



Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021

Review under Section 15, Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended)

*Prepared by the Spatial Planning Unit
Longford County Council*

February 2017





Contents

- 1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**
- 2. CORE STRATEGY**
- 3. HOUSING**
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- 5. INFRASTRUCTURE**
- 6. ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND AMENITIES**
- 7. CONCLUSIONS**



1. INTRODUCTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

This is a report on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Longford County Development Plan, 2015-2021. This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2015 (as amended, hereinafter referred to as the PDA), which states the following:

General duty of planning authority to secure objectives of development plan.

15. —(1) *It shall be the duty of a planning authority to take such steps within its powers as may be necessary for securing the objectives of the development plan.*

(2) *The manager of a planning authority shall, not more than 2 years after the making of a development plan, give a report to the members of the authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives referred to in subsection (1).*

This Plan was prepared under the PDA, and replaces the Longford County Development Plan 2009-2015. The Plan was adopted on 11th February 2015 and came into effect on 11th March 2015.

The main purpose of this Plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable physical development of the County, while considering the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment. It also aims to carefully consider the needs of all groups and individuals within the County and promote equal opportunities.

The Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development¹ of Longford County and consists of a written statement and plans indicating the development objectives for the County.



The Longford County Development Plan sets out a clear vision for County Longford which provides for an overall strategy for the social, economic, cultural and physical development of the County. In order to achieve this, the County Development Plan has three main objectives. These are;

- To provide a framework of acceptable uses within the County, defining acceptable forms of development and where it should be directed.

¹ Sustainable Development can be defined as “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”



- Provide a detailed basis for the promotion and management of development.
- To implement national and regional development policy provisions at a County level.

The report has been prepared in consultation with the relevant Departments of Longford County Council and is divided into the same headings as the Plan to facilitate ease of analysis of the progress of the objectives under each section.

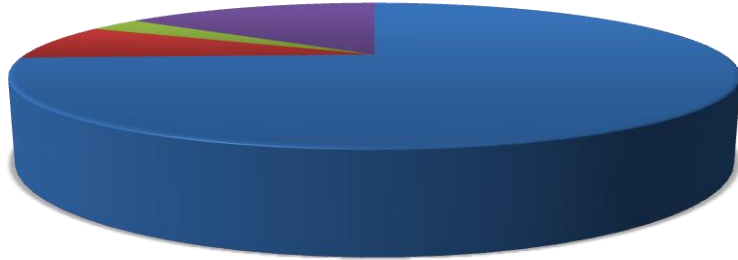
A brief description of each section is provided under each heading, followed by an assessment of progress in the context of actions associated with the progression of specific individual objectives.

Planning activity addressed under the adopted CDP policy can be summarised as follows, and are further broken down and illustrated graphically in the pages that follow.

- There were 626 planning applications received over the two year period, of which, 67 were to retain existing developments.
- Since the adoption of the CDP, 432 permissions were granted and 17 refused
- 138 further information requests were issued where information received was insufficient to process the application.
- 132 preplanning meetings were held
- 101 commencement notices were received.

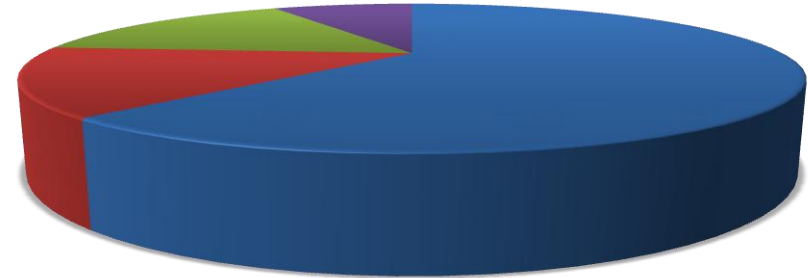
It should be noted that the numbers quantified in the tables relate to applications rather than the number of units, however the vast majority of these remain as one-off houses and or/garages and extensions.

**Commencement Notices received by Type
January 2015-2017**



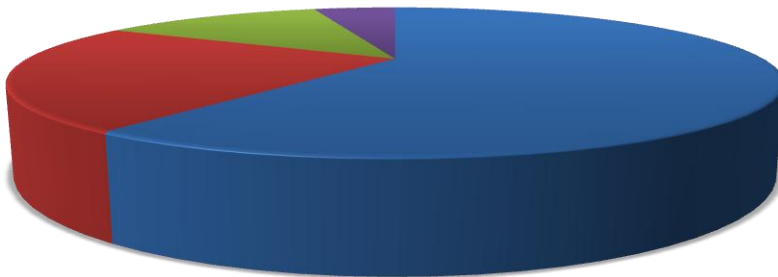
■ Domestic ■ Industry/Commercial
■ Forestry/Agriculture ■ Amenity/State/Education

