Brady, John Browne
7 and 8 April	IPI Irish Planning Conference	Ormonde Hotel, County Kilkenny	Colm Murray, John Browne, Turlough McGovern, Colin Dalton, Mick Cahill, Garry Murtagh, PJ Reilly, Paraic Brady
11 and 12 April	LAMA Spring Conference	Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Co Kilkenny	Peggy Nolan, Turlough McGovern, Mick Cahill, Garry Murtagh, Colin Dalton, John Browne, Paul Ross, Colm Murray, Paraic Brady, PJ Reilly

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14 May	AILG Climate Action Conference	Hillgrove Hotel, Co Monaghan	PJ Reilly, John Browne, Garry Murtagh, Paraic Brady, Peggy Nolan, Mick Cahill
16 June	AILG Module 3 Training	Hodson Bay, Athlone, Co Westmeath	Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, John Browne, PJ Reilly
21-24 July	MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co Donegal	Paul Ross, Mick Cahill, John Browne, PJ Reilly, Peggy Nolan, Gerard Farrell, Colin Dalton, Garry Murtagh, Paraic Brady, Martin Monaghan, Gerry Hagan
28 July	AILG Local Authority Audit Committees and the Governance and Oversight Role of Elected Members	Horse and Jockey, Thurles, Co Tipperary	Mick Cahill, John Browne, PJ Reilly, Paul ross, Gerry Hagan, Martin Monaghan, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Paraic Brady, Colin Dalton

Appendices

14 and 15 September	AILG Autumn Conference	Knightbrook Hotel, Trim, Co Meath	Uruemu Adejinmi, John Browne, Mick Cahill, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Mark Casey, Paraic Brady, Colin Dalton, Colm Murray
22 October	AILG Module 5 Training	Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry	Turlough McGovern, Colin Dalton, John Browne, Garry Murtagh, Mick Cahill, Colm Murray, Peggy Nolan
27 October	AILG Module 5 Training	The Radisson Hotel, Co Sligo	Uruemu Adejinmi, PJ Reilly, Paul Ross, Paraic Brady
9-11 November	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Four Seasons Hotel, Co Monaghan	Peggy Nolan, Colin Dalton, John Browne, Mick Cahill, PJ Reilly, Garry Murtagh, Paul Ross, Mark Casey, Turlough McGovern, Paraic Brady

Appendices

16 and 17 November	All Ireland Community Safety Conference	Carrickdale Hotel, Co Louth	Seamus Butler
26 November	AILG Module 6 Training	Newgrange Hotel, Navan, Co Meath	John Browne, PJ Reilly, Colin Dalton, Colm Murray, Mick Cahill, Paraic Brady
1 December	IPI Winter Law Conference	Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoighre, Co Dublin	Colm Murray, Mick Cahill, Paraic Brady, PJ Reilly, John Browne

Appendices

Appendix Six: Performance Indicators

Youth and Community (Y1, Y2)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council or Comhairle na nÓg scheme	100%
Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31 December 2021	9
Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg Annual General Meeting held in 2021	9
A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2021 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the Public Participation Network	12.37
Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31 December 2021	477
Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2021	24
Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	59

Appendices

Corporate (C1, C2, C4, C5)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The wholtime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2021	342.50
A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	1.67%
B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	0.13 %
Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2021	1585.5 days
Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2021	101 days
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2021	1 day
Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2021	288.5 days
If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	15 employees with one instance of 20 days or more, one employee with two instances of 20 days or more. Total: 16

Appendices

A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, divided by the WTE no.	€2642.33
Total ICT expenditure in 2021	€904,998.4
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.53
Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021 before transfers to or from reserves	59318906

Corporate (C3)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2021	11.38
B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2021 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	1.52
The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	465190
The total number of social media users who, at 31 December 2021, were following the local authority on any social media sites	62201
The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	42

Appendices

Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	No change in cookie policies in 2021.
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Library Service (L1)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2016 Census	1.06
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	76727
C. Library active members per head of population	0.11 (Comment: 4,411 Active members)
D. Number of registered library members in the year	3536
Number of visits to its libraries from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	43308

Library Service (L2)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€55.86
B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	€2.49

Appendices

A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2021	€2,283,362
B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€10,1932.99

Fianance (M1-M4)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31 December 2017 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	€231830
B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31 December 2018 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€233046
C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31 December 2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€246348
D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31 December 2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€250963
E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31 December 2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€359729

