



**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date: Monday, 27 April 2026

Time: 11.30am

PRESIDING:

Councillor Turlough McGovern

PRESENT:

Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Seamus Butler, Councillor Martin Skelly, Breda Murphy and Brendan Farrell

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Barbara Heslin – Director of Services
Ms. Martha Kelly, Administrative Officer
Ms. Grainne Harte, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Geraldine Glennon, Executive Scientist
Mr. Liam Rabbitte, Executive Scientist
Ms. Monica Cadden, Assistant Scientist
Mr. Bernard Shea, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Aisling Murphy, Climate Action Graduate
Ms. Claire Reehill, Administrative Officer
Mr. Derek Craig, Senior Traffic Warden
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Kathryn Hossey, A/Senior Planner
Ms. Louise Kiernan, Senior Planner
Mr. David Tubridy, Senior Engineer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES:

Mr. James Kiernan
Mr. emmet Duffy

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Lorraine McKee

1. INTRODUCTION

Chairperson Councillor Turlough McGovern welcomed the members to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of interests declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2026

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly, the minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee on the 16 February 2026 were adopted.

4. ENVIRONMENT SECTION DRAFT ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Senior Executive Engineer Grainne Harte made a presentation to the Members on the draft Enforcement Policy.

The policy includes the following:

- Introduction
- Policy Aims
- Enforcement Principles
- Grounds for Initiation of a Prosecution
- Working With Other Regulators
- Procedure for Dealing with Environmental Complaints
- Training and Staff Resources
- Public Awareness
- Policy Commencement

Grainne and staff from the Environment Section answered any questions raised by the Elected Members and Sectoral Representatives.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the draft Enforcement Policy will go to the Corporate Policy Group for recommendation and consideration before going to the full council meeting for consideration and approval.

5. PART V PROCEDURES/SECTION 97 PROCEDURE & APPLICATION FORM

Director of Service Barbara Heslin provided an update to the Members on the Part V Procedures and Section 97 Procedures and Application Form.

The update included the following:

- The focus of Longford County Council will be on mixed tenure developments providing a mix of private, social and affordable housing. This will be reflected in the new Housing Strategy being developed by the Council.
- The new procedures formalise Longford County Council's approach to Part V and was jointly prepared by the Planning and Housing sections.

- Longford County Council's preferred approach is the delivery of social housing on site to promote social integration.
- The new documents provide clarity for developers and other stakeholders and ensure fairness, transparency, consistency and openness in decision making.
- The new procedures require the applicant/developer to consult and engage with the Housing and Planning sections throughout the process.
- An outline of the information required at each stage in the process is outlined in the new procedures.
- A legally binding Part V agreement must be concluded before commencement of the development.
- Where exemptions apply under Section 97, applicants must formally apply for a Section 97 Certificate prior to applying for planning permission and submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined in the Section 97 Explanatory Memorandum.
- While the new documents reflect the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), they will be updated as soon as the Part 7 Chapter 2 of the Planning and Development Act is enacted.
- The updated documents will be made available on the Council's website.

6. DRAFT REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Director of Services Barbara Heslin made a presentation to the Members on the review of the Development Contribution Scheme.

She outlined the following:

- A review of the current Development Contribution Scheme has been completed.
- The purpose of the review and the updated document is to provide clarity for developers and stakeholders.
- While there is no difference from the adopted scheme or contributions, the document clarifies the difference between exemptions and reductions and the process being introduced by Longford County Council.
- New procedures are being introduced which will require developers to apply for both exemptions from and reductions during the planning process and in advance of the commencement of the project.
- While the new documents reflect the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), they will be updated as soon as the relevant sections of the Planning and Development Act are enacted.
- The updated documents will be made available on the Council's website.

7. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Director of Services Barbara Heslin made a presentation to the Members on the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.

The following was outlined:

- The Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme relates to the development of a distributor road in Abbeycartron to activate and unlock residential, commercial and industrial lands in the area.
- Funding has been received from the Department of Transport which will assist in completion of a traffic count study.
- Longford County Council has engaged with the Housing Activation Office regarding a possible application under Call 2 for funding towards the project. The current estimate for delivery of the project is €14m.
- The Council must demonstrate how it will provide matched funding for the project, hence the need for this scheme.
- A draft scheme has been prepared reflecting the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

8. REVIEW OF PARKING BYE-LAWS

Administrative Officer Claire Reehill made a detailed presentation to the Members on the Parking Bye-Laws.

The presentation included the following:

- Review of Parking Byelaws 2026
- Longford County Council 2026 Parking Bye Law Estimated Programme
- Longford County Council's current Parking Byelaws
- Recommended changes to Byelaws
- Market Square – footpath vs paid parking
- Tesco Shopping Centre
- Harbour View – remove 2 parking spaces

Director of Services Barbara Heslin informed the Members that as part of the update on Parking Byelaws, the Planning section were reviewing Section 254 applications for Outdoor Dining installations. Licences for current installations have expired and Planning has contacted the relevant business in Longford town.

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2025

Senior Executive Engineer Bernard Shea updated the Members on the Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2025.

The County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 Progress Review 2025 demonstrates a year of significant momentum and practical achievement. By successfully integrating climate considerations into core municipal services—from infrastructure and housing to community engagement and biodiversity—Longford County Council has moved beyond planning into active implementation.

Key highlights from 2025 include:

- Infrastructure & Energy.
- Built Environment:
- Community & Nature:

The Members welcomed the report and thanked Bernard and his team for their continued hard work.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee is Monday, 20 July 2026 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Confirmed and adopted at Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20 July 2026.