

**LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*Review*

*of*

*“The Way Forward”*

*Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural  
Development for County Longford  
2002-2011*

**Action Plan**

**2006-2008**



# LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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## CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 What is the County Development Board?**

Longford Development Board was established in 2000, to integrate local government and local development systems using the partnership approach. It was recognised that so much more could be done if all local agencies and bodies operating in a county were given the opportunity to come together and agree a common approach to serving communities at local level, as many of the most pressing of today's problems straddle traditional service boundaries and therefore require integrated solutions.

### **1.2 Working Groups**

The substructures of the Board consist of the following two sub-committees:

- **Economic, Culture, Sports & Recreation**
- **Social**

### **1.3 Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIMWG)**

The SIMWG were primarily established to deal with the co-ordination of the National Development Plan Social Inclusion Measures and as such,

- ❑ *Act as a broker/facilitator of protocols between agencies at local level.*
- ❑ *Carry out an assessment of the extent of co-ordination of SIMWG at local level.*
- ❑ *Identify gaps and overlaps in the delivery of local social inclusion services.*
- ❑ *Share information*
- ❑ *Provide mutual knowledge of each organisation's key roles and personnel.*
- ❑ *Exchange views and insights*

Since they were established they have been given a number of additional tasks to monitor the RAPID programme and to assess the draft local development agencies plans and make recommendations to the County Development Board. The purpose of this assessment is to facilitate better co-ordination, minimise duplication and improve the targeting of services. They are also responsible for the Cohesion and Integrated Target Group Plans.

Membership of the SIMWG consists of representatives of agencies on the board. The group is expanded from time to time to include individuals with particular expertise on specific topic under consideration :-

<i>Longford Women's Link.</i>	<i>Longford Gardai.</i>	<i>LCRL</i>
<i>Health Service Executive</i>	<i>Dept. Social &amp; Family Affairs</i>	<i>VEC.</i>
<i>FAS.</i>	<i>County Childcare Committee</i>	<i>ICTU</i>
<i>Dept. Education &amp; Science</i>	<i>Acorn (CDP)</i>	<i>Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</i>



## ***1.4 County Longford Community & Voluntary Forum***

The Community & Voluntary Forum was established in early 2001. The membership of the Forum is over 140 groups covering a wide range of interest groups and geographical areas.

The key objectives of the Forum are as follows:

- To provide a Forum for community and voluntary groups to network, build linkages, consult and be consulted on a wide variety of topics relating to the social, economic and cultural development of County Longford.
- To act as a nomination body for the community and voluntary sector in County Longford.
- To provide a bridge for the exchange of information between local communities, statutory agencies and non-governmental bodies, national and international.
- To facilitate the involvement of local communities in policy development and participation in community development at local level.

The Community and Voluntary Sector is one of the Social Partners and are represented on the Board by 2 members. A democratically elected Umbrella Forum of 22 members operates as a Steering Group at County level and fulfils a key link between the Board and the wider community.

Members of the Steering Group are nominated onto the following structures:

- Longford County Development Board.
- Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
- County Childcare Committee
- Regional Drugs Taskforce
- Strategic Policy Committees of the Local Authority
- Longford Community Resources Ltd
- Co. Longford Youth Service
- Citizens Information Service
- County Heritage Forum

The Community and Enterprise Section resources and supports the Community and Voluntary Forum. The section, also, maintains a database of registered Community and Voluntary organisations in the County. Since September 2005, Longford County Council have employed a full time Support Worker to work with the Forum.

## ***1.5 What is the Strategy ?***

The ten-year Strategy ‘The Way Forward’ was compiled as a result of an intensive consultation process and covers all major services and provides a “*Shared vision*” or broad sense of direction for the economic, social and cultural development of County Longford for the next ten years. In other words, ***what kind of place should Longford be to work and live in by the year 2011?*** It also provides a more strategic and integrated response to the challenges facing Longford and will assist in shaping and developing the county for the future.



As it was not possible for the Strategy to meaningfully deal in the same depth with every subject, it has focussed on the issues identified by the Board as important in County Longford. Issues have been examined from both a sectoral point of view such as agriculture, housing and education as well as adopting a thematic approach in such areas as childcare, rural transport and environment. This type of approach allows traditional sectoral barriers to be sidelined in the strategy process.

## ***1.6 Strategy Implementation***

The Strategy is a set of agreed overall objectives and targets. It is a framework into which relevant aspects of the activities and plans of all relevant organisations, groups and agencies must fit. Responsibility for formulation and delivery of detailed sectoral plans of the constituent members of the CDB, remain with these organisations and will reinforce each other rather than compete with each other, with the role of the CDB being a co-ordinating one.

## ***1.7 Operating Principles of the Board***

A number of core values and philosophies were agreed by the Board at the outset a summary of which were as follows: -

- ❑ Mutual respect of the constituent bodies of the CDB for each other's work
- ❑ Two way communication process between each member and the organisation which they are representing
- ❑ A recognition of the distinct features of County Longford and an understanding of a number of sub-county concerns and issues
- ❑ An explicit focus on social inclusion working in tandem with the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group for County Longford
- ❑ Coordination with the work of Longford County Council's Strategic Policy Committees
- ❑ Facilitation of maximum participation and inclusion
- ❑ On-going, meaningful, widespread consultation throughout all stages of the process
- ❑ Adoption of a team based approach with decision making by consensus
- ❑ Transparency and accountability in all stages of the process
- ❑ Responsibility and ownership of the whole process to be shared by all
- ❑ Reconnaissance of sustainable development principles



## CHAPTER TWO – REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

### ***2.1 Purpose of the Review***

The comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan remains the guiding documents for the CDB. The associated work programme will continue over the next ten-years.

In January 2005, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government requested all City and County Development Boards to undertake a review of their 10-year strategies. In particular, this review should result in:

- ❑ The selection of a limited number of key priorities and actions on which the CDB will concentrate over the following three years
- ❑ A focus on integrative actions aimed at a more joined-up approach to local service delivery involving relevant agencies: and
- ❑ A clearly defined implementation work programme for 2006-2008

### ***2.2 Process of Preparing the Review***

The Board agreed a work plan, outlining the approach and methodology of undertaking the Review. The Review was carried out internally. A review document was prepared of progress to date for each section of the Strategy. This document identified what was achieved, the non –starters and areas requiring further progress. The breakdown of actions is as follows:

#### **Economic Section**

- *Total Actions – 227*
- *Achieved/Ongoing – 195*

#### **Culture/Sport & Recreation Section**

- *Total Actions – 123*
- *Achieved/Ongoing - 102*

#### **Social Section**

- *Total Actions – 467*
- *Achieved/Ongoing - 400*

**Of the combined total of 817 actions, 697 are achieved, some of which ongoing.**  
***(See Appendix 2 for a detailed breakdown of actions in the subsections)***

This Review was undertaken through consultation with CDB members and key stakeholders. CDB members were consulted through:

- ❑ One-on-one consultations with agencies.
- ❑ A special planning workshop held in Cavan in November 2005
- ❑ Review focused CDB meetings throughout 2005



## **2.3 Context of the Review**

In preparing the Review, an account was also taken of a number of key national and regional policies and strategies. Examples of the main documents are as follows: -