**Permission Applications received by Type
January 2015-2017**



■ Domestic ■ Industry/Commercial
■ Forestry/Agriculture ■ Amenity/State/Education

**Applications for Retention received by Type
January 2015-2017**



■ Domestic ■ Industry/Commercial
■ Forestry/Agriculture ■ Amenity/State/Education

**Applications Granted by Type
January 2015-2017**



■ Domestic ■ Industry/Commercial
■ Forestry/Agriculture ■ Amenity/State/Education



2. CORE STRATEGY

The Core strategy of the plan is the central pillar upon which the other development objectives and policies are based, particularly in the context of the spatial development priorities of the County, which are summarised in the core strategy table that sets out the targeted population for each settlement tier over the plan period. These are set out in the table hereunder and implemented in accordance with the provisions of policy **IMP-CS 1**. Policies **IMP-CS 1-7** are concerned with the implementation and monitoring of Core Strategy provisions and progress on each are outlined below.

Settlement Designation	Core Strategy Population Allocation	Housing Requirement in Hectares	Previous Zoning (ha)	Zoning (ha)	Housing Yield	Previous Excess Zoning (ha)	Shortfall residentially zoned land (ha)
County	5603	139	163	163	140	0	0
County Town Longford Town Principal Town	4924	102	65	65	65	0	37
County Balance	679	35	98	98	35	0	0
Other Towns ↓							
Granard	n/a	4	14	13	4	0	0
Edgeworthstown	n/a	3	12.5	11.5	3	0	0
Ballymahon	n/a	1.5	7.5	7	1.5	0	0
Lanesborough	n/a	1.5	7	5	1.5	0	0
Serviced Settlements	n/a	11	32.5	32.5	10	0	0
Rural Service Settlements & Hinterland	272	14	39.5	14	14	0	0

The Core Strategy is supported by the housing and retail strategies and articulated through zoning provisions and development envelope maps that mark the anticipated extent of development and are contained at Appendix 1 of the CDP. It is an objective of the plan that Local Area Plans be reviewed subject to available staff resources.

RELEVANT STRATEGIC AIMS	PROGRESS
To demonstrate that the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021 is consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midland Region and other national guidelines and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning and regeneration section have a lead role in the implementation of the County Development Plan on behalf of the Council. The section works closely with all other sections of the Council and in particular, the LEO, Community Section and Tourism Committee. A spatial planning unit, working in tandem with the regeneration and unfinished housing estates teams, was established in October 2015. They assist the section in addressing the planning framework of the County in a coordinated way as outlined in the Monitoring framework at Table 2.1.5 of the Plan. The planning and regeneration section has developed a programme of works for the 2016-2017 period to address forward planning in line with the strategic aims. The planning framework in Longford Town and Environs was reviewed and rationalised in 2016. This resulted in the adoption of a Local Area Plan (LTELAP) consolidating the previous four planning documents into one (IMP-CS2(b)), which was then incorporated into the County Development Plan by Variation no. 2, adopted by Longford County Council in September 2016 (IMP-CS1). The LTELAP clearly sets the context of Longford Town as the primary driver of development in the County and sets out development policy and objectives in support of this, including sites of strategic significance to promote transformational development IMP-CS5 – Significant works are on-going on Unfinished Estates and have been since February 2015. Since that period over 27 estates have been completed in full and taken in charge. For the remainder of the estates Site Resolutions Plans have been put in place and continue to be actively worked upon. The Unfinished Estates Team remain committed to dealing with all estates that require attention in order to improve defective infrastructure, contribute towards the enhancement of towns and villages and make the developments a better place to live for all residents.
To facilitate the closer alliance of County and sub-county level plans with regional policy.	
To identify the appropriate quantum, location and phasing of development considered necessary to provide for future population growth over the plan period in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy and Midland Regional Planning Guidelines.	
Develop this quantum of land in a manner that supports public transport and existing services.	
Provide a framework supported by evidence based settlement strategy, for deciding on the scale, phasing and location of new development, having regard to existing services and planned investment over the coming years.	

3. HOUSING

The Housing Strategy is for the period of 2015-2021, which is the lifetime of this proposed Development Plan. It covers the entire County area including that of Longford Town. Under the remit of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), it specifies that a Housing Strategy will take into account the following;

- The existing and likely future need for housing.
- The need to ensure that housing is available to people with different levels of income.
- The need to ensure that a mixture of house types and sizes is provided to match the requirements of different categories of households.
- The need to counteract undue segregation between persons of different social backgrounds.
- Provide as a general policy that a percentage (being not more than 20%) of land zoned for residential, or for a mixture of residential and other uses is reserved for the provision of social and specialist housing.

