

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

20

14

ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION



WE WELCOME THE PUBLICATION OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014 THAT OUTLINES THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE DELIVERY OF A DIVERSE RANGE OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC DURING A YEAR WHERE REDUCED RESOURCES CONTINUE TO PRESENT CHALLENGES.



Mark Casey, Cathaoirleach



Tim Caffrey, County Manager

The Local Government Reform Act of 2014 introduced major changes in the structure and functions of Local Government. The abolition of Town Councils and the establishment of new Municipal District Councils resulted in a reduction in Elected Representatives from 39 to 18 in County Longford.

Local Government's role in economic development was strengthened by the assimilation of the County Enterprise Board functions into the Council in the new Local Enterprise Offices. The role of Local Government in co-ordinating community and agency actions through the County Development Board was refocused on improving the alignment of Local Government and Local Development in the establishment of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) who will have responsibility for the preparation of a county-wide strategic plan.

Other significant changes included the revision of the local electoral boundaries, resulting in three new electoral areas – Ballymahon, Granard and Longford

The Local Elections were held on 23rd May 2014 with the election of 18 Councillors, six each to the new Municipal Districts of Ballymahon, Granard and Longford. We welcome the new Councillors and wish them well during their term of office.

Arising from the establishment of Irish Water, the Water Services Section of Longford County Council commenced working under the terms of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water that commenced in January 2014.

Notwithstanding the many challenges faced by the organisation, we are pleased that during the year, progress continued in advancing and completing a number of important infrastructural, community and organisational projects including:

- » *The completion of the newly constructed Lanesboro Fire Station in November 2014.*
- » *The refurbishment and official re-opening of Granard Community Library.*
- » *The development and launch of the 18km cycle trackway from Clondra to Longford.*
- » *The achievement of the OHSAS 18001:2007 Certification from the National Standard Authority of Ireland.*
- » *The set up of the new Public Participation Network to promote greater involvement of citizens in local government*

It is important that we recognise and acknowledge the contribution and commitment of management and employees in every section of the Council, in ensuring that despite the difficult financial environment, the delivery of quality services provided by Longford County Council were maintained throughout the year.

Mark Casey, Cathaoirleach

Tim Caffrey, Chief Executive

MEMBERS OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

BALLYMAHON MEMBERS



Mick Cahill



Mark Casey



Gerard Farrell



Colm Murray



Pat O'Toole



Paul Ross



GRANARD MEMBERS



Paric Brady



Micheál Carrigy



John Duffy



Martin Mulleady



P.J. Reilly



Luie McEntire



LONGFORD MEMBERS



John Browne



Seamus Butler



Padraig Loughrey



Mae Sexton



Gerry Warnock



Peggy Nolan



KEY FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
CORPORATE, CULTURAL & RECREATIONAL
SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, PLANNING
& BUILDING CONTROL**

**FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES,
HOUSING & BUILDING**

**INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL &
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CORPORATE CULTURAL RECREATIONAL SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, PLANNING BUILDING CONTROL



Councillor Seamus Butler
Chairperson, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC



Councillor Mae Sexton
Chairperson, Planning and Development and Cultural SPC



Mr. Frank Sheridan,
Director of Services

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The local economic environment is showing positive, if limited, signs of recovery. Particularly the industrial sector, where many industries are slowly growing production and employment. The important retail sector, however continues to decline as customers express new preferences in online shopping and travelling to large out of town centres. The impact of these changes is reflected in high street closures. The Council have initiated a regeneration programme to attempt to address the increasing number of high street closures. A rates reduction scheme is being considered by the Economic Strategic Policy Committee to incentivise occupancy of vacant premises. The gradual improvement in the national economy provides a degree of confidence in achieving future economic growth and the Council are actively engaged in securing new investment.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Under the Local Government Act 2014, a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established as a committee of Longford County Council. The inaugural meeting was held on 3rd September 2014 in Longford County Council. The LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding in the county. The Committee will bring a more joined up approach to service delivery and pursue a more cost efficient administration of programmes. One of the first tasks of the new committee is to prepare a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan for 2015-2021.

There are 19 members on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) drawn from four Sectors:

SECTOR	MEMBERS
Local Authority Elected members	Cllr. Colm Murray (Chairperson), Cathaoirleach Mark Casey, Cllr. Martin Mulleady, Cllr. Gerry Warnock
Local Authority Officials	Tim Caffrey, Chief Executive Michael Nevin, Head of Local Enterprise Office
State Agencies	Ms. Grainne Nic Gabhainn, Health Service Executive Mr. Des Henry, Department of Social Protection Dr. Christy Duffy, Longford/Westmeath Education & Training Board
Local Community Development	Adrian Greene, Manager Longford Community Resources Ltd.
Social Inclusion	Seamus Orr, Spring lawn Residents Group Louise Lovett, Longford Women's Link
Community & Voluntary	Tess Murphy, Ballinamuck Community Enterprise Society Joe Murphy, Dromard Rural Development Association
Environmental Interests	Ray Hogan, Longford Environmental Alliance
Other civic society or local Community interests	Fintan Mc Gill, Business /Employers sector Sean Hannon, Farming/Agriculture sector Seadna Ryan, County Longford Tourism Joe Flaherty, Longford Business Forum

COUNTY LONGFORD COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY FORUM

The County Longford Community & Voluntary Forum held their Annual General Meeting on 29th May 2014. They kept up to date with the new Local Government Reform and organised seminars for local community & voluntary groups so as to gain a better understanding of the new structure. In June the CLCVF became the interim Public Participation Network.

Throughout 2014 the Steering Group organised guest speakers to attend their monthly meetings gaining knowledge on various topics such as Volunteering in 2014, National Anti-bullying Programmes (NABC), GROW Building on Strengths project (a project looking at enhancing Longford Town's mental health and well-being), Connect Ireland and many more. All information was then circulated to all affiliated community groups. The CLCVF worker supported 160 community groups on some of the following topics:

- » *Local Government Reform and what it means to community groups in County Longford*
- » *Social Inclusion*
- » *Village & Area Enhancement*
- » *Tourism*
- » *Recycling*
- » *Fuel Poverty*
- » *Rural Transport*
- » *Accessing funding*

The following meetings and activities took place in 2014:

- » *Nine Monthly Management meetings and Nine Steering Group meetings were held.*
- » *AGM held on the 29th of May, 2014.*
- » *Monthly E – Bulletin produced and circulated.*
- » *Regular Community notes circulated.*
- » *Website updated.*
- »

Support given to the following projects:

- » *Connect Ireland*
- » *Ireland XO (first quarter)*
- » *Putting People First/ Local Government Reform / Setting up the Public Participation Network*
- » *Environment Pillar*
- » *Building on Strengths - GROW Ireland Pilot Project*
- » *24 delegates nominated to 15 local decision making bodies i.e. County Development Boards, Longford Community Resources Ltd., Longford County Council Strategic Policy Committees, County Longford Heritage, County Longford and Midlands Regional Task Force, County Longford Childcare Committee, Citizen Information Centre, County Longford Youth Services, County Longford Volunteer Service, National Integrated Rural Transport Committee and Longford Sports Partnership Board.*
- » *Nominations made to a number of task groups i.e. Extreme Weather Task group and IrelandXO project.*
- » *Training courses and information seminars delivered for Steering Group members and community groups.*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

In 2013 the Government set up 'the working group on citizen engagement' to examine the best way to get greater involvement of citizens in local government. They recommended the establishment of Public Participation Networks in each county. Longford County Council commenced the establishment of the PPN in September 2014. By the 17th October over 90 community groups were registered with the PPN. The elections for the PPN Secretariat (9 member working group who oversee the day to day activities of the PPN) were held in December 2014 by a postal vote. The set up of the new structure is ongoing.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The County Longford Tourism Committee working with key strategic partners including Longford County Council continues to progress the implementation of the Action Plan 2012-2015.

The key priorities for the Committee during 2014 were to progress the development of a series of tourism trails, particularly trails that can accommodate visitors interested in cycling and walking. The main success during the year was the opening of an 18km cycleway from Longford Town to Clondra along the banks of the Royal Canal, a route that connects the County Town and main urban centre to the waterway network. Work has begun with Waterways Ireland on a number of complementary Blueway trails expected to be launched in 2015. Other cycling/driving trails identified for development in the short term are a Rebel Trail in North Longford, a Literary Trail in Mid Longford and a South Longford Trail, all expected to come on stream in 2015. The Committee continues to develop a range of maps and marketing materials to facilitate the successful promotion of County Longford as a tourism destination.

COMMUNITY TOURISM INITIATIVE FOR THE DIASPORA

Longford County Council was delighted to participate in the new Community Tourism Initiative for the Diaspora in 2014. The initiative, which builds on the community involvement legacy of The Gathering 2013, was a joint partnership between Fáilte Ireland, IPB Insurance and local authorities, with each contributing to a national fund of €1m to support local community-based events and festivals.

Longford County Council spent approximately €30,000 in 2014, supporting over 20 local events and attracting up to 500 visitors from overseas to the county. The huge voluntary commitment by local communities throughout the county in organising and running these events was the key ingredient in ensuring that this initiative was very successful in Longford.

LONGFORD COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Longford Comhairle Na nÓg is a County Development Board initiative. In 2014, the Community and Enterprise Section of Longford County Council secured funding from the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to enhance Comhairle Na nÓg. The Comhairle is supported by Foroige and provides a forum for structured input into decision-making by young people in the development of local services and policies. Longford Comhairle Na nÓg Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Local Authority. The main focus of the meetings is on developing members' skills and on how to influence policy. In 2014 the Comhairle were very active in promoting a positive image of Longford and developed a website. They also carried out initiatives on community safety and held a seminar on cyber bullying for parents as well as launching a promotional movie and a local campaign on cyber bullying.

The Annual General Meeting took place on the 6th of November 2014 in the Longford Arms Hotel. The overall day was a huge success with 96 young people attending from all the post primary schools and representatives from youth groups and organisations around the county.

Cllr. Mae Sexton, Cathaoirleach of Longford Municipal District opened the event by highlighting the importance of young people in making a difference at local and national level. After some discussion the young people agreed a work programme for 2015 which involves launching a campaign against homophobic bullying, developing a game for primary school children on their rights as children and to launch a promotional movie or poster campaign on drug and substance misuse. Cathaoirleach Mark Casey closed the AGM and wished the newly elected 15 members well in their new positions on the Comhairle na nÓg for 2014/15.

NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION

Pride of Place is a competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. 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. The nomination process to the All Island competition is undertaken through the Local Authorities. In 2014, Longford County Council nominated two entrants; Springlawn Residents & Community Development Group and Lanesboro Tourism Co-operative Society Ltd. Judging took place in July at which each group was required to make a presentation highlighting the range of activities and projects they had undertaken. In November a gala awards ceremony was held in Clare to celebrate the achievements of the groups.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES

A Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is a body established under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 to serve as a forum where local authority representatives, Oireachtas members and community and voluntary interests, together with senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of the area, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. In August 2014, following the dissolution of Granard and Longford Town Councils, revised guidelines were issued for the operation of the JPC's and Longford County Council established a new Joint Policing Committee in conjunction with local Garda management.

At the October 2014 meeting of Longford County Council, Cllr. Gerry Warnock was appointed Chairperson of the Longford JPC. The inaugural meeting of the JPC was held on 21st November, 2014 at which the members agreed to develop a six year strategic plan.

CONNOLLY BARRACKS COMMITTEE

During 2014, the Connolly Barracks Sub Committee was restructured to include representatives of local groups interested in establishing a presence on the Barracks site. The Committee now comprises Local Authority members and officials and representatives from Longford Historical Society, O.N.E. and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. The Committee is progressing plans to incorporate a County Museum and interpretive music space within the main building. Other tenants that successfully established a presence on the Barracks site in 2014 include Longford Bridge Club and Longford Vintage Club.

PLAY AND RECREATION

In 2014, four new playgrounds were constructed in the county. These facilities were funded by Longford Community Resources Ltd., from the Rural Development Fund. The new playgrounds are at the following locations - Ballinalee, Ballinamuck, Dromard and Kenagh. Local community groups Ballinalee Community, Kenagh & District Development Association, Ballinamuck Enhancement and Dromard Parents Group worked closely with Longford County Council in the selection of sites and final designs. The playground is managed by the Local Authority with the support of the community.

LONGFORD 'DEAD OF NIGHT' HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

On Halloween evening, the dark streets of Longford came alive with a riot of colour, music and noise as the 9th Annual 'Dead of Night' festival swung into action. This year there were some fantastic floats that came from Castlerea Festival Committee, which gave a real carnival atmosphere to the event. The parade made its way down St. Mel's School Avenue and up New Street. There was a great attendance again this year with lots of fun stalls, entertainers and large inflatables. The Halloween evening festival is the final part of the bigger 'Dead of Night' project which joins the resources, manpower and expertise of the HSE Midland Area Health Promotion Service, Longford Town Council, Longford County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Attic Youth Cafe and includes safe talks in schools, art competitions and lantern making.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The City & County Enterprise Board network was formally dissolved in April 2014 and a network of Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) was established as a new function of local government. A Service Level Agreement between Enterprise Ireland who will continue to fund the LEO offices and the Local Authority Sector was put in place which covers governance aspects such as high level goals, funding, metrics and reporting arrangements.

The challenge since April has been to manage the transition phase to ensure the new enterprise support function becomes embedded into the local authority structures. This realignment sees the Local Enterprise Office become the primary reference point for business related enquiries. It continues to deliver the core support functions previously delivered by the City & County Enterprise Boards and importantly it ensures that entrepreneurs have ready access to the full range of local authority support services.

Since the establishment of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) the Longford office has continued to focus on its core areas of activity providing some form of financial, mentoring and training support to hundreds of small firms. In addition it engaged with potential entrepreneurs, schools, business networks and partner agencies to continue its efforts to foster and build a local enterprise culture. It consolidated its position as the primary reference point for enterprise enquiries within the County and worked with key partners to ensure a smooth transition from the Enterprise Board structure to the new Local Enterprise Office.

The increased focus on community and enterprise development under the stewardship of the local authority gives the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) opportunity to establish a prominent position at the heart of local government. The establishment of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) provides a platform for the Local Enterprise Office to help shape future economic strategy, to implement national and local economic policies and to coordinate and deliver a wide range of enterprise related initiatives, programmes and activities. In particular, the creation of a dedicated economic Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) within the local authority ensures that economic proofing will impact on all local authority functional areas. The LEO office was given authority in 2014 to lead the development of the economic strand of the LECP plan for County Longford.



CORPORATE SERVICES

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 2014

A total of 17 'Freedom of Information' requests were received by Longford County Council during 2014 from a mixed source of business people, journalists, clients and other persons.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT REQUESTS 2014

Five 'Access to Information on the Environment' requests were received and processed in 2014.

FRANCHISE

A person must be at least 18 years of age on the day the Register comes into force (15th February) and must be ordinarily resident at the address at which he/she wishes to be registered on the 1st September preceding the coming into force of the Register. A person may be included on a Supplement to the Register if the person reaches 18 years of age on or before Polling Day and meets the requirements in relation to residence.

Every resident, irrespective of their nationality, who is 18 years or older is entitled to be included on the Register of Electors.

The numbers registered to vote on the 2014/2015 Register of Electors were as follows:

LOCAL ELECTORAL AREAS	NO. OF ELECTORS
Ballymahon	10,241
Granard	10,522
Longford	8,852
Total:	29,615

During 2014, one Supplement to the Register of Electors was prepared in advance of the Local Election held in May 2014.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2014

The Local Elections took place after the coming into force of the electoral provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Local Elections were contested under substantially redrawn local electoral area boundaries consequent on the recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee. The number of local electoral areas in County Longford was reduced from 4 to 3 and number of elected members reduced from 21 to 18 with 6 members in each electoral area.

The Local Elections 2014 were held in all local government electoral areas throughout the country on Friday 23rd May 2014, on the same day as the European Parliament Election and the Longford-Westmeath Bye Election.

A total of 34 candidates contested Longford County Councils Local Elections in the three local electoral areas as follows:

Ballymahon	10 candidates
Granard	12 candidates
Longford	12 candidates

The counting of votes in Longford County Council's Local Election took place over the weekend of Saturday 24th May to Sunday 25th May inclusive followed by a recount Monday 26th May in the Count Centre "The PJ Murphy Sports Complex", Newtownforbes, Co. Longford.

The recount in the Granard Local Electoral Area that took place on Monday 26th May following Count 6 did not change the original result of that Count. This result reflected the high level of accuracy, the attention to detail and the commitment of all on the Local Election team that was clearly evident at all stages throughout the local election process.

The 18 Councillors were duly elected to Longford County Council following the Local Election Count and recount.

LOCAL ELECTION EXPENDITURE 2014

In accordance with Section 19 of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act, 1999 as amended, details of the aggregate local election expenditure incurred by each candidate and details of any donations received by the candidates must be included in the Annual Report. The relevant information is set out hereunder in Electoral Area order.

CANDIDATE	AGGREGATE EXPENSES	*DONATIONS RECEIVED (UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES)	
BALLYMAHON LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA			
Cahill	Mick	€2,845.86	N/A
Casey	Mark	€870.00	N/A
Farrell	Gerard	€4,180.00	N/A
Farrell	Sean	€1,963.33	Nil
Kelly	Edel	€655.86	N/A
Moran	Niamh	€1,543.00	Nil
Murray	Colm	€1,908.33	N/A
O'Toole	Pat	€3,108.00	N/A
Ross	Paul	€2,195.96	N/A
Victory	Tom	€2,316.28	Nil
GRANARD LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA			
Brady	Paraic	€3,802.38	N/A
Carrigy	Micheál	€1,709.38	N/A
Coyle	John	€2,317.02	Nil
Duffy	John	€3,589.00	N/A
Keogh	James	€4,960.00	Nil
Kilbride	Frank	€1,700.00	Nil
Kilbride-Harkin	Maura	€1,007.20	Nil
Lillis	Mary	€3,412.26	Nil
McEntire	Luie	€2,320.00	N/A
Mulleady	Martin	€2,650.00	N/A
Reilly	P.J.	€1,700.00	N/A
Reilly	Sean	€626.16	Nil
LONGFORD LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA			
Browne	John	€3,701.42	N/A
Butler	Seamus	€2,741.57	N/A
Clyne	Martin	€495.00	Nil
Connell	Paul	€400.00	Nil
Connellan	Michael	€1,288.41	Nil
Flaherty	Tony	€1,157.00	Nil
Loughrey	Padraig	€800.00	N/A
Ni Mhurchu	Yvonne	€3,521.44	Nil
Nolan	Peggy	€616.60	N/A
Sexton	Mae	€475.00	N/A
Smyth	Barbara	€485.66	Nil
Warnock	Gerry	€840.00	N/A

* Successful Candidates - Donations Received

Each elected member will furnish to the Local Authority not later than the 31st January each year a separate Donations Statement and, if applicable, a statement from a financial institution of a political donations account was opened.

STATEMENTS BY NATIONAL AGENTS/DESIGNATED PERSON/THIRD PARTY

PARTY	AMOUNT
Fianna Fail (Designated Person)	Nil

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT 2003

In July 2008, Longford County Council agreed a three year Irish Language Scheme under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act, 2003 with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The third year expiry date of the implementation of the Scheme was the 30th May 2011.

Early in 2014 Longford County Council received correspondence in relation to the preparation of its second Irish Language Scheme. The Council in the context of the work being undertaken in relation to the Local Elections and the integration of both authorities engaged with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and sought approval to the deferral of the preparation date to allow for a more comprehensive and focused Scheme that could be developed with the newly elected Council and within the revised organisational structures post integration. The Council's application for deferral was approved for a period until late 2014.

