



**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date: Monday, 16 February 2026

Time: 11.30am

<u>PRESIDING:</u>	Councillor Turlough McGovern
<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, Councillor Seamus Butler and James Kiernan
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Ms. Barbara Heslin – Director of Services Ms. Martha Kelly, Administrative Officer Ms. Grainne Harte, Senior Executive Engineer Mr. Con Diffley, Senior Executive Engineer Ms. Claire Reehill, Administrative Officer Ms. Claire McNabola, Administrative Officer Ms. Louise Kiernan, Senior Planner Mr. David Tubridy, Senior Engineer Mr. John Doyle, Senior Executive Technician Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Councillor Martin Skelly Ms. Breda Murphy Ms. Joanna Pearman Mr. Brendan Farrell
<u>MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR:</u>	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 21 OCTOBER 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, the minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee on the 21 October 2025 were adopted.

4. DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYELAWS UPDATE

Martha Kelly, Administrative Officer made a detailed presentation updating members on the draft casual trading byelaws and answered questions raised by the Elected Members.

Martha informed the Members that the Draft Casual Trading Byelaws were presented to the Elected Representatives in each Municipal District and was approved to go to public consultation by the Physical Development SPC at the meeting of the 21 October 2025. The Draft Byelaws were available to view from 19 November 2025 to 21 December 2025 in

- Foyer, Áras an Chontae, Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56,
- Libraries in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro and Longford
- The Council's website
- Hard copies were available on request.

Submissions were accepted from 21 December 2025 to 11 January 2026.

As part of the public consultation process, staff visited all Casual Traders operating in the county. They were provided with a copy of the Draft Byelaws and outlined the process for submissions/observations.

The public consultation phase is now complete. Six submissions were received by the closing date of the 11 January and all submissions were considered as part of the preparation of the final document.

The Environment Section will meet with the relevant Municipal District Engineers and Casual Traders and thereafter set out locations for Casual Trading Bays, delineate areas for casual trading and erect signs designated Area for Casual Trading on specific days.

Once this process is complete the final draft including trading locations will be presented to the next SPC Meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern, seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, it was agreed that the final locations and final draft of the byelaws will be brought to each of the Municipal Districts in advance of consideration by the CPG and full Council.

Councillor Seamus Butler requested that the Saturday Market and Car Boot Sales which are held in Longford Town be monitored to ensure they do not extend on to the public roads and footpaths in the area.

5. ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2025 REVIEW

Administrative Officer, Claire Reehill provided an update to the Members on the Road Safety Action Plan 2025 Review. The review provided an overview of the progress made during 2025 in delivering road safety measures across the county. The review is based on the implementation of the previous Road Safety Action Plan 2022-2024.

It reflects the collective work of the Council, the Road Safety Working Together Group, and partner agencies in implementing actions aligned with the National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030 and the Safe System approach. It highlights key achievements during 2025, while also identifying areas of ongoing work and emerging priorities such as the progression of the urban speed limit review, low-cost safety schemes, Active Travel projects and road safety education initiatives.

The purpose of this review was to inform Members of the progress to date and to ensure continued oversight, support, and policy alignment as Roads move forward with the implementation of Phase 2 of the Road Safety Action Plan for 2025–2027.

The review represents the conclusion of the works programme for 2025.

Following consideration by this Committee, this Road Safety Action Plan Review 2025 will be published and made available on the Longford County Council website.

On the proposal of Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan the Road Safety Action Plan Review 2025 was approved and will now be published and made available on the Longford County Council website.

6. SPEED LIMIT REVIEW – PHASE 2 IMPLEMENTATION (URBAN)

Senior Executive Engineer, Con Diffley, made a presentation to the Members regarding speed limit reviews – phase 2 implementation in urban areas.

Guidance was issued in October 2025 and the Roads Department have begun looking at speed limits in urban areas.

The Roads Department will meet with each Municipal District for workshops in February to discuss speed limits in their locality. Following these workshops, byelaws will be drafted and presented to the Municipal Districts in late March/April. The draft byelaws will then go to public consultation and submissions will be taken into consideration and amendments made where necessary.

The finalised byelaws will be presented to each Municipal District before going for approval at the full Council meeting in October 2026.

The Roads team will liaise with the TII in relation to speed limits on National Roads in urban towns and villages.

The erection of new signage will take place between January and March 2027 and the byelaws will come into effect on 31 March 2027.

7. SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Director of Services, Barbara Heslin made a detailed presentation to the Members on the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme and answered questions raised by the members.

A Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme is currently being developed by Longford County Council. The initial focus will be on the Abbeycartron Distributor Road linking the N63 and the R198. The Abbeycartron Distributor Road is a multi-purpose piece of strategic infrastructure. The cost of the project is estimated at €14 million for 1.5km of road. Funding will be sought through the Housing Activation Office, Department of Transport, with the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme providing the necessary matched funding from own resources. The funding model for the road assumes 90% DOT funding, 10% local funding.

A funding application has already been made by the Roads Department for a preliminary project appraisal to the Department of Transport under the Strategic Regional and Local Roads Programme.

The Housing Activation Infrastructure Fund was launched by Government as part of the Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025 – 2030 plan. It is a €1b investment fund, managed by the Housing Activation Office in the DoH LG and is designed to support direct investment in infrastructure needed to unlock housing development.

The development of the Abbeycartron Distributor Road has the potential to unlock zoned lands capable of delivering housing units in excess of 1,100 and lands zoned commercial and industrial. HAIF Call 2 is expected to open for funding applications in mid-year 2026. Longford County Council hopes to be in a position to submit a strong application under Call 2.

The Abbeycartron Distributor Road is reflected in both the County Development Plan and Longford Town Local Area Plan.

8. REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Administrative Officer, Claire McNabola made a presentation to the Members on the review of the Development Contribution Scheme.

Following on from the October 2025 meeting of the Physical Development SPC, a series of amendments were recommended to be made to the Development Contribution Scheme. These were approved by the full Council in November 2025. At that meeting it was also agreed that a review of the Development Contribution Scheme would commence in 2026 to reflect the new capital budget.

Following a review by the Management Team, the draft Development Contribution Scheme with the amendments will be brought to the April meeting of the Physical Development SPC for consideration.

9. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROCESS AND TIMELINES

Senior Planner, Louise Kiernan, made a detailed presentation to the members on the County Development Plan Process and Timelines and she answered questions raised by the Members.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- New County Longford Development Plan
- Other Content
- 0 – Preliminary
- 1 – OPR Consultation
- 2 – Pre – Draft
- 3 – Draft Development Plan
- 4 – Making the Development Plan
- 5 – Material Alterations
- Other Considerations

Louise confirmed that a decision was awaited from the Department in relation to an extension to the current County Development Plan. She explained that zoning of lands would be considered as part of the process and that submissions can be made to the Planning Authority in relation to the zoning or rezoning of lands. Louise explained that the development process normally takes between 2 to 3 years and the members of the SPC will be kept fully informed throughout the process.

The members unanimously thanked Louise and the team in the Planning Department 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, 27 April 2026 to which the members unanimously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 27 April 2026.

Signed: _____
Chairperson