



COUNTY LONGFORD **Local Economic and Community Plan** 2023-2029

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2024-2025

Adopted on 13th December 2023
by Longford County Council





Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025

This document outlines the initial steps for implementing the Longford County Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029. It details the actions planned for the two-year period from 2024 to 2025, a second implementation plan will be created for 2026-2027 and a third for 2028-2029. This flexible approach ensures alignment with the LECP's overall vision and goals, allowing for adjustments based on changing circumstances.

Covering both community and economic aspects, the Implementation Plan addresses the LECP's 6 High-Level Goals and 21 Strategic Objectives. Each action is supported by identified delivery methods. These plans aim to achieve the objectives outlined in the LECP Framework, considering available resources and past experiences.

The Longford County Local Economic and Community Framework Plan will guide activities over six years, with Implementation Plans like this one developed every two years.

The High Level Goals



Goal 1: Healthy communities, where people live active and fulfilling lives with improved physical and mental health.



Goal 2: Resilient environment and communities, where people are and feel safe and valued.



Goal 3: An innovative economy, maximising opportunities through education, smart technology and digitalisation.



Goal 4: A strong economy, positioning Longford as a destination of choice to live, work, visit, invest and learn.



Goal 5: Vibrant, inclusive and connected communities, with a strong sense of place and improved quality of life.



Goal 6: A sustainable County with a growing Green Economy, fostering climate action and building on Longford's strengths and resources.