### ***National Policies***

- *National Development Plan, 1999*
- *National Spatial Strategy*
- *Programme for Prosperity & Fairness*
- *National Partnership Agreement 'Sustaining Progress'*
- *National Anti-Poverty Strategy*
- *National Sustainable Development Strategy*
- *Information Age Policy and Information and Communication Technologies*
- *White Paper on Rural Development*
- *National Employment Action Plan*
- *Employment Equality Act 1998*
- *Disability Bill 2004*
- *Equal Status Act 2000*
- *Local Government Planning & Development Act 2002*
- *Making Ireland's Development Sustainable, 2002*
- *Rural Transport Initiative*
- *National Children's Strategy*
- *National Drugs Strategy*
- *YouthWork Act 2001*
- *White Paper on Adult Education*
- *National Health Strategy*
- *White Paper on Community & Voluntary sector activity, 2000*

### ***Regional***

- *Regional Planning Guidelines*
- *Retail Planning Guidelines*
- *Midlands Waste Management Strategy*
- *Midlands Region Drugs Task Force Strategy 2004*

### ***Local***

- Longford County Development Plan 2001
- Longford Local Authority Housing Strategy 2001
- Longford County Development Strategy & Implementation Plan 2002-2011
- Longford Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2005-2009
- Longford County Childcare Strategy 2003
- County Health Plan 2003
- Submission on the Integration, Co-Ordination and Cohesion of Local Community & Development Structures in County Longford
- Longford Community Resources Ltd Plans under the Social Inclusion and Leader programmes



## CHAPTER THREE – SUMMARY PROFILE

### ***3.1 Summary Profile of County Longford***

#### **The Economy**

##### ***Agriculture***

- 65% of the total land area of the county is farmland
- Farm sizes in the county are generally small.
- Average income per farm is low with significant differences in the size and quality of farms between the north and south of the county.

##### ***Forestry***

- 5.7% of the land area of the county is under forestry. This compares with a national average of 9%.
- The forest plantation is dispersed throughout the county, generally in small clusters averaging 15 hectares.
- The numbers in employment in this sector are proportionately high compared to the percentage of land planted, attributable mainly to Glennon's sawmill, a locally based industry that is the largest saw log producer in Ireland.

##### ***Manufacturing & Industry***

- Since 1997, four manufacturing factories closed, two of which relate to the textile industry and the other two being in the electronics and engineering fields.
- There has been an over-reliance on foreign investment in Longford

##### ***Tourism***

- Longford as an area has little tourism identity within the East Coast & Midlands Tourism Area in which it is located.
- Angling and waterways tourism are particularly important to the county and there is significant development potential in these sectors both as tourism attractions and recreational and leisure facilities.
- Tourism infrastructure in the county is still largely underdeveloped and lacks in particular a flagship attraction.

##### ***Environment***

- The river water quality in County Longford is average, with a general increase in phosphorous levels particularly in the stretch from Ballymahon to Lough Ree, which must be abated as increased levels of nutrients lead to eutrophication, which has a negative effect on both water quality and fishing potential.
- Longford is party to the midlands waste management plan and has 22 bring banks and 1 civic amenity sites
- The built environment of Longford has become characterised by numerous new developments since the advent of the Rural Renewal Scheme in April 1999 and the number of planning applications has almost doubled.



- Significant increase in the number of applications for commercial projects and multiple dwellings. This increase in development activity may be also be partially attributable to the ever expanding overflow from the Greater Dublin Region, a trend which is set to escalate as the national road infrastructure is upgraded and bottlenecks on the main routes by-passed.

### **Social Situation**

- Longford has suffered from population decline and severe rural depopulation particularly in the north of the county.
- The county also has a low population density, an imbalanced age structure and a higher than average dependency ratio.
- Labour force participation rate (54.9%), 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country
- Unemployment rate (10.1%), one sixth higher than the national average
- Ratio of Unemployed to labour force participation puts Longford in the bottom four counties in the country.
- Numbers on the live register at the end of December 2005 were 1754.
- Fourth highest percentage of people who left school with no primary education
- Eight highest level of unskilled people in the workforce in the country.
- Highest percentages of people over 65 and living alone
- Income poverty risk in Longford is 50% above the national average.
- According to the 1999 Report from the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Longford has one of the highest numbers of Travellers nationally. In comparison to other areas, only Galway and Kerry have accommodated more. Three times above the national average of Travellers living in Co. Longford
- Over half 55% of Travellers are under 19 years of age.
- Longford has a much smaller proportion of the population in the active age group than is found in the population at large, and hence has a higher dependency rate.
- Approximately 700 Refugees/Asylum seekers predominantly living in Longford town.
- Over 100 a month of migrant workers registering for PPS numbers.
- Physical access to facilities can often be a major barrier to participation as can affordability, transport particularly in rural areas and lack of crèche facilities.
- County Longford has suffered from a high level of out migration, which is reflected in the level of educational attainment of those remaining.
- Statistics indicate that the population of Longford left school relatively young and have a lower level of educational attainment than the population of the midlands region and the country as a whole. The level of qualification is correspondingly lower also.
- Longford has no third level educational establishment. However, a Third level Outreach Steering Group has been established to try and address this issue.



- Longford has a relatively low number of third level graduates resident in the county, attributable mainly to the fact that there has been a lack of graduate opportunities in the county to date.
- The lower educational attainment of the remaining population may be explained by the migration of those better educated to opportunities outside the county.
- Longford shares its acute hospital services with Westmeath, with the service based in Mullingar. Consultants for Longford patients are situated at the acute hospital sites in both Mullingar and Tullamore.
- Longford has an outpatient clinic based in St. Joseph's Hospital Longford town. The Mental Health outpatient services are provided locally in Longford with in-patient services provided at St. Loman's Hospital Mullingar.
- No Sports Partnership in the county therefore information and supports on sports and recreational facilities is very limited.



## CHAPTER 4 – Key ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2006-2008

### **4.1 Introduction**

Since the launch of the CDB Strategy, ‘The Way Forward’, in June 2002. The local agencies have co-operated in delivering many of the actions identified in the plan. If progress were to be measured in absolute terms then 85% of the proposed actions are either complete or in progress. This remarkable level of achievement in such a short period of time is a clear indication of the commitment of the CDB members to finding new ways of working together in a co-ordinated and targeted manner. The key challenge for the Board members is to move from co-operation to collaboration in delivering the Board’s priority actions over the next three years.

### **4.2 Achievements in Economic Development**

- ❑ Community Enterprise Centre established in Longford town co-locating the County Enterprise Board, the Leader and partnership company, the County Childcare Committee and providing enterprise incubation space.
- ❑ Decentralisation of the Prison Services secured
- ❑ Abbott pharmaceutical company up and running providing 600 jobs of which 80% are for graduates
- ❑ Broadband approved for Longford town and grant aid received under the County Group Broadband scheme in a number of areas.
- ❑ Development of a number of small industrial estates located throughout County Longford
- ❑ Opportunities for Farm Families programme availed of by a large number of farm families
- ❑ Farmers Market established
- ❑ Industry and education links strenghtened
- ❑ A range of training and development courses provided by different agencies.
- ❑ 25 bring banks and 1 civic amenity site inplace
- ❑ 90% of schools are registered with the Green School Programme.
- ❑ Environmental transnational programme inplace
- ❑ Large goods collection and the WEE collection are ongoing.
- ❑ Revamp furniture recycling project is in place.
- ❑ Tourist accommodation and product initiatives supported locally
- ❑ CLAR funding secured for infrastructure projects
- ❑ Rail service upgraded and frequency increased
- ❑ Programme of bypasses in progress

### **Challenges in Economic Development**

- ❑ Consolidate and expand a number of key inward investment enterprises
- ❑ Maintain links with state development agencies
- ❑ Develop infrastructure to cope with the increasing development demands.
- ❑ Market County Longford as an investment location
- ❑ Develop an entrepreneur culture in County Longford.