Appendices

F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31 December 2021 as a percentage of Total Income in 2021 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	0.82%
G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021	€1451.30
H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2021 excluding significant out of county or shared service expenditure	€0
The 2021 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€43980261
The 2021 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€59318906
The 2021 Revenue expenditure excluding county or shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services	€0
A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	89%
A. (b) Collection level of Rent and Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	92%
A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2017	60%
B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	89%
B. (b) Collection level of Rent and Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	93%
B. c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2018	55%

Appendices

C. a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	88%
C. b) Collection level of Rent and Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	90%
C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	59%
D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	81%
D. (b) Collection level of Rent and Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	89%
D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	65%
E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	84%
E. (b) Collection level of Rent and Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	90%
E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	69%
A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2021	€14.90
IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2021	26
IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2021	22
IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2021	€608871.94
Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2021	€0
Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2021	
Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2021	

Appendices

A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	15.18%
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	40.13%
Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€9004431
Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2021 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€23804972

Motor Tax (R3)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2021	83.97%

Housing (H1, H2, H4)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1 January 2021	2112
B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2021 (whether constructed or acquired)	101
C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2021	17
D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2021	0

Appendices

E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31 December 2021	2,196
F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing approved scheme at 31 December 2021	0
A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31 December 2021	7.19%
The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31 December 2021	158
A. Expenditure during 2021 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31 December 2021, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€273.11
Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes)	€599744

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Housing (H3, H5)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2021 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2021	67 Weeks
B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2021, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2021	€26,524.73
The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2021 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	52
The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	3,484 weeks
Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€1,379,286
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2021	
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2021	222
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2021 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	95.27%
D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2021 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	116
E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2021	331

Appendices

Housing (H6)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2021	28.57%
The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2021 as recorded on the PASS system	7
The number out of those individuals who, on 31 December 2021, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	2

Planning (P1)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	11.11%
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 by a builder or developer on the local authority	54

Appendices

Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2021 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2021 undertaken by the local authority	6
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Planning (P2, P3)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2021	7
B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	57.14%
Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	4
A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 that were investigated	73
B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2021	45
C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	44.44%
D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0%

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E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	55.56%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31 December 2021	91
Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	20
Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0
Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	25

Planning (P4, P5)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The 2021 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census	€45.22
AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2021	€1,848,421
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	69.57%

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B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant	30.43%
The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were not withdrawn by the applicant	23
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application	16
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2021 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period	7

Roads (R1, R2)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. (a) The percentage of Regional road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31 December 2021	96%
A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31 December 2021	93%
A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31 December 2021	92%

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A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary road kilometres that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31 December 2021	90%
B. (a.1) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31 December 2021	1%
B. (a.2) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31 December 2021	15.64%
B. (a.3) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31 December 2021	32.52%
B. (a.4) The percentage of total Regional road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31 December 2021	50.17%
B. (b.1) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31 December 2021	0.76%
B. (b.2) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31 December 2021	16.55%
B. (b.3) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31 December 2021	43.62%
B. (b.4) The percentage of total Local Primary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31 December 2021	38.84 %
B. (c.1) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31 December 2021	1.40 %
B. (c.2) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31 December 2021	19.36 %
B. (c.3) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31 December 2021	38.88 %

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B. (c.4) The percentage of total Local Secondary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31 December 2021	40.12 %
B. (d.1) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 1-4 at 31 December 2021	3.08 %
B. (d.2) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 5-6 at 31 December 2021	16.01 %
B. (d.3) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 7-8 at 31 December 2021	32.17 %
B. (d.4) The percentage of total Local Tertiary road kilometres with a PSCI rating of 9-10 at 31 December 2021	40.85 %
A.1 Kilometres (km) of regional road strengthened in 2021	4.4km
A.2 The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2021	€671,634
A.3 The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€25.12
B.1 Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2021	10.3km
B.2 The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2021	€308,377
B.3 The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€4.38
C.1 Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2021	70.7 km
C.2. The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2021	€3843971
C.3 The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€14.36

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D.1 Kilometres of local road resealed during 2021	64.3 km
D.2 The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2021	€908,120
D.3 The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€3.65

Water (E1)

Performance Indicator	Value
Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements	
The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	100%
The number of registered schemes monitored in 2021	17
Total number of registered schemes in 2021	17

Environment Pollution (E2)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021	1,781
A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2021 to 31 December 2021	1,809
A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31 December 2021	48

Appendices

The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2020	76
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Litter Pollution (E3)

Performance Indicator	Value
A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was unpolluted or litter free	21%
A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was slightly polluted	71%
A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was moderately polluted	7%
A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was significantly polluted	1%
A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2021 was grossly polluted	0%

Green Flag Status (E4)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2021	38.3%
Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2021	0
Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2021	10

Appendices

Schools which held a Green Flag from 2020 and therefore do not require renewal until 2022	8
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Energy Efficiency (E5)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31 December 2021 relative to baseline year (2009)	

