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Foreword - Councillor Maura Kilbride-Harkin - Mayor



I welcome the opportunity as Mayor of Longford County Council to present the Annual Report for 2004. During 2004 Longford County Council, as in previous years, through its staff and elected members continued to be central to the development of the social, economic and cultural life of the county.

The 2004 Annual Report reflects the on-going work programme, which has seen considerable improvements across all services.

A new Council was elected in June 2004 with a fresh mandate to serve the people of Longford. The Council adopted a Corporate Plan in November which will guide activities for the period 2005-2009. During this period Longford County Council will lead the sustainable development and promotion of County Longford and improve the quality of life through the efficient delivery of inclusive, customer focused, local services.

Design of the National Road Infrastructural Projects was progressed during the past year to various stages with the assistance of the National Roads Authority Regional Design Office, including the Longford N5 Bypass, which progressed to Final Route Selection Stage and the Edgeworthstown N4 Inner Relief Road to Land Acquisition Stage.

The Water Services Investment Programme 2004 - 2006 witnessed the advancement of many schemes particularly the completion of an advanced contract for Longford Central Regional Water Supply Section - Reservoir and pipelines at an estimated cost of €7.15 million.

Considerable progress was, also, made in other areas including the provision of increased Bring Bank facilities, a new Fire Station facility in Ballymahon, a record number of new starts in the Housing Construction Programme and a dramatic increase in the number of planning applications received due mainly to the Rural Renewal (Tax Incentive) Scheme. The Cultural Services programme has been significant and innovative over the past year and continues to provide a strong focus for cultural development in the county.

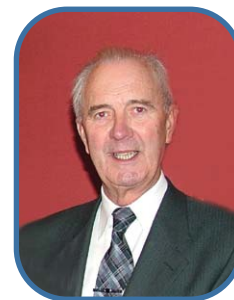
I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the members of the Council, Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Policy Group and Deputy Mayor Martin Farrell for their hard work and co-operation afforded to me during the year.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Manager and all the staff of the Council for their contribution in ensuring that 2004 was a successful year for Longford County Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maura Kilbride-Harkin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal red line.

Maura Kilbride-Harkin
Mayor

Introduction - Mr. Michael Killeen, County Manager



It is a pleasure for me to be associated with the presentation of the Annual Report for Longford County Council for the year 2004.

Many events of importance to the County and to the Council occurred during the year 2004.

Among the many issues arising, the following are worth highlighting:-

- The Council adopted a Development Contribution Scheme, thereby attaching development contributions in a transparent manner to planning permissions.
- The Council contributed to the debate and agreed with the other Counties in the Midland Region to the Regional Planning Guidelines for the purposes of the National Spatial Strategy.
- The Council deliberated on the failure of the Cardinal Health Care Project to come to Longford.
- Progress on the Abbott Laboratories Project.
- Progress on decentralisation of the Administrative Headquarters of the Irish Prison Service to Longford.
- The development of Panelto - a consumer food project.
- The development of a new industrial park on the Ballinalee Road by the Council.
- The provision of industrial sites in Lanesboro, Ballymahon and Granard.
- Welcome was expressed by the Council and support was given for the proposed development of Carriglass Manor.
- The Council's Arts Plan was adopted.

In addition to the foregoing, there has been a considerable increase in the Council's traditional infrastructural activities. Even having regard to these developments, I wish to report that the financial position of the Council has never been stronger.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the senior management and all of the staff of the County Council for their contribution to the success of Council activities during the year under review.

I would also like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude for the co-operation received from the Mayor and Members of the Council during the year.

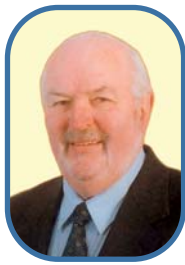
Michael Killeen
County Manager
Longford County Council

Members of Longford County Council (Elected on 11th June, 2004)

Electoral Area - Ballymahon



Larry Bannon



Paddy Belton



Mick Cahill



Adrian Farrell



Sean Farrell



Barney Steele

Electoral Area - Drumlish



Gerry Brady

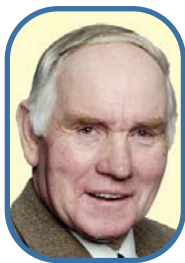


Luie McEntire



Martin Mulleady

Electoral Area - Granard



James Coyle



Martin Farrell



Frank Kilbride



Maura Kilbride-Harkin



PJ Reilly

Electoral Area - Longford



Seamus Butler



Denis Glennon



Victor Kiernan



Alan Mitchell



Peter Murphy



Michael Nevin



Peggy Nolan

Outgoing members following Local Elections held on 11th June 2004:

Ballymahon - James Bannon, John Nolan

Drumlish - Sean Lynch

Granard - Brian Lynch

Longford - Mae Sexton

Membership of Strategic Policy Committees (post Local Elections 2004)

Housing & Building & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy	
Chairperson	Councillor Alan Mitchell
Members Longford County Council	Councillor Maura Kilbride-Harkin Councillor Victor Kiernan Councillor Martin Mulleady Councillor Peter Murphy Councillor P.J. Reilly
Longford Town Council	Councillor James Keogh
Sectoral Representatives: 1 Development/Construction 3 Community & Voluntary	Mr. Kevin Hughes, Construction Industry Federation Ms. Helena Doyle, Longford County Network for People with Disabilities Ms. Mary Kennedy, Schizophrenia Ireland (Longford Branch) Ms. Julia Mongan, Longford Traveller Movement

Transportation, Road Development & Maintenance & Road Safety Policies	
Chairperson	Councillor Adrian Farrell
Members Longford County Council	Councillor Larry Bannon Councillor Paddy Belton Councillor James Coyle Councillor Luie McEntire
Granard Town Council	Councillor Edward Kelly
Sectoral Representatives: 1 Agriculture/Farming 1 Trade Union 1 Community & Voluntary	Mr. Seamus Treacy, Irish Co-Operate Organisation Society Mr. Bernard Nolan, Irish Congress of Trade Unions Mr. Oliver Cassidy, Granard Area Action Group

Water and Environmental Services Policies	
Chairperson	Councillor Martin Farrell
Members Longford County Council	Councillor Gerry Brady Councillor Seamus Butler Councillor Mick Cahill Councillor Peggy Nolan
Granard Town Council	Councillor Carmel Fay
Sectoral Representatives: 1 Agriculture/Farming 2 Community & Voluntary:	Mr. Albert Cooney, Irish Farmers Association Mr. Parvez Butt, Newtownforbes Development Ms. Gen Doherty, Irish Countywomen's Association

Membership of Strategic Policy Committees

Economic, Urban and Rural Development, Cultural and Recreational Policies	
Chairperson	Councillor Barney Steele
Members Longford County Council	Councillor Sean Farrell Councillor Denis Glennon Councillor Frank Kilbride Councillor Michael Nevin
Longford Town Council	Councillor Paul Connell
Sectoral Representatives: 1 Business/Commercial 2 Community & Voluntary	Mr. Noel McKiernan, Longford Chamber of Commerce Mr. Philip Dawson, LD Dance Trust Ltd. Mr. Terry McKenna, Ballinamuck Community Enterprise Ltd.

Report on Working of the Strategic Policy Committees during 2004

Transportation, Road Development & Maintenance & Road Safety Policies

The Strategic Policy Committee met on one occasion during 2004 with a core objective of ensuring that infrastructural transportation policies and investment assist the economic and social development of County Longford, and preserve and improve the particular attractiveness of the County and its background environment.

The date of the meeting was 25th February, 2004 and the main issue for discussion was as follows:

- Edgeworthstown Parking Regulations

Water Services and Environmental Policies

The Water Services and Environmental Policies Committee met twice during 2004 prior to the election of the new Council in June 2004.

The S.P.C. considered the following matters and recommendations:

26 January 2004

- Shannon River Basin District Project.
- Draft Action Programme under the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC.
- Report on Design, Built and Operate Water Services facilities.
- Progress Report - Waste Management Plan for Midlands Region - January 2004.
- Presentation on Waste Enforcement.

29 March 2004

- Draft Civic Amenity "Expressions of Interests" Report.
- Progress Report on the Midland Waste Management Plan (March 2004).
- Proposed National Spring Clean 2004.
- Proposal for Waste Management Presentation of Waste Bye Laws E.P.A. Drinking Water Quality Report 2000- 2002.
- E.P.A. Phosphorus Regulations (Lake and River Water quality) Report 2003.
- E.P.A. Urban Waste Water Report 2000 & 2001.

Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy

During 2004 up until the local elections in June 2004 the Committee met on five occasions. Dates of meetings were as follows:

- 26th January 2004
- 2nd March 2004
- 29th March 2004
- 10th May 2004
- 24th May 2004

The following is a list of the various issues considered by the Committee in 2004:

- Draft Development Contribution Scheme
- Tenant Handbook
- Estate Management
- Rent Supplement Scheme
- Draft Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing
- Playgrounds

In addition the Committee considered the Draft Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004 - 2008 and recommended the Plan to Longford County Council. The Plan was subsequently adopted by Longford County Council and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government where it was approved towards the end of 2004.

Economic, Urban and Rural Development, Cultural and Recreation Policies

The Strategic Policy Committee met on two occasions in 2004 prior to the Local Elections held in June 2004.

The committee considered the following policy areas:

24th February 2004

- Recommend the establishment of contract post of Heritage Officer for Longford County Council
- Regional Planning Guidelines
- Third level outreach proposals
- County Longford Museum Service

14th May 2004

- Longford Swimming Pool - agreement to proceed to prepare contract documents
- Draft Retail Strategy
- Lanesboro Local Area Plan
- Carriglass Development
- Draft Arts Plan

Key Functions

As part of the Better Local Government reform process the principal services are now provided within the Directorate structure. The five Directorates cover the areas of:

- Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policies
- Water Services & Environmental Policies
- Housing and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy
- Finance
- Economic Development, Urban and Rural Renewal, Cultural & Recreation Policies



County Longford



Jack Kilgallen
Director of Services

Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policies



Cllr Adrian Farrell
Chairperson of the Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policies Strategic Policy Committee

It is a core objective of Longford County Council that infrastructural transportation policies and investments assist the economic and social development of the County, and preserve and improve its physical attractiveness and background environment.

Longford is strategically located near the centre of Ireland and is traversed by National Primary Routes N4 and N5 and National Secondary Routes N55 and N63. These routes give rise to significant traffic flows throughout the county.

Fundamental to the proper development of County Longford is a requirement that the road network meets current and projected traffic volume and safety requirements. Strengthening economic activity requires the support of a good quality road network. It is recognised that for Longford to benefit effectively from this growth in industry, agriculture and tourism and the attractions of its lakes, rivers and scenic beauty, then the road network and particularly our regional and county roads must be of an appropriate standard, inviting and safe for visitor and locals alike.

Except for a limited number of roads under the authority of Longford Town Council, Longford County Council is responsible for the provision, improvement and maintenance of the public road network within the County. Currently the breakdown of roads under the authority of the County Council is as follows:

Classification	National Primary	National Secondary	Regional	Local	Total
North Area (km)	-	13	53	654	720
Mid-Area (km)	33	18	20	224	295
South-Area (km)	15	25	78	452	570
Total Kilometres	48	56	151	1331	1585

Finances available to the Council in 2004 were as follows

1. National Roads (National Roads Authority Grants)

Major Planning & Design:	€ 470,000
Other Improvement Works:	€3,860,000
Supplementary Grant 21/05/04 (N4):	€ 400,000
Bridge Improvements:	€ 210,000
Maintenance Works:	€ 780,400
Traffic Calming:	€ 429,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works:	€ 223,000
Total:	€6,372,400

2. Non-National Roads (Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government Grants)

Specific Improvement Works:	€1,500,000
Restoration Improvement Works:	€3,509,000
Restoration Maintenance Works:	€ 905,000
Discretionary Improvement Works:	€ 362,000
Discretionary Maintenance Works:	€ 428,000
LS, LT & NS Lights (Clár):	€ 154,284
Low-cost Safety Improvement Works:	€ 142,905
Local Improvement Schemes:	€ 290,844
Local Improvement Schemes (Clár):	€ 34,000
Training Programme:	€ 20,000
Total:	€7,346,033

3. Non-National Roads (Council Contribution): € 769,000

TOTAL BUDGET: €14,487,433

Design of National Road Infrastructural Projects has progressed with the assistance of the National Roads Authority Regional Design Office as follows:

- Longford N5 Bypass to Final Route Selection stage
- Edgeworthstown Bypass to Route Option Selection stage
- Edgeworthstown N4 Inner Relief Road to Land Acquisition stage
- Longford to Edgeworthstown N4 Improvement to near-Preliminary Design stage
- Longford to Rooskey N4 Improvement to Final Route Selection stage, and CPO and EIS publication stage for Northernmost Section
- National Secondary Roads Improvement Study to continuing implementation stage

All other Improvement and Maintenance Works were implemented through the two Area Engineering offices and the Council Design office.



Roger Timlin
Director of Services

Water Services and Environmental Policies



Cllr Martin Farrell
Chairperson of the Water Services and Environmental Policies
Strategic Policy Committee

Water Services

The aim of Longford County Council is to provide an adequate and safe supply of potable water for domestic, agricultural, and other use. In addition the Council endeavours to provide a safe and adequate system for collection, treatment and disposal of sewage effluent. This is achieved by the operation of existing schemes and the planning and provision of new schemes to extend the service to areas not already provided for.

Major Capital Schemes

Objectives

The Water Services Investment Programme is concerned with the development of infrastructure to facilitate the following aims:

1. Extending treatment and distribution capacity of water supply systems in the major towns and villages.
2. The improvement of services in order to provide enhanced treatment of wastewater and reduction in the level of nutrients being discharged to surface waters.
3. Provide infrastructure within urban settlements to facilitate the development of towns and villages in a sustainable fashion in accordance with the County Development Plan and various Local Area Plans.
4. Provide a satisfactory resource protection with the implementation of water conservation throughout the county.

Assessment of Needs

The Assessment of Needs Report drawn up for the Water Services Investment Programme, which was adopted by resolution of the Council on 15th September 2003, largely defines the Programme of Works being pursued in the Water Services Section.

The scope of the Assessment of Needs Report is:

1. To summarise the achievements of the water services investment programme over the past five years.
2. To outline the approach to meeting the identified water services needs over the period 2004 to 2006.
3. To list the programme of works to meet the identified water service needs together with estimated costs.
4. To outline the strategic requirements for water services investment over the period 2007 to 2012.
5. To describe the objectives of the investment in terms of outcomes sought and specific outputs required.

Criteria For Deciding Priorities Of Schemes

The following list of priorities was agreed:

1. Improve existing water schemes where water quality is not satisfactory.
2. Augment drinking water supplies where the quantity is not sufficient.
3. Improve unsatisfactory effluent treatment and collection systems that are causing pollution of the environment.
4. The provision of public water supplies to areas that are not currently served.
5. The provision of effluent treatment facilities in areas requiring them.

Water Services Infrastructure

There are five regional water schemes serving County Longford and it is estimated that 85% of the population receives a piped water supply treated to EU standards.

The Schemes are: Ballymahon, Lanesboro/Newtowncashel, Longford Central, Lough Gowna and Granard.

Drinking Water Quality is monitored by the Midland Health Board in accordance with the E.C. (Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption) Regulations, 2000. The results are reported annually to the Environmental Protection Agency and a report is published by them.

The Council has prepared a Strategic Rural Water Plan, a Network Appraisal and Renewal Plan and a GIS Spatial Database/Complete Information System of the water and sewer networks in the county.