There have been a number of changes in the area of housing provision since the introduction of the Plan in 2015 following on from government policy changes incorporated in “rebuilding Ireland” and associated national housing and homeless strategies. These are reflected in the progress report below.



A variation of County Development Plan will be required in 2017 to incorporate the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and housing Act and to ensure that the housing strategy is in compliance.

The adoption of the Longford Town and Environs Local Area Plan in September 2016 clearly prioritises Longford Town as the primary location for future housing provision in the County in line with national and regional Policy.

Progress on Housing Objectives - Snapshot

The Planning and Regeneration Section are working with the Housing section in order to identify suitable housing land to be developed under the New Housing Policy. This consisted of completion of site assessments for a number of sites in terms of the planning merits for potential development.

Priority list based on housing needs assessment previously carried out every three years but now on an annual schedule from 2016.

The most recent assessed 1,300 households, with 648 of these deemed qualified for social housing assistance.

- Housing grants for elderly scheme - - €1.152m allocated from the €740k originally approved
- Disability grants - €470k
- 76 mobility aid grants approve at a cost of €280k
- 102 grants approved for housing aid for older people €402k

Current Traveller accommodation plan 2014-2018 – targets are being met through a combination of the refurbishment of the two bays in Willow Park (traveller specific need identified) and the remainder through social housing/leasing RAS and HAP

- Current homeless strategy provides for emergency accommodation on a four County basis (Longford, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath) with Westmeath County Council as the Lead agency.
- There are two hostels in Longford servicing this need on a regional basis– St Martin’s and Bethany House.
- 70 households presented as homeless in County Longford in 2016



The Capital programme has provided –

- 4 (OPD) houses in Rathcline Road Lanesboro
- 13 (6 OPD and 7 Family Type) in Church View Lanesboro
- 4 (OPD) in Edgeworthstown Road Ballymahon.
- Work commencing on 14 3-bed dwellings in February 2017 at Mill Race, Drumlish
- 20 houses have been provided under the capital acquisition programme in 2016

Introduction of Housing Assistance Payment - HAP (replaces rent supplement) in December 2016 – long term housing need met by houses in the private rented sector

7 units secured through voluntary bodies in February 2017 under CALF (long term lease) funding at Cartrun Breac through the Cluid housing agency



Target for RAS leases 114 over the three year period from 2015-2017. 35 provided in 2015, 79 remain to be provided in 2016/17. Remaining to be provided out of social housing current expenditure programme

150 households accommodated through the turnover of casual vacancies arising out of the current housing stock

- 68 long-term voids refurbished and reallocated to households on the housing list from 2014-17 in areas such as McKeon Park, Springlawn and other areas.
- The removal of these voids serves to bring units back into the housing stock while playing an important role in addressing overall estate environment and the prevention of anti-social behaviour.

A multi-agency disability steering group has been established, consisting of public and private sector representatives to address level of current and projected housing need in the County and how this can be best addressed.

A repair and lease programme has been introduced to facilitate housing repairs up to €40,000 that can be funded by the council and repaid through long-term leasing arrangements

A buy and renew scheme has been introduced that will facilitate the development of town centre properties for multi-use purposes in line with the other provisions of the CDP (see S.2 – Core Strategy) national “Rebuilding Ireland” policy that aims to revitalise town centres.

Phase 1 of the energy efficiency programme has been completed, which consisted of the installation of attic and wall insulation in selected council stock to increase BER. Phase 2 will now commence which involves the installation of structural interventions such the installation of windows and doors with high energy ratings.

There have been 88 applicants to date for the Housing Incremental Purchase Scheme

Choice based lettings approved by the members for introduction in Q 1 2017 – all approved housing list applicants can then express an interest in a particular house and/or area

The Council Housing Loans scheme continues to be administered in accordance with nationally defined criteria.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County Development Plan recognises its position as a key platform on which much of the future economic success of the County will be built through ambitious objectives that are also realisable and achievable. Central to the successful implementation of the County Development Plan is the goal which aims to 'Promote Longford as a local and regional centre of trade, business and tourism, while encouraging employment growth and economic activity.'

Longford County Council shall continue to protect and enhance the attractive environment of the County and build on this important asset for economic development purposes. The maintenance and protection of natural and cultural heritage and amenity has a fundamental role to play in the attractiveness of Longford as a destination and a location in which to live, work and recreate. In this regard, progress in the following objectives should be cross-referenced with other objectives in this report, particularly in conjunction with the infrastructure and amenity.