Public Lighting (E6)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system	1805.24 milliwatt-hours (MWh)
B. Average billable wattage (w) of the public lighting system	74.29w
C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	69%
Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	3,959
Number of non-LED lights (e.g., SOX-SON) in the public lighting system	1,803

Climate Change (E7)

Performance Indicator	Value
Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) climate action officer?	No
Does the local authority have a climate action team?	Yes

Appendices

Fire Services (F1)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2021 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2016 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€53.27
AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2021	€2,552,936

Fire Services (F2, F3)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of fire	0 minutes
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	6.51 minutes
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	0 minutes
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	6.55 minutes
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	36.47%

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B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	56.47%
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	7.06%
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	25.84%
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	60.67%
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	13.48%
Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	170
Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	62
Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	96
Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	12

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Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	89
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	23
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	54
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	12

Economic Development (J1-J5)

Performance Indicator	Value
A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 per 100,000 of population	159.0292
The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	65
A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021 per 100,000 of population	78.2913
B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021 per 100,000 of population	51.3787

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The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2021	32
The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2021	21
A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 per 100,000 of population	344.9710
The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	141
A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes
B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes
The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021 per head of population	€141.54
The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2021	€5,785,309.65

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Appendix Seven: Corporate Plan Progress Report

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001, this progress report of Longford County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 sets out the key achievements during 2022 and progress against the goals and objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Strategic Objective: A Thriving County

Community	Longford County Council supports the Local Community Development Committee and local action group in its role of administering the LEADER Programme and providing LEADER grant assistance. Ten projects were approved for grants over €594,000.
Library, Heritage, Archives	Ballymahon My Open Library open. Granard and Edgeworthstown require health and safety equipment first. Contract sent to the successful tender for installation of My Open Library for Lanesborough Library.
Finance General and Accounts Payable	Milestone 7 upgrade successfully completed by target dates. Annual Financial Statement (AFS) completed ahead of statutory deadline, AFS 2021 was the first audited AFS in the country.
Income Generation, Audit and Compliance	Article 48 is complete to date: So far in 2022, 41 claims were reviewed with a further five to eight expected to be received by the end of 2022. Thirteen projects year-to-date have been reviewed and approved with four more expected by the end of the year. There were 24 projects in total approved in 2021.

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	Continue to improve our financial outlook through improvements in revenue collection rates.
Information Technology	Implement the Digital Strategy for Longford 2021-2023. Longford is one of the first local authorities to innovate its approach to county digital strategies.
	Leaving Certificate Computer Science to be an option in secondary schools in County Longford.
	Longford is one of the first local authorities to reach out to industry to the benefit of primary schools with Microsoft freely delivering an introduction to technology to over 100 primary school children in north Longford with further days planned for south Longford.
Housing	Five long-term vacant properties refurbished and tenanted in 2022. This completes our long term vacant voids.
Regeneration	Lead and support the regeneration of our county towns and villages.
Water Services and Environment	Continuous strong performance across the 20 key performance indications for Water Services reviewed by Irish Water each quarter.
	Anti-dumping initiative funded to community groups and works carried out by Environment section. There was 76k funding received for bins in Ballymahon.
Local Enterprise Office, Longford	Over 700 people from local businesses did some form of capacity and capability training through the Local Enterprise Office.

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	Over 220 businesses have engaged with the Shop Local campaign.
	17 local enterprises were approved a total of €362,000 in grant support.
	Cirtex, a Local Enterprise Office client company won one of the main awards at this year's National Enterprise Award.

Strategic Objective: A Safer County

Community	Support the work of the pilot Local Community Safety Partnership. Beyond Borders All-Island Community Safety conference held in November 2022.
Corporate	Maintained ISO:450001 accreditation for the Health and Safety management system.
	Longford County Council awarded Regional (Midlands) Award and Continuous High Achiever Award at the annual National Irish Safety Organisation/Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISO/NISG) All Ireland Safety Awards.
	Longford was first county to introduce an innovative corporate planning monitoring framework. Strategic links to Corporate Plan recognised in the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) audit of Health and Safety management system. Proactively implemented National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) recommendations.