An advisory meeting was held in late November 2014 with a representative from the Official Languages Act section of the Department to assess the work required and process to be undertaken in the preparation of the draft second scheme for subsequent adoption by the Minister.

During 2014, the Irish Language Development Officer undertook the following activities in relation to the Irish Language:

- » *Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in March 2014 by holding a coffee morning for Irish Language enthusiasts at Longford Branch Library. The event was well attended by both Council employees and members of the public.*
- » *Seachtain na Gaeilge was also marked by holding a series of quizzes in the Irish languages in four of the branch libraries. The quizzes are always very popular with Primary School children as they celebrate their knowledge of Irish in a fun manner.*
- » *During Children's Book Week in October 2014, two Irish authors, Aine Ní Ghlinn and Ré Ó Laighléis, held workshops in the Library with Secondary School students. These were of particular interest to exam students as both of these authors have material on the exam syllabus. Frank Galligan also facilitated a number of bi-lingual writing workshops with Secondary School students*
- » *The Irish Language Officer was involved in making contact with Irish book publishers such as Fuata Fata and An Gúm and ordering a selection of new Irish language books for all of the branch libraries.*

During the summer of 2014 the Irish Language Officer, with some financial support from Longford County Council, completed a week long general course in Irish with Oideas Gael in Donegal.

On 16th October 2014, the Irish Language Officer attended a conference for Local Authorities and Irish Language Officers in the Public Sector in Dublin. The title of the conference was "Seirbhísí Gaeilge: Éifeacht agus Luach Airgid" (Irish Services: Efficiency and Value for Money). Issues discussed included The Official Languages Act, Irish Language Schemes and Irish Language Training for employees. Both the Official Languages Act and the concept of each county having a language scheme are currently under review.

The second Irish Language Scheme will be developed in 2015 and its implementation will commence following adoption by the Minister.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Achieving workplace safety across a business as diverse as Longford County Council is a challenge. Managing health and safety can only be accomplished through the commitment of all employees. Longford County Council is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace through continuous improvement and includes health and safety as an integral part of business.

CERTIFICATION TO OHSAS 18001:2007

In November 2014, Longford County Council was awarded certification of registration of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System to OHSAS 18001:2007 by the National Standard Authority of Ireland.

OHSAS 18001:2007 is an internationally recognised standard for the management of Occupational Health and Safety. It is intended to assist Longford County Council to –

- » *Provide a safe place of work for all employees*
- » *Comply with legal requirements and*
- » *Control and manage health and safety risks associated with the work activities of the Council.*

Longford County Council is the first County Council in the country recommended for accreditation to OHSAS 18001:2007 for cross organisational processes. The following departments were included within the scope of the audit:

- » *Building Maintenance*
- » *Corporate Services*
- » *Housing*
- » *Human Resources*
- » *Libraries*
- » *Roads*
- » *Water Services*
- » *Unfinished Housing Estates*

This is a very important achievement for Longford County Council and demonstrates the commitment to the management and continuous improvement of health and safety to make Longford County Council a safer place for all employees.

REGULATORY INSPECTIONS

There was one inspection from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in 2014 to review the management of passenger lifts following a fatality in Galway where a child was killed in a passenger lift in a public building. The HSA Inspector requested information from the Health and Safety Officer in relation to the management of passenger lifts. This information was provided in a timely manner. No prohibition or improvement notices were issued by the Health and Safety Authority during 2014. This is a positive reflection on the way in which health and safety is managed within the organisation.

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENTS REPORTS

The reporting of accidents and incidents is an important element of the safety management system and is used as a tool for identifying areas for continuous improvement.

A total of 25 accidents and incidents were reported during the year 2014.

There were 9 incidents relating to Violence and Aggression experienced by employees in dealing with members of the public, whilst carrying out their duties. A number of proactive measures have been taken to address this issue such as additional security precautions, training for employees and additional signage. Longford County Council work closely with the Gardai to monitor violence and aggression towards employees.

SAFETY STATEMENT/RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Safety Statement is a document that every employer and County Council is legally obliged to have and must specify how the County Council manages health and safety. There are currently forty seven pieces of legislation that apply to Longford County Council for the management of health and safety which can make the safety statement a complex document.

The Longford County Council Safety Statement was updated during 2014 and awarded the 'Plain English' mark from the National Adult Literacy Agency. Plain English is a way of presenting information that helps someone understand it the first time they read or hear it. Longford is the first County Council in the country to receive the 'Plain English' mark for the Safety Statement.

Risk Assessments require completion for all work activities and buildings owned and/or operated by Longford County Council employees. A continuous programme for the completion, review, update and communication of risk assessments is in place for implementation within all sections of Longford County Council.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

In 2014, Longford County Council continued with the Safety Inspection Program which sets out a programme of work for safety inspections to be completed at fixed and mobile work locations. The inspections are carried out by each Directorate and a report is provided to the Management Team on a quarterly basis. 217 safety inspections were carried out during 2014. The inspections are a useful tool for determining compliance with Health and Safety requirements within the organisation. Any non compliance or issues identified in the safety inspections are added to an Action Tracking List by each section to ensure that all actions identified are addressed and satisfactorily closed by each section.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDITING

In 2014, Longford County Council commenced a programme of health and safety auditing. Fourteen days of auditing were completed in 2014. Auditing is an independent, systematic and thorough review of all elements of the safety management system. This involved an external auditor collecting information to determine the reliability and effectiveness of the safety management system. This is a useful process and assists the Council achieve its objectives of legal compliance by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to improve the effectiveness of health and safety management through continuous improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

Training is a key element of promoting a positive safety culture and developing good safety procedures on the job. In 2014, 737 places on 89 Health and Safety Training courses were filled by employees of Longford County Council. The training courses held included IOSH Managing Safely in Construction Refresher, IOSH Supervising Safely in Construction Refresher, Driver CPC, Chainsaw Refresher, Safepass, Manual Handling Refresher, Confined Space, Safety Statement Training, Health & Safety at Roadworks, Risk Assessment, Training on Standard Operating Procedures and Water Safety Training.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

The Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee Meetings were held in each Directorate on a quarterly basis. Each Committee is chaired by the Director, and includes elected Safety Representatives, Line Managers and the Health and Safety Officer. This process allows for specific safety issues within each Directorate to be discussed. It is a legal requirement to have this process in place for addressing health and safety issues and giving safety representatives an opportunity to raise safety issues on behalf of their work colleagues.

Four Safety Management Team Meetings were held in 2014 to address issues raised at the Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee Meetings. This meeting is also used evaluate compliance with the health and safety legislation and to review progress on the Annual Programme of Works. The Council's Intranet is used as a communication tool for up-to-date content of the Safety Management System.

The Health and Safety Officer attends the Management Team meeting each month and provides an update on accidents and incidents, operational issues and national developments in Health and Safety.

The Safety Report is prepared each month by the Health and Safety Officer and circulated to all employees. This is an effective way of communicating relevant information in relation to Health and Safety matters to all employees and contributes to the development of a positive health and safety culture with all employees.

CONTRACTORS

Longford County Council continues to assess Contractors that work on their behalf in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2013. Every Contractor completes a Health and Safety Questionnaire and this is assessed by Longford County Council to determine their competency and compliance with Health and Safety requirements. There are currently 429 contractor assessments completed, 147 of these contractors were reviewed and completed a re-assessment in 2014.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN IRELAND

There were 55 people killed in work related accidents last year, representing a 17% increase on the 47 reported in 2013.

Longford County Council remains fully committed to managing health and safety and will continue to develop the Safety Management System to ensure a safe place of work for all its employees and members of the public.

ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMME OF WORKS

An annual health and safety programme of works is in place for 2014. The 2014 annual programme of works takes account of this annual report, accidents and incidents, HSA inspections, outcomes from safety inspections and audits, safety meetings, legal requirements and any documents issued nationally for implementation.

LONGFORD ARTS OFFICE

IT PROJECTS

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
www.visuallongford.ie	Launched in Canal Studio Backstage on 20/02/14 Content development on-going.
www.longfordmusic.ie	Updated and expanded the site which showcases the best of local traditional music, contemporary music and classical music.
www.longforddigitalarts.ie	Convert www.midlandcollegeofphotography.ie to new broadly based digital arts site.
www.virtualwriter.ie	Up dated and expanded Ireland's longest running literary website.
www.longfordcoco.ie	Up-graded the structure and the content of the Arts Services Pages

VISUAL ARTS

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
Response Project	Fascinating project whereby 10 literary artists were each shown the work of visual artists and asked to respond in either poetry or prose. Resulted in exhibition Readings and the launch of a book based on the project
Emerging Artists Project	First exhibition for three emerging Longford artists Niamh Masterson, Ed Walshe, Orla Kelleher
Schools Arts Project	Schools children from all around the county created work on boards which were exhibited in the Square on the Square during Cruthu Festival and permanently displayed on the walls of the Shopping Centre car park
Cruthu Festival Pop Up Exhibitions	Thirteen exhibition venues were created in empty shops to exhibit the work of local artists and crafts people
Temporary Public Art Programme	A number of temporary art pieces were constructed and situated around the town and in shop windows during Cruthu
Public Art Programme	St Michael's Road Longford in partnership with Cluid
Solas 's Saol Exhibition	Completion of the N5 By-pass Commission Frances & Orla Kelleher joint exhibition at Atrium Gallery
www.visuallongford.ie	Launch of visual arts website in Canal Studio Backstage. Discussion forum with local artists on the Future of Visual Arts In Longford. # Participants.

MUSIC & DANCE

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION
Sean-nos Dancing Schools Programme	Introduced the first Sean-nos Schools Dancing programme in three schools.
DIT Conservatory of Music Big Band Concert	Hugely successful concert in the main theatre Backstage
DIT Conservatory of Music Partnership Programme	On-going discussions and planning towards the development of a youth music development programme in partnership with the DIT Music conservatory
www.longfordmusic.ie	See IT
Establish Longford Jazz Club	Establish a club to organise a programme of live jazz events in Longford throughout the year

CREATIVE WRITING

PROJECT

Poetry & Prose Mentoring Programme

Mentoring Programme Publication

Poetry Out-doors

All Ireland Poetry Day

Granard Writers Group e-publication

DESCRIPTION

One Poetry Mentoring Class with 10 participants facilitated by Noel Monahan every Tuesday night 7.30 – 9.30pm in Templemichael College. Two Prose Mentoring classes with 9 & 8 participants facilitated by Alan McMonagle every Tuesday & Wednesday nights same time & location.

Ring Around the Moon

Launch of Creative Writing Anthology by mentoring programmes students Canal Studio Backstage

Breda Sullivan Text is a poem she printed in a circular format in response to a circular piece of visual art

DRAMA

PROJECT

Backstage Artist in Residence Programme

Livin' Dread Touring Support

Orbus Theatre Development Support

DESCRIPTION

Supported the appointment of Gerry McIntyre as artist in residence at the Backstage Theatre

Supported Backstage Theatre involvement in this touring theatre initiative

Supported the establishment of this Theatre Company with finance and advice

BURSARIES

PROJECT

Introduced first Professional Artists Bursary Scheme

Third Level art Student Bursary scheme

DESCRIPTION

Ten professional artists each received Longford County Council Arts Office Bursaries of €500.00

Ten third level arts students each received Longford County Council Arts Office Bursaries

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

PROJECT

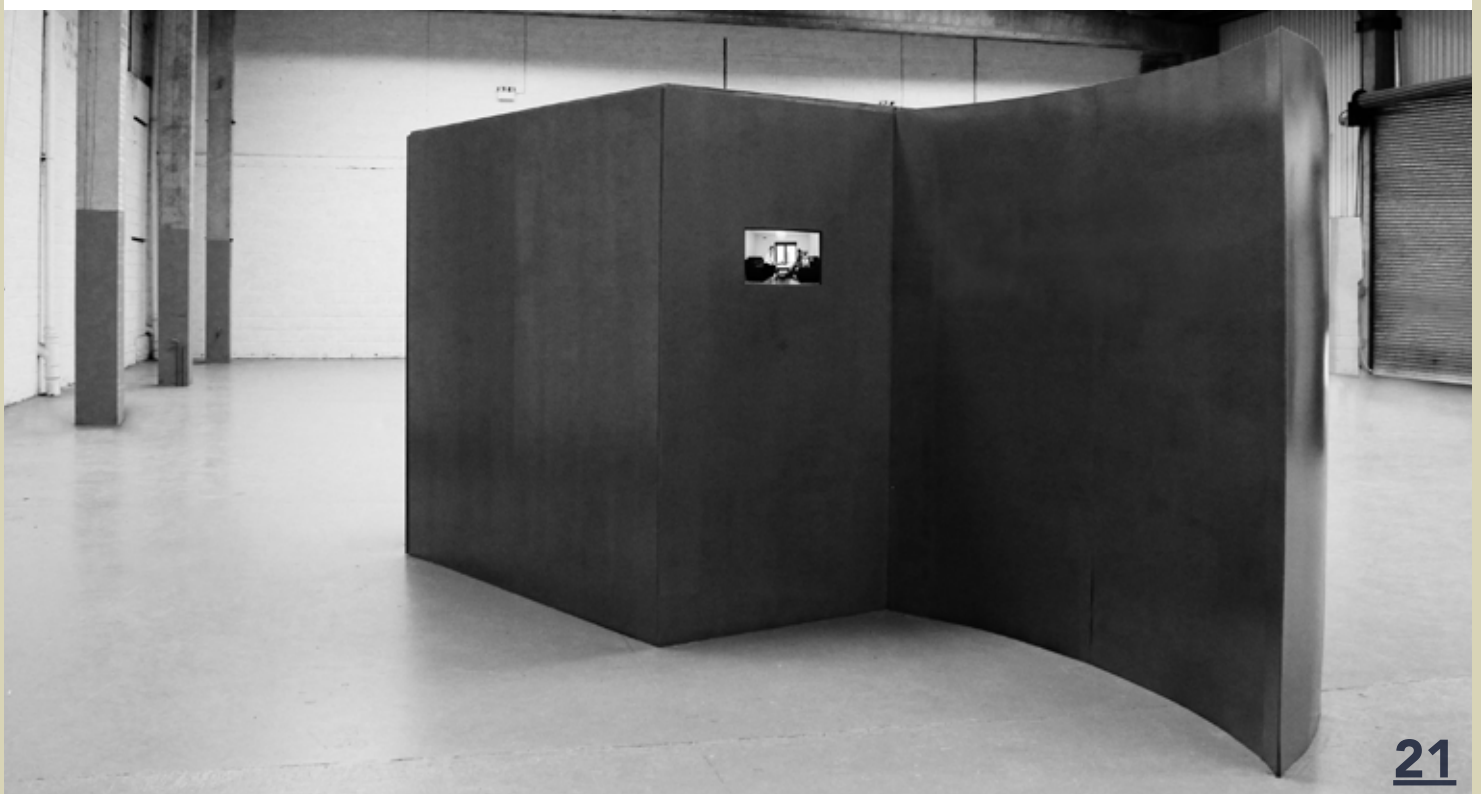
Midlands Arts & Culture Magazine / Spring/Summer Edition

Midlands Arts & Culture / Magazine Autumn Edition

DESCRIPTION

Submitted text and visual images for Spring edition

Submitted text and visual images for Autumn edition



LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY, ARCHIVES & HERITAGE SERVICE

Longford County Library, Archives and Heritage Service has gone from strength to strength over the past few years with over 180,000 visits being recorded to our libraries this year. Our vision is to be a responsive, inclusive public service which helps to enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and communities in Co Longford, through the delivery of a modern, innovative library service.

GRANARD COMMUNITY LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

This year has been a particularly exciting and historic one with the reopening in May of the beautifully refurbished Granard Market House and Town Hall as a state of the art Community Library and cultural space that can be enjoyed by the whole community. The project was carried out by Architect, Sean Harrington and Longford builder Frank McKiernan and cost a total of €1.2 million of which €500,000 was provided in grant aid by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DECLG).

Minister Phil Hogan and the last ever Mayor of Granard Town Council due to the dissolution of the Town Councils, Cllr. Maura Kilbride cut the ribbon on the new Library on 8th May 2014. The Library has been welcomed by the whole community with many new members young and old joining the library for the first time. Digital services are in big demand particularly the high speed broadband and Wifi services.

The beautifully restored Courtroom on the 1st Floor is also in big demand with schools and community groups, with many events taking place including lectures, launches, bookclub and a six week art appreciation programme run in partnership with Granard ICA. One of the highlights was the Christmas Carol event for older people in the community, run in partnership with Rathmhuire Resource Centre.



Official Reopening of Granard Library 2014



The newly refurbished Granard Library 2014

ICT/ DIGITAL SERVICES

A number of developments were progressed in the area of online e-services including increasing our e-book service and:

- » The installation of Automated self issue machines in Granard and Ballymahon libraries which allows customers to check in and out their books and find out what items they have borrowed without queuing at the library desk. It also allows library staff to spend more time dealing with customers' information queries and promoting other aspects of the library service.
- » The launch of the Irish Newspapers Online database www.irishnewspapersarchive.ie is a very valuable archive of all Irish newspapers including the Longford Leader, which can be searched by customers in all of our branch libraries.
- » A new World War 1 online database has been compiled by Longford County Library Archives and Heritage Services and was launched during Heritage Week in August 2014. The names of over 450 people from Longford who fought in the Great War have now been recorded. This important new resource for the study of Longford's involvement in the First World War can be accessed by Longford people all over the world by logging onto www.longfordatwar.ie. Members of the public are asked to submit any information they have on military and nursing personnel. For further information, visit the site or email longfordatwar@longfordcoco.ie.
- » During the year we added an extra layer of filtering software to our public internet service with Open DNS which provides a cloud-delivered network security service that delivers automated protection for our public access library PC's.
- » We continue to use and exploit social media communication tools such as Facebook and Twitter via our library website to promote our service and events to an ever growing social media audience.
- » We liaised with the new National LMS Implementation Team in preparation for the forthcoming National LMS System roll-out which will commence in 2015.

BRANCH LIBRARY PROGRAMME

Our branch libraries continue to be a focal point of community life in their local area with many groups and individuals availing of the facilities and services on offer. A host of exciting projects and events including exhibitions, lectures, readings, book launches as well as language and computer classes are held in branch libraries across the county. The library is regarded as a community space and one that is accessible to all citizens in County Longford. It continues to develop key partnerships with other statutory and community service providers and agencies in the county including - Longford Women's Link (LWL), Longford Older Persons Network, Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board, Longford Mental Health Association, HSE, and a host of other community groups.



Summer Reading Buss 2014

An ongoing events programme that supports reader development, literacy and learning is rolled out each year for adults and children and over 200 events were held in branch libraries across the county throughout 2014. These events are promoted on the Library website, on social media, in the local press and local radio. Among the most successful events were:

- » *The Bealtaine Festival for older people held in May, with over 500 people taking part in a wide range of events coordinated by the library in partnership with Longford Older Person's Network, Longford Gardaí and Longford/ Westmeath Education and Training Board (ETB).*
- » *The Summer Reading Buzz - an initiative that encourages children to discover the joys of reading for pleasure as well as for study throughout the summer holidays was a great success this year. Over 2,000 books were read by children from all over the county who took part in the programme.*
- » *The Annual Children's Book Festival ran throughout the month of October, with the main focus on nurturing a love of reading in children and young people through author visits, storytelling, and creative writing.*
- » *World War One Centenary was a major event in the Library, Heritage & Archives Services 2014 Calendar, with exhibitions held in Ballymahon, Lanesboro and Longford Libraries, remembering all the Longford men and women who fought in the Great War. A wide range of memorabilia were loaned by the relatives for the displays.*

Future Plans: Edgeworthstown Library has been identified by Longford County Council as the number one priority for library development and discussions have begun with the local community about identifying a suitable site for the location of a new library.

