

# Contents

■ Foreword – Councillor Frank Kilbride, Mayor .....	2
■ Introduction – Mr Tim Caffrey, County Manager .....	3
■ Members of Longford County Council .....	4
■ Membership of Strategic Policy Committees .....	5
■ Report on the working of Strategic Policy Committees during 2005 .....	6
■ Key Functions .....	8
■ Transportation, Road Development & Maintenance & Road Safety Policies.....	9
■ Water Services and Environmental Policies .....	11
■ Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy .....	20
■ Finance .....	25
■ Economic Development, Urban & Rural Renewal, Cultural & Recreation Policies .....	36
■ Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan .....	55
■ Service Indicators .....	60

Photographs – Longford County Council

Print – Turner Print Group

Translation – Dublin City University

Printed on environmentally friendly, chlorine free, Challenger Offset

## Foreword – Councillor Frank Kilbride – Mayor

It gives me great pleasure as Mayor of County Longford to introduce the Annual Report, which gives an overview of the many activities of the Council in 2005.

The past year continued to see progress in the delivery of roads infrastructure projects with the Edgeworthstown N4 Inner Relief Road under construction and advances made in progressing plans for further improvement to the N4 Edgeworthstown to Longford and the N4 Longford to Rooskey Routes and the N5 Longford By-Pass.

Advances were also made in the Water Services Investment Programme with the commencement of construction on the Clondra Sewerage Scheme in 2005 and Stage 6 of the Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme due to commence in 2006.

Other areas of note include the continued expansion of environmental services and I am delighted to note that Longford is the only County in Ireland with 100% participation from secondary schools in the Green School Programme and 90% participation from Primary Schools.

The Council's continuing delivery of high quality social housing shows its success in dealing with the housing waiting lists. 2005 also saw the commencement of draft-local area plans for Granard and Newtownforbes.

I am delighted that Edgeworthstown District Development Association represented the county in the National Pride of Place Competition. Other welcome developments include the construction of a new Fire Station in Ballymahon and the commencement of a new Fire Station in Granard. I also welcome the provision of a playground in Granard and the significant progression of the Longford Swimming Pool Project and the Longford Broadband Project.

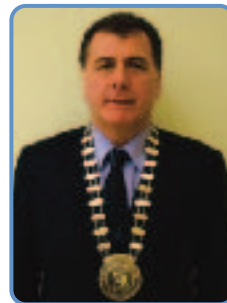
I wish to thank the former County Manager Michael Killeen for his assistance during the earlier part of my term of office. Michael retired in October 2005 and I would like to pay tribute to him for the central role he played in the development of Longford during his 27 years as Manager. I wish him and his wife Eilish many years of happiness in his retirement.

I would like to thank Mr Roger Timlin who took over as County Manager on a temporary basis and all the staff of the Council for the work they carry out to ensure the continued development of Longford. I welcome the appointment of Mr Tim Caffrey as County Manager effective from March 2006.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to my Deputy, Councillor Larry Bannon and to the Members of the Council and the various Strategic Policy Committees for their support and co-operation throughout the year. I am confident that the continued partnership and co-operation between the Management, Staff and the elected members will ensure that the people of Longford will continue to receive a quality service from Longford County Council into the future.

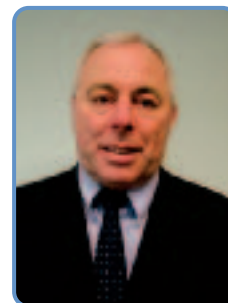


**Frank Kilbride**  
Mayor



## Introduction – Mr Tim Caffrey – County Manager

I am delighted as County Manager to welcome the publication of the 2005 Annual Report for Longford County Council. The Annual Report gives the Council an opportunity to keep the public informed of its achievements and activities during the previous year. It also enables the elected members and the staff to review the Council's performance and to plan further improvement to the services we provide.



Having taking up duty as County Manager in March 2006, I am pleased to note the many achievements of the Council in 2005 as highlighted in this report and in particular its lead role in the economic social and cultural development of the County. I am aware of the many challenges facing the Council throughout all areas of activity. It is important to continue to advance progress on infrastructural projects, particularly in roads and water services, to improve the quality of all our services to the public and to work in partnership with community and voluntary groups to achieve social inclusion and build sustainable communities.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Frank Kilbride and the members and staff of the council for the welcome extended to me since my appointment as County Manager. I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor Mr Michael Killeen for his leadership of the Council over the past 27 years.

I look forward to working with the staff and the elected members in facing the many challenges ahead and in ensuring that Longford continues to develop as an attractive location for people to live in, to invest in and to visit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Tim Caffrey'. The signature is stylized with a large 'T' and 'C'.

**Tim Caffrey**  
**County Manager**  
**Longford County Council**

## Members of Longford County Council

### Electoral Area – Ballymahon



Larry Bannon



Paddy Belton



Mick Cahill



Adrian Farrell



Sean Farrell



Barney Steele

### Electoral Area – Drumlish



Gerry Brady

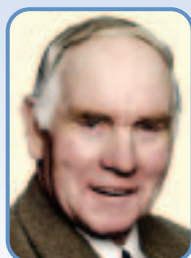


Luie McEntire



Martin Muleady

### Electoral Area – Granard



James Coyle



Martin Farrell



Frank Kilbride



Maura  
Kilbride-Harkin



P.J. Reilly

### Electoral Area – Longford



Seamus Butler



Denis Glennon



Victor Kiernan



Alan Mitchell



Peter Murphy



Michael Nevin



Peggy Nolan

## Membership of Strategic Policy Committees

Housing and Social Policy, Planning and 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 Services and Environmental 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 3 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 Development, Urban and Rural Renewal, Cultural and Recreation 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 Brian Dillon, Longford Chamber of Commerce * Mr Philip Dawson, LD Dance Trust Ltd. Mr Terry McKenna, Ballinamuck Community Enterprise Ltd.

\* Mr Brian Dillon replaced Mr Noel McKiernan as the Longford Chamber of Commerce Representative in 2006.

## Report on Working of the Strategic Policy Committees during 2005

### Transportation, Road Development & Maintenance & Road Safety Policies

The Strategic Policy Committee met on three occasions during 2005 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 days and dates of the meetings were:

- Wednesday 6th April, 2005
- Monday 27th June, 2005
- Monday 24th October, 2005

The main items for discussion and consideration were:

1. Consideration of the key recommendations of the SPC Review Committee.
2. Identification of issues for consideration at future SPC meetings.
3. Prioritisation of national and non-national roads in line with Regional Planning Guidelines and the National Spatial Strategy.
4. Consideration of the Guidelines for the Application of Special Speed Limits.

### Water Services and Environmental Policies

The Water Services and Environmental Strategic Policies Committee met five times during 2005. The S.P.C. considered the following matters and recommendations:

*24th March 2005*

- Welcome Address by Chairman
- Introduction of Members
- Review of Scope and Activities of Directorate
- Statement of Key Policy, Priorities and Concerns
- Schedule of Meetings

*25th April 2005*

- Presentation on Environmental Awareness Programme 2005
- Draft Litter Management Plan 2005
- Draft Presentation of Waste Bye laws 2004
- Statement of Key Policy Areas
- Cemetery Grant Assistance
- Visit to Longford County Council and other Facilities

*27th June 2005*

- Draft Presentation of Waste Bye Laws 2004
- Consideration of Report on County Longford Environmental Forum
- Report on Waste Enforcement – County Longford and Regional Enforcement
- Water Services Capital Programme
- Policy Issues for Future Discussions
- Tour of Civic Amenity Site Facility at Mulleady's Ltd. in Drumlish

*12th September 2005*

- Consideration of Proposed Replacement Waste Management Plan for Midlands Region
- Presentation on Proposed Pride of Longford Competition
- Water Services Investment Programme – Capital and Rural Water Programme Update
- Discussion Paper on Responsibility of Landlords for Waste

*22nd December 2005*

- Survey and Report on Longford County Council Cemeteries 2006 – 2025
- Discussion Paper on Responsibility of Landlords for Waste
- Customer Charter of Service – Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment (non-domestic customers)

## **Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy**

The initial meeting of the new Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy SPC took place on the 25th April 2005. At that meeting dates, times and frequency of meetings were agreed and a draft work plan was also agreed.

Dates of meetings during 2005 were as follows:

- 25th April 2005
- 23rd May 2005
- 27th June 2005
- 18th July 2005
- 26th September 2005
- 24th October 2005
- 28th November 2005

The following is a list of the various issues considered by the Committee in 2005:

- Housing Maintenance & Repairs
- Tenant Handbook
- Estate Management / Tenant Participation
- Housing Options
- Guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing / The County Development Plan
- Anti-Social Behaviour

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

The Strategic Policy Committee met on 4 occasions in 2005. The committee discussed the following issues:

- County Longford Museum Service
- Broadband Proposal
- Clár and RAPID Schemes
- Play Policy
- Rural Housing Guidelines
- Economic Development Policy
- Longford Swimming Pool
- Cultural Services
- Grass Cutting Policy



## Key Functions

The principal services of Longford County Council are now provided within the following Directorate structure. The five Directorates cover the areas of:

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



*County Longford*





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

## Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policies



**Jack Kilgallen**  
Director of  
Services

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 2005 were as follows:****1. National Roads (National Roads Authority Grants):**

	<b>2005</b>
Major Planning & Design:	€ 500,000
Major:	€ 5,000,000
Other Improvement Works:	€ 4,650,000
Supplementary Grant 21/05/'04 (N4):	€ 200,000
Bridge Improvements:	€ 160,000
Maintenance Works:	€ 798,076
Traffic Calming:	€ 635,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Works:	€ 85,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€12,028,076</b>

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

Specific Improvement Works:	€1,570,000
Restoration Improvement Works:	€3,510,000
Restoration Maintenance Works:	€988,000
Discretionary Improvement Works:	€373,000
Discretionary Maintenance Works:	€441,000
LS, LT & NS Lights (Clár):	€154,284
Low-cost Safety Improvement Works:	€143,200
Local Improvement Schemes:	€309,208
Local Improvement Schemes (Clár):	€86,445
Training Programme:	€20,000
Metriation Speed Limits:	€24,378
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€7,619,515</b>

**3. Non-National Roads (Council Contribution):**

€895,000

**TOTAL BUDGET:****€20,542,591**

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

- Part 8 (Planning & Development Regulations, 2001) for Longford N5 Bypass adopted by Council in September last and awaiting approval CPO publication;
- Edgeworthstown Bypass to Route Option Selection stage;
- Edgeworthstown N4 Inner Relief Road under construction;
- Longford to Edgeworthstown N4 Improvement to near-Preliminary Design stage;
- Longford to Rooskey N4 Improvement to Final Route Selection stage, and CPO and EIS confirmed for Northernmost Section in September last;
- 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.



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

## Water Services and Environmental Policies



**Mr Roger Timlin**  
Director of  
Services

## Water Services

**Core Objective:** *Provide environmentally sustainable water services and environmental infrastructure to secure economic and social development and to lobby for increased capital funding.*

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.

### 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 Health Service Executive – Midlands Area 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.

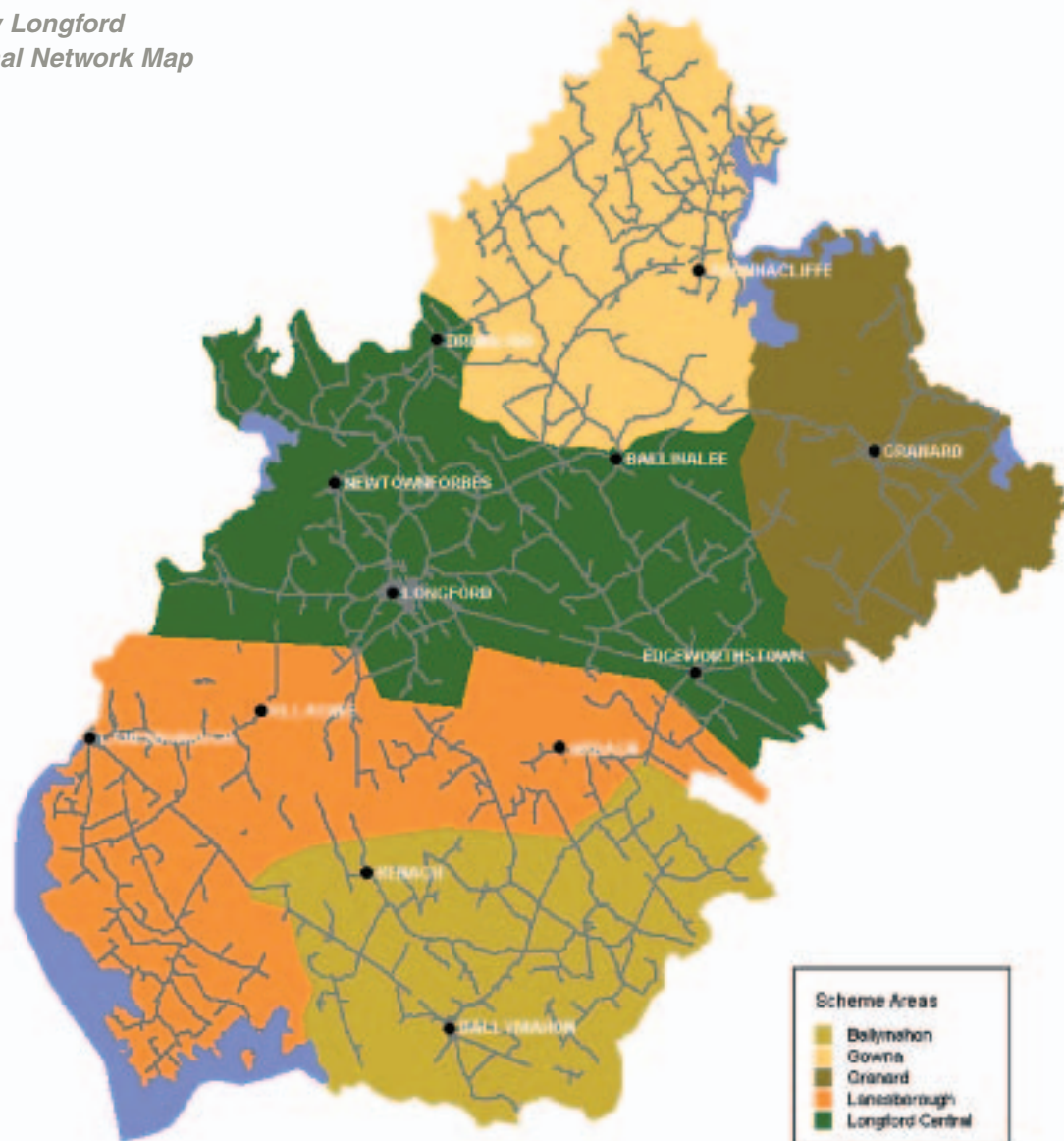
There are nine public sewerage schemes in the County: Ballymahon, Kenagh, Lanesboro, Longford, Newtownforbes, Drumlish, Granard, Edgeworthstown and Legan.