- ❑ Upskill the labour force
- ❑ Continue to develop third level courses and part time education options locally
- ❑ Develop the Tourism potential of the County
- ❑ Develop & support the agricultural industry
- ❑ Provide a range of supports & resources to build strong local communities
- ❑ Maintain a competitive advantage
- ❑ Provide land banks for industrial purposes

### **4.3 Achievements in Cultural Development, Sport & Recreation**

- ❑ New playgrounds provided in Longford town and Granard.
- ❑ Play policy adopted by Longford County Council.
- ❑ New Longford Swimming Pool Project advanced to contract stage.
- ❑ Continued investment in I.C.T to provide easy access to accurate up to date government, community and business information.
- ❑ Multi-agency Focus Group established to promote online government information services.
- ❑ Free internet and email access provided to through branch libraries network
- ❑ Internet training provided to the general public through the library.
- ❑ Basic language learning classes running (Irish, French and Spanish) in Longford branch library.
- ❑ Certificate in Local History Studies run in association with NUI Maynooth and the VEC.
- ❑ Developed a Paired Writing project promoting creative writing for children and parents, which is delivered through schools and libraries around the county.
- ❑ Engaged in research and development projects to improve the quality and delivery of services in our multicultural society.
- ❑ Initiated training programmes addressing barriers to access for the people with disabilities
- ❑ Provided assistive technology software in two branch libraries for users with a disability and are in the process of rolling it out in additional four branches.
- ❑ Worked with Longford Older People's Network to provide an ongoing education/cultural programme each year for the Bealtaine Festival.
- ❑ Included a percent for arts scheme in capital development projects where possible.
- ❑ Carried out research and developed proposals for the delivery of community arts programmes to marginalized groups.
- ❑ Implemented the Goldsmith Country Tourism Development Report
- ❑ Enhancement of local community centres
- ❑ Adopted County Longford Heritage Plan for 2004/2009.
- ❑ Established a Heritage Forum.
- ❑ Adopted County Longford Arts Plan for 2005/2010
- ❑ Promoted heritage education programmes in schools
- ❑ Co-ordinated an audit on all information available on Longford national heritage.
- ❑ Identified and applied for additional funding resources for the conservation and promotion of our heritage.
- ❑ Digitised the Place names of County Longford and have made them available on [www.longfordlibrary.ie](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie)



- ❑ Currently developing a database of Historical Features of County Longford.
- ❑ Run an annual Seachtain na Gaeilge programme of events promoting Iris
- ❑ Adopted arts Plan 2005/2010

### **Challenges in Cultural Development Sport & Recreation**

- ❑ Secure funding and resources to establish a Local Sports Partnership.
- ❑ Increase participation in sports & leisure activities.
- ❑ Develop recreation & amenity facilities throughout the county
- ❑ Secure funding for additional playgrounds
- ❑ Establish a County Museum
- ❑ Continue to invest in ICT to provide easy access of information to the wider community
- ❑ Continue to engage in research and development projects to improve the delivery of services in our multicultural society.
- ❑ Create an awareness and appreciation of literature in young children.

### **4.3 Achievements in Social**

- ❑ Ongoing interagency events and training organised to support the integration of ethnic minorities living in County Longford
- ❑ A tenant handbook prepared for tenants of Longford County Council
- ❑ Estate management programme in place
- ❑ A county awards scheme for local authority housing estates
- ❑ Domestic Violence Support Worker secured for County Longford
- ❑ Training and small grant aid provided to unemployed people wishing to set up their own business through the Back to Work Scheme.
- ❑ Interagency pre employment courses run throughout the county
- ❑ Additional Private & Community Childcare facilities secured throughout the county under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme.
- ❑ Comhairle na nOg run every year to involve young people in the decision making process.
- ❑ A Garda Youth Diversion programme established in Longford town
- ❑ Rapid programme secured for Longford Town
- ❑ Rural Transport project established in North Longford
- ❑ Additional youth workers secured for County Longford Youth Service
- ❑ Funding secured under Cohesion round 1 for the co-ordination and integration of services.
- ❑ Older Persons Network established
- ❑ Community Development Project secured for Longford Town.
- ❑ Post Primary Principals Forum established.
- ❑ Third Level Outreach Steering Group established, research undertaken and courses run locally.
- ❑ Funding secured under EQUAL 1 & 2 to increase the number of women setting up their own business
- ❑ Local Traveller Accommodation Plan adopted
- ❑ Additional hostel accommodation for the homeless secured
- ❑ Increased participation of the Voluntary sector through the establishment of the Community & Voluntary Forum
- ❑ Multi-agency focus group established for geographical area (Granard)



## Challenges in Social Inclusion

- ❑ Extend Rural transport provision to ensure accessibility
- ❑ Increase the number of women on decision-making bodies.
- ❑ Develop drop in and part time childcare services
- ❑ Co-ordinate services for people with disabilities.
- ❑ Mainstream local initiatives addressing disadvantage
- ❑ Implement the Youth Work Act 2001
- ❑ Co-ordination of services for victims of domestic violence
- ❑ Prevention of early school leaving
- ❑ Provision of services for those who have left school early to include part time options.
- ❑ Reduce the number of crimes against the person
- ❑ Continue to provide and develop support for ethnic minorities and migrant workers.
- ❑ Profile poverty and social exclusion in County Longford and direct appropriate resources in a targeted manner
- ❑ Develop a cohesive approach to service delivery
- ❑ Promote support services for older people
- ❑ Prevention of substance misuse
- ❑ Provision of treatment services for chemical dependants in County Longford
- ❑ Provide a range of supports for marginalized men.
- ❑ Provide supports to rural smallholders.
- ❑ Increase the level of volunteering
- ❑ Combat anti social behaviour
- ❑ Increase local provision of primary healthcare services



## CHAPTER 5 - ACTION PLAN 2006-2008

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Economic Development of County Longford</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop &amp; support a County Longford Enterprise Forum</li> <li>• Agree a terms of reference for the Forum</li> <li>• Identify the county's strengths &amp; weakness</li> <li>• Produce an information pack to market Longford as an investment location</li> <li>• Establish the 'Enterprise Encounter' programme in the post primary schools</li> <li>• Carry out a skills availability &amp; a skills needs audit</li> <li>• Develop interagency training &amp; education programme to address any perceived skills deficit aimed at up skilling the labour force</li> <li>• Include part time options and online training</li> <li>• Develop third level outreach provision</li> <li>• Provide a range of supports in terms of childcare and transport to improve participation rates</li> <li>• Provide a range of supports to rural smallholders</li> <li>• Increase the availability of land serviced for industrial purposes</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006-2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	LCC
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	LCC, CEB, LCRL, IDA, E.I. COC, FAS, VEC, D/E&S, D/S&FA, Teagasc, LCCC
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum established and meet four times a year</li> <li>• Terms of reference in place</li> <li>• S.W.O.T. analysis undertaken</li> <li>• Information pack produced &amp; used to market Longford</li> <li>• Programme established in 50% of post primary schools</li> <li>• Identification of skills availability and skills need</li> <li>• Training undertaken with part time options</li> <li>• Increased participation in third level education</li> <li>• Childcare and transport supports provided</li> <li>• A range of supports provided to smallholders</li> <li>• Additional serviced land available for industrial purposes</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation</b>	Economic & Social Section



