



Longford County Council

Sanitary and Environment Directorate

Water Services Investment Programme

Assessment of Needs

Contents

1.	<i>Introduction.....</i>	3
2.	<i>Scope.....</i>	3
3.	<i>Strategic Studies.....</i>	4
4.	<i>Background.....</i>	4
5.	<i>Population Growth.....</i>	4
6.	<i>Water Services Infrastructure.....</i>	5
7.	<i>Application of the Polluter Pays Principle.....</i>	5
8.	<i>Achievements since 2003.....</i>	6
9.	<i>General Approach to Assessment of Needs.....</i>	6
9.1	<i>- Deficiencies Identified in Existing Systems.....</i>	6
9.2	<i>- Areas where Schemes are required.....</i>	9
9.3	<i>- Criteria for Deciding priorities of Schemes.....</i>	10
10.	<i>Programme of Works – 2007 to 2009.....</i>	11
11.	<i>Programme of Works – 2007 to 2014.....</i>	12
	<i>Appendix 1.....</i>	13
	<i>Regional Water Supply Schemes</i>	
	<i>Appendix 2.....</i>	14
	<i>Waste Water Treatment Plants in Co. Longford</i>	
	<i>Appendix 3.....</i>	15
	<i>Public consultation</i>	

1. Introduction

The Water Services Section of Longford Co. Council undertook the last Assessment of Needs for Water Services Capital Works in 2003 at the request of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG). This assessment has been taken into account in subsequent phases of the Department's Water Services Investment Programme. The current document relates to the period 2005-07 and is included in the appendix to this report.

While assessments of water services needs have previously been updated at 5 yearly intervals, because of the scale and pattern of demographic and economic development in recent years, we are being requested to carry out a new assessment in 2006. This new assessment is necessary as an input to the next National Development Plan that will cover the period 2007-13 and to optimise project selection in future phases of the Water Services Investment Programme.

The main purpose of the assessment is to enable a local authority develop a strategic investment plan for the medium to long term and to set out a programme of works to meet the identified water services needs, (circular letter L11/03 from the DEHLG refers). In this context water services include

- Drinking water treatment and distribution
- Wastewater collection and disposal
- Storm water management, including collection and disposal

Longford's 2003 assessment identified a total investment requirement of €92m for the period up to 2011. This current assessment updates the previous one and covers the immediate needs for the period 2007 to 2009 and an examination from a strategic perspective of the main requirements for water services investment over the period 2010-14.

2. Scope

The scope of the report is as follows

- To summarise the achievements of the water services investment programme since the last assessment in 2003
- To incorporate the requirements of the Town Councils as an integral part of the assessment for the County
- To outline the approach to meeting the identified water services needs over the period 2007 to 2009
- To outline strategic requirements for water services investment over the period 2010 to 2014
- To list the programme of works costing greater than €635,000 required to meet the water services needs
- To give an estimate of the overall cost of the programme of works broken down by project where this is possible
- To describe the objectives of the investment in terms of outcomes sought and specific outputs required

3. **Strategic Studies**

A number of strategic studies have been carried out in recent years to assist in planning for the County's development. These studies include: -

- The Longford County Development Plan 2003-09 and associated Local Area Plans that are presently being developed
- The Longford Strategic Rural Water Plan
- Network Appraisal and Strategic Plan Report
- Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme Strategic Review
- Granard Regional Water Supply Scheme Strategic Review
- Longford grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme Feasibility Study
- National Urban Waste Water Study- Co. Longford Report
- National Water Study-Co. Longford Report
- Longford Sludge Management Strategy

4. **Background**

Longford is a county in the Midland Region and has a geographical area of 1025 Sq. Km. It is bounded by Roscommon and the River Shannon on the west, Leitrim and Cavan on the north and Westmeath to the east and south. The topography of the County can be described as undulating lowland with a series of prominent hills in the northeast of the county rising to a maximum height of 728m. at Cairn Hill which forms a distinctive feature of the landscape. Most of the County drains to the River Shannon with a small section in the northeast draining to the River Erne.

5. **Population Growth**

County Longford had a population of 34,361 at the 2006 Census giving an average population density of 33.5 persons per Sq. Km. and while this is considerably lower than the national average, the population had increased by 10.6% since 2002. There has been a significant growth of population within the economically active age group, indicating a demand for housing and jobs. Longford town had a population of 7,612 an increase of 18.3% over the 2002 figure and the towns of Ballymahon population, 1,797, Edgeworthstown 1,543 and Granard, 1,226 also have populations in excess of 1,000.