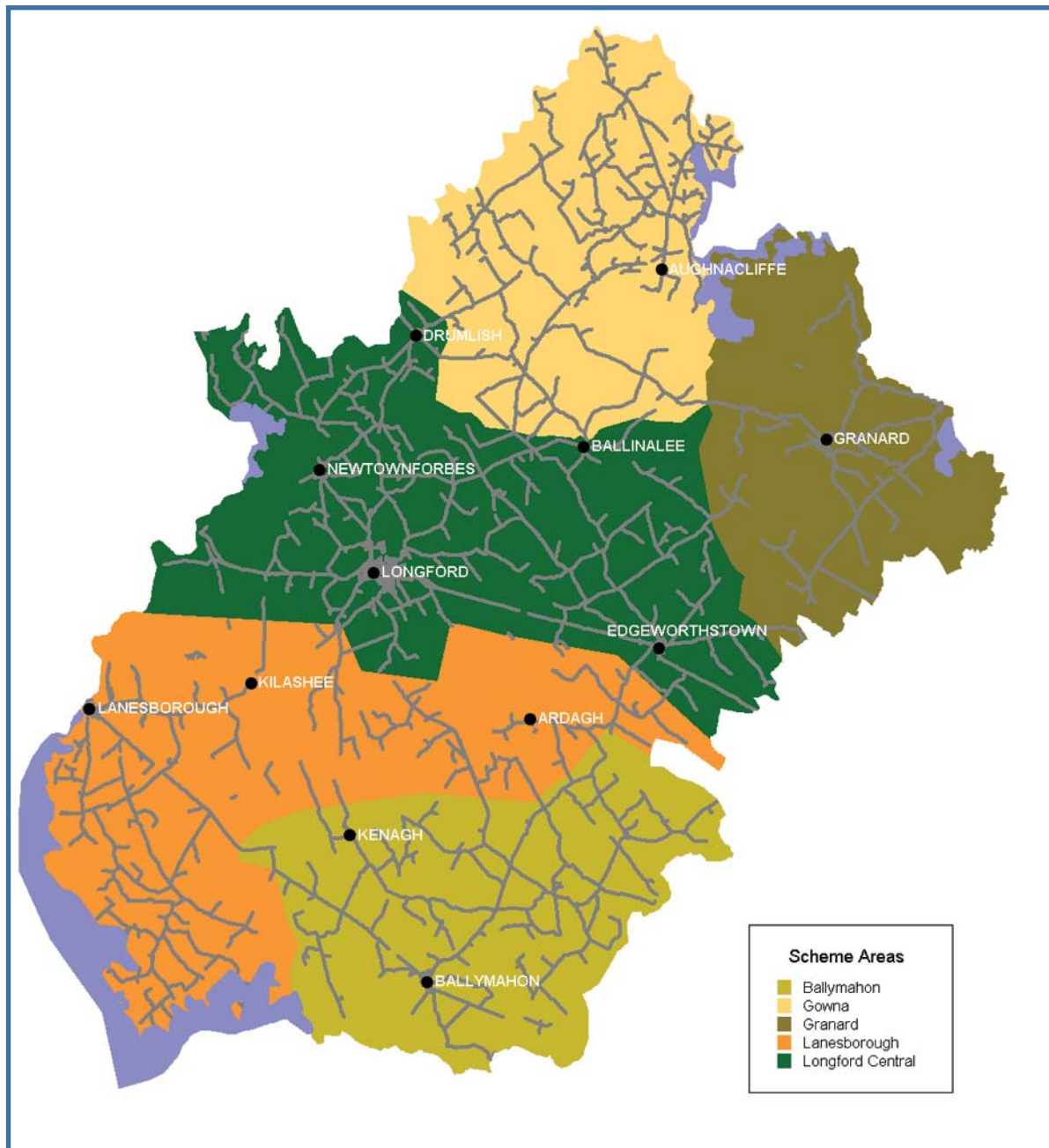


Figure 1 County Longford Regional Map

There are nine public sewerage schemes in the County: Ballymahon, Kenagh, Lanesboro, Longford, Newtownforbes, Drumlish, Granard, Edgeworthstown and Legan.



Figure 2 Existing and Proposed Sewerage Schemes

Achievements of the previous Five Years

The following works have been completed in the last five years:

1. Ballymahon Sewerage Scheme.
2. Granard Sewerage Scheme.
3. Longford Water Conservation Scheme Stage 2.
4. Longford Town Phosphorus Removal.
5. Longford Central RWSS - Stage 6 Advance Works.

Water Conservation

The Council completed a Network Appraisal and Management Plan in 2000. This was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and funding has been allocated under the current National Water Conservation Programme (May 2003) as follows:

New Network Rehabilitation	€3.2 m
Integrated Network Management	€1.0 m

Work was completed on the rehabilitation of water mains in the Aughnacliffe, Rosduff and Carriglass areas during 2003/2004. Watermain replacement was also carried out at New Street, Longford and Main Street, Granard during essential road re-construction works .

There will be a need to carry out a detailed assessment to determine locations where future rehabilitation works are required and establish a priority for future phases to implement leakage management measures.

Water Services Investment Programme 2004 - 2006

Schemes to start in 2004	Est. Cost
Edgeworthstown Sewerage Scheme (Nutrient Reduction)	210,000
Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme -Reservoir and Pipelines	7,150,000
Schemes to start in 2005	
Longford Sewerage Scheme Phase 2	5,500,000
Schemes to start in 2006	
Drumlisk and Newtownforbes Sewerage Schemes	2,900,000
Longford Sludge Management	1,500,000
Schemes Approved to Complete Planning	
Ballymahon Regional Water Supply Scheme	7,500,000
Granard Regional Water Supply Strategic Review	1,000,000
Longford Central Regional Water Supply Strategic Review	1,000,000
Rural Towns and Villages Initiative	
Ardagh/Ballinalee/Aughnacliffe Sewerage Scheme	4,000,000
Clondra Sewerage Scheme	1,400,000
Lanesborough Water Supply Stage 1	1,300,000
Water Conservation Allocation	4,200,000
Schemes Approved to Enter Planning	
Longford Grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme Feasibility Study to include: Abbeylara, Abbeyshrule, Ballinamuck, Barry, Killashee, Ennybegs, Legga, Moydow, Moyne, Newtowncashel, Stonepark and Taghshinny	2,000,000
Longford Town Sewerage Scheme - Network Review	8,000,000
Programme Total	53,560,000

Rural Water Programme

Longford County Rural Water Monitoring Committee

In 2002, Longford County Council set up a forum for consultation at county level to oversee the development of the devolved Rural Water Programme (first meeting was held on Monday 11th February 2002). In line with the arrangements at national level the committee has representatives from the public and private sectors. The committee is comprised of the following:

Longford County Council

Pat Dromey, Senior Engineer, Sanitary and Environment.
Brian Ross, Executive Engineer/Liaison Officer, Sanitary and Environment.

Elected Council Members

Cllr. Adrian Farrell (Committee Chairman), Lanesborough, Co. Longford.
Cllr. John Nolan, Castlerea, Moydow, Co. Longford.
Cllr. Maura Kilbride-Harkin, Cartron, Granard, Co. Longford.

Longford Group Water Scheme Sector (NFGWS)

Brigit Caldwell, Robinstown GWS Organiser, Robinstown, Granard, Co. Longford.
Tommy Nevin, Clonmore-Kilmore GWS Organiser, Kilmore, Co. Longford.

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)

Mr. Victor Ryder, Ballinahinch, Newtowncashel.

Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

Mr. John Farrell, Drumnahara, Ballinalee, Co. Longford.

National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS)

Mr. Joe Gallagher, 12 Henry Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Irish Country Women's Association (ICA)

Mrs. Gertie Egan, Glenmore, Kenagh, Co. Longford.

The Liaison Officer/Group Scheme Engineer, Brian Ross, has the day-to-day responsibility for the management of the rural water function and has overall responsibility for co-ordinating the work of the Committee and providing the necessary secretarial services.

Terms of Reference

The Committee was appointed for a period of 3 years and is mainly concerned with advising on policy with regard to rural water supply within the council area and monitoring the implementation of the various schemes for the improvement and provision of new water supplies to rural households. The main functions of the Committee include:

- Advising on the development of the county's Rural Water Strategic Plan.
- Overseeing the operation of the devolved Rural Water Programme locally.
- Providing input to the National Monitoring Committee.

Items of Note

- The Rural Water Strategic Plan for County Longford was ratified by the Committee on Tuesday 5th March 2002.
- The Committee held meetings in April, July and December of 2004 at Aras an Chontae, Longford.
- New and upgrade proposals for Group Water Schemes in 2004 included Lismore, Forgnay, Ardagh, Moydow, Clogher Rhynn, Castlecore, Fostra, Clonmore-Kilmore, Derawley, Meeltanagh, Lisduff and Barraghmore.

The Rural Water Programme covers the provision of/improvement of water supply to rural areas based on sound engineering and economic principles within the Rural Water Strategic Plan.

The Longford Block Grant Allocation for provision of new/upgrading of existing Group Water Schemes in year 2004 was €1,100,000 with a further €250,000 allocated to the Taking-in-Charge Programme. The Programme also included Small Water and Sewerage Schemes (€600,000), Private Well Grants (€42,000) and Administration Costs (€120,000).

Total expenditure on the Rural Water Programme in year 2004 amounted to approximately €2,100,000.



Aughnaclyffe Group Water Scheme

Aughnaclyffe Water Scheme

This newly refurbished Group Water Scheme, carried out under the "Taking-in-Charge" Programme was officially opened by Councillor Sean Lynch, Chairman, North Longford Area Committee, on Monday 19th April 2004.

Small Water and Sewerage Schemes:

There are a total of 13 small water and sewerage schemes currently being constructed, or at approval stage, at a cost of approximately €2,000,000. Included in the programme are:

- Augmentation of the Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme from groundwater sources.
- Extensions to the Granard Sewerage Scheme at Granardkille and Carragh.
- The Abbeyshrule Waste Water Treatment Plant, which will provide essential sewage treatment facilities for the village.
- Extension of Edgeworthstown Sewerage Scheme at the Bracklin Road.
- The upsizing of watermains on new Group Water Schemes to meet Regional requirements.
- The upsizing of the rising main to Rathcronan Reservoir on the Granard Regional Water Supply Scheme.



Rosduff Water Scheme

Rosduff Water Scheme

This newly refurbished Water Scheme, carried out under the Small Public Water and Sewerage Scheme Programme, was officially opened by Councillor Sean Lynch, Chairman, North Longford Area Committee, on Monday 19th April 2004.

Individual Water Supply Schemes

Longford County Council has processed and grant aided a total of 28 well grants in 2004. Payments in excess of €42,000 were processed.

Water/ Sewer Connection Licences

During the year 2004, 207 licenses were processed for connections to public sewerage, water and group water schemes. The revenue receipted totalled €416,761.89

Land Drainage

Work continued on the maintenance of the Camlin, Currygrane and Keenagh rivers.

Environment

This section covers a diverse range of functions and services. The principal areas are:

- Pollution Control and Water Quality Management
- Litter Management
- Waste Management
- Street Sweeping
- Fire and Emergency Services
- Veterinary Services
- Dog Control
- Civil Defence
- Burial Grounds

Pollution Control and Water Quality Management

Recent pollution control legislation covers areas such as water pollution, air pollution nuisance and noise. Specific activities undertaken in relation to pollution control include investigation of water pollution instances, licensing of discharges to waters, licensing and significant omissions to air, monitoring drinking water, urban wastewater treatment and rivers.

Water Pollution and Phosphorus Regulations 1998

According to the most recent E.P.A. data, 18.5 % of all the rivers in Co. Longford are classed as unpolluted. 5.4 % of rivers are classed as slightly polluted. 6.9 % are classed as moderately polluted and 0.0 % are classed as seriously polluted. The remainder are not classified as regular monitoring is not carried out.

Under the 1998 phosphorus regulations there is an obligation on the Council to achieve a significant improvement in the river water quality by 2007. This will be achieved through a programme of farm inspections, licensing of industry and the ongoing upgrading of Sewerage Treatment Plants, which is carried out by the Water Services Section. A programme to identify unlicensed commercial/industrial effluent discharges commenced in 2004.

Shannon River Basin Management System

In addition to the above all the Counties bounding the River Shannon are involved in the Shannon River District Basin Management System. In accordance with the Water Framework Directive, the aim of this project is to set up a monitoring network to identify the pressures and water quality in the Region and to formulate a programme of measures to tackle the various sources of pollution. This project has assessed the entire Shannon Catchment from the source in Co. Cavan to the estuary in Counties Kerry and Clare.

All water bodies are in the process of being examined including surface waters, ground waters, estuarine and coastal waters and wetland habitats. The Water Characterisation Report was published in late 2004.

The management system will take approximately four years to establish and an estimated cost of eight million euro. Fundamental to the success of the project is the involvement of sectoral interest including fisheries, forestry, industry, agricultural, local authorities and state agencies.

Environmental Laboratory

The County Council Environment Laboratory is located at Park Road, Longford. It provides support to the Sanitary and Environment Sections. The principal areas of interest are:

- Water pollution monitoring control.
- Monitoring County Council Urban Wastewater Treatment plants.
- Monitoring drinking water quality to ensure safe water supplies.
- Landfill monitoring.

Litter Management

Litter Control is conducted primarily by the Council's two Litter Wardens assisted by the Council's Dog Warden and Longford Town Council's own Litter Warden and Traffic Wardens. The Council derives its powers to control and abate litter from the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and it acts in accordance with its Litter Management Plan. A draft plan was placed on display in November 2004 and it is anticipated that this will be adopted in 2005.

Longford County Council issued 168 "On the Spot" litter fines, an increase of approx. 100% over 2003, and reflects the increasing problem of dumping and fly tipping in modern society.

Anti Litter initiatives, funded by a DoEHLG grant of €15,960, were enacted during 2004 by Longford Town and County Councils.

Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund

This fund is a grant scheme funded by both the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Longford County Council to support innovative, community based environmental projects. The fund of €13,842 was distributed to the following organisations:

Longford Tidy Towns Committee	€5,800
Longford Women's Link	€2,000
Lough Ree Development Group	€890
Longford Environmental Alliance	€1,920
Ballinamuck Enterprise	€1,600
Ballinamuck Community Group	€1,600

Street Sweeping

The Council carried out in 2004 a regular programme of Street Sweeping in the towns and villages of County Longford. This involved utilisation of manual sweeping of litter and servicing of litter bins in accordance with the County Longford Litter Management Plan. Total expenditure was in the region of €240,000.

Waste Management

Provision of Facilities

Longford County Council made significant progress in this area during 2004. The Council, in consultation with community and tidy towns groups, increased the number of Bring Banks to 25 throughout Co. Longford. These accept green, brown and clear glass and aluminium cans. The Council has continued its very successful programme of selling Household Composters to members of the public, approx. 400 composters were sold during 2004.

The Council has issued 8 Waste Management Permits to for the recovery and reuse of Construction and Demolition waste.

Enforcement

Investigations carried out by Longford County Council up to the end of 2004 identified a number of sites where unauthorised waste activities were taking place. Since enforcement activities commenced in 2002, approx. 72 sites have been identified. Notices under the Waste Management Acts 1996 -2003 are served requiring all illegal activities to cease, the waste be disposed of correctly to prevent environmental pollution and the rehabilitation of each site. Legal proceedings were successfully concluded in 6 instances during 2004.

An enhanced Waste and Environment Enforcement Team was established in 2004 after the Council secured additional grant aid of €200,000 from DoEHLG.

Environmental Awareness

During the year continued good work was accomplished in the following areas:

- National Spring Clean
- Green Schools
- Bring Banks
- Composting
- Packaging Regulations
- Back yard Burning
- County Longford Environmental Forum

National Spring Clean

The Council further developed National Spring Clean campaign during 2004. Community cleanups were assisted in 24 areas by both Longford County and Town Councils. 1.2 tonnes of litter was collected. Litter Pickers, gloves, bibs and colour-coded bags were provided for the community cleanups. 8 temporary Civic Amenity Collections were organised during June and a total of 89 tonnes of waste was collected (up from 21 tonnes in 2003). These took place in Granard, Lanesboro, Ballymahon and Drumlish and on 4 occasions in Longford Town. The last collection was dedicated to the collection of domestic fridges and a total of 175 were collected.

Green Schools

Longford was again successful in increasing activity in Green Schools. 2 additional schools were awarded Green Flags, bringing the total number of schools awarded green flags to 5, making a total of 7 Green Flags awarded to schools. The schools that have received Green Flags during 2004 are:-

Name: Ballymahon Vocational School
Date of award: 26th May, 2004

Name : Cnoc Mhuire, Granard
Date of award: 26th May, 2004

Composting

2004 was a very good year for the sale of composters. As part of Longford County Council's commitment to recycling the public were given the option of purchasing home composting units at a subsidised price of €25. This resulted in sales of 400 compost units in 2004. To promote the sale and use of compost units each of the schools received a complimentary composting unit.

Packaging Regulations

Longford County Council carried 520 inspections of commercial (retail, wholesale and industrial) premises to assess levels of compliance with the Packaging Regulations, 2003. The Council is happy to note that the awareness levels of cost savings derived from recycling and recovery of packaging waste is reasonably high in this sector. Follow up inspections will take place during 2005 to ensure non-compliant premises are developing segregation and recycling systems.

Backyard Burning

In response to the growing concern over the burning of tyres at Halloween and the backyard burning of household waste Longford County Council launched a radio advertisement to highlight the hazards involved in the burning of these materials. The Council also issued a letter to all its tenants reminding them that the burning of any waste is illegal under the Air Pollution Act 1997. Building contractors were also written to and informed that the burning of Construction and Demolition waste was illegal under the Air Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act of 1996.

County Longford Environmental Forum

The Council facilitated two meetings during 2004 of elected members, officials and members of the Community and Voluntary Fora to discuss general environmental issues. Subjects discussed included:

Drinking Water Quality and Monitoring.
Waste Management Planning.
Status of the Environment in County Longford.
Society Attitudes and Behaviours.

Fire & Emergency Services

The Fire Service Department continued efforts to improve the service it provides. The Fire Stations are located in County Longford at:

- Longford
- Granard
- Edgeworthstown
- Lanesboro
- Ballymahon

These stations are manned by 48 Retained Fire-fighters who respond to both Fire and Rescue incidents. The Fire Department in conjunction with the Midlands Regional Accident Committee of the National Safety Council were active in promoting accident prevention in communities during Fire Safety Week.

Operationally, the Fire Service attended 86% incidents/fires within 20 minutes and it has a turn out time of less than five minutes.

The Fire Department processed a total of 54 Fire Safety Certificates, 40 Planning Referrals and 71 Court Licence Applications Referrals. Up to 40 inspections of Places of Entertainment were carried out, 25 inspections were carried out of Residential type premises during 2004. 1 petroleum license was also issued during 2004.

Construction commenced on a new Fire Station in Ballymahon during 2004 and was near completion by year-end. Approval was received from DoEHLG to seek tenders for the construction of a new Fire Station in Granard and acquisition of a new Class B appliance for Lanesboro Fire Brigade.

