

Please note meeting will be held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams.

05 March 2025

Chuig: Gach Ball don Chomhairle

A Chomhairleoir,

Iarrtar ort bheith i láthair ag Cruinniú Míosuil Chomhairle Chontae Longfoirt a tionólfar i Seomra na Comhairle, Aras an Chontae, Longford agus via MS Teams ar an **De Cheadaoin 12 Márta 2025 ag 4pm** chun gnó a dhéanamh d'éir an Chláir thíos.

You are requested to attend the Monthly Meeting of Longford County Council to be held in the **Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams** on **Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 4pm** to transact business, as set out on the Agenda hereunder.

Mise le meas,

Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

C L Á R

Prayer before meeting.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (i) Monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 12 February 2025 – enclosed.

2. **Matters Arising**
3. **Declaration of Interest by Members**
4. **To note Management Report**
5. **To note adopted Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 15 January 2025 – enclosed**
6. **Finance, Innovation and Information Technology**
 - (i) Consideration of the Capital Budget 2025-2027
 - (ii) To note the minutes of the Governance SPC meeting held on 6 November 2024 – enclosed
 - (iii) **Notice of Motions**

Councillor Paul Ross & Councillor Martin Skelly

We call on the Minister for Arts, Media and Communications to introduce a statutory timeline for providers to repair broadband and phone lines to customers and businesses. The current situation has left thousands of customers with no communication and no idea of when the service will be restored.

7. Social Development

- (i) To note minutes of the Social Development SPC meeting held on 4 November 2024 - enclosed
- (ii) **Notice of Motions**

Councillor Martin Monaghan

I call on Longford County Council to allow communities to apply for funding for generators for community centres/halls. These facilities proved to be vital in providing an emergency hub for our communities, as seen in the most recent storm.

Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on Longford County Council following the impact of storm Darragh and Eowyn, to seek funding from National Government to put in place, community hubs in each municipal area and to have those hubs equipped and supported to serve our communities in future emergencies. The funding must cover the provision of generators and as the fund should be an annual allocation. Resources could be

expanded to support and serve the public in times of crisis and further emergencies. This funding must be used at the discretion of Longford County Council to ensure all plans put in place can effectively assist the most vulnerable in our communities.

Councillor Padraig McNamara

I call on Longford County Council to write to Minister for Housing James Browne regarding the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disabilities, highlighting the urgent need for a review. The current grant criteria fail to adequately support the most vulnerable in our society, as they do not cover essential upgrades such as emergency fire exits for bedrooms where double-glazed windows are in place, despite these windows being unsuitable as escape routes. Additionally, the grants should incorporate renewable energy solutions to reduce heating costs, ensuring that older people and individuals with disabilities can live safely and affordably in their homes.

8. Economic Development

- (i) Appointment of Sectoral Representative – James Kiernan (Development/Construction Sector) to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee
- (ii) Annual Service Delivery Plan 2025
- (iii) To note minutes of Economic, Enterprise and Rural Development SPC meeting held on 5 November 2024 – enclosed
- (iv) **Notice of Motions**

Councillor Gerry Hagan

I call on Longford County Council to consider the demolition of all or part of the providers building, in order to facilitate road widening works coupled with pedestrian amenity along with provision of a town centre focal point. This will tie in with the Overall Longford Connected Plan.

9. Physical Development

- (i) To note planning applications received
- (ii) To note minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 4 November 2024 – enclosed
- (iii) **Notice of Motions**

Councillor Sean Mimmagh

I call on Longford County Council to establish and implement a structured maintenance program for walkways throughout County Longford to ensure their safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability.

This program should include regular inspections, repairs, and upgrades as necessary to enhance the usability of walkways for residents and visitors alike.

Furthermore, adequate budgetary provisions should be allocated to support this initiative, ensuring these walkways remain in optimal condition.

10. General

(i) Notice of Motions

Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister Darragh O'Brien at the Department of Climate, Environment & Energy and Department of Transport, to request that he instructs the ESB to permit owners of solar panels to switch over to exclusive solar power when power cuts occur. It is understood that under current regulations this is not permitted.

Councillor Martin Monaghan

(i) I call on Longford County Council to provide a train service from Longford to Sligo and vice versa - I seek the support of the members on calling on Iarnród Éireann and the NTA to examine the possibility of providing a morning and evening commuter train service Monday to Friday between Longford and Sligo, to cater for the large number of people who work, attend college, hospital appointments etc., on a daily basis. There is a demand for such a service and I feel that it would be extensively used and would be welcomed by the communities who live along or close to the Dublin - Sligo lines.

(ii) I call on Longford County Council to reintroduce the roadside pumps - in light of the recent water outages due to ESB issues, I am calling on Longford County Council to bring a programme of works to reinstate/refurbish/reintroduce the usage of our roadside water pumps and wells. These will then form a part of an emergency plan in the event of future water outages in our rural areas.

11. Correspondence

- (i) Correspondence from Roscommon County Council regarding power lines in forestry
- (ii) Correspondence from Roscommon County Council regarding landowners incentives
- (iii) Correspondence from Roscommon County Council regarding Government phone network access
- (iv) Correspondence from Roscommon County Council regarding exam time for people with learning difficulties
- (v) Correspondence from Donegal County Council regarding dog control
- (vi) Correspondence from Sligo County Council regarding VAT increase on electricity costs
- (vii) Correspondence from South Dublin County Council regarding Fossil Fuel

12. Votes of Sympathy

13. Date and time of next Meeting