A large multinational pharmaceutical industry has located a new manufacturing unit in Longford Town. Because of this, other significant commercial and industrial developments, rapid development spurred by the rural renewal tax incentive scheme and Longford's location adjacent to the major development area of the Dublin region and improved infrastructural links with this region, it is estimated that there has been strong growth in employment and population in the County since the last census and that this will continue.

6. Water Services Infrastructure

There are five regional water schemes serving County Longford and it is estimated that 90% of the population receives a piped water supply treated to EU standards.

The Schemes are: Ballymahon, Lanesboro/Newtowncashel, Longford Central, Lough Gowna and Granard. See Appendix 1 for map and details.

There are ten public sewerage schemes in the County: Ballymahon, Kenagh, Lanesboro, Longford, Newtownforbes, Drumlish, Granard, Edgeworthstown, Clondra and Legan. See Appendix 2 for map and details.

The Council has prepared and maintains GIS spatial database of the water and sewer networks in the county.

There has been a mayor deficit in water services infrastructure in Co. Longford for many years and this has been heightened by the rapid increase in population and development in the County.

7. Application of the Polluter Pays Principle

The DEHLG has issued a series of circular letters in relation to the national water services pricing policy. These have been consolidated under Circular L 16/02 as issued on 26th September 2002.

This circular sets out the system for charging the non-domestic sector in order to apply the Polluter Pays Principle in respect of water and wastewater services. The main provisions regarding charging are:

- (i) Collection of capital contributions by Local Authorities from **non-domestic** users in a structured and uniform manner and in accordance with the polluter pays principle.
- (ii) Operational costs in respect of the provision of water and wastewater services to **non-domestic** users to be recovered in full based on usage, with an attendant adjustment to the commercial rate.

Significant funds will have to be raised locally to finance the non-domestic element of Capital Water Services Schemes. Longford Town and County Councils adopted a scheme of development levies that is partly intended to fund this. Any shortfall will have to be raised through a capital levy to be included in the non-domestic water charge. While schemes are being listed in this document on the basis of need the question of affordability will arise and it may be necessary to also prioritise schemes on this basis in future.

8. Achievements since 2003

The following works have been completed since the last assessment of need

1. Clondra Sewerage Scheme
2. Advance works on reservoir and pipelines Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme
3. Preliminary Report for Drumlish and Newtownforbes Sewerage Schemes
4. Preliminary Report for Ardagh, Aghnacliffe and Ballinalee Sewerage Scheme
5. Strategic Review for Granard Regional Water Supply Scheme

9. General Approach to assessment of Needs

The identification of the water services needs over the period 2007 to 2009 is a result of:

- a. Identifying the deficiencies in existing systems
- b. Identifying areas where schemes are required
- c. Listing criteria for deciding priorities of schemes

9.1 Deficiencies Identified In Existing Systems**9.1.1 Longford Central Regional Water Scheme**

- a. The Water Conservation Report has identified that there is insufficient spare capacity available in the scheme to provide for the short-term projected growth in the Region.
- b. The 2004 Drinking Water report and previous Drinking Water reports have identified a problem with exceedences in Aluminium in the water supply
- c. The burst records have identified locations where the water mains should be renewed as there are frequent bursts causing interruptions in supply.
- d. Sections of the existing network need to be replaced to improve quality and the level of service
- e. There is insufficient storage capacity leading to early loss of supply to consumers when there are interruptions due to bursts, pump and other plant failures.
- f. The supply to Edgeworthstown and eastern areas of the region is of poor quality due to an inadequate treatment system and problems with the source at certain times of the year

9.1.2 Granard Regional Water Scheme

- a. There is insufficient spare pumping and rising main capacity to provide for projected short-term requirements even with the implementation of water conservation measures.
- b. The intake at the treatment plant is deficient and needs to be upgraded or renewed.
- c. Sludge treatment is required at the treatment plant
- d. An area to the North of the region has no mains network

9.1.3 Ballymahon Regional Water Scheme

- a. Areas to the South of the region need to have supply extended.
- b. Sludge treatment is required at the treatment plant.