HIGH-LEVEL GOAL	SCO/SEDO	ACTIONS		OUTPUT	Action Lead	Action Partners	KPI	Timeframe Target
Goal 1: Healthy communities, where people live active and fulfilling lives with improved physical and mental health.	SCO 1.1 Promote and support health service providers and initiatives that promote health and wellbeing.	1.1.1	Expand universal community health and wellbeing services by implementing programs like Stronger Together, Slaintecare, the Healthy Longford program, and other local, regional, and national strategies.	Increased mental and physical health service provision across the whole community.	HSE/LCDC	LCC, MRDATF, CADS, Tusla, PPN, LCC (Planning), LWETB, LCRL, sport and community organisations, local schools, Slaintecare, PPN, FRCs, Age Friendly Ireland, DCEDIY, LEO, Tusla	No. new programmes implemented	Short-Long term
		1.1.2	Support evidence-based, need-driven initiatives to provide a comprehensive range of targeted community health services.	Improvement in the accessibility and effectiveness of health service provision to target groups.	HSE	LCC, MRDATF, CADS, Tusla, PPN, LCC (Planning), LWETB, LCRL, LWL, sport and community organisations, local schools, Slaintecare, PPN, FRCs, Age Friendly Ireland, DCEDIY, LEO, Tusla	No. needs-led infrastructure audits/assessments undertaken No. new initiatives supported No. existing initiatives supported	Medium-Long term
	SEDO 1.2 Promote and support active and passive recreation and associated industries.	1.2.1	Support initiatives that expand and promote recreational infrastructure and opportunities across County Longford including sports, safe play areas, active transport, and other indoor and outdoor recreation.	Increased number of people with access to and participating in active and passive recreation.	LSP	PPN, Age Friendly Ireland, Coillte, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries, Disability services, Schools FRCs, Sports Hubs, CCRC, LCRL, LCC (Planning, Regeneration), HSE,	No. recreation space audits undertaken No. new recreation spaces delivered No. recreational initiatives delivered	Short-Long term
Goal 2: Resilient environment and communities, where people are and feel safe and valued.	SCO 2.1 Support communities, organisations, and enterprises to participate in climate action.	2.1.1	Support initiatives for the enhancement of the sustainability of rural areas through rural economic development, enterprise, and diversification into new sectors and services.	Increased sustainability of County Longford's communities and economy.	LCC (Environment), MEA, LCDC, Coillte	DECC, LCRL	No. rural sustainability initiatives supported	Short-Long term
		2.1.2	Support communities to reduce their carbon footprint and implement sustainable, energy-efficient measures across County Longford.	Reduced carbon footprint and energy usage across County Longford's communities.	LCC (Environment, Climate Action), LCDC, SEAI	DECC, LCRL, DRCD, SEAI	No. carbon-reduction initiatives implemented Reduction of carbon-emissions	Medium-Long term
	SCO 2.2 Support, encourage and promote community safety.	2.2.1	Enhance Longford's public image as a safe and desirable place for living, working, and recreation, while actively engaging the community in public safety efforts through the Longford Public Safety Partnership and implementing the Public Safety Plan.	Reduced crime rates and increased perception of public safety.	LLCSP	LCC, local organisations and businesses, PPN, An Garda Síochana, LWL	Delivery of LCSP actions Improved perception of personal safety	Short-Long term
		2.2.2	Identify specific safety needs with evidence-based approaches and deliver safety initiatives and programmes to target these needs.	Decrease in crime and anti-social behaviour in target areas.	LCC, LWL, MRDATF, LLCSP, Probation Service, An Garda Síochana, LCSP	HSE CADS, MRDATF, FRCS	No. safety audits undertaken No. needs-led safety initiatives delivered	Medium-Long term
		2.2.3	Promote and increase the availability of safety-related education and training opportunities across Longford's communities.	Increase in the number of people engaging with safety-related education and training.	LCC (Corporate Services), LLCSP	Statutory Agencies, LWL	No. safety-related trainings/workshops delivered	Short-Long term
	SEDO 2.3 Support the enhancement and protection of biodiversity, natural resources and waterways.	2.3.1	Conserve, develop, and enhance the natural resources and landscapes of County Longford to ensure that they are protected and available for future generations.	Increased number of natural resource protection and enhancement initiatives.	LCC (Planning, Environment, Regeneration)	Just Transition Fund, EMRA, CARO, SEAI, SME's, SEC's, LCRL, LEO, Bord na Mona, LCDC	Delivery of Longford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy actions	Short-Long term