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	Effectively promoted the Council's role and achievements in delivery of services and projects to secure increased visibility and awareness of the Council. Whilst NOAC discontinued with individual local authority ratings, work of the Communications section such as press releases, website updates and guidance to other sections, has delivered on this, although it is not possible to quantify this in percentage terms.
Human Resources	Comprehensive health and wellbeing programme in place based on the four pillars of mental, physical, social and financial wellbeing. General Data Protection Regulation and Freedom of Information requests completed as required. Training completed within the section.
Library, Heritage, Archives	Coordination of Longford Older Persons Council and Longford Age Friendly Alliance. Collaborate with Longford Community Gardaí and Community Safety Partnership Coordinator to continue to promote crime prevention awareness among our older citizens. Expansion of crime prevention ambassador programme to Ballymahon and Granard Municipal Districts. Preparation and delivery of a new five-year Age Friendly strategy for the count.
Income Generation, Audit and Compliance	There is an experienced Procurement Officer in place providing excellent support throughout the organisation. In 2022 so far there have been 605 procrefs created and 220 contracts set up on SupplyGov.ie.

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Water Services and Environment	Action teams for Gleann Riada, McKeon Park and Ardnacassa set up.
Housing	Over 2,000 bed nights provided to those presenting as Homeless year-to-date.

Strategic Objective: A Greener County

Human Resources	Review of documentation for electronic-Performance Management and Development System in progress. Climate action included in all new contracts of employment and as part of the recruitment process.
Income Generation, Audit and Compliance	The promotion of the inclusion of climate related risks was incorporated into each meeting on the review of the operational risk registers that took place during the year.
Housing	Of current Council housing stock, 298 now has a Building Energy Rating Certificate (BER) rating of B2 or higher.
Planning	Electricity Supply Board (ESB) planning application for Lough Ree Power ash disposal facility, Derraghan Mór and Derraghan Beag, Ballymahon, County Longford.
Roads	Integrate climate and environmental considerations into the design, planning, construction and administration of all road infrastructure. Implement measures which reduce our carbon emissions. Delivery of a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

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Water Services and Environment	Regular meetings and reporting on climate action adaptation strategy. Preliminary work for climate action plan .
	Reduce environmental pollution.
	Approximately 1,505 complaints received to date, with 1,350 complaints closed.

Strategic Objective: A County for Everyone

Community	Continue to support diversity in our community. Level of support to Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) projects for LGBTI groups. Two projects were completed.
	Implement other initiatives that promote and support communities eg CLÁR scheme, Community grant support scheme, Playground scheme, Age Friendly Programme. 15 schemes approved by DRCD with grant funding of over €530,000
	Support the LCDC in implementing the Healthy Longford Programme. Developed the pilot Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. Minister of State for Public Health launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in December 2022
Corporate	Modernise the Electoral Registration process with significant changes introduced to the electoral registration process.

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	Strengthen the visibility of the Council’s data processing to inform and enable citizens. Performance standard met and exceeded by 8%, 88% completion being most recent figure in respect of policies and training on metacompliance platform Detailed review of Record of Processing Activities enabled updating of the Council’s Privacy Notice and a privacy notice on personal data processing is now available for each section, Data Protection information in a clear and more accessible format on the website.
Human Resources	Comprehensive learning and development programme in place for employees focusing on lifelong learning. Proactive, planned and regularly reviewed recruitment programme in place for the organisation to deliver effective and efficient services to our customers. Implementation of a performance management and development system strategically aligned to the Corporate Plan
Library, Heritage, Archives	Enable every person in Longford to have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. Implement appropriate strategies, policies, plans and actions which support integration, creativity and improved health and well being outcomes for citizens. Public Consultations completed including Voice of the child. Starting to write the strategy
	Work with the local authority, other agencies and community groups. CO:WORX opened. School Education packs and family packs at The Latin School at Moyne Visitor Centre in progress. Library

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	Support twinning in Municipal Districts
	Heritage Week was a huge successful in 2022
Human Resources	Disability Awareness Training delivered for all employees and elected members
Housing	An anticipated 150+ new tenancies commenced in 2022
	In 2022, adaptation work will be completed on 28 Council owned properties at a cost of almost €187K
Planning	The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) was introduced as part of the Finance Bill 2021 to activate land for development to increase housing supply. The tax potentially imposes a 3% annual market value tax (self assessed) on lands zoned suitable for residential development. It will be administered by the Revenue Commissioners.
	Center Parcs planning application decision made 27 September 2022
	Planning received 14 Part 8 applications in 2022 of which 12 have been adopted by the elected members.
	Planning play an important role in the implementation of the National Broadband Plan by continuing the processing of Section 254 licences.
Water Services and Environment	Deliver environmental awareness and education strategies including the Green Schools Programme. 100% of schools have applied for Green Flag status.

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Ukrainian Response	There are now over 50 persons in pledged properties in County Longford
	Longford has established a dynamic and responsive community forum
	Successfully ran an emergency rest centre for four weeks in Keenagh with great volunteer help from Longford County Council employees