9.1.4 Lough Gowna Regional Water Scheme

- a. Renewal of large areas of the network is required to reduce leakage levels.
- b. Sludge Treatment is required at the treatment plant
- c. The lake intake needs to be upgraded or renewed.

9.1.5 Lanesboro/Newtowncashel Water Scheme

- a. The Lanesboro groundwater source is vulnerable to pollution
- b. There are quality and quantity problems in the Newtowncashel supply

9.1.6 Longford Sewerage Scheme

- a. The Lough Derg/Ree catchment management Scheme has identified a problem with storm overflows discharging to the Camlin drainage system.
- b. The capacity of the treatment plant is insufficient for the treatment of medium to long-term requirements.
- c. Sections of the network are sub-standard in regards to hydraulic capacity and structural content
- d. Surface water drainage network needs to be rehabilitated and upgraded

9.1.7 Drumlish Sewerage Scheme

- a. An upgraded treatment plant needs to be provided to cater for present and future requirements
- b. The collection system needs to be expanded and improved
- c. Surface water needs to be separated from the foul sewer network

9.1.8 Newtownforbes Sewerage Scheme

- a. An upgraded treatment plant needs to be provided to cater for present and future requirements.
- b. The collection system needs to be expanded and improved
- c. Surface water needs to be separated from foul

9.1.9 Legan and Kenagh Sewerage Schemes

- a. Upgraded treatment plants need to be provided

9.1.10 Lanesboro Sewerage Scheme

- a. An upgraded treatment plant and network needs to be provided to cater for present and future requirements.

9.1.11 Water Supplies General

- a. Investment is required in compliance with water quality standards in accordance with EU and national legislation e.g. lead service replacement

9.1.12 Surface Water Drainage

Longford Co. Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of surface water in urban areas. This responsibility is shared with the following sections of the Town and Co. Councils; with the Roads Section, which is responsible for road drainage and the Housing Section, which is responsible for drainage for Local Authority Housing.

The Council commissioned studies of the Eastern area of Longford Town in 1999, the South Western area of Longford Town in 2001 and a flood study of the river Camlin in 2002. These reports resulted in a plan for the drainage of these areas, designation of the flood plain of the Camlin river and recommendations for remedial works and attenuation measures to be incorporated in planning approvals.

Over the past number of years flooding has occurred following extreme rainfall in vulnerable areas of Longford town causing extensive damage to homes and businesses.

It is intended to review the above reports and consider improvement measures in the Longford Town Sewerage Scheme-Network and Waste Water Treatment Plant Review that is included in the 2005-07 Water Services Investment Programme as a scheme to be advanced through planning

9.2 Areas Where Schemes Are Required

9.2.1 Water Conservation

The Council has been allocated funding of €4.2m to deal with water conservation measures in the 2005-07 Water Services Investment Plan. Water Conservation proposals are not to be included in the present document as they are subject to separate guidelines from the DEHLG.

9.2.2 New Sewerage Schemes

The Council has adopted a Development Plan for the period: 2003 to 2009. The plan has identified as an objective the development of villages and rural settlements. The growth of these centres may be facilitated by the provision of sewerage schemes at these locations. A Co. Longford Grouped Towns and Villages Sewerage Scheme Feasibility Study has been commissioned.

Included in new plan

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Abbeylara | 17. Killashee |
| 2. Abbeyshrule | 18. Kilnatruan |
| 3. Ballinamuck | 19. Legan |
| 4. Ballycloughan | 20. Legga |
| 5. Ballywillin | 21. Lisryan |
| 6. Barry | 22. Melview |
| 7. Bunlahy | 23. Moydow |
| 8. Carrickboy | 24. Moyne |
| 9. Coolarty | 25. Mullinlaghta |
| 10. Colehill | 26. Newtowncashel |
| 11. Cullyfad | 27. Ratharney |
| 12. Derraghan | 28. Stonepark |
| 13. Dring | 29. Taghshinny |
| 14. Ennybegs | |
| 15. Forgney | |
| 16. Keenagh | |

9.3 Criteria For Deciding Priorities Of Schemes

The following list of priorities is suggested

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

The DEHLG has stated that the assessment should not include, as a new requirement, any scheme already assigned a construction start date in the Water Services Investment Programme 2005-07 and that where a local authority wishes to bring forward the commencement of any such scheme to an earlier date, such a proposal should be identified separately.