The approach of the Planning and Regeneration Section has been to develop economic and tourism projects around the County based on the primary and natural assets identified in the County Development Plan. The establishment of the regeneration team since in October 2015 has facilitated a pro-active approach in seeking and securing funding for specific projects as and when schemes have arisen over the last year

Progress on Economic Development Objectives - Snapshot

The Planning and Regeneration Section have worked closely with the LEO and Community Sections to promote the Economic well being of the County. The Local Community Development Committee and Economic SPC were responsible for the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan. The various groups and Sections worked on the preparation and adoption of the LECP - In this regard, the County Development Plan has informed the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the County, a requirement as part of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 adopted in 2016.

The LECP is an important implementation vehicle for national and regional policy on economic and community development. The spatial planning dimension is articulated through alignment with the County Development Plan to ensure policy consistency to establish strong linkages between spatial and economic development, ensuring a plan led approach where economic activity is pro-actively supported.

Application of relevant planning policies to development proposals within the County since plan adoption, including prioritisation of development in line with the identified retail hierarchy

ECON 4, ECON 5, ECON 6, ECON 7, ECON 8, ECON 9 ECON 10, ECON 11 & ECON 12 – character areas identified in Longford Town under LTELAP adopted September 2016 to facilitate economic growth as part of a forward planning programme to be rolled out to the other towns in the County over the lifetime of the CDP . Planning advice and applications have been and continue to be assessed in accordance with these priorities.



There remains a particular need for high quality office accommodation, food grade infrastructure/units particularly that which supports new start-ups in this sector, high quality incubation units, hotel accommodation and digitally enhanced spaces for ICT businesses.

In this regard, progression of dedicated Incubation/enterprise space for Longford Town is ongoing in accordance with the provisions of ECON 2, ECON 3

The Center Parcs Development was a major economic and tourism proposal which involved all Sections of the Council working closely together in a coordinated approach to process and deliver in terms of a Planning Application in 2015 and 2016. Following an extensive consultation and planning process, development is underway on the Center Parcs facility outside Ballymahon consisting of:

Development and use of land as a Forest Holiday Village at Newcastle Wood on 164 hectares. Including 470 lodges a 3 storey apartment building with 30 bedrooms; central buildings incorporating swimming pool area and facilities, external pools, rapids, flumes and water rides, sports hall, leisure activities, bowling alley, ancillary shops, food and beverage outlets, service, storage and plant areas; Aqua Sana Spa including treatment rooms Pancake house restaurant and beach Arrivals Lodge Cycle Centre, Ground Services building Woodland Activity Building, Outdoor Activity Centre, Refurbishment and extension of Herdsman's hut ruins to create a Nature Centre building, outdoor sports, activities, amenity areas, play areas and facilities

In addition to securing many general economic objectives, this illustrates progress in relation to the achievement of the following objectives – TOU 4, TOU 5, TOU 6, TOU 9; TOU 10 also secures progress across other objectives such as ILW 5, ILW 6, & ILW 7

Prepared by the Spatial Planning Unit, Longford County Council

Tourism Objectives

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The Planning and Regeneration Section has worked very closely with local communities, the LEO and Tourism Committee in the delivery of many Tourism projects and initiatives identified in the County Development Plan.



Mid Shannon Wilderness Park

The Mid Shannon Wilderness Park has now developed into a Regional project with Longford partnering with Roscommon, Westmeath, Offaly, Bord na Mona, Coillte and Waterways Ireland to develop the renamed ‘The Mighty Shannon – Lough Ree and Mid Shannon Wetlands’ project. This is a major regional tourism initiative which will have substantial benefits to County Longford in the future.

The South Longford Cycling trails have been completed and fully signposted. And work is currently underway on the Rebel Trail and Literary Trail experiences and signposting.

Royal Canal Greenway

The Royal Canal Greenway was extended from Abbeyshrule to Ballymahon in 2016 in association with Waterways Ireland. The Planning and Regeneration Section were successful in drawing down funding for this project and are currently working on further funding applications to extend this vitally important project. The Canal Greenway will form part of an east to west National Route linking Croke Park to Croagh Patrick in Mayo. All of these activities are being coordinated with the Tourism Committee and the LEO to maximise the integrated development of the County.

Newcastle Wood

New amenity paths were developed in Newcastle Woods in association with Coillte. These are in addition to existing paths in the woods and proposed further amenity paths being developed by Center Parcs around the perimeter of their new development. These works being done in association with Coillte have provided a template for further amenity walk development in woodlands throughout the County.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Eight towns and villages were successful in being awarded funding under this initiative. They include Longford Town, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Abbeyshrule, Newtownforbes, Aghnacliffe and Lanesborough. The secured funding will allow parts of these towns and villages to be further enhanced and improved upon. The Planning and Regeneration Section is delighted to have the opportunity to engage with and support local residents and committees in having these projects come to fruition.