<b>Action Number</b>	2
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Modern Resilient Infrastructure to Support Development Demands</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing water supply for Longford town</li> <li>• Secure funding for the Longford N5 bypass</li> <li>• Extend the dual carriage way through Longford</li> <li>• Increase access to broadband</li> <li>• Provide enterprise spaces</li> <li>• Provide adequate waste water treatment facilities throughout County Longford</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	LCC
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Members of the Enterprise Forum
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town water supply upgraded</li> <li>• Longford N5 bypass commenced</li> <li>• Dual carriage way secured</li> <li>• Broadband operational</li> <li>• Additional enterprise spaces provided</li> <li>• Funding secured for waste water programme</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Economic Section:- Actions on Infrastructure

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Building Local Communities</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a community taskforce</li> <li>• Draw up a terms of reference for the taskforce</li> <li>• Develop protocols for more effective interagency co-operation</li> <li>• Provide capacity building training to local residents</li> <li>• Implement anti social behaviour policy</li> <li>• Put measures in place to protect the environment, awareness raising and enforcement</li> <li>• Undertake estate enhancement work</li> <li>• Establish a local pride of place competition</li> <li>• Implement village &amp; town enhancement programme</li> <li>• Establish youth services</li> <li>• Involve young people in the decision making process</li> <li>• Develop Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes</li> <li>• Support local development associations and Tidy Towns committees</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	LCC
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	LCC, LTC, GTC, LCRL, VEC, Gardai, Youth Services, Acorn CDP, Local residents.
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Taskforce established</li> <li>• Agreed protocols in place and implemented</li> <li>• Training provided in a number of targeted areas</li> <li>• Anti social behaviour policy in place</li> <li>• Measures in place to tackle illegal dumping</li> <li>• Estate enhancement work undertaken in a number of targeted estates</li> <li>• Local Pride of Place competition established</li> <li>• Village &amp; town enhancement projects in place</li> <li>• Youth services established in targeted areas</li> <li>• Run a Comhairle na nOg annually</li> <li>• Additional Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes established</li> <li>• Support provided to local development associations and Tidy Towns Committees</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage To Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Economic & Social Section

<b>Action Number</b>	4
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Facilitate Greater Participation in Leisure Activities</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Sports Partnership</li> <li>• Appoint a Sports Development Officer</li> <li>• Implement joint projects with the Health Promotion Unit to ensure increased participation in Sports &amp; Recreation</li> <li>• Undertake an audit of recreation &amp; amenity facilities in the county</li> <li>• Implement a programme to deliver playgrounds throughout the county</li> <li>• Work with the planning department to promote the development of amenity areas in towns &amp; villages and in new housing estates</li> <li>• Increase accessibility to leisure facilities</li> <li>• Increase awareness of amenity locations</li> <li>• Construct a new Longford Swimming Pool</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	VEC
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	VEC, LCC, LCRL, HSE, Sports organisations
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports partnership established</li> <li>• Sports Development Officer in place subject</li> <li>• Joint programmes run in schools &amp; in the community</li> <li>• Audit undertaken by the end of 2006</li> <li>• Programme on delivery of playgrounds in place</li> <li>• New form of interaction established with the Planning SPC</li> <li>• Work in conjunction with sporting organisations to ensure facilities are accessible for people with disabilities</li> <li>• Publish an information booklet on amenity locations</li> <li>• Construction of Swimming Pool completed</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Culture, Sport & Recreation Section

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Develop the Tourism Potential of County Longford</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare &amp; implement a tourism product development &amp; marketing plan for the county that incorporates clearly achievable actions.</li> <li>• Identify those actions that require collaboration</li> <li>• Seek the commitment of relevant agencies</li> <li>• Develop and support local craft enterprises</li> <li>• Support the County Longford Tourism Committee</li> <li>• Develop a new tourist office and craft enterprises</li> <li>• Develop the potential of the inland waterways network</li> <li>• Increase the use of the Internet in providing information and marketing</li> <li>• Support and develop the marketing of the unique musical and cultural festivals of the county</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	County Tourism Committee
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Members of the County Tourism Committee
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing plan in place</li> <li>• Collaborative actions identified</li> <li>• Commitment secured</li> <li>• Local craft enterprises established and supported</li> <li>• Funding provided to County Longford Tourism Committee</li> <li>• New Tourist office in place and a new craft enterprises developed</li> <li>• Development of the inland waterways underway</li> <li>• Increased usage of the internet for information and marketing purposes</li> <li>• Marketing plan in place for musical and cultural festivals</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Economic Section – Actions on Tourism

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Co-ordination of Services for Victims of Domestic Violence</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an interagency group to develop an integrated response to women &amp; children experiencing domestic violence.</li> <li>• Assess the usage of existing services and the level of co-ordination between services</li> <li>• Increase awareness of service availability</li> <li>• Put in place clear progression routes from crisis to longer-term solutions.</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	•
<b>Convenor</b>	CDB
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	LWL, Garda, HSE, LCC, Homeless Hostel, Legal Aid, Court Service, Community Welfare Service.
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency group established</li> <li>• Research undertaken and presented</li> <li>• Increased awareness of service availability</li> <li>• More effective collaboration between service providers</li> <li>• Effective and efficient response for the client.</li> <li>• Increase in the number of women &amp; children supported with positive outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section – Actions for Women

<b>Action Number</b>	7
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Reduction of Early School Leaving &amp; the Provision of Services for those who have left school early</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an interagency group on early school leaving</li> <li>• Develop terms of reference</li> <li>• Source funding for after school services.</li> <li>• Develop pre school services in disadvantage areas</li> <li>• Support collaboration between primary &amp; post primary schools</li> <li>• Establish a system to enable agencies to work with ESL who are tracked by the Education Welfare Officer</li> <li>• Develop part time options for ESL</li> <li>• Develop a programme of literature events for young children</li> <li>• Organise workshops on reading with your child</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	VEC
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	VEC, Dept. Education & Science, Post Primary Principals Forum, Primary Principals Forum, LCCC, LCRL, Youth Services, HSL, EWO, GYDP, D/S&FA, D/E&S, ACORN CDP, LTM
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of schools participating.</li> <li>• Funding secured for after-school services run by local committees</li> <li>• At least one meeting a year between primary &amp; post primary sectors.</li> <li>• A tracking system in place</li> <li>• Increased participation in part time programmes leading to full time study or employment</li> <li>• Literature Programme up and running</li> <li>• A series of workshops held</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section – Actions on Education Cultural section