Veterinary Services & Food Safety

The main responsibility of the Veterinary Department is in connection with the delivery services provided by Longford County Council, as an "Official Agency" under contract to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, in the area of Food Safety and Public Health. In this regard food premises/operations in the following categories were supervised with a view to ensuring compliance with food safety legislation: -

- Domestic Abattoirs.
- Local meat processing premises.

A total of 1520 cattle and 4927 sheep were processed for human consumption in five domestic abattoirs in Co. Longford in 2004. Each animal is inspected before and after slaughter. A sampling and analysis programme for the detection of harmful substances/bacteria in meat is in operation. A stand alone meat manufacturing plant in Longford Town, monitored by Longford County Council, achieved the standard for approval and registration in 2004.

The Veterinary Services Department of Longford County Council also participates in investigations and research surveillance on pathogens of public health significance.

Dog Control

Longford County Council employs a full time Dog Warden. A total of 543 of stray/unwanted dogs were handled at the pound during 2004. 56 were allocated new homes, 348 were reclaimed by their owners and regrettably 431 had to be put down.

Civil Defence

Civil Defence is part of a global organisation with the primary role of saving lives and the alleviation of suffering in time of war while its peacetime role is to assist at natural disasters and man-made accidents. At local level Civil Defence is responsible for the recruitment and training of volunteers and the provision of training centres in the community

The main activities, programmes, events and developments during 2004 were:

- All service training for all existing members.
- Basic First Aid course completed.
- Regional Volunteer Group established.
- 3 Year Development Plan produced and approved.
- National Exercise in Ennis - Team of 12 participated.
- Module 3 Instructors Course in Civil Defence School -
- 4 members completed and passed.
- Regional Casualty/Rescue Exercise Training in Mullingar.
- Regional Search and Rescue Training and Pump Drill in Stradbally, Co. Laois.
- Inaugural Regional Training Camp in Columb Barracks Mullingar.
- Joint inter-county search and recovery operation at Lough Sheelin.
- Regional Pump Drill Competition in Milford, Co. Donegal.
- Special Equipment Grant issued €25,000 by Dept. of Defence -
- 4 x 4 Passenger vehicle and GPS System purchased.

- Local Radio Communications Course -module 1 completed.
- Participated in County Council Table-Top Emergency Plan Exercise.
- 23 new Members enrolled.
- 43 local community and sporting events attended and assisted by Civil Defence personnel.

Burial Grounds

There are a total of 74 cemeteries in Co. Longford of which 10 are no longer used for interments. Longford County Council through its wholly owned subsidiary Longford Jobs Initiative Ltd. received approval from FAS to commence a Community Employment Scheme late in 2004 employing a total of 8 participants. This scheme commenced in December 2004 and will focus on cemetery maintenance and simple improvement schemes.

A survey of the existing graveyard facilities, with a view to drawing up a programme of land acquisition and necessary capital works was completed by the end of 2004. This will plan for the next twenty-fifty years to ensure that County Longford is provided with an adequate number of burial spaces.



James Clarke
Director of Services

Housing and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy



Cllr Alan Mitchell
Chairperson of the Housing and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy Strategic Policy Committee

Housing

In February 2004 the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government requested Local Authorities to prepare comprehensive Social and Affordable Housing Action Plans covering the five years, 2004 to 2008. These plans are to form the basis on which future allocation of housing resources by the Department will be based. The Plan for Longford County Council was agreed by the SPC in May 2004 and subsequently by the Council in that same month. The Plan was approved by the Department in late 2004.

Social Housing Options

In 2004 the Council achieved the record number of new starts in the Housing Construction Programme and over €12m was expended. The programme included a number of turnkey developments, the purchase of individual houses, the construction of single rural cottages and various works under the scheme of Improvements in Lieu of Local Authority Housing.

From the first of January 2004 there were 136 allocations of tenancies. This figure represents turnover of existing housing stock, dwellings refurbished, new scheme houses, rural cottages, transfers and individual purchases.

Details of the newly built schemes allocated throughout 2004 are as follows:

Ballinalee	
River Crescent	4 Family Units (3 bed, 2 storey)
Legan	
Foxhall Crescent	6 OPD (2 bed single storey) 14 Family Units (3 bed, 2 storey)
Abbeylara	
Abbeycourt	5 Family Units (3 bed, 2 storey)

In addition there were 12 rural cottages completed in 2004 with families now in their new homes.

During the year new schemes were commenced in Newtownforbes, Aughnaclyffe, Ballymahon, Colehill, Granard, Drumlish and Edgeworthstown with some of the schemes due to come into stock in early 2005.

Maintenance/Refurbishment

During 2004 Longford County Council were successful in reopening the last of the boarded-up dwellings at McEoin Park, Longford with the new families moving in before Christmas.

For 2005 it is hoped to move into Pauric Column Heights and carry out a major overhaul of the estate and open up as many of the boarded-up dwellings as possible.

Works on the replacement of windows and doors scheme continued throughout 2004 and this is a significant step in bringing the housing stock up to a very high standard. It is anticipated that by the end of 2005 work on all housing stock in need of this type of refurbishment will be completed.

In addition for the first time funding was made available by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to assist with providing central heating in local authority dwellings. With the assistance of this funding central heating was installed in many of the OPD's throughout the County. It is hoped that this scheme will continue throughout 2005.

Estate Management:

One of the core aspects of good estate management is Community Development. The most effective route to community development within a housing estate is through tenant participation.

During 2004, the Housing Liaison Officer actively promoted this concept by working closely with established residents associations and by facilitating and encouraging the establishment and development of new residents associations. Four new residents associations were set up during the year. All of these associations have now adopted a constitution and are in the process of drawing up development plans for their respective estates in conjunction with the Liaison Officer.

The tenant participation process started very early for tenants of all our new developments. This took the form of a pre-tenancy training course.

Topics covered at pre-tenancy courses include:

- Clarification of tenant/landlord responsibilities in relation to repairs
- Explanation of how rents are assessed
- Definition of anti-social behaviour and the procedures in place to deal with it
- Tenant Participation and Estate Management

A Tenant Handbook has been developed and was completed by the end of the year. This will be officially launched and circulated to all tenants in early 2005. It contains valuable information in relation to areas of maintenance, estate management, tenant participation, rent assessment, anti-social behaviour, etc.

Work commenced on the preparation and development of a renewal plan for McEoin Park under the Housing Management Initiative. This plan by Cunnane Stratton & Reynolds is due to be completed in early 2005 and will then be considered by the Council. In addition, progress was made on the formulations of proposals for Tromra Road, Granard and it is hoped to bring a submission before the Council in 2005 which when agreed, can be forwarded to the Department for approval and funding.

Voluntary Housing

The Council continue to encourage further involvement by the Voluntary Housing Sector in the provision of social housing under the rental subsidy and capital assistance scheme. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government approved a scheme at Farneyhoogan valued at over €11m. This project comprises of 73 units under the capital loan subsidy scheme, 16 units under the capital assistance scheme and 20 Affordable Houses. It is anticipated that works will commence in early 2005 and will also include community and neighbourhood facilities.

In 2004 with assistance from Longford County Council, The Disabled People of Longford became registered as a voluntary housing body and were able to access funding to acquire their first property at College Park, Longford. It is proposed to work closely with this group in providing further accommodation necessary to enable them to progress their programme for independent living.

In addition assistance was also provided during the last year to the County Longford Association for the Mentally Handicapped for their project in Ballymahon.

Affordable Housing

In 2004 10 Affordable Houses were provided at Lanesboro. As already mentioned it is proposed to provide a further 20 affordable houses at Farneyhoogan in association with the Voluntary Housing Sector. The Council has been seeking expression of interest from applicants for Affordable Housing in other Towns and Villages in the County. It is expected that the needs arising can be met by the provision of Affordable Housing under Part V agreements with developers.

Loan applications 2004

Assistance was provided to house purchasers with a range of loan options as detailed below:

Loan Type	Applications Received	Approved	Advanced
Shared Ownership	17	6	10
Reconstruction	14	10	11
Annuity	24	9	13
Tenant Purchase	14	13	8
Affordable	75	10	10
Caravan	6	3	4

Disabled Persons' and Essential Repairs Grant

A combined total of 247 applications were received during the year. A total of 159 applicants received grant aid amounting to €701,000.

Homeless Forum

The Homeless Forum established by Longford County Council met on a regular basis throughout 2004 and helped ensure an integrated approach in the provision of care by the various statutory and voluntary bodies.

A review of the implementation of the Government's Homeless Strategies and the Local Authorities Homeless Action Plans will take place in 2005 and Longford County Council and The Homeless Forum will participate in this.

Traveller Accommodation

Longford's Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee commissioned an accommodation needs assessment in 2004 along with the production of an accommodation plan to ensure an informed and accurate picture for future planning. Extensive consultation and discussion took place in relation to the drafting of the plan. The draft accommodation plan was considered by the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative committee at a series of meetings throughout the Autumn of 2004. Consensus was reached by the LTACC by the end of October 2004 and the Draft Plan then went on display in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Plan is due to come before the Council in early 2005.

Forward Planning

Planning Projects, 2004-2005

- **Development Control** - The number of planning applications received in the last quarter of 2004 represents a dramatic increase on previous years, mainly attributable to Rural Renewal Tax Incentive deadline. This will significantly increase the development control workload over the first half of 2005.
- **Longford County Development Plan, 2003-2009** - The bi-annual review of the County Development Plan is to be carried out by May 2005.
- **Local Area Plans and Village Policy Statements** - The forward planning schedule includes several Local Area Plans and Village Policy Statements for 2005. These will be prepared in line with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and shall include extensive public consultation.

The following plans were completed in 2004:

- Lanesboro Local Area Plan
 - Carrickglass Local Area Plan
 - Preliminary work has also commenced for Moyne and Legga Village Policy statements
 - Retail Strategy
 - Breadens Lane Improvement Scheme
 - Longford Town Centre Environmental Improvement Scheme
- **Landscape Assessment** - Work is ongoing in the production of a landscape assessment for County Longford. This will build on existing development plan policy and will include more detailed guidance on development design, siting and locational issues.
 - **Urban and Village Renewal** - Works completed on the Urban and Village Renewal scheme in 2004 include footpaths and environmental improvement works at Market Street, Granard and New Street, Longford. Work is now underway on plans for the 2005 allocation.
 - **Amenity Projects and Community Development** - The forward planning section has been actively involved in amenity schemes and development projects at a community level. Support for community based projects and initiatives will continue in 2005.
 - **Building Control** - Compliance with the building regulations continues to be monitored in new developments by the building control officer, who also offers advice and answers queries on a daily basis from the general public.



Tommy McDonald
Head of Finance

Finance

Functions

The main functions of the Finance Department of Longford County Council are to:

- Achieve the financial objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan.
- Manage the financial affairs of the Council.
- Ensure that adequate internal controls are in operation to safeguard the assets of the organisation, and to ensure, the accuracy and reliability of the accounting records.
- Ensure as far as possible that value for money is achieved throughout the organisation.

Responsibilities

The Department has responsibility for:

- Financial & Management Accounting including preparation of Budgets and Annual Financial Statement.
- Budgetary control.
- Financial reporting, back up and advice.
- Financial returns, internal and external.
- Management of long and short-term finances.
- Investment and borrowing.
- Payroll.
- Creditors Payments through the Accounts Payable section.
- Development/improvement of financial systems.
- Insurance/Risk Management.
- Rates.
- Payments of Higher Education grants.
- Motor Taxation.

The Finance Department continues to apply the principles introduced in Better Local Government - A Programme for Change. Financial management and reporting systems continue to be reviewed, updated and improved. Paypath was introduced for employees during 2004.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function charged with reviewing activities across all areas within Longford County Council. It objectively examines and reports on management of risks, the adequacy of internal controls, the achievement of proper, efficient and economic use of resources. An Internal Audit Charter sets out the role and responsibilities of the Internal Auditor and Management.

Payment Practices

The provisions of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2002 applies to Longford County Council and Longford Town Council.

Both Local Authorities have systems in place to ensure that interest penalties are not incurred. However, in a small number of cases, late payments occurred in 2004, as follows:

Longford County Council

Total number of late payments in excess of €317 each	20
Total value of late payments in excess of €317 each	€50,517.44
Value of all late payments as a proportion of total payments to suppliers	0.086%
Total amount of interest penalties	€1,796.37
Average delay in late payments	58 days

Longford Town Council

No interest penalties were paid in 2004.

Every effort is made to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations and avoidance of interest penalties. However, the procedures can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the legislation.

Higher Education Grants

Prior to 1968 Councils and County Borough Corporations awarded grants to students pursuing second and third level courses. The Local Authorities (Higher Education Grants) Act, 1968 abolished the making of grants for second level education and revised the system of grants for third level education. Grants are on a graduated basis and may contain a maintenance element as well as fees where exemption from fees does not apply. The bulk of the cost is recouped from the Department of Education with the Local Authority being responsible for a sum equal to the value of the grants awarded by the Council in the 1967 financial year.

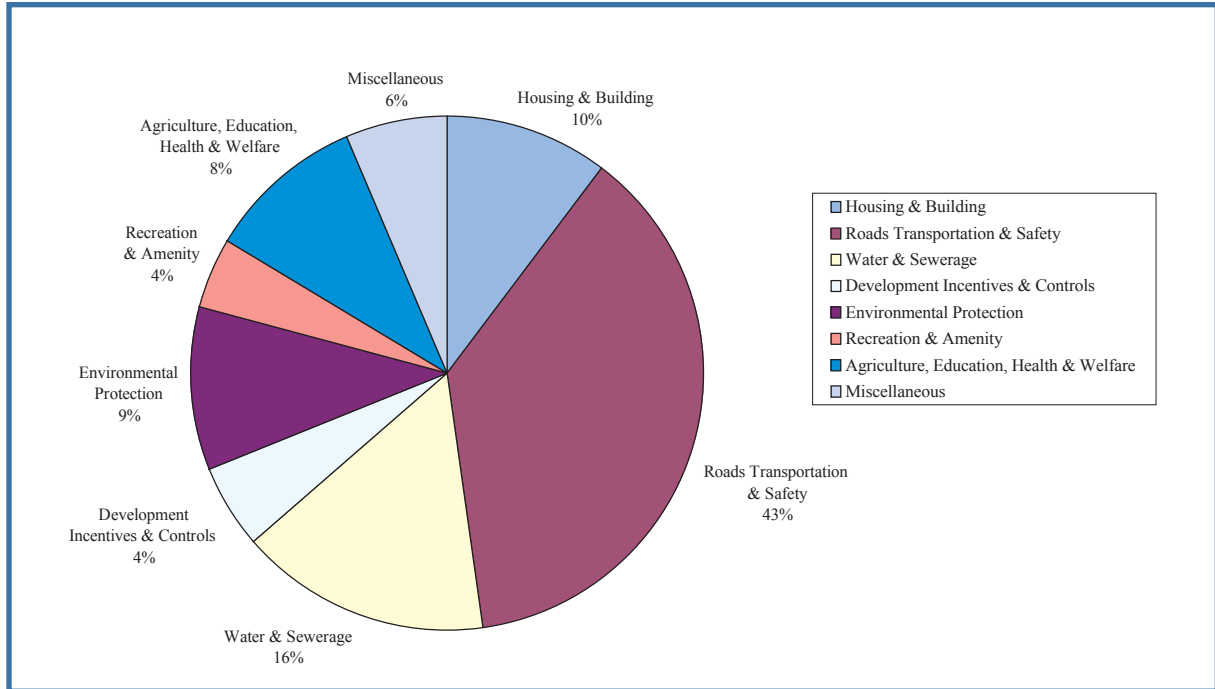
Academic Year 2004/2005

Number of new awards issued	115
Number of renewals issued	225
Total number of students in receipt of Higher Education Grants	340
Total amount of fees paid	€247,419.39
Total amount of maintenance paid	€1,283,276.89
Number of students attending Irish colleges	331
Number of students attending UK colleges (including Northern Ireland)	9

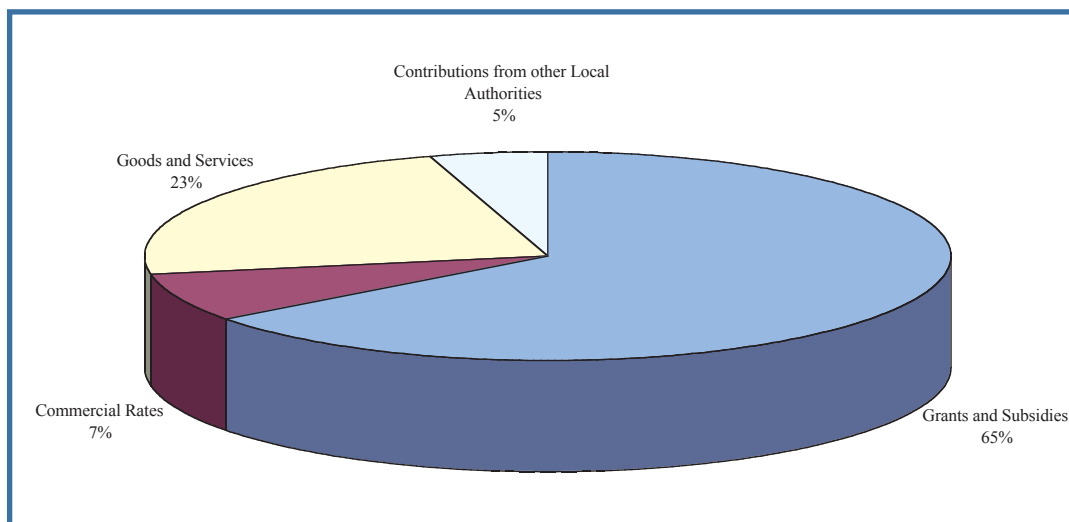
Motor Tax

Taxation Class	Number
Private Cars	12,224
Goods Vehicles	2,821
Agricultural Tractors	1,160
Motorcycles	116
General Haulage Tractors	5
Exempt Vehicles	148
Small Public Service Vehicles	91
Large Public Service Vehicles	66
Schoolbuses	6
Excavators, Trench Diggers etc.	27
Mobile Machines & Forklift Trucks	73
Hearses	11
Small Dumpers	2
Off Road Dumpers	13
Vintage Vehicles	43
Youth/Community Buses	4
Motor Caravans	24
Island Vehicles	0
TOTAL	16,834

