



**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chamber & Microsoft Teams

Date: Monday, 16 February at 2:30pm

PRESIDING: Councillor Paul Ross

PRESENT: Councillor Kevin Hussey, Councillor Colin Dalton, Councillor Padraig McNamara, Maria Keelty, Enda McManus, Niamh Donlon, Diarmuid O’Sullivan

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Samanta Healy – Director of Services
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Mary Gouldsbury, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Laura McHugh, Healthy Ireland Longford Coordinator
Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Sean Mimmagh

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Lorraine McKee

1. INTRODUCTION

Paul Ross welcomed the Elected Members and representatives to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SPC MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2025

On the proposal of Councillor Padraig McNamara seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey, the minutes of the Social Development SPC meeting held on the 20 October

2025 were adopted.

4. HEALTHY IRELAND UPDATE

Laura McHugh made a detailed presentation to the members regarding Healthy Ireland and the work that has been carried out by Healthy Ireland Longford and Laura answered any questions raised.

The presentation included the following:

- Healthy Longford
- Overview of Programs 2025
- Healthy Ireland Funding through Healthy Longford 2026
- Healthy Longford's focus continuing in 2026
- Healthy Longford's focus for 2025
- Evaluation of Healthy Longford Projects 2025

Ms. Maria Kealty proposed that an emblem to support and identify individuals living with dementia be developed and piloted in Longford. Laura warmly welcomed the initiative and confirmed that she would give it due consideration.

The Members unanimously thanked Laura for all the work carried out in 2025 and are looking forward to seeing what events and initiatives are in store for 2026.

5. COMMUNITY GRANTS SUPPORT SCHEME 2026

Senior Executive Officer, Ciaran Murphy, provided an update to the Members on the Community Grants Support Scheme for 2026.

The Local Enhancement Programme is open for applications until Friday, 27 February 2026.

The Community Grants Support Scheme is open for application on Monday, 9 March 2026 and will close on Monday, 13 April 2026.

The details of the scheme will be circulated to the members and the PPN in advance of the opening date.

6. SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Senior Executive Officer, Mary Gouldsbury 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 DoHLG and is designed to support direct investment in infrastructure needed to unlock housing development.

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

7. CÚIRT AN EASPAIG UPDATE

Senior Executive Officer, Mary Gouldsbury made a detailed presentation to the members updating them on the Affordable Housing Scheme – Cúirt an Easpaig and she answered any questions raised by the Members.

The presentation included the following:

- Affordable Housing – Cúirt an Easpaig – Site Plan
- Affordable Housing Update
- Affordable Housing – Next Steps
- Affordable Housing – Pricing
- Steps to your Affordable Home
- Affordable Housing – Contact

The Members unanimously welcomed the launch of the Affordable Housing Scheme in Longford.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next meeting of the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee is 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 Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 27 April 2026

Signed: _____
Chairperson