		2.3.2	Support and implement water quality improvement initiatives, including the River Basin Management Plans and LEADER rural development programs among others.	Increased water quality in Longford and effective flood risk management.	LCC (Water Services), LCDC		Increased water quality Delivery of River Basin Management Plan actions No. water quality improvement initiatives delivered	Medium-Long term
2.3.3		Implement conservation and preservation plans that protect and enrich the biodiversity of County Longford, such as the National Biodiversity Plan, Longford Heritage Plan and others.	Increased biodiversity within County Longford.	LCC (Regeneration, Climate Action, Biodiversity Officer), LCDC	DRCD, LAWPRO, NPWS, DHLGH	No. of Local Biodiversity Plans developed and implemented across the County Delivery of Longford Biodiversity Plan actions	Short-Long term	
Goal 3: An innovative economy, maximising opportunities through education and training, smart technology and digitalisation.	SCO 3.1 Develop and support pathways for education, training and lifelong learning for all community members.	3.1.1	Engaging proactively with education service providers and research institutes to develop the local workforce and to meet the identified needs of businesses	A workforce that meets the specific needs of local businesses.	LWETB/LEO	LWETB, LCRL, Chamber of Commerce, Regional Skills, TUS, LWL	No. of courses available No. enrolled No. of new programmes to address skills gap added	Short-Medium term
		3.1.2	Enhance early years, childhood and youth education through programs that supplement mainstream education like 'Youthreach and 'Top Class,' programmes that foster children's engagement in early education and afterschool programs	Improve Student Retention.	CYPSC	FRCs, local schools, Dept. of Education, DCEDIY, LCRL, Tusla, HSE, Co. Childcare, LCC, FRCs, LEO	No. of youth engagement and training programmes delivered	Short-Medium term
		3.1.3	Offer and promote educational and training opportunities for both youth and adults, emphasising lifelong learning	Improved educational attainment.	LWETB	ETB, LCC, LWL	No. courses and training programmes	Short-Medium term
	SCO 3.2 Enable individuals and communities to optimise digital connectivity and proficiencies.	3.2.1	Sustain Longford's strategic efforts to promote and enable digital transformation, connectivity, and infrastructure through the implementation of initiatives such as the National Broadband Plan (NBP), Longford Digital Strategy 2021-2023, and LEADER program.	Enhanced digital infrastructure and connectivity.	LCC	LCDC, LCC, LEO, Midlands ICT, LCR, LCRL	No. buildings with broadband internet connectivity	Short-Long term
		3.2.2	Promote enhanced digital skills for all through adult digital skills programs and comprehensive digital ICT and STEAM training initiatives for children and young people, including Dream Space Academy in primary schools, as well as computer science and programmes in secondary schools	Growth in the number of individuals pursuing careers or further education in digital fields.	LCC, LWETB	Ericsson, Microsoft, PDST, FRCs, local schools, Dept. of Education, LWETB, LCR	No. of schools with Computer Science as a Leaving Cert option No. of public digital training and skills programmes delivered No. of people enrolled in digital skills programmes	Short-Medium term
		3.2.3	Encourage the effective use of resources available in existing and new coworking facilities to support the digitalisation of local communities.	Enhanced utilisation of digital hubs and coworking facilities	LCC	The Connected Hubs Network	No. people/enterprises/organisations using coworking facilities	Short-Long term
		3.2.4	Undertake an impact and scope review of the Longford Digital Strategy 2020-2023 and scope for future digital priorities	Develop a new Longford Digital Strategy.	LCC	LCC, NBI, DRCD, DECCA, Midlands ICT	Review of Longford Digital Strategy undertaken Future digital priorities identified	Short-Medium term
	SEDO 3.3 Promote and nurture a strong culture of entrepreneurship and innovation.	3.3.1	Support initiatives that promote growth in key regional sectors, as identified in the National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027, including advanced manufacturing, creative industries, bioeconomy, biopharma, financial services, AgriTech, and ICT.	Increased number of innovative initiatives across the County.	LEO	LCC, LEO, EI, Chambers of Commerce	No. of new enterprises in key industries Increased employment in key industries	Long-term
		3.3.2	Identify opportunities to avail of EU funding specifically designed to support company innovation and research and development activities	Increased number of businesses accessing innovation and R&D funding.	EI	LCC, LEO, EI, Chambers of Commerce, IDA, LEO	Amount of EU funding secured	Short-Long term