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Integration of Ethnic Minorities and Migrant Workers</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding for 2 Support Workers</li> <li>• Produce literature in different languages</li> <li>• Provide language training</li> <li>• Draw up an intercultural programme of events over a three year period</li> <li>• Consult with asylum seekers and migrant workers to identify their needs</li> <li>• Create an awareness amongst agencies on identified needs</li> <li>• Develop an action plan to support the needs of migrant workers</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	LCRL
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Dept. SFA, FAS, VEC, LCRL, LCC (Cultural Services), Global Longford, Acorn CDP, LWL, CIC
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding sourced for Support Workers</li> <li>• Literature produced</li> <li>• Language training courses in place</li> <li>• Intercultural programme in place</li> <li>• Assessment of needs undertaken</li> <li>• Agencies informed of the needs identified</li> <li>• Action Plan in place to support migrant workers</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section – Actions for Ethnic Minorities

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Develop a Local Poverty Profile</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree a terms of reference</li> <li>• Source funding</li> <li>• Develop brief for consultant</li> <li>• Seek tenders &amp; select consultants</li> <li>• Collection of data and mapping</li> <li>• Agree key recommendations</li> <li>• Publish and launch the profile</li> <li>• Utilise the profile data to inform focused and targeted actions</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of 2006</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	CDB
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Members of the SIMW
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of reference agreed</li> <li>• Funding sourced</li> <li>• Consultants brief agreed</li> <li>• Tenders sought and consultant in place</li> <li>• Data collected and maps produced</li> <li>• Key recommendations agreed</li> <li>• Profile published and launched</li> <li>• Profile disseminated to all relevant organisations</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section: - target resources more effectively to disadvantaged areas and groups

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Develop a Cohesive Approach to Service Delivery</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish shared training and meeting room facilities.</li> <li>• Establish a shared outreach office in Granard</li> <li>• Interagency training in public relations &amp; media skills training</li> <li>• Provide ease of access to local agencies through a Longford internet portal</li> <li>• Establish a Content Management System</li> <li>• Increase awareness and understanding between frontline workers on each agencies role and operation</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	End of 2007
<b>Convenor</b>	CDB (SIMWG)
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Members of the SIMWG & others
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared facilities in place</li> <li>• Outreach office established &amp; timetable of usage in place by agencies.</li> <li>• Training completed</li> <li>• Increased usage of Longford Internet Portal</li> <li>• Content Management System in place and updated regularly.</li> <li>• Co-ordination improved</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Commitment by agencies to work together to improve service delivery

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Support Services for Older People</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot a help line for older people</li> <li>• Train volunteers for the help line on existing services &amp; key contacts.</li> <li>• Maintain and extend rural transport service</li> <li>• Continue to support and liase with the Older People's Network</li> <li>• Expand the number of clubs and activities for older people</li> <li>• Establish a mentoring panel of older people with expertise in a variety of areas</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006-2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	LCRL
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Older Person's Network, LCRL, CIC, C&V Forum, HSE, LCC
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot study completed</li> <li>• Volunteers trained.</li> <li>• Rural transport extended</li> <li>• Programme of activities established</li> <li>• Mentoring panel in place and active</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section – Actions for Older People

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Substance Misuse</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate on the Regional Drugs Taskforce</li> <li>• Establish a Local Forum on education &amp; prevention of substance misuse</li> <li>• Work in collaboration with schools, youth and sporting organisations</li> <li>• Explore methodologies in addressing substance misuse</li> <li>• Secure treatment services in County Longford</li> <li>• Run interagency training on education &amp; prevention</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	HSE (Regional Drugs Taskforce)
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	Health Promotion Unit, Gardai, VEC, C&V Forum, Acorn CDP, LCRL, LWL
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation on Regional Drugs Taskforce</li> <li>• Local Forum established and includes representatives from schools, youth and sporting organisations</li> <li>• Methodologies explored</li> <li>• Some treatment services established</li> <li>• Interagency training provided</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section

<b>Action Number</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Supports for Marginalised Single Men</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an interagency focus group to develop a support programme for marginalised men to enable them to access services</li> <li>• Target an area and individual clients</li> <li>• Assess the needs</li> <li>• Draw up a work programme</li> <li>• Source funding from key stake holders</li> <li>• Establish the programme</li> </ul>
<b>Time Frame</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2006 – 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Convenor</b>	D/S& FA
<b>Lead Agencies for Implementation</b>	D/S&FA, HSE, Acorn CDP project, LCRL, VEC, EDI, FAS, LCC
<b>CDB Role</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring role</li> </ul>
<b>Key Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency focus group established</li> <li>• Needs assessed</li> <li>• An area and individual clients identified</li> <li>• Work programme agreed</li> <li>• Funding secured</li> <li>• Programme established</li> </ul>
<b>Linkage to Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	Social Section – Actions for Older People

## CHAPTER 6 – IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

### **6.1 Implementation& of the Review Action Plan 2006 - 2008**

The key issues identified and the proposed actions outlined in **Chapter 5** have been adopted by the Board. Responsibility for the implementation of the 13 collaborative actions rests with the various convenors and lead agencies. The County Development Board and its sub structures will oversee the implementation of the actions.

The County Development Board will meet at least four times a year. Reports on progress in implementing the actions will be presented at Board meetings. Measurements and indicators outlined in each action will be used to monitor progress. It is intended that the task groups will set specific timeframes relating to each priority action. A workshop will be held at the end of each year to review progress and reassess outputs and priorities.

In order to achieve the desired outcomes it is critical that the designated lead agencies assume responsibility to drive forward the agreed work programmes. A comprehensive midterm review of the key priority actions will be undertaken in June 2007 to determine achievements to date, identify areas where the level of progress is not as expected and increase the focus of resources where necessary to achieve the desired outcomes. It is intended that the review will take account of the emerging census data and enable the identification of current priority areas.

# *Appendix*



## Appendix 1

### County Longford Baseline Data from the GAMMA Report Based on the 2002 Census

#### **3.1 Basic Physical, Geographic and Locational Features**

County Longford is located within the central plain of Ireland, approximately midway between the east and west coasts and is the second smallest county in Ireland. It is located in the Midland Regional Authority area along with counties Westmeath, Offaly and Laois. Longford is also one of thirteen counties, which make up the Objective One Border, Midlands and Western Region (BMW). The county is bordered by Cavan to the north, Westmeath to the east/south-east and Leitrim and Roscommon to the west/south-west.

The county has a total area of 104,387 hectares of which approximately 65% is farmland. Approximately 40% of the land area of the county is categorised as wetland and 16% peat land. Longford has frontage to both the Shannon and Erne river systems including Lough Ree along its southwest border. The Royal Canal, which is over 150km long, enters Longford a few kilometres from Abbeyshrule then continues to Ballymahon.

The topography of County Longford can be described as low-lying flat to undulating terrain, though a series of prominent drumlin hills rising to a maximum height of 278 metres at Cairn Hill to the north, forming a distinct feature on the landscape. The underlying geology of the county is predominantly carboniferous limestone overlain with glacial till. Longford has 19 proposed natural Heritage Areas, including 2 Special Area's of Conservation (SAC's), 2 Special Protected Areas (SPA's) and 23 areas of scientific interest.