9.4 Priority List of Schemes

The following is the priority list for the top 5 schemes based on the above criteria

1. Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme Augmentation, Storage and Rising Mains
2. Lanesboro Regional Water Supply Scheme
3. Drumlish, Newtownforbes, Ardagh, Aughnacliffe and Ballinalee Sewerage Scheme
4. Kenagh and Legan Sewerage Scheme
5. Granard Water Supply Scheme

10. Programme Of Works – 2007 to 2009

Scheme	Category	Goal	(€)
Longford Central Regional Water Supply Scheme Stage 6 - Storage and Rising Mains (Longford Town)	W	A/C	8,000,000
Longford Central Regional Water Supply Strategic Review	W	A/B/C	1,000,000
Longford Central Water Supply Groundwater Augmentation / Source Replacement ,Network extension	W	A/B/E	7,000,000
Granard Regional Water Scheme	W	A/B/C	4,000,000
Lanesborough Regional Water Scheme+	W	A/B/C	8,000,000
Lough Gowna Regional Water Scheme-Strategic Review	W	A/B/C	2,000,000
Ardagh/Ballinalee/Aughnacliffe Sewerage Scheme	S	A/D	4,000,000
Longford Sewerage Scheme Phase 2 - Treatment Work	S	A/D	5,200,000
Longford Sewerage Scheme Extension to Drainage Areas	S	A/D	2,000,000
Longford Sewerage Scheme – Surface Water Drainage, Network Analysis / Stormwater Separation / Pipe Rehabilitation	S	A/D	3,000,000
Longford Sludge Management	W/S	A/D	1,400,000
Lanesborough Water Supply Stage 1 - New Source Development	W	A/B/C	1,300,000
Granard Regional Water Supply Strategic Review	W	A/B/C	1,000,000
Ballymahon Regional Water Scheme – Strategic Review	W	A/C	7,500,000
Drumlisk Sewerage Scheme	S	A/D	1,400,000
Newtownforbes Sewerage Scheme	S	A/D	1,400,000
Lanesboro Sewerage Scheme	S	A/D	1,320,000
Legan and Kenagh Sewerage Schemes upgrading	S	A/D	700,000
Abbeylara, Abbeyshrule, Ballinamuck, Barry, Ennybegs, Killashee, Stonepark Sewerage Schemes	S	A/D	8,000,000
Legga, Moydow, Moyne, Newtowncashel, Taghshinny Sewerage Schemes	S	A/D	3,000,000
Camlin Flood Alleviation Scheme			3,500,000
TOTAL			€ 74,720,000

Legend**Category:**

W - Water

S - Sewerage

Goal:

A - Facilitate current and future development in accordance the Longford County Development Plan 2003-2009 and/or the National Spatial Strategy objectives.

B - Ensure that water quality standards comply with EU and national standards

C - Upgrade network and/or treatment plants

D - Pollution control

E - Source vulnerability

Schemes not in the current investment programme in bold

11. Programme Of Works – 2007 to 2014

Scheme	Category	Goal	(€)
Water Conservation – Further Programmes	W	A/B/C	14,500,00
Ballycloughan, Ballywilin, Bunlahy, Carrickboy, Coolarty, Colehill, Cullyfad, Derraghan, Dring, Forgney, Kilnatruan, Lisryan, Melview, Mullinlaghta, Ratharney Sewerage Schemes	S	A/D	12,000,000
Drinking Water Regulations – Water Quality Improvement Requirements	W	B/C	3,000,000
Water Transfer Stations	W	A/C	1,000,000
TOTAL			€30,500,000