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	SEDO 3.4 Capitalising on strengths of Longford through Smart Specialisation and Digitalisation for businesses and enterprises.	3.3.3	Implement pre-enterprise programs, entrepreneurship initiatives within schools, networking opportunities, local Business Forums, and enterprise development and capacity-building initiatives	Increased engagement in entrepreneurship and innovation programmes and networks.	LEO	LCRL, LWETB, DSP, Primary and Secondary Schools, Outreach, Longford Youth Service Chamber of Commerce, Trade Associations, EI	No. entrepreneurship programmes offered in schools No. local business forums No. enterprise development and pre enterprise programmes delivered	Short-Long term
		3.4.1	Support the implementation of digital/lean processes in businesses and enterprises to enhance efficiencies and bolster the adoption of e-commerce platforms and technologies.	Increase in the number of local businesses participating in digital/lean training and ecommerce programs.	LEO	Enterprise Ireland, TUS	No. of tailored programmes delivered	Short-Medium term
		3.4.2	Continue to implement and build upon the four key pillars of Longford's digital strategy to (1) increase Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity, (2) deliver SMART communities, (3) grow the digital economy and enterprise, and (4) support digital transition.	Growth and increase in the number of digital businesses, job opportunities, and economic output of the digital sector.	LCC	LCC, NBI, DRCD, DECCAIE, Midlands ICT, PPN, LEO, LCR, USEFE	Delivery of Longford Digital Strategy actions	Short-Medium term
Goal 4: A strong economy, positioning Longford as a destination of choice to live, work, visit, invest and learn.	SEDO 4.1 Increase employment opportunities.	4.1.1	Support the continued growth of the enterprise sector in County Longford to provide sustainable job opportunities for the community	Higher employment rates	LEO	LCC, EI, IDA, LWL	No. of funded programmes identified and developed No. jobs clubs, jobs fairs, or other employment events delivered	Short-Long term
		4.1.2	Promote and facilitate remote working opportunities in Longford building a remote working community	Increased remote working opportunities	LCC	LEO	Increased no. of remote working opportunities Increased no. of people reporting to work remotely	Medium-Long term
		4.1.3	Establish specific support measures and employment initiatives among key target groups	Increased employment supports and initiatives	LEO	LEO, ETB, DETE, EDI	Employment needs analyses undertaken No. needs-led employment supports and programmes delivered to target communities	Short-Long term
		4.1.4	Avail of opportunities presented through local and regional support bodies to upskill, reskill and grow the capabilities of the local workforce.	Increased local business networks	ETB	LCDC, LCC, LEO, Midlands ICT	No. upskilling/reskilling initiatives delivered	Medium-Long term
	SEDO 4.2 Build on opportunities for clustering of key economic sectors, including Medtech, engineering, agri-food and tourism.	4.2.1	Collaborate with key stakeholder groups to develop targeted enterprise initiatives in support of Regional and National plans to include the EU Just Transition Plan	Increased enterprise and employment within key economic sectors	LCC (Planning)	LEO	No. targeted enterprise initiatives delivered Amount of EU Just Transition funding secured	Medium-Long term
		4.2.2	Build on the success of key economic sectors within Longford promoting further collaboration and partnership and contributing to the development of new regional clusters to include a food and drinks cluster	Increased economic development clusters	SPC	EIU, LEO, Other LEOs across the region, Enterprise Ireland, EMRA, LWL	Food and drinks cluster established No. new enterprises joining existing business clusters	Long-term
	SEDO 4.3 Maintain and promote a positive business environment for Longford that enhances its appeal as a viable business location.	4.3.1	Support the delivery of strategic infrastructure within County Longford that will facilitate further inward investment and expansion of indigenous companies.	Increased level of awareness within and outside the County of Longford's investment potential.	IDA, RPPRO, DSP, LCRL, LCC, LEO	EIU, LEO, Other LEOs across the region, Enterprise Ireland, EMRA, LWL	No. of infrastructure projects	Medium-Long term