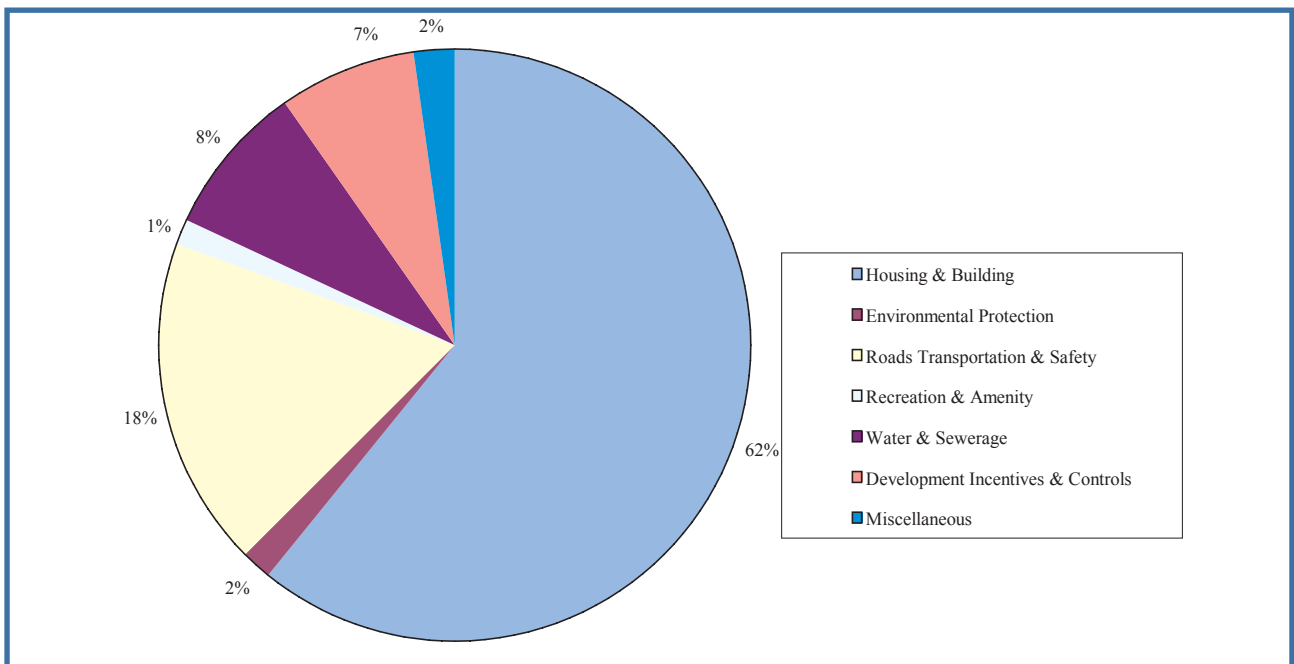
Revenue Expenditure



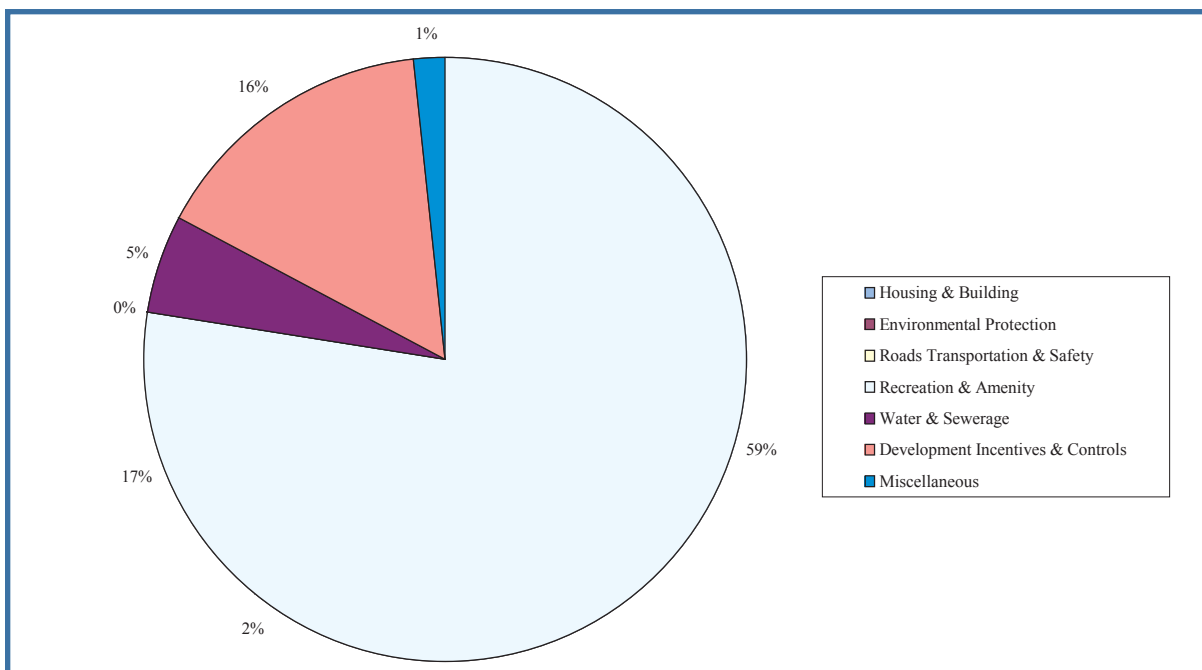
Sources of Revenue Income



Capital Expenditure



Capital Income



Local Authority House Completions and Acquisitions 1999 - 2004

	Completions					Acquisitions					Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
County Councils											
Cork	179	113	303	209	270	74	114	111	87	60	1,520
Donegal	210	176	181	549	181	8	15	28	11	5	1,364
Wexford	132	191	144	278	151	6	16	26	21	9	974
Kerry	167	81	169	160	253	2	8	4	6	1	851
South Dublin	147	86	140	93	61	52	61	55	15	3	713
Meath	139	54	164	138	160	25	7	6	4	5	702
Wicklow	115	70	122	151	130	25	10	45	25	4	697
Kildare	118	61	179	148	107	7	25	13	7	27	692
Louth	103	72	90	156	172	1	21	25	6	2	648
Fingal	51	26	107	132	248	15	11	30	5	0	625
Cavan	67	37	93	210	100	10	4	27	4	2	554
Limerick	57	36	58	134	155	21	21	30	14	4	530
Galway	81	83	113	103	85	1	6	13	22	14	521
Longford	58	36	102	107	64	19	31	44	20	12	493
Offaly	65	59	61	110	127	11	13	12	11	3	472
Clare	104	20	71	49	84	27	8	34	55	19	471
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	38	11	63	59	180	15	19	35	26	4	450
Sligo	25	50	68	66	94	33	20	40	22	15	433
Mayo	102	114	108	25	64	3	3	2	0	1	422
Waterford	65	48	50	152	74	1	9	22	0	0	421
South Tipperary	78	62	56	69	123	12	6	0	5	0	411
Westmeath	4	100	39	54	100	20	22	40	10	1	390
Laois	48	48	107	54	54	9	20	21	9	3	373
Carlow	39	34	99	12	111	5	5	19	18	6	348
North Tipperary	50	13	71	97	65	6	10	17	4	2	335
Roscommon	13	18	36	78	105	2	10	18	11	4	295
Monaghan	9	50	104	38	40	3	6	16	9	13	288
Kilkenny	33	38	70	26	40	14	17	13	16	9	276
Leitrim	30	32	53	52	25	1	2	4	5	0	204
City Councils											
Dublin	202	143	311	500	531	280	361	505	180	157	3,170
Cork	154	102	69	148	62	80	106	95	24	53	893
Galway	125	56	47	77	320	5	4	5	0	0	639
Waterford	45	49	21	156	164	8	1	26	3	1	474
Limerick	56	35	153	13	16	3	11	19	16	17	339
Total	2,909	2,204	3,622	4,403	4,516	804	1,003	1,400	671	456	21,988

Total Non National Road Grant Allocations Notified to Local Authorities excluding Local Improvement Scheme and other miscellaneous items 2004 - 2005

	Km	2004	Per Km	2005	Per Km	% Change
County Councils						
South Dublin	708	20,667,760	29,192	14,170,464	20,015	(31%)
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	596	9,166,000	15,379	8,901,296	14,935	(3%)
Kildare	2,086	18,373,793	8,808	27,606,720	13,234	50%
Meath	2,906	23,205,562	7,986	29,429,220	10,128	27%
Fingal	954	12,796,954	13,414	9,360,432	9,812	(27%)
Wicklow	1,964	10,700,000	5,448	12,322,095	6,274	15%
Louth	1,147	6,002,200	5,233	6,534,192	5,697	9%
Monaghan	2,366	13,089,000	5,532	13,296,076	5,619	2%
Carlow	1,106	3,813,660	3,448	5,933,072	5,364	56%
Cavan	2,858	14,352,500	5,022	14,588,225	5,105	2%
Longford	1,422	6,866,905	4,830	7,069,578	4,973	3%
Offaly	1,838	7,738,500	4,210	8,442,548	4,593	9%
Leitrim	2,109	9,121,000	4,325	9,613,026	4,559	5%
Limerick	3,392	16,576,773	4,887	15,365,246	4,530	(7%)
Wexford	3,197	12,479,000	3,903	14,173,051	4,433	14%
Donegal	5,996	25,910,801	4,321	26,302,155	4,387	2%
Clare	3,905	15,943,000	4,083	16,845,333	4,314	6%
Laois	1,946	7,763,000	3,990	8,311,234	4,272	7%
Kerry	4,220	17,049,998	4,040	17,608,128	4,172	3%
Westmeath	1,997	7,465,000	3,738	8,220,961	4,116	10%
Sligo	2,549	9,477,000	3,718	10,434,662	4,093	10%
Waterford	2,481	10,293,000	4,148	10,146,627	4,089	(1%)
Galway	6,055	23,906,229	3,948	24,163,573	3,990	1%
South Tipperary	2,700	9,627,288	3,566	10,531,110	3,900	9%
North Tipperary	2,454	9,181,000	3,742	9,520,405	3,880	4%
Kilkenny	2,850	10,459,500	3,670	10,864,021	3,812	4%
Cork	11,582	37,657,193	3,251	40,710,561	3,515	8%
Mayo	5,767	20,945,500	3,632	20,150,208	3,494	(4%)
Roscommon	4,000	12,546,000	3,136	12,861,484	3,215	3%
City Councils						
Waterford	146	10,637,072	72,757	9,268,688	63,397	(13%)
Limerick	162	4,269,668	26,307	4,258,846	26,241	0%
Cork	363	8,016,208	22,101	6,570,037	18,114	(18%)
Dublin	1,134	11,547,837	10,180	14,442,957	12,732	25%
Galway	194	1,822,000	9,397	2,083,155	10,743	14%
Total		439,466,901		460,099,386		

Local Government Fund Allocation 2004 - 2005

			Change	Census	Per Head of Population	
	2004	2005	%	2002	2004	2005
County Councils						
Longford	11,266,561	12,353,407	9.6%	24,237	465	510
Leitrim	11,875,969	13,042,453	9.8%	25,799	460	506
South Tipperary	18,176,993	19,789,995	8.9%	50,891	357	389
Sligo	13,910,355	15,133,048	8.8%	39,727	350	381
Waterford	17,556,648	18,899,048	7.6%	49,732	353	380
Roscommon	17,802,907	19,269,608	8.2%	53,774	331	358
North Tipperary	15,073,723	16,411,968	8.9%	45,878	329	358
Mayo	29,752,341	32,398,200	8.9%	92,367	322	351
Carlow	9,728,045	10,678,407	9.8%	32,796	297	326
Monaghan	11,880,507	13,259,787	11.6%	41,479	286	320
Cavan	15,140,507	16,804,354	11.0%	53,008	286	317
Donegal	32,298,892	35,733,005	10.6%	124,512	259	287
Westmeath	16,598,009	18,091,526	9.0%	64,504	257	280
Laois	14,627,815	15,968,396	9.2%	58,774	249	272
Offaly	12,287,077	13,520,069	10.0%	49,803	247	271
Louth	10,739,283	11,492,694	7.0%	46,103	233	249
Kilkenny	16,247,569	17,857,370	9.9%	71,748	226	249
Wicklow	15,717,095	17,499,710	11.3%	71,446	220	245
Kerry	21,515,805	23,495,997	9.2%	96,476	223	244
Galway	29,413,192	32,589,234	10.8%	137,261	214	237
Wexford	16,899,923	19,099,527	13.0%	98,573	171	194
Meath	21,849,991	23,796,716	8.9%	126,630	173	188
Limerick	20,810,886	22,470,206	8.0%	121,281	172	185
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	32,523,127	34,804,777	7.0%	191,792	170	181
Clare	13,119,878	14,040,299	7.0%	81,748	160	172
Cork	45,568,050	49,139,575	7.8%	288,113	158	171
Kildare	19,507,617	21,826,897	11.9%	139,607	140	156
Fingal	26,968,845	28,860,836	7.0%	196,413	137	147
South Dublin	21,870,507	23,404,826	7.0%	238,835	92	98
City Councils						
Limerick	9,670,037	10,348,435	7.0%	54,023	179	192
Cork	20,571,177	22,014,342	7.0%	123,062	167	179
Dublin	81,537,355	87,257,583	7.0%	495,781	164	176
Waterford	7,017,618	7,509,937	7.0%	44,594	157	168
Galway	7,765,314	8,310,087	7.0%	65,832	118	126

Income and Expenditure Account Statement for the year ended 31st December 2004

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.
It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year

Expenditure by Programme Group	Notes	Gross Expenditure € 2004	Income € 2004	Net Expenditure € 2004	Net Expenditure € 2003
Housing & Building		3,349,964	3,429,360	(79,396)	217,443
Roads Transportation & Safety		12,460,261	8,823,993	3,636,268	3,615,932
Water & Sewerage		5,134,136	2,584,613	2,549,523	2,387,452
Development Incentives & Controls		1,757,967	1,746,716	11,251	540,372
Environmental Protection		3,475,019	544,198	2,930,821	2,571,182
Recreation & Amenity		1,560,373	179,917	1,380,456	1,096,085
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		3,280,152	2,826,831	453,321	468,883
Miscellaneous		2,000,782	849,343	1,151,439	1,107,856
Total Expenditure / Income	16-17	33,018,654	20,984,971		
Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund				12,033,683	12,005,205
Rates				2,782,237	2,418,528
Local Government Fund - General Purpose Grant				11,266,561	9,753,827
County Charge				678,400	623,700
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year before Transfers				2,693,515	790,850
Transfer to / from Reserves	15			(1,525,169)	(1,245,880)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year				1,168,346	(455,030)
General Reserve at 1 January 2004				359,123	814,153
General Reserve at 31 December 2004				1,527,469	359,123

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004 €	2003 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		107,498,942	108,370,268
Infrastructural		864,314,080	867,873,949
Community		107,117	107,116
Non Operational		11,601,858	9,259,426
		983,521,997	985,610,759
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	17,657,616	8,262,753
Long Term Debtors	3	27,878,403	27,505,512
Current Assets			
Stock	4	62,566	99,989
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	5	5,625,665	5,841,381
Bank Investments		5,300,000	3,000,000
Cash at Bank		0	0
Cash on Hand		575,737	108,972
Urban Account	7	0	340,237
		11,563,968	9,390,579
Current Liabilities			
Bank Overdraft		592,302	751,743
Creditors and Accruals	6	4,287,519	5,437,741
Finance Leases			0
		4,879,821	6,189,484
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		6,684,147	3,201,095
Creditors - Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Loans Payable	8	37,220,184	39,165,353
Finance Leases		0	0
Refundable Deposits	9	425,903	193,979
Other		0	0
		37,646,087	39,359,332
Net Assets		998,096,076	985,220,787
Financed By			
Capitalisation Account	10	983,521,997	985,610,759
Income Work in Progress	2	21,199,203	13,602,630
Specific Revenue Reserve		17,750	357,986
General Revenue Reserve		1,527,469	359,123
Other Balances	11	(8,170,343)	(14,709,711)
Total		998,096,076	985,220,787

Notes to and Forming Part of the Accounts

Fixed Assets

	Land	Parks	Housing	Buildings	Plant & Machinery Long & Short Life	Computers, Furniture & Equipment	Heritage	Roads Network	Water & Sewerage Network	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Costs										
Accumulated Costs at 1 January 2004	11,479,763	0	93,796,979	11,364,402	1,325,899	187,030	74,225	720,004,000	206,378,547	1,044,610,845
Additions	1,673,899		7,041,187		610,503	27,248				9,352,837
Disposals	(5,399,581)		(2,225,895)							(7,625,476)
Revaluations										
Accumulated Costs at 31 December 2004	7,754,081	0	98,612,271	11,364,402	1,936,402	214,278	74,225	720,004,000	206,378,547	1,046,338,206
Depreciation										
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 January 2004	0	0	0	0	441,791	49,697	0	0	58,508,598	59,000,086
Provision for year					213,399	42,855			3,559,869	3,816,123
Disposals										
Accumulated Depreciation at 31 December 2004	0	0	0	0	655,190	92,552	0	0	62,068,467	62,816,209
Net Book Value at 31 December 2004	7,754,081	0	98,612,271	11,364,402	1,281,212	121,726	74,225	720,004,000	144,310,080	983,521,997
Net Book Value at 31 December 2003	11,479,763	0	93,796,979	11,364,402	884,108	137,333	74,225	720,004,000	147,869,949	985,610,759
Net Book Value by Category										
Operational	1,195,931		98,612,271	6,287,802	1,281,212	121,726				107,498,942
Infrastructural								720,004,000	144,310,080	864,314,080
Community	32,892						74,225			107,117
Non-Operational	6,525,258			5,076,600						11,601,858
Net Book Value at 31 December 2004	7,754,081	0	98,612,271	11,364,402	1,281,212	121,726	74,225	720,004,000	144,310,080	983,521,997



Frankie Sheridan
Director of Services

Economic Development, Urban and Rural Renewal, Cultural and Recreation Policies



Cllr Barney Steele
Chairperson of the Economic Development, Urban and Rural Renewal,
Cultural and Recreation Policies Strategic Policy Committee

Longford County Development Board

Following local elections the County Development Board was reconstituted in accordance with the guidelines "Preparing the Ground".