REDZ

Three key projects were chosen in the allocation of funding under this initiative in association with local Communities – Corlea Bog Trackway, Corn Hill Walking Trail and Granard Motte Interpretive Centre. Each of the projects will be key drivers for **social, economic and environmental tourism in their respective areas** and will

bring about a real sense of pride and identity to these Communities by showcasing distinct characteristics of their history, heritage and culture.

Funding received under 2016 REDZ for

- Corn Hill walkways
- Corlea (Pathways and 100acres in conjunction with Bord na Mona, OPW).
- Granard Interpretative Centre

Other Projects currently being progressed and/or implemented

- Wilderness park and Lough Ree Wetlands (Offaly, Westmeath Roscommon) support from Minister Naughton
- Abbeyshrule/Ballymahon greenway almost complete – direct route from Maynooth- potential rural recreational fund M. Ring. Potential link in with Pilgrims way to Croagh Patrick
- Lanesboro – Car park/toilets/camper van area at Lough Ree
- Edgeworthstown improvements to tie in with Library proposals and consistent theme – planters/trees, railings
- Butter Market Granard
- Footpaths and planting at Newtownforbes and Drumlish
- Public Lighting at Leebeen Park Aughnaccliffe
- Athlone Road improvements (Monuclad)



These illustrate progress in relation to the achievement of the following objectives – TOU 2, TOU 3, TOU 4, TOU 5, TOU 6, TOU 10, TOU 16, TOU 21 & TOU 23. Also secures progress across other objectives such as ILW 5, ILW 6, & ILW 7 and PED 1, PED 2, PED 3, PED 5, PED 7, PED 8, CHAR 1, CHAR 4, HER 1, ARC 1, ARC 2, ARC 3, ARC 4, ARC 7, ARC 8, NHB 9, & NHB 10

The Northern quarter of Longford Town has been established as a transformational project that has the potential to reenergise a strategically important area of Longford Town and positively impact on the development potential of the towns' economic hinterland. This has been recognised in the initial tranche of funding from REDZ where Connolly Barracks was successful in securing the maximum €150,000 grant aid.

- This initiative was then progressed and a package is in preparation to secure the development of the currently vacant shopping centre under the ownership of NAMA in conjunction with the Connolly Barracks site which is in Council ownership.
- Expressions of interest for the development of the combined site were obtained in late 2015 and the anticipated next step is resolving the ownership of the site in order for development to progress, in tandem with conditions securing community dividend.
- The recently adopted Longford Town LAP contains specific policy and objectives in this regard, and in particular, with regard to the development of hotel accommodation on the site. The LAP also acknowledges the green field area of the site and the relationship between the site and the adjacent Camlin River and the resultant biodiversity, leisure and amenity implications.
- The Barracks is a protected structure under the CDP and Longford County Council recognises that a beneficial use, combined with a community awareness of the importance of the contribution of the



structure to the streetscape and wider area, contributes positively to its conservation potential.

- In this regard, Longford County Council has facilitated the use of the Barracks complex for numerous civic cultural and seasonal events over the last two years, including summer, Christmas and Halloween festivals, fairs and events.

In addition to general economic development objectives, this illustrates progress in relation to the achievement of the following objectives –TOU 6, TOU 9, TOU 10, TOU 11, TOU 12, TOU 16, TOU 19, also HER 1, ARCH 1, ARCH 2, ARCH 3, ARCH 4, ARCH 6, RPS 1, RPS 2, RPS 6, ACA 1, ACA 2, CHAR 1, CHAR 3, CHAR 4, AM 1, AM 2, AM 7, PED 1, PED 2, PED 3, PED 5, PED 7, PED 8,

There is ongoing work under the sports partnership on the enhancement of amenities at the mall Park, swimming pool and associated facilities, particularly in terms of energy efficiency and renewable energy installation.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1 Transport

Central to the achievement of the Development Plan Strategy is the Development Plan Goal which aims to **“Facilitate the provision of the county’s infrastructure in a sustainable and efficient manner that promotes the social, economic and physical development of the County and the people that live within it”**. Key to this is the objective to integrate transport and land use in promoting sustainable development within the County. Accordingly this section of the plan is complemented by zoning objectives and policy contained in Section ‘2.1 Core Strategy’ of this plan, progress on which is outlined at section 2 of this report.

5.1.1 Roads

See Appendix 1 for detailed Road Works and Expenditure

The position of Longford within the North Midlands means that several strategic transport routes traverse the County from east to west. Sustainable planning objectives across all policy areas preserve investment in national infrastructure and are progressed as part of day-to-day development management and forward planning activities.