### Achievements of the previous Five Years

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

1. Ballymahon Sewerage Scheme, including Ballymulvey Extension
2. Granard Sewerage Scheme
3. Longford Water Conservation Scheme – Stage 1
4. Longford Town Phosphorus Removal
5. Longford Central RWSS – Stage 6 Advance Works

*County Longford  
Regional Network Map*



## 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

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.

Up to the end of 2005 approximately 70% of Non-Domestic water supply connections in the county were metered.

## Water Services Investment Programme 2004 – 2006

Schemes to start in 2005	Status	Estimated Cost €
Clondra Sewerage Scheme	Completion date June 2006	1,400,000
<b>Schemes to start in 2006</b>		
Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme		
Stage 6 – Reservoir & Pipelines	Contract Documents completed	7,290,000
Water Conservation Stage 2.	To commence in early 2006	4,200,000
Edgeworthstown Sewerage (Nutrient Reduction)	Contract Documents completed	214,000
<b>Schemes to start in 2007</b>		
Drumlish and Newtownforbes Sewerage Schemes	Preliminary Report Approved end 2005	2,900,000
Longford Sewerage Scheme Phase 2	Preliminary Report submitted to DOEHLG	5,500,000
Longford Sludge Management.	Preliminary Report submitted to DOEHLG	1,500,000
<b>Schemes Approved to Complete Planning</b>		
Ballymahon Regional Water Supply Scheme	Consultants appointed	7,500,000
Granard Regional Water Supply Strategic Review	Preliminary Report completed 2005	2,000,000
Longford Central Regional Water Supply	Strategic Review completed 2005	12,000,000
<b>Rural Towns and Villages Initiative</b>		
Ardagh / Ballinalee / Aughnaclyffe Sewerage Scheme	At Contract Document stage	4,000,000
Lanesborough Water Supply Stage 1	At Contract Document stage	1,300,000
<b>Schemes Approved to Enter Planning</b>		
Longford Grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme:		
Abbeylara, Abbeyshrule, Ballinamuck, Barry, Killashee, Ennybegs, Legga, Moydow, Moyne, Newtowncashel, Stonepark and Taghshinny		
	Consultants appointed	2,000,000
Longford Town Sewerage Scheme – Network Review	Preliminary Report submitted to DOEHLG	8,000,000

## 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. In line with the arrangements at national level the committee has representatives from the public and private sectors. The committee is comprised of representatives as follows: Longford County Council staff, Elected Council Members, Longford Group Water Scheme Sector (NFGWS), Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA), Irish Farmers Association (IFA), National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS), Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA).

The Rural Water Programme Engineer, P.J. Gill assisted by Mr John Devine, Rural Water Programme Liaison Officer, have the day-to-day responsibility for the management of the rural water function and responsibility for co-ordinating the work of the Committee and providing the necessary secretarial services.

### Terms of Reference

The Committee 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.
- New and upgrade proposals for Group Water Schemes in 2005 included Lismore, Forgney, Ardagh, Moydow, Castlecore, Fostra, Clonmore-Kilmore, Derawley, Carrickmoira, Lisduff and Barraghmore.

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

The total Longford Block Grant Allocation in 2005 for the various measures under the Rural Water Programme was €2,500,000. This includes an amount of €200,000 in respect of the Taking-in-Charge Programme. The allocation also included Small Water and Sewerage Schemes (€650,000), Private Well Grants (€25,756.92) and Administration Costs (€105,000).

Expenditure on the Rural Water Programme in the year 2005 was in the order of €1.6 million.

## 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.

14



*Ardagh Group Water Scheme: Directional drilling*

## Individual Water Supply Schemes

Longford County Council processed and grant aided a total of 18 well grants in 2005. Grant payments amounted to €25,756.92.

## Water / Sewer Connection Licences

During the year 2005, 199 licences were processed for connections to public sewerage, water and group water schemes. The revenue receipted totalled €644,691.

## 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 available data, 48.6% of all the rivers in Co. Longford are classed as unpolluted. 29.7% of rivers are classed as slightly polluted. 16.2% are classed as moderately polluted and 5.4% are classed as seriously polluted.

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 was ongoing in 2005.

15

### River Basin Management Systems

All the Counties bounding the River Shannon and River Erne are involved in the River District Basin Management Systems. 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 and Erne Catchments from their sources to their respective estuaries.

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 Water Services and Environment Sections. The principal areas of interest are:

- Water pollution monitoring control.
- Monitoring County Council Urban Wastewater Treatment plants.
- Landfill monitoring.

### Litter Management

Enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 – 2003 is one of the key mechanisms in tackling the litter pollution problem in County Longford. Litter Control is conducted primarily by the Council's three Litter Wardens assisted by the Council's Dog Warden and Longford Town Council's own Litter Warden and Traffic Wardens. A Litter Management Plan was adopted by the Council in 2005.

Longford County Council issued 276 “On the Spot” litter fines, an increase of approx. 64% over 2004, and reflects the increasing problem of dumping and fly tipping in modern society.

Anti Litter initiatives, funded by a DoEHLG grant of €11,830 were enacted during 2005 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 €9,070 was distributed to the following organisations:

Longford Tidy Towns Committee	€780
Granard Action Programme	€1,800
Longford Environmental Alliance	€1,110
Kelvin Moore	€900
Gaelscoil Longford	€400
McEoin Park Residents Association	€2,500
School Book Exchange	€500
Drumlish Tidy Towns	€1,080

### Street Sweeping

The Council carried out in 2005 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 litterbins in accordance with the County Longford Litter Management Plan. Total expenditure on street sweeping during 2005 was €292,130.20.

## Waste Management

### Waste Management Plan 2005 –2010

During 2005 the Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region jointly made in 2001 was reviewed by Offaly Co. Council, Laois Co. Council, Longford Co. Council Westmeath Co. Council and North Tipperary Co. Council in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996-2003 and the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations, 1997.

The aim of the Proposed Replacement Plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable management of waste within the five local authority areas and covers all non-hazardous waste arising in the region. The Plan also has regard to the management of hazardous waste in accordance with the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan, prepared by the EPA.

The Proposed Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005-2010 was published in July 2005 and the review process will be completed by early 2006. It is intended that the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005-2010 will be made by early February 2006.

### Provision of Facilities

There are 25 bring banks in County Longford. These accept green, brown and clear glass and aluminium cans.

Over 390 tonnes of glass was collected in 2005 at the bring banks an increase of 100 tonnes over the amount collected in 2004. Approximately, 25 tonnes of aluminium cans was collected in 2005 (17 tonnes in 2004). Overall there was a substantial increase in use in bring facilities in 2005 with a 34% increase in the tonnage of glass collected and a 47% increase in the tonnage of aluminium cans collected on the 2004 tonnage collected.

### Enforcement

Longford County Council have an active Waste Enforcement Team combining both technical and administrative disciplines. The Enforcement Team deal with areas such as Waste Facility Permits, Collection Permits, Packaging Regulations, Farm Plastics and all Unauthorised Waste Activities. During 2005 the Waste Enforcement Team received 742 complaints all of which were investigated and appropriate enforcement actions taken.

Longford County Council's Policy in the area of Waste Management is to increase awareness and improve compliance with Environmental Legislation.

## Environmental Awareness

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

- National Spring Clean
- Green Schools
- Composting
- County Longford Environmental Forum



*Large goods collection at Longford Slashers GFC Car Park, Co. Longford, 8th October 2005*

17

## National Spring Clean

The Council further developed National Spring Clean campaign during 2005. Community cleanups were assisted in 52 areas by Longford County and Town Councils. Approximately 1.14 tonnes of litter was collected. Litter Pickers, gloves, bibs and colour-coded bags were provided for the community cleanups.

Fifteen temporary Civic Amenity Collections were organised during the spring and autumn months and a total of 200 tonnes of waste was collected (up from 89 tonnes in 2004). These took place in Dromard, Edgeworthstown, Granard (twice), Legan, Newtownforbes, Longford (four times) Ballinallee, Ballymahon, Newtowncashel, Lanesboro and Drumlish

## Green Schools

Longford was once again successful in increasing activity in Green Schools. Two additional schools were awarded Green Flags, bringing the total number of schools awarded a green flags to seven. The schools that have received Green Flags during 2005 were:

Name: St. Mary's National School, Newtowncashel, Co. Longford.  
Date of award: 17th May, 2005.

Name: Templemichael College, Templemichael, Longford.  
Date of award: 17th May, 2005.

## Composting

The year 2005 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 750 compost units in 2005. To promote the sale and use of compost units each of the schools received a complimentary composting unit.

## County Longford Environmental Forum

The Council facilitated two meetings during 2005 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 87% incidents / fires within 20 minutes and has a turn out time of less than five minutes.

The Fire Department processed a total of 107 Fire Safety Certificates, 45 Planning Referrals and 28 Court Licence Applications Referrals. Up to 40 inspections of Places of Entertainment and Residential type premises were carried out during 2005.

Four petroleum licences were also issued during 2005.

During 2005 construction of the new Fire Station in Ballymahon was completed and construction commenced on the new Fire Station for Granard. A new Class B appliance for Lanesboro Fire Brigade was procured and approval was sanctioned by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government for a new Class B appliance for Longford Fire Brigade and Road Traffic Accident equipment to a value of €112,000 for use throughout the County. In addition approval was also granted for an articulated tractor unit and two number water tankers.

## Veterinary Services & Food Safety

The main responsibility of the Veterinary Department is in connection with the delivery of 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 1,347 cattle and 5,194 sheep were processed for human consumption in five domestic abattoirs in Co. Longford in 2005. 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 second stand-alone meat manufacturing plant in Longford Town, monitored by Longford County Council, achieved the standard for approval and registration in 2005.

Longford County Council keeps a register of liquid milk plants operating within the functional area of Longford County Council.

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 provides a full time Dog Warden Service in County Longford and operates a dog pound at Little Water Street, Longford. A total number 1654 licences were issued in 2005 together with 43 fines being served under the Control of Dogs Legislation. A total number of 549 strays / unwanted dogs were handled at the County Council dog pound in 2005.

## 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 2005 were:

- Longford Civil Defence started the year by fund raising an amount of €2,100 for victims of the tsunami.
- Advanced First Aid members participated with the health service as ambulance observers during normal duty tours from January to May 2005.
- One of the Advanced First Aiders successfully completed an Instructors Course and is now almost completely qualified to begin Instruction at local level.
- In recognition of services to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Longford Civil Defence were awarded the Hugh Shannon Memorial Trophy.
- Completed National Exercise in Monaghan during May 2005.
- The Warden Service completed a Radio Course in April 2005.
- Regional Flooding Training in Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
- National Boating Exercise hosted by Roscommon Civil Defence on Lough Ree.
- Regional Training Weekend in Mullingar Barracks hosted by Westmeath Civil Defence.
- Three members successfully underwent the Automated External Defibrillator Course in the Civil Defence School in Dublin.
- During October 2005 a presentation of ten and twenty year Service Medals and First Aid Certificates to members was made.
- 51 local community and sporting events attended and assisted by Civil Defence personnel during 2005.

## 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 FÁS to extend its existing Community Employment Scheme during 2005. The Scheme now employs a total of 10 participants. The purpose of the Community Employment Scheme is to maintain and undertake simple improvement schemes in cemeteries.

A survey of the existing graveyard facilities, with a view to drawing up a programme of land acquisition and necessary capital works was completed during 2005. The Survey and Report on Longford County Council Cemeteries 2006 – 2025 was considered by the Water Services & Environment Directorate Strategic Policy Committee during December 2005. The implementation of the recommendations of the Report will ensure that over the next twenty–fifty years County Longford will have an adequate number of burial spaces to meet the needs of the community.

During 2005 Longford County Council continued with the scheme of providing financial support for cemeteries in Co. Longford with 21 parishes / cemetery committees receiving grant assistance towards cemetery maintenance.





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

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



**Mr James Clarke**  
Director of  
Services

## Housing

A comprehensive Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan covering the five years, 2004 to 2008 was approved by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in late 2004. The plans form the basis on which future allocation of housing resources by the Department is based.

### Social Housing Options

In 2005 the Council achieved 47 new starts in the Housing Construction Programme and over €15m 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 2005 there were 102 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 2005 are as follows:

<b>Newtownforbes</b>	Corry Park	22 Family Units (3 bed, 2 storey)
<b>Killashee</b>	Woodlawn	3 Family Units (3 bed bungalow)
<b>Lanesboro</b>	Curraghrua	2 Family Units (3 bed, 2 storey)
<b>Newtownforbes</b>	Woodview	8 OPD (2 bed single storey) 4 Family Units (3 bed semi)

In addition there were eight rural cottages completed in 2005 with families now in their new homes.

During the year new schemes were commenced in Longford, Legan, Drumlish, Ballinamuck, Kenagh, Newtownforbes and Lanesboro with some of the schemes due to come into stock in early 2006.

The statutory assessment of housing needs carried out in May 2005 reflected considerable success by Longford County Council in dealing with housing waiting lists.



*OPD's Woodview, Newtownforbes*



*Social & Affordable houses at  
Corry Park, Newtownforbes*



## Maintenance / Refurbishment

Works on the replacement of windows and doors scheme continued throughout 2005 and by the end of 2005 work on all housing stock in need of this type of refurbishment was near completion.

In addition Longford County Council continued with its programme for central heating installation. The programme will continue into 2006 subject to further funding from Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

The Council is undertaking refurbishment works to reopen the long-term void houses at Pauric Column Heights, Longford. In 2005 three of these houses have been refurbished and allocated to tenants.

## Estate Management

The Housing Liaison Officer and the Social Worker continued to work in the housing area with tenants and groups. The setting up of Residents Associations continued to be encouraged and facilitated. All new tenants were required to undergo a compulsory pre-tenancy course. Earlier in the year a Tenant Handbook was launched. This provides a valuable range of information for tenants and details their responsibility and the Councils' responsibility in relation to maintenance.

A competition for 'Best Kept Estate' took place during the year, which was to encourage residents to take an interest in the appearance of their estate and encourage a sense of community spirit. The competition proved to be a success and awards were presented in September 2005 to the six successful residents associations.

