



**GOVERNANCE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Time: 2:30pm

PRESIDING: Councillor Pat O'Toole

PRESENT: Councillor Mick Cahill, Turlough McGovern, Linda Doorley, Victor Ogunpola, Kathryn McGoey, Tess Murphy and Samuel Byrne

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. John McKeon – Director of Finance,
Mr. Danny Lynch - Head of ICT & Innovation,
Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor David Cassidy
Councillor Gerry Hagan

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2025

Chairperson Councillor Pat O'Toole welcomed the members to the Governance Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interests declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Victor Ogunpola the minutes of the meeting of the Governance Strategic Policy Committee meeting on 21 October 2025 were adopted.

4. PROPOSED SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT SCHEME 2026

Director of Finance, John McKeon made a presentation to the Members on the Small Rate Payer Support Scheme and answered questions raised by the Members.

The presentation included the following:

- Small Rate Payer Support Scheme Legislative Requirements
- Commercial Rates – Properties to Revenue Relationship
- Bands for Small Rate Payer Support Scheme

John informed the Members that the Small Business Support Scheme was considered in detail by the Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development SPC at their meeting on 18 February 2026. It was then recommended that the Small Rate Payers Support Scheme be brought to the CPG for consideration and approval in advance of consideration and adoption by the full Council in March.

The Members noted the scheme.

5. POLICY ON APPLICATION OF STATUTORY INTEREST ON UNPAID COMMERCIAL RATES UNDER SECTION 12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER MATTERS ACT 2019

Director of Finance, John McKeon made a presentation to the Members on the Policy on Application of Statutory Interest on Unpaid Commercial Rates and he answered questions raised by the Members.

The presentation included the following:-

- Purpose of this Policy
- Scope
- Legislative Background
- Interest Rate and Calculation Method
- Discretionary Application of Interest
- Requests for Waiver or Review
- Communication with Ratepayers
- Payment Arrangements

6. SHAPING THE NEXT PHASE, LONGFORD'S NEW DIGITAL STRATEGY, SPC

ENGAGEMENT

Head of ICT & Innovation, Danny Lynch made a detailed presentation to the Members on Longford's new Digital Strategy and answered any questions raised by the Members.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Digital Strategy Consultation
- Aim of today
- IT Department Structure
- National Strategy
- Community and Enterprise
- Infrastructure
- Cyber Security
- Digital & IT Infrastructure
- AI

The Members unanimously thanked Danny and all the IT team in Longford County Council for their continued hard work and support to all the Elected Members, staff and wider community.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Governance Strategic Policy Committee is 21 May 2026 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 21 May 2026 at 2.30pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson