LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013

linking the physical, economic, social & cultural life of the county



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INTRODUCTION



Larry Bannon, Mayor



Tim Caffrey. County Manager

We welcome the publication of Longford County Council's Annual Report 2013 that outlines the progress achieved in the delivery of a diverse range of services to the public in 2013.

The Council facilitates economic, social and cultural development through a wide range of initiatives as documented in the pages of this Annual Report. Roads, Water, Planning and Environmental Services underpin and are critical to supporting economic and social development in County Longford.

The economic climate continues to be uncertain and challenging. Income sources are under pressure which necessitates a reduction in expenditure across all areas of Council activity. At the same time the Council strives to maintain core services and vital infrastructure while seeking improved efficiencies and value for money.

Notwithstanding challenges faced, we are pleased that during the year, progress continued to be made in advancing and completing a number of important infrastructural and housing projects including:

- » Lanesboro Fire Station now progressed to pre-contract award stage
- » The Official Opening of the N5 Longford By-pass held in January 2013
- » Advancement of the Tromra Road Remedial Works Scheme in Granard
- » The Official Opening of the Cluid Housing Project at St. Michael's Road, Longford
- » Longford County Council also supported Abbeyshrule in winning the International Communities in Bloom Competition held in Canada

Despite the reduction both in staff numbers and financial resources, some significant national roads projects were completed by Longford County Council during the year, including:

- » National Road pavement repairs at N63 Killashee (approx €135k)
- » N55 Edgeworthstown (approx €200k) and N55 Ardaguillion (approx €40k)
- » National Road Surface Dressing at various locations on N55 (approx €250K)
- » Consultants were appointed for a review of the N63 Cathedral Junction
- » Works were also carried out under the Specific Improvement Grant at the following locations:-Moatvalley Bridge, Granardkille Bridge, Aughnacliffe Bridge, Derrycolumb Bridge, Lehery Bridge, Mullagh Bridge/Cartrons Bridge, Corrycorka Bridge, Road at Kilglass, Legan.

The services provided by Longford County Council could not continue to be delivered with reduced resources without the commitment of Management and employees in every section of the Council. Flexibility, team work and a public service ethos have ensured that the impact of scarce resources has been minimised.

The Elected Members through their work on the Strategic Policy Committees, Corporate Policy Committee and Area Committees prioritise the needs of the communities that they serve and in doing so focus attention and activity in the required direction.

The support and co-operation of all throughout 2013 is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

Larry Bannon, Mayor

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Tim Caffrey, County Manager

BALLYMAHON MEMBERS











Sean Farrell



Mark Casey

GRANARD MEMBERS





Micheál Carrigy







DRUMLISH MEMBERS







Luie McEntire



Martin Mulleady



LONGFORD MEMBERS















KEY FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES, HOUSING & BUILDING



INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES



Cllr. John Duffy,
Chairperson of Transportation SPC



Cllr. Colm Murray,

Chairperson of Water Services & Environmental SPC



Mr. Jack Kilgaller

ROAD SAFETY, ROADS & TRANSPORT

Core Objective: "Ensure that infrastructural transportation policies and investments assist and enhance the economic and social development of County Longford and preserve and improve the physical attractiveness of the county and its background environment".

Longford is strategically located near the centre of Ireland and is traversed by National Primary Routes N4 and N5 and National Secondary Routes N55 and N63. These routes give rise to significant traffic flows throughout the county.

Fundamental to the proper development of County Longford is a requirement that the road network meets current and projected traffic volume and safety requirements. Strengthening economic activity requires the support of a good quality road network. It is recognised that for Longford to benefit effectively from this growth in industry, agriculture and tourism and the attractions of its lakes, rivers and scenic beauty, the road network and particularly our regional and county roads must be of an appropriate standard, inviting and safe for visitor and locals alike.

Except for a limited number of public roads under the authority of Longford Town Council, Longford County Council is responsible for the provision, improvement and maintenance of the public road network within the County.

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

CLASSIFICATION	NATIONAL PRIMARY	REGIONAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
North Area (km)	36.004	59.910	712.512	808.426
Mid Area (km)	41.816	45.365	249.739	336.920
South Area (km)	25.319	50.201	377.404	452.924
Total Kilometres	103.139	155.476	1339.655	1598.270

Finances available to the Council in 2013 were as follows:

1. NATIONAL ROADS (NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY GRANTS)

Total:	€ 6,519,880
Maintenance	€ 751,737
Bridges	€ 100,000
Safety Measures	€ 45,000
Surface Dressing HDA	€ 270,000
Other Improvement Works	€ 353,143
Major Planning & Closeout	€ 5,000,000

Specific Improvement Works	€ 450,000
Restoration Improvement Works	€ 3,088,686
Restoration Maintenance Works	€839,800
Discretionary Grant	€908,780
Low-cost Safety Improvement Works	€80,000
Bridge Inspections	€50,000
Drainage Works	€43,864
Winter Maintenance	€139,060
Training Programme	€24,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€15,531
Total:	€5,639,721
3. NON-NATIONAL ROADS (COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION)	€800,000
Total Budget:	€6,439,721

During 2013, 116km of Local & Regional Roads were improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme.

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

- » Stonepark Road
- » Drumbad Bridge
- » Lehery Bridge
- » Kilglass/Legan Road
- » Aughnacliffe Bridge
- » Aughnacliffe/Aghakine Bridge,
- $\ \ \, * Mghagreagh/Derrynavogy\ Bridge,$
- » Fardrummin Bridge.
- » Corrycorka Bridge
- » Granardkille Bridge
- » Moatavalley Bridge

During 2013, the Community Involvement Scheme replaced the previous Community Roads Scheme. This scheme encouraged a joint approach, with groups of local residents and landowners, for the restoration of Local and Regional Roads. The New Community Involvement Scheme will be based on a Community Contribution within the range of 20% to 50%. €15,531 was spent on 1 Community Involvement Scheme during 2013.

ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION & SCHOOL WARDEN SERVICE

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

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- » Longford Road Safety Working Together Committee consists of the following agencies:- National Roads Authority, Road Safety Authority, Health Service Executive, Longford County Council Sports Coordinator, An Garda Siochána, Longford County Council Road Safety Officer, Longford County Childcare Member, Councillor Mark Casey and Members of Longford Fire Services.
- » A Road Safety Awareness week was held in May 2013 for students of the local secondary schools in Longford Town. The RSA Shuttle Bus and Roll Over set up at the Mall Car Park in Longford Town. The aim of this event was to promote road safety and raise awareness on this very important topic. The roll over simulator demonstrated to the students why it is so important to wear your seat belt.
- » In conjunction with the Sports Coordinator and Green Schools, a Safer Cycle Initiative was introduced to a number of National and Secondary Schools throughout the county in the months of May, June and September 2013. Cycle training was provided in St. Patrick's National School, Killeen, Kilsonna National School, Granard, Colmcille National School, Scoil Mhuire National School, Newtownforbes, Moyne Community School and Lanesboro Community School.
- » Co-ordination with the Road Safety Authority advertising, promotions, and media campaigns.
- » Operation "Slow Down" was launched from 7am on Friday 31st May to 7am on Saturday 1st June. The objectives of the Operation was to raise awareness of the dangers of inappropriate and excessive speed, reduce the number of speed related collisions, and therefore save lives and reduce injuries on our roads.
- » Promotion of "Safe Cross Code".
- » Promotion of Road Safety in Secondary Schools and Youth Reach Programmes through the "Drive for Life Programme" from January 2013 to December 2013.
- » The Junior School Warden Service is designed to provide safe crossing facilities for children in the vicinity of primary schools in provincial towns and villages. The Roscommon/Longford/Westmeath Regional Final was held at Roscommon this year and 12 schools participated in the event. Scoil Mhuire National School, Newtownforbes came second in the Regional Final of the School Warden Competition 2013. Longford County Council has two Schemes in operation at Scoil Mhuire National School, Newtownforbes and St. Mary's National School, Drumlish. An adult warden is provided at Lanesboro National School.
- » Promotion with iRadio "I is the Limited" Anti Speed Campaign.
- » Road Safety awareness was promoted in National Schools throughout the county.

NATIONAL BIKE WEEK

In conjunction with the Environmental Awareness Officer the National Bike Week was launched and ran from 15th to 23rd June 2013. Longford County Council celebrated the initiative with a Bike to School Day and a Bike to Work Day.

National Schools throughout the County were invited to Bike to School on Thursday, 19th June and a total of 200 pupils participated from four local primary schools. Children received cycle packs including reflective clothing and lights as part of the day.

For the forth year running staff from Longford County Council took part in a Bike to Work Day on Wednesday, 19th June 2013. Offering an alternative form of commuting to work, staff from the Council and other local businesses took part in a lunchtime spin around the bypass reporting the initiative as "a great idea".

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WATER SERVICES

Core Objective: "To provide, improve and maintain the necessary water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County to ensure an adequate supply of good quality water and to maximise the protection of the environment in order to promote the social and economic development of the county."

THE TRANSITION OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL WATER SERVICES TO IRISH WATER

A significant feature of Water Services activity in 2013 relates to preparation of the transition of Water Services functions to the new national water utility Irish Water. This transition included the creation of new legislation and regulations associated with the transfer of water services functions from Local Authorities to Irish Water. The main statutory changes included the following; the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013, Commencement Order (S.I. No. 575 of 2013) and the Transfer Day Order (S.I. No. 576 of 2013) which specified the 1st January 2014 as the date for the transfer of water services functions and assets from Local Authorities including those of Longford County Council to Irish Water. In December 2013 Longford County Council signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water which specified that Longford County Council will work for Irish Water under a formal 12 year Agreement and associated Annual Service Plan. In this arrangement Longford County Council will in effect be a subcontractor to Irish Water, the duration of this Agreement is for a max of 12 years. The Annual Service Plan (ASP) which is part of the SLA, sets out Local Authorities specific operational, financial and administrative targets and key performance indicators to be met. The overall effect of this change to the water services function has very significant financial and operational impacts on Longford County Council.

In 2013 Longford County Council water metering survey team collected data on the locations of domestic water connections throughout the county. This data will form the basis for Irish Water to commence domestic water meter installations in County Longford in 2014 /2015.

CAPITAL AND OPERATIONS 2013

In 2013 the Core Objective of Longford County Council's Water Services Section was "To provide, improve and maintain the necessary water and wastewater infrastructure throughout the County, to ensure an adequate supply of good quality water and to maximise the protection of the environment in order to promote the social and economic development of the county."

In support of this Objective the Capital and Operational activities outlined below were undertaken in 2013.

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Longford County Council continued to progress the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010 – 2013. The following are the main achievements of this programme in 2013:

GRANARD/BALLYMAHON REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Works on upgrading the network and treatment plants at Granard and Ballymahon Schemes commenced in mid 2011. Substantial completion of the main works was achieved in 2012 and following Bord Pleanala approval an upgrade to the intake works at Lough Kinale Granard was completed in 2013.

LONGFORD CENTRAL REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME:

CONTRACT 3 – PIPELINES & RESERVOIRS

The Contract provides for the construction of a 5,000m³ reservoir at Prucklish, a 750m³ reservoir at Lisnanagh, a new 5km main between Lough Forbes WTP and Prucklish Reservoir, a 4.8km main between Prucklish Reservoir and Drumlish and a 2.4km main between Glannagh and Lisnanagh Reservoir. This work was substantially completed in 2013.

LONGFORD TOWNS & VILLAGES SEWERAGE -

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: DBO CONTRACT

This Contract provides for the design, supply, construction, installation, testing and commissioning of new Wastewater Treatment Plants for the villages of Ardagh, Aughnacliffe and Ballinalee and upgrade existing Plants in Drumlish and Newtownforbes.

Construction Work on the provision of the 5 new plants through a Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract commenced in 2012 with substantial completion expected by March of 2014. In addition Lanesborough Waste Water project was included as part of the Roscommon County Council 16 Village DBO Sewerage Scheme and was completed in 2013.



LONGFORD SEWERAGE SCHEME

The Preliminary Report for the Longford Town Sewerage Scheme which will provide for the assessment of wastewater collection, treatment and disposal needs for Longford town's requirements over the next 20 years will be completed in 2014 and will then be forwarded to Irish Water for consideration.

UPGRADE OF LOUGH FORBES WATER TREATMENT PLANT & THE LANESBOROUGH REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

The Preliminary Report for the above scheme was approved by the DOEHLG in 2013 and a prequalification exercise for Consultants to do detailed design was completed. A decision is now required from Irish Water on whether to advance this work further in 2014.

Responsibility for the Longford County Water Services Capital Investment Programme transferred to Irish Water on the 1/01/2014.

WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

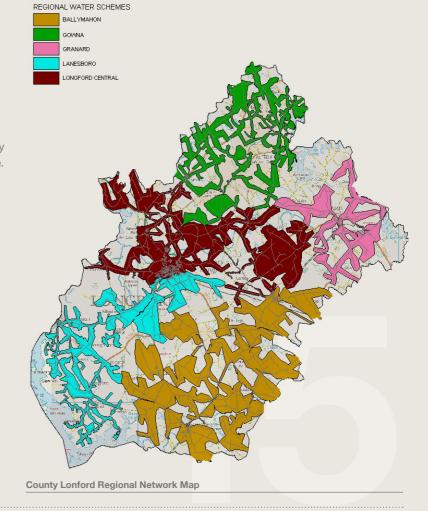
In County Longford there are 1230kms of water mains supplied by five principal Regional Water Schemes namely; Ballymahon, Lough Gowna, Lanesboro/Newtowncashel, Longford Central and Granard. It is estimated that more than 87% of the counties population receives a piped water supply treated by Longford County Council Water Treatment Plants.

Drinking Water Quality is monitored by the Health Services Executive on an agency basis for Longford County Council in accordance with the current Regulations, which include Drinking Water Regulations, 2007- S.I. No. 278 and the Water Services Act, 2007. Under the Drinking Water Regulations, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervising authority for Public Water Supplies. Local Authorities must report any non-compliance to the EPA immediately and may be directed to develop and implement Action Plans under direction from the EPA. In additional Longford County Council is the supervising authority for Group Water Schemes (GWS) and Small Private Supplies (SPS).

There are now 27 Public Sewerage Schemes or Agglomerations in County Longford. Discharges from the Treatment Plants are sampled and monitored by Longford County Council. Under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, all Water Services Authorities' sewerage discharges require licences or certificates of authorisation (COA) depending on their size from the EPA. The relevant EPA licences and COA requirements have placed a very significant compliance responsibility on Longford County Council.

WATER CONSERVATION

The local authority Unaccounted for Water (UFW) service indicator, although at a relatively high figure of 49 % showed an improvement in the last 6 months of 2013. In early 2013 a new arrangement for computing the figures was put in place which allows for more targeted monitoring of water supply flows into various areas. It is expected that domestic metering will considerably improve these UFW figures in the future.



RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

GROUP WATER/SEWERAGE SCHEMES

In March 2013, the DOEHLG advised Longford County Council of a Block Grant Allocation of €370,000 for the year 2013 for Takeover of Group Water Schemes and Water Conservation /Network Upgrades.

Works were carried out on the following Schemes to progress the Local Authority taking over the Scheme:

- » Derawley, Esker/Cloncowley, Freehalman/Clonahard GWS, Ballagh GWS, Clonellan GWS, Lisduff/Trillick GWS, Clonrollagh GWS, Lislea GWS, Killashee GWS, Gowlan & Clonturk GWS, Kilcurry GWS, Fyhora GWS, Melview GWS, Drumhaldry GWS, Bunlahy/ Shannagh GWS and Moydow/Keel GWS.
- » Cloontaghmore GWS availed of a grant to carry out Upgrade works on their scheme.

A total of €399,453 was paid by the DOEHLG for Takeover of Group Water Schemes and Water Conservation/Network Upgrades in 2013.

In 2014, the Council submitted proposals to the DOEHLG for Block Grant funding totalling €975,000 under the Rural Water Programme in respect of new Group Sewerage Schemes, as well as New Group Water Schemes and Upgrades and proposals for taking group water schemes in charge.

Longford County Council have been operating and maintaining various watermain networks for many years which were previously Group Water Schemes (GWS). To clarify the formal status of these networks the Council confirmed in 2013 that in the case of 137 schemes, the assets and interests of these GWS were now taken in an charge and transferred to public owner ship.

The Longford Rural Water Monitoring Committee met once during 2013 to review progress on the implementation of the Rural Water Programme. The Committee was advised on the current work programme and commitments under the various measures. The take-over of Group Water Schemes, in particular, orphaned schemes was discussed as was the proposals for new Group Sewerage Schemes.

SMALL PUBLIC WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

In March 2013, Longford County Council was advised that the Block Grant Allocation under the Rural Water Programme Small Schemes measure was €701,994. Substantial works were carried out in 2013 under this measure.

Upgrade works were carried out at the Longford, Granard, Ballinalee and Aughnacliffe Regional Wastewater Schemes to reduce the energy consumption, improve treatment processes and implement cost efficient measures processes.

Works were completed at Newtowncashel Spring Well Pumphouse to ensure adequate disinfection of the drinking water supply. This resulted in the lifting of the precautionary boil water notice in the RWSS.

Works also continued at Abbeyshrule, Smear and Granard water treatment plants to comply with HSA and EPA requirements. Increased security of treated drinking water supply works continued at numerous reservoirs sites throughout the county.

Lead Mains in Longford and Granard were replaced at a cost of almost €200,000.

Under the direction of Water Services Section of Longford County Council, the remaining areas around the county which were serviced by lead water mains, was replaced which provided drinking water for 35 properties at four different locations. During previous years any other known public lead pipe or shared supply pipe were either replaced or alternative supply offered to the property.

A number of small Waste Water Treatment Plants were decommissioned in order to comply with EPA requirements. In total, €571,863 was paid by DoECLG for Small Schemes in 2013.

GROUP WATER SCHEME SUBSIDIES AND INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS

Longford County Council processed four applications for subsidies towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes. The total amount paid out was €17,866.43.

Eleven applications were received for grants for individual water supplies. Approval was given for ten applications and one application is awaiting approval. Grant payments totalling €7,996.47 were made to four individuals.

ENVIRONMENT

CIVIL DEFENCE

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

POLLUTION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT LITTER MANAGEMENT AND STREET CLEANING WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS BURIAL GROUNDS VETERINARY SERVICES AND FOOD SAFETY DOG CONTROL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

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POLLUTION CONTROL & WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Pollution control legislation covers areas such as water pollution, air pollution and noise nuisance. Specific activities

undertaken in relation to pollution control include investigation of water pollution incidents, farm inspections, licensing of discharges to waters and the implementation of a monitoring programme for rivers, lakes, septic tanks and closed landfills.