A renewal plan for MacEoin Park / Farnagh commissioned by Longford County Council with the aid of funding under the Housing Management initiative was completed. This plan was approved by Longford County Council and Longford Town Council and has been submitted to the Department.

Consultation has been ongoing with the residents in the Tromra Road, Granard area for a long period and at the end of the year a detailed plan for rejuvenation was under preparation by Cunnane Stratton & Reynolds and should be brought to the Council early in 2006.

21

## Voluntary Housing

The Council acknowledges the contribution of voluntary housing sector in the provision of Social housing under the rental subsidy and capital assistance scheme and continued to encourage further involvement by these bodies. Negotiations continued with a number of bodies in relation to the provision of sheltered housing.

## Affordable Housing

In 2005, 10 Affordable Houses were provided at Newtownforbes. The Council has advertised on a number of occasions to gauge the need for Affordable Housing. It is mainly around Longford Town that a need for Affordable Housing has been identified and this need should be satisfied by the provision of Affordable Housing under Part V.

## Loan applications 2005

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

Loan Type	Applications Received	Approved	Advanced
Shared Ownership	6	4	6
Reconstruction	8	3	4
Annuity	17	14	12
Tenant Purchase	7	9	5
Affordable	107	2	Nil
Caravan	1	1	1

## Disabled Persons' and Essential Repairs Grant

A combined total of 233 applications were received during the year. A total of 175 applicants received grant aid amounting to €619,533.00.

## Homeless Forum

The Homeless Forum established by Longford County Council continued to meet on a quarterly basis in 2005. This ensured an integrated approach in the provision of care by the various statutory and voluntary bodies. A national review of the implementation of the Homeless Strategies and Local Authority's Homeless Action Plans took place in 2005. Longford Homeless Forum participated in this review and the outcome is awaited. Longford Homeless Forum is currently reviewing its own Plan. Provision for accommodation of Homeless Persons in association with Longford Town Council, the Health Service Executive and Saint Vincent de Paul continued throughout 2005.

## Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005-2008 was adopted by Longford County Council in February 2005. It sets out the 4-year strategy in relation to the programme and type of accommodation that is to be provided for Travellers. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on a quarterly basis and monitored the progress achieved in relation to targets set out in the plan.

## Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The Government announced in 2004 a new initiative whereby Local Authorities over a 4 year period, progressively assume responsibility for accommodating Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) rent supplement recipients of 18 months or more continuous duration who have a long term housing need. Roll out has commenced in an initial group of lead authorities Dublin, Galway and Limerick City Councils, South Dublin, Donegal, Offaly / Westmeath County Councils and Drogheda Borough Council. At the end of 2005 Longford County Council was examining the structures that are necessary to commence the project in Longford.

# Planning

The year 2005 was a particularly busy year for the Planning Department. The responsibility, work programme and level of activity of the department continued to expand. Significant activities during 2005 are outlined below together with the Planning Agenda for 2006.

## Planning and Development Control

The Development Control Section is responsible for processing all Planning applications in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

The carry over of the record level of applications (1401) that were received in 2004 due to the Rural Renewal Tax Incentive Scheme, extended well into mid 2005 and beyond the statutory period for determination in early March. This resulted from the combination of time extensions granted and the number and complexity of further information requests made, in respect of what were generally large scale residential and mixed use development proposals. Furthermore, the number of applications received in 2005 was 744, which is comparably higher with that of 2002 and 2003, which had 602 and 727 applications respectively.

A significant addition to the workload in Development Control has, inevitably, arisen from the consequential high number of compliance submissions made in respect of the development projects permitted in relation to the tax incentives operation and other projects permitted in the proceeding years, but which have only this year been commenced. The working time devoted to the assessment and agreement of compliance submissions is expected to continue to be significant through 2006, as completion times for development availing of the tax incentives scheme draws to a close.

Pre-Planning consultations and meetings arising from both requests for further information and planning decisions given have also continued to contribute to the Development Control Workload. Dealing with the registration of quarries under Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, and also the processing and issuing of license applications under Section 254 of the Act, principally for roadside signage, has also been an added feature of the work carried out in the past year compared to previous years.

While the overall level of applications may no doubt see a decline in the coming year compared to 2005, the rate currently being experienced as 2005 ends remains remarkably buoyant and may well continue into the months of 2006.

## Development Contributions

Development contributions are levied in accordance with the scheme adopted by the Council in March 2004 under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. Each grant of planning permission contains a condition requiring the payment of a relevant development contribution but these only become payable if and when the development commences. There are many cases where permissions granted have been superseded by alternative permissions on the same site and where permissions granted have not yet been activated. This can sometimes give an inaccurate impression of the amount actually due and owing to the local authority.

On the basis of commencement notices received in the year 2005, the total amount of contributions due for individual rural houses is €1,285,381 and for large commercial, industrial and residential schemes is €4,812,167. Facilities are available for the phased payment of contributions for larger developments where necessary. The total collected amounted to €1,802,972.

Monies have been expended on capital works at, Granard Playground (€47,575), Aughnaclyffe Amenity (€25,000), Abbeyshrule Abbey Restoration (€29,919).

## Forward Planning

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of all Development Plans and initiatives. In relation to this, the following activities are noteworthy:

### Longford County Development Plan, 2003-2009

In 2005 a Material Variation of the Longford County Development Plan was made and duly adopted. The variation is effective from January 2006 and relates to the N4 Longford to Drumsna Road and the N5 Longford Bypass. Various other Material Variations of the County Development Plan are proposed and will be available for public consultation in early 2006.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the County Development Plan is scheduled for 2006. It is also envisioned that preparative work for the review of the County Development Plan, due in 2007, will take place.

## Local Area Plans and Village Policy Statements

Local Area Plans facilitate the planned growth of established towns and villages, through which development can sufficiently and appropriately support existing communities particularly in rural areas.

The following Draft Local Area Plans were agreed in December 2005 and will be available for public consultation and invitations of submissions in early 2006:

- Draft Granard Local Area Plan
- Draft Newtownforbes Local Area Plan

The forward planning schedule includes several Local Area Plans and Village Policy Statements for 2006. These will be prepared in line with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and shall include extensive public consultation. In early 2006, the following draft plans will be put forward for agreement with the Council and accordingly will then become available for public consultation:

- Draft Drumlish Local Area Plan
- Draft Edgeworthstown Local Area Plan
- Draft Ardagh Village Policy Statement

It is hoped that several other Local Area Plans and Village Policy Statements will be available throughout 2006.

## 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, thus helping to implement the guidelines on Sustainable Rural Housing.

## Urban and Village Renewal

Longford County Council has had marked success in the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme. The Urban and Village Renewal Programme forms part of the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and is supported by the European Union Regional Development Fund. The scheme is a prime example of the Council's commitment to make Longford a better place to work, live and visit. Not only has the scheme greatly improved the visual appearance of places but will potentially provide clear economic benefits and viability to a number of towns and villages in the County.

Works completed on the Urban and Village Renewal scheme in 2005 included footpaths and environmental improvement works at Drumlish, Granard, Abbeyshrule, Ballymahon and Longford Town. During 2005, Longford County Council spent the sum of €575,599 in relation to Urban and Village Renewal Schemes in County Longford. Work is now underway on plans for the 2006 allocation and the Council is committed to pursuing these projects with the same optimism and expectations that have marked planning and progress to date.



*Environmental Improvement works in Drumlish*

## Amenity Projects and Community Development

The Community Development Officer has been actively involved in amenity schemes and development at a community level. The Playground in Granard is one such example completed in 2005. Support for community based projects and initiatives will continue in 2006.



*The Playground at Granard*

## Enforcement and Building Control

During 2005, the Council adopted a very active role in the area of enforcement. A total of 105 cases came to the attention of the Council during 2005. During the year the Council issued 56 warning letters and 48 enforcement notices. Legal proceedings were commenced on 11 cases. The majority of the remaining cases were settled to the satisfaction of the Council.

In 2005, 152 building control inspections were carried out. Compliance with 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.

25

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 2005, as follows:

#### Longford County Council

Total number of late payments in excess of €317 each	25
Total value of late payments in excess of €317 each	€1,016,421.78
Value of all late payments as a proportion of total payments to suppliers	1.4053%
Total amount of interest penalties	€7393.98
Average delay in late payments	56 days

#### Promotion of Interest of the Local Community

Expenditure in respect of the Promotion of Interest of the Local Community amounted to €29,391 in 2005. There was no income under this heading in 2005.

#### Longford Town Council

No interest penalties were paid in 2005.

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 2005 / 2006:

Number of new awards issued	84
Number of renewals issued	237
Total number of students in receipt of Higher Education Grants	321
Total amount of fees paid	€290,682.00
Total amount of maintenance paid	€1,014,791.50
Number of students attending Irish colleges	311
Number of students attending UK colleges (including Northern Ireland)	10



## Motor Tax

The Motor Taxation Office issues vehicle licences (tax discs), driving licences and associated documents such as certificates of roadworthiness, vehicle licensing certificates, trailer licence cards, receipts, etc. The income derived is transferred to the Local Government Fund, which is under the control of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

In 2005 total receipts amounted to €5,976,008.

### Breakdown of Motor Taxation Income – 2005

	No. of Transactions	Amount €
Vehicle Licences	28,697	5,723,434
Driver Licences	4,285	6,555
Road Worthiness Certificates	2,400	17,995
Trade Licences	78	20,701
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,857	147,323
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,317</b>	<b>5,976,008</b>

### Vehicle Licences Issued – 2005

Private	22,554
Goods	4,245
Cycles	121
Tractors	1,088
PSV	175
Other (incl. duplicates)	514

### Driving Licences Issued – 2005

1 Year Driving Licence	43
3 Year Driving Licence	477
10 Year Driving Licence	1,488
1 Year Provisional	531
2 Year Provisional	1,746

In addition 2,841 vehicle licences were issues by the Motor Tax Online Service during 2005. Those discs are issued directly from the Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon, Co Clare.

New vehicle registrations are administered by the Vehicle Registration Office (Revenue Commissioners) with 1553 new vehicles registered for Longford in 2005.

### Motor Taxation Service Indicators – 2005

**M1** Percentage of Motor Tax transactions which are dealt with:

- over the counter = 79.13%
- are dealt with by post = 13.52%
- are dealt with on-line = 7.35%

**M2** Number of postal applications dealt with (issued) from receipt of the application:

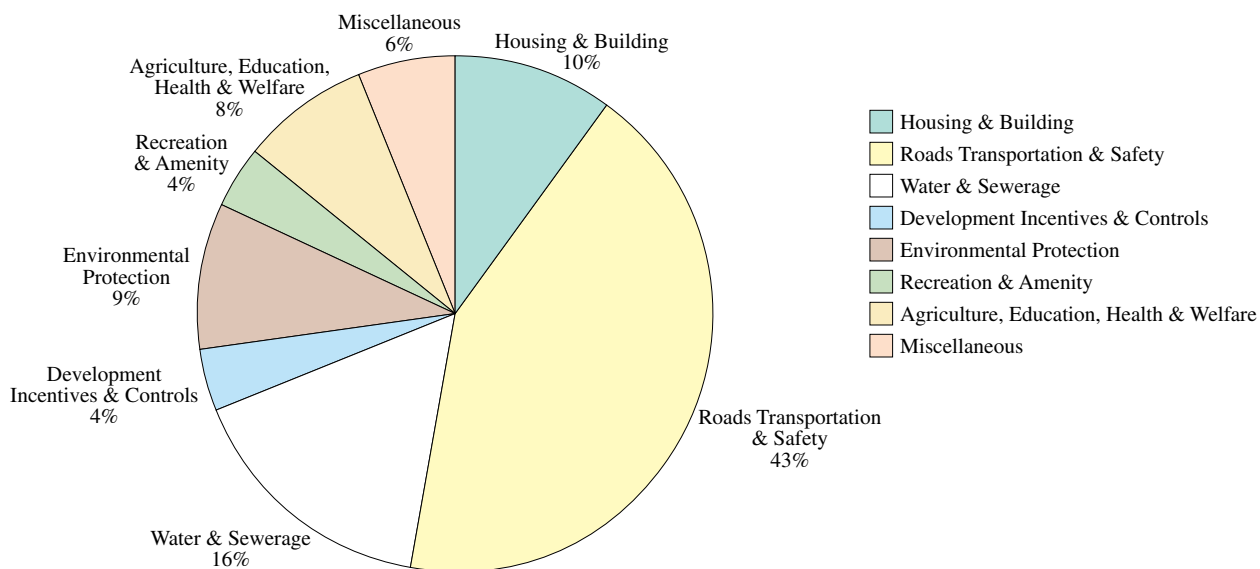
- On the same day = 5103
- On the third day or less = 0
- On the fifth day or less = 0
- Over 5 days = 0

% of overall applications dealt with (issued) from receipt of the application:

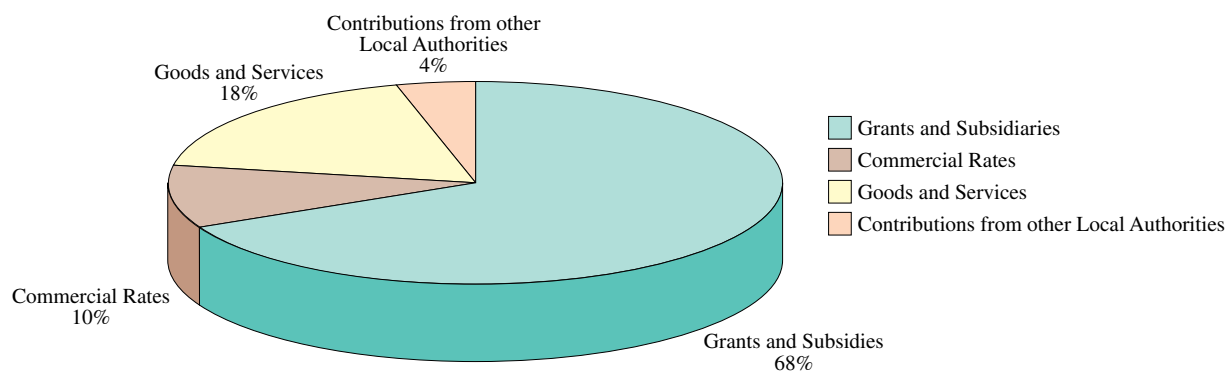
- On the same day = 100%
- On the third day or less = 0%
- On the fifth day or less = 0%
- Over five days = 0%

