

**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 12 November 2025 at 3.30pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Garry Murtagh

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Gerry Hagan, Padraig McNamara, Martin Skelly, Colin Dalton, Seamus Butler, Uruemu Adejinmi, Mick Cahill, Pat O'Toole, Sean Mimmagh, Martin Monaghan, David Cassidy, Turlough McGovern, Mark Casey, Kevin Hussey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Mr. David Tubridy, Senior Engineer
Mr. Con Diffley, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Laura McPhillips, Administrative Officer
Ms. Claire Reehill, Administrative Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Peggy Nolan

MEETINGS

ADMINISTRATOR: Ms. Lorraine McKee

Presentation by Longford Comhairle na nÓg

A presentation was made by Daithí McLoughlin and Sebastian Cummins. The presentation outlined the following:-

- What is Comhairle
- Comhairle Membership
- Identifying and working on issues of importance to young people
- This year's topics
- Acting as a consultative forum with adult decision makers in their locality
- What we do
- National Executive
- What we've done this year
- Exam stress study packs
- Repair and reuse workshop 2025
- Cruiniu na nÓg
- Dreamspace
- Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027
- Not around us Anti-Vaping Awareness Campaign
- Topics by Young People

The members and the Executive thanked Daithí and Sebastian for a very informative presentation and complimented them on the great work their group is achieving.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 8 October 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.
- (ii) On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the minutes of the Committee meeting of Longford County Council held on 24 October 2025, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

The members noted the Management report.

5. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Noted

6. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) TO NOTE PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Noted.

(ii) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2023 – 2027 – ENCLOSED

Councillor Turlough McGovern, as Chair of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee outlined the following changes to the Development Contribution Scheme 2023 – 2027

- Change An Bord Pleanála to An Coimisiún Pleanála
- Include a new sentence under Special Development Contribution Scheme which confirms that reductions and exemptions do not apply to Special Development Contributions.
- Remove the sentence that it is not proposed to draft a Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme at this stage.

It was also agreed that -

- A review of the Development Contribution Scheme will commence in 2026 to reflect the new capital budget.
- A Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme will be developed in 2026. Its objective will be to deliver strategic infrastructure for social, economic and community development and unlock strategic land banks in Longford Town. The initial scheme will focus on the delivery of the Abbeycartron sustainable transport proposal which is reflected in the adopted Local Area Plan for Longford Town.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Mark Casey the proposed changes to the Council's Development Contribution Scheme 2023 -2027 were approved.

(iii) COUNTY LONGFORD PHASE 2 ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2025 – 2027

Councillor Turlough McGovern, as Chair of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee introduced the County Longford Phase 2 Road Safety Action Plan 2025 – 2027.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the Elected Members unanimously adopted the County Longford Phase 2 Road Safety Action Plan 2025 – 2027.

(iv) TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY

Councillor Turlough McGovern, as Chair of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee introduced the Traffic Calming Policy.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Padraig McNamara the Elected Members unanimously adopted the Traffic Calming Policy.

(v) **DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYE LAWS**

At the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting in October 2025 the members considered the Council's Draft Casual Trading Bye Laws and approved Longford County Council to proceed to the formal public consultation phase. It was noted that a presentation was previously made to each of the Municipal Districts as part of the drafting process.

On the recommendation of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee the draft is circulated for comments as part of the consultation phase.

(vi) **PHASE 2 SPEED LIMIT REVIEW**

The Elected members were informed that the Phase 2 of the Speed Limit Review has commenced, and the proposed process and timetable was outlined. Phase 2 is a review of urban and Built-up areas. 30km/hr limit to be carefully considered and only where it is realistic that a speed of 30km/hr can be adhered to. The Key dates are-

- 30 October 2026 – Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws to be adopted at a meeting of the full Council.
- 31 March 2027 – Special speed limits to be enacted Nationally.

(vii) **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole

I call on Longford County Council, in preparing the forthcoming County Development Plan, to ensure that appropriate land is zoned specifically for health and community care purposes - including the development of Primary Care Centres, community diagnostic hubs and other health-related facilities - in line with the principles of Sláintecare and integrated healthcare delivery.

This zoning should:

- Facilitate the planning and development of accessible, community-based healthcare infrastructure across the county;
- Support co-location of multidisciplinary health and social care services within population centres; and
- Ensure future population growth areas are adequately served by healthcare infrastructure."

