

**Minutes of Statutory Local Authority Budget Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Monday, 24 November 2025 at 4pm**

- PRESIDING:** Councillor Garry Murtagh
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Paul Ross, Niall Gannon, Peggy Nolan, 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
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
 - Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance
 - Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
 - Mr. Michael Nevin, A/Director of Services
 - Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
 - Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
 - Mr. Richard Smith, Senior Executive Officer
 - Ms. Martina McGrath, Senior Executive Officer
 - Ms. Claire Reehill, Administrative Officer
 - Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer
 - Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
 - Ms. Fema Flanagan, Financial Management Accountant
 - Ms. Aoife Kavanagh, Project Accountant
 - Ms. Mairead O'Shea, Communication Officer
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Kevin Hussey
Councillor Mark Casey
- MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2026

Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance, thanked the Members for their attendance at the Statutory Budget meeting and stated that the presentation prepared would give an overview on how the Budget for 2026 was prepared. The Budget for 2026 for each Service Division will be presented in turn, allowing the Members to raise specific questions on each Division.

John thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members of the Council for their continued co-operation and support and for their participation in the workshops. John also thanked his team in the Finance Directorate, the Directors of Services, and their teams for the huge amount of work carried out in preparing the Draft Budget.

John McKeon, Director of Finance, stated that expenditure for 2026 is estimated at €80.1m and income of €58.19m which in total will leave a shortfall of €21.91m to be funded through Local Property Tax and Commercial Rates.

John outlined the details of the Draft Budget for 2026 under the following headings –

- Budget Book Structure
- Financial Position
- Financial Challenges – Budget 2026 and Beyond
- Acute Financial Challenges 2026
- Longford Strategic Business Plan 2025 -2029 The “Longford Strategy”
- 5 Pillar Proposals & 5 Key Decisions
- Adopted Expenditure 2025 V Budgeted Expenditure 2026
- Summary of Expenditure by Service Division
- Adopted Income 2025 V Budgeted Income 2026
- Income from Goods & Services
- Income from Grants & Subsidies
- Sources of Income 2022 – 2026
- Central Management Charge
- Financing Increased Expenditure 2026
- Commercial Rates under Strategic Business Plan
- Small Ratepayer Support Scheme 2026
- Budget 2026 – Headline Metrics
- Budget 2026 – Record Expenditure €80m
- Strategic Business Plan – Built in Flexibility & Contingency
- Critical Strategic Opportunity under Corporate Plan Objectives
- Comparison/Benchmarking Exercise
- Indicative Borrowing Costs
- Other Scenarios
- On-going Loan Commitments

The Members welcomed the Budget; they thanked John McKeon and the Finance Team for all the work involved.

The Executive replied to the issues raised by the Members, including the following –

- Rate Support Scheme
- Housing Delivery
- Derelict Sites Levy
- Residential Zoned Land Tax
- Recreational & Amenities – Playgrounds, Walkways & Harbours
- Rates
- Service Support
- Income
- River Drainage
- Regeneration projects
- Capital Projects
- The emerging shortfall from Housing Voids departmental funding
- MD Allocation

Councillor Seamus Butler informed the meeting that he is a Ratepayer of Longford County Council.

The members unanimously acknowledged the comprehensive budget prepared and delivered by the Head of Finance and the Finance team in Longford County Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the members unanimously agreed to adopt for the financial year ending 31st December 2026, the Budget set out in Tables A – F, and by Resolution determined in accordance with the said Budget the Rate - €0.2752- to be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for 2026 for the purposes set out in those Tables.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler the members unanimously agreed under Section 9 of the Local Government Rates and Other Matters Act 2019, to the continuation of the existing vacant property abatement scheme, whereby Longford County Council will grant a write off equivalent to 100% of commercial rates invoiced during 2026.

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon thanked the Members for their attendance, he thanked them for their continued support, and thanked John McKeon and the Finance Team for all their work. This Budget is a Strategic Plan and is a framework for supporting our citizens for the term of this Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

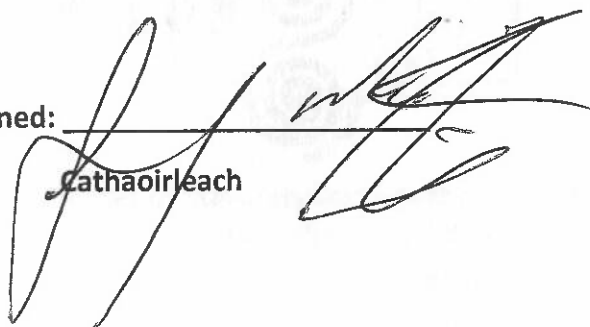
Signed: Lorraine McKee

Lorraine McKee
Meetings Administrator

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 05 December 2025

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is composed of several loops and strokes, with the word 'Cathaoirleach' printed below it.