**M3** Public opening hours = 35 hours per week (9.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday)

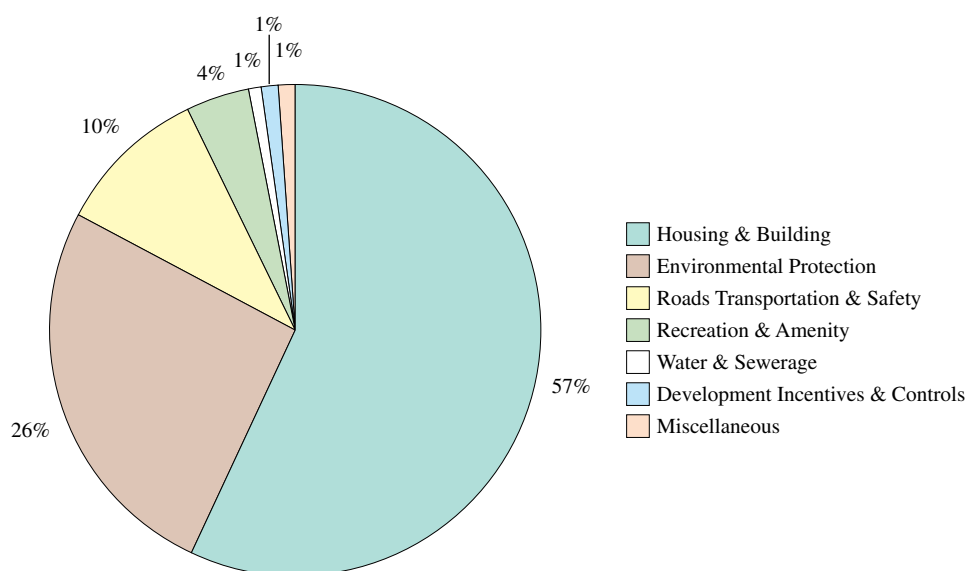
## Revenue Expenditure



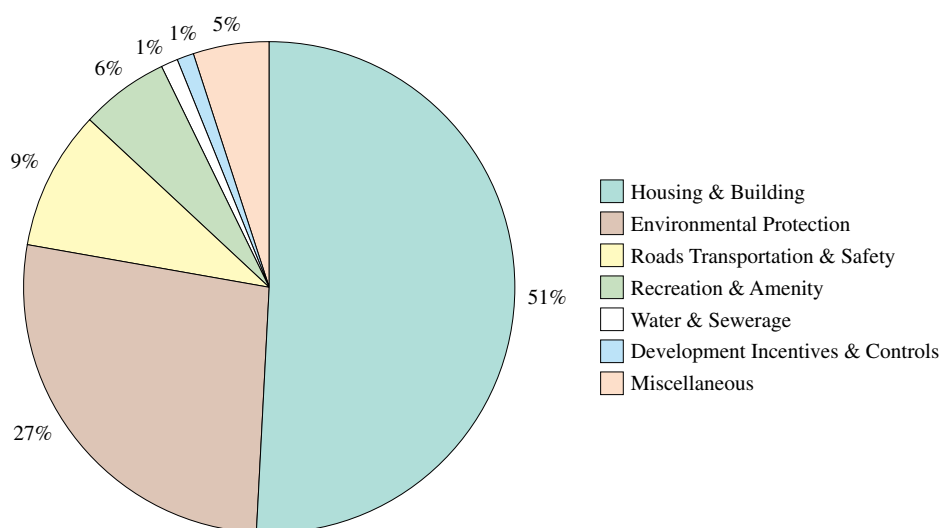
## Sources of Revenue Income



## Capital Expenditure



## Capital Income



# Local Authority House Completions and Acquisitions 2000–2004

	Completions					Acquisitions					Total
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
<b>County Councils</b>											
Cork	214		179	113	303	114	111	87	60	113	1,548
Donegal	84		210	176	181	15	28	11	5	13	1,323
Wexford	143		132	191	144	16	26	21	9	21	1,042
Kerry	94		167	81	169	8	4	6	1	55	843
South Dublin	33		147	86	140	61	55	15	3	20	778
Fingal	107		51	26	107	11	30	5	0	0	734
Louth	94		103	72	90	21	25	6	2	44	714
Kildare	99		118	61	179	25	13	7	27	11	682
Cavan	78		67	37	93	4	27	4	2	4	677
Wicklow	126		115	70	122	10	45	25	4	5	650
Meath	83		139	54	164	7	6	4	5	1	638
Galway	71		81	83	113	6	13	22	14	26	558
Laois	33		48	48	107	20	21	9	3	21	540
Sligo	53		25	50	68	20	40	22	15	33	535
Limerick	69		57	36	58	21	30	14	4	15	520
Westmeath	81		4	100	39	22	40	10	1	25	504
<b>Longford</b>	<b>44</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>484</b>
Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown	132		38	11	63	19	35	26	4	1	448
Offaly	78		65	59	61	13	12	11	3	11	436
Waterford	48		65	48	50	9	22	0	0	19	428
North Tipperary	38		50	13	71	10	17	4	2	10	420
Mayo	82		102	114	108	3	2	0	1	2	416
Clare	73		104	20	71	8	34	55	19	53	412
South Tipperary	75		78	62	56	6	0	5	0	10	409
Carlow	56		39	34	99	5	19	18	6	16	374
Monaghan	26		9	50	104	6	16	9	13	5	337
Kilkenny	26		33	38	70	17	13	16	9	40	320
Roscommon	34		13	18	36	10	18	11	4	5	307
Leitrim	38		30	32	53	2	4	5	0	2	255
<b>City Councils</b>											
Dublin	143	311	500	531	278	361	505	180	157	219	3,185
Cork	102	69	148	62	172	106	95	24	53	109	940
Galway	56	47	77	320	25	4	5	0	0	9	543
Waterford	49	21	156	164	26	1	26	3	1	0	447
Limerick	35	153	13	16	32	11	19	16	17	26	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>3,622</b>	<b>4,403</b>	<b>4,516</b>	<b>3,539</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>22,785</b>

# Total Non National Road Grant Allocations Notified to Local Authorities

Excluding Local Improvement Scheme and other miscellaneous items 2005–2006

	Km	2004	Per Km	2005	Per Km	% Change
<b>County Councils</b>						
Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown	596	8,901,296	14,935	9,205,000	15,445	3%
South Dublin	708	14,170,464	20,015	10,290,069	14,534	(27%)
Kildare	2,086	27,606,720	13,234	26,839,606	12,866	(3%)
Meath	2,906	29,429,220	10,128	29,764,921	10,244	1%
Wicklow	1,964	12,322,095	6,274	17,803,000	9,065	44%
Offaly	1,838	8,442,548	4,593	13,952,000	7,591	65%
Fingal	954	9,360,432	9,812	7,225,389	7,574	(23%)
Louth	1,147	6,534,192	5,697	7,440,500	6,487	14%
Carlow	1,106	5,933,072	5,364	6,962,000	6,295	17%
Monaghan	2,366	13,296,076	5,619	14,300,000	6,044	8%
Donegal	5,996	26,302,155	4,387	35,399,000	5,904	35%
Cavan	2,858	14,588,225	5,105	15,635,000	5,471	7%
<b>Longford</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>7,069,578</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>7,748,600</b>	<b>5,451</b>	<b>10%</b>
Leitrim	2,109	9,613,026	4,559	11,180,000	5,302	16%
Laois	1,946	8,311,234	4,272	9,919,000	5,098	19%
Westmeath	1,997	8,220,961	4,116	10,154,000	5,084	24%
Wexford	3,197	14,173,051	4,433	16,074,000	5,028	13%
Waterford	2,481	10,146,627	4,089	12,343,000	4,975	22%
Limerick	3,392	15,365,246	4,530	16,859,000	4,971	10%
Sligo	2,549	10,434,662	4,093	12,444,000	4,882	19%
Kerry	4,220	17,608,128	4,172	20,595,500	4,880	17%
Clare	3,905	16,845,333	4,314	18,942,000	4,851	12%
South Tipperary	2,700	10,531,110	3,900	12,879,500	4,770	22%
Galway	6,055	24,163,573	3,990	28,788,604	4,754	19%
North Tipperary	2,454	9,520,405	3,880	11,175,000	4,555	17%
Kilkenny	2,850	10,864,021	3,812	12,920,500	4,534	19%
Cork	11,582	40,710,561	3,515	50,501,500	4,360	24%
Mayo	5,767	20,150,208	3,494	24,417,500	4,234	21%
Roscommon	4,000	12,861,484	3,215	15,254,000	3,813	19%
<b>City Councils</b>						
Limerick	162	4,258,846	26,241	4,220,122	26,002	(1%)
Waterford	146	9,268,688	63,397	3,773,142	25,808	(59%)
Cork	363	6,570,037	18,114	7,360,000	20,292	12%
Dublin	1,134	14,442,957	12,732	14,523,816	12,803	1%
Galway	194	2,083,155	10,743	2,203,000	11,362	6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>460,099,386</b>		<b>519,092,269</b>		

# Local Government Fund Allocation 2005–2006

			Change	Census	Per Head of Population	
	2005	2006	%	2002	2005	2006
<b>County Councils</b>						
<b>Longford</b>	<b>12,353,407</b>	<b>13,296,084</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>24,237</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>549</b>
Leitrim	13,042,453	14,128,356	8.3%	25,799	506	548
South Tipperary	19,789,995	21,576,779	9.0%	50,891	389	424
Sligo	15,133,048	16,617,403	9.8%	39,727	381	418
Waterford	18,899,048	20,618,871	9.1%	49,732	380	415
North Tipperary	16,411,968	17,775,415	8.3%	45,878	358	387
Roscommon	19,269,608	20,646,920	7.1%	53,774	358	384
Mayo	32,398,200	34,973,227	7.9%	92,367	351	379
Carlow	10,678,407	11,791,970	10.4%	32,796	326	360
Monaghan	13,259,787	14,363,459	8.3%	41,479	320	346
Cavan	16,804,354	18,075,814	7.6%	53,008	317	341
Donegal	35,733,005	38,547,272	7.9%	124,512	287	310
Westmeath	18,091,526	19,562,134	8.1%	64,504	280	303
Offaly	13,520,069	14,662,707	8.5%	49,803	271	294
Laois	15,968,396	17,019,082	6.6%	58,774	272	290
Kilkenny	17,857,370	19,226,389	7.7%	71,748	249	268
Kerry	23,495,997	25,497,932	8.5%	96,476	244	264
Wicklow	17,499,710	18,791,404	7.4%	71,446	245	263
Louth	11,492,694	12,083,486	5.1%	46,103	249	262
Galway	32,589,234	35,296,907	8.3%	137,261	237	257
Meath	23,796,716	26,089,431	9.6%	126,630	188	206
Wexford	19,099,527	20,163,308	5.6%	98,573	194	205
Limerick	22,470,206	24,160,987	7.5%	121,281	185	199
Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown	34,804,777	36,832,637	5.8%	191,792	181	192
Clare	14,040,299	14,741,484	5.0%	81,748	172	180
Cork	49,139,575	51,554,596	4.9%	288,113	171	179
Kildare	21,826,897	23,893,115	9.5%	139,607	156	171
Fingal	28,860,836	30,317,184	5.0%	196,413	147	154
South Dublin	23,404,826	24,638,923	5.3%	238,835	98	103
<b>City Councils</b>						
Limerick	10,348,435	10,932,934	5.6%	54,023	192	202
Cork	22,014,342	24,190,814	9.9%	123,062	179	197
Dublin	87,257,583	92,187,394	5.6%	495,781	176	186
Waterford	7,509,937	8,030,490	6.9%	44,594	168	180
Galway	8,310,087	8,765,669	5.5%	65,832	126	133



## Income and Expenditure Account Statement for the year ended 31st December 2005

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

	Gross Expenditure € 2005	Income Income € 2005	Net Expenditure € 2005	Net Expenditure € 2004
<b>Expenditure by Programme Group</b>				
Housing & Building	3,700,942	3,464,097	236,846	(79,396)
Roads Transportation & Safety	13,196,882	9,329,623	3,867,259	3,636,268
Water & Sewerage	5,679,824	2,312,015	3,367,810	2,549,523
Development Incentives & Controls	1,844,743	815,046	1,029,697	11,251
Environmental Protection	4,266,401	868,990	3,397,411	2,930,821
Recreation & Amenity	1,731,488	251,110	1,480,378	1,380,455
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	2,879,440	2,387,981	491,459	453,321
Miscellaneous	2,238,298	836,043	1,402,255	1,151,439
<b>Total Expenditure / Income</b>	<u>35,538,019</u>	<u>20,264,905</u>		
<b>Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government Fund</b>			<b>15,273,114</b>	12,033,682
Rates			3,746,626	2,782,237
Local Government Fund – General Purpose Grant			12,508,061	11,266,561
County Charge			1,106,400	678,400
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>2,087,973</b>	2,693,516
<b>Transfer to / from Reserves</b>			(2,374,535)	(1,525,169)
<b>Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>(286,562)</b>	1,168,347
<b>General Reserve at 1 January 2005</b>			1,527,470	359,123
<b>General Reserve at 31 December 2005</b>			<u><b>1,240,908</b></u>	<u>1,527,470</u>

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Operational		113,664,524	107,498,942
Infrastructural		860,755,212	864,314,080
Community		184,296	107,116
Non Operational		9,630,609	11,601,858
		<u>984,234,641</u>	<u>983,521,996</u>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>		<b>29,473,515</b>	<b>17,657,617</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>		<b>27,814,107</b>	<b>27,878,404</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stock		71,108	62,566
Trade Debtors and Prepayments		5,629,385	5,625,665
Bank Investments		8,600,036	5,300,000
Cash at Bank		0	0
Cash on Hand		124,968	575,737
Urban Account		0	0
		<u>14,425,496</u>	<u>11,563,968</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Bank Overdraft		2,764,667	592,302
Creditors and Accruals		5,172,154	4,287,519
Finance Leases		0	0
		<u>7,936,821</u>	<u>4,879,821</u>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>		<b>6,488,675</b>	<b>6,684,147</b>
<b>Creditors – Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			
Loans Payable		36,089,807	37,220,184
Finance Leases		0	0
Refundable Deposits		482,146	425,904
Other		0	0
		<u>36,571,953</u>	<u>37,646,088</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>1,011,438,985</u></b>	<b><u>998,096,076</u></b>
<b>Financed By</b>			
Capitalisation Account		984,234,641	983,521,996
Income Work in Progress		31,037,961	21,199,203
Specific Revenue Reserve		17,750	17,750
General Revenue Reserve		1,240,908	1,527,470
Other Balances		(5,092,275)	(8,170,343)
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1,011,438,985</u></b>	<b><u>998,096,076</u></b>