Progress on Roads Objectives - Snapshot

Longford County Council implement these policies in the assessment of planning applications, the planning of road improvement works, in the implementation of works programmes aimed at sustainable transport and in the development of improved facilities to promote economic development in county Longford such as off road cycle ways for tourism and leisure, taking in charge of roads, footpaths and services in housing estates, improvements to industrial estates.

Longford County Council continues to seek out grant-aid assistance for the improvements necessary to enhance the road infrastructure in County Longford.

The position of Longford within the North Midlands means that several strategic transport routes traverse the County from east to west. Sustainable planning objectives across all policy areas preserve investment in national infrastructure and are progressed as part of day-to-day development management and forward planning activities.

Road Opening licenses are required for road openings. Longford County Council work with and implement the new online road licensing system developed by the RMO

All relevant planning applications are required to submit the appropriate information and the impact of all significant developments on the road network are assessed in order that the capacity of the road network is maintained and improved.



5.1.3 Public Transport

Longford County Council adopted the Longford Town and Environs LAP in September 2016. Through its policy and objectives, the plan aims to secure a vibrant, walkable town core that is in line with the provisions of objectives PT 1 and PT 2

5.1.2 Pedestrians and Cyclists

In accordance with the principles of sustainable development, emphasis has been placed on the accessibility of alternative transport to the private car. This includes broad principles such as the enhancement of the potential for live-work opportunities in designated settlements down to specific objectives to improve pedestrian/cyclist access and permeability. This section should be read in conjunction with the progress outlined in the Tourism Section.



Progress on Pedestrian and Cyclists Objectives - Snapshot

Please see responses under Economic Development Section – considerable progress has been made in the establishment of tourism and amenity facilities including pedestrian walkways and cycling facilities.

There has also been considerable success in securing funding from various sources to improve pedestrian environments in urban and village areas and a Southern cycling loop has been completed and works are set to commence on a northern loop. Work is ongoing on a literary trail (read in conjunction with Economic Development Section).

5.2 Water Supply and Waste Water Services

This County Development Plan through the implementation of the Core Strategy provides for greater linkages between the Settlement Hierarchy and the timing, scale and provision of water and waste water facilities.

Progress on Water Supply and Waste Water Services Objectives - Snapshot

WS1 - Implementation is on going with regard to the provision of environmental service, however on the 1st of January 2014 Irish Water became responsible for public water and waste water systems previously run by 34 local authorities including Longford County Council, in accordance with the Water Services Acts 2013.

WS2 Section 33 5 (b) of the Water Services Act No. 2 of 2013 explicitly requires Irish Water in preparing its Strategic Plan to have regard to the proper planning and sustainable development. The Irish Water Strategic Plan is available at <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/water-services-strategic-plan/>

WS3 this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013



WS 4 Rural Water Programme remains in the responsibility of Longford County Council, a small number of Group Water Schemes have been funded in the last 2 years, however the amount of funding to support these schemes together with Group Sewerage provided by the Department is limited and many groups fail to raise sufficient finance to meeting the groups own funding requirement. The Taking in Charge of Group Water Schemes is now dependent on Irish Water and this presents a further change to group water schemes.

WS5 this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

WS6 this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013 The Irish Water sludge-management plan and Information on Irish Waters Policy on Water Conservation are available on the IW website: <https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/wastewater-sludge-management/Final-NWSMP.pdf>

WS7 this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

WS8 this is addressed through the core strategy addressed at Section 2

WS9 this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

WS 10 WS 11 WS 12 This responsibility is now predominately with Irish Water. Longford Environment Section where appropriate uses its powers to protect water sources.

WS13 This is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

WS 14 This is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

WS 15 With regard to Public Water Supplies this is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013. Longford County Council continues to consult the named National Guidance with regard to Private Water Supplies.

WS 16 WS 17 WS 18 WS 19 This is now in Irish Water's area of responsibility in accordance with Water Services Acts 2013

5.3 Energy and Communications

5.3.1 Renewable energy

The key aim of renewable energy policy in the County Development Plan is to facilitate and promote investigation into the potential of alternative, sustainable energy sources within the County.

Progress on Renewable Energy Objectives - Snapshot

There has been greater interest in the development of solar power over the period of the current plan with an application for planning permission granted in Edgeworthstown in 2016 and increased interest in pre-planning meetings for similar installations.

Bord na Mona have expressed interest in applying for planning permission for a substantial wind energy development at Derraghan, the strategic Infrastructural Development status of which is currently under consideration by An Bord Pleanala

Lough Ree power have discussed the potential of co-firing the existing power station at Lanesboro with bio fuel in order to create a more sustainable fuel mix in compliance with recently announce government policy to decouple fossil fuels and state funded power generation on a national basis.



6. ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND AMENITIES

This section is underpinned by policy to conserve and protect the natural and man-made Environment of the County and promote and encourage the conservation and preservation of the environment through the application of the concepts and principles of sustainability

6.1 Heritage

The Council aims for integrated and sustainable development of the County, bearing in mind the basic needs and requirements of its population, the social, economic and cultural growth of the County and the recognition of the limited capability of the rural landscape to absorb new physical development without compromising its unique character and heritage. Longford County has a unique heritage and it is an aim of the County Development Plan to conserve and protect this heritage, through the process of Development Control and by affording identified monuments, artefacts and areas the relevant statutory protection.



The inland lakes and waterways of the County are important natural assets and provide a potential tourism resource as well as an essential natural corridor for biodiversity within the County. The provision of continued access to these assets in a sustainable manner is of central importance.

Amenities within the County include natural and recreational amenities as well as social and community infrastructure. These facilities provide many cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits and provide a positive contribution towards quality of life within the County.

Progress in Achieving Heritage Objectives – Snapshot

The Heritage office successfully coordinated and administered projects and events for the memorial of the 2016 Rising over the year.

The Heritage office continues to administer heritage grants and conservation funding at a County Level and provides advice on national level policy through the Heritage Council.

The objectives of the current Heritage Plan are progressed through the Heritage forum.

The Planning and Heritage departments continue to liaise with each other on development management, enforcement and policy formulation issues.

The Record of Protected Structures from the former town Plan has been incorporated into the County Development Plan.

Significant steps have been taken to progress the amenity potential of the inland waterways throughout the County, capitalising on national and international funding in a cohesive way with neighbouring Counties, while linking up existing attractions and creating relationships with the Canal, Lakes and river in support of CDP objectives.

Specific details on these projects are outlined at the economic/tourism section of this report.

Longford County Council continue to pursue access to waterways through the development management process and in the application of amenity and recreational grants and funding as appropriate.

Longford Pool Construction Ltd. will make an application to DTTAS for expansion of the gym in the Mall (to 290 sq m) in February 2017 under €200,000 grant is available for regional projects.



6.1.3 Social and Community

The Planning and Regeneration Section are heavily involved in community planning in various parts of the County, including Longford, Kenagh, Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Ballinamuck etc. to assist with local development and community planning initiatives. These included assisting Keenagh CoOp. and Wetlands Heritage Ireland acquire 70 acres adjoining Corlea Trackway Centre for development as an Amenity and Biodiversity Park in association with Bord na Mona as well as work on commemoration projects for 1916 and tourism and heritage activities. These activities were carried out in association with the Libraries Section and assisted with the great success of this national commemoration in 2016.



This chapter relates primarily to housing and community services in the County. Policy contained in the current **housing strategy** is incorporated into the document at this point. Provision and enhancement of community facilities such as **educational facilities and healthcare** are highlighted in this section.

- Policy in this area has been applied where applicable under the development control process.
- A separate report has been prepared on the application of Part V in the County.
- There have been no major changes in relation to the policies outlined hereunder over the period from February 2015 – February 2017

7. CONCLUSIONS

This report illustrates significant progress achieved across all areas of the plan over the last two years.

Variations may be required to reflect amended legislation and revised Government guidelines issued.

These requirements will be examined and the findings presented to the Council in the short-term in conjunction with a resource dependent programme of works for their incorporation.

Appendix 1 Detailed Road Works and Expenditure

Road Works 2015

National Road Pavement Improvement Schemes

N55 Pavement Strengthening at Parnell Row, Granard - A proposed 700m Pavement Improvement Inlay Scheme at Parnell Row. Construction works commenced on the 22nd of June. These works were substantially completed on 17th July 2015.

N55 Cartron / Creevagh Beg Pavement Surfacing - The Resurfacing Scheme on the N55 from the entrance to Cluin Ri Housing Estate for approximately 2kms towards county boundary was completed in 2015.

N55 Toneywarden Cross to Fereskill – A 1.3km resurfacing scheme was constructed in 2015.

Safety Schemes HD15 / HD 17 - N5 Ballyminion Cycle Path Works. Works commenced in November 2015 and were completed in January 2016.

N55 Carrickboy Junction. Works were completed in November 2015.

National Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Bridge Construction/ Rehabilitation Works at 7 Bridges on the National Road Network.

- **N4 - Scry & Kilnasavoge Bridges.**
- **N55 - Ballymahon Bridge, Sand Bridge, Ballyglassin Bridge, Cartron Bridge and Ardagullion Bridge.**

All works were completed by October 2015 .