Shared Services: The DECLG proposed as part of the Local Government Reform Agenda to reduce the number of library authorities from 30 to 23 and to merge a number of smaller local authority's library services including Longford and Westmeath. This will mean one County Librarian leading a single management team in either Longford or Mullingar. No decision has been made as to which county will be the lead authority and each local authority will still be responsible for policies, priorities and budgets for their library service.

Staff: This year we continued our support for people seeking work placements as part of their studies or return to work training programmes and in particular our cooperation with St Christophers Tasc job coaching programme for people with disabilities. The library has also accepted one person on the JobBridge scheme and two people on the Gateway programme. I wish to acknowledge the cooperation and support of staff in all branch libraries for these programmes and the ongoing cooperation and flexibility of staff in ensuring that except on rare occasions our branch libraries remained open throughout the year despite severe staff shortages.

LONGFORD LIBRARY SERVICE STATISTICAL REPORT 2014

NUMBER OF INTERNET SESSIONS PROVIDED 2014 (JANUARY TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE)

BRANCH	PUBLIC INTERNET PC'S	WIFI	2014 TOTAL	2013 TOTAL
Ballymahon	5,658	775	6,433	5,505
Drumlish	631	---	631	434
Edgeworthstown	380	---	380	261
Granard* (May-Nov)	932	436	1,368	1,276
Lanesboro	2,396	---	2,396	2,132
Longford	12,214	4,091	16,305	15,146
Total	22,211	5,302	27,513	24,754

NUMBER OF LIBRARY VISITS (JANUARY TO DECEMBER INCLUSIVE)

2014 VISITS	2013 VISITS
30,968	20,716
4,257	3,288
5,595	3,003
11,593	9,223
13,733	11,418
133,336	133,326
199,482	181,274

NUMBER OF REGISTERED LIBRARY MEMBERS 2014

LIBRARY BRANCH	ADULT	CHILDREN	2ND LEVEL STUDENT	3RD LEVEL STUDENT	OTHER	TOTAL 2014	TOTAL 2013
Ballymahon	403	564	128	72	19	1,186	1,366
Drumlish	44	228	21	14	13	320	292
Edgeworthstown	33	213	18	10	4	278	345
Granard	243	436	121	52	22	874	423
Lanesboro	162	332	116	138	15	763	480
Longford	1,568	1,942	700	660	98	4,968	5,334
						8,389 (+1.8% on	
Total	2,453	3,715	1,104	946	171	2013 fig)/(21.8% pop)	8,240

NO. OF ITEMS ISSUED 2014

BRANCH	ADULT FICTION	ADULT NON-FICTION	CHILDRENS'	TEENS	AUDIO DVD MUSIC	TOTAL	TOTAL 2013
Ballymahon	6,134	3,003	13,412	693	1,441	24,683	23,205
Drumlish	827	636	3,794	148	175	5,580	4,947
E'Town	557	445	3,751	134	34	4,921	5,405
Granard	2,748	1,201	5,526	286	915	10,676	7,492
Lanesboro	2,661	1,007	3,549	192	121	7,530	9,100
Longford	19,690	17,174	28,866	1,957	5,132	72,819	73,555
Total	32,617	23,466	58,898	3,410	7,818	126,209	123,704

OTHER STATISTICS:

LONGFORD LIBRARY WEBSITE STATISTICS

No of Page views	63,000
No of sessions	20,725
No. of users	13,045
eBooks Statistics	
No. of ebooks on our digital catalogue	934
No. of eBook downloads/reads 2014.	324
Self-Service Statistics	
No of transactions in Granard Library:	7,181
No of transactions in Longford Branch:	1,821
Local History Room HQ	
No. of visitors/queries	184
Inter Library Loans	
Books Received from other Irish Libraries through Borrow Books	171
Books Supplied to other Irish Libraries	198
Internal Book Requests	437
Total No. of Requests supplied to Library Customers	806

LONGFORD COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE REPORT

In 2014 the County Archives Service continued to acquire new collections, assist the public and local authority staff with enquiries, and was involved in several outreach activities.

ARCHIVES ACQUIRED

The following collections and items were deposited:

- » *The minutes of Longford Town Council, 1990-2004*
- » *County Manager's orders for Longford Town Council, 1948-1998*
- » *Newtownforbes I.C.A. Guild minute book, 2002-2010 and report book 1999-2010*
- » *Longford County Council account book, c. 1968-1980*
- » *Two seeds cash books, 1959-1976*
- » *Granard I.C.A. Guild minute book 1994-2010 and visitor's book*
- » *Petroleum licence book, Ballymahon area, 1924*
- » *'Sheridan's Last Ride' – explanatory sheet to go with music*
- » *Auction catalogue from sale of Whitehill House, 1961*
- » *Archives of the Longford Branch, British Legion, c. 1930s to c. 2000*
- » *Receipts relating to the Walker family, Clonkeen, Street*
- » *Copy of R.I.C. report on Thomas Fenlon, Edgeworthstown, 1890*
- » *Declaration by P. Higgins that he would support the U.I.L., if elected to Granard R.D.C., 1901*
- » *Copy of 'Souvenir de Longford' a musical composition by James King, Longford Barracks, c.1840s*

PROCESSING OF ARCHIVES

The Archivist completed the cleaning and basic listing of the King-Harman Papers acquired in 2012.

CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR I

The Archivist was a member of the working group that organised events to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. They included:

- » *An exhibition in Longford Library, which opened on 25 August.*
- » *An open evening for members of the public to bring in family artefacts, 27 August (covered on the 'Longford Matters' programme on Irish TV).*
- » *The development of the website www.longfordatwar.ie which includes a database with the names of Longford men and women who served in the war.*

The Archivist helped to facilitate visits to the exhibition by groups from St. Michael's N.S., Longford, St. Colmcille's N.S., Aughnaciliffe, Cloontagh N.S. and Moyne Community School.

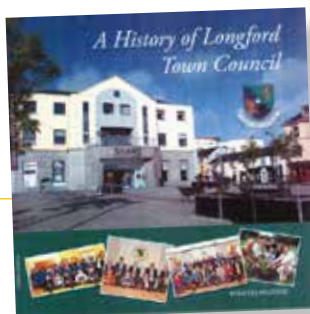
OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Other outreach activities involving the Archivist during the year included:

- » *Contributing content to the exhibition to mark the opening of Granard Community Library on 8 May.*
- » *Organising the visit of a French re-enactment group to Ballinamuck on 1 July.*
- » *A walking tour of Longford town with pupils from St Michael's N.S. on 23 October.*
- » *Facilitating the visit of a transition year class from Moyne Community School to view the Archives and Local Studies, Library HQ on 6 November.*
- » *Talks on archives to first year classes, Moyne Community School on 26 November.*

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Work continued on the files in the Human Resources and Community and Enterprise Sections of the Council.



BOOK ON LONGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

To mark the dissolution of Longford Town Council on 1 June, the Archivist was commissioned to write a book entitled *A History of Longford Town Council*, which was launched on 3 June.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Archivist contributed to the ongoing revision of The National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records by the Local Authority Archivists' Group. He also joined the Connolly Barracks Committee in December.

LONGFORD HERITAGE OFFICE

The overall aim of the Longford County Heritage Plan is to ensure “that our heritage will be part of life for everyone”. This is being achieved through:

- » *The commitment to achieving the goals of the existing Longford Heritage Plan in partnership with the Heritage Forum and their constituent organisations and the wider community.*
- » *The co-ordination and implementation heritage-related projects within the county to further the protection and appreciation of the cultural and natural heritage of County Longford and Ireland as a whole.*
- » *Supporting the heritage-related work of Longford Local Authorities, national bodies, local heritage and community groups and individuals.*

LONGFORD HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014

A number of significant projects were undertaken in County Longford to further the aims of the County Longford Heritage Office and to increase our knowledge and awareness of Longford’s diverse heritage stock and potential threats to its long-term survival. These comprised:

LONGFORD & THE GREAT WAR COMMEMORATION 1914 - 2014

The Longford & the Great War Commemoration is a 4-year programme to commemorate World War 1 and its impact on Co. Longford. Prior to 2014, there was little awareness among the general public of the 360+ Longford men and women who died as a result of the Great War. This first year of the commemoration has helped us identify many more, and allowed their relatives to share their stories for the first time.

A series of events and projects were developed to raise awareness, including an exhibition that ran from Heritage Week to November 2014, open days for war memorabilia (pictured), memorial events, movie showings and talks by local historians on aspects of the Great War and the Longford people involved. These events will be continued and expanded upon each year up to 2018 and beyond.



Image taken during the Great War Memorabilia Open Day during Heritage Week 2014.

LONGFORDATWAR.IE

An integral part of the commemoration project was the creation of the Longford At War website to inform the public about Longford people in the Great War. The website features a database of participants and research resources, and will be extended to include other conflicts. This project was carried out under the County Longford Heritage Plan and funded by the Heritage Council, in partnership with Longford County Council and the County Longford Great War Commemoration Committee.



THE BLACK PIGS DYKE RESEARCH PROJECT – PHASE 1

The extensive linear earthworks known collectively as the Black Pig’s Dyke (BPD) extend across south Ulster and the north Midlands. They are amongst the most mysterious land features of prehistoric Europe, and many magnificent myths surround their origins. More recent explanations are more prosaic, tending towards boundary or ritual functions. In 2014, the Co. Longford Heritage Office worked with the Heritage Offices in Monaghan, Cavan and Roscommon to develop the first stage of a multi-phase research and development project. This sought to review the existing research on the monument, and work towards an inter-regional project promoting the monuments and our shared cultural heritage. This project will continue in 2015, with the support of the Heritage Council. This project was carried out under the County Longford Heritage Plan and was funded by the Heritage Council, in partnership with Longford County Council.

LIBRARY OF FLORA & FAUNA ILLUSTRATIONS – PHASE 1

The Library of Flora & Fauna Illustrations is a beautifully-rendered collection of illustrations depicting 116 species, including: 14 mammals, 6 insects, 46 plants and 50 birds, including aquatic species. This catalogue has been made available to Longford County Council by the artist, Mary Fleming of Rusty Lemon Designs. It will be available on a non-commercial basis to local community and heritage organisations, schools, and the local authority for the purpose of promoting awareness of our biodiversity. This project was carried out under the County Longford Heritage Plan and was funded by the Heritage Council, in partnership with Longford County Council.

‘LONGFORD REACHING OUT’/ IRELAND XO INITIATIVE:

The County Longford Heritage Office continued its participation of the Ireland XO – Longford Reaching Out initiative in 2014, by supporting the Ireland Reaching Out Roadshow held in Longford on the 28th May 2014.

HERITAGE WEEK 2014

National Heritage Week programme took place in 2014 from the 23rd to the 31st of August, and was celebrated through a variety of events throughout the county. These were organised primarily by local groups and heritage organisations to promote awareness the treasures of their respective areas. This included the second Prof. Barry Raftery Memorial Conference on the archaeology and ecology of our peatlands, which was organised by Wetlands Heritage Ireland, and took place at the OPWs Corlea Trackway Visitor’s Centre.

The Heritage Office, in partnership with the County Longford Library & Archives Services, ran a number of events during the week, focussed on the Longford & the Great War project, including an exhibition, talk on the burial places of Longford’s WW1 soldiers, and a showing of “Gallipoli” starring Mel Gibson.

BUILT HERITAGE

In 2014, the Longford Heritage Office acted as the administrator to the Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme 2014. This was an innovative pilot conservation grant scheme operated by the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, which aimed to drive employment and traditional building skills in the construction industry, along with supporting the owners/occupiers of historic structures in the ongoing protection of these structures. In County Longford, eleven significant conservation projects were completed under this scheme in 2014 including a mix of private and publicly-accessible buildings. Works included essential repairs to roofs, walls and exterior architectural features, conserving our built heritage for future generations. As a result of the scheme, over 600 man-days of labour were undertaken creating and securing employment in the county’s construction industry.

OTHER HERITAGE AWARENESS

To further awareness of heritage within County Longford, the Heritage Office undertook the following:

- » *Providing guidance and advice on heritage matters to Local Authority employees and departments.*
- » *Providing support and advice to private individuals, local heritage and community groups in the care and conservation of their heritage.*
- » *Providing ongoing support to the Planning Section and to owners and occupiers of historic buildings and protected structures, and assessing relevant planning applications.*
- » *Acting Chair of the Rural Development Programme Assessment Committee for Longford Community Resources Ltd.*

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

LONGFORD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Longford Sports Partnership's activities for 2014 were guided by Longford Sports Partnership's strategic plan for sport in Longford: More People, More Sport, More Often (2013-17). It focuses on four key areas: Increasing Participation, Supporting Pathways, Management and Leadership and Communication.

BOARD OF LONGFORD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

The Board of Longford Sports Partnership (2014) comprised of representatives from statutory, voluntary and sporting organisations:

SECTOR/ORGANISATION	MEMBERS
Elected Representatives	Cllr. John Browne
	Cllr. Martin Mulleady
	Cllr. Mark Casey
Longford County Council	Frank Sheridan
Health Service Executive	Clodagh Armitage
Longford Community Resources Ltd.	Sean Hannon
Education and Training Board	Michael O'Rourke
Longford Community Gardai	Michael Belton
County Longford Youth Services	Mark Noble
Longford Sport and Leisure Centre	Vacant
St. Christopher's Services Ltd.	Oonagh Flynn
Community & Voluntary Forum	Reina Flower
Sporting Representatives	Stephen Coy, Brendan Doyle,
	Peter O'Reilly, Rose Kane
RAPID	Frank Horne

FUNDING

Longford Sports Partnership was successful in securing €144,000 under various streams for sport in the County in 2014.

SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Having secured funding under the SportNation fund in 2013 on behalf of the Longford County Council, an Outdoor Bocce Court and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) were opened in the Mall, Longford Town.



Minister Ring and Deputy Bannon
launching Bocce Court and MUGA
(Dec. '14)

CORE PROGRAMMES

Longford Sports Partnership rolled out the Buntús Generic Refresher programme in primary schools in County Longford. The programme provides teacher training, a bag of equipment and resource cards, all of which are free to the schools. 36 schools availed of the programme, training a total of 279 teachers and 4,470 children.

Five Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport (Child Protection) workshops were held throughout the year. Following the training, 61 volunteers and coaches were certified by the Irish Sports Council and thirteen sports were represented. Courses will continue to run on a regular basis.

The Sports Club Grant Scheme 2014 administered by Longford Sports Partnership assisted nine clubs in the county. Projects supported include junior club development, coach education and training and projects which increased community usage of facilities. A total of €5000 was distributed. Successful clubs were:

- » County Longford Community Games
- » St. Christopher's Sports Club
- » Drumlish Dragon
- » Longford Cricket Club
- » Inny Kayaking Club
- » Longford Athletics Club
- » Longford and District Schoolboy League
- » Abbeyshrule Canoe Club
- » Connolly Boxing Club
- » Junior Badminton Mostrim
- » Keenagh GAA Hurling Club
- » Lanesborough Boxing Club

TARGET PROGRAMMES

Longford Cycling Tour took place in June as part of National BikeWeek, with approximately 200 participants enjoying the choice of three routes around Longford - 15km, 50km and 100km. The tour was run in partnership with Longford Cycling Club. Longford Sports Partnership also supported Bike to Work Day, Cycle to School Day and Cyclesafe workshops. These were run in conjunction with Longford County Council and the Road Safety Authority.



Longford Cycle Tour - 100km
cyclists in Ballymahon

The third Longford Sports Awards took place in the Backstage Theatre under the gaze of the legendary Eugene McGee, along with countless other dignitaries and members of the sporting public. There was a great turn-out to support our local sporting talent. Cllr. John Duffy was an excellent MC on the night, which saw eleven winners announced under a selection of categories. Each award was co-presented by a local sponsor and Eugene McGee. Peelo School of Dance performed on the night.



Junior Sportsperson of the Year
Peelo School of Dance



Longford Sports Partnership in conjunction with the HSE continues to facilitate the Playground Markings Initiative which is being rolled out in primary schools in Longford.

Stencil Packs (stencils and games booklet) which enable schools to put down playground markings are being offered FREE to all primary schools in Longford to encourage greater physical activity in young children through Play in the school setting.

Longford Sports Partnership secured funding on behalf of the Longford County Council and supported National Recreation Week and Play Day by contributing to various events including an intercultural family day and an outdoor adventure day for young people. This was done in conjunction with local youth agencies. Over 300 children and young people were involved.

January saw Longford Sports Partnership team up with RTE's 'Operation Transformation' to organise a series of walks along the canal as part of a nationwide initiative. This walk saw an enthusiastic and well-spirited bunch striding into the New Year. 170 participants turned out to enjoy the walk along the Slí na Sláinte route at the canal.

Two schools programmes were piloted in 2014. The Couch to 3k programme saw 120 girls from Moyne Community School and Templemichael College take part in the five-week programme to increase physical activity levels amongst sedentary teenagers. In the primary sector, Sportshall Athletics was launched with two local teams qualifying for the national competition in Athlone Institute of Technology. Over 1,000 children participated in these events.

In conjunction with Westmeath Sports Partnership, Age and Opportunity Ireland and the HSE, Longford Sports Partnership trained new Physical Activity Leaders (PALs). Having qualified, these older adults are equipped to develop and deliver physical activity opportunities within their own settings, e.g. Active Retirement Groups.

Longford Sports Partnership SIDP (Sports Inclusion Development Programme) officer worked closely with local service providers to facilitate a number of programmes including Sportshall Athletics, CycleSafe, Outdoor Pursuits and the Longford Boccia League.

Longford Sports Partnership also worked very closely with Longford Tourism on a number of initiatives including Longford Walking Festival, the Ray Flynn Mile and the development of the 16km trackway from Longford to Clondra.

COMMUNICATIONS

Longford Sports Partnership's Facebook page www.facebook.com/longfordsportspartnership, in addition to its website www.longfordsports.ie and Twitter account @LSPLongford is an excellent way of communicating with the public. All events, activities and feedback are updated regularly. Longford Sports Partnership also has a weekly news column in the Sports section of the Longford Leader and distribution lists for schools, sports clubs, local businesses and other agencies.



Operation Transformation Walkers

Launch of the Ray Flynn Mile



Launch of the Longford Clondra Trackway with Minister Ring

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources (HR) Section is the functional area that provides all human resources services to the organisation, including:

- » *Recruitment and Deployment of staff*
- » *Maintenance of HR CORE Management System*
- » *Provision of Management Reports (internally & externally)*
- » *Payroll & Superannuation Amendments*
- » *Staff Welfare, Training and Development*
- » *Attendance Management*
- » *Performance Management*
- » *Human Resources Policies and Procedures*
- » *Implementation of Work Experience, Internship and Labour Activation Schemes*
- » *Equality and Diversity Management*
- » *Industrial Relations*

The work of the HR Section is determined by the goals and objectives identified in the Council's Corporate Plan. In 2014 our work continued to be guided and influenced by Government Policy decisions in relation to Public Services. The HR Section was responsible for the continued coordination and implementation of the terms of the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2016 (Haddington Road Agreement).

Key activities in the Council's HR work programme in 2014 are outlined below:

NEW PUBLIC SERVICE SICK PAY SCHEME

Regulations to give effect to a revised sick leave scheme for the Public Service were introduced with effect from 31st March 2014. The revised Public Service Sick Leave Scheme is applicable to all employees and introduced revised limits for paid sick leave subject to certain conditions.

The Public Service Sick Leave Scheme also provides for Temporary Rehabilitation Pay (TRP) and Critical Illness Protocol (CIP) with eligibility subject to specific criteria.

ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT

Longford County Council implemented its Attendance Management Policy revised in 2014 to incorporate the provisions of the Public Service Sick Leave Scheme.

Attendance Management forms part of the Council's strategy to clarify the contractual obligations of the Council and its employees in relation to attendance and also to promote a working environment that motivate employee attendance.

The time & attendance for all indoor employees is now electronically recorded and managed using the Time & Attendance Module of CORE (the integrated ICT HR system). This implementation enables HR to provide up-to-date attendance details and reports for all employees as required under the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2014

Local Government is currently undergoing a very significant reform process in line with the proposals in 'Putting People First'. This programme sets out a wide range of actions to deliver reform. The Local Government Act 2014 provides the necessary legislative basis to give effect to many of the Reform Measures including:

- » *Major structural reforms reducing the number of local authorities from 114 to 31 and the number of local authority members from 1,627 to 949*
- » *Municipal districts replaced 80 town councils - including Longford Town Council*
- » *Assignment of reserved functions to Municipal Districts*
- » *Establishment of Local Enterprise Office.*
- » *Establishment of Local Community Development Committee*

Following enactment of the legislation of three Municipal Districts were established in Longford (Ballymahon, Granard and Longford). Each municipal district is assigned a Director of Services with the support of a multi-functional team including a Senior Executive Officer, Area Engineer, area staff and the Meetings Administrator.

HR engaged in consultation with the Change Management Implementation team to support the reform programme for County Longford and to manage the process of employee redeployment from the County Enterprise Board and the Town Council to Longford County Council.

HR maintained Org Structure on CORE (the integrated ICT HR system) to ensure that the revised configuration of the Council was electronically recorded to reflect the formation of the municipal districts and the redeployed employees.

PAYROLL & SUPERANNUATION SHARED SERVICE

Implementation of the Payroll & Superannuation shared services project for the local authority sector commenced in 2013 in Laois County Council and was then rolled out across the Local Government Sector in a number of waves.

Longford County Council was selected for inclusion in Wave One and commenced work on the implementation of the shared service in April 2014 and went live in May 2014.

HR worked closely with Finance to ensure that the move to a shared payroll service caused minimal disruption to employees with the main change for them being the move of all payroll related enquiries to the shared service centre in Laois.

The main impact of implementation the shared payroll service was experienced in HR and Finance with to revised payroll deadlines. The shared payroll service was successfully implemented in Longford County Council by May 2014.

IRISH WATER

HR continues to assist in the ongoing implementation of the Irish Water Programme and the development of the Annual Service Plan through:

- » *Attendance at workshop meetings*
- » *Provision of relative data to DECLG and Irish Water*
- » *Liaison with Water Service Transition Office*
- » *Liaison with employees and their representative bodies regarding the Irish Water programme and Annual Service Plans*
- » *Circulation of employment opportunities in Irish Water to employees*

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Longford County Council have established policies and procedures aligned to both the National Guidelines for the Protection of Children and the Children First 2011.

In 2014 HR engaged in delivery of briefing sessions to all employees to provide information and guidance to them of their responsibilities under Children First 2011.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

Recruitment activity for Longford County Council remained low in 2014 in context of moratorium on recruitment as reflected in the statistics below. Most recruitment in 2014 related primarily to emergency services.

The HR Section is fully compliant with nationally implemented procedures, referring requests to fill identified posts to the DECLG as exceptions to the moratorium on filling of public service posts.

RECRUITMENT STATISTICS 2014

Number of Competitions Advertised	Number of Interview Days	Number of Applicants Invited for Interview	Number of Applicants who Attended for Interview	Number of Appointments
10	2	11	11	5

WORKFORCE PLANNING

In the context of the Employment Control Framework and the sectoral requirement on Local Government, Longford County Council proceeded with an exercise in Workforce Planning. Using the information given in the outline plan presented to the Department in December 2013, HR continued to develop a workforce plan to ensure that Longford County Council maintains an appropriate workforce structure with the ability to respond to the changing needs of the public service.

LOCAL AUTHORITY LABOUR ACTIVATION SCHEME (GATEWAY)

"Gateway" is a local authority labour activation scheme to provide short-term work and training opportunities for unemployed people that are on the Live Register for over two years.

HR manages the implementation of the Gateway Scheme on behalf of Longford County Council. In 2014 HR interviewed over 24 candidates selected by the DSP and appointed three candidates for placements in Longford County Council.

Longford County Council continues to work to promote and increase participation in the Gateway Scheme with a view to meeting the target of 55 total placements.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In the context of reduced budgets similar to recent years, training in 2014 was mainly restricted to Health & Safety courses to ensure compliance with mandatory obligations.

A total of 123 training programmes were delivered to 861 participants over 155 days across all disciplines, including the courses listed below:

- » *Safe Pass*
- » *Manual Handling*
- » *Abrasive Wheels*
- » *Driver CPC*
- » *Chainsaw*
- » *Risk Assessment*
- » *Water Safety*
- » *IOSH Managing Safely in Construction*
- » *Health & Safety at Roadworks*
- » *Hygiene in Water Services*
- » *Confined Spaces*
- » *AED Remediation*
- » *Child Safeguarding*
- » *Safety Statement*
- » *Dealing with Violence & Aggression*

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Industrial Relations refers to the collective relationship between employers and employees. The organisation continues to maintain good industrial relations with active engagement with all stakeholders. The main areas of engagement in 2014 related to matters included in the Haddington Road Agreement.

MOVING FORWARD

The work programme for the Human Resources Section remains focussed on supporting employees and developing their capacity to deliver on the many Government Policy Reform measures agreed for delivery of a wide range of services throughout the County.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL

PLANNING

Significant activities undertaken by the Planning Section in 2014 are outlined below. New legislation, guidelines and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 to 2014, in particular, have created ongoing challenges in these times of limited resources.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Development Management Section is responsible for processing all planning applications in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations. Application numbers for 2014 have remained at a steady level, slightly down on 2013. This is reflective of national economic trends and the downturn in the construction sector. There were 183 planning applications in 2014, 30 of which were extensions of duration of planning permission. A reduced number of Commencement Notices were submitted in 2014. The number of planning applications was balanced by an increase in demands in other areas of the planning system, most notably in terms of forward planning workload at a local and regional level, and planning enforcement.

Pre-Planning consultations are an integral part of the Development Management process and are utilised on an ongoing and increasing basis. These meetings are held to provide a higher quality and more transparent planning service to the general public. In 2014 approximately 50 pre-planning meetings were held to facilitate discussion with potential applicants on the issues associated with their proposals in addition to the many phone and email queries. Pre-planning meetings are now recorded digitally to facilitate consistency, transparency and seamless integration with the decision-making process.

Planning applications are now screened for appropriate assessment as required by the Habitats Directive and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG). Licence applications under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, principally for roadside signage and planning questions for LEADER funding, are a regular feature of the work carried out in the past three years, representing a substantial increase in workload over the previous years.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

In 2014 the enforcement workload as a result of unauthorised development continued at a steady pace. 40 complaints were received and as a result 38 new enforcement files were opened. This figure does not include, and is in addition to, ongoing cases from earlier years. During the year, 7 Pre-Warning Letters were issued, 16 Warning Letters were issued, 8 Enforcement Notices were issued and 6 cases proceeded to Court.

The Local Authority continues to achieve a reduction in enforcement notices issued and legal proceedings instigated through achieving greater success in negotiation and resolution at pre-warning letter stage. A number of very difficult cases including legacy cases however, have proceeded to Court with a reasonable level of success on the Council's behalf.



DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Development Contributions are levied in accordance with the scheme adopted by the Council 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 which becomes 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 Longford County Council.

The Development Contribution Scheme has had a very positive impact on the delivery of infrastructure in Longford since its introduction. It has generated funds for a wide variety of infrastructure, including the acquisition of land, provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities, amenity and landscaping works, roads, car parks, footpaths, water and waste water facilities.

Significant progress was made in this area over the previous years in the collection of outstanding monies particularly given the difficult economic conditions. The Development Contributions have been reduced in 2014 to assist with the stimulation of the local economy and promote development.

FORWARD PLANNING

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of all Development Plans, Local Area Plans and forward looking initiatives. The introduction of recent legislation in respect of the Planning Authority's forward planning function has led to a marked increase in the workload of the Forward Planning Section in 2014. The economic downturn and slowdown in the construction industry does not affect the forward planning work schedule which is governed by the 2000 Planning and Development Act and ongoing implementation of national and EU legislation in the planning and environmental arena. In addition, the Forward Planning Section is regularly involved with other projects that require substantial time allocation such as Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs), Route Corridor Studies and other projects from local to national level.

One of the most significant elements of the Act on the Forward Planning schedule is the introduction of the requirement for each County Development Plan to contain a Core Strategy. This is a specifically defined central foundation statement that outlines the existing and proposed population distribution and settlement hierarchy for the county. The aim has been to produce a transparent evidence-based approach to land zoning and spatial designations clearly informed by and in accordance with ministerial guidelines and higher tier plans such as the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines. The Core Strategy aligns zoning provisions with the provision of supporting infrastructure and in accordance with other considerations such as housing and settlement strategies. The County Development Plan and Core Strategy review was continued through 2014. The County Development Plan Review is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Longford County Council's Draft County Development Plan 2015-2021 sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Longford County and consists of a written statement and plans indicating the development objectives for the County including the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County.

The review process commenced in 2013 and involved the issue of notification to all statutory prescribed bodies, local community and voluntary groups, associations, societies, statutory undertakers and service providers. The general public were consulted through a campaign of newspaper advertisements, postal notification and public meetings.

Following the consideration of the Manager's Report on submissions received, the elected members made alterations to the Draft Plan which were subsequently put on display for public consultation through 2014 with the final Chief Executives report presented to the members in December 2014. The Plan was subsequently adopted in February 2015.

As part of the County Development Plan review, all zonings and their associated objectives under previous Local Area Plan settlements have been reviewed and updated under the process and are now contained as part of the County Development Plan document.

HOUSING STRATEGY

A part of the County Development Plan review a Draft Housing Strategy was prepared to meet statutory requirements set out under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 2009.

The strategy has regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and addresses the overall supply of housing within the administrative boundary of the Local Authority, the needs for social and affordable housing and helps ensure that sufficient land is zoned for housing over the period of its plan.

RETAIL STRATEGY

As part of the County Development Plan review a Draft Retail Strategy was prepared in accordance with provisions set out in the 'Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published by the DECLG in 2012.

The aim of the strategy is to create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retail environment in County Longford over the Development Plan period of 2015-2021. It does so through retail policy recommendations which are framed in the context of national and regional plans, strategies and guidelines. The strategy provides important information on the quantum, scale and types of retail development required over the period to 2021, with further outlook to 2024.

A revised Retail Hierarchy was also introduced to reflect the updated Settlement Hierarchy introduced for the County under the Development Plan Core Strategy.

LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN

The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 provides that each local authority shall make a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan for its area. The purpose of the plan is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of the county. This plan is to consist of two parts:

- » *An Economic element.*
- » *A Community element.*

The two elements are to be prepared in parallel and adopted by the local authority as a unified plan. This single, integrated economic and community plan will provide the basis for a more coherent, streamlined and co-ordinated approach to service planning and delivery locally. The Planning Section is assisting the Head of Enterprise and Community Officer to prepare and write the Plan. The preliminary work for this plan commenced in 2014.

LONGFORD TOURISM PLANS

Work on various Tourism Plans for Longford commenced in 2014:

- » *The Mid Shannon Wilderness Plan covers South Longford, Lough Ree and the Royal Canal. A series of Cycle Loops has been developed as part of this plan.*
- » *The proposed Blueway Trail will encompass the Royal Canal and is being developed as a major walking/ cycling route from Dublin to Clondra.*
- » *The Literary Trail covers Mid Longford and will be centred in Edgeworthstown.*
- » *The Rebel Longford Trail covers the North County from Granard to Ballinamuck including Ballinalee and Longford Town.*
- » *A Heritage Plan has been produced for Ballymahon.*

It is hoped that the development of these Tourism Product initiatives will increase tourism and business to the county.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2010

There are several significant legislative provisions in the Act which will transform planning over the next number of years, in particular with regard to quarries, which were commenced and completed in 2012. 46 quarries or significant sites in total were identified, investigated, surveyed and reported on by the Planning Section. This involved an enormous and exhaustive amount of investigative work. The work was completed within the statutory period and some cases have now been progressed to An Bord Pleanála for review. Work was ongoing through 2014 to ensure compliance with the Act.

MYPLAN

Myplan.ie is an initiative of the DECLG on behalf of all planning authorities. It was introduced to co-ordinate the 400+ development and local area plans across the country. The aim of Myplan.ie is to create a one stop shop for information about plans and also to provide other information which is relevant to planning decision-making (census, heritage sites, patterns of housing development etc).

Longford County Council in conjunction with the DECLG, developed an easy to use best practice guidelines on GIS management as part of the MyPlan initiative. The manual is used as a best practice document to ensure a consistent approach in preparing accurate GIS data across Local Authorities.

Longford County Council having uploaded all its entire zoning strategy for the County subsequently updated all information and revised zonings arising from the adoption of the Longford County & Town Core Strategy Variations. The new County Development Plan will in turn be uploaded on the Myplan system.

MISCELLANEOUS

The day-to-day workings of the Planning Section require that plans, amendments and variations are prepared, sometimes at short notice. These require strict adherence to the relevant legislative provisions, forming a specific set of consultative processes that the Forward Planning Section are continuously streamlining and refining in order to provide an inclusive, effective and efficient service.

There has also been a substantial number of various planning queries and freedom of information requests which uses up a substantial amount of the Planning Section's very scarce resources.

The integration of Longford Town Council into existing planning functions within the County Council's Planning Authority has had its own associated issues and has created additional workloads in the Planning Section. Of particular note in this regard is the requirement to prepare a Municipal/Local Area Plan in place of the existing Longford Town Development Plan and the preparation of Local and Community Plans for the Local Community Development Committees under the Local Government Act.

FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES, HOUSING & BUILDING



Councillor P.J. Reilly
Housing Services SPC



Mr. Barry Lynch,
Head of Finance/Director of Services

FINANCE

The main functions of the Finance Section 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*

SERVICES

- » *Motor Taxation*
- » *Rates/Water Charges/Housing Rents*
- » *Higher Education Grants*
- » *General Office – processing payments to suppliers and payroll*

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. Systems are in place to ensure that interest penalties are not incurred.

Total amount of interest penalties:

Longford Co. Council

Nil

Longford Town Council

Nil

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.

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 and 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

The Student Support Act, 2011 provides legislative basis for the reform of student grants. The key provision of the Act is the consolidation of the four student grant schemes into a single unified scheme, the establishment of a single grant awarding authority and an independent appeals board. The grant awarding authority known as Student Universal Support Ireland, SUSI, commenced operation for the 2012/13 academic year for new applicants.



The grant scheme for the 2014/2015 academic year is governed by:

- » *Student Support Act, 2011*
- » *Student Support Regulations, 2014 [S.I. 200 of 2014]*
- » *Student Grant Scheme 2014 [S.I. 201 of 2014]*

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS - ACADEMIC YEAR 2012 - 2013

Total number of students in receipt of Higher Education Grants	48
Number of students attending Irish colleges	47
Number of students attending UK colleges (including Northern Ireland) and EU colleges	1

EXPENDITURE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – SECTION 142 EXPENDITURE

Mayor and Other Allowances	€70,025
Entertainment and Associated Expenses	€22,322
Representational Payments, Expenses of Members and Representation at Conferences	€959,245
Total	€1,051,592

INCOME GENERATION UNIT

The Income Generation Unit is responsible for the collection of the main revenue income streams for the Council. This includes rates, commercial water charges, housing rents, housing loans and RAS rents. The Unit also operates the cash desk which facilitates customer payments for Council goods and services.

COMMERCIAL WATER CHARGES

During 2014 Income Generation Unit continued to bill commercial water customers and deal with billing queries on behalf of Irish Water until they establish their own billing system.

WATER CHARGES COLLECTION

YEAR	OPENING BALANCE	WATER CHARGES INVOICED	RECEIPTS	WRITE OFFS DUE TO LEAKS ETC.	% COLLECTED	CLOSING BALANCE
2012	1,217,484	1,671,066	1,685,953	138,993	61.33	1,062,953
2013	1,062,953	1,788,001	1,736,337	99,747	63.1	1,015,276
2014	1,015,276	1,513,405	1,479,212	0	58.47	1,050,686

NON PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE CHARGE (NPPR)

This charge was introduced in 2009 on residential property which is not the owner's principal place of residence. The charge is based on self assessment by the property owner and there are substantial late payment charges and fines for non compliance.

During 2014 the Income Generation Unit identified properties where the charge was due and had not been paid. Legal proceedings were commenced in a number of these cases to recover amounts owed to the Council. In other cases of financial hardship, the Council put in place monthly payment plans with property owners to facilitate payment of the charge.

The government abolished the charge in the financial year commencing January 2014. The Council will continue to pursue non-compliant property owners liable for the charge in previous years and to collect any charges and penalties owed.

The Income Generation Unit is also responsible for the issue of certificates of compliance and Certificates of Discharge under the NPPR legislation and this body of work increased in 2014 as property sales increased in the County.

RATES

The Income Generation Unit continued to facilitate monthly instalment arrangements for rate payers with cash flow problems. Rate collection remained relatively stable in the County Area for 2014. In the Longford town area, the high vacancy rate and tenant turnover contributed to a more difficult situation for rates collection.

RATES COLLECTION

YEAR	OPENING BALANCE	RATES INVOICED	RECEIPTS	VACANCY WRITE OFFS	%	CLOSING BALANCE
2012	895,128	4,768,723	3,890,109	910,892	81.85	862,849
2013	862,849	7,332,918	3,858,127	1,727,069	59.64	2,610,571
2014	2,610,571	7,607,785	6,074,093	1,555,135	70.11	2,589,107

*2013 and 2014 invoices include former Town Council area.

RENTS AND LOANS

The Income Generation Unit is responsible for dealing with loan and rent accounts in arrears. The setting of rent and adjustments to rent accounts are the responsibility of the Housing Section.

The Council continues to promote payment by standing order and the Household Budget Scheme operated in conjunction with An Post.

RENTS COLLECTION

YEAR	OPENING BALANCE	RENTS INVOICED	RECEIPTS	WRITE OFFS	%	CLOSING BALANCE
2012	522,036	3,614,091	3,618,847	5,954	87.69	508,202
2013	508,202	3,666,994	3,515,613	81	84.2	659,501
2014	659,501	4,388,366	4,386,319	2673	86.9	661,410

*2014 invoices include former Town Council area.

Longford County Council provides Housing Loans in relation to properties purchased as a principal place of residence under general housing lending provisions provided to Local Authorities under the Housing Acts.

As highlighted in last year's annual report, the collection of loan arrears is a particular challenge for the Council in the current economic climate.

The Council operates a Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP) for borrowers in significant arrears. Staff are trained in arrears resolution and significant arrears cases have been addressed by short term and long term arrears resolution measures.

LOANS COLLECTION

YEAR	OPENING BALANCE	LOANS INVOICED	RECEIPTS	WRITE OFFS	%	CLOSING BALANCE
2012	446,467	1,057,145	917,423	0	61.01	586,349
2013	586,349	1,056,263	904,769	11,302	55.4	727,114
2014	727,114	979,546	964,208	55	56.5	1,706,605

MOTOR TAX

Responsibility for issue of driving licences was transferred to the Road Safety Authority in 2013. The issue of driving licences in Longford is now being carried out by the National Driving Licence Service, situated in the Longford Town Centre. Accordingly the long association of Longford County Council with the issue of driving licences for drivers in the County completely ceased in 2014. The issue of road worthiness certificates by the Council for commercial vehicles has also ceased. These are now issued after testing by the Road Safety Authority.