## Notes to and Forming Part of the Accounts

### Fixed Assets

<b>Costs</b>	<b>Land €</b>	<b>Parks €</b>	<b>Housing €</b>	<b>Buildings €</b>	<b>Plant &amp; Machinery Long &amp; Short Life €</b>	<b>Computers, Furniture &amp; Equipment €</b>	<b>Heritage €</b>	<b>Roads Network €</b>	<b>Water &amp; Sewerage Network €</b>	<b>Total €</b>
Accumulated Costs at 1 January 2005	7,754,080		98,612,271	11,364,402	1,936,401	214,278	74,225	720,004,000	206,378,547	1,046,338,205
Additions										
Purchases	910,455		2,210,563		197,224	117,853				3,436,094
Transfers WIP		96,475	6,334,769							6,431,244
Disposals	(2,911,453)		(2,369,349)							(5,280,802)
Revaluations										
Accumulated Costs at 31 December 2005	5,753,081	96,475	104,788,254	11,364,402	2,133,625	332,131	74,225	720,004,000	206,378,547	1,050,924,741
<b>Depreciation</b>										
Accumulated Depreciation at 1 January 2005					655,190	92,553			62,068,467	62,816,209
Provision for year		19,295			230,899	64,828			3,558,868	3,873,891
Disposals										
Accumulated Depreciation at 31 December 2005	0	19,295	0	0	886,089	157,381	0	0	65,627,335	66,690,100
<b>Net Book Value at 31 December 2005</b>	5,753,081	77,180	104,788,254	11,364,402	1,247,536	174,751	74,225	720,004,000	140,751,212	984,234,641
<b>Net Book Value at 31 December 2004</b>	7,754,080	0	98,612,271	11,364,402	1,281,212	121,726	74,225	720,004,000	144,310,080	983,521,996
<b>Net Book Value by Category</b>										
Operational	1,166,181		104,788,254	6,287,802	1,247,536	174,751				113,664,524
Infrastructural								720,004,000	140,751,212	860,755,212
Community	32,892	77,180					74,225			184,296
Non-Operational	4,554,009			5,076,600						9,630,609
<b>Net Book Value at 31 December 2005</b>	5,753,081	77,180	104,788,254	11,364,402	1,247,536	174,751	74,225	720,004,000	140,751,212	984,234,641



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



**Mr Frank Sheridan**  
Director of  
Services

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

### Longford County Development Board

There are 29 members on the Board drawn from four sectors and are as follows:

#### Local Government (7 members)

Cllr. Alan Mitchell, Chairperson of the Board, Cllr. Maura Kilbride-Harkin, Cllr. Martin Farrell, Cllr. Barney Steele, Cllr. Adrian Farrell, Longford County Council. Cllr. 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 Síochána), Ms Frances Flynn (Midland East Regional Tourism), Ms Gillain Monsell (IDA Ireland), Mr Simon Cavanagh (Enterprise Ireland), Mr Larry Bane (Health Service Executive), Mr Denis Galvin (Department of Social Welfare), Mr Gerry Johnston (FÁS), 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 Edith Durojaiye, Mr Parvez Ahmed Butt (Community & Voluntary Sector), Mr James Brady (Farming Sector), Vacant (Business Sector).

## Review of the Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Longford

### Purpose of the Review

The Way Forward is a ten-year agreed Strategy, which sets out the overall priorities for the county. The Strategy and Implementation Plan remains the guiding documents of the CDB.

In January 2005, the department requested all City and County Development Boards to review their 10-year strategies. In particular, this review should result in:

- The selection of a limited number of key priorities and actions on which the CDB will concentrate over the following three years
- A focus on integrative actions aimed at a more joined-up approach to local service delivery involving relevant agencies: and
- A clearly defined implementation work programme for 2006-2008

### Process of Preparing the Review

The Board agreed a work plan, outlining the approach and methodology of undertaking the Review. The Review was carried out internally based on consultation with CDB members and others through one-on-one consultations and a special planning workshop held in November 2005.

A review document of implementation to date for each section of the Strategy, economic, social and culture was prepared. This document identified what has been achieved, non-starters and areas requiring further progress in the future. The breakdown of actions is as follows:

#### **Economic Section**

- Total Actions – 227
- Achieved / Ongoing – 195

#### **Culture / Sport & Recreation Section**

- Total Actions – 123
- Achieved / Ongoing – 102

#### **Social Section**

- Total Actions – 467
- Achieved / Ongoing – 400

**Of the combined actions of 817, 697 are achieved or ongoing.**

### **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.

### **Improving Local and Community Development Structures and Programmes – Proposals for Improved Cohesion**

In 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 Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIMWG) to address this issue. In early 2005 a cohesion submission was forwarded to the Department and funding of €74,000 was approved in November 2005. This funding will be allocated to a number of projects.

In September 2005 a further call for proposals for improved Cohesion and proposals under volunteering was requested. A submission was prepared by the local development agency in conjunction with the SIMWG and endorsed by the County Development Board. No funding was approved to date.

### **Longford Community & Voluntary Forum**

The Community and Voluntary Sector is one of the Social Partners and is represented on the County Development Board by 2 members. 144 organisations throughout the county are affiliated to Longford's Community & Voluntary Forum. A democratically elected Umbrella Forum of 31 members operates as a Steering Group at County level and fulfils a key link between the Board and the wider community. The steering group held 10 meetings in 2005.

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

Chairperson	Harry Farrell
Vice Chair	John Channon
Secretary	Patricia Rouiller
Treasurer	Nini Stevenson
Public Relations Officer	Pavrez Ahmed Butt

#### **Members of the Steering Group are nominated onto the following structures:**

- Longford County Development Board.
- County Childcare Committee
- Regional Drugs Taskforce
- Strategic Policy Committees of the Local Authority

- Longford Community Resources Ltd
- Co. Longford Youth Service
- Citizens Information Service
- County Heritage Forum

The Community and Enterprise Section resources and supports the Community and Voluntary Forum. The section, also, maintains a database of registered Community and Voluntary organisations in the County. Since September 2005, Longford County Council has employed a full time Support Worker to work with the Forum.

### Post Primary Principals' Forum

The Post Primary Principals' Forum facilitated by the Department of Community & Enterprise held a meeting on the 20th of April 2005.

Areas addressed were as follows:

- Special Needs
- Domestic Violence

### Comhairle na nÓg

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 Rugby Club on Saturday the 10th December and was organised in conjunction with Foróige. Young people, aged between 12-17 years old from around the county participated on the day.

The issues discussed on the day included the environment, migration and interculturalism, youth facilities and drugs and alcohol misuse. The participants spent a considerable amount of time discussing and debating the issues with a number of very clear recommendations arising from the day. These included 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 number to report sightings of illegal dumping and integration opportunities for non-nationals within the wider community.

On the day four young people were elected to represent Longford at Dáil na nÓg, on March 25th 2006 in Dublin. The four successful candidates nominated are as follows: Síona Cahill, Michael Cunningham, Daphne Howard and Jennifer Rogers. Dáil na nÓg offers democratically elected young people from across the country the opportunity to discuss and debate the issues they feel are a priority for government and have their questions answered by the adults whose job it is to listen and to make Longford and the entire country a better place for everyone in which to live, work and play. It was agreed democratically that the two themes the delegation are to bring forward for discussion at Dáil na nÓg are "Youth Facilities" and "Education Disadvantage".

### Comhairle na nÓg Participants



*Front Row: Síona Cahill, Carrickedmond, Cait Farrell, Carrickedmond, Michelle Lally, Longford, Jennifer Rogers, Moyvore, Alma Hussey, Longford. Middle Row: Daphne Howard, Longford, Ashley Dennigan, Lanesboro, Aoife Dempsey, Longford, Amy Toolan, Curraghroe. Back Row: Andrew Gorman, Longford, Deirdre Leavy, Tarmonbarry, Aaron Casey, Killashee, Sheena Cassidy, Ballinamuck and Michael Cunningham, Carrickedmond. Picture by Willie Farrell.*



## Longford Representatives for Dáil na nÓg, March 25th 2006



*Daphne Howard, Longford, Michael Cunningham, Carrickedmond, Jennifer Rogers, Moyvore and Síona Cahill, Carrickedmond. Picture by Willie Farrell.*

## National Pride of Place Competition

The aim of the "Pride of Place" competition is to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing vibrant sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for all. Edgeworthstown District Development Association represented County Longford in the National Competition this year. They were judged on Wednesday the 8th of June. A presentation was given highlighting the projects undertaken by the community for example the running of a sectional childcare service, after school clubs, recreational and amenity facilities, back to education courses etc as well as the historical aspects of the area and most importantly the commitment and planning of the members of the development association and the community of Edgeworthstown. The judges were very impressed and got a real sense of the commitment, co-operation and pride of place that exists in Edgeworthstown. The national awards ceremony was held in Belfast City Hall in October.

## 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 2005 the Clár programme has delivered additional monies to support numerous projects in the Clár areas.

## RAPID

RAPID is the Revitalisation of Areas through Planning, Investment and Development; all of Longford town was selected for this programme. The Area Implementation Team (AIT) oversees this social inclusion programme locally and the Department of Community, Rural Gaeltacht Affairs directs the programme nationally. The AIT consists of statutory agencies; Development agencies that have a service remit in the town as well as community representatives. RAPID received funding of €100,000 for estate enhancement for 2005-2006; the programme also received funds for traffic calming measures and playground facilities. The HSE also received funding to the sum of €80,000.

## Corporate Services

### Freedom of Information

#### Freedom of Information Requests 2005

A total of 10 FOI requests (8 Non-Personal and 2 Personal) were received during 2005 from a mixed source of business, journalists and the general public. There were no appeals internally or externally to the Information Commissioner.

#### Freedom of Information Manuals

During the year the Section 16 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford County Council was published and made available to elected members and to staff on the Council's Intranet.

The Section 15 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford Town Council was, also, published during 2005 and made available to the elected members of the Town Council and to staff on the Council's Intranet. The Section 16 Freedom of Information Manual for Longford Town Council was, also, prepared during 2005.

### 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 2005 / 2006 Register of Electors were as follows in February, 2005:

<i>Local Electoral Areas</i>	<i>No. of Electors</i>
Ballymahon	8,104
Drumlish	3,811
Granard	6,262
Longford	9,844
<b>Total:</b>	<b>28,021</b>

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. The Edited Register contains only the names of persons who have no objection to their names being used for purposes other than an electoral or other statutory purposes. The statutory position since the 1st of November 2004 is that it is an offence to use details on the full Register for anything other than an electoral or other statutory purposes.

### Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

The following activities aimed at ensuring the Safety Health and Welfare at Work of Council Staff were carried out in 2005:

- A full-time Health and Safety Advisor was recruited.
- The Safety Management Committee met quarterly in 2005.
- Safety Monitoring Committees in the various directorates met at regular intervals throughout the year.
- The Corporate Safety Statement was approved and copies made available to all staff.
- A number of site visits inspections were carried out by Health and Safety Authority Inspectors during the year.
- Fire Wardens were appointed from among the staff and fire drills were carried out in the Council Offices at Aras an Chontae, Camlin Court and Library Headquarters.

## Sport and Leisure

### Play Policy

On the recommendation of the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development, Urban and Rural, Renewal Cultural and Recreational Policies. Longford County Council adopted a Play Policy at its monthly meeting of October 2005. The Council agreed to work in partnership with local communities and to assist with the identification and the provision of land appropriate for public playgrounds play areas.

During 2005 Longford County Council worked with North Longford Community Playground Group in developing a proposal to provide a Playground in Granard with the aid of a grant application of €49,000 from the National Children's Office with Longford County Council providing the remaining major part of the funds for the project. The new playground was provided in Granard and officially opened by Mayor Maura Kilbride-Harkin on the 29th June 2005.

### Longford Swimming Pool

A deputation of Elected Members from Longford County Council met the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism in February 2005 to seek approval to proceed to Tender Stage for the construction of a replacement swimming pool in Longford Town. Following receipt of approval from the Minister the Members agreed to the setting up of a Limited Liability Company, Longford Pool Construction Ltd. to process the construction of the pool. Following completion of the tender process Longford County Council sought the approval of the Minister to the acceptance of the lowest returned tender together with approval for a €3.8 million grant from the Department with the balance to be funded by a 20 year loan to be taken out by Longford County Council.

## Decentralisation Programme for the Irish Prison Service Headquarters

In April 2005 Mr Michael McDowell T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform attended at Longford County Council to announce the roll out of the Decentralisation Programme for the Irish Prison Service and the formal hand over of the site by Longford County Council. The Minister announced details of an ambitious programme with a target of having a fully fitted out Headquarters ready to be occupied by end of 2006, with staff moving in at beginning of 2007.

41

## Broadband

### County and Group Broadband Scheme

In January 2005, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Mr Noel Dempsey T.D. launched the second phase of the County and Group Broadband Scheme. This scheme is modelled on the group water scheme approach and allows local communities in partnership with local authorities and the Midland Regional Authority and a broadband Internet service provider to apply to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources for grant aid for up to 55% of the costs. Longford County Council facilitated a public meeting in Longford on the 5th April 2005 in conjunction with the Midland Regional Authority. At the end of 2005 the following 2 schemes had been approved and were in operation – Ballymahon, Kenagh and Edgeworthstown – Ballinalee, Killoe and Drumlish.

### Longford Town Broadband Project

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey T.D. approved an outline broadband infrastructure investment plan for Longford Town as part of the Regional Broadband Programme. At the end of 2005, Longford County Council was in the process of finalising the appointment of a Consultant for the design, project management and supervision of the programme with the intention that the broadband network would be fully installed in the town by the end of 2006.

## Disability Act 2005 – Disability Strategy

The Disability Act 2005, places significant responsibility on public bodies to ensure over time that public buildings and services are accessible to people with disabilities. Longford County Council received €100,000 in 2005 to commence the provision of services and activities contained in the Outline Local Government Sectoral Plan. This funding enabled the council to provide open access information kiosks at Aras an Chontae, Camlin Court Offices and the various Branch Libraries throughout the County. In addition the Council improved access to the Longford, Lanesboro and Drumlish Libraries and initiated an accessibility audit on its library / arts website. Assistive Technology Equipment was also acquired and disability awareness training was provided for a significant number of staff.

## County Council Meetings

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

The April meeting of the Council was adjourned as a mark of respect on the death of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on 29th June 2005 at which Councillor Frank Kilbride was elected Mayor and Councillor Larry Bannon was elected Deputy Mayor, until the date of the Annual Meeting in 2006.

## Presentations / Deputations

Superintendent Martin Maguire and Inspector Joe McLoughlin addressed the March meeting of the Council regarding the level of policing in County Longford.