#### **3.2 Key Infrastructure**

Two National Primary routes traverse the county, the N4 linking Dublin to Sligo and the N5 linking Dublin to Mayo. Two national secondary routes also cross the county, the N55 north/south artery of the county linking Athlone and Cavan and the N63 linking Longford with Lanesboro, Roscommon and Galway. By-passes are underway for Edgeworthstown, Newtownforbes and Longford town. Longford town and Edgeworthstown are served by the Dublin/Sligo mainline rail service and 33 scheduled bus routes operate throughout the county.

#### **3.3 Demography**

The most recent absolute figures for the population of the county are from the census of population, 2002 (CSO). This puts the population of County Longford at 31,068 persons, which represented an increase of 2.5 percent on 1991 while the national population increased by 11.1 percent, most of the increase took place in the period since 1996. There are five main towns in the county - Longford ( 6831), Granard (1013), Ballymahon ( 827), Edgeworthstown ( 726 ) and Lanesboro (575). Longford



is the county town and contains the main local authority administrative offices and other essential services and amenities

In 2002, the population density in County Longford was 74 persons per square mile almost half the national, the main urban area of county (Longford town) experienced the highest population density of the county.

With regards to the percentage population change over the period from 1996-2002 the population of County Longford increased by 3.0 per cent. Five ED's within the county experienced a growth in population of over 15.0 percent from 1996. These include Longford Rural, Ardagh West, Currygrane, Moate Farrell and Foxhall.

With regards to percentage population change over the eleven-year period from 1991-2002, the male population in County Longford increased by 1.6 percent whereas nationally, there was an increase of 11.0 percent. The percentage population change of females in County Longford was 3.5 per cent over the eleven-year period between 1991-2002. This was lower than the figure of the state of 11.2 per cent.

93.7 per cent of the population of the county was classified as being of Irish nationality. This figure was higher than comparable figure for the state (92.9 percent). 2.8 percent of the population were classified as being from the UK while 3.5 percent of the population represented other nationalities. 'Other Nationalities' account for 4.4 per cent of the population.

- **Age Structure**

According to the 2002 Census, 22.5 per cent of the population of County Longford was aged 14 years or under (Table 1.1). This was marginally higher than the percentage of young people in the same age cohort in the state (21.1 per cent). Analysis of the age profile reveals that the proportion of people aged 75 years and older was higher at 6.5 per cent than the national figure of 4.9 per cent.

Table 1.1 Age Profile and Age Dependency

	Pop Aged 0 to 14 2002 (%)	Pop Aged 15 to 24 2002 (%)	Pop Aged 25 to 44 2002 (%)	Pop Aged 45 to 64 2002 (%)	Pop Aged 65 to 75 2002 (%)	Pop Aged 75 Plus 2002 (%)	Age Dependat 2002 (%)
Longford	22.5%	14.7%	26.2%	22.9%	7.2%	6.5%	36.2%
National	21.1%	16.4%	30.1%	21.2%	6.3%	4.9%	32.3%

The percentage of the National population that was age dependent may be seen above in table 1.1. In Ireland, the percentage age dependent in 2002 was 32.3 per cent. The percentage age dependent in a population is a useful comparative indicator of the proportion of the population that those employed or potentially economically active have to support. In 2002, 36.2 per cent of the population in County Longford were considered to be age dependent. The majority of the EDs in the County in 2002 had an age Dependency Rate of between 30.0 per cent and 45.9 per cent and these included Mountdavis, Ardagh West and Coolamber.



Although having experienced a percentage increase of 3.0 per cent in population since 1996, County Longford experienced a percentage decrease in the two youngest age cohorts (-7.1 per cent in the 0-14 years age cohort and -5.9 per cent in the 15-24 years age cohort). All other age cohorts in County Longford experienced an increase in population between 1996 and 2002.

Table 1.2 Percentage Age Profile Changes 1996 - 2002

	Pop Change 1996-2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 0 to 14 1996 – 2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 15 to 24 1996 – 2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 25 to 44 1996 – 2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 45 to 64 1996 - -2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 65 to 75 1996- - 2002 (%)	Pop Change Aged 75 Plus 1996 – 2002 (%)
Longford	3.0%	-7.1%	-5.9%	7.7%	17.2%	2.4%	10.3%
National	8.0%	-3.7%	1.4%	16.2%	18.2%	14.3%	9.1%

The gender-differentiated age profile shows that in County Longford, males and females experience similar trends in relation to the age profile of the population in 2002. In general the percentage population of between the age of 0 and 29 for County Longford was 43.2 per cent and was lower than the National population at 45.5 per cent.

- **Household Structure**

There were a total of 10,375 households in County Longford. The majority of which were classified as whole houses (92.9%) (table 1.3), and higher than the National figure of 88.7 per cent. Some of the other remaining households in County Longford were classified as households in a flat or Apartment (3.5%), and Temporary household (0.7%).

Table 1.3 Household Type - 2002

	Whole Houses (%)	Flats or Apartments (%)	Total Permanent Households	Temporary Households (%)	Not Stated Households (%)
Longford	92.9%	3.5%	96.3%	0.7%	2.9%
National	88.7%	8.6%	97.3%	0.6%	2.1%

The percentage of households, in which elderly people live alone, has implications for the provision of service, and measurement of economic dependency. In 2002, 5.1% of households in County Longford were comprised of males 65 years of age and over, living alone, while 7.0 per cent of households had females living alone.

In County Longford a large number of EDs had over 12.0 per cent of their households with persons aged 65 and over, living alone as a percentage of all households.

A characteristic shared by the most deprived parts of the county, but more especially in urban areas, are a high or above-average proportion of lone parent households. The



percentage of lone parent households in the County in 2002 was 11.9 percent. County Longford was classified as having 12.7 per cent of all households with lone parents.

Lone parent households may be further differentiated into households with all children under the age of 15 and households with at least one child aged less than 15 years. In County Longford, 571 households or 5.5 per cent of all households consisted of a lone parent with at least one child less than 15 years of age. This was higher than the national figure 5.3 per cent of all households consisting of a lone parent with at least one child less than 15 years of age.

There is a wide dispersal in the percentage of single parent families with all children under the age of fifteen as a percentage of families with children under the age of fifteen in the County Longford area. In a number of EDs however, over 20.0 per cent of households were comprised of single parent families with all children under the age of 15 years (as a percentage of all families with children under the age of 15 years). These EDs included Longford No. 1 Urban and Longford Rural.

Table 1.4 Household - 2002

	Males 45 Plus Living Alone (% of all H.Holds)	Males 65 Plus Living Alone (% of all H.Holds)	Females 45 Plus Living Alone (% of all H.Holds)	Females 65 Plus Living Alone (% of all H.Holds)	Lone Parents All Children (< 15 Years) (% of all Family Units)	Lone Parents All Children (< 15 Years) (% of all Family Units)	Lone Parents at Least One Child < 15 years (% of All Family units)
Longford	9.8%	5.1%	9.7%	7.0%	12.7%	4.1%	5.5%
National	6.6%	3.0%	8.7%	5.9%	11.9%	3.9%	5.3%

The Nature of Occupancy figures illustrate what type of residential tenure the population of County Longford are occupying. In County Longford there were 10,298 permanent households in 2002. 30.4 per cent of permanent households were owner Occupied homes with mortgages and 43.5 per cent were Owner Occupied with no Mortgage. The category of Owner Occupied with no Mortgage in the County (43.5) was higher than that of the State with 36.0 per cent of all households in the State being occupied with no mortgage.