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

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

- » Water Pollution monitoring and control
- » Monitoring discharges from Council Wastewater Treatment plants
- » Landfill monitoring

Longford County Council

- » Monitoring industrial effluent discharges
- » Water Quality Monitoring in rivers and lakes

LITTER MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

STREET SWEEPING

The Council continued its regular programme of street sweeping and servicing of litter bins in the county's towns and villages, in accordance with the County Longford Litter Management Plan. The budget for this service in 2013 was €296,550.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005–2010

The process of reorganising and consolidating the Waste Management Regions was commenced in 2013. In order to ensure that the Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 continued to be valid, an order extending the period of its validity was made in 2013. In June the Eastern & Midlands Waste Management Region was established. Longford is one of the 12 local authorities that are affiliated to the region. Dublin City Council has been selected to be the lead authority for the region for the purposes of reviewing the Regional Waste Management Plan. The process of developing a combined Waste Management Plan for the region was commenced in September. It is envisaged that the Waste Management Plan for the extended region will be published in early 2015.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES

There are currently 26 bring bank sites in County Longford. Green, brown and clear glass, as well as aluminium cans, is accepted at all sites. Collection tonnages increased in 2013 with 677 tonnes of glass and 18 tonnes of aluminium cans collected for re-processing.

ENFORCEMENT

Local authorities have a wide range of statutory functions under National and European waste legislation. The work of the Local Authority Waste Enforcement team includes investigating illegal dumping incidents, taking prosecutions and enforcement measures, enforcing producer responsibility regulations for a wide range of wastes (incl. Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Batteries, End-of-life Vehicles, Tyres, Packaging, Food Waste, Farm Plastic and Construction & Demolition Wastes). During 2013, 1,665 waste and litter complaints were investigated of which 1,597 were resolved during the year. In excess of 1,800 routine litter patrols/investigations were carried out.

During 2013, the Council's routine inspections focused on the unauthorised use of waste oil burners, the unauthorised collection of white electrical goods and on the protection of public water supply sources. A number of prosecutions were taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Waste Collection Permit Regulations 2007. Illegal dumping on vacant properties remains a significant problem and the Council has had to expend significant resources cleaning up such sites. Wherever possible, the Council is now employing its statutory powers to recoup its costs on pollution control measures.

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

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

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

This aspect of the departments work includes:

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

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

National Spring Clean 2013 took place during the month of April. Litter pickers, gloves, bibs and colour-coded bags were provided for the community clean-ups. Over 40 groups took part in clean ups all across the county.

NATIONAL TREE WEEK

National Tree Week, which is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and supported by Coillte and Longford County Council, took place in 2013 from 3 - 9 March 2013. Community Groups Schools and other organisations in the county were offered the opportunity to obtain young trees. Over 350 free saplings were given out during this week.

LARGE GOODS/HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

Three general large goods collections and one waste paint collection were held in 2013.

General and recyclable waste amounted to 6.98 tonnes while 1.625 tonnes of waste paint was collected.



GREEN SCHOOLS

Longford was once again very successful in increasing activity in Green Schools during 2013. The participation of schools in the programme is almost at capacity. During 2013 seven new schools were awarded the Green Flag and eight more schools renewed their flags. This brings the total number of schools with Green Flags in County Longford to 40.

GREEN CHRISTMAS

The Council provides a central drop-off point in Longford where householders can deposit their trees for shredding, free of charge.

ANTI-LITTER AWARENESS GRANTS

This scheme continued in 2013 with a grant of €18,000 received from the Department of the Environment. The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grants are used to support clean-up initiatives, fund advertising campaigns and school recycling projects and provide materials support to local community clean-up initiatives.

LOCAL AGENDA 21 ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Council received an initial allocation of €7,000 under this scheme and also secured additional funding of €1,050 later in the year. The Council provides matching funds to support innovative, community-based environmental projects.

BURIAL GROUNDS

Routine cemetery maintenance is largely carried out by Rural Social Scheme staff and local cemetery committee volunteers. Longford County Council makes a direct contribution to Longford Community Resources Ltd, who oversees the Rural Social Scheme. The Council also operates a cemetery support scheme under which local groups undertaking cemetery maintenance receive a grant from the Local Authority.

VETERINARY SERVICES, FOOD SAFETY & ANIMAL CONTROL

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

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

Locally produced cattle and sheep, pigs, goats and poultry were processed in small local slaughterhouses in County Longford in 2013. Each animal that was slaughtered was ante-mortem and post-mortem inspected by a Veterinary Inspector. A sampling programme which is intended to detect harmful substances such as chemicals and hormones in meat is carried out. The Local Authority Veterinary Service ensures that animal health and welfare is maintained in accordance with legislative provisions.

During 2013 the low throughput meat manufacturing establishments and slaughterhouses in County Longford continued to work to EU approved standards. The meat products produced in the county are under Official Veterinary controls. The Local Authority Veterinary Service regulates and at the same time affords appropriate flexibility to low throughput premises. While there are changes occurring on an ongoing basis within premises, the level of activity is being maintained and new entrants are encouraged to consult with our service and to become involved in the sector. 2013 saw a significant increase in the throughput of small slaughterhouses in County Longford and in particular in the number of cattle slaughtered.

There was also seasonal slaughter of poultry at Christmas 2013 in a Local Authority supervised abattoir in the county. The sector is increasing the amount of processing in County Longford and is in keeping with our Corporate Plan for promoting enterprise and development in this important area of commercial activity. Longford previously ensured inclusion for its local abattoirs in the LEADER supported branding and marketing pilot programme for locally produced beef and lamb in the North-West and will assist in Animal Welfare training of personnel working in the sector in 2014.

Continuing Professional Development and training in food safety and animal health and welfare continued in 2013 and the Veterinary Service has an Internal Audit System.

Activities relating to the disposal of Animal By-Product continued to be an important area of work in 2013.

Meetings of the Regional Zoonosis Committee provide the forum for formal liaison between Longford County Council Veterinary Public Health Service and other agencies, e.g., Department of Agriculture and HSE. Longford County Council Veterinary Service liaised on a formal arrangement for bilateral meetings with the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine locally and nationally in 2013.

DOG CONTROL

Longford County Council provides a full-time Dog Control Service in County Longford. The Council employs a Dog Warden and operates a Dog Shelter at Little Water Street in Longford town. Fees are charged for the accommodation of impounded animals. The Service dealt with 362 cases of unwanted/stray dogs in 2013. Of these, 37 were re-homed, 39 were reclaimed by their owners, 232 were transferred to dog welfare groups and 50 were put to sleep. There were 16 dogs classified as restricted breeds impounded by Longford County Council in 2013.

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

Longford County Council had a further reduction in the number of dogs put to sleep in Longford Dog Pound in 2013. This is as a result of the strategic plan implemented by the Dog Control Service assisted by other stakeholders and volunteers.

In order to combat the problem of unwanted dogs, Longford County Council continues to advocate responsible animal ownership through education and awareness and operates a scheme for subsidised neutering for dogs and it has also formed a strategic alliance with Dogs Trust. Inspections of Dog Breeding Establishments continued in 2013 under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act.

In 2013, 1,667 individual Dog Licenses were issued. Longford County Council continued to promote the need for owners of dogs to purchase a Dog Licence. Currently a Dog Licence costs €20 and can be purchased from any Post Office. Purchasing a Dog Licence is an important aspect of responsible dog ownership. In 2013, dog owners purchased a "Lifetime of Dog" licence at a one-off cost of €140. These are available only from the Environment Section of Longford County Council.

HORSE CONTROL

Longford County Council dealt with 62 cases of horses reported as straying in 2013. Of these 25 horses were seized under the Control of Horses Act 1996. Control of Horse bye-laws came into force during the year.

The bye-laws regularise detention and disposal requirements as per agreement with Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as well as controlling access and activities of horses in public places.

ENERGY USAGE

Longford County Council is a significant energy consumer. In order to operate the services that it provides it is necessary to consume electricity, gas and other fuels. Employees in all departments are aware of the need to eliminate unnecessary energy consumption. An Energy Management initiative is in progress and where possible measures are being taken to reduce energy consumption. A number of audits of specific facilities were conducted in 2013 and it is intended to use the information that was gathered to develop a works programme in respect of individual facilities. Longford County Council is affiliated to the Midlands Energy Agency. Sub-committees known as Communities of Practice have been established to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. Employees of Longford County Council participate and contribute to the development of Best Practice in a number of areas.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

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

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

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Fire and Rescue Service have fire stations in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford. These stations are manned by 48 retained fire-fighters who respond to both fire and rescue incidents.

The Fire Department was active in promoting fire safety throughout the year.

The Fire Department assessed Fire Safety Certificates, Planning Applications and Court Licence Application Referrals. Fire Safety Inspections of commercial premises were also carried out.

The new Lanesboro Fire Station project had to be re-tendered in Sept 2013. A M.E.A.T. Analysis has been carried out and a suitable contractor has been selected.

In April, members of the Longford Town Fire Brigade took part in the Fifth Rescue Organisation Ireland National Challenge Competition and were selected to represent Ireland at an international event.

Longford Fire Service got a new Class B appliance in April 2013. This appliance is located in Edgeworthstown Fire Station.

There were three new recuits in 2013, one each in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Lanesboro. One Driver Mechanic retired in Lanesboro and that postion was filled internally.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil Defence is part of a global organisation with the primary role of saving lives and the alleviation of suffering in time of war while its peacetime role is to assist at natural disasters and man-made accidents. At local level, Civil Defence is responsible for the recruitment and training of volunteers and the provision of training centres in the community.

The main activities, programmes, events and developments during 2013 were as follows:

- » A number of First Aid courses were run during the year including CFR (Cardiac First Response), CFR Advanced, OFA Recertification (Occupational First Aid), EFR Re- certification (Emergency First Response) for existing members.
- » 8 members re-qualified to Emergency First Responder level October.
- » 2 members achieved a minibus driver's licence for use with Civil Defence.
- » Member accepted on ADI (Approved Driving Instructor) course run by the Board.
- » Member accepted on National Instructional Methods Training Course.
- » 3 Radio and Search Exercises were held from May to September.
- » Tetra radios were issued regionally and initial training completed.
- » New Child Protection Policy produced and member appointed as Child Liaison Officer.
- » New ICOM GPS radios and mapping software was issued to each County and training completed.
- » The Civil Defence boat crew took part in the annual training seminar in Sligo in connection with avian flu. Further boat training was carried out locally.
- » Radio and Search Training continued with members of the Warden Service.
- » Work finished on the conversion of a vehicle a Control/Welfare Unit.
- » Civil Defence assistance was provided at over 40 local community and sporting events.



ECONOMIC & I RÉSOURCES, JILDING CONTROL







Mr. Frank Sheridan,
Director of Services

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ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Longford like many rural counties continues to experience decline in the local economy. In particular the retail "high street" sector struggles to adapt to changes in customer trends and reductions in consumer spending. Trends towards the end of 2013 give hope for optimism as a number of retail outlets began trading. The important industrial sector proved more resilient and a number of local companies have expanded and increased employment. Particularly welcome are investments by C & D, Paul & Vincent, Panelto and Cameron Willis although not exhaustive these investments consolidate operations and create platforms for future groups.

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

There are 26 members on the County Development Board (CDB) drawn from four Sectors:

SECTOR	MEMBERS
	Cllr. John Duffy (Chairperson),
1 1 0	Mayor Larry Bannon, Cllr. Colm Murray, Cllr. Micheal Carrigy,
Local Government	Cllr. Barney Steele (Longford County Council),
(7 Members)	Cllr. Denis Hughes (Longford Town Council),
	Mr. T. Caffrey, (Longford County Manager).
	Mr. Adrian Greene, Mr. Pat O'Rourke (Longford Community Resources Ltd),
Local Development	Ms Tilla Schulte (Environment Pillar),
(6 Members)	Mr. Michael Nevin, Ms. Beatrice Cunningham (Longford County Enterprise Board),
	Ms. Alice Connell (Longford County Childcare Committee).
	Supt. Denis Shields (Garda Siochána),
	Vacant (Fáilte Ireland),
Otata Assassina	Ms. Breda O'Toole (IDA Ireland),
State Agencies	Mark Atterbury (Enterprise Ireland),
(8 Members)	Ms. Grainne Nic Gabhainn (Health Service Executive),
	Mr. Michael Kearney (Department of Social Protection),
	Mr. Oliver Burke (Teagasc),
	Ms. Rosemary Killian-Johnston (County Longford VEC).
	Mr. George Shedwell (Irish Congress of Trade Unions),
Social Partners	Ms. Mary Lillis, Ms Louise Lovett (Community & Voluntary Sector),
(5 Members)	Mr. James Brady (Farming Sector),
	Ms. Karen Clabby (Business Sector).

BOARD CHANGES IN 2013

Local Government: Mayor Larry Bannon replaced Clir. Sean Farrell, Clir. Colm Murray

replaced Cllr. Paddy Belton.

State Agencies: Finbar Murphy replaced Michael Kearney.

Social Partners: Ms. Louise Lovett replaced Rory Duncan.

LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Longford County Development Board (CDB) held two meetings in 2013, on the 21s of March and the 7th of November. The Board continues to engage agencies at all levels and is committed to the concept of 'interagency work'. A key role of the CDB is to bring about a more co-ordinated delivery of public and local development services at local level. During 2013, the government began the implementation of the Action Plan for Effective Local Government which includes the phasing out of the City and County Development Boards. 10 pilot areas were established to role out the new Local Community Development Committees and work is ongoing in preparation for the new Local Enterprise Offices. Both of these structures will impact on CDB's roles and functions and will reduce the rationale for CDB's to continue in 2014.

LONGFORD COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY FORUM

At the end of May 2013, the appointment of a part time Development Worker (2 days a week) afforded Co. Longford Community & Voluntary Forum the capacity to undertake the development of the Forum's membership and support the 157 community groups already affiliated. The position allowed for the following:

- » Higher profile for the Forum and increased involvement with communities
- » Outreach meeting held in Granard explaining role, responsibilities and potential of the Forum in addressing and informing communities
- » Five new community & voluntary groups affiliated
- » Eight Monthly Management meetings and eight Steering Group meetings were held during the year
- » AGM held on the 21st of May, 2013
- » Monthly *E* Bulletin produced and circulated
- » Bi-weekly Community notes issued
- » Website updated

Support offered to the following projects:

- » Ireland XO / Putting People First / Environment Pillar / The Gathering / Building on Strengths GROW Ireland Pilot Project
- » 24 delegates nominated made to 15 local decision making bodies i.e. County Development Boards, Longford Community Resources Ltd., Longford County Council Strategic Policy Committees, County Longford Heritage, County Longford and Midlands Regional Task Force, County Longford Childcare Committee, Citizen Information Centre, County Longford Youth Services, County Longford Volunteer Service, National Integrated Rural Transport Committee and Longford Sports Partnership Board
- » Nominations made to a number of task groups i.e. Gathering Task Group, Extreme Weather Task group and IrelandXO project
- » Tailored Training course delivered for Steering Group members

The following are some of the other issues the Forum are representing the C&V Sector on:

- » Alignment of Community Development Programme and Local Government
- » Social Inclusion
- » Village & Area Enhancement
- " Tourier
- » Community Composting
- » Allotment and Community Gardens
- » Fuel Poverty
- » Rural Transport
- » Social Enterprise projects
- » Possible Community Rapid Response in Longford

During 2013 the Forum successfully supported The Gathering initiative in co-operation with the Heritage Officer, Archivist, Longford Historical Society and Longford County Council and participated in rolling out the Ireland XO project. All Gathering Events were advertised on the CLCVF E-Bulletin. At the end of 2013 the Forum committed to supporting a pilot project managed by GROW Ireland in partnership with the HSE Dublin Mid Leinster and funded through the National Office of Suicide Prevention. The project will be rolled out across four geographic areas in the Midlands region over the period 2013-2015. Longford Town (Urban 1 & 2) has been chosen as the first pilot site. A key feature of the project is to engage and support local groups, service providers and organisations in both the research and action planning phases. The project will eventually be rolled out throughout the Country.





Groups in attendance at the Co. Longford Community & Voluntary Forum AGM 21.05.13 and Key note speaker at AGM Garda Sergeant Paul McDermott, Crime Prevention Officer Annual Report 2013

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The County Longford Tourism Committee continues to progress the implementation of the Action Plan 2012 – 2015 with a number of significant achievements in 2013. The launch of the *Explore Longford* App greatly enhances the visitors experience through an innovative and interactive mobile phone application. Creating awareness of the App remains a challenge in achieving its full potential. The development of the Canal Walkway to Clondra from Longford had funding approved from LCRL and successfully tendered the construction phase to commence in Spring 2014. Further initiatives in Corlea and in utilising the bogs as native trails contribute to creating a strong and unique tourism experience.

THE GATHERING INITIATIVE

The Gathering Ireland 2013 was a year long celebration of all things Irish. It was Ireland's biggest ever tourism initiative led by the people of Ireland with the objective of welcoming home hundreds of thousands of friends and family from all over the world, to gatherings in villages, towns and cities. A Steering Group which included the Mayors of Longford Town and County Councils, Backstage Theatre, Foroige, Longford Chamber of Commerce, ICA,

Longford Community Resources Ltd., Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Longford Tourism, the Community and Voluntary Forum, the Attic Youth Cafe, Aisling Childrens Festival, GAA, IRFU, IFA and the Gathering Ireland, was established to help co-ordinate Gathering efforts. Mr. Michael Ring TD, Minister for Tourism launched the Longford 2013 Gathering and the "What's on Guide" at a special event in Backstage Theatre in February 2013, with Joe Flaherty as MC.

During the year over 100 Gathering events were held in Longford, including clan gatherings, festivals, special sporting events, music and concerts, literary events, community celebrations and school and work re-unions. Longford Co. Council received a total allocation of €55,000 from a special Gathering Fund which was set up nationally with funding provided by the Gathering Ireland and Irish Public Bodies. This helped to supplement voluntary and community efforts in over 30 local and community events including 3 "Flagship" events – *Love Longford, Old Days Old Ways* and the Mel International Festival. A number of training workshops were provided to help Gathering organisers in areas critical to the successful delivery of events including marketing and promotion, online and social media marketing and event management.

Minister Ring returned to Longford in November 2013 to attend a special event to thank gathering organisers in the county and to present them with special Gathering certificates signed by President Michael D. Higgins. At the end of the year Longford was recognised by the Gathering Ireland as the number 1 county in Ireland for the highest number of events held per head of population. The enormous voluntary effort of communities throughout the county was key to making the Gathering 2013 in Longford a huge success. The Gathering had a very positive impact on communities and has helped to bring about a renewed sense of community spirit.