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds made a presentation at the March meeting of the Council on the Regeneration of MacEoin Park, Longford.

A deputation from the Clondra Area Action Group addressed the April meeting of the Council regarding the Development Plan for the Village of Clondra.

A deputation from Robinstown Road in Granard addressed the April meeting of the Council regarding the condition of Robinstown Road.

Ryan Hanley W.S.P. made a presentation at the September meeting of the Council on Part 8 (Planning & Development Regulations 2001) in respect of the Longford N5 Bypass.

RPS –MCOS made a presentation at the July meeting on the proposed Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region.

Mayor Maura Kilbride-Harkin made a presentation to the main benefactors under the Grants to Voluntary Bodies Scheme at the June meeting of the Council.

Special meetings of the Council were held during the year to consider, in detail, the services of the Council.

## Civic Receptions and Achievement Awards Ceremonies

A Civic Reception was held on the 28th July 2005 in honour of a youth delegation visiting from Essert de Belfort.

A Civic Reception and Retirement Function was held on the 9th December 2005 to honour Mr Michael Killeen, former County Manager. The Freedom of the County of Longford was conferred on Mr Killeen by the members of Longford County Council.

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Department aims to continuously improve the capability of the Council through selecting and recruiting staff in accordance with best practice. The Human Resources Department provides support for staff and allows them to reach their full potential through relevant training and development. A pleasant and productive work environment is created through the operation of a full range of work life balance schemes. Good working relationships are maintained through the industrial relations mechanism aimed at reconciliation of conflicting demands with minimum conflict.

### Recruitment

Recruitment and selection is central to ensuring continued effective performance. The following statistics demonstrate the continuing high levels of activity in this area in 2005.

#### Recruitment Statistics 2005

Number of Competitions Advertised	Number of Interview Days	Number of Applicants invited for interview	Number of Applicants who attended for interview	Number of staff appointed
38	57	610	459	47

### Staff Training and Development

Properly targeted training and development is essential in helping equip staff at all levels to carry out their work and to respond to new challenges.

There was a change in personnel in the Training Section with a new Training Officer being appointed in May of 2005. Training opportunities were provided for staff at all levels during the year, with 150 staff attending short-term courses. Development of staff continued through the provision of support to staff who elected to pursue 13 separate third level courses during the year in accordance with the Training and Development Support Scheme Policy.

A new electronic Training Records Management System was acquired in December 2005 and will serve as the cornerstone for the recording of training in 2006.

### Staff Welfare

The Human Resources Department recognise that flexible working arrangements provide significant opportunities for staff to balance work and life commitments and continued in 2005 to promote and make available a range of work / life balance schemes.

While the effective operation of the various schemes is subject to the principle that the operating requirements are not adversely affected, the full range of flexible working arrangements are implemented in a fair and equitable manner.

The Equality Action Team continue to ensure that all work and services delivered respect, equality and diversity.

## Service Indicator

- Percentage of working days lost due to sickness for 2005:
 

Certified Leave	2.38%
Uncertified Leave	0.50%
- Percentage of Payroll spent on Training for 2005 amounted to 6.2%.

## PMDS

The Social Partnership Agreement 'Sustaining Progress' provides for implementation of a Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) in every local authority. Performance Management and Development is a broad term to describe the way a staff member's work performance, career and development needs are managed.

PMDS is a tool designed to enhance and improve performance and helps bring our Corporate Plan to life. The system is based on Team Development Plans (TDP) and Personal Development Plans (PDP), which ensure that each staff member has a greater understanding of the organisational objectives and goals and their input in achieving them.

Implementation of PMDS commenced in 2005 with two full time PMDS trainers being appointed by Longford County Council. It is their role to facilitate the rollout of PMDS in Longford Local Authorities.

Water Services and Human Resources were chosen as the original pilot sites within Longford County Council. Roll out was extended to Corporate Affairs Department. At the end of December 2005, TDP's were generated for all three areas with a view to having PDP's completed by early 2006.

## Workplace Partnership

### Partnership Mission Statement

The objective of Workplace Partnership is to achieve joint ownership by management, employees and trade unions and to replace the adversarial approach to change with an open co-operative process. This Workplace Partnership process is characterised by employee participation and consultation, information sharing, the development of joint objectives, and managing change through a Partnership approach.

## Some Workplace Partnership Activities in 2005

- **Pensions & Superannuation:** The partnership committee approached the finance department with a view to giving staff seminars on both Pensions & Superannuation. This seminar is scheduled to take place in early 2006
- **Long Service Awards:** The partnership committee achieved their objective to reward and show an appreciation to our long serving and loyal staff. Over one hundred and forty staff attended the awards ceremony, with awards being presented to fifty-six staff who had 25 years or more service.
- **Mass for Deceased Staff:** The partnership committee was requested by the County Manager, to organise a mass for deceased members of Longford Local Authorities. This mass was held on Saturday the 19th November and refreshments were served to all retired members of staff and families of deceased members who attended the mass. The mass was very well attended and it is envisaged that this mass will become an annual event.
- **Return to Learning Initiative:** The Return to Learning Initiative was again a huge success with twelve members of staff involved in the programme this year and certificates were presented to all participants on completion of the course.
- **Action Plans Sustaining Progress:** The Partnership Committee played an important role in the submission of the necessary progress reports to the Performance Verification Group in accordance with the requirements of the sustaining progress Agreement.



## Information Systems

### Network Administration

The network administration area is responsible for all I.T. Hardware within the County Council and Town Council and the development and support of the County Council Network to 8 sites within Longford Town and five outlying Library sties. All data links and the security of same are maintained by the network administration team.

They are over 300 PC's, 23 Servers and numerous printers on the network.

The network was re-organised in 2005 with the installation of a SAN (storage area network). This solution will reduce the cost of storage, reduce management costs and complexity, improve application performance and give added capacity.

### Systems implemented in 2005

**EDirect** the contact management system in use in the I.S. Dept. as a helpdesk solution, was extended to the water services department. This computerised system logs all queries from the public. Each query is given a number, which can be tracked until the query is closed. EDirect handled 1538 queries last year in the I.S. Dept.

**Idocs** was introduced in the following Departments:

Housing, Water Services and Finance.

Documents relating to these areas can be retrieved via a browser.

### Server Management System

SMS is a network administration. Some of the benefits of the system include

- Application Deployment
- Asset Management
- Application usage management
- Hardware & Software inventory

Longford County Council was a pilot site for this application.

### Email Monitoring System

Mailmeter Forensic was implemented in the last quarter of 2005 in line with the Corporate Policy on Communications.

### Corporate Intranet

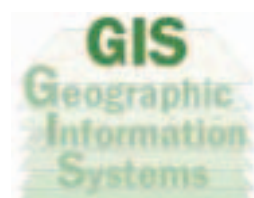
Further development of the Intranet included:

- On-line Flexi time for staff
- On-line Travel Expenses
- G.I.S. Corporate Browser.

### G.I.S.

GIS data through the corporate browser is now available to every desktop through the intranet.

- Information includes access to all Ordnance Survey Ireland Mapping infrastructures relating to Sanitary, Environment and Roads.
- A public front desk system in the planning department was put in place for planning enquiries.
- A new version of the Roads G.I.S. was implemented, the roads data was validated and updated to include a complete roads network, roads programme and accident data.
- A G.I.S. system was set up to capture farms surveys.



## On-line Systems

### ePlan

Online enquiries to planning applications were made available on the councils Website [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie). It is hoped to enhance this system with the addition of OSI mapping.

### IReg

On line access to the Register of Electors is available on the website. Members of the public with access to the Internet can check their details on the register.

## Websites

The town council website [www.longfortowncouncil.ie](http://www.longfortowncouncil.ie) was completely re-engineered and redesigned.

Virtual Writer [www.virturalwriter.net](http://www.virturalwriter.net)

This website for creative writing, literacy news and reviews was re-written in a new format for easier management.



## Council Members

All Council members were provided with new laptops and training has been ongoing with staff from the I.S. Department.

## Newsletter

Two issues of the newsletter were produced in 2005. All content is collected, collated and produced in the I.S. Department.

# Longford Cultural Services

## Longford County Library

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

## Important Developments 2005

Over the past year the main focus of all library service development has been on improving access and ensuring that the library is a focal point of community life in the county. The areas, which have received particular attention, have been opening hours, ICT, digitization, research and disability awareness. A wide-ranging programme of education and cultural events in partnership with various community organisations was held throughout the year.

## Research Projects

Longford library has been successful in attracting funding to engage in a number of research projects:

### The Value of Public Libraries in the Delivery of E-Government Services:

During 2005 Longford County Library commenced work on this research project in partnership with Dublin City Libraries. The project is designed to demonstrate how public libraries can create awareness and provide easy access to online public services.

Initially, a focus group made up of representatives from various community groups including County Development Board, VEC, Older Peoples Network, Citizens Information Service, Teagasc and Longford Library was set up. The first stage of the project involved familiarisation training on a sample of online public services

for staff members from both the library and the local authority and also for members of the public. Among the public groups involved in this training were members of Ballinamuck I.C.A. who were taking part in a basic computer-training programme delivered by Longford VEC and members of the Older Peoples Network. There was good feedback on E-Government services, especially in a local context, e.g. Longford County Council and Longford Library websites, [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie) and [www.longfordlibrary.ie](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie). Motor Tax online [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie) and [www.oasis.gov.ie](http://www.oasis.gov.ie) were among the most requested E-Government services.

The Library also worked in partnership with Longford Citizen Information Centre to provide customers with familiarisation training on online public services such as [www.oasis.gov.ie](http://www.oasis.gov.ie) and [www.basis.ie](http://www.basis.ie). At present these pilot services are being evaluated with findings and recommendations to be published in early 2006.

### Ask About Ireland – National Digitisation Strategy Phase II:

Ask About Ireland ([www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)) is a local history / heritage portal funded by the Information Society Commission through An Comhairle Leabharlanna. The portal explores content from local studies and archives of Ireland's public libraries and museums. Under Phase I of the National Digitization Strategy Longford Library secured funding for digitizing the Townlands and Placenames of County Longford (completed March 2005).

Under the National Digitization Strategy Phase II Longford County Library Service was allocated funding of €30,000 for "Historical Features of County Longford". This project involved constructing a multi-layered database of the many historical features of County Longford Parishes and Townlands, such as buildings, mythology and folklore, islands and archaeological features by digitising a selection of relevant articles and photographs. These were obtained from some of the most important reference sources in the Local Studies Collections of the County Library Service including The Journal of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise Antiquarian Society 1926-1951; Teathbha – the Journal of the Longford Historical Society 1969-1997; Longford Yearbooks; and Parish and Townland Histories.

## ICT

During the year Longford County Library has secured funding under 'The Changing Libraries' project announced by the Minister for Environment to mark the 150th anniversary of the Public Libraries Act as a watershed between the book based and the electronic library.

This project proposes to establish a solid automation infrastructure through the rollout of broadband to public library branches which are not currently broadband enabled and to develop and provide for the public a comprehensive online local studies, genealogy and reference service including public access to historical maps in partnership with Ordnance Survey of Ireland and also to the Census of 1901 and 1911.

## EU Direct Information Relay

In 2005 Longford County Library was selected as one of six libraries nationwide to be an information point for the delivery of EU information. As well as providing Internet, e-mail facilities and freephone access to European Information, a wide range of up to date EU related material is on display. Willie O Dowd, Executive Librarian, has been appointed the EU Information Manager and training has been provided to all Longford branch staff on accessing European Information. A sum of €20,000 has been allocated by the European Commission for the setup and running of the Information Relay Point. Additional ICT funding from the Department of Environment through the Information Society Commission to install additional public access PC's with internet access in all our branch libraries was also secured.

## Programme of Outreach Events



*Storytelling at Longford Library*

### Children's Events

#### Seachtain na Gaeilge — March 14th – 18th

*Arts & Crafts / Storytelling as Gaeilge*

Lanesboro Library, St. Emer's N.S.

*Poetry Drama / Storytelling as Gaeilge*

Granard Library, Drumlish Library, Glen N.S. Edgeworthstown.

*Table Quiz*

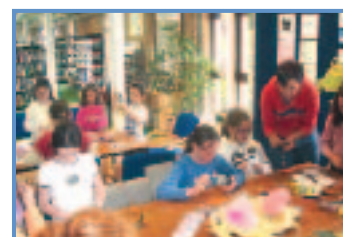
Drumlish Library, Longford Library (St. Michaels)

### Summer Festival 11th – 20th July

Magic Shows with Christopher Lombardi in Longford, Granard, Drumlish, Lanesboro, and Edgeworthstown Libraries.

### World Book Day 3rd and 4th March

Drama Workshops                      Gaelscoil Longfoirt (3rd class)  
Heritage Treasure Hunt      Longford, Ballymahon and Lanesboro Branches  
Arts and Crafts                      Lanesboro, Granard, Longford and Drumlish Branches  
Multicultural Storytelling      Longford Library, Drumlish Library



*Celebrating World Book Day in the Library*

### Children's Book Month 4th – 29th October

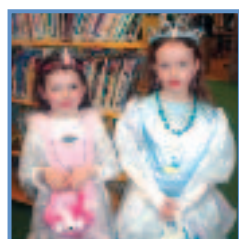
Storyteller Niall deBurca conducted three bi-lingual storytelling sessions with local schools in Longford Branch Library and with Stonepark N.S.

Storyteller Eddie Lenihan conducted a storytelling session in Longford Branch Library and later in the Temperance Hall as part of the Temperance Hall Centenary Celebrations.

Chris Thompson and Christophe Lombardi provided *Maths Magic* Interactive shows in Branch Libraries and in Ballymahon N.S., Ballinalree N.S., and Ballinamuck N.S.

Scottish Storyteller Susie Minto enthralled the 5 – 8 year olds as well as their teachers in Longford, Granard, Drumlish and Lanesboro branch libraries with her magical tales.

Collette Mealy conducted a music workshop with local children in Drumlish Library.



*Halloween Fancy Dress Party during Children's Book Festival*

### Halloween Celebration Tuesday November 1st

Longford Branch Library hosted a Halloween party attended by over 50 children all in fancy dress. Storytelling and competitions were enjoyed by all.

### Patrick Kavanagh Celebration in association with Poetry Ireland

Longford County Library Arts and Heritage Services, in association with Poetry Ireland presented a celebration of the work of Patrick Kavanagh for teachers and students in various local secondary schools in the county. The four actors also performed the one-and-a-quarter hour show from the works of Patrick Kavanagh in the Temperance Hall. This free event was open to the public.