In County Longford, 3.7 per cent of households were purchased from the Local Authority while 9.6 percent of households were rented from the Local Authority. The percentage of households occupied 'Free of Rent' was 1.7 per cent. These figures are comparable with the state, which had 3.5 per cent of all household purchased from the Local Authority. 1.7 per cent of all households in the state were occupied free of rent.



Table 1.5 (%) Nature of Occupancy, Percentages - 2002

	Owner Occupied-with Mortgage (%)	Owner Occupied – no Mortgage (%)	Being Purchased from Local Auth (%)	Rented from Local Auth (%)	Rented Unfurnished from Other (%)	Rented Furnished From other (%)	Occupied Free of Rent (%)	Not Stated (%)
Longford	30.4%	43.5%	3.7%	9.6%	1.6%	5.5%	1.7%	3.9%
National	37.9%	36.0%	3.5%	6.9%	2.0%	9.0%	1.7%	2.9%

In relation to car ownership, the number of households in County Longford with no car accounts for 2,185 or 21.2 per cent of all households were classified as having one car (43.1%). The National figure (40.9%). 29.0% of households in County Longford were classified as having two cars and 6.7 per cent of households were classified as having three or more cars. 7.2 per cent of all households in the State had three or more cars.

### Education

According to the Census, persons aged 15 years and over whose full-time education has ceased are classified by the highest level of education completed (full-time or part-time). A strong link exists between educational attainment and earning capacity. Thus the level of educational disadvantage in an area may be regarded as a proxy for social and or economic deprivation. 24.6 per cent of the population of County Longford, whose education had ceased, left the education system at or before the age of 15 years. This was higher than the State (21.9%). The percentage population aged 20 and over whose education had ceased at or before the age of 20 years for County Longford was 13.7 per cent. This figure was lower than the state (20.5%).

Table 1.6 Educational Levels of total Unemployment - 2002

	Total Unempl No Formal or Primary Education Only (%)	Total Unempl Lower Secondary Education (%)	Total Unempl Upper Secondary Education (%)	Total Unempl 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Education (%)
Longford	37.9%	29.9%	22.4%	9.8%
National	29.5%	31.7%	24.7%	14.5%

In County Longford in 2002, 29.5 per cent of the population whose education has ceased comprised people aged 15 years with no formal or primary education. This figure was higher than the state at 22.2 per cent. A large number of EDs experienced over 30.0 percent of their population as having no formal education or primary education (as a percentage of population whose education has ceased).

In the State, in 2002, 26.0 per cent of the population whose education had ceased had received a third level education. The comparable figure in County Longford was 17.8 per cent. Three EDs within County Longford registered between 25.0 and 29.9 per cent of all their population as having third level Education (as a percentage of population whose full time education has ceased). These EDs included caldragh to the North of Longford Town, Longford No. 2 Urban and Moatfarrell.

In 2002, 32.0 per cent of males whose education had ceased left school with no formal or primary education only in the County Longford area. The State figure was 23.2 per cent. The percentage of males in County Longford (whose education had ceased) who had attended third level education was 15.5 per cent, a figure that is lower the figure for the State (24.7 per cent). 26.9 per cent of females in County Longford, whose full time education had ceased, left school with no formal of primary education only. 20.1 per cent of females whose full time education had ceased received a third level education.

37.9 per cent of the total unemployed population in County Longford whose full time education had ceased had no formal education or were educated to primary level only (Table 1.7). This is comparable with 29.5 per cent in the State.

Table 1.7 Educational Levels of Total Unemployment

	Total Unempl No Formal or Primary Education Only (%)	Total Unempl Lower Secondary Education (%)	Total Unempl Upper Secondary Education (%)	Total Unempl 3 <sup>rd</sup> Level Education (%)
Longford	37.9%	29.9%	22.4%	9.8%
National	29.5%	31.7%	24.3%	14.5%

44.2 per cent of unemployed males whose full time education had ceased in County Longford had either no formal or primary education. This was higher than the National figure of 34.1 per cent in 2002

### **Economic Status/Unemployment Rate**

In 2002 there were 24,093 people aged 15 years and over were at work, and 5.6 per cent were unemployed. For Ireland as a whole in 2002, the population at work accounted for 53.1 per cent of the population (aged 15 years and over) and 5.2 per cent were unemployed.

Table 1.8 Population Aged 15 Plus by Economic Status - 2002

	Pop at Work (%)	Pop First Time Job Seekers (%)	Pop Unempl (%)	Pop Students (%)	Pop Home Duties (%)	Pop Retired (%)	Pop Unable to Work (%)	Pop Other (%)
Longford	49.4%	0.6%	5.0%	10.3%	16.3%	12.4%	5.1%	1.1%
National	53.1%	0.7%	4.5%	11.4%	14.2%	10.8%	4.2%	1.2%

Table 1.8 above provides a breakdown of the population in terms of its economic status percentage figures, which illustrate the composition of the population, aged 15 years of age and over. Please note the percentage of total population unemployed should not be confused with the common definition of the unemployment rate. The



unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed people and first time job seekers, as a proportion of the total labour force.

In 2002 there were 12,187 males in County Longford aged 15 years and over. 60.9 percent of the total males (aged 15 and over) in County Longford were at work and 6.8 per cent were unemployed.

The number of people unemployed in County Longford in 2002 was 1,338 persons In 2002 the percentage change of people at work in County Longford registered an increase of 17.1 per cent in the number of people going to work 1991. County Longford experienced percentage decreases of 17.7 per cent in unemployment from 1991-2002.

The unemployment rate in Ireland in 2002 was 8.8, in County Longford this figure was 10.1 and the labour force participation rate was 54.9. The labour force composed of the population ‘at work’, the population of first time job seekers and the unemployed. The majority of EDs in County Longford in 2002 displayed a labour force participation rate of less than 58.0 with one ED displaying the highest labour force participation rate of between 66.0 and 69.9. This was Mountfarrell.

As seen in table 1.9 The male unemployment rate in County Longford (10.0) was higher than the state (9.4). The County Longford rate of female unemployed at 10.2 was higher than the state at 8.0.

Table 1.9 Unemployment and Labour Force Participation Rates 2002

	Unempl Rate 2002	Unempl Rate Males 2002	Unempl Rates Female 2002	Labour Force Participation Rate 2002	Labour Force Participation Rate Males 2002	Labour Force Participation Rate Females 2002
Longford	10.1	10.0	10.2	54.9	67.7	41.8
National	8.8	9.4	8.0	58.3	69.9	47.0

In 2002 County Longford registered a total of 1,281 persons that undertook the roll of ‘carer’ to help family or friends with a long-term illness, health problems or disability. The majority of these carers (51.3%) undertook unpaid help of between one and fourteen hours per week. This figure was lower than the State at 57.0 per cent.

County Longford registered a total of 33.0 per cent of all unpaid Carers working forty-three plus hours a week to help family or friends. This figure was higher than the state at 27.2 per cent.