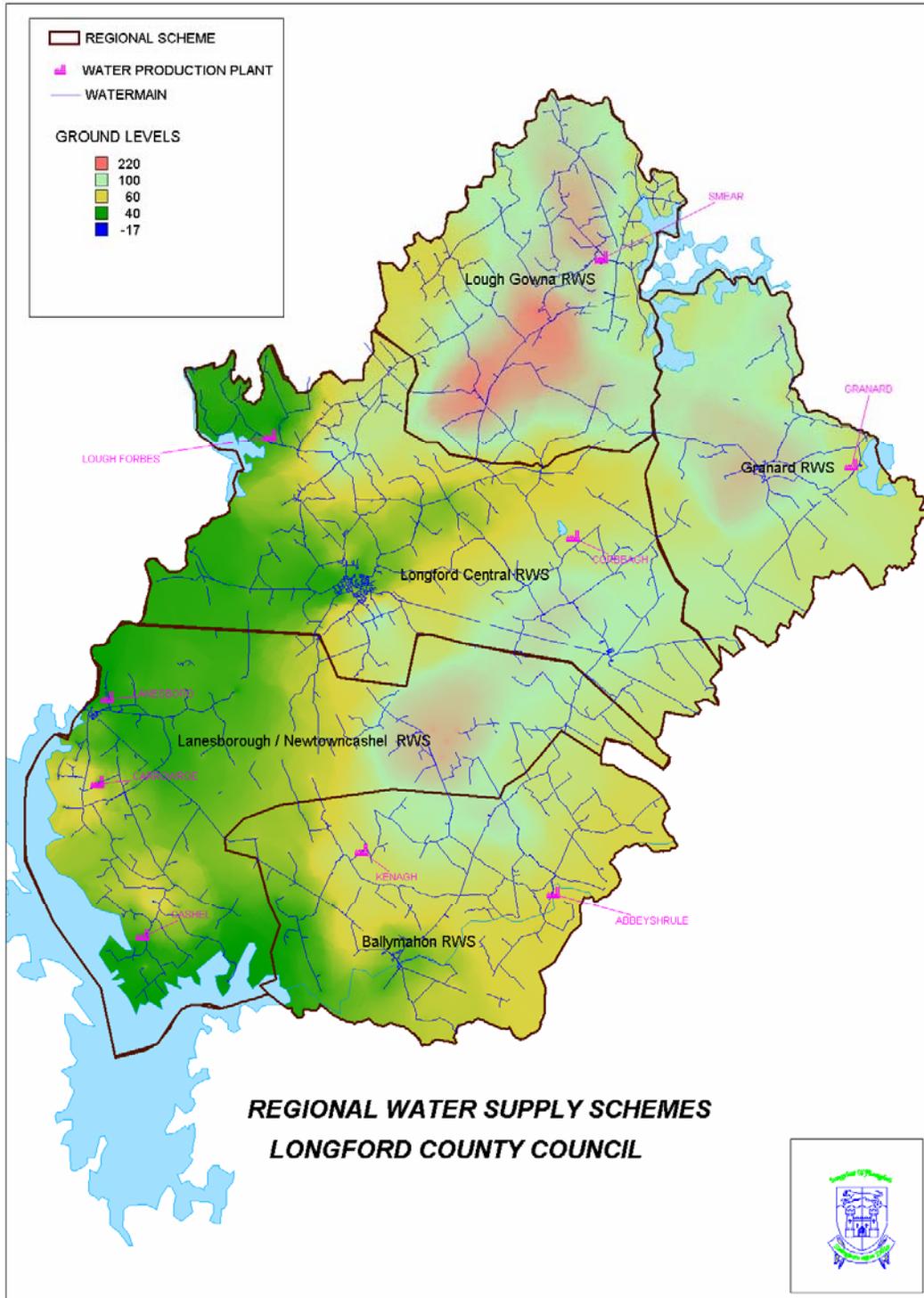
Legend

Category:

- W** - Water
S - Sewerage

Goals:

- A** - Facilitate current and future development in accordance the Longford County Development Plan 2003-2009 and/or the National Spatial Strategy objectives.
B - Ensure that water quality standards comply with EU and national standards
C - Upgrading of network and/or treatment plants
D - Pollution control
E - Source vulnerabilit



Appendix 1

Appendix 2**Waste Water Treatment Plants in Co. Longford**

Agglomeration	p.e.	Discharging to:	Sensitive	Present Treatment	Compliance Date
Ballymahon	2,125	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Drumlish	1,000	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Edgeworthstown	2,469	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Granard	2,200	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Lanesboro	1,000	Freshwater River	Yes	Primary Treatment	31/12/05
Longford	20,000	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/98
Newtownforbes	1,000	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Legan	400	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Kenagh	400	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05
Clondra	600	Freshwater River	Yes	Secondary Treatment	31/12/05

Appendix 3

Public Consultation

A public and internal consultation process took place in accordance with Circular L 2/06 and submissions were received from the following

1. Mr F. Sheridan, Director of Services, Community and Enterprise and Corporate Affairs
2. Mr D. Mac An Bheatha, Planning Officer
3. Mr T. McDonald, Head of Finance