### Schools Residencies in association with Poetry Writers in Ireland

Author John Sexton conducted two six week creative writing workshops with 5th and 6th class children in Newtownforbes N.S. and St. Joseph's N.S.

### The Describe Project: Paired Writing / Scribing

This year saw the continuation of the very successful paired writing sessions involving parents and children creating stories together in Longford, Granard and Lanesboro branch libraries. Work is almost complete on a printed Guide and CD-rom, which have been developed as part of the project.

## Adult Events

### World Book Day Thursday 3rd March

Readings by Longford Writers

### 150th Anniversary of the Public Libraries Act

Readings by local authors Breda Sullivan and Marie Noone in Granard Library  
Brian Leyden read from his latest book 'Homecoming' in Longford Library

### Adult Education

Basic language classes for beginners and advanced Spanish, Irish and French.  
Basic English for the International Community.  
Irish classes in Granard Branch Library.

Art Appreciation classes in Longford Branch.

Outreach centre for a Certificate in Local History Studies in conjunction with NUI Maynooth.

The library facilitated Open Days with the Open University and the National College of Ireland.

### Talks / Presentations

- Talk by Donal Mac An Bheatha, Senior Planner, Longford County Council on *Sustainable Building* in association with Longford Environmental Alliance on 20th January.
- Talks on Composting and other environmental matters were held on 6th, 7th & 8th October in Longford Branch Library.
- Celebration of Ten years of Longford Women's Centre and Presentation of FETAC Awards was held in Longford Branch Library on 21st November.
- Presentation of NUI Certificates in Local History Studies on 22nd November.
- The Magan Estate maps were presented to Longford County Library and Archives by Margaret Callanan (nee Magan) in memory of her late father on 1st December.



*Presentation of NUI Maynooth Certificates in Local History Studies*

### Book Launches

March 23rd Launch of *A Noontide Blazing* by John Cowell

April 13th Launch of County Heritage Plan

April 27th Launch of 'Phrenz' book by Schizophrenia Association

September 23rd Kitty Rodgers launched her latest novel 'It started with a Wish'

Saturday 1st October Audrey Healy and Don Mullen launched 'Contacted.'

Monday 5th December Elizabeth Cross – launched her book 'Tim of the Border'.



*RTÉ Newsreader, Brian Dobson, launches local author, Audrey Healy's book 'Contacted' at Longford Library*

### Exhibitions

February 14th-25th The Heritage of County Longford in Longford Branch.

April 27th Launch of Longford CAN exhibition in Longford Branch Library.

May 11th-26th Bealtaine Photographic Exhibition by Longford Older People's Network.

June 15th Exhibition by prizewinners in Longford Community games.

September 5th ENFO Exhibition *Atlas of Irish Landscape*.

September 21st Exhibition by Longford CAN.

October 15th Launch of GOAL photographic exhibition by Tiernan Dolan.

December 6th Launch of Group Art exhibition by Ardagh and Moydow Active Age Group and St. Dominic's Ladies Group Kenagh.

### 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 St. Christopher's, FÁS, VEC and the Dawn Learning Centre.

### Training Courses and Conferences attended by Library Staff

Library Association of Ireland, Public Libraries Section A.G.M.

Dynix / Horizon Users Group in Ireland A.G.M.

Children's Literature Training Day

Tutorials for Diploma in Local Government Studies

Firewarden Training Course (in-house)

Optical Scanning Software Training (in-house)

Attendance at Introductory Module and overview of MSc Econ / Library & Information Studies at University of Aberystwyth by staff members, Olive Heslin and Eimear McGuinness who are pursuing this course through distance learning

Borrow Books Online familiarisation training for Midland region hosted by Longford County Library



City and County Librarian's Autumn Seminar  
 County and City Librarian's / Public Libraries Section LAI, Joint Conference  
 Children's Creative Writing Forum  
 Lifesteps Project Training  
 Disability Awareness Training Day as part of Annual Staff Training Review (in-house)  
 Access / Social Inclusion

## Committees

Longford County Library is represented on a number of committees both within the local authority and the community.

Mary Carleton Reynolds is a member of the Senior Officers Group of the Local Authority, Ad hoc Adult Education Board, Longford VEC, Longford Citizen's Information Service.

Ms Carmel Murtagh is a member of Longford County Council Equality Action Team Ms Paula Mulry and Ms Mary Kelly are members of the Safety Monitoring / Consultative Committee of the Community & Enterprise Directorate, LA Partnership Committee.

## Staff

Congrats to Deirdre McNabola on the birth of her new baby daughter, Róna during August and also to Deirdre for obtaining her Diploma in Local Government Studies earlier in the year. We would like also to welcome back Teresa O'Kelly who has returned from 1 year's career break.

Ms Eimear McGuinness and Ms Olive Heslin are currently pursuing their Masters by Distance learning.

## Longford County Library Primary Schools' Service 2005

Total Schools Stock Items	33,303
Stock currently on loan to Schools	15,555
New Schools Stock Acquisitions 2005	4,185



## Total Membership Figures For 2005

Library Branch	Adult	Junior	2nd Level Student	3rd Level Student	Other	Total
Longford	2,003	1,339	309	184	29	3,864
Granard	244	303	54	28	11	640
Lanesboro	219	199	36	7	4	265
Ballymahon	142	160	24	3	2	331
Drumlsh	56	85	18	3		162
Edgeworthstown	85	107	6	4		202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>5,664</b>
2004 Totals	2,848	2,050	448	176	43	5,565
% Increase						1.8%

## Total Number Of Items Borrowed 2005

Library Branch	Adult	Junior	A/V	Total
Longford	42,491	23,055	2,980	68,526
Granard	4,918	3,994	53	8,965
Lanesboro	5,260	3,541	60	8,861
Ballymahon	4,141	2,834	49	7,024
Drumlsh	1,471	1,132	49	2,652
Edgeworthstown	2,305	1,926	29	4,260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,586</b>	<b>36,482</b>	<b>3220</b>	<b>100,288</b>
2004 Totals	69,313	38,722		108,035
% Decrease				7.2%

51

## Public Access Internet Usage 2005

Library Branch	Computer Hours Used 2005	Computer Hours Used 2004	Overall % Increase
Longford	14,173	12,351	
Granard	1,650	2,081	
Lanesboro	1,891	1,674	
Ballymahon	508	417	
Drumlsh	410	353	
Edgeworthstown	347	360.5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,579</b>	<b>17,236.50</b>	<b>7.8%</b>

## Longford Heritage Office

The County Heritage Office is committed to 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.

One of the main achievements of 2005 was the launch of the County Longford Heritage Plan 2004-2009 on the 13th April by Cllr. Maura Kilbride-Harkin in Longford County Library.

**The aim of the Longford County Heritage Plan is:**  
**"That our heritage will be part of life for everyone"**

This is being achieved through:

- Establishment and management 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

Over the past 12 months the heritage office has been engaged in 20 major projects.

Key actions that were delivered include:

- An audit of archaeological artifacts from County Longford in the National Museum of Ireland
- Seminars to provide guidance and to raise awareness of issues associated with management of graveyards and protected structures
- An inventory and heritage assessment of all graveyards with upstanding remains in the county
- Collection of information and images on the archaeological sites found in the county
- A bibliography of natural heritage publications and datasets that contain information on the biodiversity resource in County Longford
- Development of a series of heritage radio advertisement to raise awareness of the county heritage office and local heritage issues
- A schools education project to raise awareness of the county's waterways – nine national schools participated
- Development of a programme of events for Heritage Week
- Conservation of the county burial registers in association with the County Archivist
- Development of a County Heritage information website  
[www.longfordlibrary.ie/heritage](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie/heritage)
- Management of extensive conservation works to Abbeyshrule Abbey
- Structural Engineering Report for Abbeylara Abbey

The Heritage Officer Programme is a partnership arrangement between The Heritage Council and the Longford County Council.



*Launch of County Longford Heritage Plan 2004-2009*



*Two young boys discovering their local heritage*



*Abbeylara Abbey*

## Longford Archives Service

### Archives

The microfilming of the following archives was organised:

- Longford Town Council minutes, 1899-1989;
- Registers of county manager's orders;
- Burial registers, which were also digitised (financed by the Heritage Office);
- Gaelic manuscripts and Fetherston account book (originals in St Brigid's College, Ardagh).

### Archives donated during the year

- Microfilm of Poor Rate Collection Book, Longford E.D., 1869 and Longford Gas Company records, 1923-'25
- Poor Rate Collection Book, Corboy E.D., 1871
- Diary of Fr Newman, Ardagh, 1882-'94
- Lease, Fetherston Estate, 1863
- The Registers and Roll Books of Gaigue National School, 1865-'81 (*listed and available to the public*)
- The Minutes and Other Records of the Guilds and Federation of Longford I.C.A., 1947-2002 (*listed and available to the public*)
- A Volume of Estate Maps of Granard and Ballymacormack areas, 1795 (the Magan Estate Maps)

### Public Events

22 March – 30 April	Exhibition on George Clinton (U.S. Vice-President with Longford roots) in Longford Library
8 September	Talk on 'Caring for Family Papers' in Longford Library (for Archives Awareness Month)
10 October	Talk at meeting of Longford I.C.A. Federation, Newtowncashel
1 December	Formal Reception of Magan estate maps, with an exhibition on 'Mapping in Longford' in Longford Library.

### Records Management

The Archivist assisted in the preparation of a new storage area for records and liaised with sections in the transfer of records to it.

### Conferences and Training

The Archivist attended the following events;

4 July	Training event in oral history (Dublin)
20 September	Development Of National Policy On Archives (Dublin).

## Arts Office Report

Throughout 2005 Longford County Council's Arts Office continued in its primary role of providing support to Longford's professional and amateur artists and to all forms of creativity activity. Within this on-going process of cultural development the following specific projects and events were developed by or continued to be supported by the County Arts Office.

1. Kindermusik Project. Pre-school music development projects for children under four and their parents were held in Ballymahon, Kenagh and Granard and organised in partnership with Midlands VEC Arts Officer, the County Councils and VEC's of Longford, Westmeath, and Offaly.
2. Midlands Creative Writing Project. An anthology of creative writing by young "people at risk" involving Youthreach groups in Granard, Castlepollard, Edenderry and Mountmellick was organised in partnership between the County Development Boards, Directorates of Community and Enterprise and Arts Offices and VEC's of Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois. The project culminated in the publication of an anthology of writing, art and photography entitled "id".
3. Edgeworthstown Public Art Project. This involved the commissioning of the creation and installation of a public art feature on a theme of the Edgeworth family as part of the Edgeworthstown Inner Relief Road Scheme.
4. Lough Ree Environmental Summer School and Arts Festival. The Arts Office worked closely with this festival committee in Lanesborough, particularly in the areas of programming and promotion. The flagship project was a symphonic performance by the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland.
5. Children's Art Project. Working in partnership with Backstage Theatre Group and The Aisling Children's Arts Festival. The Arts Office developed the project entitled "Ten" t, which is a multi-disciplinary project involving drama, visual art and story making. The project culminated in an exhibition and performance at Backstage theatre during the Aisling Festival in October.
6. Craft Development Project. The County Arts Office worked in partnership with the Community Education Section of Longford VEC and conducted a ceramics programme for a Women's Group in Longford.
7. "Describe" Project. "Describe" was a highly innovative children's literature project developed in partnership between the County Arts Office and The County Library Services. It involved a mentoring approach to children's creative writing and some of the more tangible outcomes of the project were the establishment of four "Authors and Scribes" children's writing groups in Longford and the national publication of a user manual and CD-rom.
8. Granard Community Arts Development Study. The Arts Office secured Arts Council funding, drafted a research brief and compiled secondary research material to enable consultants to carry out detailed research into the development of a programme of community arts in Granard.
9. Visual Arts Policy. Pursuant to the provisions of Longford County Council Arts Development Plan 2004-2009. The County Arts Office secured Arts Council funding and drafted the terms of reference for the research and delivery of a Visual Arts Policy for the county, which will inform and guide the development of the visual arts in Longford.
10. Children's Creative Writing Focus Group. Established a mediated Focus Group of local educators who devised a policy document for the future development of children's creative writing in Longford.
11. County Youth Choir. Established a choir for young people between the ages of twelve and eighteen from all over county Longford.

# Annual Progress Report on Corporate Plan

## Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policies

**Core Objective:** “Ensure that infrastructural transportation policies and investments assist and enhance 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

Part 8 (Planning & Development Regulations, 2001) for Longford N5 Bypass was adopted by the Council in September last, and is awaiting NRA approval to proceed to CPO publication stage. Edgeworthstown N4 Inner Relief Road is under construction and programmed for completion in Spring 2006. The published CPO and EIS for Phase 1 of the Longford to Drumsna N4 improvement scheme bypassing Dromod and Rooskey and projecting 1km into County Longford was confirmed in September last.

Pavement strengthening was carried out on all national routes, and major restoration was carried out at Richmond Street, Longford on the N5.

EU Specific Schemes were advanced at LR1056 / LR1048 Ballinalee to Aughnacliffe, R198 Longford to Arva, Barrack Lane and Industrial Park, Granard, R194 Lisnamuck Business Park Development, R395 Edgeworthstown to Lisryan, and R392 Ballymahon to Lanesboro.

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

55

### Road Safety

Traffic Calming schemes have been advanced and are at various stages of completion at Granard, Ballymahon, Lanesboro, Killashee, Edgeworthstown and Ballinalee Road Longford.

Low-cost Safety Remedial schemes have been advanced and are at various stages of completion at Stonepark, Aghintemple, Gague Cross, Moyne and Battery and Dublin Roads, Longford.

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 Gardaí, Schools and National Safety Council in the operation of Junior School Wardens.

The Council continued to monitor effective implementation of the EU Commercial Vehicle Regulations in the county, and permitted a second authorised test centre.

### Traffic Management

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

Development of off-street parking in Granard is ongoing.

Implementation of parking regulations in Edgeworthstown is ongoing.

## 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 Gardaí, 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:** “Provide environmentally sustainable water services and environmental infrastructure to secure economic and social development and to lobby for increased capital funding.”