### **Nature of Employment/Unemployment**

As indicated in table 1.11 below, all persons aged 15 years and over who are at work, are classified according to the nature of economic activity in which they are engaged. In County Longford there were a total of 11,895 persons aged 15+ at work. The largest proportions of the working population (2,245 persons) were employed in the Commerce Sector of the economy. This accounted for 18.9 per cent of the working



population for County Longford. 11.9 per cent of working persons were employed in Agriculture. This figure was higher than the National average of 5.3 per cent for the same sector.

Table 1.11 (%) Percentage At Work By Industry - 2002

	Persons 15+ at work agriculture (%)	Persons 15+ at work building & const (%)	Persons 15+ at work manufact electr & gas (%)	Persons 15+ at work – commerc e (%)	Persons at work transport (%)	Persons 15+ at work public administe r (%)	Person s 15+ work-profes s sec (%)	Person s 15+ at work other (%)
Longford	11.9%	10.7%	18.0%	18.9%	3.6%	7.2%	15.0%	14.7%
National	5.9%	9.1%	16.0%	26.9%	5.9%	5.8%	15.4%	15.1%

### Deprivation Index

Between 1991 and 2002 there was an improvement in the overall affluence of the area as there was a positive change of 14.4 in the Affluence/Deprivation Score of County Longford (-2.7 in 1991 to 11.6 in 2002). Since 1991 the State improved by 15.4.

There were no EDs in County Longford that were registered as being extremely disadvantaged, however many of the EDs in County Longford registered a deprivation score within the classification “Marginally below Average” and “Marginally above Average” with five EDs classified as being “Disadvantage”. These were Longford No. 1 Urban, Granard Urban, Abbeylara, Meathastrium and Cashel East. The EDs of Foxhall registered as being “very Disadvantage”. There were three “Affluent” EDs in the County, these were Longford No. 2 Urban, Caldragh and Currygrane.

Table 1/12 Relative Affluence and Deprivation

	Absolute Affluence/Deprivation				Relative Affluence/Depriv		
	2002	1996	1991	Change on Deprivation Score 1991-2002	2002	1996	1991
Longford	11.6	4.3	-2.7	14.4	-3.6	-2.6	-2.7
National	17.4	9.1	1.9	15.4	2.2	2.2	1.9

### Disability

This section deals with number of persons within County Longford that have a disability and also the age profile of persons with disabilities (Table 1.10). County Longford registered a total of 3,058 persons with a disability in 2002. The majority of these persons were aged 65 years and over and accounted for 48.5 per cent of disabled persons in the County. The State had a figure of 41.9 per cent for the same category.

Table 1.10 Age Profile of People with Disability - 2002

	Persons with a Disability- aged 1-14 (%)	Persons with a Disability- aged 15-24 (%)	Persons with a Disability- aged 25-44 (%)	Persons with a Disability- aged 45-64 (%)	Persons with a Disability aged 65+ (%)
Longford	5.1%	4.9%	14.9%	26.5%	48.5%
National	5.3%	6.1%	18.0%	28.7%	41.9%



## Appendix 2

### Review of CDB Strategy & Implementation Plan

#### **Economic**

<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Achieved/ Ongoing</b>	<b>195</b>
Non starter	7
Further Progress (included in ongoing)	20
No update or nothing happening	12

#### **Culture/Sport & Leisure**

<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Achieved/ Ongoing</b>	<b>102</b>
Non starter	1
Further Progress (included in ongoing)	8
No update or nothing happening	15

#### **Social**

<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Achieved/ Ongoing</b>	<b>148</b>
Non starter	6
Further Progress (included in ongoing)	8
No update or nothing happening	17

#### **Promoting Equality Section**

<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Achieved/ Ongoing</b>	<b>252</b>
Non starter	7
Further Progress (included in ongoing)	13
No update or nothing happening	29

#### **Combined Social Section & Promoting Equality Section**

<b>Total Actions</b>	<b>467</b>
<b>Achieved/ Ongoing</b>	<b>400</b>

- ◆ **Combined Total Actions 817**
- ◆ **Combined Achieved/Ongoing Actions 697**



**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

<b>CDB</b>	<b><i>County Development Board</i></b>
<b>CEB</b>	<b><i>County Enterprise Board</i></b>
<b>CLAR</b>	<b><i>Programme for Revitalisation of Rural Areas</i></b>
<b>COC</b>	<b><i>Chamber of Commerce</i></b>
<b>C&amp;V</b>	<b><i>Community &amp; Voluntary Forum</i></b>
<b>CDP</b>	<b><i>Community Development Programme</i></b>
<b>CIC</b>	<b><i>Citizens Information Centre</i></b>
<b>D/EHLG</b>	<b><i>Department of Environment, Heritage &amp; Local Government</i></b>
<b>D/SFA</b>	<b><i>Department of Social &amp; Family Affairs</i></b>
<b>D/JELR</b>	<b><i>Department of Justice, Equality &amp; Law Reform</i></b>
<b>ECMT</b>	<b><i>East Coast &amp; Midlands Tourism</i></b>
<b>EDI</b>	<b><i>Employment, Development &amp; Information Centre</i></b>
<b>EWO</b>	<b><i>Education Welfare Officer</i></b>
<b>EI</b>	<b><i>Enterprise Ireland</i></b>
<b>EQUAL</b>	<b><i>EU Initiative aimed at tackling inequality and discrimination</i></b>
<b>ESL</b>	<b><i>Early School Leaver</i></b>
<b>FAS</b>	<b><i>Training &amp; Employment Authority</i></b>
<b>GYDP</b>	<b><i>Garda Youth Diversion Project</i></b>
<b>HSE</b>	<b><i>Health Service Executive</i></b>
<b>HSL</b>	<b><i>Home School Liaison Service</i></b>
<b>ICTU</b>	<b><i>Irish Congress of Trade Unions</i></b>
<b>IDA</b>	<b><i>Industrial Development Authority</i></b>
<b>LCC</b>	<b><i>Longford County Council</i></b>
<b>LTU</b>	<b><i>Long Term Unemployed</i></b>
<b>LWL</b>	<b><i>Longford Women's Link</i></b>
<b>LTC</b>	<b><i>Longford Town Council</i></b>
<b>LTM</b>	<b><i>Longford Traveller Movement</i></b>
<b>LCC</b>	<b><i>Longford County Council</i></b>
<b>LCCC</b>	<b><i>Longford County Childcare Committee</i></b>
<b>LCRL</b>	<b><i>Longford Community Resources Ltd (Joint Partnership &amp; Leader Committee)</i></b>
<b>NDP</b>	<b><i>National Development Plan</i></b>
<b>NRA</b>	<b><i>National Roads Authority</i></b>
<b>NSS</b>	<b><i>National Spatial Strategy</i></b>
<b>RAPID</b>	<b><i>Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment &amp; Development</i></b>



<b>RTI</b>	<b><i>Rural Transport Initiative</i></b>
<b>SIMWG</b>	<b><i>Social Inclusion Measures Working Group</i></b>
<b>SME</b>	<b><i>Small &amp; Medium Enterprises</i></b>
<b>SPC</b>	<b><i>Strategic Policy Committee</i></b>
<b>VEC</b>	<b><i>Vocational Education Committee</i></b>