The works completed includes the following -

Bridge	Work Detail
1. Ballymahon Bridge on the N55	Waterproofing of Deck, resurfacing of roadway and footpath over bridge.
2. Scry Bridge on the N4	Replacement with new culvert
3. Sands Bridge on the N55	Rehabilitation of existing stone retaining wall along stream leading to sand bridge
4. Ballyglassin Bridge on the N55	Replacement with new culverts.
5. Ardagullion Bridge on the N55	Replacement with new culvert.
6. Cartron Bridge on the N55	Replacement with new culvert.

7. Kilnasavogue Bridge on the N4	Replacement of existing bridge parapets and safety barriers
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Regional and Local Road Improvements

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.

A schedule of works is carried out in each Municipal District .

Programme details are provided in an Annual Roadworks Scheme Book.

Council Expenditure for Roads in 2015 was as follows:

1. NATIONAL ROADS (NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY GRANTS)	
Improvement Works	€1,932,828
NP &NS Maintenance	€344,455
HD Pavement renewals & surveys	€46,000
Bridges	€850,000
Safety Measures	€50,289
Winter Maintenance	€128,495
Total:	€3,352,067
2. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS)	
Non National Bridges	€15,449
Restoration Improvement Works	€2,649,906
Restoration Maintenance Works	€680,409
Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€1,139,808
Low-cost Safety Improvement Works	€167,999
Severe Weather	€159,455
Training Programme	€23,750
Local Improvement Scheme	€18,606
Total:	€4,855,382
3. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION)	
	€806,000

Total Budget:	€9,013,449
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- The Restoration Improvement element is designed to meet expenditure on surface restoration and road reconstruction.
- The Restoration Maintenance aims to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing.

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 –

- Drumlish Village- Pedestrian Facilities
- R194 Doherty's Cross
- Tawnagh (Edenmore)
- Dublin Road Longford Footpath
- Glebe, Farnagh, Longford
- Crossea – Glen Road Junction

Road Works 2016

➤ N63 Cathedral Junction

Traffic Signals at the Cathedral Junction are now operational .

The works which included the re-alignment of the Junction and installation of traffic lights , undergrounding of the existing overhead ESB network , new Public Lighting in the Area , reconstruction of footpaths in the Area , road resurfacing Works and closing of the Entrance to the Cathedral Car Park from the Ballinalee Road are now substantially complete .

A Stage 3 Safety Audit has been carried out.

➤ N4 Aghadonagh - Edgeworthstown Bypass

Funding has been allocated for a 2.2km pavement overlay scheme on the N4 near Edgeworthstown.

The works include resurfacing of both N4 roundabouts .

National Road Bridges Rehabilitation Contract

Bridge Construction/ Rehabilitation Works at 4 Bridges on the National Road Network .

Works took place at the following bridges -

BRIDGE	WORK DETAIL
8. Fowlards Bridge on the N55 LD-N55-005.00	Bridge Rehabilitation.
9. Cloondara Bridge on the N5 LD-N05-001.00	Bride Rehabilitation.
10. Knockanboy Bridge on the N63 LD-N63-008.00	Bridge Replacement.
11. Lanesborough Bridge on the N63 RN-N63-006.00	Bridge Rehabilitation.

Regional and Local Road Improvements

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.

A schedule of works is carried out in each Municipal District .

Programme details are provided in an Annual Roadworks Scheme Book.

Council expenditure for Roads in 2016 was as follows ;

1. NATIONAL ROADS (TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND GRANTS)	
Improvement Works	€1,247,800
NP & NS Maintenance	€590,475
HD Pavement Renewals & Surveys	€36,759
Bridges	€810,732
Safety Measures	€102,726
Severe Weather	€39,997
Winter Maintenance	€116,983
Total:	€2,945,472
2. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS)	
Specific Improvement Grant	€138,112
Restoration Improvement Works	€2,433,495
Restoration Maintenance Works	€676,951

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Discretionary Maintenance Grant	€1,108,422
Low-Cost Safety Improvement Works	€132,061
Severe Weather	€1,399,995
Training Programme	€24,000
Total:	€5,913,036
3. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION)	€806,617
Total Budget:	9,665,125

- The Restoration Improvement element is designed to meet expenditure on surface restoration and road reconstruction.
- The Restoration Maintenance aims to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing.

Low Cost Safety Schemes

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 –

- Mullinalaghta National School
- R194 Springtown, Granard
- Gaigue Cross, Ballinamuck
- Park Road Longford
- Moyrath Cross, Ardagh
- Rabbitpark Junction