Membership of the reconstituted Board are drawn from four sectors and are as follows:

Local Government (7 members)

Cllr. Alan Mitchell, Chairperson of the Board, Ms Maura Kilbride-Harkin, Mr. Martin Farrell, Mr. Barney Steele, Mr. Adrian Farrell, Longford County Council. Mr. Fintan Flood, Granard Town Council, Mr. Michael Killeen, Longford County Manager.

Local Development (7 members)

Ms Monica O'Malley, Ms Tess Murphy, Mr. Oliver Cassidy, Longford Community Resources Ltd., Mr. Michael Nevin, Ms Beatrice Cunningham, Longford County Enterprise Board. Ms Josephine Stroker, Longford Acorn Project, Ms. Helen O'Brien, Longford County Childcare Committee.

State Agencies (10 members)

Supt. Martin McGuire (Garda Siochana), Ms. Frances Flynn (Midland East Regional Tourism), Mr. Enda Meehan (IDA Ireland), Mr. Simon Cavanagh (Enterprise Ireland), Mr. Larry Bane (Midland Health Board), Mr. Denis Galvin (Department of Social Welfare), Mr. Gerry Johnston (FAS), Mr. Des Keegan (Teagasc), Ms Josephine O'Donnell (County Longford VEC), Mr. Seamus Murray (Department of Education & Science).

Social Partners (5 members)

Mr. George Shedwell (Irish Congress of Trade Unions), Ms Carmel Leahy, Ms Breege Murray (Community & Voluntary Sector), Mr. James Brady (Farming Sector), Mr. Karl Rusk (Business Sector).

Note: A number of membership changes took place during the year. Ms Helen O'Brien replaced Ms Anne Gerety (Longford County Childcare Committee, Mr. Karl Rusk replaced Mr. Seamus Butler (Business Sector), Mr. James Brady replaced Mr. Gregory Yorke (Farming Sector), Ms Josephine O'Donnell replaced Mr. Sean Ryan (County Longford VEC), Cllr. Barney Steele and Cllr. Adrian Farrell of the Strategic Policy Committees under the Local Government Sector replaced Cllr. Gerry Brady and Cllr. Frank Kilbride.

Following the reconstitution additional representatives were adopted onto the Board: Mr. Fintan Flood, (Granard Town Council), Ms. Josephine Stroker, (Longford Acorn CDP), Mr. Seamus Murray (Dept. of Education & Science).

A. Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Longford

The work of the County Development Board during the year focused on implementing the actions set out in the Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plan in co-operation with the service deliverers.

Endorsement of Local Development Agency Plans by the County Development Board

A key role of the County Development Board (CDB) is to bring about a more co-ordinated delivery of public and local development services at local level. Central to this co-ordination role is overseeing the implementation of a ten-year strategy through relevant agencies including local development plans. To facilitate better co-ordination the plans of the local development agencies were considered by the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIMWG) and on their recommendation endorsed by the CDB.

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIMWG)

The SIMWG was established by the County Development Board to deal with the co-ordination of the National Development Plan Social Inclusion Measures and to monitor the RAPID Programme at local level. In 2003 the role of the SIMWG was expanded to assess the draft local development agency plans and make recommendations to the County Development Board. This assessment was undertaken to facilitate better co-ordination, minimise duplication and improve the targeting of services.

Improving Local and Community Development Structures and Programmes - Proposals for Improved Cohesion

Cohesion Plan

In February 2004 the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Area Development Management Ltd requested community and local development groups to bring forward measures for improved alignment of structures. This process is being co-ordinated at local level by the County Development Board. Meetings were held during the year with local development agencies through the SIMWG to address this issue. In 2004 a submission was made to the department outlining possible proposals for improved cohesion.

Integrated Targeted Plan

Following consultation with the relevant agencies through the SIMWG an integrated targeted plan was submitted for "A Pilot Support Programme for Marginalized Men to Access Services and Opportunities in Co. Longford". Although the programme has not received funding to date it has commenced under the head of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Longford Community & Voluntary Forum

142 organisations throughout the county are affiliated to Longford's Community & Voluntary Forum. 30 Representatives from a number of these organisations form the Steering Group. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 15th of November 2004 at which the Forum members elected officers for a committee.

Membership of the Committee of the Steering Group is as follows:

Chairperson	Harry Farrell
Vice Chair	John Channon
Secretary	Patricia Rouiller
Treasurer	Brenda Quinn
Treasurer	Nini Stevenson

Membership of the Steering Group of the County Forum is as follows:

Cluster 1 - Economic & Community Development Associations

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Abbeylara Community Employment Ltd	John Reynolds
Ballinamuck Community Enterprise Ltd	Terry Mc Kenna
Ballinamuck Community Association	Betty Creegan
Clondra Community Association	Peggy Baxter
County Longford ICA	Gen Doherty
Co. Longford Citizens Information Service	Connie Gerety
Farrell Clan	Harry Farrell
Granard Area Action Group	Oliver Cassidy
Newtownforbes Development Co-op	Parvez Butt
Mac Eoin Park Residents	Peter Clyne

Cluster 2 - Cultural, Sporting/Leisure & Issue Based

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
Ashling Children's Festivals	Sive McGuinness
Ballymahon Town Twinning	Breege Murray
County Longford Community Games	Patsy Kenny
Friends of Asthma	Alan O'Toole
LD Dance Ltd	Phillip Dawson
Longford's Alzheimer's Society	Mary Barden
Longford Active Retirement Association	Jeanne Godfrey
Longford Co. Network for People with Disabilities & Disabled People of Longford	Helena Doyle
Longford Ladies GAA	John Doherty
Longford Marathon	John Enright
Longford Swimming Club	Carmel Leahy
Longford Women's Centre	Trish Roullier
Lough Ree Rowing Club	Nini Stevenson
Mental Health/Schizophrenia Association	Mary Kennedy
St. Christopher's Services	Michael Farrell
Transnach	Edith Durojaiye
Global Longford	Brenda Quinn
Global Longford	Freddie Kiggundo
Longford Travellers Movement	Julie Mongan
Active Age	John Channon

Note: Following the AGM the number of new representatives were selected onto the Steering Group: Edith Durojaiye, Brenda Quinn, Freddie Kiggundo, Julie Mongan, John Channon and Peter Clyne.

The Community & Voluntary Forum held six meetings during 2004:

DATE	DETAILS
28/1/04	Meeting of the Steering Group
25/2/04	Meeting of the Steering Group
28/4/04	Meeting of the Steering Group
30/6/04	Meeting of the Steering Group
15/11/04	Meeting of the Wider Community & Voluntary Forum
14/12/04	Meeting of the Steering Group

The Community & Voluntary Forum are represented on

ORGANISATION	NOMINEES
County Development Board	Breege Murray & Carmel Leahy
Regional Drugs Taskforce	Mary Kennedy
County Childcare Committee	Helena Doyle & Connie Gerety
Longford Community Resources Ltd	Nini Stevenson & John Doherty

Post Primary Principal's Forum

The Post Primary Principal's Forum was established by the County Development Board. Guest speakers were invited to three meetings, which were held throughout the year. The Forum worked on addressing a number of key issues and actions in the County Development Board Strategy and the Implementation Plan.

Areas addressed during the year were:

- Training and issues surrounding Child Protection in schools.
- Procedures in dealing with Critical Incidences.
- The work of the regional office of the Department of Education & Science

The CDB also facilitated a joint meeting of Post Primary Principals and representatives from the Primary Principals Forum to discuss issues surrounding the transition of students from primary to the post primary sector.

Comhairle na nOg

The National Children's Strategy has as its first goal that "Children will have a voice in matters which affect them and their views will be given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity". The County Development Board has responsibility for organising the Comhairle Na NÓg. This year's event was held in Longford Ruby Club on Saturday the 20th of November and was organised in conjunction with Foroige. Twenty eight young people, aged between 12-17 years old from around the county participated on the day.

The issues discussed included the environment, migration and interculturalism, youth facilities, drugs and alcohol misuse. Arising from discussions on the day a number of recommendations were made such as the need for more clubs and groups for young people, a safe place to socialise in, strict penalties for illegal drug misuse, installation of CCTV in areas illegal dumping frequently occurs, free phone to report sightings of illegal dumping and integration opportunities for non nationals in the wider community. The event demonstrated the ability of young people to articulate their views and opinions on matters locally and nationally that impact on their lives.

Four young people were elected to represent Longford at the Dail na nOg, on March 19th 2005 in Dublin. Dail na nOg offers democratically elected young people from across the country the opportunity to discuss and debate the issues they feel are a priority for government.

Dail na bPaisti

The first Dail na bPaisti catering for children aged 8-12 years old was held in Longford on Saturday the 16th of October, in the Mall Complex, Longford. The event was organised by the County Development Board in conjunction with Longford County Childcare Committee. 50 young people from across the county participated. Four workshops were held covering drama, poetry, arts and crafts. The two themes covered on the day were alcohol/drugs and education. Eight young people were selected to represent County Longford at a regional event in Sligo on Saturday the 13th of November 2004.

County Longford Third Level Outreach Committee

The County Longford Third level Outreach Committee was established as a result of a need identified by the key stakeholders and the wider community of Longford during the consultation process for the County Development Board's strategy. Members of the Steering Group includes Longford County Development Board, County Enterprise Board, Vocational Education Committee, Social Welfare, Longford Community Resources Ltd., Longford Women's Centre. In 2002 Longford Community Resources Ltd provided funding to commission R&H Consulting to produce a discussion document on the feasibility of providing third level outreach courses in the county. In 2003 Longford County Development board was successful in securing funding through the BMW Innovative Actions Programme under the European Regional development Fund 2000-2006. An outreach co-ordinator was appointed working with the County Enterprise Board to further develop the recommendations and move the project forward. As a result of the work of the Co-ordinator and the commitment of the stakeholders a number of courses were secured to run locally and in September 2004 a "Guide to Third Level Courses in County Longford" was produced.

RAPID

The objective of RAPID is to frontload investment under the National Development Plan in a targeted manner. All of Longford Town was selected for inclusion in this programme. An Area Implementation Team (AIT) consisting of state agencies and representatives from the community sector oversee the programme. In 2004 a number of projects were prioritised by the AIT and endorsed by the SIMWG. Projects that were successful in securing funding include as follows: the Midland Health Board were granted €80,000 Euro to provide day activation services for older people with intellectual disabilities. Longford County Council received funding for estate enhancement and a number of landscaping projects.

Dormant Accounts Fund

The AIT endorsed a number of applications, which were submitted for funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The applications that secured funding in 2004 included submissions by Longford Community Resources Ltd for €190,000 to establish a community development project and €130,000 to set up a youth service. Longford Women's Link secured €84,000 for a domestic violence project and MacEoin Park Residence Ltd received €135,000 for their childcare service.

EQUAL Programme

The County Development Board in conjunction with the Longford Women's Centre, County Longford VEC, Longford Community Resources Ltd. and Longford County Enterprise Board came together to form Longford Women in Enterprise Development Partnership. Funding was secured under EQUAL 1 for a project entitled 'Supporting Women Entrepreneurs Locally in Longford'. The core aim of the Longford Partnership was to develop and support an effective model of partnership working that would devise and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies to address barriers to female entrepreneurship. The Longford Partnership also established a transnational partnership with groups in France and Italy in order to develop and implement best practice methodologies and approaches. A Work Life Balance Training Module, together with a Mentoring Guide For Female Entrepreneurs, are two of the key innovative products. They are gender specific, and outline the best practice lessons developed under the EQUAL transnational partnership.

In 2004, Longford Development Partnership's submitted an application for further funding from round 2 of the EQUAL programme "Entrepreneurship Sustainability". This application was successful and secured funding to further develop their knowledge and skills base in relation to supporting women's entrepreneurship.

CLÁR

CLÁR is a programme addressing population decline and lack of services in rural areas. The CLÁR programme will fast track National Development Plan spending in selected rural areas. In County Longford the areas selected by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are parts of North Longford and South West Longford. The County Development Board is assisting the Department in administering this programme locally. Throughout 2003 the CLAR programme has delivered additional monies to support numerous projects in the CLAR areas.

Longford Swimming Pool

Longford County Council submitted detailed design documentation and a request from the Minister of Arts Sports and Tourism to proceed to tender stage for the construction of the Swimming Pool.

County Longford Museum Service

The executive continues to work with the Museum Subcommittee to advance the establishment of a County Longford Museum. The Old Post Office was sold during the year and the proceeds are ring fenced for the New Museum Project. Longford County Council have made a site available and preliminary drawings for a new museum are prepared.

B. Economic Development

Longford County Council continued to lead the economic development of County Longford through a number of initiatives. A site on the new Templemichael Business Park was provided to Panelto Ltd who are constructing a 40,000 sq ft food processing plant. The balanced spatial development of County Longford was promoted through the commencement of development on business parks in Granard, Ballymahon Lanesboro and Longford. A total of over 40 sites for industrial purposes were allocated to individuals to develop their businesses during the year.

Abbott Project

Construction of Abbott diagnostic facility progressed during the year. This facility of over 110,000 sq. ft. located on the outskirts of Longford Town has the potential to provide up to 600 jobs 80% of these at graduate level. Investment in this project of over €70 million is one of the most significant industrial projects in Longford and of regional and national importance.

Decentralisation

Longford County provided a site to the Office of Public Works for the Decentralisation of the Prison Services Headquarters. The land was acquired from the I.D.A. and is located on the Ballinalee Road Business Park. The Office of Public Works completed the planning requirements for the erection of a modern building on this site.

Supporting the Development of Community Based Enterprise Units

Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd. (LEDCO) is a company limited by guarantee whose directors consist of representatives from Longford County Council, Longford Chamber of Commerce, Longford County Enterprise Board, Longford Town Council and Longford Community Resources Ltd. (Partnership/Leader Board).

These agencies came together to address an identified need in the CDB Strategy and Implementation Plan for a Community Enterprise Centre in Longford Town. Successful application for funding was submitted to Enterprise Ireland under its Community Enterprise Programme, receiving a capital grant of €300,000 and a management grant of €30,000. Longford County Enterprise Board will commit €100,000 to the project and it is expected that each partner will contribute towards the cost of the centre. Construction commenced during the year on a site provided by Longford County Council.

This centre will provide incubation space for new entrepreneurs, involved in either knowledge-based and light industry type projects, a subsidised competitive rental rate with shared administration expenses. Part of the centre may act as a training and education centre which would help various agencies and individuals involved in the provision of these services. The centre will also contribute to improved cohesion through accommodating Longford County Enterprise Board, Longford Community Resources Ltd and the County Childcare Committee.

Representation on External Agencies & Committees

Longford County Council and the County Development Board are currently working with a number of external agencies and committees including:

- County Longford Childcare Committee
- Longford Community Resources Ltd
- Dept. of Social and Family Affairs re: Community Development Programme
- Garda Youth Diversion Project
- Longford Women's Centre re: Women's Advisory Committee and The EQUAL Programme
- Dept. of Health re: Partnership for Youth Health Programme
- Adult Guidance Service
- Local Sports Partnership
- Longford Enterprise Development Company
- County Longford Third Level Outreach Committee

Corporate Services

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Requests for 2004

Applications received in 2004	10
No. of Requests granted	4
No. of Requests part-granted	1
No. of Requests refused	4
No. of Requests Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI	1
Live Cases at 31/12/2004	0

Appeals

No. of Internal Reviews received	1
No. of Appeals to Information Commissioner	0

Source of Requests

Journalists	1
Business	3
Staff	3
Others/General Public	3

Nature of Information Sought

Mixed	1
Non-Personal	9

Freedom of Information Manuals

During the year the Section 15 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford County Council was made available to staff and published on the Council's Intranet and Internet websites.