		4.3.2	Implement initiatives that maintain and improve transport infrastructure in County Longford to maximise its economic potential.	Increased connectivity across longford	LCC	EIU, LEO, Other LEOs across the region, Enterprise Ireland, EMRA, LWL	No. transport infrastructure improvement projects delivered	Long-term
		4.3.3	Promote the economic strengths and investment potential of County Longford targeting specific economic groups through dedicated promotional campaigns	Dedicated economic groups and promotion	SPC	EIU, LEO, Other LEOs across the region, Enterprise Ireland, EMRA, LWL	No. promotional campaigns delivered	Short-Long term
		4.3.4	Support the growth and development of strong business and economic networks within and beyond County Longford.	Increased number of local economic groups	SPC	EIU, LEO, Other LEOs across the region, Enterprise Ireland, EMRA, LWL	No. business networks available in Longford No. businesses involved in one or more business network	Short-Medium term
	SEDO 4.4 Sustain/expand new and existing businesses, social enterprises and entrepreneurs in County Longford.	4.4.1	Assist new and existing businesses to maximise their potential through direct & Indirect supports.	Improvement in the infrastructure and supports for enterprise within County Longford.	SPC	Department of Trade, LEO, IDA, Connected Hubs, Landlords, LCC, LEO	No. businesses availaing of supports Amount of capital support provided	Medium-Long term
		4.4.2	Identify potential for development of innovative business partnerships to explore areas of growing relevance to our community such as climate change adaption, digitalisation, and community well-being.	Increased provision of targeted enterprise supports.	LCC, LEO, Longford Co, Childcare, LCRL	DCEDIY, DEASP, LWETB, LWL, LCC, Leo, Arts Office, Businesses, LCDC	No. partnerships established	Medium-Long term
	SEDO 4.5 Enhance Longford as a tourism destination, attracting more visitors and improving the local economy.	4.5.1	Support the development of County Longford as a tourism hub having regard to its suitability as a tourism base allowing easy accessibility to key tourist destinations.	Increased facilities and premises available to contribute to economic development.	LCC (Planning, Housing), LWETB, IDA, LEO	DFE, TUS, Department of Enterprise, Enterprise Ireland	Increased no. of tourists to Longford	Medium-Long term
		4.5.2	Promote and advertise the unique tourism opportunities within the County, building on the strength of the Centre Parc's Resort in particular.	More extensive and efficient transport solutions available to businesses and employees.	LWCT	LCC	No. of awareness and promotional campaigns delivered	Short-Long term
		4.5.3	Support the development of tourism projects that align with Failte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand, to include projects that support the EU Just Transition objectives and projects that provide an enhanced visitor experience.	Increased membership of Longford organisations within business and economic networks.	SPC	TUS, Department of Enterprise, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, LEO, Chamber of Commerce, LCC (Planning, Corporate Services)	No. tourism projects delivered	Short-Long term
		4.5.4	Support the continued professional development of our tourism providers by offering training and mentoring supports specific to their sectoral needs.	Provision of Tourism related mentor and training opportunities	LEO	LCDC, Failte Ireland	No. professional development events delivered	Short-Medium term
	SCO 5.1 Reduce barriers leading to social exclusion and celebrate our vibrant and diverse communities.	5.1.1	Promote and celebrate cultural diversity and social inclusion across County Longford.	Increased social inclusion programs and initiatives.	LCDC	FRCs, CYPSC, LCRL, LWL, LCSP	No. social inclusion programmes and initiatives delivered	Short-Long term
		5.1.2	Facilitate increased access to supports and services for new communities that are targeted based on their specific needs.	Increased number of communities with effective supports and services provision.	LCDC	LCRL, LCDC, PPN, LWL	No. of targeted supports available No. people from new communities availaing of targeted supports	Short-Medium term