Response:

Longford County Council will consider all relevant matters in the development of the next County Development Plan. The current plan runs from 2021 to 2027. It includes a specific objective to

Facilitate the development of primary health care centres, hospitals, clinics, and facilities to cater for the specific needs of an ageing population in accordance with the settlement strategy and core strategy.

In addition, 7.4.5 Healthcare and Care Facilities requires that

The Council recognises the need to ensure the provision of appropriate care facilities and accommodation for the elderly and other vulnerable people. In addition to universal design standards, the quality of such accommodation is dependent on its location in terms of safe and convenient access to services and amenities....

As part of the public consultation process in the plan making process, there will be opportunity to make submissions to the new plan which will be welcomed and considered in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development.

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Mick Cahill

I call on Longford co Council to put a more robust measure in place to prevent unauthorised developments who are blatantly ignoring planning laws and enforcement notices that have been sent out.

I propose that these illegal sites be closed off with concrete bollards as soon as they are reported to prevent works continuing.

Response:

During 2025, Longford County Council significantly strengthened its enforcement procedures in relation to unauthorised developments. With the allocation of additional resources to Forward Planning and Enforcement, support of the Elected Members, stronger cooperation across Sections and Directorates and the introduction of the Community Wardens, there is a more focused approach to the identification of sites where unauthorised developments may be taking place.

On identification of an unauthorised development, a planning enforcement file is opened, and site inspection is carried out by Longford County Council.

If the development is considered unauthorised, the Council commences the statutory enforcement process as follows:

Action	Timescale
Complaint/notification of unauthorised development received	Start
Warning letter issues	Within 6 weeks
Response from alleged unauthorised developer	Within a further 4 weeks
Enforcement Notice served	Within 12 weeks
Legal proceeding initiated	Within 6 months

So far this year 85 Warning letters have been issued, 33 Enforcement Notices served, and 7 referrals were made to the Council's legal agent.

7. FINANCE, INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- (i) **Minutes of the Governance SPC meeting held on Tuesday 21 October 2025**
Noted.

8. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (i) **SECTION 183 NOTICE – 10 GOLF VIEW, GLACK, CO. LONGFORD.**
On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan, a review of the valuation on 10 Golf View was approved.
- (ii) **SECTION 183 NOTICE – BAWN MOUNTAIN, MOYDOW, CO. LONGFORD.**
On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the Section 183 Notice, Bawn Mountain, Moydow, Co. Longford, was approved.
- (iii) **SECTION 183 NOTICE – 1 CANAL VIEW, LONGFORD.**
On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi, the Section 183 Notice, 1 Canal View, Longford was approved.
- (iv) **SECTION 183 NOTICE - DISPOSAL OF (PARTIAL) SITE AT LEGGA, MOYNE, CO. LONGFORD TO DROMARD GAA.**
On the proposal of Councillor Garry Murtagh seconded by Councillor Colin Dalton, the Section 183 Notice, Disposal of (Partial) Site at Legga, Moyne, Co. Longford to Dromard GAA was approved.
- (v) **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Mimmagh
seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler**

I call on Longford County Council for a review of the current maintenance and upkeep schedules for all playgrounds throughout County Longford.

The review should include but not be limited to, grass cutting, hedge trimming and power washing, to ensure that all facilities are maintained to a high standard, providing safe, clean, and welcoming environments for children and families across the county.

Regular maintenance ensures these spaces remain safe and visually appealing and accessible to all users.

Response:

The maintenance of playgrounds is currently managed by the Community Development Department.

The current situation is as follows

- (1) There are 26 Playgrounds and 3 Outdoor Gyms being maintained by Longford County Council.
- (2) An independent report is arranged at the start of each year which prioritises the maintenance issues in each playground to ensure that our playgrounds are deemed safe from a Health and Safety standpoint.
- (3) A maintenance contractor has been procured for maintenance works generally relating to equipment eg - Replacing broken swings, new wet pour surface installation, new bearings, broken springs etc.
- (4) Other maintenance works eg grass cutting, hedge trimming and power washing are required in a limited number of playgrounds and are carried out where resources are available by local community groups, CE schemes and Longford Co. Council outdoor staff. The Council acknowledges the role of these groups in maintaining the playgrounds to a high standard.