Work continued through the year on the compilation of the Section 16 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford County Council and, also, the Section 15 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford Town Council.

Franchise

Conditions for Registration

A person must be at least 18 years of age on the day the Register comes into force (15th February). A person may be included on a supplement to the Register if he/she reaches 18 years of age between the 16th February and polling day of an Election/Referendum.

Every resident, 18 years and upwards, is entitled to be on the Register of Electors or on the supplement.

The numbers registered to vote on the 2004/2005 Register of Electors were as follows in February, 2004:-

Local Electoral Areas	No. of Electors
Ballymahon	7,973
Drumlisk	3,750
Granard	6,256
Longford	9,612
Total:	27,591

The Local and European Elections were held on 11th June, 2004. 955 applications were approved and subsequently added to the Supplement to the Register of Electors 2004/2005.

Section 4 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 2001 amends Section 13 of the Electoral Act, 1992 in relation to the Register of Electors. It provides for the preparation of an "edited" version of the Register of Electors omitting the names and addresses of electors who have requested that the information not be used for purposes other than that for which it was provided i.e. statutory purposes.

A period of 3 years was specified for the coming into force of the provisions of this section in order to provide sufficient time for Registration Authorities to contact everyone on the Register. Longford County Council made provision for the distribution of forms to each household in the county in March 2003 in preparation for the edited version of the Register of Electors. All of these forms were assessed and the target date for publishing the Edited Register, which was 1st November, 2004 was reached successfully.

Local Elections 2004

Local Elections took place on the 11th June 2004 along with the European Parliament Elections and the Referendum on Citizenship. As the first such elections following the abolition of the dual mandate, a large number totalling 45 candidates lodged nomination papers to contest the election to Longford County Council in respect of the four local electoral areas.

It was envisaged that electronic voting and counting would be used nationwide for the first time at the 2004 polls and work had commenced at an early stage in preparation for the change to a fully electronic context. However, on the 30th April 2004 the Independent Commission on Electronic Voting recommended that the chosen system should not be used nationwide for the elections on the 11th June. Preparations for manual voting and counting had to commence immediately following Government acceptance of this recommendation.

The election witnessed nationwide a reversal of the decline in voter turnout that has characterised recent local elections. In County Longford the percentage voter turnout for each of the 4 local electoral areas was as follows:

- Granard LEA 71.24%
- Ballymahon LEA 71.56%
- Longford LEA 65.96%
- Drumlish LEA 72.05%

The Count took place on the 12th and 13th June 2004 in the Mall Complex and 21 Councillors were duly elected to Longford County Council. The successful conduct of the local elections was due in no small measure to the hard work, diligence, commitment and knowledge of all the staff involved in helping to bring a fresh mandate to the Council for the next five years.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

The following activities aimed at ensuring the Safety Health and Welfare at Work of the Council Staff were carried out in 2004.

- The Safety Management Committee met twice in 2004 and endorsed the Corporate Safety Statement.
- Safety monitoring committees have been established in all Directorates and Safety Representatives elected from among the staff.
- Safety Inspections in Aras an Chontae, Camlin Court, Grafton Court Offices and various libraries were carried out by council staff.
- Ancillary Safety Statements for the various Directorates in the Council were undergoing a process of review.
- A number of site visits/inspections were carried out by the Health and Safety Authority Inspector during the year.
- As a demonstration of the Council's commitment to ensuring the ongoing well being of all its employees Longford County Council continued to roll out a programme of Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) courses designed to raise standards of health and safety awareness and reduce risks and accidents in the workplace.
- A one day training course in First Aid was held in December 2004.
- Fire Extinguishers were inspected, serviced and certified in Aras an Chontae, Camlin Court and various libraries in 2004.

County Council Meetings

Meetings of the County Council were held monthly, with the exception of the month of August.

Local Elections were held on the 11th June 2004.

The First Annual Meeting of the Council was held on 25th June 2004 at which Councillor Maura Kilbride-Harkin was elected Mayor and Councillor Martin Farrell was elected Deputy Mayor, until the date of the Annual Meeting in 2005.

Members of Longford County Council were elected to the following committees

General Council of County Councils:

Councillors L. McEntire, F. Kilbride and A. Farrell.

Local Authority Members' Association:

Councillor A. Mitchell.

Board of the East Coast & Midlands Tourism:

Councillor M. Kilbride-Harkin.

Lough Oughter, Gowna and River Erne Joint Drainage Committee:

Councillors P. Murphy and V. Kiernan.

Longford Leisure Limited:

Councillors D. Glennon, A. Mitchell and V. Kiernan.

Midland Regional Authority:

Councillors M. Cahill, P. Belton, L. Bannon, V. Kiernan and M. Kilbride-Harkin.

EU Operational Committee of the Midland Regional Authority:

Mayor M. Kilbride-Harkin and Councillor V. Kiernan.

Border, Midland and Western Regional Authority:

Councillor L. Bannon.

Longford County Enterprise Board:

Councillors P.J. Reilly, M. Farrell, F. Kilbride and P. Belton.

Longford Community Resources:

Councillors S. Farrell and A. Mitchell.

Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd.:

Councillors J. Coyle, P. Nolan and A. Mitchell.

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd. - to attend Annual Meeting:

Councillor P. Nolan.

Rural Water Monitoring Committee:

Councillors M. Mulleady, A. Farrell and M. Kilbride-Harkin.

Steering Committee for the Promotion of the Irish Language:

All the members of the Council.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:

Councillors B. Steele, L. McEntire, P. Nolan, V. Kiernan, M. Kilbride-Harkin, A. Mitchell and G. Brady.

Appointment of Members to the following Area Committees of Longford County Council:-

- Longford County Electoral Area Committee.
- Ballymahon County Electoral Area Committee.
- Drumlish/Granard County Electoral Area Committee.

The members of the Longford County Electoral Area form the membership of the Longford County Electoral Area Committee; the members of the Drumlish/Granard County Electoral Area form the membership of the Drumlish/Granard County Electoral Area Committee and the members of the Ballymahon County Electoral Area form the membership of the Ballymahon County Electoral Area Committee.

Strategic Policy Committees (post Local Elections 2004)

Housing and Building and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy:

Councillor A. Mitchell, Chairperson.

Councillors V. Kiernan, M. Kilbride-Harkin, M. Mulleady, P.J. Reilly and P. Murphy.

Transportation, Road Development Maintenance and Road Safety Policies:

Councillor A. Farrell, Chairperson.

Councillors L. Bannon, P. Belton, J. Coyle and L. McEntire.

Water Services and Environmental Policies

Councillor M. Farrell, Chairperson.

Councillors G. Brady, P. Nolan, M. Cahill and S. Butler.

Economic, Urban and Rural Development, Cultural and Recreational Policies

Councillor B. Steele, Chairperson.

Councillors S. Farrell, F. Kilbride, D. Glennon and M. Nevin.

County Longford Vocational Education Committee:

Councillors J.Coyle, B. Steele, M. Kilbride-Harkin, S. Farrell, A. Farrell, G. Brady, M. Nevin, P. Murphy and A. Mitchell were elected to the County Longford Vocational Education Committee at meeting of the Council held on the 12th October 2004.

In accordance with Section 5(1) of the Vocational Education (Amendment) Act 2001, Ms. Mary Toher, Ms. Julie Ann Piggott, Canon Frank Kelly and Mr. Peter Clarke were appointed to the County Longford Vocational Education Committee at meeting of Longford County Council held on the 15th December 2004.

There were also a number of Special Meetings held throughout the year.

A Special Meeting of the Council incorporating Conference on the Draft Corporate Plan for Longford County Council was held in the Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport on the 29th and 30th October 2004.

The December Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council was held on the 15th December 2004 in Mayor Maura Kilbride-Harkin's home town of Granard.

Achievement Awards Ceremonies and Civic Receptions:

<i>20th February 2004</i>	A Civic Reception was held to honour the Longford Town Football Team on winning the F.A.I. Cup Final 2003.
<i>19th July 2004</i>	A Civic Reception was held on the occasion of the 4th International Farrell Clan Rally 2004
<i>10th November 2004</i>	A Civic Reception was held to honour The Longford Association in Dublin on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary

Human Resources

The Human Resource function is unlike the other services which the County Council provides in that it is primarily a support service which is critical for effective implementation of the organisations strategies achieved through the proper management of one of its key resources namely its staff. The Human Resource function assists staff in realising their potential and builds on the capability of the organisation to provide an excellent service to the County.

Staff Recruitment

Recruitment and deployment of Staff resources effectively is a key feature of the day to day activities. Longford County Council is continually engaged in recruitment and selection of staff in accordance with best HR practices for a wide range of grades and roles within the organisation. Recruitment of staff in Clerical, Administrative, Technical, Craft and Manual Grades is generally by open competition through public advertisement in National/Local newspapers and on the Council's website and the Local Government Recruitment website.

Recruitment to Senior and Professional posts within the organisation is carried out by the Public Appointments Commission on behalf of Longford County Council. Promotional prospects within the Council continue to be excellent and the filling of these posts is by way of formal application and interview.

Staff Training and Development

Significant emphasis is placed on staff training and development, which is approached in a strategic manner involving identification of training needs of the organisation. There was a change in personnel in the Training Section with a new Training Officer being appointed in June of 2004. The Training Officer continues to develop training plans which are properly designed and focused and are aligned with the Corporate Plan, Customer Action Plan and Human Resource Policy. Investment in training provides for improved organisational and individual effectiveness.

A training plan was agreed in October 2004 and will serve as the context document for training going forward. Training opportunities were provided for staff at all levels during the year. An induction training programme was delivered in-house to staff recently recruited. In addition a number of staff were trained as trainers to deliver further relevant programmes which will take place early in 2005.

Preparation commenced in 2004 for the 'Excellence Through People' application for Human Resources and Corporate Affairs Department. The application was duly submitted and audit will take place early in 2005. Excellence through People is Ireland's national standard for human resource development.

Initial preparations in relation to the Implementation of Performance Management and Development Systems for Local Authorities was commenced in the Human Resources Department in 2004 in accordance with the commitment under Sustaining Progress. Arrangements were put in place to raise awareness of the methodology and commitment required through consultations and briefing sessions with the pilot sites. The introduction of Performance Management and Development Systems has created a new awareness of the importance of our human resources in meeting individual targets, section objectives and organisational goals.

Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department continues to foster the health and welfare of all staff through promoting and making available to staff a range of work / life balance schemes.

The Department also administers staff schemes such as secondments and career breaks. The Equality Action Team work with the Human Resources Department in ensuring compliance with all policies in relation to equality and the development of appropriate new policies.

The Equality Action Team devised and proposed a number of policies in 2004 including a Booklet on the Traveller Community, a Dignity at Work policy with accompanying staff policy and procedures, an Employee Assistance Programme and a Critical Incident Stress policy. An Annual Operation Plan was agreed for 2005 and the Equality Action Team have begun to form links with the Health and Safety Monitoring Group and the Partnership group to facilitate cross co-operation in 2005.

The Equality Action Team continue to remain a focus for employee welfare and development and a platform for ensuring the Equality Agenda is addressed in a systematic way in the organisation. Longford County Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to Equality of Opportunity for all staff through its support of the Equality Team.

Industrial Relations

Another key area of Human Resources is employee / industrial relations. The Council has in place collective agreements, agreed procedures and industrial relations mechanisms. Communication is maintained on a regular basis with the relevant trade unions. The department advises and supports line management in all aspects of employee relations and industrial relations practices.

The Sustaining Progress Verification Process which included the submission of the Council's Action Plan and the Performance Verification Group Site Visit were all included in the activities of 2004.

Performance Indicators

Working days lost in 2004 through sickness absence in the organisation - 2.52%.

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of Total Payroll Costs - 5.917%.

Workplace Partnership

2004 was another busy year for the Workplace Partnership Committee. The membership of the Committee changed in that S.I.P.T.U. nominated two new members to replace Mr. Eugene Caherly. The Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Mr. Eugene Caherly both as Joint Chair and as member of the Committee for the last three years. Training is to be provided early in the new year for all Committee members in relation to 'The Strategic Plan 2003-2005' and 'Deepening Partnership in Local Government'. Membership of the Committee is: Mr. David Tubridy (LAPO & Joint Chair), Ms. Noreen Heslin (Management & Joint Chair), Mr. Pat Dromey (Management), Ms. Mary Reynolds (Management), Mr. Bernard Nolan (SIPTU), Mr. Mel Sheridan (SIPTU), Mr. Milo Lowry (IMPACT), Mr. Michael Hand (IMPACT). Ms. Patricia Shaughnessy resigned as Secretary and Committee member at the end of 2004. The Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Patricia. She joined the Committee five years ago and her commitment and loyalty to promoting and nurturing Workplace Partnership is a credit to her and the staff she represented.

The Return to Learning Programme proved very successful again this year with twelve staff completing the course. Certificates were presented to all who completed the course and the staff and tutors received great praise from all participants. This programme allows staff members to 'get back' to education and is sponsored by the Department of Education & Science and the National Adult Literacy Association in conjunction with the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG). The co-operation of Directors of Services, Engineers and General Services Supervisors has been paramount in the success of this programme to date and the committee would like to thank all those who assisted in ensuring its success.

The information kiosk was put in place in the reception area of Aras An Chontae. This has proved to be a great information facility for both staff and the public, with access to our Local Authority website. All credit to our I.T. Department for the research and development of this kiosk and their help in providing invaluable information for this facility.

The final stage of the Health Screening Programme was completed this year in the Town Council. A total of thirty staff were screened and this service was seen to be of immense value to our staff in the Town Council Area. This screening received great praise from all participants in the programme and was another achievement for the partnership process.

The Partnership Committee as 'Champions of Partnership' would like to acknowledge the assistance and guidance that the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG) provided throughout the year, along with the funding it made available for the various projects undertaken this year.

Information Systems

Longford County Council endeavours to exploit the latest information systems and communication systems to maximise existing resources and investment in computer technology. We work closely with the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSSB), which administers and supports the provision of IT services in local authorities and co-ordinates the use of national systems.

E-Voting

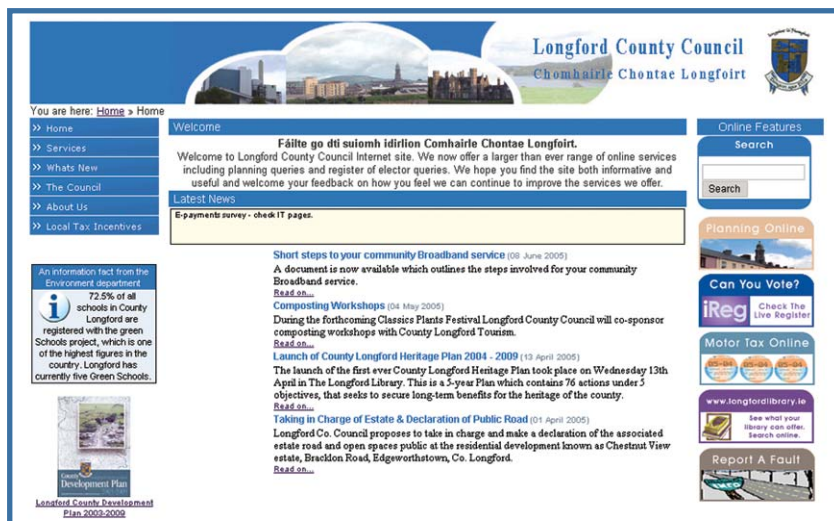
The IT Department was heavily involved with training and preparing for the electronic voting system, which was eventually abandoned at the beginning of May. Our involvement thereafter was setting up and supporting the Election Count System, which was used to assist the returning officer and staff and the database on completion was returned to the Department of the Environment.

Local Area Network

The upgrading of Hardware and Systems software has added additional network capacity and the provision of key security systems will minimise security threats from misuse, etc.

Longford County Council Website - www.longfordcoco.ie

The council website was redesigned in-house during the year. New features include online planning enquiries, providing customers with direct access online to information on planning applications. The addition of this important service accounts for the majority of traffic to the website. Another service available on the site is online enquiries to the electoral register.



www.longfordcoco.ie

Geographic Information Systems

GIS usage has continued to rise and now stands at 60 users. This is a 50% increase in 2004. Data capture is ongoing in relation to planning, the road, water and wastewater networks. In the environmental department data capture has been extended to areas such as derelict sites, burial grounds, dumping sites and waste permits. Sharing of data between departments has been made easier through GIS and will be enhanced significantly with the release of the Corporate Browser to every desktop.

Intranet

Additional services added to our corporate intranet include online leave system, room booking facility and purchase order approval.

Information Kiosk

A public information kiosk was purchased in 2004. This project was funded by Partnership and is located in the main reception area in Aras an Chontae. Currently access is available to the Co. Council Website, www.longfordcoco.ie, the County Portal, www.longford.ie, motortaxonline as well as a host of other useful websites.