LONGFORD TOURISM APP

Mr. Michael Ring TD, Minister for Tourism launched the Explore Longford App, at a special event in Backstage Theatre in November 2013. This innovative App. was developed by Longford County Council, in association with Longford County Tourism and the Midland Regional Authority, to enhance the visitors experience to Longford by providing information on places of interest throughout the county. Visitors can listen to interesting recordings providing information on fifty places of interest. Visitors can navigate using their phones GPS to guide them to destinations or to identify places of interest.

A section on Genealogy is included for those interested in tracing their roots, including a listing of the cemeteries. An up-to-date Events Guide ensures the App's ongoing relevance by providing information on upcoming events in the county.

Longford has now a unique selling point being the first county in the country to enhance its visitors experience through the use of modern technology.

LONGFORD COMHAIRLE NA nÓG

Longford Comhairle na nÓg is a County Development Board initiative. In 2013, the Community and Enterprise Department secured funding from the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to enhance Comhairle na nÓg. The Comhairle is supported by Foroige and provides a forum for structured input into decision—making by young people in the development of local services and policies. Longford Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Local Authority. The main focus of the meetings is on developing members' skills and on how to influence policy. In 2013 Comhairle members worked on an Internet Safety and Cyber bullying campaign. The Attic Youth café worked alongside the Comhairle and jointly they ran a "Don't be mean behind the screen" campaign.

COMHAIRLE AGM 2013

The Annual General Meeting took place on the 16th October 2013 in the Temperance Hall, Longford. The overall day was a huge success with 79 young people attending from all the post primary schools and representatives from youth groups and organisations around the county.

Mayor Larry Bannon opened the event by highlighting the importance of young people in making a difference at local and national level. Comhairle na nOg launched their DVD on cyber bullying and social media awareness which they scripted and acted out on the day.

Four workshops were held during the day on the following topics chosen by young people:

- » "Ideal Community"
- » "Bullying"
- » "Peer Pressure"
- » "Important moments in a young persons life"

To close the AGM, a talk on cyber bullying and how to prevent it was given by Professor Stephen Minton. Also on the day 17 young people were elected onto the Comhairle na nÓg for 2013/14. This brings the total number of young people including those who are remaining on the committee for a second term up to 25 young people.



Left to Right:- Kate Swain Nolan, Roisin Carberry, Patrick Cahill, Ciara McGarry Quinn, Cian Carberry, Grace Kemple, Mayor, Larry Bannon, and Laura McPhillips

NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2013

Pride of Place is a competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The aim of the "Pride of Place" competition is to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing vibrant sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for all. The nomination process to the All Island competition is undertaken through the Local Authorities. In 2013, Longford County Council nominated four entrants across a number of categories to represent County Longford: St. Christopher's Arts Programme, The Attic Youth Café, Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages and the Killian Home Place Initiative in Fermoyle. Judging took place in June 2013. Each group was required to make a presentation highlighting the range of activities and projects they had undertaken. In November a gala awards ceremony was held in Derry at which County Longford took two of the top prizes. St Christopher's were awarded first place in Category 7, Community Arts, and the Killian Home Place Initiative in Fermoyle received special recognition in Category 6 Tourism Diaspora Initiative.

LONGFORD/WESTMEATH CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) established the Children's Services Committees (CSC) in 2007 with the purpose of improving outcomes for children and families at local and community level. CSC's do this through interagency collaboration, joint planning and coordination of services. On the 11th March 2013 Longford Westmeath CSC was reformed and now has an interagency Steering Group with five subgroups reflecting the five national outcomes for children and young people. The Steering Group and subgroups held a number of meetings throughout 2013.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES

Joint Policing Committees (JPC's) were established in co-operation with An Garda Síochána in the three Longford Local Authorities in accordance with guidelines issued in September 2008. During 2013, Granard JPC held four meetings, the 12th February, 14th May, 16th July, and the 8th of October. Longford Town Council JPC held four meetings on the 23rd of January, 7th of March, 11th of September and the 4th of December. Longford County Council JPC held 2 meetings on the 1st March and the 29th of November.

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CONNOLLY BARRACKS COMMITTEE

A subcommittee was established by Longford Local Authorities in response to the closure by the Department of Defence of Connolly Army Barracks. The joint sub-committee consists of the Mayors and representatives of Longford Town and County Council, the CEO of County Longford VEC and the Superintendent of Longford Gardai. In 2013 two meetings were held on the following dates on the 26th of March 2013 and the 9th of December.

PLAY AND RECREATION 2013

In 2013 two new playgrounds were constructed in the county. These facilities were funded by LCRL from the Rural Development Fund. Colmcille Area Development Group successfully secured funding for a new playground at Aughnacliffe. The group worked closely with Longford County Council in the selection of the final design. The playground is managed by the Local Authority with the support of the community.

Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association secured funding from LCRL for a playground in the village. Inland Waterways Ireland provided a suitable site and the local community worked closely with Longford County Council in selection of equipment and the final design. The playground is managed by the Local Authority with the support of the local community.

LONGFORD 'DEAD OF NIGHT' HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL 2013

On Halloween evening, the dark streets of Longford came alive with a riot of colour, music and noise as the 8th Annual 'Dead of Night' festival swung into action. A mardi gras carnival parade made its way up St Mel's School avenue and through the town. This offered a fantastic selection of entertainment and great music.

The Halloween evening festival is the final part of the bigger 'Dead of Night' project which joins the resources, manpower and expertise of the HSE Midland Area Health Promotion Service, Longford Town Council, Longford County Council, An Garda Siochána and the Attic Youth Cafe in order to create a supportive environment, underpinned by a strong emphasis on prevention.

CORPORATE SERVICES

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS 2013

A total of 10 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests were received by Longford County Council during 2013 from a mixed source of business, clients, staff and other persons.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT REQUESTS 2012

A total of 1 access to Information on the Environment (AIE) request was received and processed in 2013.

FRANCHISE

Longford County Council

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

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

The numbers registered to vote on the 2013/2014 Register of Electors were as follows:

No. of Electors
8,876
6,180
5,648
9,054
29,758

During 2013, one Supplement to the Register of Electors was prepared in advance of the Abolition of the Seanad/ Establishment of the Court of Appeal Referenda held in October 2013.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 2003

In July 2008, Longford Local Authorities agreed a three year Irish Language Scheme under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act, 2003 with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The third year expiry date of the implementation of the Scheme was the 30th May 2011. A second Irish Language Scheme will be agreed following completion of an audit by the Office of the Coimisinéir Teanga.

During 2013, the Irish Language Development Officer undertook the following activities in relation to the Irish Language:

- » From January to June 2013, the Comhrá Circle (Ciorcal Comhrá) met in Aras an Chontae once every fortnight at lunchtime. This was open to all Council employees a number of whom attended and participated at each meeting.
- » Seachtain na Gaeilge was celebrated in March 2013 by holding an open morning for Irish language enthusiasts at Longford Branch Library. The event was well attended by both Council staff and members of the public. Everybody made a great effort to speak some Irish while enjoying some refreshments.
- » In association with the Longford Branch Librarian six quizzes were organised in the Irish language and were held in the Branch Libraries in conjunction with the local schools. The writer and storyteller, Frank Galligan provided a bilingual storytelling event for local schoolchildren at the Longford Branch library.
- » During the year the Irish Language Development Officer was also involved in choosing a selection of books from Irish Language publishers for both adults and children.
- » From October 2013, a series of six classes were held in Longford Branch Library on Monday nights from 7.00-8.00pm. The classes were open to both Council employees and members of the public. There was a charge of €30 per person for these classes and a total of seven people attended. On the final night of the classes it was decided to continue with the meetings on an informal level. Meetings now take place on a Monday evening from 5.00-6.00pm with a mix of Council employees and members of the public in attendance.

During 2013, the Irish Language Development Officer, with some financial support from Longford County Council, completed the Intermediate Level 2 of the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge in conjunction with NUI Maynooth.

The implementation of the Scheme will continue to be monitored and reviewed during 2014.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

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REGULATORY INSPECTIONS

There were two inspections from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in 2013 in relation to two separate incidents. The HSA Inspector met with the Health and Safety Officer and both these incidents were closed out with minor changes to the Safety Management System. No prohibition or improvement notices were issued by the Health and Safety Authority during 2013. This is a positive reflection on the way in which health and safety is managed within the organisation.

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENTS REPORTS FOR 2013

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

A total of 17 accidents and incidents were reported during the year 2013. Three of the accidents were reportable to the Health and Safety Authority (more than three days lost from work).

There were 8 Incidents relating to Violence and Aggression experienced by employees in dealing with members of the public in carrying out their duties. To equip employees to handle such situations, the risk assessment for dealing with Violence and Aggression was communicated to all employees through the monthly safety report. Training on dealing with violent and aggressive situations is provided to key risk areas.

SAFETY STATEMENT/RISK ASSESSMENTS

As part of the continuous improvement of the Safety Management System, Risk Assessments continue to be prepared and updated to reflect current practise. All sections have access to the most up-to-date list of Risk Assessments through the Local Authorities Intranet where new risk assessments are added when prepared or updated.

Following review of the Safety Statement an initiative was undertaken to edit the Safety Statement using plain English techniques and apply for the Plain English Mark. Plain English is a way of presenting information that helps someone understand it the first time they read or hear it. The Plain English Mark

is an International Standard that shows the document meets international Plain English standard. It is expected to have the completed Safety Statement with the Plain English Mark available in early 2014.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

In 2013, Longford Local Authorities continued with the Safety Inspection Program identifying areas and frequency of Inspections to be undertaken. The Inspections are carried out by each Directorate and reported to the Safety Management Team quarterly. The Inspection Programme started in January and 287 inspections were carried out during the year 2013. The Inspections are a useful tool for determining compliance with Health and Safety Requirements within the organisation. Any non-compliance or issues identified in the Safety Inspections are now added to an Action Tracking List by each section to ensure that all actions identified are addressed and satisfactorily closed by each section.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

Training is a key element of promoting a positive safety culture and developing good safety procedures on the job. In 2013, 477 places on 70 Health and Safety Training courses were filled by employees of Longford Local Authorities. The training courses held included IOSH Managing Safely in Construction, IOSH supervising safely in construction, first aid refresher, driver CPC, chainsaw, automated external defibrillator, slinger/signaller, roller, signing, lighting and guarding, confined space and safety for water/waste water workers.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

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

Safety Management Team Meetings were held four times during the year to address issues raised at the Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee Meetings. On site communication sessions and toolbox talks within the Infrastructure Section were also held by the Health and Safety Officer and Line Managers. The intranet is used as a communication tool for up to date content of the Safety Management System.

The Health and Safety Officer attends the Management Team meeting each month and provides an update in relation to operational matters in Health and Safety at Longford Local Authorities. Updates are also provided on national developments in Health and Safety.

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

CONTRACTORS

Longford County Council

Longford Local Authorities continue to assess Contractors that work on their behalf in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2013. Every Contractor completes a Health and Safety Questionnaire and this is assessed by Longford Local Authorities to determine their competency and compliance with Health and Safety requirements. The Contractor assessment procedure is in place and successfully running for the last number of years with over 300 assessments completed. The contractor assessment records are available on the intranet.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Towards the end of 2013, the Local Authority commenced working with the Water Service Transition Office as part of a change management process with regard to health and safety. In advance of the establishment of Irish Water on the 1st January 2014, the Local Authority will continue to have responsibility for employees as part of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. The way in which construction works are managed will change with particular changes to the appointment of contractors to carry out work which will have an effect on the Safety Management System.

In August 2013, Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 came into effect. One of the main changes is the amendment to the Definition of 'Client' to Include Domestic dwellings. This change effects Local Authority Tenants that carry out repair or maintenance to their home. Appropriate communication to all tenants will be issued by all Local Authorities.

In 2013, employees of Longford Local Authorities were given access to the new Health and Safety Legal database which has Health and Safety Legislation complied in a single database.

The Health and Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority prepared and issued a guidance document – 'Safe Driving for Work Driver's Handbook'. The handbook was circulated to all employees and is a valuable resource.

Guidelines on Managing Serious Incidents where there is a risk of Criminal Investigation were communicated during the year to Senior personnel at the Local Authority.

WORKPLACE FATALITIES IN IRELAND

In 2013, a total of forty six workplace deaths were reported to the Health and Safety Authority. This compares to forty eight deaths reported in 2012.

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMME OF WORKS - 2014

Following on from this annual report, the Health and Safety Programme of Works will be compiled for 2014. The 2014 Programme of Works will take cognisance of this Annual Report, the National Policies and Procedures, *Managing Safety – Delivering Excellence Five Year Plan 2012-2016*, Health and Safety Programme of Works delivered last year and the development of a Safety Management System and Auditing programme for future OHSAS 18001 accreditation.

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LONGFORD ARTS OFFICE

VISUAL ARTS

POP-UP EXHIBITIONS

As part of the visual arts Programme for the *Love Longford* Festival 2013 the Arts Office organised Pop-up art Exhibitions in seven vacant retail spaces in Longford the exhibiting artists were Pat Hourican, Shelley Corcoran, Outtakes Film Group, Gordon Farrell, Amanda Jane Graham, Longford Camera Club and Reflections Art Group.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

Another dimension of the visual arts programme of the *Love Longford* festival was the commissioning of temporary public art features which were displayed on and around the Market Square. The schools and groups that participated were Ard Scoil Padraig Granard, Luis na Greinne Art Project Granard, the Attic Youth Group Longford and St. Christopher's art students.

JOINT EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING WITH ATRIUM GALLERY

The County Arts Office and the Atrium Gallery jointly organised a number of successful exhibitions during 2013 including such artists as Lucy Brennan Shiel, Lorraine Masters, Colleen Quinn, Geraldine Ahern and Frances Kennedy. Commissioned www.visuallongford.ie to promote the visual arts in Longford.

PUBLIC ART

- » Commissioned the commemorative statue of General Sean MacEoin in Ballinalee
- » Commissioned the Longford fiddle piece for the N5 By-pass
- » Commissioned the St. Michael's Road public art piece

PHOTOGRAPHY

- » Programmed various courses at all levels for students at the Midlands College of Photography
- » Support Longford Schools Photography Programme involving eight secondary schools in Longford & Westmeath
- » Organised the 4th Young Photographer of the Year Exhibition and Awards Scheme
- » Compiled audio visual content for www.midlandcollegeofphotography.ie and developed the site

CREATIVE WRITING/LITERATURE

- » Established the Longford Writer of the Year Awards in partnership with the Longford Leader
- » Redesigned and recorded additional audio-visual content for www.virtualwriter.ie
- » Supported Longford's numerous creative writing groups
- » Organised a number of book launches of poetry and prose for e.g. Rose Moran & Edward Denniston in poetry and Lorne Patterson in prose.
- » Drafted Children's Creative Writing Development Strategy

MUSIC & DRAMA

- » Supported the Nomad touring theatre programme for midland and border area drama groups
- » Supported Artist-in-Residence Scheme in Backstage Theatre
- » Supported Schools Harp education programme with Windsong harp School

MISCELLANEOUS

- » Co-produced two editions of the Midlands Arts & Culture Magazine in partnership with the county arts offices in Westmeath, Laois and Offaly
- » Continued to develop www.longfordcoco.ie/arts-office.html

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LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY, ARCHIVES & HERITAGE SERVICE

LONGFORD COUNTY LIBRARY

"Our vision is to be a responsive, inclusive public service which helps to enrich and enhance the lives of individuals and communities in County Longford through the delivery of a modern, innovative multifaceted library service"

2013 - A YEAR OF GROWTH

2013 was another very busy and challenging year for the library service in County Longford. Despite continuing cutbacks in funding resulting in book-fund cuts and some unplanned closures of branch libraries usage of the service continued to grow. The recently refurbished Ballymahon Community Library continues to be a focal point of community life in the area with many groups and individuals availing of the facilities and services on offer. A host of exciting projects and events including exhibitions, lectures, readings, book launches, as well as language and computer classes were held in all branch libraries throughout the county.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

With the successful completion of the Ballymahon Library project in 2011, the refurbishment and extension of Granard Library and Market House became the number one priority for funding under the Libraries Capital Programme. It was a great source of joy for the community in Granard when Minister Phil Hogan TD, announced that €500,000 was being allocated by government for the Granard Library project, with matched funding of over €200,000 being provided by Longford County Council.

Minister Hogan visited Granard in May to see the building and meet members of Granard Town Council. Work began on the project in September with local builder Frank McKiernan winning the tender for the refurbishment and architects Sean Harrington acting as the main consultants on the project. The new library is scheduled to open in May 2014.

The provision of a modern library facility for the community in Edgeworthstown will now become the number one priority when a new round of funding under the Department of the Environment's Libraries Capital Programme to be announced in 2014.



Mr. Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for the Enviornment, Community & Local Government placing copies of the plans for the refurbished Granard Library in a time capsule in May 2013. With him are (L-R) Mayor of Granard, John Maguire; James Bannon TD; Manager of Longford Local Authorities, Tim Caffrey; Cllr. Maura Kilbride-Harkin.

ICT REPORT

Longford County Library continues to maximise technology as a means of delivering a modern and effective service to our customers through:

- » The marketing and promotion of our eBooks service and the addition of new eBook and eAudioboook titles to our digital catalogue. This service has grown in popularity during the past year as a result of the increasing availability and popularity of bespoke e-readers, tablets, and smartphones which are all compatible with our eBook software
- » The extension of our facilitator-led, customer-focussed internet classes in Drumlish, Longford and Lanesboro branch libraries
- » Upgrading of internet and WiFi services
- » The promotion of the self-service facility in the Longford Branch to maximize staff resources and focus more on specific customer needs
- » The continuous upgrading of the Library Management System Hardware
- » The exploitation of social media tools, such as Facebook and Twitter

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS: "OUR LIBRARY - A WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL"

The library continues to develop key partnerships with other statutory and community service providers. The agencies we have collaborated with in the past year include: Longford VEC, Longford Community Resources Ltd., Longford Women's Link, County Longford Primary and Secondary schools, Longford Older Persons' Network, Longford Mental Health Association, Longford Integration Network, Longford ICA, St. Christopher's, Longford Citizens Information Service, Irish Writers' Centre, Poetry Ireland, Granard Resource Centre, Ballymahon Traders Association and FÁS.

We also provide a space to meet for Polish Mothers and Toddlers Group, Longford County Childcare, Writers' and Readers' groups, Longford Gardening Club, Longford Environmental Alliance, HSE Triple-P, East Meets West, Headway (Acquired Brain Injury) Ireland, and the Longford Secondary Schools Retired Teachers Association, among others.