Operational changes continued in 2014. The move towards online renewal of motor tax applications continued in 2014 and this facility is being increasingly used by motor vehicle owners in the County.

Statutory off the road declarations were introduced in 2013 and there was a significant volume of these.

MOTOR TAX STATISTICS 2014

MOTOR TAX TRANSACTIONS 2014	NO OF TRANSACTIONS	€
Vehicle Licences (Discs)	26,539	5,681,407
Off the Road Declarations	1434	0
Miscellaneous Transactions (Vehicle registration Certificates, Trade Plates etc)	6673	403,652
Total Motor Tax Transactions	33,212	6,085,089

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

KEY FUNCTIONS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECTION

Longford County Council's Information Systems (IS) Section provides and supports the following ICT Systems:

- » *Electronic mail, Internet, Intranet and Extranet.*
- » *Web based Applications.*
- » *Agresso Financial systems that support the Council's financial management information systems and transaction processing.*
- » *Geographical information systems that provide essential information on roads, water mains etc. in the county.*
- » *Internal bespoke applications for Housing, Planning, Infrastructure, Environment and various support applications.*
- » *Database management and administration.*
- » *Systems recovery and security.*

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

Longford County Council's ICT network is made up of several complex components which require on-going management, maintenance and monitoring. Responsibility for managing the network also includes maintaining a WIFI Network and a Wide Area Network which connects all off-site offices back to Aras an Chontae via wireless, fibre optic and DSL links.

There are sixteen sites in total - eight in Longford town and eight outlying sites.

During 2014 an enhanced mobile security infrastructure was put in place allowing the Council's IS Section to centrally secure, manage and monitor all Council mobile devices. These devices with their enhanced processing power now provide an integral tool in service provision allowing staff access data from remote locations, often out of hours.

SYSTEM UPGRADES

The Council's IS Section continues to reap benefits from the Private Cloud technology implementation in its Data Centre. Changes and amendments to business systems are provided quickly and efficiently thanks to the use of some of the most modern technology available.

2014 also saw the Council's IS Section commence a review and update of all Desktop machines to the latest Operating System and Office automation software.

The newly refurbished Granard Library was also opened in 2014 and a full IT infrastructure of computers, printers, network devices for both public and staff were installed. A secure connection for staff back to the main council network was facilitated by the installation of a new Firewall in the library.

SYSTEMS SUPPORT

A new contact management system was implemented in 2014 to provide an improved helpdesk solution for the Council's IS Section. This software, implemented following assistance from Leitrim County Council's IS Section, logs all ICT related issues, and provides a knowledge base and a central repository for systems support information.

SHARING TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE - ENHANCED COOPERATION

During 2014, Longford County Council's IS Section played a key role in promoting cooperation and knowledge sharing with IS Sections from neighboring local authorities. This was underpinned through the Sections work with University College Dublin and its MSc in Computer Science. Software developed through UCD in partnership with Cavan and Leitrim County Councils' IS Sections was subsequently presented as technological innovation in practice at the IPAs IS National Conference in October 2014.



Kevin Glancy, Head of IS Leitrim County Council and Daniel Lynch, Longford County Council's IS Section at University College Dublin's Computer Science Expo where the Councils' work was showcased

PAPERLESS MEETINGS

The Council's IS Section played a pivotal role in providing the technology and knowhow required to facilitate the elected members in their move to paperless meetings. All meetings are now taken electronically (without paper) resulting in administration savings and improved efficiencies.

Also during 2014 Municipal District meeting locations were equipped with WIFI with the IS Section ensuring each location was suitably equipped and prepared to facilitate paperless meetings.

PAYROLL SHARED SERVICE

The implementation of Shared Services formed a significant element of the Public Service Reform Plan and the technical expertise and assistance provided by the Council's IS Section helped Longford become one of the first Councils to move to MyPay (Local Government Payroll and Superannuation Service).

INTERNET & INTRANET

Longford County Council continued to provide online content during 2014. All notices of public concern are published on our websites which are widely used.

The Council's Intranet continues to be of strategic importance in the sharing of information among employees while also providing access to many of our most commonly used applications.

WEBSITE VISITS

WEBSITE	NUMBER OF HITS 2013	NUMBER OF HITS 2014
longfordcoco.ie	53931	63145
longford.ie	52295	60037
longfordtowncouncil.ie	7658	3761
longfordlibrary.ie	22707	20725

HR AND RELATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

During 2014 the Council's IS Section was nominated to provide technical advice as the Information Systems Representative on the National Standards Committee for the National HR, Payroll and Related Systems Program. This group provides the platform for decisions on operational and policy issues which arise affecting the national system.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

The Council's IS Section continues to provide support to the Branch Libraries throughout County Longford.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Council's IS Section provided technical support to the Local Elections Count in 2014 and subsequently in partnership with work by Fingal County Council; the count data was supplied to the LGMA for its inclusion on data.localgov.ie as Open Data.

HOUSING

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The housing needs of County Longford continued to be met through a range of housing options. A statutory assessment of housing need was undertaken in 2013. The next housing needs assessment will be carried out in 2016. At present Longford County Council has in the region of 1,195 housing applications.

SOCIAL HOUSING

Approximately €288,768 was spent under the Social Housing Investment Programme in 2014. Five individual houses were purchased.

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

The closing date for final applications for the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme was 31st December, 2012 with all transactions to be completed by 31st December, 2013. The transaction completion date was then extended to 30th June, 2014. In 2014, 2 final sales were completed under the 1995 Scheme.

Final details of the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme, which is due to replace the previous Tenant Purchase Scheme, have yet to be announced.

HOUSING LOANS

Approval and advancement of housing loans continued in 2014. As in previous years, affordability levels as a result of the economic downturn have had a huge impact on the amount of applications being approved. A total of five valid applications were received in 2014 with one loan approved and one advanced. This does not include preliminary applications refused or withdrawn.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Longford County Council has a long association with the Voluntary Housing Sector and a substantial contribution has been made by the Voluntary Housing Sector in the provision of Social Housing in County Longford under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) and the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). In 2014, funding in the amount of €155,620 was secured for the acquisition and adaptation of a property at Battery Court, Longford, by St. Christopher's Housing Association (Longford) Ltd.

MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHMENT

In 2014, a sum of €620,000 was provided in the Budget for the maintenance and repair of Local Authority Housing. This area is continuously examined to ensure that best practice and value for money is achieved at all times.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Liaison Officer and Estate Manager continued to work with tenants and Residents Associations during 2014. Compulsory pre-tenancy courses are attended by all new tenants.

Annaly Park, Longford



Teffia Park, Longford



BETTER ESTATES AWARDS

The "Better Estates Awards" were held again in 2014.



Foxhall Crescent, Legan



The results were as follows:

OVERALL WINNER

Foxhall Crescent, Legan, Co. Longford

CATEGORY 1 - ESTATES WITH INPUT FROM A COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

1st Prize	Church View, Lanesboro
2nd Prize	Devine Crescent, Edgeworthstown
3rd Prize	Springlawn

CATEGORY 2 - ESTATES BUILT BEFORE 1997

1st Prize	Smithfield Crescent, Legan
2nd Prize	Church View Drive, Drumlish
3rd Prize	Marian Terrace, Ballymahon

CATEGORY 3 - ESTATES BUILT BETWEEN 1997 & 2004 INCLUSIVE

1st Prize	Foxhall Crescent, Legan
Joint 2nd Prize	Curraghrua, Lanesboro & River Crescent, Ballinalee

CATEGORY 4 - ESTATES BUILT FROM 2005 TO DATE

1st Prize	Wood View, Newtownforbes
2nd Prize	Cois Na hAbhainn, Ballinalee
3rd Prize	Slí Na Móna, Ballymahon

CATEGORY 5 - ESTATES IN LONGFORD TOWN (WITHOUT CE SCHEME)

1st Prize	Annaly Park
2nd Prize	Teffia Park
3rd Prize	Ardán Alainn

CATEGORY 6 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUBMISSION

Hazelwood, Colehill

CATEGORY 7 - BEST GARDEN

1st Prize	Avril Kiernan, 5 Slí Na Móna, Ballymahon
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CATEGORY 8 - MOST IMPROVED ESTATE

Parkside Gardens, Ballymahon

CATEGORY 9 - HIGHLY COMMENDED

Deerpark, Keenagh
Hazelwood, Colehill
Canálach Le Chéile, Longford
Cúirt Shanullagh, Ballinamuck

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

In 2014, a combined total of 186 applications were received under the three Grant Schemes:

- » Mobility Aids Grant Scheme
- » Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme
- » Housing Aid for Older People Grant Scheme

A total of 140 grants were paid out and this amounted to €667,245.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

A new Traveller Accommodation Programme was adopted in 2014. The new programme covers the period 2014-2018. It sets out the 4 year strategy in relation to the programme and type of accommodation to be provided for Travellers. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meets on a quarterly basis and will monitor the progress achieved in relation to targets set out in the plan.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

At the end of 2014, there were 170 RAS tenancies in place. Thirty one (31) tenancies ceased during the year – these tenants were either housed in Local Authority Housing, transferred to RAS properties in other parts of the country or they housed themselves from their own resources. Eligibility for the Scheme depends on applicants being in receipt of rent supplement for more than 18 months and also eligible for Social Housing. The RAS Scheme and the associated operational and administrative costs are self financing in Longford.

LONG TERM / RAS – TYPE LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

The main features of the Scheme involve the Local Authority agreeing long term leases for single or multiple housing units with developers/owners of private rented properties over 10 to 20 years, or short term RAS type leases for properties over a 4 year term. There were 16 short term RAS Type leases in place at the end of 2014.

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS

The Local Authority is responsible for implementation and enforcement of accommodation standards in the rental sector. Funding is made available to the Local Authority based on the number of inspections carried out. One hundred and seventy three (173) inspections were completed in 2014 and landlords were advised of non compliance issues.

REMEDIAL/REGENERATION WORKS



Tromra Road, Granard

In 2012 a budget of €1.65 million was approved to carry out Remedial Works at Tromra Road, Granard. This project consisted of the regeneration of 41 dwellings. Thirty three (33) of these are social and the remaining eight are privately owned. Works commenced in March 2013 and were finished mid-year 2014.

ENERGY RETROFITTING SCHEME

In 2014, Longford County Council received funding from the DECLG in the amount of €370,236 as part of the above programme. Energy efficiency works were carried out on 223 properties.

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Longford County Council places a high priority on tackling problems associated with unfinished housing developments. The Council established a dedicated team to specifically deal with the issue of unfinished housing developments in County Longford. This involves working through issues on the ground, using an array of technical, procedural, and legislative mechanisms in developing solutions in conjunction with residents, developers, financial institutions and receivers.

During 2014 the Unfinished Estates Team continued with its programme of works which included:

- » *Reducing the number of remaining unfinished developments.*
- » *Continuing the process of ensuring that public safety aspects of stalled developments were addressed under the Public Safety Initiative (PSI).*
- » *The process of preparing, overseeing and implementing site resolution plans.*
- » *Pursuing enforcement action.*
- » *Cashing-in securities and bonds to access funding to complete public infrastructure.*
- » *Taking in charge of completed developments.*
- » *Resolution of a number of unfinished developments through the Unfinished Housing Development Special Resolution Fund and subsequent taking in charge by Longford County Council.*

There were originally 128 unfinished estates within the county and, to date, 39 of those have been taken in charge by Longford County Council and a further five estates require no further action. The estates taken in charge during 2014 were:

- | | |
|--|--|
| » <i>Abhainn Glas, Edgeworthstown.</i> | » <i>Crannach, Kenagh.</i> |
| » <i>An Rath Beag, Abbeylara.</i> | » <i>Creevaghbeg, Ballymahon.</i> |
| » <i>Barley Gardens, Abbeyshrule.</i> | » <i>Lios Na Croise, Aughnacliffe.</i> |
| » <i>Bo Dearg, Aughadegnan.</i> | » <i>Lios na Gaoithe, Lisryan.</i> |
| » <i>Cluain Rí, Ballymahon.</i> | » <i>Moyvale, Ballymahon.</i> |
| » <i>Cnoc Na Gaoithe, Lanesboro.</i> | » <i>Railway Court, Newtownforbes.</i> |
| » <i>Clonbalt Woods, Longford.</i> | » <i>Rathmore Meadows, Aughnacliffe.</i> |
| » <i>Cloverwell, Edgeworthstown.</i> | » <i>Shantobar, Ballinalee.</i> |
| » <i>Coll Choill, Legan.</i> | » <i>Sliabh Rua, Drumlish.</i> |
| » <i>Crann Iur, Ennysbegs.</i> | |

UNFINISHED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL RESOLUTION FUND

This is a special provision to assist in addressing the legacy of unfinished housing developments in the form of a targeted €10m Special Resolution Fund (SRF). The SRF was announced in October 2013 as part of Budget 2014 and it was proposed to encourage the resolution of some of the remaining unfinished developments in the National Housing Development Survey 2013 and particularly those developments not likely to be resolved in the normal way through solely developer/owner/funder action because of the presence of specific financial barriers. The SRF did not replace the predominately developer/funder/receiver driven resolution process but complemented that process.

Local Authorities were requested to assemble integrated proposals for funding support to enable collaborative solutions to be found for unresolved developments that would leverage additional investor/stakeholder investment and/or significant community gain.

Longford County Council applied for funding for 12 estates and was granted funding for four estates, as follows:

- » *Rathmore Meadows, Aughnacliffe – funding approved, €231,262*
- » *Sli Corglass, Moyne – funding approved €250,000*
- » *Dun Darrach & Ardnacassa Manor, Longford – funding approved €245,770*
- » *Cluain Doire, Newtownforbes – funding approved €117,040*

The SRF resolved four unfinished developments in County Longford in 2014.

STATISTICS - 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2014

- » *No. of Warning Letters issued – 2*
- » *No. of Enforcement Notices issued – 3*
- » *No. of cases referred to Solicitors to prosecute – 3*
- » *No of court cases ongoing at 31/12/2014 – 5*
- » *No of bonds called in - 13*
- » *No. of bonds extended – 8*
- » *No of bonds paid over to Council – 7*
- » *No. of estates completed by the Council during 2014, using bonds – 5*
- » *No. of estates with works ongoing at 31/12/2014, using bonds – 21*
- » *Site Resolution Plans agreed and works ongoing at 31/12/2014 – 15*
- » *Public Safety Initiative funding applications submitted - 1*
- » *Public Safety Initiative funding applications approved – 1*
- » *No. of Special Resolution Fund applications approved – 4*
- » *Total value of Special Resolution Funding approved - €844,072*
- » *No of estates taken in charge in 2014 – 19*
- » *No of taking in charge applications being assessed at 31/12/2014 – 14*

INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES



Cllr. Micheal Carrigy
Infrastructure and Environment SPC



Mr. Jack Kilgallen,
Director of Services

INFRASTRUCTURE

ROAD SAFETY, ROADS & TRANSPORT

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”.

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.

Longford County Council has a network of National, Regional and Local Roads. National Road Grants are received from the National Roads Authority to carry out works on the National Roads in County Longford. National Pavement schemes are selected on the basis of recent condition surveys of the network. The following pavement overlay schemes were completed in 2014.

- » *N4 Tinnynarr to Cooleeney Resurfacing Scheme Phase 1, 2014 (3.5km)*
- » *N5 Cartronlebagh Pavement Strengthening 2014 (2.5km)*

State grants are provided to road authorities to supplement the provision made from their own resources towards a road programme for the improvement, maintenance and management of the regional and local roads network.

Currently the breakdown of roads under the authority of Longford County Council is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	NATIONAL PRIMARY	REGIONAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
<i>Ballymahon Municipal District (km)</i>	<i>43.07</i>	<i>70.56</i>	<i>504.49</i>	<i>618.18</i>
<i>Granard Municipal District (km)</i>	<i>18.96</i>	<i>68.11</i>	<i>709.11</i>	<i>796.07</i>
<i>Longford Municipal District (km)</i>	<i>36.58</i>	<i>13.88</i>	<i>151.09</i>	<i>201.60</i>
Total Kilometres	98.61	152.55	1364.69	1615.85



FINANCES AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL IN 2014 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. NATIONAL ROADS (NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY GRANTS)

Improvement Works	€3,154,617
NP & NS Maintenance	€504,895
HD Pavement renewals & surveys	€72,102
Bridges	€700,000
Safety Measures	€22,878
Winter Maintenance	€119,000
Total:	€4,573,492

2. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS)

Specific Improvement Works	€140,620
Restoration Improvement Works	€2,526,455
Restoration Maintenance Works	€646,729
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€1,133,250
Low-cost Safety Improvement Works	€139,635
Severe Weather	€150,464
Training Programme	€23,750
Community Involvement Scheme	€138,534
Total:	€4,899,437

3. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION)

	€806,000
TOTAL BUDGET:	€5,705,437

During 2014, 94km of Local & Regional Roads were improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme. This grant is in two forms:

- » The Restoration Improvement element is designed to meet expenditure on surface restoration and road reconstruction. This grant allocation is based on a 4 year programme submitted to the DECLG in 2012.
- » The Restoration Maintenance aims to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing.

Specific Improvement Grant Works were carried out on bridges at the following locations:

- » Agahmore Lower/Annagh
- » Ahagreagh/Derrynavogy
- » Bawn/Aghnamadoo
- » Castlebrock/Knockbaun
- » Sheeroe/Lismagor

The Low Cost Safety Improvement Grant enables low cost safety improvement works on Regional and Local Roads. Low Cost Safety Schemes were carried out at the following locations:

- » AUGHNACLIFF (LP 1044)
- » BALLYDUFFY MOYNE (LP 5055)
- » BALLYMAHON (R392)
- » CLONBRONEY (LP 1070)
- » KIERNANS CROSS (R194)
- » KILASONNA (LP 1077)
- » LEGION TERRACE (LP 3010)
- » PIKERS CROSS (LP 1067)

During 2014, the Community Involvement Scheme that replaced the previous Community Roads Scheme continued. This scheme encouraged a joint approach, with groups of local residents and landowners, for the restoration of Local and Regional Public Roads. The New Community Involvement Scheme will be based on a Community Contribution within the range of 20% to 50%. €138,534 was spent on 3 Community Involvement Schemes during 2014 at the following locations:

- » Cloonteach, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford – Dromard National, Dromard, Co. Longford – Killoe GFC, Clonee, Killoe, Co. Longford.

The Winter Service plan provides the framework for dealing with Winter Weather conditions on the roads and provides for a planned and co-ordinated response by Longford County Council. The objective of the winter maintenance programme is to provide so far as it is reasonably practical for the safe movement of road users on the National Roads and other strategic routes identified during adverse weather conditions.

ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION & SCHOOL WARDEN SERVICE

The Road Safety role of Local Authorities is wide and ranges from Road Construction to Safety Promotion to School Warden Schemes. The Local Authority now has an expanded role in promoting road safety by developing more initiatives at local level such as:

- » Longford Road Safety Working Together Committee consists of the following agencies:- National Roads Authority, Road Safety Authority, Health Service Executive, Longford County Council Sports Coordinator, An Garda Síochána, Longford County Council Road Safety Officer, Longford County Childcare Member, Councillor Mark Casey and Members of Longford Fire Services.
- » In conjunction with the Green Schools, a Safer Cycle Initiative was introduced to a number of National Schools throughout the county in the months of May, June and September 2014. Cycle training was provided in Ballinamuck National School, Legan National School, Colehill National School, Ballinalee National School, Killasonna National School, Killoe National School and St. Michael's National School.
- » Co-ordination with the Road Safety Authority – advertising, promotions, and media campaigns.
- » Operation “Slow Down” was launched from 7am on Friday 30th May to 7am on Saturday 31st June 2014. The objectives of the Operation were to raise awareness of the dangers of inappropriate and excessive speed, reduce the number of speed related collisions, and therefore save lives and reduce injuries on our roads.
- » Promotion of “Safe Cross Code”.
- » Promotion of Road Safety in Secondary Schools and Youth Reach Programmes through the “Drive for Life Programme” from January 2014 to December 2014.
- » The Junior School Warden Service is designed to provide safe crossing facilities for children in the vicinity of primary schools in provincial towns and villages. The Roscommon/Longford/Westmeath Regional Final was held Longford this year and 13 schools participated in the event. Scoil Mhuire National School, Newtownforbes came second in the Regional Final of the School Warden Competition 2014. Longford County Council has two Schemes in operation at Scoil Mhuire National School, Newtownforbes and St. Mary's National School, Drumlish. An adult warden is provided at Lanesboro National School.
- » Promotion with iRadio “I is the Limited” Anti Speed Campaign.
- » Road Safety awareness was promoted in National Schools throughout the county.
- » In conjunction with The Road Safety Authority “Check it Fits” visited Supervalu, Hazelwood Shopping Centre on 12th June 2014 and Tesco Shopping Centre on Friday 13th June. Unfortunately, in Ireland, fitting child car seats is still a significant cause for concern and as many as 3 out of 4 child car seats may be fitted incorrectly.
- » Promotion with iRadio “Bank Holiday Safety Campaign”.

NATIONAL BIKE WEEK

In conjunction with the Environmental Awareness Officer the National Bike Week was launched and ran from 14th to 22nd June 2014. Longford County Council celebrated the initiative with a Bike to School Day and a Bike to Work Day. National Schools throughout the County were invited to Bike to School on Thursday, 18th June and a total of 100 pupils participated. Children received cycle packs including reflective clothing and lights as part of the day.

For the fifth year running staff from Longford County Council took part in a Bike to Work Day. Offering an alternative form of commuting to work, staff from the Council and other local businesses took part in a lunchtime spin around the bypass reporting the initiative as “a great idea”.



WATER SERVICES

Irish Water as the new national water utility is now responsible for managing the delivery of water services to customers. Based on this Longford County Council's role has moved from being a direct provider of water/waste water services to acting as an agent of Irish Water in the provision of services within the County under a mutual licence agreement.

During 2014 Irish Water set up a national call centre for customers to contact them directly with any queries or complaints regarding water supply or wastewater issues such as sewerage blockages. Irish Water in turn channels the complaints via real time software directly to water services staff in Local Authorities for investigation and completion.

The Water Services Section of Longford County Council is working under the terms of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water which commenced in January 2014. It is envisaged that the SLA will operate for a period of 12 years with Annual Service Plans being agreed each year between Irish Water and Longford County Council.

The SLA and the associated Annual Service Plan (ASP) 2014 set out the objectives and actions which were to be delivered by Longford County Council during 2014 under the following main headings:

- » *Customer Complaints*
- » *Testing of drinking water under the drinking water regulations 2014*
- » *Leak Management*
- » *Monitor waste water discharges in line with EPA guidelines*
- » *Health & Safety*
- » *Monthly Financial and statutory performance reports*

In line with the 2014 SLA, the Council staff maintained and operated water and wastewater plants and networks throughout the County. As mentioned above a feature of the SLA is the extensive monthly reporting requirement on the performance data associated with the various water/wastewater systems.

The Council recoups operational and maintenance costs from Irish Water on a monthly basis for all expenditure it incurred in the provision of the services. The total amount of invoices billed to Irish Water for the provision of services under operational and capital works in 2014 was €5,562,607.

ASSET TRANSFER

The process of formally transferring infrastructural assets to Irish Water which includes water/wastewater plants within the County is ongoing.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Capital Investment Programme for Water Services is now under the control of Irish Water. The Council's Water Services Capital staff will however continue to have a role in the planning of the water services investment programme as well as managing the day to day progress of capital works in the county.

GROUP WATER/SEWERAGE SCHEMES

In 2014, The Department of Environment Community & Local Government (DECLG) advised Longford County Council of a Block Grant Allocation of €249,692 for Takeover of Group Water Schemes, Network Upgrades, New Group Water and Sewerage Schemes.

Completion of outstanding snags and payment of retention associated with the finalisation of the takeover of schemes at the following locations: - Ballagh GWS, Clooncolligan, Clonrollagh GWS, Lislea GWS, Killashee GWS, Gowlan & Clonturk GWS, Kilcurry GWS and Fyhora GWS.

Clonmore/Kilmore and Fostra GWS's availed of a grant to carry out Upgrade works on their scheme.

Works commenced on a new Group Water Scheme at Bohermore/Finneragh in Ardagh, Co. Longford.

Works also commenced on a new Group Sewerage Scheme in Legan village, Co. Longford.

Total expenditure of €152,000 was paid by the DECLG under the above headings in 2014.

The DECLG approved additional Grant aid of €5,100 towards Specific Source Protection Works, which provided assistance to Group Water Schemes to complete the first element of developing a source protection plan, i.e., carry out a professional assessment of their water source, including the delineation of the source catchment area or "zone of contribution (ZOC)", mapping of the source catchment and an assessment of groundwater vulnerability. Two private sourced Group Water Schemes availed of this Grant, namely, Clonmore/Kilmore GWS and Fostra GWS.

In 2015, the Council submitted proposals to the DECLG for Block Grant funding totalling €940,000 under the Rural Water Programme in respect of new Group Sewerage Schemes, as well as New Group Water Schemes and Upgrades of Group Water Schemes.

GROUP WATER SCHEME SUBSIDIES AND INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS

Longford County Council processed four applications for subsidies towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes. The total amount paid out was €17,818.54.

Twelve applications were received for grants for individual water supplies. Approval was given for eight applications, three applications are pending and one was refused. Grant payments totalling €17,800.95 were made to twelve applicants in 2014.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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

- » *Pollution Control and Water Quality Management*
- » *Litter Management and Street Cleaning*
- » *Waste Management and Regulation*
- » *Environmental Awareness*
- » *Burial Grounds*
- » *Veterinary Services and Food safety*
- » *Dog Control and Horse Control*
- » *Fire and Emergency Services*
- » *Civil Defence*

POLLUTION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Pollution control legislation covers areas such as water pollution, air pollution and noise nuisance. Specific activities undertaken in relation to pollution control include investigation of water pollution incidents, farm inspections, licensing of discharges to waters and the implementation of a monitoring programme for rivers, lakes, septic tanks and closed landfills.

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The EU Water Framework Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Community (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 under which a number of River Basin Districts were established. Longford is involved in both the North Western River Basin District and the Shannon International River Basin District.

An overall objective has been set which is intended to result in a progressive improvement of water quality over the period to 2015. The aim is that by 2015 the quality of all waterways will at a minimum, be categorised as Good. Monitoring programmes have been developed to categorise the current quality of water in rivers and lakes. Over time it will be possible to measure improvements that occur in water quality. River Basin Management Plans were drawn up for both River Basin Districts with which Longford has an involvement. These plans were adopted by Longford County Council in 2010.

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

The County Council Environment Laboratory is located at Park Road, Longford. The principal areas of activity are:

- » *Water Pollution monitoring and control*
- » *Monitoring discharges from Council Wastewater Treatment plants*
- » *Landfill monitoring*
- » *Monitoring industrial effluent discharges*
- » *Water Quality Monitoring in rivers and lakes*

LITTER MANAGEMENT

Enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 – 2009 is one of the key mechanisms in tackling litter pollution in County Longford. Litter Control is conducted primarily by the Council's Litter Wardens assisted by the Longford Town Council's Litter/Traffic Wardens.

The Council works closely with local Tidy Towns Committees and acknowledges the great work being done by them throughout the county.

The Council continues to prosecute litter offenders and seek full cost recovery where cases proceed to court.

STREET SWEEPING

The Council continued its regular programme of street sweeping and servicing of litter bins in the county's towns and villages, in accordance with the County Longford Litter Management Plan. In excess of €400,000 was spent on this service in 2014.

WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015–2021

The Eastern-Midlands Draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 was published in late 2014 and the final Regional Waste Management Plans are due at the end of March 2015. Longford is one of the 12 local authorities that are affiliated to Eastern-Midlands Waste Region.

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROVISION OF FACILITIES

There are currently 26 bring bank sites in County Longford. Green, brown and clear glass, as well as aluminium cans, is accepted at all sites. Total tonnages collected for re-processing in 2014 were 660 tonnes of glass and 20 tonnes of aluminium cans.

WASTE MANAGEMENT ENFORCEMENT

Local authorities have a wide range of statutory functions under National and European waste legislation.

The work of the Local Authority Waste Enforcement team includes investigating illegal dumping incidents, taking prosecutions and enforcement measures, enforcing producer responsibility regulations for a wide range of wastes (incl. Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Batteries, End-of-life Vehicles, Tyres, Packaging, Food Waste, Farm Plastic and Construction & Demolition Wastes). During 2014, 1,524 waste and litter complaints were investigated of which 1,482 were resolved during the year.

During 2014, the Council's routine waste inspections focused on an number of areas including - implementation of the PCB Regulations, unauthorised use of waste oil burners, the unauthorised collection of end-of-life vehicles and on the protection of public water supply sources. A number of prosecutions were taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, the Waste Management Act 1996. Illegal dumping of household waste in rural areas and on vacant properties remains a significant problem and the Council has had to expend significant resources cleaning up such sites. Wherever possible, the Council is now employing its statutory powers under the Waste Management Act 1996 to recoup its costs on pollution control measures.

In addition, Local Authorities permit and regulate waste facilities, ensure the authorised collection and transport of wastes in their functional areas, appraise planning applications in relation to waste management proposals, oversee the management of wastes in the construction and business sectors and, administer waste compliance schemes (e.g. Packaging). Environmental inspections are carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities annual inspection plan and a mandatory reporting regime to the EPA is in place for all environmental inspections and the environmental inspection plan. Local Authorities also have significant reporting obligations. Longford County Council compiles an annual inventory of all waste data for their functional areas for submission to the EPA each year.

Local Authorities must comply with the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007. Subject to certain exceptions, information relating to the environment held by, or for, a public authority must be made available on request to any person. Advice and guidance on waste management is provided to members of the public upon request.

A considerable proportion of the work done in waste enforcement sections of Local Authorities assists the Government in avoiding significant financial sanctions by the EU.

Longford County Council's "Enforcement Policy on Illegal Waste Activity" can be viewed on the Council's website at www.longfordcoco.ie

The Council operates a "Litter Complaints Hotline". Anyone observing the illegal dumping of waste may report the matter, in confidence, by calling 1850 434 450.

ENERGY USAGE

Longford County Council is a significant energy consumer. In order to operate the services that it provides it is necessary to consume electricity, gas and other fuels. Employees in all sections are aware of the need to eliminate unnecessary energy consumption. An Energy Management initiative is in progress and where possible measures are being taken to reduce energy consumption. A number of audits of specific facilities were conducted in 2014 and it is intended to use the information that was gathered to develop a works programme in respect of individual facilities. Longford County Council is affiliated to the Midlands Energy Agency. Sub-committees known as Communities of Practice have been established to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. Employees of Longford County Council participate and contribute to the development of Best Practice in a number of areas.

ENERGY USAGE - ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

The provision of training to members of the Council's Energy Management Committee continued. Progress was made with regard to the development of a system for recording energy consumption data in a more systematic manner. Equipment upgrades were completed at the Council's IT Section. As a result, it is hoped that energy consumption related to the operation of IT services will be significantly reduced. Public lighting upgrades were completed at a number of locations and it is hoped to undertake similar upgrades as resources permit.

The Council's Environmental Awareness Officer has met with community groups and has visited schools in order to highlight the need to conserve energy whenever possible. Information relating to energy conservation measures is included in Information Packs that are distributed in schools and at meetings that take place in communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

This aspect of the departments work includes:

- » *National Spring Clean*
- » *National Tree Week*
- » *Large Goods and Hazardous Waste Collections*
- » *Green Schools*
- » *Green Christmas*
- » *Local Environmental Partnership Funding*
- » *Anti Litter Awareness Grants*

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

National Spring Clean 2014 took place during the month of April. Litter pickers, gloves, bibs and colour-coded bags were provided for the community clean-ups. Over 35 groups signed up and took part in clean ups all across the county.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK

National Tree Week, which is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and supported by Coillte and Longford County Council, took place from 2nd - 8th March 2014. Community Groups Schools and other organisations in the county were offered the opportunity to obtain young trees. Over 350 free saplings were given out to more than 40 community groups and schools during this week.

LARGE GOODS/HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

Two general large goods collections and one waste paint collection were held in 2014. General and recyclable waste amounted to 4.94 tonnes while 1.776 tonnes of waste paint was collected.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Longford was once again very successful in increasing activity in Green Schools during 2014. The participation of schools in the programme is almost at capacity. During 2014 St Christopher's special needs school received their first green flag while seventeen more schools renewed their flags. This brings the total number of schools with Green Flags in County Longford to 41.

GREEN CHRISTMAS

The Council provides a central drop-off point in Longford where householders can deposit their trees for shredding, free of charge. Old Christmas cards can also be dropped off at local libraries throughout the county.

ANTI-LITTER AWARENESS GRANTS

This scheme continued in 2014 with a grant of €17,000 received from the DECLG. The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grants are used to support clean-up initiatives, fund advertising campaigns and school recycling projects and provide materials support to local community clean-up initiatives.

LOCAL AGENDA 21 ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Council received an initial allocation of €7,000 under this scheme and also secured additional funding of €1,600 later in the year. The Council provides matching funds to support innovative, community-based environmental projects.

BURIAL GROUNDS

There is a combination of Council owned and Community cemeteries in the county. Longford Community Resources Limited, with assistance from the Council, carries out grass cutting and other minor works in a large number of cemeteries. The Council also provides financial support to a number of voluntary groups which carry out maintenance works in many cemeteries.

VETERINARY SERVICES, FOOD SAFETY AND ANIMAL CONTROL

The Veterinary Section of Longford County Council services a contract between the Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland with regard to food safety and veterinary public health issues.

The small slaughterhouses and low throughput meat manufacturing establishments in the county are statutorily supervised with a view to ensuring that there is full compliance with food safety legislation.

Locally produced cattle and sheep and pigs were processed in small local slaughterhouses in County Longford in 2014. Each animal that was slaughtered was ante-mortem and post-mortem inspected by a Veterinary Inspector. A sampling programme which is intended to detect harmful substances such as chemicals and hormones in meat is carried out. The Local Authority Veterinary Service ensures that animal health and welfare is maintained in accordance with legislative provisions.

During 2014 the low throughput meat manufacturing establishments and slaughterhouses in County Longford continued to work to EU approved standards. The meat products produced in the county are under Official Veterinary controls. The Local Authority Veterinary Service regulates and at the same time affords appropriate flexibility to low throughput premises. The County Veterinary Officer sits on an Interdepartmental Working Group to provide Guidance to small food producers and regulators in relation to appropriate flexibility acceptable to national and international auditors. While there are changes occurring on an ongoing basis within premises, the level of activity is being maintained and new entrants are encouraged to consult with our service and to become involved in the sector. 2014 saw a further significant increase in the throughput of small slaughterhouses in County Longford and in particular in the number of cattle slaughtered.

The sector is increasing the amount of processing in County Longford and is in keeping with our Corporate Plan for promoting enterprise and development in this important area of commercial activity. The Veterinary Section in cooperation with Longford County Council Local Enterprise Office assisted in Animal Welfare training of personnel working in the sector in 2014.

Continuing Professional Development and training in food safety and animal health and welfare continued in 2014 and the Veterinary Service has an Internal Audit System.

Activities relating to the disposal of Animal By-Product continued to be an important area of work in 2014.

Meetings of the Regional Zoonosis Committee provide the forum for formal liaison between Longford County Council Veterinary Public Health Service and other agencies, e.g., Department of Agriculture and HSE. Longford County Council Veterinary Service liaised on a formal arrangement for bilateral meetings with the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine locally and nationally in 2014.

In an era of national change the Local Authority Veterinary Service will endeavour to maintain its important Local Service while a regional shared service is being considered for implementation.

DOG CONTROL

Longford County Council provides a full-time Dog Control Service in County Longford. The Local Authority employs a Dog Warden and operates a Dog Shelter at Little Water Street in Longford town. Pound Fees are charged. The Service dealt with 338 cases of unwanted/stray dogs in 2014. Of these, 55 were re-homed, 39 were reclaimed by their owners, 203 were transferred to dog welfare groups and 48 were put to sleep. Longford County Council's policy is to rehome all dogs suitable for rehoming.

In many cases the dogs which were re-homed were selected by their new owners with the aid of the Council's "Save a Dog" web page which can be accessed at www.longfordcoco.ie and is linked to Facebook.

Longford County Council had a further reduction in the number of dogs put to sleep in Longford Dog Pound in 2014. This is as a result of the strategic plan implemented by the Dog Control Service assisted by other stakeholders and volunteers, to whom we are grateful.

In order to combat the problem of unwanted dogs, Longford County Council continues to advocate responsible animal ownership through education and awareness. The Council operates a scheme for subsidised neutering for dogs and has also formed a strategic alliance with Dogs Trust. Inspections of Dog Breeding Establishments continued in 2014 under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act.

Longford County Council continues to promote the need for dog owners to purchase a Dog Licence. Currently a Dog Licence costs €20 and can be purchased from any Post Office. Purchasing a Dog Licence is an important aspect of responsible dog ownership. In 2014, dog owners purchased a "Lifetime of Dog" licence at a one-off cost of €140. These are available only from the Environment Section of Longford County Council.

HORSE CONTROL

Longford County Council dealt with 95 cases of horses reported as straying in 2014. Of these, 56 horses were seized under the Control of Horses Act 1996. Longford County Council has Control of Horse bye-laws. The bye-laws regularise detention and disposal requirements as per agreement with Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as well as controlling access and activities of horses in public places.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Fire and Rescue Service have fire stations in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford. These stations are manned by 48 retained fire-fighters who respond to both fire and rescue incidents. The Fire Services was active in promoting fire safety throughout the year. The Fire Services assessed Fire Safety Certificates, Planning Applications and Court Licence Application Referrals. Fire Safety Inspections of commercial premises were also carried out.

The new Lanesboro Fire Station started construction in April 2014 and was completed by November 2014. Sammon Builders, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, were the main Contractors for the project. Killian Consulting Engineers, Athlone, were the lead consultants for the development. Minister Alan Kelly officially opened the Fire Station on the 21st of January 2015 in conjunction with Cathaoirleach Mark Casey.

Eddie Noonan retired from Ballymahon Fire Service in April 2014 after 27 years service.

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. Also, the provision of essential emergency backup cover to the front line services when requested to do so.