### Water Services

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 County 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. **Clondra Sewerage Scheme** – Construction commenced in June 2005.
2. **Longford CRWSS** – Reservoir and Pipeline – Contract Documents completed
3. **Edgeworthstown Sewerage Scheme (Nutrient Reduction)** – Contract documents were completed.
4. **Drumlisk and Newtownforbes Sewerage Schemes** – Preliminary report approved by DoEHLG
5. **Longford Sewerage Scheme Phase 2** – Preliminary Report submitted to the DoEHLG.
6. **Longford Sludge Management** – Preliminary Report submitted to the DoEHLG.
7. **Ballymahon Regional Water Scheme** – Consultants were appointed.
8. **Granard Regional Water Supply Scheme** – Preliminary Report was completed.
9. **Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme** – Strategic Review completed.
10. **Ardagh, Aughnacliffe, Ballinalee Sewerage Scheme** – At contract document stage.
11. **Lanesborough Water Supply Stage 1** – At contract document stage
12. **Grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme** – Consultants were appointed to carry out a feasibility study.
13. **Longford Sewerage Scheme, Network Review** – Preliminary Report submitted to DoEHLG.
14. **Lanesboro Sewerage Scheme** – Site investigation being carried out.



An allocation of €4,200,000 was granted for Water Conservation Scheme – Stage 2. Consultants were appointed and the scheme is due to commence in early 2006.

Progress was made in advancing the Rural Water Programme with new and upgrade group water schemes and small public schemes. In 2005 expenditure amounted to €1,600,000 under this programme. A total of 18 individual well grants were paid and 199 licences to connect to the public water mains and sewers were granted during the year.

Up to the end of 2005 approximately 70% of Non-Domestic water supply connections in the county were metered.

There was further improvement with drinking water quality standards with 96.7% of public schemes and 98.3% of private schemes in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations during 2005.

A proposal for an out-of-hours service in relation to water outages was considered by the Council and it is intended to proceed on a trial basis with this service in early 2006.

## 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. Review of the Midlands Region Waste Management Plan was substantially completed during 2005
2. Fifteen temporary Civic Amenity collections were organised during 2005 as part of the Spring Clean operation.
3. During 2005 the Waste Enforcement Team received 742 complaints all of which were investigated and appropriate enforcement actions taken.
4. Longford is the only county in Ireland to have 100% participation from Secondary Schools in the Green School programme and 90% participation from Primary Schools.
5. An information campaign was undertaken 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 initial surveys were undertaken in Edgeworthstown.
7. Over 21 cemeteries availed of financial assistance under the Cemetery Support Scheme with the remaining Council owned cemeteries being maintained by LJI Ltd.
8. A survey and report on Longford County Council cemeteries 2006-2025 was completed during the year.
9. Civil Defence implemented their Development Plan.
10. Construction commenced on the new Fire Station for Granard. A new Class B appliance for Lanesboro Fire Brigade was procured.
11. A second local food producer received EU accreditation for their production facility.
12. The council participated with the Rivers Shannon and Erne District Basin Management Systems.
13. Longford County Council participated in the National Litter Monitoring System.
14. Tenders were sought for the remediation of the Council Dog Pound.

## Housing & Social Policy, Planning & Building Control Policy

**Core Objectives:** *“Provide and maintain an acceptable standard of Social and Affordable housing in a planned environment that meets the needs of the people of County Longford and promotes social inclusion.”*

### Social Housing

The Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan 2004 – 2008 is currently being implemented. This 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 2005. There were 102 allocations of tenancy in the year. The statutory assessment of housing needs carried out in May 2005 reflected considerable success by Longford County Council in dealing with housing waiting lists.

## **Housing Maintenance / Refurbishment**

The planned maintenance programme in relation to windows and doors continued in 2005. This programme will bring the housing stock up to a high standard.

With the assistance of funding from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government central heating was installed in many houses.

During 2005 a number of vacant dwelling in Pauric Collum Heights were refurbished and re-let.

## **Estate Management**

The Housing Liaison Officer worked closely with established residents associations across the country and set up new associations. The Liaison Officer also facilitated pre-tenancy training for all new tenants. A competition was held for all Local Authority Estates. The competition, which was called "The Better Estates Awards", was divided into two different size categories. Marks were awarded for the absence of litter, the condition of the communal green areas and community development work carried out by the Residents during the preceding year. The competition had a positive impact on all participating estates and it is intended to make this an annual event.

## **Voluntary Housing**

The council continue its association with the Voluntary Housing Sector. Support was provided in 2005 to The Disabled Persons of Longford and to the County Longford Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

## **Affordable Housing**

Affordable Housing was provided in Newtownforbes in 2005.

## **Loans / Grants**

1 caravan loan and 32 loans for house construction / reconstruction were advanced. 175 applicants received grant aid under the Disabled Persons and Essential Repairs Grants Scheme.

## **Homelessness**

The Homeless Forum continued to meet on a quarterly basis. This ensured an integrated approach in the provision of care by the various statutory authorities and voluntary agencies.

## **Traveller Accommodation**

The Traveller Accommodation Plan 2005 – 2008 was adopted by Longford County Council in February 2005. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee met on a quarterly basis and monitored the progress achieved in relation to targets set out in the plan.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

This programme has been rolled out in an initial group of authorities. Longford County Council are currently examining the structures that are necessary to commence the project in Longford.

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

**Core Objective:** “Longford County Council will lead the Economic Social and Cultural Development of County Longford.”

### Economic Strategy

The Strategic objective of delivering balanced spatial economic development was progressed through the development of business parks in Granard, Ballymahon, Lanesboro and Longford. New businesses when opened during the year with the support of Longford County Council include Abbott Diagnostics, Panelto Foods and the Longford Enterprise Centre. Contracts were awarded for the New Prison Services Headquarters and the retail sector thrived with new entrants of a national scale such as Argos and Homebase. Longford County Council in co-operation with other development agencies has played a lead enabling role in growing the local economy.

### Social

Longford County Council continues to implement the designated disadvantage CLAR and RAPID programmes that in addition to specific funding measures prioritise expenditure under The National Development Plan. The social inclusion measures working groups secured funding for initiatives supporting improved cohesion. Funding was also secured by Longford County Council under its Disability Strategy.

### Cultural Services

Longford County Council provides an integrated cultural service incorporating Libraries, Arts, Heritage and Archives in a customer centred manner. The Libraries provide a valuable support towards integration of the non-nationals communally through Internet access and language training. Initiatives with schools include writing and poetry projects. The adopted Heritage and Arts Plans are being implemented in accordance with the agreed programme.

### Sports and Recreation

The Longford Swimming Pool project advanced to the first stage of acceptance of tenders and it is anticipated that construction will commence in early 2006. The council adopted a ‘Play Policy’ and provided a new playground in Granard. The policy recommends the provision of one new playground per year subject to resources.

# Service Indicators

## Longford County Council & Longford Town Council

### Year 2004 & 2005

	2004 Value	2005 Value
<b>A &amp; C: Arts and Cultural Service</b>		
<b>A &amp; C.1 Arts Grant</b>		
– number of arts grants allocated	38	45
– total value of arts grants allocated per 1,000 population	1147.48	2687.89
<b>CP: Community Participation and Cooperation – Your Local Authority</b>		
<b>CP.1 Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme</b>	66.67%	55.56%
<b>C: Corporate Issues</b>		
<b>C.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through</b>		
– certified leave	1.96%	2.38%
– uncertified leave	0.56%	0.5%
<b>C.2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs</b>	5.92	6.2
<b>E: Environmental Services</b>		
<b>Water</b>		
<b>E.1 Percentage of river channel which is</b>		
(a) Unpolluted	The LCMSB obtains these figures directly from the EPA	
(b) Slightly polluted	The LCMSB obtains these figures directly from the EPA	
(c) Moderately polluted	The LCMSB obtains these figures directly from the EPA	
(d) Seriously polluted	The LCMSB obtains these figures directly from the EPA	
<b>E.2 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to</b>		
– public schemes	95.6%	96.7%
– private schemes (where appropriate)	94.3%	98.3%
<b>Fire Service</b>		
<b>E.3 Average Time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in</b>		
– full time stations	No Full Time Fire Stations	
– part time stations (Retained fire service)	4.55	4.22
<b>E.4 Percentage of attendances at scenes where</b>		
– first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	33%	37%
– first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47%	50%
– first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	20%	13%
<b>E.5 Fire Prevention – Total number of fire certification applications</b>		
– received	54	107
– processed	44	96
<b>Waste Management</b>		
<b>E.6 Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection</b>		
Waste Collection is privatised in Longford	N/A	N/A
<b>E.7 Household Waste Collected, which is sent for recycling</b>		
– tonnage	N/A	3891
– percentage	44	51.28

	2004 Value	2005 Value
--	---------------	---------------

**E.8 Household waste collected, which is sent to landfill**

– tonnage	N/A	3698
– percentage	56	48.72

**E.9 Recycling facilities****Glass**

Number of Bring Sites	25	25
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	26	26
Number of locations per 5000 of population	4.18	4.19
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	48.17	62.9

**Cans**

Number of Bring Sites	25	25
Total Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	26	26
Number of locations per 5000 of population	4.18	4.19
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	2.83	4.03

**Textiles**

Number of Bring Sites	0	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0	1
Total Number of Facilities	0	1
Number of locations per 5000 of population	N/A	0.16
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	N/A	0.91

**Batteries**

Number of Bring Banks	0	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0	0
Total Number of Facilities	0	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	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	0	0
Total Number of Facilities	0	0
Number of locations per 5000 of population	N/A no site provided	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	11	0

**Others**

Number of Bring Sites	0	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	1	1
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.16	0.16
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5000 of population	11	28.01

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

Total number of full-time litter wardens	3	4
Total number of part-time litter wardens	1	5
Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5000 population	0.48	1.45
Number of on-the spot fines	618	563
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the spot fines	33	40
Number of prosecutions secured	17	17

**Percentage of areas within the local authority that are**

– unpolluted (i.e litter-free)	0%	31.5%
– slightly polluted with litter	39.29%	40.87%
– moderately polluted with litter	50%	16.5%
– significantly polluted with litter	5.36%	7.91%
– grossly polluted with litter	5.36%	3.22%

**E.11 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement**

– total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	781	1042
– number of complaints investigated	781	1042
– number of enforcement procedures taken	223	765

	2004 Value	2005 Value
<b>E. Environmental Services</b>		
<b>LITTER PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT</b>		
<b>E.12 Percentage of Schools participating in environmental campaigns</b>		
– primary schools	97%	90%
– secondary schools	100%	100%
<b>H: Housing</b>		
<b>H.1 Housing Vacancies</b>		
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	1436	1488
Overall% of dwellings that are let	97.28%	96.64%
Overall% of dwellings that are empty	2.72%	3.36%
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	0%	0%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	90%	80%
% of empty dwellings available for letting	10%	20%
<b>H.2 Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks)</b>	1	1
<b>H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received</b>	89.25	73.75
<b>H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:</b>		
– the shared ownership housing scheme (in days)	5	5
– housing loans (in days)	5	5
– local authority housing (in days)	35	10
<b>H.5 Traveller Accommodation</b>		
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	220	125
<b>L: Library Services</b>		
<b>L.1 Public opening hours</b>		
– average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	44.33	47
– average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	18.7	18.8
<b>L.2 Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population</b>	17.91	18.23
<b>L.3 Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for</b>		
(a) Books	3.34	3.12
(b) Other items	0.13	0.1
<b>L.4 Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public</b>	100%	100%
<b>L.5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population</b>	555	610
<b>M: Motor Taxation</b>		
<b>M.1: Number of Motor tax transactions which</b>		
– are dealt with over the counter	N/A	30561
– are dealt with by post	N/A	5103
– are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	N/A	2841
<b>Percentage of Motor tax transactions which</b>		
– are dealt with over the counter	81.05%	79.37%
– are dealt with by post	14.52%	13.25%
– are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	4.43%	7.38%
<b>M.2: Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application</b>		
(a) On the same day	4988	5103
(b) On the third day or less	0	0
(c) On the fifth day or less	0	0
(d) Over 5 days	0	0



	2004 Value	2005 Value
<b>% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application</b>		
(a) On the same day	100%	100%
(b) On the third day or less	0%	0%
(c) On the fifth day or less	0%	0%
(d) Over 5 days	0%	0%

**M.3 Public opening hours**

– average number of opening hours per week	35	35
--	----	----

**P: Planning and Building Control****P.1 Planning Applications – Decision Making****Individual Houses**

No. of applications determined	718	551
No. of decisions, which were decided within 8 weeks	N/A	393
Number of decisions, which required the submission of further information	N/A	84
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	N/A	74
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	72.33	78
% of grants	88.86%	82.4%
% of refusals	11.14%	17.6%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	68.75%	68.18%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	31.25%	31.82%

**Housing Development**

No. of Applications determined	82	175
No. of decisions, which were decided within 8 weeks	N/A	60
Number of decisions, which required the submission of further information	N/A	66
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	N/A	49
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	80.23	79
% of grants	89.02%	87.43%
% of refusals	10.98%	12.57%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanala	N/A	67.86%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	66.67%	32.14%

**Other: not requiring EIA**

No. of applications determined	149	426
No. of decisions, which were decided in 8 weeks		274
Number of decisions, which required the submission of further information	N/A	99
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	N/A	53
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	73.67	76
% of grants	97.32%	95.31%
% of refusals	2.68%	4.69%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanala	N/A	83.33%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0%	16.67%

**Other: requiring EIA**

No. of applications determined	2	12
No. of decisions, which were decided in 8 weeks	N/A	1
Number of decisions, which required the submission of further information	N/A	4
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning & Development Act 2000	N/A	7

	2004 Value	2005 Value
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	76.5	90
% of grants	100%	75%
% of refusals	0%	25%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanála	N/A	100%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0%	0%

## P.2 Planning Enforcement

– total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	101	152
– total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	3	4
– total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	N/A	57
– number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	113	77
– number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	48	52
– number of prosecutions	20	11

## P.3 Public opening hours

– average number of opening hours per week	34.38	34.38
--	-------	-------

## P.4 Consultations

No. of pre-planning consultation meetings held	N/A	250
Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (in days)	17.5	15

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

	12	13.9
--	----	------

## Rec: Recreational Services

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

– directly provided by the local authority	0.03	0.06
– facilitated by the local authority	0.03	0.03

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

	2260	2298
--	------	------

## Rev: Revenue Collection

### Rev.1 House Rent

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	89.3	90.5
(b) <b>Percentage of arrears</b>		
(i) 4-6 weeks old	6%	6%
(ii) 6-12 weeks old	10%	12%
(iii) more than 12 weeks old	78%	64%

### Rev.2 Housing Loans

(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	80.4	83.8
(b) <b>Percentage of arrears</b>		
(i) 1 month old	8%	9%
(ii) 2-3 months old	2%	3%
(iii) more than 3 months old	86%	83%

### Rev.3 Commercial Rates

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due	94.7	93.8
--	------	------

### Rev.4 Refuse Charges

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

### Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	55.6	63.4
--	------	------

## R: Roads

### R.1

Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square metres)	402489	432169
Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum	6.52%	6.87%