OUTREACH EVENTS

An ongoing events programme that supports reader development, literacy and learning was rolled out for adults and children throughout the year. The Bealtaine Festival was a huge success this year with over 500 older people taking part in a wide range of events coordinated by the library in partnership with Longford Older Person's Network, Longford Gardai and Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board.





Top left: Image of Longford Library staff with Garda. At the closing event of Bealtaine 2013.

Top right: Granard Mens Club with students from Ard Scoil Phadraig

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2013

EXHIBITIONS AND LAUNCHES IN LONGFORD LIBRARIES 2013

January 9th	East-Meets-West meeting Polish Mothers and Toddlers meeting
Friday 18th	Knitter Natter meeting
Wednesday 23rd	Longford Literacy Read meeting
February 19th	Longford Retired Teachers Association
February 20th	Positive Parenting classes began
February 21st	LIFE meeting
March 5th	Launch of Ireland XO in Longford Branch Library
March 7th	Storytelling with St. Emer's and Killoe National Schools as part of World Book Day
March 8th	Start of Kinder Music classes Quizzes for Seachtain na Gaeilge
March 13th	Quizzes & Coffee morning in Drumlish Library and Longford Branch as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge
19th March	Meeting of Longford Retired Teachers Association
16th April	Storytelling with local crèches
17th April	Creative Writing for Teenagers starts.Genealogy Group Meeting
23rd April	Presentation of prizes as part of A Time to Read project
29th April	First meeting of Arthritis Ireland
May 2013	Bealtaine Festival
16th May	Musical Interlude with Luke Baxter
22nd May	Launch of Alan McMonagle's book
24th May	Arts and Crafts display Headways talk
8th June	Storytelling Sessions in Longford Branch
13th June	Storytelling sessions in Longford Branch
25th June	Launch of The Gathering Ireland 2013 events programme and Bernard Canavan art exhibition
29th June	Start of Computer Classes
July 8th-20th	Summer Reading Festival. These two weeks included arts and crafts sessions, talks on beekeeping and pet-care, storytelling, and talks by The Irish Wildlife Trust.
September 3rd	Arthritis Ireland Branch Meeting
September 9th	I.P.A. Opening Evening Arthritis Ireland Branch Meeting
September 16th	Kindermusik Week 1 Music classes in Longford Library for babies and toddlers up to 3 years old
September 23rd	Conversational Irish Classes
October 1st	Dolores Keavney Author and Storytelling (CBI Children's Book Festival) Quiz with Laurel Lodge Nursing Home (Positive Ageing Week 2013)

Above left: Celebrating Latvia Day at Longford Branch library with Mayor of Longford Town, Cllr. Brendan Gilmore; Mayor of County Longford, Cllr. Larry Bannon and the Latvian Ambassador to Ireland, Gints Apals.

Above right: Dr. Ken Farquhar during National Science Week at Longford Branch library.

Middle left: Laura Doherty at the launch of her art exhibition, presenting the proceeds from fundraising to the Make A Wish Foundation.

Middle: Audrey Healy at the launch of her new book.

Bottom left: Enjoying Seachtain na Gaeilge in Drumlish Library.

Bollom right: Alan McMonagle signing a copy of his book Psychotic Episodes at its launch in May 2014 in Longford Branch library.

	Annuai Report 2013
October 2nd	Creative Writing Course for Teens – 6 Week Course facilitated by Frank Galligan
	Conversational French Classes
	A talk on Longford Library services for Longford I.C.A.
	(Positive Ageing Week 2013)
October 5th	Launch of October Book Festival and Awards Ceremony for the Summer Reading
	Buzz (CBI Children's Book Festival)
	Minding Yourself: Health & Wellbeing Introduction
October 8th	Fred Freeman Storyteller
October 12th	Laura Doherty Art Exhibition Opening
October 17th	The Great Poet Seamus Heaney an introduction by Frank Galligan
October 17th	Seamus McRory Book Launch
	Southed Mottory Book Eduction
October 23rd	Audrey Healy Book Launch
October 31st	Halloween Show 11am
	Storytelling and Fancy Dress
November 11th	Start of Ciorcal Comhrá
November 13th	Series of events by Dr. Ken Faraquhar as part of National Science Week
November 18th	Latvia Day including visit from Latvian Ambassador
November 26th	Acquired Brain Injury Ireland Talk
November 28th	Launch of Fireside Tales by Jude Flynn
November 28th	Launch of Fireside Tales by Jude Flynn

During the year meeting rooms were used by Positive Parenting, Arthritis Ireland, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, LCRL/Acorn, LIFE, LGBT, East Meets West, Polish Mother and Toddlers Group, Longford Retired Teachers Association, Longford Wordsmiths, Kindermusik and Ireland XO.

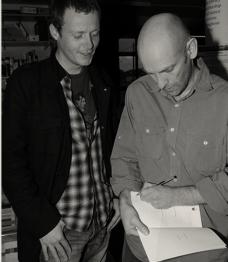












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SHARED SERVICES

MIDLANDS PAL:

Midlands Pal is part of the Pathways to Learning programme (www.pathwaystolearning. ie) initiated originally by the Committee on Library Cooperation in Ireland (COLICO) in 2006. There are currently two other Pal library groups in Ireland, Cork Pal and Music Pal. Participation in Midland PAL is open to all libraries in Ireland Midlands Region. Its objective is to create a seamless route to information resources for the public by opening up access to a wide range of midland libraries; public, academic and HSE. These libraries have all been made easily accessible through this scheme.

Participating libraries are: Athlone Institute of Technology, HSE Midlands, Longford, Westmeath, Roscommon, Laois and Offaly County Libraries all sharing their information resources, knowledge and expertise among the community. Midlands Pal was officially launched by Minister Phil Hogan in Athlone in May.

THE SUMMER READING BUZZ: A collaborative project between six Library Authorities promoting the joys of reading for pleasure among children and young people was successfully rolled out for the first time in July. The six library authorities taking part were Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire -

The six library authorities taking part were Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown, Kildare and Longford. It was very successful and resulted in a noticeable increase in library usage over the summer holiday period.





Poster for the Summer Reading Buzz project

THE LONGFORD GATHERING 2013:

Preparations for the Gathering began with the setting up of a committee by the County Manager to organise an event in the Irish Embassy in London in October 2012 for the Longford diaspora living in the UK. The official launch of the Longford Gathering programme took place in the Backstage Theatre in February 2013. A Longford - What's on Guide and a Longford Gathering Facebook Page collated by the library staff was launched on the evening by Minister Michael Ring.

A series of six postcards of Longford scenes, past and present, which were selected from the Local Studies photographic collection were printed as part of a national public libraries project to celebrate the Gathering.

A huge number of events were organized throughout the year with Longford recording the highest number of Gatherings per capita in the country which clearly demonstrated the great synergy between the Local Authority and the community on this project.







Top left: Henry Jolly, Mayor of Gaffney City, South Carolina, USA with his wife Mary visited Granard in September 2013. Gaffney was founded by a Granard-man, Michael Gaffney, who immigrated to America in 1797. He is pictured with Mary Carleton Reynolds, Maura Kilbride-Harkin the Mayor of Granard and Rosemary Gaynor, Granard Branch Librarian.

Top right: The Painting in the Bog initiative at Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre in July 2013.

Bottom left: Tales from the Schools Folklore Collection at Lanesborough Library, August 2013.

Bottom right: Michael McDowell and the Michael Collins 22 Society in the Greville Arms Hotel in November 2013



One of the main challenges facing the library service over the next few years will be managing change, while continuing to maintain and develop a high-quality service with considerably reduced financial and staff resources.

LONGFORD LIBRARY SERVICE STATISTICAL REPORT 2013

NO. OF INTERNET SESSIONS PROVIDED 2013:

Branch	Public Internet PCs	Wifi	Total 2013	Total 2012
Ballymahon	5,073	432	5,505	7,569
Drumlish	434	0	434	407
Edgeworthstown	261	0	261	252
Granard	1,161	115	1,276	1,564
Lanesboro	2,132	0	2,132	2,778
Longford	12,129	3,017	15,146	13,843
Total	21,190	3,564	24,754	26,413

NO. OF LIBRARY VISITS 2013:

Branch	No of Visits 2013	No. of visits 2012
Ballymahon	20,716	41,906
Drumlish	3,288	3,271
Edgeworthstown	3,003	3,594
Granard	9,223	11,512
Lanesboro	11,418	13,082
Longford	133,326	125,007
Longford History Room	300	432
TOTAL No. of Visits 2013	181,274	198,804

NO. OF ITEMS ISSUED 2013:

Library Branch	Adult Fiction	Adult Non-Fiction	Childrens	Teens	Audio CD /DVD etc	2013 Total	2012 Total
.	5.047	0.500	11 500	700	4.057	00.005	07.000
Ballymahon	5,947	3,589	11,586	726	1,357	23,205	27,336
Drumlish	775	601	3,342	135	94	4,947	4,084
E'Town	546	434	4,257	144	24	5,405	6,828
Granard	2,020	970	4,030	124	348	7,492	9,263
Lanesboro	2,714	1,130	4,847	317	92	9,100	9,997
Longford	19,781	17,013	29,566	2,260	4,935	73,555	75,057
Total	31,783	23,737	57,628	3,706	6,850	123,704	132,565

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP 2013:

Library	Adult	Junior	2 nd Level Student	3 rd Level Student	Other	Total
Granard	143	178	61	24	17	423
E'Town	43	260	23	10	9	345
Drumlish	65	170	15	18	24	292
Ballymahon	427	702	123	96	18	1,366
Lanesboro	154	225	50	38	13	480
Longford	1,580	2,178	773	696	107	5,334
Total 2013	2,412	3,713	1,045	882	188	8,240
(Total 2012	2,596	3,591	1,033	792	152	8,164)
OTHER STATISTICS:						
No of website "hits"						22,707
No of visits to eBooks web	osite					1,753
No of eBook Downloads						346
No of Self-Issue Transaction	ons					718
No of Stock Requests Prov	vided to our custon	ners				508
No. of Stock Requests sup	oplied to other librar	ries				137
Facebook "Friends"						900
Twitter " Followers"						425
CANADA CAMBERTA						

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LONGFORD HERITAGE OFFICE

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

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

LONGFORD HERITAGE OFFICE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2013

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

LONGFORD WRITERS EXHIBITION

The Longford Writers Exhibition was devised as a flexible exhibition concept based on a number of significant writers who were either born in Longford, who lived here or otherwise had strong connections to the county. The panels may be viewed together, or may be split into the constituent writers and erected at other venues to support events such as the Oliver Goldsmith Summer School or the Leo Casey Evening. In 2013 panels were erected detailing the lives and works of Padraic Colum, John Keegan, 'Leo' Casey and Mary Flynn.

This project was carried out under the County Longford Heritage Plan and was partially-funded by the Heritage Council.

COUNTY LONGFORD SCHOOLS EDUCATION PROJECT - ROYAL CANAL



The Longford Local Heritage Education Project is an ongoing programme, the objective of which is to provide educational materials on key themes with a locally-relevant content to schools within the county. In 2012 the first of these modules was created: a work pack based on the Longford-born passengers on Titanic. 2013 saw the creation of a work book on the Royal Canal for primary schools in Co. Longford. This attractive module provides information on the history of the Royal Canal, its development and construction; the personalities involved in its creation as well as its social and physical impact on the landscape of the county. The programme was compiled by Eamonn Brennan, a respected educator and author of a number of books within the current primary curriculum.

The workbook has 8 sections with a range of activities and quizzes to get children looking, learning and thinking about their surroundings. The sections include:

- 1. The Royal Canal History
- 2. The Royal Canal in Co. Longford: Abbeyshrule to Ballymahon
- 3. The Royal Canal in Co. Longford: Ballymahon to Clondra
- 4. The Longford Line
- 5. Life on the Royal Canal
- 6. The Royal Canal Quiz
- 7. Bibliography & Suggested Reading
- 8. Resources

The first four sections provide a description of the canal as well as a historical overview. Additional information on country houses, mills and industrial development in the vicinity of the Royal Canal which had an impact on its development is also provided through "hot box" sections. A mixture of indoor and outdoor activities was devised to help develop the children's cognitive, reasoning and research skills. In addition personal stories from those that lived along the canal are provided to make it more accessible to the children. The biodiversity of the Royal Canal is also described making it relevant to any Green Schools initiatives.

This project will be provided to schools in both hard copy and digital format, bound in a ring binder to allow schools to make copies easily and add additional content relevant to their area and from their class projects.

It is intended that this project continues to be expanded by means of additional themes into the future.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS AND RECORDING APP – PHASE 2:

Longford Heritage Office, with co-funding from the Heritage Council and in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Invasive Species Ireland, developed an invasive species smartphone application which will allow users to inform themselves of the primary threats to Ireland's biodiversity, agriculture and infrastructure from the most damaging of invasive species. The application will also allow the user to record instances of potential invasive species in real time, using mapping

and GIS coordinates built into the system. This information will be relayed to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and will help track the spread and impact of invasive species. It may also allow local communities and other organisations develop management programmes in their area more effectively. Although it is being developed in Longford, the application aims to be an all-island service and it is the first of its kind in Ireland and the UK to record both aquatic and land-based species.

This phase concerned the development of the Android version and making the app compatible with iOS 7. It has received a number of downloads and positive feedback on both the iTunes and Google Play stores. A unified QR (3-D) barcode has been developed which will form the basis of advertising the service. Advertising flyers have been designed and printed ready for distribution from 2014 onwards.

EXPLORE LONGFORD APP:

The County Longford Heritage Office contributed to the 'Explore Longford' smartphone app in 2013, including providing research, text and photography for the app. 50 sites of heritage interest, which are traditionally-accessible – or are otherwise visible to the public – were selected from over 2500 archaeological monuments and 950 historic buildings in the county. A wide variety of attractions, from ancient abbeys to commemorative sculptures were chosen from all parts of Longford.

Although this is aimed primarily at the visitor to Longford, it is hoped that it will provide an invaluable knowledge resource to the people of the county and encourage them to explore their surroundings.

LAKELAND TREASURES APP:

The Lakelands Treasures smartphone app is a joint initiative between the Midlands Regional Authority, Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland to draw visitors to the Lakelands region in the heart of Ireland, covering counties Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois and Roscommon. The app features tourism information, attractions, events and activities but also has a fun gaming element, which encourages families in particular to thoroughly explore selected sites.

The first two sites selected for Longford were Abbeyshrule Abbey and Ardagh Village. In both, 10 unusual and unique features were identified and details photographed. The user gets clues as to their location, telling them how close to the feature they are, what direction to head in, as well as a cryptic clue. When they find the site, they photograph it using their own phone – if they are right a secret piece of information or a historic photograph is displayed as a reward.

The app is due to be launched in 2014 with a further 10 sites in County Longford to be added to the gaming section.

'LONGFORD REACHING OUT'/ IRELAND XO INITIATIVE:

Ireland Reaching Out is a community-based genealogy initiative aimed at developing ties with Ireland's diaspora through family research. Genealogy is an important aspect of our shared heritage and the Longford Heritage Office provided input and support to this enterprise in 2013.







HERITAGE WEEK 2013 & OLD DAYS OLD WAYS FESTIVAL:



National Heritage Week programme took place in 2013 from the 17th to the 25th of August, and was celebrated through a variety of events throughout the county. These were organised primarily by local groups and heritage organisations to promote awareness of the treasures of their respective areas.

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The Heritage Office, in partnership with the County Longford Library and Archives Services, ran a number of events during the week as well, including an exhibition on Longford-born Padraic Colum, who was one of Ireland's most important and prolific writers. This also formed part of the wider Longford Writers Exhibition project.

In 2013, as part of The Gathering Ireland initiative, Heritage Week was expanded to include the whole month of August through the 'Old Days Old Ways' festival. This was run as an umbrella-festival to promote all of the heritage-related events taking place during the month of August, including the Patsy Farrell Music Festival,

the *Painting in the Bog* programme, the vintage vehicle runs by the Mostrim & District Vintage Club and the Longford Vintage Club, *Mowing Pat Murphy's Meadow*. A number of bespoke events were organised for the festival, including the *Get Your Hands Dirty* historic building methods workshop run by the Traditional Skills Training initiative at the EDI Centre in Longford town.

THE GATHERING IRELAND 2013 – 1798 REBELLION COMMEMORATION:



Working in partnership with the communities of Ballinamuck, Granard and Ardagh, along with the County Library and Archives Services, the Longford Heritage Office was one of the organisers of the Longford & the 1798 Rebellion Commemoration which took place from the 6th to the 8th of September 2013. This event coincided with the 115th anniversary of the Rebellion and was part of The Gathering Ireland initiative.

The Heritage Office contributed towards the promotion of the event through the design of the brochures and posters, as well as promoting the event through the *Longford 1798 Commemoration* Facebook page and through social media networks.

The commemoration had a very successful programme of events, including walking tours, talks by Monsignor Murray and Thomas Pakenham on aspects of 1798 and musical performances by local performers as well as members of the Ciorcal Comhrá Ard Mhacha.

ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE:

In 2013, the Longford Heritage Office acted as the administrator to the *Structures At Risk Fund* 2013, a conservation grant scheme operated by the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. St. George's Church in Kenagh received funding through this grant to carry out essential repairs to their bell tower, ensuring its survival for future generations.

OTHER HERITAGE AWARENESS:

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

- » Providing guidance and advice on architectural conservation and heritage matters to Local Authority staff and departments.
- » Providing support and advice to private individuals and community groups in the care and conservation of their built heritage.
- » Undertaking assessments of relevant Planning Applications.
- » Providing ongoing support to the Planning Section and to owners and occupiers of historic buildings and protected structures.
- » Liaising and assisting community groups and local heritage organisations in researching and promoting their heritage projects.
- Acting Chair of the Rural Development Programme Assessment Committee for Longford Community Resources Ltd.
- » Continuing to assist Granard Town Council in securing the future of the motte-and-bailey castle in the town.

The Heritage Officer Programme is a partnership arrangement between The Heritage Council and Longford Local Authorities.

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LONGFORD COUNTY ARCHIVES SERVICE

The Archives Service had another busy and very successful year. It acquired new collections, collaborated in various projects and assisted with numerous enquiries from the public. It also continued to assist local authority staff in a variety of record-keeping matters.

ARCHIVES DEPOSITED

The collections deposited were as follows:

- » Diaries of Michael Connaughton, Lanesborough
- » 1945 Presidential election leaflets
- » Electors' lists, 1946
- » Register of electors, 1964-65
- » Minute books, Carrickedmond I.C.A. quild, 1993-2012
- » John R. Robinson deed and will

SEÁN MACEOIN COMMEMORATION

The Archivist wrote the text of the exhibition panels for the Seán MacEoin Commemoration in Ballinalee during the weekend of 13-15 June, and delivered a lecture on MacEoin as part of the commemoration.