The main activities, programmes, events and developments during 2014 were as follows:

- » A number of First Aid courses were run during the year for existing members including CFR (Cardiac First Response), CFR Advanced, OFA Re-certification (Occupational First Aid), EFR Re- certification (Emergency First Response).
- » 7 members re-qualified to Emergency First Responder level.
- » 6 members graduated to Occupational First Aid level in November.
- » 26 members completed an intensive Search Course to form a Search Team to work in conjunction with An Garda Síochána in searching for missing persons etc.
- » 2 members completed a Welfare Course in the Civil Defence College with the intention of setting up a Welfare/Person Displacement team within the County.
- » Member completed the National Instructional Methods Training Course.
- » 3 Radio and Search Exercises were held from February and March.
- » 7 members were presented with Long Service Medals by the Minister in Dublin Castle in November.
- » New Child Protection Policy was produced and member appointed as Child Liaison Officer.
- » New ICOM GPS radios and mapping software was issued to each county and a training schedule planned for 2015.
- » Longford Civil Defence took part in a major Irish Rail Exercise at Longford Rail Station in November in conjunction with our colleagues from Westmeath. 65 Civil Defence members took part, of which 35 were from Longford. Others included the HSE, Longford Fire Service, An Garda Síochána and Irish Rail in a simulated rail accident. This was found to be a very beneficial exercise on our part and the front-line services were very impressed with the skill level of our members.
- » Radio and Search Training continued with members of the Warden Service.
- » Work finished on the conversion of a vehicle to a Search and Rescue Vehicle.
- » A new Ambulance, which is CEN-compliant, was purchased and will be ready for duty early in 2015
- » A new Mini Bus was purchased and is presently in service.
- » Existing 4x4 vehicle completely overhauled and is now ready for service
- » New 4x4 purchased and will be ready for use in 2015
- » New tentage purchased along with emergency lighting and a new portable generator
- » New signage put on all our vehicles in accordance with Civil Defence protocol
- » Civil Defence assistance was provided at over 50 local community and sporting events
- » Ongoing discussions with a number of Agencies/ Sections regarding the acquirement of a new premises, as our present location is not adequate as to our present requirements for training and vehicles.

APPENDIX 1

NSAI CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATION HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO OHSAS 18001:2007



NSAI

Certificate of Registration of Occupational Health and Safety Management System to OHSAS 18001:2007

Longford County Council

Aras an Chontae
Great Water Street
Longford

NSAI certifies that the aforementioned company has been assessed and deemed to comply with the provisions of the standard referred to above in respect of:-

The provision of work activities associated with Building Maintenance, Corporate, Human Resources, Housing, Libraries, Roads, Unfinished Housing Estates and Water Services within the functional area of Longford County Council.

Approved by:
Maurice Buckley
CEO NSAI



Registration Number: 18.0305
Original Registration: 11 January 2015
Last amended on: 18 March 2015
Valid from: 18 March 2015
Remains valid to: 10 January 2018

This certificate remains valid on condition that the Approved Occupational Health and Safety Management System is maintained in an adequate and efficacious manner.
NSAI is a partner of IQNet - the international certification network
(www.iqnet-certification.com)

All valid certifications are listed on NSAI's website - www.nsa.ie. The continued validity of this certificate may be verified under "Certified Company Search"

NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland), 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9, Ireland T +353 1 807 3800 E: info@nsai.ie www.nsa.ie
NSAI Inc. 402 Amerst Street, Nashua, New Hampshire, NH 03063, USA T +1 603 882 4412 E: info@nsaiinc.com www.nsa-inc.com

CERT-015: 18001 2007 NL A4 (5)

APPENDIX 2

MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES (2014-2019)

The statutory basis for establishment of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) is contained in Section 48 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The formation of Strategic Policy Committees is intended to afford an opportunity to various sectoral interests to influence the development of policies by the Council.

The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2014-2019 and Membership of the Committees was formally adopted by resolution of the Members of Longford County Council at a meeting held on 12th November 2014.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE	COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS	SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES		CHAIR
Housing Services Strategic Policy Committee	Councillors P.J. Reilly Gerry Warnock Martin Mulleady John Browne Paul Ross	Development/ Construction Derek Scanlon 2 Community and Voluntary Louise Lovett Stephanie Igoe Social Inclusion John Mimmagh	9	Chair - First Term Cllr. P.J. Reilly Second Term Nominee Cllr. Gerry Warnock
Infrastructure and Environment Strategic Policy Committee	Councillors Micheál Carrigy John Duffy Gerry Farrell Luie Mc Entire Mick Cahill	Agriculture and Farming Andrew McHugh Community and Voluntary Mary Lillis Trade Union Michael Spillane Environmental/Conservation Niamh Moran	9	Chair – First Term Cllr. Micheál Carrigy Second Term Nominee Cllr. John Duffy
Planning and Development and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee	Councillors Mae Sexton Mark Casey Mick Cahill Paraic Brady Gerry Farrell	Agriculture and Farming Pat O'Rourke Environmental/Conservation Harry McKenna 2 Community and Voluntary Nancy Birmingham Noreen McLoughlin	9	Chair – First Term Cllr. Mae Sexton Second Term Nominee Cllr. Mark Casey
Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee	Councillors Seamus Butler Padraig Loughrey Pat O'Toole Colm Murray Peggy Nolan	Business / Employers Fintan McGill Community and Voluntary Tess Murphy Environmental/Conservation Ray Hogan County Tourism Committee Mona Considine	9	Chair – First Term Cllr. Seamus Butler Second Term Nominee Cllr. Padraig Loughrey
TOTAL	20	16	36	

APPENDIX 3

REPORT ON WORKING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES DURING 2014

ECONOMIC, URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL POLICIES SPC

The Strategic Policy Committee did not meet prior to the Local Elections which were held on 23rd May 2014.

HOUSING & SOCIAL POLICY, PLANNING & BUILDING CONTROL POLICY SPC

The Strategic Policy Committee held one meeting in 2014 on 26th March 2014. The issues considered were as follows:

- » *Planning update – County Development Plan and new Building Regulations (effective from 1st March 2014).*
- » *Housing Update – Housing Grants, Retrofitting and list for Social Housing. Update on proposed regeneration of Springlawn, Longford and Redmond Terrace, Granard.*
- » *Presentation by Longford Women's Link.*

Following the local elections in May 2014 a new Strategic Policy Scheme was introduced by the Council and a single Housing Services SPC was established under the chairmanship of Cllr. PJ Reilly. The inaugural meeting was held on 19th January 2015.

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND ROAD SAFETY SPC

The Strategic Policy Committee held one meeting in 2014 on 3rd March 2014. The main item for discussion and consideration at this meeting was:

- » *Public Lighting*

WATER SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES SPC

The Strategic Policy Committee did not meet prior to the Local Elections which were held on 23rd May 2014.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SPC

The Economic Development and Enterprise (2014-2019) Strategic Policy Committee held their inaugural meeting on 1st December. The issues considered were as follows:

- » *Presentation by Breda O'Toole, IDA on Economic Development*
- » *Local Enterprise Office*
- » *Tourism Development*

APPENDIX 4

COMMITTEES OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
Appointment of nominee of Longford County Council to attend annual meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Councillor Luie McEntire
Association of Irish Local Government	Councillors Mark Casey, Luie McEntire, Peggy Nolan
Board of Backstage Theatre	Councillors Pdraig Loughrey, Peggy Nolan, Mae Sexton, Mr. Tony Flaherty
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly	Councillor Mick Cahill, P.J. Reilly
County Longford Heritage Forum	Councillors Paraic Brady, Seamus Butler, Pdraig Loughrey
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin-mid Leinster	Councillors Paraic Brady, Pat O'Toole, P.J. Reilly
Local Authority Members' Association	Councillor P.J. Reilly
Lough Oughter, Gowna and River Erne Joint Drainage Committee	Councillors Luie McEntire, Martin Mulleady
Local Community Development Committee	Councillors Colm Murray, Gerry Warnock, Mark Casey (2 years), Seamus Butler (3 years)
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Councillors John Browne, Seamus Butler, Pdraig Loughrey, Peggy Nolan, Mae Sexton, Gerry Warnock
Longford Community Resources Ltd	Councillors J. Browne, Martin Mulleady, P.J. Reilly, Mae Sexton
Longford County Council Internal Audit Committee	Mr. Gerry Brady and Mr. Michael Connellan
Joint Policing Committee	Councillors P. Brady, J. Browne, S. Butler, M. Cahill, M. Casey, G. Farrell, P. Loughrey, M. Mulleady P. Ross, P. Nolan, P. O'Toole, P.J. Reilly Chairperson, Councillor G. Warnock
Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd	Councillors Seamus Butler, Gerry Farrell, Gerry Warnock
Longford Pool Construction Ltd	Councillors John Browne, Pdraig Loughrey, Gerry Warnock
Longford/Westmeath Education and Training Board	Councillors Seamus Butler, Pat O'Toole, Peggy Nolan, Mae Sexton
Longford/Westmeath Rural Community Transport Association	Councillor Micheal Carrigy
Midlands Drugs Task Force	Councillor Pdraig Loughrey
Midlands Energy Agency	Councillor Mick Cahill
North Western International River Basin District Advisory Council	Councillors John Duffy, Luie McEntire
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Councillors Seamus Butler, Pat O'Toole, Paul Ross
Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council	Councillors Mick Cahill, Pat O' Toole
Sports Partnership Committee	Councillors John Browne, Mark Casey, Martin Mulleady
Steering Committee for the promotion of the Irish Language	All members of the Council
Tender Committee	The Cathaoirleach, Councillors John Browne, Pat O'Toole.

APPENDIX 5

MEETINGS OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Meetings of the County Council were held monthly, with the exception of the month of August. Due to the Local Elections in May 2014, the April and May Monthly Meetings were combined and the meeting was held on the 1st May 2014

Local Elections were held on the 23rd May 2014.

The First Annual Meeting of the newly elected Council was held on the 6th June 2014. Councillor Mark Casey was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Seamus Butler was elected Leas Cathaoirleach. Members of the Council were elected to the following Committees –

APPOINTMENT OF THREE DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Councillors Peggy Nolan, Luie McEntire and Mark Casey.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION:

Councillor P.J. Reilly.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO LOUGH OUGHTER, GOWNA AND RIVER ERNE JOINT DRAINAGE COMMITTEE:

Councillors Luie McEntire and Martin Mulleady.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO LONGFORD POOL CONSTRUCTION LTD:

Councillors John Browne, Padraig Loughrey and Gerry Warnock.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE BORDER, MIDLAND AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Councillors Mick Cahill and P.J. Reilly.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):

Councillors Colm Murray, Gerry Warnock, Mark Casey (two years) and Councillor Seamus Butler (three years).

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS OF THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES:

Councillor P.J. Reilly and Councillor Gerry Warnock appointed Chairpersons (two and half year terms) of the Housing and Social Policy, Planning and Building Control Policy Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Micheal Carrigy and Councillor John Duffy appointed Chairpersons (two and half year terms) of the Transportation, Road Development and Maintenance and Road Safety Policy Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Mae Sexton and Councillor Mark Casey appointed Chairpersons (two and half year terms) of the Sanitary Services and Environmental Policies Strategic Policy Committee.

Councillor Seamus Butler and Councillor Padraig Loughrey appointed Chairpersons (two and half year terms) of the Economic Development, Urban and Rural Renewal, Cultural and Recreation Policies and Corporate Affairs Strategic Policy Committee. (Economic Development and Enterprise)

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO LONGFORD ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD:

Councillors Gerard Farrell, Seamus Butler and Gerry Warnock.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINEE OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL TO IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD. TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING:

Councillor Luie McEntire.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Councillors Paul Ross, Seamus Butler and Pat O'Toole.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND SIX MEMBERS TO THE LOCAL TRAVELLER

ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:

Councillors John Browne, Peggy Nolan, Mae Sexton, Padraig Loughrey, Seamus Butler and Gerry Warnock. Councillor Mae Sexton appointed Chairperson of the Committee.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE:

Councillors P. O'Toole, P.J. Reilly, M. Mulleady, M. Cahill, P. Loughrey, S. Butler, G. Warnock, M. Casey, P. Ross, P. Nolan, P. Brady, J. Browne and G. Farrell. Councillor Gerry Warnock appointed Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR MEMBERS TO LONGFORD COMMUNITY RESOURCES LTD:

Councillors Martin Mulleady, P.J. Reilly, Mae Sexton and John Browne.

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR MEMBERS TO THE LONGFORD/WESTMEATH EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD:

Councillors Mae Sexton, Pat O'Toole, Seamus Butler and Peggy Nolan.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO THE LONGFORD WESTMEATH RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION:

Councillor Michael Carrigy

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Gerry Brady and Mr. Michael Connellon.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Councillors John Browne, Martin Mulleady and Mark Casey.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE SHANNON RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Councillors Mick Cahill and Pat O'Toole.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE NORTH WESTERN INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Councillors Luie McEntire and John Duffy.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM, DUBLIN-MID LEINSTER:

Councillors Paraic Brady, P.J. Reilly and Pat O'Toole.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE COUNTY LONGFORD HERITAGE FORUM:

Councillors Paraic Brady, Seamus Butler and Padraig Loughrey.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO THE MIDLANDS ENERGY AGENCY:

Councillor Mick Cahill.

APPOINTMENT OF FOUR MEMBERS TO BOARD OF BACKSTAGE:

Councillors Peggy Nolan, Padraig Loughrey, Mae Sexton and Mr. Tony Flaherty.

APPOINTMENT OF CATHAOIRLEACH AND TWO MEMBERS TO TENDER COMMITTEE:

The Cathaoirleach, Councillors Pat O'Toole and John Browne.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO THE MIDLANDS DRUGS TASK FORCE:

Councillor Padraig Loughrey.

MONTHLY MEETING - 19TH MARCH 2014

Ms. Karen Clabby, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the 2013 Annual Report of the Audit Committee.

A Presentation was made by The Irish Deaf Society.

COMBINED APRIL AND MAY MONTHLY MEETING - 1ST MAY 2014

Presentation made by Age Friendly Ireland.

MONTHLY MEETING - 8TH OCTOBER 2014

Presentation made by NABC (national anti bullying coalition).

MONTHLY MEETING - 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

Presentation made by Mr. Seadha Ryan, County Longford Tourism.

MONTHLY MEETING - 10TH DECEMBER 2014

The December Monthly Meeting was held in The Peer Inn, Lisnacusha, Lanesboro.

SPECIAL MEETINGS - 22ND OCTOBER AND 3RD NOVEMBER 2014

Special Meetings were held regarding the financial situation at St. Christophers Services, Longford.

BUDGET MEETING - 18TH NOVEMBER 2014

The 2015 Budget was adopted by the members at Budget Meeting held on the 18th November 2014.

MAYORAL RECEPTION

Reception was held in the '98 Hall, Ballinamuck, on Monday, 21st July 2014 to honour the Ballinamuck & Essert de Belfort Twinning Agreement.

CIVIC RECEPTION – LONGFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

A Civic Reception was held on Sunday, 12th October 2014 at the Market Square, Longford in honour of the Longford Town Football Club who won the 2014 SSE Airtricity League First Division.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee - appointed following the Local Elections in 2009 - met on the 6th March and the 15th May 2004. The Chairperson presented the 2013 Annual Report of the Audit Committee at the County Council meeting held in March 2014. The Audit Committee examined a number of issues within its remit and issued recommendations where appropriate. The Local Government Auditor and senior staff of the Council presented reports to the Audit Committee as requested by the members.

Following the Local Elections in May 2014, Longford County Council, at its meeting held on the 16th July 2014, appointed the following as members of the Audit Committee:

- » *Mr. Patrick Groarke is a Solicitor based in Longford Town.*
- » *Mr. Gerry Brady was formerly an elected member of Longford County Council.*
- » *Mr. Michael Connellan is a Solicitor based in Longford Town and was formerly an elected member of Longford Town Council.*
- » *Ms. Ciara Gillen is a Chartered Accountant with RSM Farrell Grant Sparks, Longford.*
- » *Mr. Pat O'Brien is the principal of O'Brien & Co., Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors based in Longford Town.*

The inaugural meeting of the new Audit Committee was held on the 25th September 2014 at which Mr. Patrick Groarke was appointed Chairperson of the Committee and Mr. Pat O'Brien was appointed Vice-Chairperson. A further meeting was held on the 24th November 2014 at which the Draft Audit Committee Charter was approved and submitted to Longford County Council for approval. The Audit Committee Charter was approved by Longford County Council at Monthly Meeting held on the 10th December 2014.

The Audit Committee provides an independent expert review, assessment and advice on financial management and reporting processes, internal control systems and procedures, risk management and audit matters. The Committee's role is primarily an advisory one and the Committee is not vested with any executive powers or any statutory powers of investigation or enquiry. The statutory functions of the Audit Committee are set out in Section 122(2)(a) to (f) of the functions of the Local Government Act 2001 and in S.I. 244 of 2014 entitled Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014.

APPENDIX 6

CONFERENCES ATTENDED 2014

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE
03/01/2014-05/01/2014	An Overview of Canvassing Tips	Dublin	John Browne, Victor Kiernan, Luie McEntire
07/02/2014-09/02/2014	Combatting the Fear of Crime	Letterkenny Co Donegal	John Browne, Victor Kiernan
10/01/2014-12/01/2014	An Overview of Political Reform	Dublin	Colm Murray
10/01/2014-12/01/2014	Employment Law - Mediation -v- Litigation	Rosscarbery Co Cork	Gerry Brady, Paul Connell
10/01/2014-12/01/2014	Financing Local Government - the Critical Issues	Letterkenny Co Donegal	Mark Casey
10/01/2014-11/01/2014	Developing and Supporting Enterprises locally	Galway	Luie McEntire, PJ Reilly, Mick Cahill, Micheal Carrigy, Frank Kilbride, Barney Steele, Tom Victory
17/01/2014-19/01/2014	An Overview of Credit Unions & the Rules that Govern Them	Dublin	Luie McEntire
17/01/2014-18/01/2014	Local Government Bill 2013	Tralee Co Kerry	Gerry Brady, PJ Reilly, Mick Cahill, Micheal Carrigy, Frank Kilbride, Barney Steele, Tom Victory
24/01/2014-26/01/2014	Municipal Water - the challenges for Local Authorities	Letterkenny Co Donegal	Larry Bannon
24/01/2014-25/01/2014	Local Authorities and Waste Management	Westport Co Mayo	Gerry Brady, PJ Reilly, Mick Cahill, Mark Casey, Frank Kilbride, Barney Steele, Tom Victory
24/01/2014-26/01/2014	An Overview of C.A.P. Reform	Dublin	John Duffy, John Duffy
31/01/2014-01/02/2014	LAMA Spring Seminar 2014	Monaghan	Colm Murray
31/01/2014-02/02/2014	Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland	Carlingford Co Louth	Luie McEntire
31/01/2014-01/02/2014	National Programme of Revaluation of Commercial & Industrial Properties	Galway	Barney Steele
31/01/2014-01/02/2014	Mental Health & Suicide Awareness Conference	Dungarvan Co Waterford	Mick Cahill, Tom Victory
01/02/2014-03/02/2014	Longford Association in London	London	Colm Murray
07/02/2014-08/02/2014	Keeping Communities Safe - Fire Safety	Westport Co Mayo	Peggy Nolan, PJ Reilly, Mark Casey, Frank Kilbride, Barney Steele, Luie McEntire
14/02/2014-15/02/2014	Powers of Local Authorities to stem Anti-Social Behaviour	Tralee Co Kerry	Frank Kilbride, Barney Steele
14/02/2014-16/02/2014	Waste Management Legislation - Responsibility of Local Authorities	Carlingford Co Louth	Larry Bannon
21/02/2014-22/02/2014	Improved Protection for Consumers with New Building Regulations	Galway	Peggy Nolan, PJ Reilly, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele, Tom Victory
22/02/2014-23/02/2014	Tracing your Ancestors & Family Tree Conference	Limerick	Gerry Brady, Victor Kiernan, Paul Connell, Colm Murray
28/02/2014-01/03/2014	Educating to Drive the Economy	Galway	Mick Cahill, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele, Tom Victory, Peggy Nolan
06/03/2014-07/03/2014	Annual Conference of the Association of County & City Councils	Ballyconnell Co Cavan	Frank Kilbride
07/03/2014-08/03/2014	Empowering Communities Through Local Government Policy	Galway	Peggy Nolan, Martin Mulleady, PJ Reilly
14/03/2014-15/03/2014	Rural Development Programme	Westport Co Mayo	Peggy Nolan, PJ Reilly, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele,
21/03/2014-22/03/2014	Dealing with Vacant Space	Galway	Peggy Nolan, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele, Frank Kilbride, PJ Reilly
21/03/2014-23/03/2014	Meeting Management Principles	Rosscarbery Co Cork	Gerry Brady, Victor Kiernan, Paul Connell,
28/03/2014-29/03/2014	Judicial Review of the Decision Making Process	Tralee Co Kerry	Tom Victory, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele, Frank Kilbride, PJ Reilly
03/04/2014-05/04/2014	Carlow Tourism National Conference	Carlow	Larry Bannon

