

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 14 May at 3:30pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Mark Casey

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Garry Murtagh, Peggy Nolan, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimnagh, Martin Monaghan, David Cassidy, Turlough McGovern

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Services
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Ms. Martina McGrath, Senior Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Kevin Hussey
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

Presentation by the IDA

Ray O'Connor, Head of Regional Enterprise Development and Carol Green, Midlands Manager Regional Enterprise Development made a presentation to the members.

Their vision is to be the world's best investment promotion agency, offering extraordinary opportunities to global companies.

Their purpose is to cultivate sustainable global FDI partnerships, delivering economic opportunity and success for the people of Ireland.

- 9 IDA clients in Longford County Council
- Employing 1,787 people directly
- 1,430 indirect Jobs
- Significant support provided to companies
- Technimark expansion in Longford
- CenterParcs expanding in Ballymahon
- Jenson R+ NN in Longford
- Transformational investments include upskilling staff, upgrading plant, R&D
- World Class references across Lifesciences, Manufacturing and Business Services

106% Employment Growth in Longford over 9 years (+920 Jobs)

The IDA informed the members that they are hopeful that they will secure a site for the development of an advance factory building in the near future. There is commercial sensitivity around the site at the moment and a further update will be given to the members once this is finalised.

The members unanimously welcomed this positive news and said that Longford County Council has a huge interest in securing businesses into the county and it will be a great day for Longford.

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon thanked the IDA in the role they play in the economic development of our county.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 9 April 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Seamus Butler requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that Fianna Fail welcomed Councillor Colin Dalton.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Noted

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Noted

5. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025

Noted

6. FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- (i) Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for Year ended 31st December 2024**
Consideration of approval of Additional Expenditure under S104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 - noted
- (ii) To note Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31st December 2023**
Noted.
- (iii) To note Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2024**
Noted.
- (iv) To note Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024-2029**
Noted.
- (v) The Longford Microsoft Dreamspace Showcase event**
Head of IT Danny Lynch and Broadband Officer Christine Collins briefed the members of the forthcoming Dreamspace Showcase event that will be taking place in Edgeworthstown on 23 May.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- (i) Date of AGM of the Council**
It is confirmed that 20 June 2025 will be the date of the AGM of the Council
- (ii) Filling of vacancies on Committees following the election of Paraic Brady to Seanad Éireann**
 - **Social Development Strategic Policy Committee – Colin Dalton**
On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

- **Longford Local Community Development Committee – Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to the Longford Local Community Development Committee

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to the Longford Local Community Development Committee

- **Longford Local Community Safety Partnership – Steering Group – Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to the Longford Local Community Safety Partnership – Steering Group

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to the Longford Local Community Safety Partnership – Steering Group.

- **Heritage Forum – Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to the Heritage Forum

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to the Heritage Forum.

- **Biodiversity Working Group – Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Paul Ross, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to the Biodiversity Working Group

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to the Biodiversity Working Group.

- **The Regeneration Committee – Colin Dalton**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh, Councillor Colin Dalton was appointed to The Regeneration Committee

The Cathaoirleach declared Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to The Regeneration Committee.

- **AILG – Padraig McNamara (2 years) followed by Martin Skelly (2 years)**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan it was agreed that Councillor Padraig McNamara be appointed to AILG for two years and Councillor Martin Skelly be appointed for the remaining two years.

Councillor Mark Casey proposed Councillor Colin Dalton be appointed to AILG for the four year period and this was seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern.

Councillor Colin Dalton acknowledged and thanked Cathaoirleach Mark Casey and Councillor Turlough McGovern for the nomination. At this stage Councillor Dalton informed the meeting that he would like to withdraw his name for the position on the AILG as discussed.

Councillor Padraig McNamara was appointed to AILG for two years and Councillor Martin Skelly was appointed for the remaining two years.

- The Cathaoirleach declared Councillors Colin Dalton be appointed Padraig McNamara (2 years) followed by Martin Skelly (2 years) to the AILG.

8. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- (i) **To note planning applications received**
Noted

- (ii) **Proposed Euthanasia of Dogs Policy**

The Proposed Euthanasia of Dogs Policy was referred from the Physical Development SPC, which was reviewed and discussed by the CPG members. Following consideration, the CPG members agreed to refer the policy to the May Longford County Council Meeting for adoption.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly this policy was adopted.

- (iii) **Draft Fire Service Charges Policy**

The Draft Fire Service Charges Policy was referred from the Physical Development SPC, which was reviewed and discussed by the CPG members. Following consideration, the CPG members agreed to refer the policy to the May Longford County Council Meeting for adoption.

On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Martin Skelly this policy was adopted.

- (iv) **Notice of Motions:**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Peggy Nolan

I call on the members of Longford County Council through the relevant SPC to implement a Formal Appeal Mechanism for Fire Brigade call-out charges.

Response:

Longford Fire Service provides an important public service in responding to incidents and major emergencies. The Service relies heavily on the Council's own resources for funding.

The Fire Service, as they are required to, respond to emergency call outs, and deploy the necessary resources to each incident. The charges incurred are reflective of the costs involved in responding to the specific incidents and comply with the Council's current policy.

Longford County Council's current charging policy was adopted by the Elected Members in 2018. This policy provides for the full costs of responding to an incident being invoiced to the beneficiary of the service. This policy does not provide for a waiver scheme. However, it does provide for a 20% discount if the invoice is paid within 28 calendar days of the date of the invoice. It also provides for a payment plans.

A new policy has been developed by the Fire Service, in conjunction with the Finance Section. This proposed new policy will provide for fixed charges. While the policy does not include an appeals mechanism it incorporates provision for

- Exclusions from charges
- Waiver scheme
- Discount for early payment
- Payment scheme

A new fire charges policy was presented to the council at the May meeting and adopted by the members.

9. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) Community Grant Support Scheme 2025 Intercultural Applications for approval

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole the Community Grant Support Scheme 2025 Intercultural applications was adopted.

(ii) Section 183 – 15 St Michael's Road, Longford County Council

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the Section 183 Notice - 15 St. Michaels Road, Longford was approved.

(iii) **Section 183 – Property Drumhaldry, Moyne, Co. Longford**

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh the Section 183 Notice - Drumhaldry, Moyne, Co. Longford was approved.

10. GENERAL

(i) **Notice of Motion**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor David Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call upon Longford County Council to liaise with County Kildare Leader Partnership, with a view to introducing a pilot initiative equivalent to the one introduced recently in partnership with GoCar, Kildare County Council, the HSE & the Department of Social Protection.

This community car scheme provides free essential transport for those facing mobility challenges and helping people who need transport to hospital and healthcare appointments, as well as community and social events.

Response:

Longford County Council has made initial contact with County Kildare LEADER Partnership in relation to this initiative. The "Community Car" Service is operated by the Kildare LEADER Partnership under a Department of Social Protection Community Employment Scheme, with support from GoCar, the HSE and Kildare County Council Climate Action.

Longford County Council is aware that Longford Community Resources Clg had previously examined the possibility of introducing a Community Car initiative specifically to support the Ukrainian Community living in rural areas in conjunction with the Council. However, this didn't come to fruition at the time. This can be investigated further with LCRL if the Notice of Motion is agreed.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Garry Murtagh and seconded by Councillor Paul Ross

I call upon Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Health Jennifer Carrol MacNeill for her department to actively recruit more Health Care Assistants working in Home Support. The service is currently at breaking point in North Longford and no visual effort being made to recruit Home Care Assistants who provide vital care and assistance to the elderly that wish to stay and or live in their homes.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Correspondence from Iarnród Éireann and NTA
Noted
- (ii) Correspondence from Minister James Browne
Noted
- (iii) Correspondence from Minister Patrick O'Donovan
Noted

12. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

Noted

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 11 June 2025 at 4pm in the Council Chamber.

Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on the 11 June 2025

Signed: Niall Casey

Cathaoirleach