1798 COMMEMORATION

The Archivist co-ordinated a commemoration of the 1798 Rebellion in Granard, Ballinamuck and Ardagh during the weekend of 6-8 September. Among the guests were Mayor Henry L. Jolly of Gaffney, South Carolina and Thomas Pakenham.

EXPLORE LONGFORD APP

The Archivist contributed to the content of the Explore Longford App, produced by Longford Local Authorities in association with Longford Tourism and the Midlands Regional Authority.

IRELAND REACHING OUT

The Archivist is a member of the Ireland Reaching Out Steering Group and helped to organise the launch of the project on 5 March. Ireland Reaching Out is a genealogy project that aims to encourage people to trace the descendants of emigrants from their localities. The Archivist provided three sessions of training in genealogy on 17 April, 24 April and 1 May to volunteers in the project.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- » 31 January: guided visit to Library HQ by transition year class from Moyne C.S.;
- $\,{\rm >\! 28}$ February: guided visit to Library HQ by pupils from St Therese's N.S., Killoe;
- » 29 May: walking tour of Longford town with Longford Wellness Group;
- » 21 June: guided visit to Sean MacEoin exhibition with pupils from Aughnacliffe N.S.;
- 22 June: 'An Introduction to Longford Genealogy', a talk at the Farrell Clan Rally;
- » 18 August: talk on the North Longford Flying Column in Corlea Visitors' Centre;
- » 21 August: participated in 'Who Do You Think You Are?' genealogy event, Longford Library, for Heritage Week;
- » 21 November and 4 December: walking tours of Longford town with transition classes, Scoil Mhuire.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Archivist undertook work on records in the Community and Enterprise Section of Longford County Council.







Top Left: Left to right: Ciaran Murphy, Mayor Peggy Nolan, Martin Morris, Henry Healy from Ireland Reaching Out (special guest), Máiréad Ní Chonghaile, Mayor Sean Farrell and Ray Hogan.

Bottom Left: Marianne Ziss of the French Embassy in Ireland, with members of Ciorcal Comhrá Árd Mhacha at the Croppies Grave memorial in Ballinamuck as part of the 1798 Commemorative Weekend.

LONGFORD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

BOARD OF LONGFORD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

The Board of Longford Sports Partnership (2013) comprised of representatives from statutory, voluntary and sporting organisations:

SECTOR	MEMBERS
Longford County Council	Cllr. Michael Carrigy
	and Cllr. John Duffy
	Frank Sheridan, Director of Services
Longford Town Council	Cllr. Brendan Gilmore
Health Service Executive	Clodagh Armitage
Longford Community Resources Ltd.	Sean Hannon
Vocational Education Committee	Michael O'Rourke
County Development Board	Ursula Hussey
County Longford Youth Services	Mark Noble
Longford Leisure Centre	Vacant
St. Christopher's Services Ltd.	Oonagh Flynn
Community & Voluntary Forum	Reina Flower
Sporting Representatives	Stephen Coy, Brendan Doyle, Peter O'Reilly, Rose Kane
RAPID	Frank Horne

FUNDING

Longford Sports Partnership was successful in securing €160,000 for sport in the County in 2013. The LSP also helped secure an additional €77,000 for an Outdoor Bocce Court and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in the Mall, as part of the SportNation initiative which was open to local authorities.

STRATEGIC PLAN (2013-2017)

November saw the launch of Longford Sports Partnership's strategic plan for sport in Longford: *More People, More Sport, More Often*. It focuses on four key areas: Increasing Participation, Supporting Pathways, Management and Leadership and Communication.

CORE PROGRAMMES

In 2013, Longford Sports Partnership completed its roll out of the Buntús Generic programme in County Longford. The programme provides teacher training, a bag of equipment and resource cards all of which are free to the schools. 36 schools availed of the programme, training a total of 275 teachers and 4,470 children.

Three Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport (Child Protection) workshops were held throughout the year. 30 volunteers and coaches were certified by the Irish Sports Council following the training and six sports were represented. Courses will continue to run on a regular basis.

The Sports Club Grant Scheme 2013 administered by the LSP assisted nine clubs in the County. Projects that were supported include junior club development, coach education and training and projects which increased community usage of facilities. A total of €4000 was distributed.

Successful Clubs:

Co. Longford Community Games

Granard Pitch & Putt

Longford & District Schoolboy/Girl League

Longford RFC

Balinalee Badminton Club

Gratten Ladies GFC

St Christopher's Sports Club

Longford Athletic Club

Clonguish Ladies GFC

TARGET PROGRAMMES

Longford Cycling Tour took place in June as part of National Bike Week, with approximately 180 participants enjoying the choice of three routes around Longford 15km, 50km and 100km. The tour was run in partnership with Longford Cycling Club. The LSP also supported Bike to Work Day, Cycle to School Day and Cyclesafe workshops. These were run in conjunction with Longford County Council and the Road Safety Authority.



The second Longford Sports Awards took place in the Backstage Theatre under the gaze of the Mayo GAA skipper, Andy Moran, along with Mayor, Frank Kilbride and countless other dignitaries and members of the public. Approximately 200 people turned out to support our local sporting talent. Cllr. John Duffy was an excellent MC on the night, which saw eleven winners announced under a selection of categories. Each award was co-presented by a local sponsor and Andy Moran.



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

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

The LSP supported National Recreation Week and Play Day by contributing to various events including an intercultural family day and an outdoor adventure day for young people. This was done in conjunction with local youth agencies. Over 300 children and young people were involved.

On Saturday 19th January, Longford Sports Partnership teamed up with RTE's 'Operation Transformation' to organise a walk along the canal as part of a nationwide initiative. This walk saw an enthusiastic and well-spirited bunch striding into the New Year.



140 participants turned out to enjoy the walk along the Slí na Sláinte route at the canal. A great time was had by all who retired to PV's to warm up with tea and coffee, light refreshments and a friendly chat.

Longford wasn't the only county on its feet. All counties hosted a walk in conjunction with Operation Transformation.

COMMUNICATIONS

The LSP's Facebook page www.facebook.com/longfordsportspartnership, in addition to its website www. longfordsports.ie is an excellent way of communicating to the public. All events, activities and feedback are updated on both. Longford Sports Partnership also has a weekly news column in the Sports section of the Longford Leader. Updates are also put on Longford County Council's twitter and the Longford website www.longford.ie. The Longford Sports Partnership Facebook page currently has 572 'likes'.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department is the functional area that provides all HR services to the organisation, including:

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

The work of the Human Resources Department is determined by the goals and objectives identified in the Council's Corporate Plan. In 2013 our work continued to be heavily influenced by Government Policy decisions in relation to Public Services. The HR Department was responsible for the coordination and completion of the annual progress report on savings and productivity measures outlined in the Public Service Agreement 2010-2014.

In addition, in 2013, the HR Department had responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the terms of the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2016 (Haddington Road Agreement).

Reductions in funding and employee numbers, the promotion of incentivised leave schemes, the moratorium on recruitment continued to have a significant influence on the key work activities of the Human Resources Department.

KEY ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNCIL'S HR WORK PROGRAMME IN 2013 ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT

In January 2013, Longford County Council implemented an Attendance Management Policy for all employees, incorporating the nationally agreed revised Sick Pay Schemes.

This policy forms part of the Council's strategy to provide a working environment to maximise and motivate employee attendance and to clarify the contractual obligations of the Council and its employees in relation to attendance standards.

By the end of 2013, the electronic recording of time and attendance for all indoor employees was implemented using the Time & Attendance Module of the integrated ICT HR system (CORE). This implementation provides up-to-date attendance details for all employees as required under the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997.

WORKFORCE PLANNING

In the context of the Employment Control Framework and the sectoral requirement on Local Government, Longford County Council undertook an exercise in Workforce Planning. A working group representative of the whole organisation was established to collate relevant data from each section.

An outline plan for Longford County Council was presented to the Department by the December 2013 deadline. Work continues on this workforce plan to ensure that Longford County Council maintains an appropriate workforce structure with the ability to respond to the changing needs of the public service.

VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY SCHEME

A Voluntary Redundancy Scheme was introduced for the Local Authority Sector in July 2013.

The aim of the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme was to achieve a permanent reduction in the numbers employed by local authorities in line with the recommendations of the workforce study and the Action Programme for Effective Local Government.

The HR Department administered the scheme in conjunction with the Finance section and provided detailed information to 34 employees on entitlements. A total of seven employees opted to avail of this scheme.

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HADDINGTON ROAD AGREEMENT

The terms of this agreement applied to all employees and were implemented with effect from 1st July 2013, in accordance with the relevant Government Circulars.

Measures affecting employees under the agreement include:

- » Remuneration Reduction in pay for those on total remuneration in excess of €65,000 per annum
- » Increased weekly working hours Employees who previously worked 34.75 hours per week are now required to work 37 hours per week
- » Increment Dates Application of various increment freezes dependant on salary scale
- » Forfeiture of Annual Leave / Cash Employees at the maximum of their salary scale earning between prescribed annual salary ranges are subject to a reduction in annual leave or cash contribution
- » Overtime For employees working 39 hours per week, the first hour overtime worked each week will be unpaid up to 31st March, 2014

IRISH WATER

In advance of the establishment of Irish Water, HR was involved with assisting in the roll out of the Irish Water Programme:

- » Attendance at workshop meetings
- Provision of relative data to Department and Irish Water
- » Liaison with Water Service Transition Office
- » Liaison with employees and their representative bodies regarding the roll-out of the Irish Water programme, the transition process and impact assessments
- » Circulation of job opportunities in Irish Water

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

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

In 2013 HR engaged in delivery of information briefing sessions to all employees to provide knowledge and guidance of employee responsibilities under *Children First 2011*.

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

The statistics in the attached table reflect the ongoing reduced level of recruitment activity, with new recruits being restricted primarily to emergency services.

The HR Department is fully compliant with nationally implemented procedures, referring requests to fill identified posts to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government as exceptions to the moratorium on filling of public service posts.

RECRUITMENT STATISTICS 2013

Advertised	Days	for Interview	Interview	Appointments
Number of Competitions	Number of Interview	Number of Applicants Invited	Applicants who Attended for	Number of

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In the context of reduced budgets similar to recent years, training in 2013 was restricted to Health & Safety courses to ensure compliance with mandatory obligations.

A total of 118 training programmes were delivered to 810 participants over 132 days across all disciplines, including the courses listed below:

- » Safe Pass
- » Manual Handling Refresher
- » Child Safeguarding
- » Site Dumper Refresher
- » Asbestos Awareness
- » Attendance Management
- » Abrasive Wheels
- » Driver CPC
- » IOSH Refresher
- » First Aid Refresher
- » LUGS
- » SLG Assessor Refresher
- » JCB
- » SSWP
- » Confined Spaces
- » AED Remediation

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

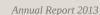
Industrial relations refers to the collective relationship between employers and employees. The organisation continues to maintain good industrial relations with active engagement with all stakeholders. The main areas of engagement in 2013 related to the Haddington Road Agreement and the establishment of Irish Water.

PARTNERSHIP

Workplace Partnership is the process whereby management, employees and trade unions work together to bring about organisational change in an open and co-operative manner. The Workplace Partnership process is achieved by employee participation and consultation, information sharing and the development of joint objectives. Due to the national withdrawal of the Unions from the Partnership process, the work of the local Partnership Committee continues to be severely restricted.

CONCLUSION

The Human Resources Department's work programme remains focussed on the challenge of managing and maintaining service delivery with a reduced workforce, achieving efficiencies and providing leadership to employees to assist them in dealing with current and future challenges.



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PLANNING

Significant activities undertaken by the Planning Department in 2013 are outlined below. New legislation, guidelines and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010, in particular, have created ongoing challenges in these times of strained resources.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Development Management Section is responsible for processing all planning applications in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations. Application numbers for 2013 have remained at a steady level similar to 2012. This is reflective of national economic trends and the downturn in the construction sector. There were 214 planning applications in 2013, 55 of which were extensions of duration of planning permission. There were 55 Commencement Notices submitted in 2013. The number of planning applications was balanced by an increase in demands in other areas of the planning system, most notably in terms of forward planning workload at a local and regional level, enforcement and Section 261 quarry registrations.

Pre-Planning consultations are an integral part of the Development Management process and are utilised on an ongoing and increasing basis. These meetings are held to provide a higher quality and more transparent planning service to the general public. In 2013 approximately 40 pre-planning meetings were held to facilitate discussion with potential applicants on the issues associated with their proposals in addition to the many phone and email queries. Pre-planning meetings are now recorded digitally to facilitate consistency, transparency and seamless integration with the decision-making process.

Planning applications are now screened for appropriate assessment as required by the Habitats Directive and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG).

Licence applications under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, principally for roadside signage and planning questions for LEADER funding, are a regular feature of the work carried out in the past three years, representing a substantial increase in workload over the previous years.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

2013 marked a significant increase in the enforcement workload experienced by the Local Authority. 40 complaints were received and as a result 40 new enforcement files were opened. This figure does not include, and is in addition to, ongoing cases from earlier years. During the year, 6 Pre-Warning Letters were issued, 3 negotiations occurred, 14 Warning Letters were issued, 14 Enforcement Notices were issued and 7 cases proceeded to court (including 2 cases for Continuing Offence under s. 156(2) and 1 case under s. 160 (Court Injunction).

The Local Authority has sought to achieve a reduction in enforcement notices issued and legal proceedings instigated over the period 2013 through achieving greater success in negotiation and resolution at pre-warning letter stage. A number of very difficult cases including legacy cases, however, have proceeded to Court with a reasonable level of success on the Council's behalf.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Development Contributions are levied in accordance with the scheme adopted by the Council under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. Each grant of planning permission contains a condition requiring the payment of a relevant development contribution which becomes payable if and when the development commences. There are many cases where permissions granted have been superseded by alternative permissions on the same site and where permissions granted have not yet been activated. This can sometimes give an inaccurate impression of the amount actually due and owing to the local authority.

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

Significant progress was made in this area over the previous years in the collection of outstanding monies particularly given the difficult economic conditions.

FORWARD PLANNING

The Forward Planning Section is responsible for the research, preparation and production of all Development Plans, Local Area Plans and forward looking initiatives. The introduction of recent legislation in respect of the Planning Authority's forward planning function has led to a marked increase in the workload of the Forward Planning Section in 2013. The economic downturn and slowdown in the construction industry does not affect the forward planning work schedule which is governed by the 2000 Planning and Development Act and ongoing implementation of national and EU legislation in the planning and environmental arena. In addition, the Forward Planning Section is regularly involved with other projects that require substantial time allocation such as Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs), Route Corridor Studies and other projects from local to national level.

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

The Core Strategy review and variation of the County Development Plan, was completed in September, 2012. The Core Strategy Variation was accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.

Following the County Development Plan Core Strategy Variation, the Core Strategy review and variation of the Town Development Plan (including its associated Environmental Reports), was completed in March, 2013.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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

The review process commenced on Friday March 8th 2013 and prior to the preparation of the Draft Plan, notification of the review process was issued to all statutory prescribed bodies, local community and voluntary groups, associations, societies, statutory undertakers and service providers. The general public were consulted through a campaign of newspaper advertisements, postal notification and public meetings. A Section (11) Consultation Document was prepared for the purpose of getting people involved and encouraging discussion and six public consultation meetings were held in Longford Town, Granard, Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Lanesboro and Drumlish. Submissions were invited on the development of the County from all interested persons, bodies and organisations.

Following this preliminary consultation phase, a Manager's Report on all submissions received during the preliminary consultation phase was presented to the elected members of the County Council in September 2013. This report documented issues raised in the submissions received and also outlined recommendations on the policy sections to be included in the Draft Plan as a result of relevant and important issues raised in the submissions received. Following the consideration of this Manager's Report the elected members had 10 weeks to issue directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan. In issuing directions, elected members were restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. After this period the Draft Plan was prepared. As part of the County Development Plan review, all zonings and their associated objectives previous Local Area Plan settlements have been reviewed and updated under the process and are now contained as part of the County Development Plan document.

HOUSING STRATEGY

A Draft Housing Strategy has been prepared to meet statutory requirements set out under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and in particular Part V of said Act. It also addresses relevant provisions contained within the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 2009.

The Planning Authority is required to prepare a Housing Strategy which will cover the period of its Development Plan. The strategy has regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and addresses the overall supply of housing within the administrative boundary of the Local Authority, the needs for social and affordable housing and helps ensure that sufficient land is zoned for housing over the period of its plan.

RETAIL STRATEGY

A Draft Retail Strategy has been prepared alongside the Draft County Development Plan in accordance with provisions set out in the 'Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published by Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG) in 2012.

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

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

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The Draft County Development Plan was required to undergo a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) the findings of which are presented in a Draft Stage 1 and Stage 2 SFRA for the Plan.

The SFRA has been undertaken and prepared in accordance with 2009 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works (OPW). The SFRA is an assessment of flood risk within the relevant areas of the County against which to assess the Plan.

Further individual Flood Risk Assessments may be required as part of the development management process. The environmental authorities specified by the SEA Regulations were consulted on the SFRA early in the process and the EPA and OPW attended a scoping meeting held on 22 May 2013 in EPA Offices, Dublin.

The findings of the SFRA are integrated into the SEA and Development Plan at all relevant stages in the review process.

LOCAL AREA PLANS

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

The introduction of the County Development Plan Core Strategy Variation resulted in a number of changes to the zonings and objectives contained in previous Local Area Plan settlements. In addition to the changes made to the Development Plan and to facilitate the revised zoning objectives, contained as part of the Core Strategy, zonings and policies contained within existing Local Area Plans in the County will need to be addressed as a result of this Core Strategy. In instances where existing Local Area Plan zoning objectives are modified under this Core Strategy variation, the County Development Plan zonings shall take precedent over any Local Area Plan until such time as appropriate action is taken to either modify or revoke the relevant Local Area Plans (modification/revocation of Local Area Plans are a separate process). Ultimately, it is therefore proposed that the zoning maps and objectives contained as part of this document will replace any revoked local area plans. The Longford Northern environs Local Area Plan is also currently due for review.

Work on Local Area Plans, however, has been put on hold due to lack of staff resources.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2010

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

MYPLAN

Longford County Council in conjunction with the Department of Environment, developed an easy to use best practice guidelines on GIS management as part of the MyPlan initiative. The manual which was launched by the minister in September 2012 is used as a best practice document to ensure a consistent approach in preparing accurate GIS data across Local Authorities.