04/04/2014-05/04/2014	Data Protection	Mullingar Co Westmeath	PJ Reilly
11/04/2014-12/04/2014	National Register of Health Services Provider Identifiers	Galway	Micheal Carrigy, PJ Reilly, Martin Mulleady, Gerry Brady, Barney Steele
12/04/2014	Longford Association in Dublin	Dublin	Larry Bannon, Luie McEntire
18/04/2014-19/04/2014	Crime and its Impact on Quality of Life	Killarney Co Kerry	Gerry Brady, Victor Kiernan, Paul Connell,
25/04/2014-27/04/2014	The Environment, the Community and the Elected Member	Letterkenny Co Donegal	Gerry Brady, Victor Kiernan, Paul Connell, Larry Bannon
25/04/2014-26/04/2014	Social Clauses in Public Procurement	Westport Co Mayo	Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele, Tom Victory
02/05/2014-03/05/2014	Service Provision in Local Authorities	Galway	Peggy Nolan, PJ Reilly, Martin Mulleady, Gerry Brady
09/05/2014-11/05/2014	Waste Management Legislation	Rosscarbery Co Cork	Paul Connell, Tom Victory
16/05/2014-18/05/2014	Strategic Environmental Assessments and Decision Making	Letterkenny Co Donegal	Larry Bannon, Victor Kiernan, Paul Connell,
30/05/2014-31/05/2014	The Local Government Arts Service	Donegal	John Browne, John Duffy, Paul Connell, Tom Victory
25/06/2014	Induction Training for Councillors	Tullamore Co Offaly	PJ Reilly, Mae Sexton, Colm Murray, Pat O Toole, John Browne,
26/06/2014	Local Government - Shaping the Future of Communities	Armagh City Hall	John Browne, Peggy Nolan, Gerard Farrell, Colm Murray, Paul Ross
13/07/2014	The National Day of Commemoration	Dublin	Mark Casey
20/07/2014-25/07/2014	Patrick MacGill Summer School	Glenties Co Donegal	Micheal Carrigy,
11/09/2014	AILG Councillors Training Seminar	Dundalk Co Louth	Pauric Brady, Colm Murray
17/10/2014-18/10/2014	LAMA Autumn Training Seminar	Buncrana Co Donegal	John Browne, John Duffy, Gerard Farrell, Colm Murray, Pat O Toole, Pauric Brady, Mick Cahill
23/10/2014	AILG Councillors Training Seminar (Housing)	Athlone Co Westmeath	Pauric Brady, Mae Sexton
29/10/2014-30/10/2014	Association of Irish Local Government	Cavan	Mae Sexton, Peggy Nolan, John Duffy, Colm Murray, Paul Ross, Pauric Brady, Mick Cahill, Mark Casey
29/10/2014	Irish Water Briefing	Carrick on Shannon Co Leitrim	Mae Sexton, Pauric Brady, John Duffy, Mark Casey
14/11/2014	NRA meeting in Dublin	Dublin	Pat O Toole, John Duffy, Colm Murray, Seamus Butler, Mark Casey, Gerry Warnock, Mae Sexton,
18/11/2014	AILG Councillors Training Seminar (Planning)	Trim Co Meath	Paul Ross, Mae Sexton, Pauric Brady,
18/11/2014	Launch of Draft Waste Plan	Galway	Mae Sexton,
27/11/2014	Regeneration Program - Briefing Session	Limerick	Mark Casey, Gerry Warnock, Paul Ross

APPENDIX 7

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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 NATIONAL ROADS

Further improvement works were carried out in 2014.

Pavement overlay schemes were completed at a number of locations on the National Road Network in the county, at:

- » *N4 Tinnynarr to Cooleeney Resurfacing Scheme Phase 1 2014 (3.5km)*
- » *N5 Cartronlebagh Pavement Strengthening 2014 (2.5km)*

Surface repair works were carried out at various locations on the National Road network under the NRA's HD28 programme.

Low Cost Safety schemes have been discontinued by the NRA as route safety inspections have commenced. It is anticipated that in future years the NRA will nominate Safety Schemes for the Local Authority design and construction.

Footpath repairs were carried out at:

- » *N55 Granard*
- » *N63 Killashee*

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEMES

Specific Improvement Grant Schemes were advanced at the following locations:

- » *Agahmore Lower/Annagh*
- » *Ahagreagh/Derrynavogy*
- » *Bawn/Aghnamadoo*
- » *Castlebrock/Knockbaun*
- » *Sheeroe/Lismagorrrn*

Funding was also provided by the NRA to allow Bridge Survey and Inventory works to be conducted on Regional Road Bridges throughout County Longford.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

The Multi-annual Road Restoration and Surface Dressing Programmes for Non National Roads are ongoing with extensive works being completed on a significant number of Regional and Local Roads.

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Low-cost Safety Remedial schemes have been advanced and are at various stages of completion at:

- » *Aughnacliff (LP 1044)*
- » *Ballyduffy Moyne (LP 5055)*
- » *Ballymahon (R392)*
- » *Clonbroney (LP 1070)*
- » *Kiernans Cross (R194)*
- » *Kilasonna (LP 1077)*
- » *Legion Terrace (LP 3010)*
- » *Pikers Cross (LP 1067)*

Road safety recommendations relating to Planning Permissions are ongoing.

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.

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 DECLG, Gardai, the Road Safety Authority, Iarnród Eireann, Waterways Ireland, etc.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Longford County Council continue to operate a maintenance contract for public lighting. As part of this contract Granard, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon and Newtowncashel have had public lights upgraded to energy efficient LED's during 2014.

APPENDIX 8

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – 2014 BACKGROUND

Following the establishment of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in July 2014 under the Local Government Reform Act 2014, Service Indicators used by local authorities since 2004 were replaced with Performance Indicators. The replacement performance indicators continue to measure a wide range of the functions carried out by local authorities.

The table below details Longford County Councils performance against each indicator.

C: CORPORATE	
C1-A. The whole time equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2014 (consistent with figures provided to DECLG by way of staffing returns for December 2014)	280.65
C2-A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	4.68
C2-B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	0.32
A. The cumulative total page views for the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service	405001
A. All revenue expenditure on hardware and software plus depreciation divide by WTE under 'C1' above	2684.41
E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT	
E1: Number of Waste Facilities authorised by the LA	
A. The number of waste facility permits and certificates of registration granted by the LA and not yet expired as at 31/12/2014	12
E2: No./% of Households with access to a 3 bin service	
A. The number of households, based on the 2011 Census, who are in receipt of a 3 bin service at 31/12/2014	Supplied by NWCPO
B. The percentage of households within the LA area (also as per the 2011 Census) that the number at 'A' above represents	
E3: No. of Waste complaints lodged with the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement	
A. The number of distinct complaints relating to waste within the LA area that were referred to the OEE in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 because the problem persisted after investigation of the complaint by the LA	0
E4: Percentage of other environmental pollution complaints closed	
Percentage of Litter pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	97.94
Percentage of Air pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	100
Percentage of Noise pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	100
Percentage of Water pollution cases closed by 31/12/2014	42.86
E5: Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution	
This data will be obtained directly from Tobin Consulting Engineers	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was unpolluted or litter free	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was slightly polluted	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was moderately polluted	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was significantly polluted	
The percentage of the area within the LA that when surveyed was grossly polluted	
F: FIRE SERVICE	
F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service	
A. Cost per Capita	57.85
F2: Service Mobilisation	
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	N/A No Full-Time Stations in Longford
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect fire	5.3
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	N/A No Full-Time Stations in Longford
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.31
F3: Percentage of attendances at scenes	
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	46.94
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	46.94
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	6.12

D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	38.27
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	51.85
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	9.88
H: HOUSING	
H1 / H2: Social Housing Stock / Housing Voids	
H1-A. The overall total number of dwellings provided by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014; comprising:	13
H1-B. The number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA in 2014	5
H1-Ba. Number constructed (from B. above)	0
H1-Bb. Number Purchased (from B. above)	5
H1-C. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme in 2014	7
H1-D. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme in 2014 if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA)	0 (HAPS not yet commenced in Longford)
H1-E. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme) in 2014	1
H1-F. The overall total number of social housing dwellings in the LA at 31/12/2014; comprising:	2075
H1-G. The total number of dwellings directly provided (constructed or purchased) by the LA	1889
H1-H. The number of units provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme	170
H1-I. The number of units provided under the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme if operated (or else indicate if scheme not yet being operated in the LA)	0 (HAPS not yet commenced in Longford)
H1-J. The number of units provided under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative (including unsold Affordable Scheme units and NAMA sourced properties and Mortgage to Rent Scheme)	16
H2-A. The percentage of the total number of dwellings at H1-G above that were vacant on 31/12/2014	5.82
The number of dwelling units within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2014	110
H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost	
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2014 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2014	0.23
B. The cost expended on getting the re-tenanted units in 2014 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2014	4734.5
H4: Housing Maintenance Cost	
A. Expenditure during 2014 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/2014 (H1G above)	1107439
H5: Private rented sector inspections	
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area (obtained directly from the PRTB)	
B. Number of inspections carried out	173
H6: Long-term Homeless Adults	
A. Number of adult individuals that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals	50
J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
J1: No. of jobs created	
A. The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014	30
L: LIBRARY / RECREATION SERVICES	
L1: Library Visits	
Number of visits to libraries per 1,000 population	4565.38
Total number of visits to libraries	178050
L2: Cost of operating a Library Service	
A. Cost of operating a Library Service per 1,000 Population	41100.1
M: FINANCE	
M1: 5 Year summary of Revenue Account balance	
A. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2010 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	-265311
B. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2011 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	-172844
C. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2012 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)	-107413

D. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2013 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS)		-109957
E. The debit/credit balance at 31/12/2014 in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) - (even if unaudited)		-34755
M2: 5 Year summary of % collection levels for major revenue sources		
2010	Rates	79.43
	Rent and Annuities	87.52
	Housing Loans	84.07
2011	Rates	74.99
	Rent and Annuities	88.23
	Housing Loans	77.16
2012	Rates	71.31
	Rent and Annuities	88.07
	Housing Loans	67.09
2013	Rates	69.79
	Rent and Annuities	86.18
	Housing Loans	60.84
2014 (even if unaudited)	Rates	70.11
	Rent and Annuities	86.18
	Housing Loans	56.5
P: PLANNING		
P1: New Buildings Inspected		
A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority		28.33
P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála		
A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in the last year		7
B. Percentage of the determinations at 'A' above which were to confirm either with or without variation the decision made by the LA		42.86
P3: Percentage of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved		
A. Total number of planning cases (as opposed to complaints) referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014 that were investigated		34
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2014		5
C. % of the cases at 'B' above that were dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000		20
D. % of the cases at 'B' above that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations		60
E. % of the cases at 'B' above that were closed due to enforcement proceedings		20
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2014		52
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service		
A. Cost per Capita		37.83
R: ROADS		
R1: Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index		
Regional Road Surface		
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4		13
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5		11
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6		34
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7		9
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8		11
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9		21
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10		1
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad		32.5
Local Primary Road Surface		
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3		0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4		7
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5		11

At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	24
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	10
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	19
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	27
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	2
Overall Percentage (based on length) of condition recorded on MapRoad [ALL LOCAL ROADS]	11.5
Local Secondary Road Surface	
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	4
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	11
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	22
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	5
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	7
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	51
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	0
Local Tertiary Road Surface	
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 1	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 2	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 3	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 4	0
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 5	2
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 6	22
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 7	18
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 8	16
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 9	42
At 31/12/2014, the percentage at PSCI rating category 10	0
R2: Percentage of motor tax transactions conducted online	
This data will be obtained directly from the Vehicle Registration Unit	
A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued)	38.57
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	28623
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	2949
Total number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online	19824
W: WATER	
W1: Unaccounted for Water as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under LA Schemes	
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied in 2014 under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for under a Service Level Agreement	47.46
W2: Percentage of drinking water in compliance with statutory requirements	
This data will be obtained directly from the EPA	
Public schemes	100
Private schemes	93.4
Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY	
Y1: Participation in Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	100
Y2: No. of Gateway participants employed as % of target	
A. Number of Gateway participants who commenced a work placement during 2014 expressed as a percentage of the placements allocated to the LA	3.64
Y3: % of nominees to LCDC membership via the PPN structures from the most marginalised SICAP groups	
The overall number of private sector members of the LCDC at 31/12/2014 nominated via the PPN structures who are of any of; Travellers, Roma, Unemployed, People with Disabilities, Lone Parents or Families in Disadvantages Areas and Disadvantaged or Ne	1
Y4: Number progressing to FT, PT or self-employment within 6 months of receipt of a Goal 3 employment support	
The no. of people in the 'Individuals supported into employment or self-employment' category, who commenced that employment within 6 months of receiving a Goal 3 support, included in the 2014 Local Community Dev. Programme Annual Report	75

APPENDIX 9:

SERVICE INDICATORS 2013

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme	
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	92
CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	162
C: CORPORATE ISSUES	
C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness	
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.57
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.33
C.2 Staff Training and Development	
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	4.76
E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
WATER	
E.1 Unaccounted For Water	
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	48.93
E.2 Drinking Water Analysis	
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	
WASTE MANAGEMENT	
E.3 Waste Segregation	
A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	Provided by the National Waste Permit
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	Collection Office (NWCPO)
E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling	
A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	Provided by the National Waste Permit
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	Provided by the National Waste Permit
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	1273
E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill	
A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	Provided by the National Waste Permit
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	Provided by the National Waste Permit
E6: Recycling Facilities	
The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	25
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2
GLASS	
A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	25
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	27
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.46
CANS	
E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	25
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	27
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.46
TEXTILES	
I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	2
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2

K. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.51
BATTERIES	
M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	26
OILS	
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	1
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	1
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.13
OTHER MATERIALS	
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.26
LITTER	
E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement	
A. Number of full-time litter wardens	3
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	0
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.38
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	343
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	142
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	3
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	3
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	8
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	7
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	
E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1802
B. Number of complaints investigated	1860
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	1749
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	547
E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns	
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	100
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	100
F: FIRE SERVICE	
F1: Fire Service Mobilisation	2013
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	No full time stations in Longford
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.53
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	No full time stations in Longford
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.23
F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes	
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	40.69
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47.93
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	11.38

D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	39.74
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	41.03
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	19.23
F.3 Fire Prevention	
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	38
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	39
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	2
H: HOUSING	
H1: Housing Vacancies	
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	1892.75
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	1873.75
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	5.18
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	76.8
E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	23.2
H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings	
The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	12.03
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	9.36
H3: Housing Repairs	
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	99.51
H4: Traveller Accommodation	
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	85.71
H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector	
A. Total number of registered tenancies	1982
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	127
C. Number of inspections carried out	151
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	6.41
H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability	
A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	2
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	4
H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses	
A. Total number of new local authority tenants	126
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	86.51
L: LIBRARY SERVICES	
L.1 Library Public Opening Hours	
A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	32.8
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	15.86
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66.67
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100
L.2 Library Visits	
Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	4186.28
L.3 Library Stock	
A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.4
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.18
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries	
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	634.72

M: MOTOR TAXATION	
M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions	
A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	30915
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	3509
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	14876
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	62.71
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	7.12
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	30.17
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	1820
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	715
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	161
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	813
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	51.86
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	20.38
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	4.59
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	23.17
M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications	
A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	394
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	799
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	204
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	2793
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	9.4
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	19.07
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	4.87
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	66.66
M.4 Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	28.63
P: PLANNING	
P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making	
Individual Houses	
A. Number of applications decided	24
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	13
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	11
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	77.08
F. Percentage of applications granted	61.67
G. Percentage of applications refused	8.33
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0
New Housing Development	
A. Number of applications decided	2
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	2

D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79
F. Percentage of applications granted	50
G. Percentage of applications refused	1
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	2
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0
Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment	
A. Number of applications decided	112
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	83
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	29
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	76.82
F. Percentage of applications granted	97.32
G. Percentage of applications refused	2.68
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	100
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment	
A. Number of applications decided	0
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	0
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	N/A
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	N/A
P.2 Planning Enforcement	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	104
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	17
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	51
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	27
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	22
F. Number of prosecutions	9
P.3 Planning Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	30.66
P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation	
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	38
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	8.48
P.5 New Buildings inspected	
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	16.67
P.6 Taking Estates in Charge	
A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	26
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	7
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	226
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	73.08
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/ or the bond was called in	3
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0

REC: RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds	
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.31
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.18
Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities	
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	4343.82
REV: REVENUE COLLECTION	
Rev.1 House Rent	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	87.14
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	7
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	5
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	7
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	81
Rev.2 Housing Loans	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	60.84
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	1
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	2
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	96
Rev.3 Commercial Rates	
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	69.79
Rev.4 Refuse Charges	
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	
Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	63.1
R: ROADS	
R1: Road Restoration Programme	
Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	54.46
Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	1

APPENDIX 10

REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Ballymahon Municipal District was formed following the 2014 Local Government Elections. Six members were elected to Longford County Council to represent the Municipal District. Following their election these members simultaneously became members of both Longford County Council and Ballymahon Municipal District.

The first meeting of the Ballymahon Municipal District was held in the Áras an Chontae on June 16th, 2014. At that meeting Councillor Mick Cahill was elected to the position of Cathaoirleach and Councillor Paul Ross was elected to be the Leas Cathaoirleach. These positions were filled for a 1 year term of office.

At the meeting it was agreed unanimously that the meetings of the Ballymahon Municipal District would be held at 4.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of every second month.

In 2014 meetings were subsequently held on July 31st, September 25th, October 9th, and December 4th.

GRANARD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Granard Municipal District was formed following the 2014 Local Government Elections. Six members were elected to Longford County Council to represent the Municipal District. Following their election these members simultaneously became members of both Longford County Council and Granard Municipal District.

The first meeting of the Granard Municipal District was held in the Áras an Chontae on June 16th, 2014. At that meeting Councillor John Duffy was elected to the position of Cathaoirleach and Councillor Martin Mulleady was elected to be the Leas Cathaoirleach. These positions were by agreement filled for a 1 year term of office.

At the meeting it was agreed unanimously that the meetings of the Granard Municipal District would be held at 4.00pm on the fourth Tuesday of every second month.

In 2014 meetings were subsequently held on July 29th, September 23rd and November 25th.

LONGFORD MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Longford Municipal District was formed following the 2014 Local Government Elections. Six members were elected to Longford County Council to represent the Municipal District. Following their election these members simultaneously became members of both Longford County Council and Longford Municipal District.

The first meeting of the Longford Municipal District was held in the Áras an Chontae on June 16th, 2014. At that meeting Councillor Mae Sexton was elected to the position of Cathaoirleach and Councillor Pádraig Loughrey was elected to be the Leas Cathaoirleach. These positions were filled for a 1 year term of office.

At the meeting it was agreed unanimously that the meetings of the Longford Municipal District would be held at 4.00pm on the fourth Thursday of every month.

In 2014 meetings were subsequently held on July 2nd, July 24th, September 24th, October 22nd, and November 26th.

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