While the cost of the playground maintenance programme has increased significantly in recent years, the Council will review the areas highlighted in the notice of motion to ensure that these are included on the maintenance schedule on a priority basis each year.

**The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Hagan
seconded by Councillor Paul Ross**

I call on Longford County Council, that Longford County Councils Housing Department will not purchase any further Commercial Premises on the Main Street of Longford Town or any other town or village throughout our county of

Longford, for the purpose of providing social housing units. I also wish to include the Approved Housing Bodies in this regard.

With regard to Longford Town Centre, there is already a significant number of social housing units in this immediate area, and there is no evidence to suggest there is a current local demand that is not being met by existing provisions in the CBD of our Administrative capital of our county.

Also, the conversion of these business units, will lead to disruption for existing businesses in the form of increased noise, traffic and parking issues, coupled with an expected increase in anti-social behaviour & drug abuse on the Main Street of our town.

Response:

To deliver social housing across the county of Longford, Longford County Council makes use of a range of delivery mechanisms to provide new social and affordable homes including new builds, acquisitions, renovations, leasing and housing supports including HAP and RAS. All delivery mechanisms require review and approval before being used for social housing. Longford County Council added 38 social housing units during 2025 through construction projects, acquisitions, and the rental accommodation scheme. An additional 12 new build units are due for completion by year end. There are a further 93 units currently under construction or due to commence construction across the county before the end of 2025.

Approved Housing Bodies operate under national guidelines and collaborate with County Councils to deliver housing. Longford County Council will engage with and review any proposed developments before delivery as a social housing solution.

Longford County Council takes concerns about anti-social behaviour seriously. However, it is important to note that anti-social behaviour is not inherently linked to social housing. Longford County Council works closely with An Garda Síochána, community groups and housing providers to ensure supports are provided where required.

Longford County Council remains committed to providing high quality, sustainable housing solutions while safeguarding the economic and social fabric of our towns and villages and welcomes continued dialogue with elected members.

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

I call on Longford County Council to commit to ensuring that all official press releases, publications and public communications - including photographs and media materials - reflect the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.

- In particular, that Council communications and imagery will endeavour to represent the diversity of our community in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and ability/disability and
- These standards be incorporated into the Council's communications policy and applied consistently across all departments and in partnership projects.

This motion aims to ensure that Council communications authentically reflect the diverse community we serve and promote inclusive representation in all public materials going forward.

Response:

In line with our duty under Section 42.1 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 an assessment of council activities was carried out in 2024 to promote and encourage compliance under the Act, and a Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Progress Report was prepared and incorporated into our 2024 Annual Report.

It is the intention to further develop our work under the Act through a working committee in 2026.

Longford County Council welcomes and supports the principles outlined in this Notice of Motion. The council recognises the importance of ensuring that all public communications authentically reflect the diversity of our community. The Communications Department of the council will endeavour, where possible, to represent the community in all its diversity – including gender, age, ethnicity, and ability/disability – across all forms of communication. This includes internal and external materials such as press releases, photographs, video content, social media, website updates, publications and media campaigns.

A communications audit is currently underway. This review will inform the development of our new Communications Strategy 2025–2029. The principles of equality, diversity and inclusion will be incorporated into the new strategy and applied consistently across all departments and partnership projects.

Through the working committee we will also aim to incorporate these standards and measures across the organisation and partnership projects and encourage further training to all staff to create awareness of our duty under the act.

(i) NOTICE OF MOTION

I call on Longford County Council to write to the Minister for Health and ask them to reverse the decision of the OAP's having to pay for their blister packs of medication from the 1st of January 2025.

Response:

11 ADDENDUM

- (V) Correspondence from Wexford County Council regarding Stouts Law
Noted.

12. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

Noted

13. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Elected Members unanimously paid tribute to Mary Farrell, nee Reilly, Farrell's Bar, Ballinalee, wife of former Councillor Martin Farrell and William (Bill) Duffy, Garryduff, Castlebar, Mayo / Granard, Co. Longford on their recent passing. May they rest in peace.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Friday, 5 December 2025 at 4pm in the Council Chamber and on MS Teams.

Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 5 December 2025

Signed: Cathaoirleach