The Department of Environment recently introduced Myplan.ie to co-ordinate the 400+ development and local area plans across the country in a one stop shop. The aim of Myplan.ie is to create a one stop shop for information about plans and also to provide other information which is relevant to planning decision-making (census, heritage sites, patterns of housing development etc).

Myplan.ie is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government on behalf of each of the 88 planning authorities across the country.

Longford County Council having initially uploaded all its entire zoning strategy for the County subsequently updated all information and revised zonings arising from the adoption of the Longford County & Town Core Strategy Variations.

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

- » All plans and projects must be screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) public display and consultation element in each case
- Where required and carried out, in tandem with plan process, systems must be developed, maintained and implemented to monitor indicators as set out in SEA.
- » Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening is required for all statutory and non-statutory plans Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland Guidance or Planning Authorities DoEHLG 2009.
- » Circular SEA 1/08 and NPWS 1/08 necessity to undertake AA of land use plans in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the natura site (SPA, cSPA, SAC, cSAC) concerned but is likely to have a significant effect on it, on its own or in combination with other plans and projects, is to be authorised only if it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

The management of Part VIII planning processes and the preparation of reports to facilitate County Council developments (including AA and SEA as appropriate) are a regular feature of the work of the Planning Section.

STATISTICS AND RETURNS

The Planning Section is required, at regular intervals, to provide statistical information to the Midland Regional Authority, DoECLG and the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Some of these returns have a significant time input, notably the annual housing land availability survey, submitted each September to the DoECLG. The Housing Land Availability Study also is now accompanied by additional detailed mapping requirements which must be provided by the Planning Authority as part of returns to the Department.

Statistics are regularly compiled by the Planning Sections for other departments within the Council to facilitate the functioning of the organisation as a whole. This includes the provision of population and application data for studies on the provision of water and waste water services and infrastructure reports for Heritage, Environment, Roads and Housing projects. The Department has also requested statistics in relation to Quarries.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are an essential tool in the planning system allowing ease of access to information internally between different Council departments. It also facilitates the transfer of spatial information to the public over the internet or at information points located in the Council buildings. GIS is also used to acquire information such as statistical returns and for monitoring such as the rural mapping required under the County Development Plan and ongoing SEA monitoring.

The Department has placed a significant emphasis on the GIS mapping of Planning information in Local Authorities and requires that it be updated regularly. The system is only as good as the information that it receives which must be maintained and updated on a regular basis.

There has been a substantial update of all zoning within the County during 2013 with the establishment of standardised zoning mapping for the County providing consistent, well presented, easily recognisable and reliable information for all settlements within the County.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

The integration of Longford Town Council into existing planning functions within the County Council's Planning Authority has its own associated issues which will need appropriate attention in the future.

Of particular note in this regard is the requirement to prepare a Municipal/Local Area Plan in place of the existing Longford Town Development Plan and the preparation of Local and Community Plans for the Local Community Development Committees under the Local Government Act.

FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES,

HOUSING & BUILDING







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

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FINANCE

The main functions of the Finance Department of Longford County Council are to:

- » Achieve the financial objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan
- » Manage the financial affairs of the Council
- » Ensure that adequate internal controls are in operation to safeguard the assets of the organisation, and to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the accounting records
- » Ensure as far as possible that value for money is achieved throughout the organisation

SERVICES

- » Motor Taxation
- » Rates/Water Charges/Housing Rents/Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR)
- » Higher Education Grants
- » General Office processing payments to suppliers and payroll

PAYMENT PRACTICES

The provisions of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2002 applies to Longford County Council and Longford Town Council. Both Local Authorities have systems in place to ensure that interest penalties are not incurred.

Total amount of interest penalties:

Longford Co. Council	Nil
Longford Town Council	Nil

Every effort is made to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations and avoidance of interest penalties. However, the procedures can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the legislation.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function charged with reviewing activities across all areas within Longford County Council. It objectively examines and reports on management of risks, the adequacy of internal controls and the achievement of proper, efficient and economic use of resources. An Internal Audit Charter sets out the role and responsibilities of the Internal Auditor and Management.



HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

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

THE GRANT SCHEME FOR THE 2013/14 ACADEMIC YEAR IS GOVERNED BY:

- » Student Support Act, 2011
- » Student Support Regulations, 2013 [S.I. 158 of 2013]
- » Student Grant Scheme 2013 [S.I. 159 of 2013]

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS - ACADEMIC YEAR 2012 - 2013

Total number of students in receipt of Higher Education Grants	105
Number of students attending Irish colleges	104
Number of students attending UK colleges (including Northern Ireland) and EU colleges	1

EXPENDITURE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 - SECTION 142 EXPENDITURE

Total	€748,012
Representational Payments, Expenses of Members and Representation at Conferences	€671,812
Entertainment and Associated Expenses	€8,000
Mayor and Other Allowances	€68,200

INCOME GENERATION UNIT

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

COMMERCIAL WATER CHARGES

During 2013 the Unit continued to improve the collection of commercial water charges.

2013 also saw significant changes in the provision of water services. The Government decided on the format of a new water utility Irish Water which assumed responsibility for operation of the water network from January 1st 2014. Income Generation Unit staff were involved in the transition process to the new water utility in 2013. During 2014 they will continue to bill customers and deal with billing queries on behalf of Irish Water until they establish their own billing system.

WATER CHARGES COLLECTION

Year	Opening Balance	Water Charges Invoiced	Receipts	Write offs due to leaks etc.	% Collected	Closing Balance
2011	1,304,073	1,816,346	-1,732,451	-170,291	59	1,217,484
2012	1,217,484	1,671,067	-1,685,954	-138,993	61	1,062,954
2013	1,062,954	1,788,002	-1,736,337	-99,747	63	1,015,276

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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CHARGES

NON PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE CHARGE (NPPR)

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

During 2013 the Income Generation Unit identified properties where the charge was due and had not been paid. Legal proceedings were commenced in a number of these cases to recover amounts owed to the Council.

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

HOUSEHOLD CHARGE

The Local Government (Household Charge) Act 2011 introduced a further charge on all residential property of €100 per property. This charge was intended to help fund essential local government services. The Income Generation Unit facilitated payment of the charge at Council Offices and dealt with numerous queries in relation to the operation of the charge. The Household Charge was replaced by a Local Property Tax in 2013 which is being administered by the Revenue Commissioners.

RATES

Vacant premises for let due to the economic downturn continues to be an issue for the Council. This has an impact on the potential rates base. Inspection of vacant rateable premises was undertaken throughout the year. In addition, details of new buildings, not previously rated, were sent to the Valuation Office for valuation.

The Income Generation Unit continued to facilitate monthly instalment arrangements for rate payers with cash flow problems. Rate collection remained relatively stable for 2013 with a slight decrease in receipts and % collection.

RATES COLLECTION

Year	Opening Balance	Rates Invoiced	Receipts	Vacancy Write offs	% Collected	Closing Balance
2011	624,804	4,705,597	-3,642,088	-813,425	81	874,867
2012	874,867	4,718,199	-3,857,521	-882,658	82	852,888
2013	852,888	4,696,445	-3,817,962	-802,640	80	928,731

RENTS AND LOANS

Income Generation Unit is responsible for dealing with loan and rent accounts that are in arrears. The setting of rent and adjustments to rent accounts are done by the Housing Department.

During 2013, rent arrears increased in the last quarter of the year. This subsequently recovered in early 2014.

Rent charged decreased again in 2013 by €40,382. This trend has been evident in recent years as reduced tenant household income results in lower rents for tenants under the Council's differential rent scheme. The Council continues to promote payment by standing order and the Household Budget Scheme operated in conjunction with An Post.

RENTS COLLECTION

Year	Opening Balance	Rents Invoiced	Receipts	Write offs	% Collected	Closing Balance
2011	585,748	3,700,689	-3,756,143	-8,396	88	521,899
2012	521,899	3,603,117	-3,607,785	-5,955	88	508,152
2013	508,152	3,562,734	-3,500,798	1,702	86	571,791

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

The number of customers in arrears has increased significantly over the last three years due to the economic downturn and a significant fall in household income for many customers. Consequently, the collection rate for loans has decreased and the arrears outstanding has increased.

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

The arrears figure has deteriorated despite implementation of the MARP process. Collection of loan arrears continues to be challenging with little prospect of a significant improvement until the general economic situation recovers.

LOANS COLLECTION

Year	Opening Balance	Loans Invoiced	Receipts	Write offs	% Collected	Closing Balance
2011	346,702	1,137,138	-1,037,543	0	70	446,467
2012	446,467	1,057,145	-917,423	0	61	586,349
2013	586,349	1,048,507	-904,770	-11,303	56	719,358

MOTOR TAX

The Government decided in 2012 to centralise the issue of driving licences. This was implemented during the course of 2013 and the new National Driving Licence Service was established under the control of the Road Safety Authority. During the year staff faced considerable challenges in meeting transitional arrangements for the transfer of driving licences to the new National Driving Licence Service. Accordingly, motor tax offices are no longer involved in the issue of driving licences.

New arrangements were also implemented in relation to the processing of certificates of roadworthiness for commercial vehicles. From October 2013, results of roadworthiness tests for commercial vehicles are directly entered onto the National Vehicle Database File (NVDF) by the authorised test centres. This eliminates the need for owners of commercial vehicles to present pass statements at motor tax offices and is a considerable improvement in the process.

In addition, new legislation in relation to "off the road" declarations implemented in September 2013 led to significant pressure on staff and impacted on customer service for motor tax customers. The facility to retrospectively make an off the road declaration was removed by legislation. A deadline of 30th September 2013 was introduced to get any untaxed vehicles "up to date" if the vehicle was going to be used in a public place and to either tax the vehicle or make a declaration in advance that the vehicle would be off the road for a maximum period of 12 months This meant that a large number of vintage vehicles especially, which had not been on the road, had to be regularised in terms of ownership and their motor tax status. 2013 was a year of significant change for motor tax offices and legislative and operational changes are likely to continue in 2014.

MOTOR TAX STATISTICS 2013

Motor Tax Transactions 2013	No of Transactions	€
Vehicle Licences (Discs)	28,627	6,198,880
Driver Licences	4,354	161,360
Road Worthiness Certificates	3,176	23,143
Trade Licences	61	21,533
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,906	154,923
Total	41,124	6,559,839
Drivers Licences issued 2013		
Full Driving Licences		2,591
Provisional Driving Licences		1,260
Duplicate Driving Licences		331
Total Driving Licences Processed		4,182

In addition 14,876 vehicle licences (tax discs) were issued by Motor Tax Online Service during 2013. The percentage of motor tax renewals completed on line in 2013 was 38%. This represented a 4% increase on 2012. These vehicle licences are issued directly from the Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon, Co. Clare.

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INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

KEY FUNCTIONS OF ICT DEPARTMENT

Longford Local Authorities ICT Department provides and supports the following ICT Systems:

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

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

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

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

During 2013 a review of our mobile infrastructure took place which led to a tender for the provision of mobile voice and data services to Longford Town and County Councils. Following the tender process the Councils ICT Section assessed the tenders submitted and subsequently oversaw the transfer of services to an alternative provider.

SYSTEM UPGRADES

Following a review of our Data Centre during 2012, the Councils ICT Section commenced a Virtualisation Project to consolidate the large number of servers which had developed over the past fifteen years. The Project implementation commenced during the final quarter of 2013 and resulted in immediate energy, administration and maintenance savings.

As part of this project our Data Centre UPS was upgraded as was our data security infrastructure to ensure the integrity, availability and security of our corporate data.

EXPLORE LONGFORD APP

During 2013, Longford County Council's ICT Section played a key role in the development of the 'Explore Longford App', which was launched by Longford Library in November 2013 in association with Longford Tourism and the Midlands Regional Authority The App which uses Library data provides a whole new visitor experience to the County, allowing visitors to discover and explore heritage sites, towns and villages throughout the County on their smartphone or tablet. The Explore Longford app is now available for download for both Apple iOS and Android devices.

INTERNET & INTRANET

Longford County Council continued to expand our online content during 2013. All notices of public concern are published on our websites which are widely used.

Our Staff Intranet continues to be of strategic importance in the sharing of information among staff while also providing access to many of our most commonly used applications.

WEBSITE VISITS DURING 2013

Website	Number of Hits 2012	Number of Hits 2013
longfordcoco.ie	56950	53931
longford.ie	57885	52295
longfordtowncouncil.ie	7715	7658
virtualwriter.net	5119	2974
longfordlibrary.ie	24520	22707

HR & RELATED INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Councils ICT Section played a supporting role in the implementation of a new electronic time and attendance system to staff in the Council.

The ICT Section continues to provide technical support for the newly implemented integrated HR, Payroll, Superannuation, Time & Attendance, Training and Recruitment Information System.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

The Councils ICT Section continues to provide support to the branch libraries throughout Longford. During 2013 the Section provided technical support to the Granard Library Development Project which will be opened during 2014.

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HOUSING

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The housing needs of County Longford continued to be met through a range of housing options. A statutory assessment of housing need was undertaken in 2013. The next housing needs assessment will be carried out in 2016. At present Longford Local Authorities have in the region of 931 housing applications.

SOCIAL HOUSING

Approximately €514,395 was spent under the Social Housing Investment Programme in 2013. Seven individual houses were purchased.

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

The closing date for final applications for the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme was 31st December, 2012 with all transactions to be completed by 31st December, 2013. The transaction completion date was then extended to 30th June, 2014. In 2013 a total of 26 sales were completed under both the 2011 (4 properties) and 1995 (22 properties) Schemes.

Final details of the Incremental Tenant Scheme which is due to replace the above schemes have yet to be announced.

HOUSING LOANS

Approval and advancement of housing loans continued in 2013. As in previous years, affordability levels as a result of the economic downturn have had a huge impact on the amount of applications being approved. A total of 14 valid applications were received in 2013 with 8 loans approved and 8 advanced. This does not include preliminary applications refused or withdrawn.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

Longford County Council has a long association with the Voluntary Housing Sector and a substantial contribution has been made by the Voluntary Housing Sector in the provision of Social Housing in County Longford under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) and the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). In 2013, Cluid Housing Association completed works on the second phase of the regeneration of St. Michael's Road, Longford. A total of 37 units were refurbished or built under CAS and CLSS.

MAINTENANCE AND REFURBISHMENT

In 2013, a sum of €620,000 was provided in the Budget for the maintenance and repair of Local Authority Housing. This area is continuously examined to ensure that best practice and value for money is achieved at all times.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Liaison Officer and Estate Manager continued to work with tenants and Residents Associations during 2013. Compulsory pre-tenancy courses are attended by all new tenants.



Left:

Overall Winner: Curraghrua, Lanesboro

Below.

Estates built before 1997, 2nd Prize: Smithfield Crescent, Legan





BETTER ESTATES AWARDS

The "Better Estates Awards" were held again in 2013. The results were as follows:

OVERALL WINNER

Curraghrua, Co. Longford	
Category 1 - Estates with input from a Cor	mmunity Employment Scheme
1st Prize	Church View, Lanesboro
2nd Prize	Devine Crescent, Edgeworthstown
3rd Prize	Springlawn
Category 2 – Estates built before 1997	
1st Prize	Church View Drive, Drumlish
2nd Prize	Smithfield Crescent, Legan
3rd Prize	Marian Terrace, Ballymahon
Category 3 - Estates built between 1997 &	2004 inclusive
1st Prize	Curraghrua, Lanesboro
2nd Prize	River Crescent, Ballinalee
3rd Prize	Foxhall Crescent, Legan
Category 4 – Estates built from 2005 to date	te
Large – more than 20 houses	
1st Prize	Wood View, Newtownforbes
2nd Prize	Corry Park, Newtownforbes
3rd Prize	Camlin Meadow, Longford
Small – up to and including 20 houses	
1st Prize	Hazelwood, Colehill
2nd Prize	Cois Na hAbhainn, Ballinalee
3rd Prize	Deerpark, Kenagh
Category 5 - Best Green/Eco Initiative	
Eco garden	Deerpark, Kenagh
Category 6 – Community Development Sul	bmission
1st Prize	Springlawn, Longford
2nd Prize	Canálach Le Chéile, Longford
Category 7 – Best Garden	
1st Prize	Mrs. Julie Clabby, 25 Padraic Colum Heights
2nd Prize	Mr. William Quirk, 12 Cuirt Shanmullagh, Ballinam
Category 8 – Most Improved Estate	
Padraic Colum Heights, Longford	
Category 9 – Estates Owned by Longford	Town Council (without C.E. Scheme)
1st Prize	Annaly Park
2nd Prize	Ardán Alainn
3rd Prize	Canálach Le Chéile, Longford
Highly commended	
Parkside Gardens, Ballymahon; Cartron Road, Ken	agh: Clí Na Mána Pallymahan

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

In 2013, a combined total of 176 applications were received under the three Grant Schemes:

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

A total of 150 grants were paid out and this amounted to €753,847.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 continued to be followed by Longford County Council. The programme set out the 4-year strategy in relation to the programme and type of accommodation to be provided for Travellers. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meets on a quarterly basis and will monitor the progress achieved in relation to targets set out in the plan. Preparation of the New Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014-2018 commenced in September 2013.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME (RAS)

At the end of 2013, there were 199 RAS tenancies in place. Thirty (30) tenancies ceased during the year – these tenants were either housed in Local Authority Housing, transferred to RAS properties in other parts of the country or they housed themselves from their own resources. Eligibility for the Scheme depends on applicants being in receipt of rent supplement for more than 18 months and also eligible for Social Housing. The RAS Scheme and the associated operational and administrative costs are self financing in Longford.

LONG TERM / RAS-TYPE LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

The main features of the Scheme involve the Local Authority agreeing long term leases for single or multiple housing units with developers/owners of private rented properties over 10 to 20 years, or short term RAS type leases for properties over a 4 year term. There were 17 short term RAS Type leases in place at the end of 2012.

REMEDIAL/REGENERATION WORKS

In 2012 a budget of €1.65 million was approved to carry out Remedial Works at Tromra Road, Granard. This project consisted of the regeneration of 41 dwellings. Thirty three of these are social and the remaining eight are privately owned. Works commenced in March 2013 and were almost complete by end of 2013.





Tromra Road, Granard

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS

The Local Authority is responsible for implementation and enforcement of accommodation standards in the rental sector. Funding is made available to the Local Authority based on the number of inspections carried out. Two hundred and forty six (246) inspections were completed in 2013 and landlords were advised of non compliance issues

ENERGY RETROFITTING SCHEME

In 2013, Longford Local Authorities received funding from the DoECLG in the amount of €1,147,820 as part of the above programme. Energy efficiency works were carried out on 575 properties.