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Goal 5: Vibrant, inclusive and connected communities, with a strong sense of place and improved quality of life.		5.1.3	Support the social inclusion of children and young people in the County.	Increased number of inclusion initiatives targeted for young people.	LWETB, LCC (Community Development), CYPSC	Co. Childcare, FRC's, HSE, Tusla, LCRL, LWL, Comhairle na nOg	No. of child and youth-focused social inclusion programmes delivered	Short-Long term
		5.1.4	Develop Longford as an age-friendly and family-friendly County, ensuring accessibility and provision for everyone including older people, people with a disability, those with young children and others.	Increased number of age and family-friendly initiatives and plans implemented within the County.	Longford Age Friendly Alliance, LCC (Housing, Community Development), LWETB	Tusla, HSE, DOSP, FRCs, Plobal	Delivery of Longford Age Friendly Strategy actions No. family support initiatives delivered	Short-Long term
	SCO 5.2 Support increased community participation and social capital.	5.2.1	Support the increase in active participation and social integration of minority groups, including non-Irish nationals and Travellers.	Increased degree of participation and representation of target groups across Longford.	LCC (Community Development), LCRL, LCDC, LWETB, LSP, PPN, HSE, FRCs	AGS, HSE, Longford Sports Partnership, PPN, LWL, Local sports clubs and GAAs	No. targeted social inclusion initiatives delivered No. of target group members actively participating	Short-Long term
	SCO 5.3 Increase joined up thinking and collaboration among agencies and organisations across the County.	5.3.1	Support the establishment, maintenance and effective communication between agencies, organisations, statutory bodies and the public.	Increased participation within interagency networks.	LCDC, SPC, PPN	HSE, TUSLA, Community groups and representatives, local councillors, HSE, LCC (Community Development, Arts), PPN, LEO, LCSP, LCRL	No. Interagency networks established No. meetings held between network members	Short-Long term
		5.3.2	Encourage interagency collaboration across different sectors and organisations.	Increased number and cross sectoral connections made.	LCC (Community Development), LCDC, PPN, LRL	Tusla	No. different organisations sitting on interagency networks	Short-Long term
	SCO 5.4 Promotion and preservation of the Arts, Culture and Heritage of Longford.	5.4.1	Enhance the cultural and artistic vibrancy of Longford and ensure that the potential for economic and community development is fully realised.	Increased visitor engagement with facilities, events and initiatives around Arts, Culture and Heritage.	LCC (Arts), Edgeworthstone District Development Association	IHT, LCRC, GMCE, Failte Ireland	No. arts programmes and initiatives supported No. art-related events held Amount of funding for arts/creative programming Delivery of The County Longford Culture & Creativity Plan	Short-Long term
	SEDO 5.5 Revitalise, regenerate and support pride of place in our urban and rural towns and villages.	5.5.1	Implement development plans and local area plans supporting emphasis on placemaking for town centres, including Placemaking Strategy for towns and Town Centre Renewal Plans.	Increased number of regeneration and placemaking development projects proposed and implemented.	LCC (Regeneration, Planning, Arts), Chamber of Commerce	HSE, CYPSC, Tidy towns, Community groups	No. towns with placemaking strategies Implementation of Longford Heritage Plan	Short-Long term
		5.5.2	Support the sustainable development and regeneration of towns and villages through urban and regional regeneration initiatives.	Improved range of residential, employment, education, community, cultural and recreational opportunities.	LCC (Planning)	LCDC, PPN	No. renewable and regeneration initiatives	Medium-Long term
Goal 6: A sustainable County with a growing Green Economy, fostering climate action and building on Longford's strengths and resources.	SEDO 6.1 Support increased resilience and sustainability of Longford's existing enterprises and infrastructure.	6.1.1	Support the use of national, regional and local funding streams to support climate change adaptation, energy efficiency and renewable energy usage (i.e. Just Transition Fund and similar).	Increased resource and energy efficiency across Longford enterprises and infrastructure.	LCC (Housing, Planning), LEO, LCDC/LCRL, SEAI	LCC, Enterprise Ireland, DAFM, Teagasc	Amount of EU, national, regional and local funding secured for climate change adaptation projects No. climate change adaptation projects delivered	Short-Medium term
		6.1.2	Support the development of more efficient transport infrastructure across County Longford, through promoting and facilitating public transport, active transport and other sustainable transport solutions.	Decreased GHG emissions from transport across County Longford.	LCC (Planning)	Dept of Transport, TFI	No. public and active transport initiatives delivered	Medium-Long term
	SEDO 6.2 Support the development of the Green Economy.	6.2.1	Support the development of education around sustainable energy, energy efficiency and waste management and foster new enterprise within County Longford's Green Economy.	Increased number of enterprises and people employed within the Green Economy.	ETB, LEO, LCC (Planning), PPN, Bord na Mona	LEO, DETE, Bord na Mona, SEAI, Energy providers, LWETB, LCDC, LCRL	No. education campaigns delivered No. new Green Economy enterprises Reduction in amount of waste, increase in amount recycled	Short-Medium term
		6.2.2	Collaborate with energy providers and government agencies to implement renewable energy projects within County Longford.	Increased renewable energy capacity in County Longford.	ESB, LCC	LCC, EDI, ESB	No. renewable energy projects implemented	Medium-Long term