Staff Newsletter

Three issues were produced during 2004. All of the content is collected, collated and produced in-house.

Contact Management System

E-direct contact management system was installed in the IT department as a helpdesk solution.

Document Management System

Idocs document management system was implemented in the planning department. Documents are scanned from paper or digital documents and can be uploaded into the planning system. These documents can be retrieved via a browser for viewing.

Internet Management System

Webmarshal is a comprehensive solution for employee Internet management and this system was implemented during the year.

Training

IT Staff attended a number of workshops and Courses to keep abreast of the latest Information and Communication technologies.



Information Kiosk located at Reception, Áras an Chontae

Longford Cultural Services

Longford County Library

Six branch libraries are located at Longford, Ballymahon, Lanesboro, Edgeworthstown, Drumlish and Granard.

Important Developments 2004

2004 was a very successful year for the library service with an increase of 20% in library membership in Longford town and an overall increase in the number of books borrowed throughout the county of 10%. Longford branch library opened its doors to the public on Saturdays for the first time on September 4th.

ICT

Minister Dermot Ahern launched a new website www.longfordlibrary.ie which incorporates Library/ Arts/ Archives and Heritage services.

Among the features on the website is a fully searchable database of over 108,000 titles which are in stock in Longford branch libraries. Library members can search, request or renew any of the titles in stock.

We also introduced optical scanning facilities at two of our branches, Longford and Granard during 2004 to aid the visually impaired and those with learning difficulties, this was grant aided by the DOEHLG.

Much work on the indexing of the Longford Local Studies Collection which would be very valuable to students, researchers and local historians has been done and is now available on the website. As part of the first phase of Digitization of our Local Studies Collection a database of the Placenames of County Longford has been built with financial assistance from the Information Society Commission.

Opening Hours

As part of our ongoing programme of making the library services more accessible to the community, Longford Branch Library extended its opening hours to include lunchtime opening every day and Saturday opening from September 2nd 2004.

Children's Services

Paired Writing/Scribing : A pilot project focussing on creative writing and literacy skills was organised in cooperation with teachers, parents and children from Primary schools around the county. The project was facilitated by Chris Thompson in schools and branch libraries and included workshops for parents and teachers which were very well attended. The project will culminate with the production of an instructional handbook and cd rom on Paired Writing in 2005.

The appointment of award winning children's author Siobhan Parkinson as Longford's first Writer in School's to Killoe National School was the start of what we hope to be a very productive partnership with Poetry Ireland to ensure Longford children have access to some of our most talented modern writers. Other writers and storytellers who provided workshops and readings during the year included John Sexton and Pat Speight. As part of the Joyce Centenary Celebrations a group of four professional actors visited Longford and performed extracts from James Joyce's work for senior cycle students in a number of secondary schools in the county.

In partnership with Aisling Children's Arts Festival a very innovative Intergenerational project was organized with Longford Gaelscoil, Aughnagarron National School and St Joseph's Hospital Day Care unit and Granard Active Age Group which culminated in a performance in a packed Backstage Theatre during the Festival.

Adult Education

As part of our policy to promote lifelong learning for all, we continue to work in partnership with a number of organizations including VEC, NUI Maynooth, Longford Women's Link, Longford Historical Society, CAN, Global Longford, The Older People's Network to develop a varied programme of events throughout the year including basic language, art and internet classes, Bealtaine festival, Cultural Diversity programmes, art exhibitions, lectures, etc.

Staff Changes in the Library During 2004

Early in 2004 we were pleased to welcome two new members of staff into Longford Branch Library, Ms. Eimear McGuinness, who joined us from the Roads section of Longford County Council and Ms. Olive Heslin. Mr. Willie O'Dowd, Executive Librarian, moved from Library HQ to manage Longford Branch Library with Theresa O'Kelly moving from the branch to the Local History Section of HQ.

Ms. Lisa McDaniel took up the position of Heritage Officer in August 2004 and her office is located in Longford Branch Library.

Groups Meeting in the Library During 2004

Longford Writer's Group, Adult Reading Group, Longford Camera Club, Adult Education Classes.

Work Placements facilitated by Longford County Library

Longford County Library continues to support a number of education and work programmes in the county. At second level we facilitated a number of schools around the county by providing work experience placements for transition year pupils. We also provide work placements under various Continuing Education/Return to Work projects with organisations including the Dawn Learning Centre, St. Christopher's, Midland Employment Support, Ardagh Training College, FÁS, VEC and NTDI.

Adult Education Classes

Local History Studies NUI Maynooth Certificate Group, Introduction to Internet and Email for beginners (every Tuesday), French Conversation Class, Irish Conversation Class, Spanish Conversation Class, Art Appreciation Class, Paired Writing for Parents and Children.

Training Courses & Conferences Attended by Library Staff

Public Libraries Section - Annual Conference
 Horizon Software Users Group AGM
 Children's Literature Training Day
 Longford County Council Induction Training (In-House)
 Agresso Sales Invoice Training (In-House)
 National Council for the Blind Training on Kurtzweil Optical Scanners (In- House)
 Primary Education New Curriculum - Links with the Library
 Cultural Heritage Phase II Training
 County and City Librarians Autumn Seminar
 Library Staff Training and Annual Review (In-House)

Events, Exhibitions and Book Launches in 2004

- February:** 'Put More Women in the Picture' - Exhibition (Aras an Chontae)
- March:** Art Exhibition by Longford CAN
 Paired Writing Project - Storytelling Workshop
 'Telling Tales' - Evening of Storytelling with Pat Speight and Chris Thompson in Longford Golf Club
 'Life in Africa' Presentation to local schools by Funke Oyewole
 Launch of www.longfordlibrary.ie by Minister Dermot Ahern
- April:** Launch of 'Afterglow', second novel by Kitty Rodgers
 Turas Art Exhibition by members of the Dawn Learning Centre
- May:** Open University Information Day
 Bealtaine Intergenerational Events
- 'A Taste of the Arts' in Temperance Hall
 - Folklore Collection Review, Photography Workshops....a day in the life
- Bloomsday Event - Tour of Local secondary schools by actors performing extracts from Joyce's work in association with Poetry Ireland
 An Autism Awareness Evening organized by Mercy Convent TY Students
- July:** Art Exhibition by members of Longford CAN 'Colour of Summer'
 'Inter-Acting' - Cultural Diversity Seminar in Temperance Hall
 Children's Summer Project Activities:-
- Visits by vets and representatives from ISPCA re. pet care
 - Chris Thompson with Bunnyhop and graphic novel
 - Storytelling by staff, Sarah and Funke
 - Arts and crafts sessions for different age groups
 - Christophe's magic summer show
 - Quizzes

September: Book reading and Signing by former Drumlish native Arnold J. Meagher in Drumlish Library
Abbey Theatre Outreach Workshop for Schools



Students from St. Michaels B.N.S. enjoy handling copies of artefacts from the National Museum

October:

Children's Book Week Events

- Time Tales - Intergeneration Project showcase in Backstage Theatre
- Visit by National Museum Outreach Programme
- School visits by children's author John Sexton
- Life in Africa presentation by Funke Oyewole
- Storytelling from abroad with Funke
- Halloween magic with Christophe
- Halloween storytelling with Chris Thompson
- Arts and crafts sessions during the holiday week



Author John Sexton Workshop in Lanesboro Library



Halloween Arts 'n Crafts in Longford Library



Storytelling from abroad with Funke Oyewole

November: Launch of Breda Sullivan's third collection of poetry 'Sculpture in Black Ice'.

December: Under Siege in Kalongo - an exhibition of Photographs by Tiernan Dolan for GOAL which was launched by Emma Counihan, RTE News
'Joyous Noel' - Exhibition of Paintings, Sculptures and Ceramics by members of Longford CAN

Longford County Library Statistics for 2004

LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE			
TOTAL NUMBER OF BOOKS BORROWED - 2004			
Library Branch	Adult	Junior	Total
Longford	48,988	23,817	72,805
Granard	5,442	4,241	9,683
Lanesboro	6,297	3,895	10,192
Ballymahon	4,642	3,077	7,719
Drumlish	1,407	1,585	2,992
Edgeworthstown	2,537	2,107	4,644
TOTAL	69,313	38,722	108,035
TOTAL for 2003			103,902
% Increase			4.0%

LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE						
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 2004						
Library Branch	Adult	Junior	2 nd Level Student	3 rd Level Student	Other	Total
Longford	2139	1295	292	130	24	3,880
Granard	252	289	56	18	12	627
Lanesboro	191	152	38	10	5	396
Ballymahon	125	142	31	8		306
Drumlish	55	85	19	7	2	168
Edgeworthstown	86	87	12	3		188
TOTAL	2848	2050	448	176	43	5565
TOTAL for 2003						5006
% Increase						10.0%

LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE	
SCHOOLS - 2004	
Total Number of Pupils	3,768
Total Number of Books on Loan	51,498
New Book Acquisitions	4,587

LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE			
COMPUTER USAGE - 2004			
Library Branch	Computer Hours Used	Computer Hours Available	Computer % of Availability
Longford - Adults	10,910	10,965	99.5
Longford - Children	1,441	2,190	65.8
Granard	2081	2650	78.5
Lanesboro	1674	2600	64.4
Ballymahon	417	600	69.5
Drumlish	353	700	50.4
Edgeworthstown	360.5	600	60.1

Arts Office Report

County Children's Choir

Established a County Choir for children from 9 to 12 years old. There are currently approx. seventy members.

County Adult Choir Choral Residencies Programme

In partnership with the County Adult Choir we initiated a programme of guest Choral Directors in order to enable the Choir to work with the best Irish and foreign Choral Directors.

Kindermusik

An early learning musical project for pre-school children and their parents running in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Granard and organised in partnership between Longford, Westmeath and Offaly County Councils and VEC's.

Timpealacht (Schools Environmental Education Programme)

Organised in partnership with The Lough Ree Environmental Summer School, Lanesborough Community College, Hartstown Community College Dublin, Fingal County Council, The Arts Council and The Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Gary Robison Monaghan Exhibition

Granard Public Art Project

Organised a national competition to select a sculptor to create a statue based on the theme of the Irish harp and erected the monument at the entrance to Granard on the Edgeworthstown road.

Lanesborough Community College Environmental Photography Field Trips

Goldsmith Country Development Committee Reports

Managed the work of this committee and supervised the completion of three reports dealing with the tourism potential of Goldsmith Country, The Conservation of Lissoy Parsonage and the development of the Goldsmith Summer School.

Corporate Plan Arts Section

Longford County Arts Development Plan 2004-2009

Lough Ree Environmental Summer School 2004

Worked with the festival committee to deliver a comprehensive programme of events.

"De-scribe" Children's Creative Writing Project

Developed the concept of a highly innovative project to stimulate the creative abilities of primary school pupils and teach them the skill of story making.

St. Christopher's Arts Mentoring Project

Worked in partnership with St. Christopher's Training Centre to introduce a multi-dimensional arts development project.

County Council Meeting Rooms

Commissioned art work to decorate the three Council meeting rooms on a theme of the three famous Longford writers Goldsmith, Colum and Edgeworth.



Harp in Granard

Report on the Archives Service

Archives

The processing (cleaning, arranging and listing) of archives continued, particularly those of the local authorities. The microfilming of Longford County Council minutes for the period 1899-1999 was undertaken and the microfilm is now available to the public in Library Headquarters. Conservation work was carried out on the estate maps in Library Headquarters.

The Archivist co-operated with the National Archives in organising the removal of court records from Longford Courthouse.

Outreach activities undertaken by the Archivist included

28 January-10 March:

'Introduction to Local History' (five weekly sessions and a trip to the National Archives);

25 May:

Talk on 'Folklore' to the I.F.A. South Longford Farm Family Group;

11 August:

Talk on 'Archives and Local Studies' to Longford Active Retirement Group;

7 December:

Facilitated visit by Leaving Certificate History class, St Mel's College, to Library Headquarters.

The Archivist is also acting as tutor on the NUI Certificate in Local History course (accredited by NUI Maynooth) in the academic year 2004-2005.

Archives donated during the year included:

- the papers of the Farrell family, Tullyvrane, Lanesborough;
- some papers of John Phillips M.P. (d.1917), Corboy;
- papers of the Edgeworth Society, mainly 1960s-1970s;
- place-names of Longford prepared by Fr Charles Brady;
- map of Longford Town, 1884, showing sewerage system;
- minutes of Newtownforbes Guild, I.C.A., 1956-2002;
- items from Ballinamuck bi-centenary, 1998.

Records management

The implementation of a Records Management system has begun in the Community and Enterprise Directorate of Longford County Council. All files will be examined, with some being disposed of and those that are inactive going into storage.

Conferences and Committees

The Archivist attended the following events:

19-20 February:

Conference on 'Legislation and Litigation in Record-Keeping' (Kilkenny)

4 March:

Seminar on 'Disaster Planning and Prevention in Archives and Libraries' (Dublin)

18 October:

Seminar on 'The Reform of Archival Legislation' (Dublin)

The Archivist drafted a section of the National Policy on Records Management in Local Authorities (forthcoming publication) and participated in a seminar on it on 20th September.

The Archivist also joined a Society of Archivists, Ireland sub-committee on 'Archives in Education', which will devise approaches to the promotion and use of archives at all levels in the education system.

Heritage Report

The aim of the Longford County Heritage Plan is

"that our heritage will be part of life for everyone"

Longford County Council appointed Lisa McDaniel as Heritage Officer, with assignment to the Department of Community and Enterprise in August 2004.

The Heritage Office is committed to providing advice on all heritage issues and is responsible for developing policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of Longford's heritage. Central to the services provided by the Heritage office is the promotion of interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Longford, and in so doing, increasing awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the county's heritage. The development of a co-ordinated heritage strategy at county level is a key recommendation of government policy as outlined in the National Heritage Plan (2002) and the National Biodiversity Plan (2002).

This is being achieved through:

- Establishment of the County Longford Heritage Forum
- Co-ordination and Implementation of the Longford County Heritage Plan 2004-2009 which aims to:

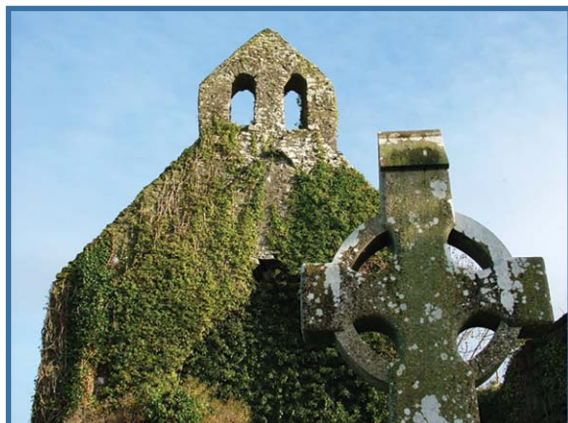
1. Protect and enhance our archaeological and architectural heritage
2. Promote interest and pride in the county's culture
3. Develop a heritage education and awareness programme
4. Provide heritage information which is available to all
5. Protect and enhance the natural heritage of the county

The Longford County Heritage Plan has commenced a new and exciting period for heritage conservation in Longford, based on partnership and co-ordination amongst those with an interest in and remit for heritage management in the county. The plan was adopted in 2003 and will be launched in early 2005. In line with the aims and objectives of the Longford County Heritage Plan 2004-2009 key projects have been identified for delivery in 2005.

The Heritage Officer Programme is a partnership arrangement between The Heritage Council and the Local Authority.



Honeysuckle at Lough Naback



Cistercian Abbey, Abbeyshrule



Church of Ireland, Ballinalee

Town Twinning

2004 was a busy year for Town Twinning. Several groups from Longford's twin town Noyal-Chatillon sur Seiche visited during the year. In March we had a group of fifteen footballers who visited over the St. Patricks Day holiday. The group played a challenge match against a Council selection and also participated in Longford's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

April saw two schools groups visiting the town. The annual exchange with St. Emer's N.S. school took place and we also had a visit from six second level students with two of their teachers. These students were making a video about every aspect of life in Longford.

In July, a group of ten adults, including the Mayor of Noyal Chatillon sur Seiche, visited Longford and were hosted by families in the town and county. A full itinerary was organised for their visit including a one day seminar on Cultural Diversity which was held in the Temperance Hall.

A group of twenty five people representing a broad cross section of community, business, sporting and cultural life from Longford led by the Mayor of Longford Town, Cllr. Peggy Nolan, enjoyed a four day visit to Noyal in September. To coincide with this visit a joint Celtic/Breton Festival was organised. Included in the Longford delegation were Karen Casserly, harpist, and her sister Emma Casserly, singer and also local traditional music group Na Lad's who performed at the festival.

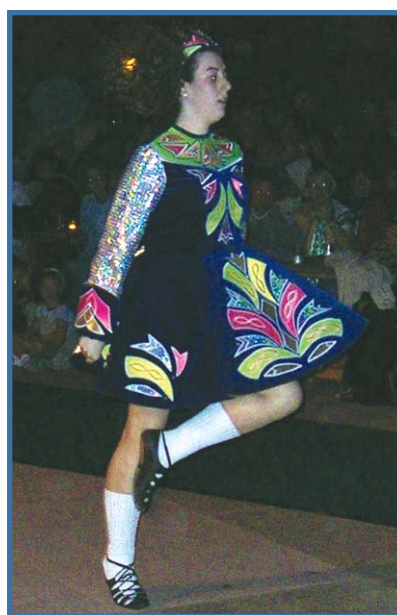
At the beginning of December a group of three artists, members of Longford CAN travelled to Noyal to participate in a major annual Art Exhibition of both professional and amateur artists in the town.