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

Longford County Council places a high priority on tackling problems associated with unfinished housing developments. In 2011 it established a dedicated team to specifically deal with the issue of unfinished housing developments in County Longford. This involves working through issues on the ground, using an array of technical, procedural, and legislative mechanisms in developing solutions in conjunction with residents, developers, financial institutions and receivers.

During 2013 the Unfinished Estates Team continued with its programme of works which includes:

- » Reducing the number of remaining unfinished developments
- » Continuing the process of ensuring that public safety aspects of stalled developments were addressed under the Public Safety Initiative (PSI)
- » The process of preparing and implementing site resolution plans
- » Longford County Council continues to pursue enforcement action, including assessing securities and bonds to access funding to complete public infrastructure

There were originally 113 unfinished estates within the county and, to date, 12 of those have been taken in charge by Longford County Council and a further 5 estates require no further action. The estates taken in charge during 2013 were:

- » Church View, Ballymahon
- » Foynes Court, Longford
- » Caislean Breac, Newtownforbes
- » Gleann Riada, Longford.





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Photo of Gleann Riada estate taken in charge in 2013; Before & After

STATISTICS 01/01/2013 - 31/12/2013

- » No. of Warning Letters issued 9
- » No. of Enforcement Notices issued 5
- » No. of cases referred to Solicitors to prosecute 2
- » No of court cases ongoing at 31/12/2013 3
- No of bonds called in -17
- » No. of bonds extended 11
- » No of bonds paid over to Council 3
- » No. of estates completed by the Council during 2013 using bonds 1
- » No. of estates with works ongoing at 31/12/2013 using bonds 7
- » No. of Pumping Stations taken in charge 9
- » No. of Waste Water Treatment Plants taken in charge -10
- » Public Safety Initiative funding applications submitted 2
- » Public Safety Initiative funding applications approved 1
- » Site Resolution Plans agreed and works ongoing at 31/12/2013 25
- » No of estates taken in charge in 2013 4
- » No of taking in charge applications being assessed at 31/12/2013 15

APPENDIX 1:

MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2009 - 2014

The statutory basis for establishment of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) is contained in Section 48 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The formation of Strategic Policy Committees is intended to afford an opportunity to various sectoral interests to influence the development of policies by the Council. The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme and Membership of the Committees was formally adopted by resolution of the Members of Longford County Council at a meeting held on 20th January 2010.

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)	County Council Members	Town Council Members	Sectoral Representatives	Total	Chair
Social Housing, Planning and Building Control Strategic Policy Committee	V. Kiernan M. Carrigy P. Nolan P.J. Reilly D. Glennon P. Connell	T. Flaherty	Development and Construction - Kevin Hughes Community and Voluntary - Paula O'Connor - Helena Doyle - Mary Lillis	11	Chair – First Term - Cllr. V. Kiernan Second Term Nominee Cllr. M. Carrigy
Transportation, Road Development and Road Safety Strategic Policy Committee	J. Browne J. Duffy M. Cahill L. McEntire M. Casey	M. Kilbride-Harkin	Agriculture and Farming - John Farrell Trade Union - Kieran Woods Environmental - Ray Hogan	9	Chair – First Term – Cllr. A. Mitchell Second Term Nominee Cllr. J Duffy
Water Services and Environmental Strategic Policy Committee	G. Brady P. Belton (C.Murray) S. Farrell P. Loughrey T. Victory	J. Maguire	Agriculture & Farming - Sean Reilly Environmental - Ray Hogan Community and Voluntary - Kevin Durkin	9	Chair – First Term – Cllr. G. Brady Second Term Nominee Cllr. P Belton (C. Murray)
Economic Development, Urban Renewal, Rural Re-organisation, Educational, Cultural and Recreational Development Strategic Policy Committee	M. Mulleady B. Steele F. Kilbride L. Bannon M. Sexton	J. Keogh	Business and Employers - Fintan McGill Community and Voluntary - Reina Flower Cultural - Tess Murphy	9	Chair – First Term – Cllr. M. Mulleady Second Term Nominee Cllr. B. Steele

APPENDIX 2:

REPORT ON WORKING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES DURING 2013

WATER SERVICES & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Amongst the items that were considered by the Water Services and Environment SPC over the 5 year period 2009-2014 were the following:

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- » Consideration of Key Recommendations of IPA's Review of the operation of the SPC's
- » Overview of function of the Water Services Department
- » Consideration of Litter Management Plan
- » Consideration of the Draft Fire Service Operations Plan 2011 2015
- » Cemetery Provision & Maintenance
- » Report of Invasive Species by Heritage Officer
- Textile Banks
- Water Conservation
- » Bye Laws for Cemeteries
- » Energy Management
- » Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Public Consultation Stage
- » Note Submission to the Office of Public Works in relation to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Process
- » Note extension of the Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region
- Note Publication of the Water Services (Amendment) Bill 2011
- Note Publication of the Bord na Mona Strategic use of Peatlands
- Report of the Irish Water Sector
- » Climate Change Presentation
- » Arterial Drainage
- » Dog Breeding Act
- » CFRAMS Update
- Fracking Update
- Control of Horses By Laws
- Group Water Schemes Sewer Connections
- Shared Drains
- Fluoridation
- » Consideration of Longford County Council's current policy relating to Temporary Signage

TRANSPORTATION, ROAD DEVELOPMENT & ROAD SAFETY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Amongst the items that were considered by the Roads SPC over the 5 year period 2009-2014 were the following:

- » Consideration of Key Recommendations of IPA's Review of the operation of SPC's
- » Pothole Repair
- » CT68 Accident Reports
- » Hedge Cutting
- » Accident Mapping
- » Salting & Gritting
- » Winter Maintenance » Public Lighting
- Traffic Calming
- Presentation of Local & Regional Bridges
- » N5 Longford Bypass
- » Health & Safety
- » Material Deposits on Public Roads
- » Engineering Areas to match the new Electoral Areas

SOCIAL HOUSING, PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Strategic Policy Committee held three meetings in 2013 on the following dates:

- » 7th March 2013.
- » 24th July 2013.
- » 24th September 2013.

The main issues considered by the Committee in 2013 were:

- » Midlands Region Homeless Action Plan 2013 2016.
- » Review of County Development Plan.
- » Allocations Policy Scheme of Priorities for allocation of Local Authority dwellings.
- » Sheltered Accommodation report on Voluntary Housing Provision Special Needs.
- » Update on Housing Assistance Payment.
- » Update on Retrofitting Programme
- » Update on new Differential Rent Scheme.
- » Update on Housing Grants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, URBAN RENEWAL, RURAL RE-ORGANISATION, EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Strategic Policy Committee for Economic & Community Development, Corporate & Cultural Services and Human Resources held meetings on the following dates in 2013:

- » 22nd February 2013
- » 27th September 2013
- » 17th December 2013

The priority areas for discussion at the meetings were:

- » Economic Development
- » Social Inclusion Initiatives
- » Alignment of Local Government/Local Community
- » Tourism Development
- » Connolly Barracks
- » Sports Development
- » The Gathering Initiative



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APPENDIX 3:

COMMITTEES OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Association of County and City Councils	Councillors L. McEntire, P. Connell and F. Kilbride
Local Authority Members' Association	Councillor C. Murray
Lough Oughter, Gowna and River Erne Joint Drainage Committee	Councillors J. Duffy and V. Kiernan
Longford Leisure Ltd	Councillors J. Browne, V. Kiernan and P. Loughrey
Midland Regional Authority	Councillors M. Cahill, J. Browne, L. Bannon, V. Kiernan and M. Carrigy
EU Operational Committee of the Midland Regional Authority	Mayor, Councillors P. Nolan and M. Carrigy
Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly	Councillor L. Bannon
Longford County Enterprise Board	Councillors P.J. Reilly, P. Connell, C. Murray and F. Kilbride
Longford Enterprise Development Company Ltd	Councillors T. Victory, P. Nolan and M. Carrigy.
Longford Community Resources Ltd	Councillors D. Glennon, S. Farrell and J. Duffy
Appointment of nominee of Longford County Council to attend annual meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Councillor P. Nolan
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Councillors M. Mulleady, J. Duffy and M. Carrigy
Steering Committee for the promotion of the Irish Language	All members of the Council
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Councillors P. Loughrey, T. Victory, G. Brady, V. Kiernan, F. Kilbride and M. Carrigy.
	Chairperson, Mayor P. Nolan
County Longford Vocational Education Committee	Councillors B. Steele, L. McEntire, S. Farrell,
	G. Brady, M. Carrigy, P. Connell, V. Kiernan,
	J. Browne and M. Sexton
Longford County Council Internal Audit Committee	Mr. Seamus Butler and Councillor G. Brady
Sports Partnership Committee	Councillors M. Carrigy and J. Duffy
Longford County Joint Policing Committee	Councillors M. Mulleady, M. Cahill, T. Victory, P. Loughrey, M. Casey, M. Carrigy,
	P. Nolan, G. Brady, C. Murray, J. Duffy, L. Bannon and F. Kilbride
	Chairperson, Councillor S. Farrell
Shannon River Basin District Advisory Council	Councillors P. Connell and S. Farrell
North Western International River Basin District Advisory Council	Councillors G. Brady and V. Kiernan
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin-mid Leinster	Councillors P.J. Reilly, C. Murray and G. Brady
County Longford Heritage Forum	Councillors D. Glennon and M. Carrigy
	Chairperson, Councillor S. Farrell
Midlands Energy Agency	Councillors G. Brady and C. Murray.
Tender Committee	The Mayor and any two members to be present at the opening of Tenders.

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APPENDIX 4:

MEETINGS OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

SUDDEN DEATH OF COUNCILLOR PADDY BELTON, R.I.P.

The sad and sudden death of Councillor Paddy Belton occurred on the 26th April 2013. Councillor Belton was a member of the Council since 1999. The May Meeting of Longford County Council was cancelled as a mark of respect.

Meetings of the County Council were held monthly, with the exception of the months of May and August.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WAS HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2013.

Councillor Larry Bannon was elected Mayor and Councillor Frank Kilbride was elected Deputy Mayor.

SPECIAL MEETING - 27TH FEBRUARY 2013

Representatives from the Office of Public Works and Jacobs Consultants gave a presentation to the members regarding the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.

MONTHLY MEETING - 20TH MARCH 2013

Ms. Karen Clabby, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the 2012 Annual Report of the Audit Committee.

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL AND LONGFORD TOWN COUNCIL - 10TH APRIL 2013

Mr. Michael Nevin, Chief Executive Officer, Longford County Enterprise Board and Mr. Frank Sheridan, Director of Services, addressed the members regarding economic development in County Longford.

MONTHLY MEETING - 19TH JUNE 2013

Mr. Colm Murray was elected to the vacancy for the Ballymahon Electoral Area, occasioned by the death of Councillor Paddy Belton.

Consequent to the death of Councillor Belton, appointments were made to various committees of the Council.

MONTHLY MEETING - 16TH OCTOBER 2013

Presentation to Cnoc Mhuire Granard on winning the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Senior 'A' Football Championship Final.

Mayor Larry Bannon made a presentation to the Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School Team on winning the All Ireland Vocational Schools Junior "A" Football Championship.

MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 2013

Presentation to the Groups entering the National Pride of Place Competition 2013.

Mayor Bannon presented the first award to Abbeyshrule Tidy Towns Committee who won the international Communities in Bloom competition in Ottawa Canada. The second award was presented to Attic Youth Café. And finally the two first prize winners, St. Christopher's and the Killian Homeplace.

The Mayor presented the two 1st Prize winners, St. Christopher's Arts Programme and Killian Home Place Initiative with a certificate and presented a certificate from Co-operation Ireland and a cheque from Longford County Council to all the groups.

PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ATTIC YOUTH CAFÉ

Ms. Ruth McGarry Quinn and Mr. Charles Madden, Attic Youth Café addressed the Council meeting regarding Proposed New Attic House Teen Project.

MONTHLY MEETING - 18TH DECEMBER 2013

The December meeting of the Council was held in The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule by way of acknowledging the Abbeyshrule Tidy Towns Committee on winning the Communities in Bloom competition in Ottawa Canada.

MAYORAL RECEPTIONS

Mayor Sean Farrell hosted a Reception on Thursday, 20th June 2013 to honour the Farrell Clan the occasion of the 6th International Rally.

CIVIC RECEPTION

A Civic Reception was held on Monday, 18th November 2013 in honour of Bishop Colm O'Reilly, retired Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise and the Freedom of the County of Longford was conferred on Bishop O'Reilly in recognition of his outstanding contribution to County Longford.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee, consisting of five members, has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of a systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the Council. It is non-executive and is independent in the determination of its work programme and in the formulation of its recommendations.

The Committee met four times during 2013. The Chairperson presented the 2012 Annual Report of the Audit Committee at the County Council meeting held in March 2013. The Audit Committee examined a number of issues within its remit and issued recommendations where appropriate. During the course of the year, the Local Government Auditor and senior staff of the Council presented reports to the Audit Committee as requested by the members.



APPENDIX 5:

CONFERENCES ATTENDED 2013

Dates	Conference	Location	Councillors in attendance
11th - 12th January	Civil Liability Legislation & How it Affects Local Authorities	Westport	P.J. Reilly, Thomas Victory, Mick Cahill, Padraig Loughrey, Mark Casey, Barney Steele
17th January	Nation Radon Forum	Dublin	Frank Kilbride, Luie McEntire, P.J. Reilly
18th - 19th January	Clare Tourism Conference	Ennistymon	P.J. Reilly
18th - 20th January	Local Electoral Area Boundaries	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Mick Cahill, Thomas Victory
18th -19th January	The Criminal Consequences of Breaching Local Authority Regulations	Tralee, Co. Kerry	Padraig Loughrey, Paul Connell, Gerry Brady, Frank Kilbride, Mark Casey, Barney Steele
25th - 27th January	Debt Solutions	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	Gerry Brady
25th - 27th January	Disputes between Neighbours & The Law Seminar	Limerick	Victor Kiernan, John Browne
25th - 26th January	Policy & Legal issues relating to Developing Wind Energy	Westport, Co. Mayo	John Duffy, Mick Cahill, Thomas Victory, Mark Casey, Barney Steele
28th January	"Be the Change" Conference	Hilton Hotel, Dublin	P.J. Reilly
1st - 2nd February	The Finance (Local Property Tax) Bill 2012	Galway	Paul Connell, Padraig Loughrey, Frank Kilbride, Mark Casey, Barney Steele
1st - 3rd February	Merriman Summer School	Westport, Co. Mayo	P.J. Reilly
1st - 3rd February	Local Government impacts of Major Flooding & Freezing Spells	Dungarvan,	John Duffy
8th - 9th February	Equal Status (Amendment) Bill 2012	Tralee, Co.Kerry	Barney Steele, P.J.Reilly, Larry Bannon, Mark Casey, Padraig Loughrey, Gerry Brady, Frank Kilbride
14th February	Tolerance & Diversity in Ireland	U.C.D. Dublin	P.J.Reilly
15th - 16th February	Protection of the Individual -v-Freedom of Expression	Galway	P.J. Reilly, Gerry Brady, Mark Casey, Pad- raig Loughrey, Barney Steele, Paul Connell, Larry Bannon
15th -17th February	Longford Association in London	London	Sean Farrell, Luie McEntire
22nd - 24th February	Public Seminar on HSE Tobacco Control Policy	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	Paddy Belton
22nd - 23rd February	Health Issues Pertaining to Local Authority Housing	Westport, Co. Mayo	Thomas Victory, Mick Cahill, P.J. Reilly, Barney Steele, Paul Connell, Padraig Loughrey
1st - 2nd March	Action Plan for Jobs	Galway	Barney Steele
7th - 8th March	Association of County & City Councils	Waterford	Luie McEntire, Frank Kilbride
8th - 9th March	Public Policy Making & The Councillor	Bundoran, Co. Donegal	Thomas Victory
8th - 9th March	Local Government Supporting Volunteerism	Tralee	P.J. Reilly, Barney Steele, Mark Casey, Martin Mulleady
8th - 13th March	Longford Association Function in New York	New York	Sean Farrell, Peggy Nolan

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15th - 16th March	The Right to Privacy Data Protection Amendment Act 2013	Westport, Co. Mayo	Mark Casey, P.J. Reilly, Thomas victory, Mick Cahill, Martin Mulleady, Frank Kil- bride, Barney Steele
22nd - 23rd March	Employment Initatives & Supports for the Unemployed	Galway	Barney Steele
22nd - 24th March	Freedom of Information Seminar for Councillors	Limerick	Paul Connell, Padraig Loughrey
22nd March	National Roads Authority Meeting	Dublin	Mae Sexton, Thomas Victory, Frank Kilbride, P.J. Reilly, Sean Farrell, Mark Casey
29th - 31st March	Tax Entitlement Seminar	Carlingford, Co. Louth	John Duffy
5th & 6th April	LAMA Spring Seminar	Gorey, Co. Wexford	Paddy Belton, John Duffy, Larry Bannon, Mick Cahill, Thomas Victory, Gerry Brady
11th April	Teagasc & RDS Public Lecture Series	Dublin	Luie McEntire
13th April	Longford Association in Dublin	Dublin	Sean Farrell
12th - 13th April	The Future of Local Government in Ireland	Galway	Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele
18th - 20th April	The Gathering - Diaspora Tourism Matters	Carlow	Larry Bannon
19th - 20th April	Water Services Bill 2013	Westport, Co. Mayo	Frank Kilbride, Martin Mulleady, Barney Steele
26th - 27th April	Strengthening the Building Control System	Westport, Co. Mayo	Frank Kilbride
26th - 28th April	Meeting Management - Principles & Best Practice	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	Paul Connell, Padraigh Loughrey, Gerry Brady
3rd - 5th May	Countdown to Local Elections 2014 Training Seminar	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Mick Cahill
10th & 11th May	Flood Risk Assessment	Westport, Co. Mayo	Michael Carrigy, John Duffy, Peggy Nolan Frank Kilbride
17th - 18th May	Dealing with Unfinished Housing Estates	Tralee, Co. Kerry	Michael Carrigy, John Duffy, Paul Connell Padraigh Loughrey, Frank Kilbride
24th - 25th May	Common Agricultural Policy after 2013	Galway	Peggy Nolan, Frank Kilbride
30th - 31st May	National Conference Programme Sport Aiding Mental Health	Ballybofey	Larry Bannon
31st May - 1st June	The Nursing Home Support Scheme	Galway	Martin Mulleady, Paul Connell, Victor Kierna
7th - 8th June	Standards for Rented Houses	Westport, Co. Mayo	Mick Cahill, Thomas Victory
13th - 14th June	Dublin Declaration on HGF Friendly Communities	Dublin	Sean Farrell
14th - 15th June	Local Government: Learning from the Environment	Ballyvaughan	Thomas Victory, Mick Cahill
21st - 22nd June	Local Property Tax	Westport, Co. Mayo	Peggy Nolan
25th June	Regional Local Sports Partnership Meeting	Athlone	Micheal Carrigy
28th - 29th June	Mortgage Resolution Bill 2013	Tralee, Co.Kerry	Padraig Loughrey
5th - 6th July	Financing Current Local Government Expenditure Programmes	Westport, Co. Mayo	Peggy Nolan, Martin Mulleady, Victor Kiernan
12th - 13th July	Climate Change Policy Towards 2050	Westport	Peggy Nolan
19th - 20th July	Taxing Goods & Services	Tralee, Co. Kerry	Peggy Nolan, John Duffy
26th - 28th July	Employment Opportunities in Artisan Foods	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	Victor Kiernan, Padraig Loughrey
26th - 27th July	Banking and the Local Economy	Westport, Co. Mayo	Micheal Carrigy
2nd & 3rd August	Tax for the Business Sector	Galway	Micheal Carrigy, Larry Bannon,
			Martin Mulleady

