

# **LONGFORD TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2015**



**Prepared by  
The Planning Section  
Longford Local Authorities**



## Foreword

### Note from the Manager

The Longford Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015 was prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2008 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. The Longford Town Development Plan comes at a critical time in the physical, economic and social development of Longford Town. In setting a local regulatory framework, the plan provides a clear direction and focus for development over the next six years, while setting the scene for ongoing growth in the context of the Region and Nation as a whole.



There were significant changes in the national planning framework over the period of the previous plan, with the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines and various legislative and policy documents at National level. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes provide for an enhanced focus on the potential environmental effects of the implementation of the plan. All of these provisions make for a much more complex, yet comprehensive, document that provides detailed guidance and direction for all those concerned with development in Longford Town over the coming six years.

The Plan addresses a range of development pressures and needs that are facing the Town during the period of the plan and beyond. In doing so, it sets out the goals and objectives for Longford Town Council to follow, as well as the policies recommended to guide planning decisions and the activities of the Planning Authority over the period of the Plan.

One of the primary aims of this document is to promote development in Longford Town in a sustainable manner over the period 2009 – 2015. Economic sustainability is an important consideration in the current climate and the efficient use of resources is a recurrent theme throughout the Plan.

The extensive public consultation process undertaken in preparing the Longford Town Development Plan results in a comprehensive planning framework that addresses all aspects of the physical development of the Town over the coming 6 years.

*Tim Caffrey,  
Manager, Longford Local Authorities  
August, 2009*

## Note from the Mayor



On behalf of the Elected Members of Longford Town Council, I am delighted to introduce the Longford Town Development Plan 2009. This Town Development Plan represents the culmination of an intensive two year process. Input from interested groups, organisations and individuals over the preparation period of the Plan has guided its direction and indicates the depth of pride and interest that is shared by the people of Longford Town in their locality.

The policies and objectives of this plan aim to build on this pride through maintaining and enhancing a strong sense of identity in the development of the Town into the future and promote a strong and vibrant outlook in the face of challenging times ahead. Our aim is to achieve the right balance of development within the Town so that all of its' citizens can achieve the quality of life to which they aspire.

The recently completed process represents a more enhanced environmental element, with the incorporation of Strategic Environmental Assessment which charts the progress of policy development throughout the different stages of plan preparation. This tandem process provides for comprehensive and transparent policy analysis along with enhanced environmental monitoring facilities into the future. This will allow for greater protection of the Town's environmental assets over the lifetime of the plan, elements that contribute to the high quality of life enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and are fundamental to its identity.

A balance is required in this plan to provide a robust and comprehensive framework to guide the Development of the Town over the next six years, through times which may contain economic and financial uncertainty. Key elements in addressing these challenges lie in maintaining a strong sense of community spirit and an overall recognition of what is important and how this is to be protected. I believe that this plan, through the community input from its earliest stages of preparation, strikes the balance.

*Cllr. Brendan Gilmore  
Mayor of Longford Town  
August 2009*

# Acknowledgements

## Longford Town Council

<b>James Clarke</b>	Town Manager
<b>Ciaran Murphy</b>	A/Town Manager
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## Development Plan Team

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## Administrative Support

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## Additional Input

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