Longford hosted a visit by the Mayor of Noyal-Châtillon sur Seiche, Gilles De Bel Air, and the President of the Town twinning committee Michelle Hirel in December for the Switching on of the Christmas lights. They visited local schools, sporting and cultural facilities, met with members of the Town twinning to plan events for next year and were special guests at Longford Town Mayor's annual dinner.

The Town Twinning Committee would like to acknowledge the warm welcome and great enthusiasm of the citizens of Longford towards the twinning.



The Mayors of Noyal and Longford Town speaking at the Irish-Breton Bol D'Eire festival in Noyal, September 2004



Longford dancer Martella Carrigy entertaining the people of Noyal, September 2004

Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan

Transportation, Road Development & Maintenance & Road Safety Policies

Core Objective

Ensure that infrastructural transportation policies and investments assist the economic and social development of County Longford and preserve and improve the physical attractiveness of the county and its background environment.

Maintenance and Improvement of Roads

Bridge Consultants have been appointed to progress the preferred route for the N5 bypass of Longford Town, adopted by the Council and approved by the NRA in April 2003. The preferred route has been selected for the N4 Improvement Scheme between Longford and Drumsna, and the CPO and EIS was published for Phase 1 of the scheme bypassing Dromod and Rooskey. The CPO for the Edgeworthstown Inner Relief Road is operative and Notice to Treat has been served. Pavement strengthening was carried out on all national routes, and major restoration was carried out at New Street, Longford on the N5.

EU Specific Schemes were advanced at Esker North Bridge, Ballinalee to Aughnacliffe, R198 Longford to Arva, Lisnamuck Business Park Development, and R392 Ballymahon to Lanesboro.

The multi-annual Road Restoration and Surface Dressing programmes are ongoing.

Road Safety

Traffic Calming Schemes were completed at Granard, Tarmonbarry, Lanesboro, and at Ballinalee Road, Longford.

Low-cost schemes are ongoing. Road safety recommendations relating to Planning Permissions are ongoing.

Implementation of the multi-annual Public Lighting and Non-National Roads Flashing School Lights Plan is ongoing.

The Council continued to promote, facilitate and participate with the Gardai, Schools and National Safety Council in the Road Safety Together committee and in operation of Junior School Wardens.

The Council continued to monitor effective implementation of the EU Commercial Vehicle Regulations in the county.

Traffic Management

Traffic Lights were provided at the junction of the N55 and N4 in Edgeworthstown, at the junction of the N5 and Ardnacassa, and at the junction of Teffia Park and Dublin Road, Longford.

Implementation of the multi-annual Non-national Road Signage Plan is ongoing.

Lands were acquired to progress implementation of the adopted feasibility plan for off-street parking in Granard.

Access to Passenger Transportation for All

Facilitation of the recommendations of the County Longford Rural Transport Audit adopted by the Council continued.

Taxi and hackney licences were issued in an efficient and courteous manner.

Current Policies

Quality road design standards were promoted for implementation.

Access for the disabled was promoted in accordance with recommended guidelines in consultation with stakeholders as in the case of Edgeworthstown pedestrian crossings.

Participation continued in the Steering and Technical Groups managing the National Roads Authority Regional Design Office.

Appropriate liaison was promoted between transportation development stakeholders such as public representatives, representative bodies, the general public, the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Gardai, the National Safety Council, Iarnród Éireann, Waterways Ireland, etc.

Implementation of Local Improvement Schemes and Community Schemes continued.

Exploration continued with financiers and others regarding implementation of Public and Private Partnership Road and Transportation schemes.

Water Services & Environmental Policies

Core Objective

Ensure that the highest standards are achieved in Waste Management, Litter, Environmental Education and Water Quality and the principle of sustainable development is pursued to the greatest extent possible.

Some specific measures to assist in the achievement of this objective were set out in the Corporate Plan for completion in 2004.

Assess Needs and Prioritise Works within Available Resources

The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government published a Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 following on from the Assessment of Need prepared by Longford Co. Council. The programme includes 14 schemes with an estimated value of €53,560,000.

Progress was made in advancing the schemes in the programme as follows.

1. Edgeworthstown Sewerage Scheme - Preliminary report completed and submitted to the Department.
2. Longford CRWSS - Reservoir and Pipeline - All documentation submitted to the Department to seek approval to prepare contract documents.
3. Longford Sewerage Scheme Phase 2 - All documents submitted to the Department seeking approval to prepare contract documents
4. Drumlish and Newtownforbes Sewerage Schemes - Consultants appointed to prepare a preliminary report.
5. Longford Sludge Management - Preliminary Report submitted to the Department seeking approval to go to construction.
6. Ballymahon Regional Water Scheme - Brief for appointment of Consultant being prepared.
7. Granard Regional Water Supply Scheme - Consultant appointed to carry out a strategic review.
8. Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme - Consultant appointed to carry out a strategic review.
9. Ardagh, Aughnaclyffe, Ballinalee Sewerage Scheme - All documentation submitted to the Department seeking approval to prepare contract documents.
10. Clondra Sewerage Scheme - Tenders received and contractors recommended for appointment.
11. Lanesboro Water Supply Stage 1 - Environmental study completed and now proceeding to bore test wells.
12. Grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme - Consultant to be appointed to carry out a feasibility study.
13. Longford Sewerage Scheme, Network Review - Consultant to be appointed.
14. Lanesboro Sewerage Scheme - Site investigation being carried out.

In addition an allocation of €4,200,000 was granted for a Water Conservation Scheme and mains rehabilitation work was carried out in the Aughnaclyffe, Rosduff and Carriglass areas and also in New Street, Longford and Main Street, Granard. Consultants were appointed to advance the water conservation scheme.

There was excellent progress in advancing the Rural Water Programme with new and upgrade proposals listed elsewhere. Expenditure amounted to €2,100,000 under this heading. A total of 28 well grants were processed and 207 licences to connect to the public mains were granted during the year.

The Council has continued to advance the implementation of the water pricing policy and following consultation with the Councillors it was decided to implement the water-metering programme directly by the Council rather than contracting it to the private sector.

There was a further improvement in compliance with drinking water quality standards and also discharges from our municipal effluent treatment plants.

Environment

Environmental Services has continued to expand its area of activity. The following measures were put in place to facilitate delivery of the objectives set out in the plan:-

1. Recycling facilities were upgraded where a need was identified and extra locations were served.
2. An enhanced spring clean operation was delivered involving the provision of temporary Civic Amenity facilities throughout the County.
3. An enforcement team was established and has been successful in delivering 618 on the spot fines and in initiating 17 prosecutions.
4. Longford is the only county in Ireland to have 100% participation from Secondary Schools in the Green School programme and 97% participation from Primary Schools.
5. An information campaign was initiated to inform the commercial and industrial sector of its responsibilities regarding the packaging regulations through seminars and site visits.

6. Derelict Site notices were sent to all identified site owners in Granard and this activity will be extended to other areas.
7. A community support scheme for the upkeep of Cemeteries was initiated and land was purchased for expansion of cemeteries in Granard and Abbeylara.
8. A development plan for Civil Defence was adopted by the Council.
9. The new Ballymahon Fire Station was constructed during the year and approval was received from the Department to invite tenders for the construction of a new Fire Station for Granard.
10. A local food producer received EU accreditation for his production facility.
11. The council participated with the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board in a project to improve a spawning river for the Shannon catchment.

Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy

Core Objectives

- Provide an acceptable standard of affordably priced housing to meet the needs of the people of County Longford.
- Combat social exclusion.
- Consultation with our stakeholders and partners, promote and develop a planned environment where the people of the County can enjoy a meaningful and rewarding quality of life.

Social Housing

A comprehensive Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan for the years 2004 to 2008 was prepared and approved by the SPC and the Council and subsequently by the Department of the Environment. The Plan provides the framework for the integrated and cohesive planning and delivery over the coming years of specific social and affordable housing measures.

Longford County Council's housing programme continued throughout 2004 achieving a record number of starts. There were 136 allocations of tenancies in the year.

Housing Maintenance/Refurbishment

The planned maintenance programme in relation to the replacement of windows and doors continued bringing the housing stock up to a very high standard.

With the assistance of funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government central heating was installed in many of the OPD's throughout the County.

The remaining vacant dwellings at McEoin Park, Longford were refurbished and re-let.

Estate Management

The Housing Liaison Officer continued to work closely with established residents associations and to encourage the establishment and development of new associations. Four new associations were set up during the year. All new tenants participated in a pre-tenancy course. In addition a Tenant Handbook was developed and is to be launched in early 2005. The development of a renewal plan for McEoin Park commenced and is due to finish in 2005. Progress was also made in relation to proposals for the refurbishment of Tromra Road, Granard with a view to having a submission ready for Council and Department approval in 2005.

Voluntary Housing

The Council continue its association with the Voluntary Housing Sector. An €11m scheme was approved by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for Farneyhoogan. Support was provided to The Disabled People of Longford and to The County Longford Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

Affordable Housing

Further affordable housing was provided at Lanesboro and expressions of interest from applicants for affordable housing in other Towns and Villages has been sought.

Loans/Grants

42 loans for house purchase/reconstruction were advanced. 159 applicants received grant aid under the Disabled Persons' and Essential Repairs Grants Scheme.

Homelessness

The Homeless Forum continued to meet which ensured an enhanced level of cooperation in the provision of care by the various statutory authorities and voluntary agencies.

Traveller Accommodation

There was extensive consultation and discussion with all parties interested in the provision of accommodation for Travellers. Towards the end of 2004 the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee reached consensus on a Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan which went on display in accordance with the statutory requirements. The Plan is due to come before the Council in early 2005.

Economic Development, Urban & Rural Renewal, Cultural & Recreation Policies

Core Objective

Promote the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Longford.

Economic Strategy

Significant progress was made in achieving the strategic objective of delivering balanced geographical development through the allocation of sites in business parks in Longford, Granard, Ballymahon and Lanesboro. Construction of the Abbott diagnostic facility, the Panelto food processing plant and the Longford Enterprise Centre commenced during 2004. Planning permission was granted to the Prison Services Headquarters. These developments contribute to providing employment opportunities across a broad sector and reflect Longford County Council's lead role in promoting economic development in co-operation with the state development agencies.

Social

Longford County Council continues to implement the designated disadvantage CLÁR and RAPID programmes. These initiatives are designed to prioritise expenditure under the National Development Plan. The Social Inclusion Measures Working Group of the Longford County Development Board developed proposals for improved cohesion and integrated target plans.

Cultural Services

Longford County Council provides an integrated cultural service incorporating Libraries, Arts, Heritage and Archives in a customer centred manner. The strategic five year Arts Plan was adopted, providing for a balance of cultural events in the vibrant community arts sector. The Library Service in addition to increasing its opening hours continues to engage with all sections of the community in innovative actions.

Sports and Recreation

The important Longford Swimming Pool project was advanced and contract documents were completed. Approval was sought from the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism to proceed to tender stage. Support was provided for a multi agency application to establish a Sports Partnership Forum.

Service Indicators - Longford County Council and Longford Town Council - Year 2004

A & C: Arts and Cultural Service

A & C1 Arts and Cultural Service

	Value
-number of arts grants allocated	38
-total value of arts grants allocated per 1,000 population	1147.48

CP: Community Participation and Cooperation - Your Local Authority

CP.1 Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme

Value
66.67

C: Corporate Issues

C.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through

	Value
- certified leave	1.96
- uncertified leave	0.56

C.2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs

Value
5.92

E: Environmental Services

Water

E.1 Percentage of river channel which is

	Value
(a) Unpolluted	Awaiting EPA returns
(b) Slightly polluted	Awaiting EPA returns
(c) Moderately polluted	Awaiting EPA returns
(d) Seriously polluted	Awaiting EPA returns

E.2 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to

	Value
- public schemes	95.6
- private schemes (where appropriate)	94.3

Fire Service

E.3 Average Time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in

	Value
- full time stations	N/A No full time stations
- part time stations	4.55

E.4 Percentage of attendances at scenes where

	Value
-first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	33
-first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47
-first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	20

E.5 Fire Prevention - Total number of fire certification applications

	Value
-received	54
-processed	44

Waste Management

E.6 Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection

	Value
N/A Service provided by private company	

E.7 Percentage of household waste recycled

Value
44

Waste Management

E.8 Percentage of household waste going to landfill

Value
56

E.9 Recycling facilities

<u>Glass</u>	Value
Number of Bring Sites	25
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1
Total Number of Facilities	26
Number of locations per 5000 of population	4.18
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	48.17

Cans

Number of Bring Sites	25
Total Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1
Total Number of Facilities	26
Number of locations per 5000 of population	4.18
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	2.83

Value

Textiles

Number of Bring Sites	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0
Total Number of Facilities	0
Number of locations per 5000 of population	
N/A no site provided	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	

N/A no site provided

Batteries

Number of Bring Banks	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0
Total Number of Facilities	0
Number of locations per 5000 of population	N/A no site provided
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	N/A no site provided

Oils

Number of Bring Sites	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0
Total Number of Facilities	0
Number of locations per 5000 of population	N/A no site provided

Others

Number of Bring Sites	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1
Total Number of Facilities	1
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.16
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	11

LITTER PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT**E. 10 Litter - Number of Litter Wardens**

	Value
Total number of full-time litter wardens	3
Total number of part-time litter wardens	1
Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5000 population	0.48
Number of on-the spot fines	618
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the spot fines	33
Number of prosecutions secured	17
Percentage of areas within the local authority that are	
-unpolluted (i.e litter-free)	0
-slightly polluted with litter	39.29
-moderately polluted with litter	50
-significantly polluted with litter	5.36
-grossly polluted with litter	5.36

E.11 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

	Value
-total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	781
-number of complaints investigated	781
-number of enforcement procedures taken	223

E. Environmental Services**LITER PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT****E.12 Percentage of Schools participating in environmental campaigns**

	Value
-primary schools	97
-secondary schools	100

H: Housing

H.1 Housing Vacancies

	Value
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	1436
Overall % of dwellings that are let	97.28
Overall % of dwellings that are empty	2.72
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	0
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	90.00
% of empty dwellings available for letting	10.00

H.2 Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks)

Value
1

H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received

Value
89.25

H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:

	Value
-the shared ownership housing scheme (in days)	5
-housing loans (in days)	5
-local authority housing (in days)	35

H.5 Traveller Accommodation

	Value
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	220

L: Library Services

L.1 Public opening hours

	Value
-average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	44.33
-average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	18.7

L.2 Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population

Value
17.91

L.3 Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for

	Value
(a) Books	3.34
(b) Other items	0.13

L..4 Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public

Value
100

L.5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population

Value
555

M: Motor Taxation

M.1: Percentage of Motor tax transactions which

	Value
-are dealt with over the counter	81.05
-are dealt with by post	14.52
-are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	4.43

M.2

	Value
Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	
(a) On the same day	4988
(b) On the third day or less	0
(c) On the fifth day or less	0
(d) Over 5 days	0

% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	
(a) On the same day	100
(b) On the third day or less	0
(c) On the fifth day or less	0
(d) Over 5 days	0

M.2

	Value
% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application	

M.3 Public opening hours

	Value
-average number of opening hours per week	35

P: Planning and Building Control

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

	Value
<u>Individual Houses</u>	
No. of applications determined	718
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	97.36
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	72.33
% of grants	88.86
% of refusals	11.14
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	68.75
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	0
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	31.25
<u>Housing Development</u>	
No. of Applications determined	82
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	98.08
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	80.23
% of grants	89.02
% of refusals	10.98

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

	Value
<u>Housing Development</u>	
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	33.33
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	0
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	66.67
<u>Other: not requiring EIA</u>	
No. of applications determined	149
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	94.96
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	73.67
% of grants	97.32
% of refusals	2.68
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	100
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	0
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

Other: requiring EIA

No. of applications determined	2
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	0
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	76.5
% of grants	100
% of refusals	0
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	100
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	0
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

P.2 Planning Enforcement

	Value
-total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	101
-total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	3
-number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	113
-number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	48
-number of prosecutions	20

P.3 Public opening hours

	Value
-average number of opening hours per week	34.38

P.4 Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (in days)

Value
17.5

P.5 Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority

Value
12

Rec: Recreational Services

Rec.1 Number of Children's playgrounds per 1,000 population

	Value
-directly provided by the local authority	0.03
-facilitated by the local authority	0.03

Rec.2 Number of visitors to local authority facilitated by swimming facilities per 1,000 population

Value
2260

Rev: Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

	Value
(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	89.3

(b) Percentage of arrears

	Value
(i) 4-6 weeks old	6.0
(ii) 6-12 weeks old	10.0
(iii) more than 12 weeks old	78

Rev. 2 Housing Loans

	Value
(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	80.4

(b) Percentage of arrears

	Value
(i) 1 month old	8
(ii) 2-3 months old	2
(iii) more than 3 months old	86

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

	Value
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due	94.7

Rev.4 Refuse Charges

	Value
Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	N/A No refuse charges

Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

	Value
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	55.6

R: Roads

R.1

	Value
Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square meters)	402489
Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum	6.52