16th - 18th August	Investment in Cultural Services	Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Larry Bannon, Micheal Carrigy
30th - 31st August	Changing Social Relations of Housing Tenure	Westport, Co. Mayo	P.J. Reilly, Victor Kiernan, John Browne,
			Larry Bannon, Mark Casey
23rd - 24th August	Community Development	Galway	John Browne, Victor Kiernan
6th - 7th September	Motor Vehicle Road Tax, Duties & Licences	Westport	John Browne, Mark Casey, Victor Kiernan
13th - 15th September	Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend	Omagh, Co. Tyrone	Luie McEntire
12th September	Environment Ireland Conference 2013	Dublin	Sean Farrell
20th - 21st September	Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013	Tralee, Co. Kerry	Mark Casey, Paul Connell
6th - 8th September	Making Small Business Work	Dublin	Luie McEntire
19th - 22nd September	Autumn Kerry Environmental Conference	Ballybunion	Luie McEntire
27th - 29th September	The Life & Times of Michael Collins	Cork	Gerry Brady
27th - 28th September	Pathways to Work 2013	Galway	Micheal Carrigy
4th - 6th October	Internet Elections	Dublin	Colm Murray
11th - 12th October	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Ennistymon, Co. Clare	John Browne, Mick Cahill, Micheal Carrigy,
			Victor Kiernan, Colm Murray, Thomas Victory
4th & 5th October	Community Living for Older People	Galway	Michael Carrigy, Martin Mulleady
18th - 19th October	Preventing & Reducing Alcohol Related Harm	Westport, Co. Mayo	Colm Murray
22nd - 28th October	Travel to Canada in connection with A'shrule and	Canada	Larry Bannon
	Communities in Bloom		
25th - 26th October	Supporting Enterprise in the Community	Galway	Martin Mulleady
1st - 2nd November	Electoral, Local Governments & Planning & Dev Act 2013	Westport	Michael Carrigy, Martin Mulleady
8th - 9th November	Local Authority Rates & Diminishing Returns	Galway	Martin Mulleady
16th November	Pride of Place	Derry	Larry Bannon
29th- 30th November	Early Education & Childcare in your Community	Tralee	Michael Carrigy
29th Nov - 1st Dec	SIPO & Councillors Obligations	Dublin	John Duffy
6th - 7th December	Preparing a Development Contribution Scheme	Galway	John Duffy, Mark Casey, Michael Carrigy,
			Thomas Victory
13th - 14th December	Housing Grants & Schemes	Galway	John Duffy, Peggy Nolan
13th - 15th December	Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2014	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	Luie McEntire, John Browne, Victor Kiernan
20th - 21st December	Improving Road Safety - Traffic Management	Westport, Co. Mayo	Luie McEntire, Larry Bannon
20th - 22nd December	Microsoft Excel Training for Councillors	Rosscarbery, Co. Cork	John Browne, Victor Kiernan

APPENDIX 6:

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014

Annual Report 2013

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Core Objective: "Ensure that infrastructural transportation policies and investments assist and enhance the economic and social development of County Longford, and preserve and improve the physical attractiveness of the county and its background environment".

MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL ROADS

Further improvement works were carried out in 2013. N55 National Secondary Road out of the town of Edgeworthstown towards the Dublin Road Roundabout.

Pavement improvement works were carried out on various sections of the N63 in Killashee village.

Patch and Repair improvement works were carried out at a number of locations on the National Road Network in the County, at:

- » N4 Newtownforbes to Rooskey Road at Cloonart
- » N63 Killashee Aghnaskea Repairs
- » N55 Dublin Road, Edgeworthstown
- » N55 Toneywarden Cross

Safety works were carried out at:

- » N55 Cullyvore to Crossea
- » N55 Ballymahon Footpath (Kepak)

Footpath repairs were carried out at:

- » N63 Lanesboro
- » N55 Ballymahon
- » N55 Granard
- » N63 Killashee

DRAINAGE WORKS

Funding was provided for Drainage Work Projects during 2013 at the following locations:

- » Road Drainage works @ Killeen , Legan
- » Road Drainage works @ Cloncullen, Ballymahon
- » Road Drainage works @ Cartronwar, Ardagh
- » Road Drainage works @ Cloonshannagh, Moatavalley
- » Road Drainage works @ Carrickduff, Dring

SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEMES

Specific Improvement Grant Schemes were advanced at the following locations:

- » Stonepark Road
- » Drumbad Bridge
- » Lehery Bridge
- » Kilglass/Legan Road
- » Aughnacliffe Bridge
- » Aughnacliffe/Aghakine Bridge,
- » Aghagreagh/Derrynavogy Bridge
- » Fardrummin Bridge.
- » Corrycorka Bridge
- » Granardkille Bridge
- » Moatavalley Bridge

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

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS

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

Improvement works were carried out at:

» Foynes Court Longford - Creevaghbeg Ballymahon - Ardagh Longford - Ballinalee - Kenagh - Devine Crescent - Drainage works North Longford

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

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

- » Trillick-a-Temple
- » Ennybegs Village
- » Ballinalee
- » Bracklin Road, Edgeworthstown
- » Aghaga

Road safety recommendations relating to Planning Permissions are ongoing.

CURRENT POLICIES

Quality road design standards were promoted for implementation.

Access for the disabled was promoted in accordance with recommended guidelines in consultation with stakeholders.

Participation continued in the Steering and Technical Groups managing the National Roads Authority Regional Design Office.

Appropriate liaison was promoted between transportation development stakeholders such as public representatives, representative bodies, the general public, the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Gardai, the Road Safety Authority, larnród Eireann, Waterways Ireland, etc.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

Longford County Council continue to operate a maintenance contract for public lighting. As part of this contract a number of areas have had their public lighting fittings upgraded. Energy efficient fixtures are installed where viable and where budget allows. Where there are issues with supply of public lighting upgrade works are commissioned as required.

TAKING IN CHARGE

Considerable progress has been made with Taking in Charge and the following estates have been taken in charge:

- » Auburn Village, Ballymahon
- » Cairn Hill View, Drumlish
- » Foynes Court, Longford
- » Cnoc na Greine, Granard
- » Goldsmith Meadows, Edgeworthstown
- » Church View, Ballymahon
- » Cloughree Well, Kenagh
- » Mahon Avenue/Castle Glenn Newtownforbes
- » Gleann Riada , Longford
- » Forty one additional Council Housing Estates throughout Longford.

HOUSING

Core Objectives: "Provide and maintain an acceptable standard of Social and Affordable housing in a planned environment that meets the needs of the people of County Longford and promotes social inclusion".

SOCIAL HOUSING

The housing needs of County Longford continued to be met through a range of housing options. A statutory assessment of housing need was undertaken in 2013.

Approximately €514,395 was spent under the Social Housing Investment Programme in 2013. Seven individual houses were purchased.

HOUSING MAINTENANCE / REFURBISHMENT

In 2013, a sum of €620,000 was provided in the budget for the maintenance and repair of Local Authority Housing.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Liaison Officer and the Social Worker continued to work with tenants and residents associations throughout 2013.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING

The Council continued its association with the Voluntary Housing Sector.

TENANT PURCHASE SCHEMES

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

LOANS/GRANTS

A total of 14 valid applications were received in 2013 with 8 loans approved and 8 advanced. This does not include preliminary applications refused or withdrawn.

In 2013, a combined total of 176 applications were received under the three Grant Schemes. A total of 150 grants were paid out and this amounted to €753,847.

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 continued to be followed by Longford County Council. This sets out the four year strategy in relation to the Programme and type of accommodation to be provided for travellers.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

At the end of 2013, there were 199 RAS tenancies in place. The RAS Scheme and the associated operational and administrative costs are self financing in Longford.

LONG TERM LEASING ARRANGEMENTS

There were 17 short term RAS Type leases in place at the end of 2013.

REMEDIAL/REGENERATION WORKS

In 2012 a budget of €1.65 million was approved to carry out Remedial Works at Tromra Road, Granard. This project consisted of the regeneration of 41 dwellings. Works commenced in March 2013 and were almost complete by end of 2013.

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS

The Local Authority is responsible for implementation and enforcement of accommodation standards in the rental sector.

ENERGY RETROFITTING SCHEME 2010

In 2013, Longford County Council received funding from the DoECLG in the amount of €1,147,820 as part of the above programme.

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ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CORPORATE & CULTURAL SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Core Objective: "Longford County Council will in collaboration with the appropriate agencies lead the economic development of County Longford"

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Longford County Council continues to collaborate with relevant bodies in supporting local industries in 2013. Despite the difficult economic environment in the last couple of years, a number of local companies achieved market growth and marginally increased their employment numbers.

- » In 2013, Longford Tourism App was launched to promote Tourism in Longford.
- » A Trails Strategy was completed in 2013.
- » The Gathering Initiative was highly successful with numerous events held though out the county.
- » Longford Local Authority worked closely in 2013 with ConnectIreland.com in the promotion and delivery of the "Succeed in Ireland" initiative
- » Longford Local Authority is working to develop Longford Canal cycle/walkway.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- » Longford County Development Board held two meeting in 2013. Agencies continued to network and work together on key priority areas.
- » Longford Westmeath Children's Services Committee was reformed in 2013 and a number of substructures were established.
- » Funding was secured from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to continue to support and enhance Longford Comhairle na nÓg. During 2013 members worked on an Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying Campaign.
- » County Longford Community & Voluntary Forum held their AGM on the 25th of May 2013. The Forum supports a membership of 157 community groups.
- » In 2013, County Longford won two of the top prizes in the National Pride of Place Competition they were, St Christopher's Services under the Community Arts section and the Killian Home Place Initiative in the Tourism Diaspora Category.
- » Two new playgrounds were constructed in Abbeyshrule and in Aughnacliffe.



APPENDIX 7: SERVICE INDICATORS

B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with

regard to private schemes (where appropriate)

A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	6.01 5.45 37.21	No full time stations in Longford 5.53 No full time stations in Longford 5.23
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	5.45	No full time stations in Longford
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		Longford
F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		5.23
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	37.21	
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	37.21	
but within 20 minutes		40.69
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	53.88	47.93
	8.91	11.38
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	40.28	39.74
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	52.78	41.03
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	6.94	19.23
F.3 Fire Prevention		
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	25	38
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	26	39
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme		
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na	96.3	92
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	96.3	92
CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	96.3	92
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum		
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum C: CORPORATE ISSUES		
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum C: CORPORATE ISSUES C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness		
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum C: CORPORATE ISSUES C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	159	162
CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	159	4.57

Information to be provided by EPA

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E.3 Waste Segregation		
A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	88.44	Provided by the Nationa Waste Permit
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	28.79	Collection Office (NW-CPO)
E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling		
A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	29.25	Provided by the Nationa Waste Permit
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	2391	Provided by the Nationa Waste Permit
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	1238	1273
E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill		
A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	53.21	Provided by the Nationa Waste Permit
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	7072	Provided by the Nationa Waste Permit
E6: Recycling Facilities		
The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	25	25
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	2	2
Glass		
A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	25	25
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	27	27
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.46	3.46
Cans		
E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	25	25
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	27	27
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.46	3.46
Textiles		
I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	2	2
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	4	4
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.51	0.51
Batteries		
M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	2	2
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.26	26
Oils		
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	1	1
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	_1	1
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.13	0.13
Other materials		
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	1	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	1	2
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.13	0.26

3	3	
0	0	
0.38	0.38	
326	343	
125	142	
7	3	
5	3	
0	0	
7	8	
3	7	
Information proviced Monitoring System	d directly from National Littering	
Information proviced Monitoring System	d directly from National Littering	
Information proviced Monitoring System	d directly from National Littering	
Information proviced directly from National Litterin Monitoring System		
Information proviced directly from National Littering Monitoring System		
1933	1802	
1933	1860	
1713	1749	
429	547	
100	100	
100	100	
	1892.75	
1867.5	1873.75	
4.56	5.18	
84.46	76.8	
15.54	23.2	
	12.03	
14.26		
4.75	9.36	
4.75	9.36	
	0 0.38 326 125 7 5 0 7 3 Information proviced Monitoring System 1933 1933 1713 429 100 100 100 1897 1867.5	

A. Total number of registered tenancies	1795	1982
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	164	127
C. Number of inspections carried out	173	151
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	9.14	6.41
H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability		
A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	2.42	2
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	7.88	4
H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses		
A. Total number of new local authority tenants	143	126
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	97.9	86.51
L: LIBRARY SERVICES		
L.1 Library Public Opening Hours		
A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	35.42	32.8
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	16.55	15.86
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	66.66	66.67
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100	100
L.2 Library Visits		
Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	4398.08	4186.28
L.3 Library Stock		
A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	1.84	1.4
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3.3	3
	0.16	0.18
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items L.4 Internet Access through Libraries	0.16	
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries	677.21	634.72
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION		
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population		
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions	677.21	634.72
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	677.21	634.72
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	31261 2429	634.72 30915 3509
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	31261 2429 12423	30915 3509 14876
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	31261 2429 12423 67.79	30915 3509 14876 62.71
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27	30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27	30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12
M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27 26.94	30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12 30.17
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27 26.94	30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12 30.17
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27 26.94	30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12 30.17
L.4 Internet Access through Libraries Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population M: MOTOR TAXATION M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone) M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from	31261 2429 12423 67.79 5.27 26.94 2130	634.72 30915 3509 14876 62.71 7.12 30.17 1820 715

G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1.73	4.59
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	0.41	23.17
M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications		
A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	757	394
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	314	799
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	240	204
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	4162	2793
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	13.83	9.4
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	5.74	19.07
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	4.39	4.87
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	76.05	66.66
M.4 Public opening hours		
Average number of opening hours per week	29.66	28.63
P: PLANNING P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making		
Individual Houses		
A. Number of applications decided	51	24
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	38	13
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	13	11
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	77.38	77.08
E Parcentage of applications granted	92.16	61.67
F. Percentage of applications granted		01.07
G. Percentage of applications refused	7.84	8.33
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord	7.84	8.33
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	7.84	8.33
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	7.84	8.33
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development	7.84 50 50	8.33 100 0
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided	7.84 50 50	8.33 100 0
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	7.84 50 50 2 1	8.33 100 0
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant,	7.84 50 50 2 1	8.33 100 0 2 0 2
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was	7.84 50 50 2 1 1	8.33 100 0 2 0 2
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	7.84 50 50 2 1 1 0 78	8.33 100 0 2 0 2 0 79
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought F. Percentage of applications granted	7.84 50 50 2 1 1 0 78 100	8.33 100 0 2 0 2 0 79 50
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought F. Percentage of applications granted G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord	7.84 50 50 2 1 1 0 78 100 0	8.33 100 0 2 0 2 0 79 50 1
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought F. Percentage of applications granted G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	7.84 50 50 2 1 1 0 78 100 0	8.33 100 0 2 0 2 0 79 50 1
G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala New Housing Development A. Number of applications decided B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000 E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought F. Percentage of applications granted G. Percentage of applications refused H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	7.84 50 50 2 1 1 0 78 100 0	8.33 100 0 2 0 2 0 79 50 1

A. The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at

D. Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line

E. Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in

F. Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to

193

75.76

226

73.08

B. Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question

C. Number of dwellings in respect of column B

the beginning of the year

with the planning permission

question and/or the bond was called in

bring the estate to taking in charge standard

Longford County Council				
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	35	29	DEC. DECDEATIONAL CEDVICES	
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant,			REC: RECREATIONAL SERVICES	
under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0	Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds	
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was			A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.31
sought	76.31	76.82	B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.03
F. Percentage of applications granted	96.06	97.32	Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities	
G. Percentage of applications refused	3.94	2.68	Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	2863.43
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	75	100	Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION	
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	25	0	Rev.1 House Rent	
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment				00.00
A. Number of applications decided	0	0	A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	88.32
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	0	0	B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	0	0	C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	4
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant,			D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	7
under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	0	E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	83
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0	0	Rev.2 Housing Loans A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	67.09
F. Percentage of applications granted	0	0	B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1
G. Percentage of applications refused	0	0	C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	2
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord			D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	1
Pleanala	N/A	N/A	E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	96
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	N/A	N/A	Rev.3 Commercial Rates	30
P.2 Planning Enforcement				71.31
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	67	104	Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	71.31
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	14	17	Rev.4 Refuse Charges	Nick coolington
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	59	51	Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	Not applicable a Authorities
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	39	27	Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges	
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	23	22	Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	61.33
F. Number of prosecutions	3	9		
P.3 Planning Public opening hours			D. DOADS	
Average number of opening hours per week	30.72	30.66	R: ROADS	
P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation			R1: Road Restoration Programme	
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	79	38	Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	55.67
B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	12.62	8.48	Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	0.32
P.5 New Buildings inspected				
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	15.69	16.67		
P.6 Taking Estates in Charge				

EC: RECREATIONAL SERVICES		
c.1 Children's Playgrounds		
Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.31	0.31
Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.03	0.18
c.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities		
mber of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	2863.43	4343.82
v: REVENUE COLLECTION		
v.1 House Rent		
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	88.32	87.14
Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	6	7
Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	4	5
Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	7	7
Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	83	81
v.2 Housing Loans		
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	67.09	60.84
Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1	1
Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	2	1
Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	1	2
Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	96	96
v.3 Commercial Rates		
ount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	71.31	69.79
v.4 Refuse Charges		
centage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	Not applicable as privatised in Longford Local Authorities	
v.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges		
ount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	61.33	63.1



54.46

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2013

