
**Minutes of Meeting of Longford County Council
held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, 13 May 2026 at 4pm**

PRESIDING: Councillor Garry Murtagh

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive
Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services
Mr. John McKeon, Director of Finance
Ms. Barbara Heslin, Director of Services
Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services
Mr. David Barden, Administrative Officer
Mr. Ciaran Murphy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Fema Flanagan, Financial Management Accountant
Ms. Aoife Kavanagh, Project Accountant
Ms. Louise Connaughton, Clerical Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mick Cahill
Councillor Peggy Nolan
Councillor Mark Casey

**MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR:** Ms. Lorraine McKee

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole the minutes of the monthly meeting of Longford County Council held on 8 April 2026, as circulated, were confirmed, and adopted.

On the proposal of Councillor Turlough McGovern, seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the minutes of the committee meeting of Longford County Council held on 8 April 2026, as circulated, were confirmed and adopted.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Councillor Paul Ross requested that Longford County Council write to Transport for Ireland seeking greater flexibility for Local Link services to allow passengers to be dropped off at their homes where the bus route passes their residence, rather than only at designated bus stops.

Councillor Seamus Butler raised concerns regarding the shortage of car parking spaces at the Council Offices. Chief Executive Paddy Mahon advised that this matter would be investigated.

5. TO NOTE CE AND DELEGATION ORDERS

Noted

6. TO NOTE ADOPTED MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2026

Noted

7. PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) To note planning applications received

Noted

(ii) Draft Review of Development Contribution Scheme 2023-2027

Director of Services Barbara Heslin made a presentation to the Members on the review of the Development Contribution Scheme.

She outlined the following:

- A review of the current Development Contribution Scheme has been completed.
- The purpose of the review and the updated document is to provide clarity for developers and stakeholders.

- While there is no difference from the adopted scheme or contributions, the document clarifies the difference between exemptions and reductions and the process being introduced by Longford County Council.
- New procedures are being introduced which will require developers to apply for both exemptions from and reductions during the planning process and in advance of the commencement of the project.
- The review provides for the development of a Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.
- The review clarifies that reductions and exemptions do not apply to Special Development Contributions or Supplementary Development Contribution Schemes.
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- While the new documents reflect the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), they will be updated as soon as the relevant sections of the Planning and Development Act are enacted.
- The updated documents will be made available on the Council's website.
- Both the Physical Development and Social Development SPCs considered the documentation and recommended them for consideration and adoption by the Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul Ross seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the Review of the Updated Development Contribution Scheme 2023-2027 was approved.

(iii) Draft Part V Procedures and Section 97 Procedures

Director of Service Barbara Heslin provided an update to the Members on the Part V Procedures and Section 97 Procedures and Application Form.

The update included the following:

- The focus of Longford County Council will be on mixed tenure developments providing a mix of private, social and affordable housing. This will be reflected in the new Housing Strategy being developed by the Council.
- The new procedures formalise Longford County Council's approach to Part V and was jointly prepared by the Planning and Housing sections.
- Longford County Council's preferred approach is the delivery of social housing on site to promote social integration.
- The new documents provide clarity for developers and other stakeholders and ensure fairness, transparency, consistency and openness in decision making.
- The new procedures require the applicant/developer to consult and engage with the Housing and Planning sections throughout the process.
- An outline of the information required at each stage in the process is outlined in the new procedures.
- A legally binding Part V agreement must be concluded before commencement of the development.
- Where exemptions apply under Section 97, applicants must formally apply for a Section 97 Certificate prior to applying for planning permission and

submit a Statutory Declaration as outlined in the Section 97 Explanatory Memorandum.

- While the new documents reflect the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), they will be updated as soon as the Part 7 Chapter 2 of the Planning and Development Act is enacted.
- The updated procedures will be made available on the Council's website.
- Both the Physical Development and Social Development SPCs considered the documentation and recommended them for consideration and adoption by the Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Pat O'Toole seconded by Councillor Paul Ross the New Part V Procedures and Section 97 Procedures were approved.

(iv) Update on Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme

Director of Service Barbara Heslin provided an update to the Members on the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.

The update included the following:

- The Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme relates to the development of a strategically important distributor road in Abbeycartron to activate and unlock residential, commercial and industrial lands in the area.
- All relevant sections in Longford County Council have been involved in the development of the scheme.
- Developers who benefit from the provision of this strategic infrastructure will be conditioned through the planning process to pay a Supplementary Development Contribution under the scheme.
- Funding has been received from the Department of Transport which will assist in completion of a traffic count study.
- Longford County Council Housing Department has engaged with the Housing Activation Office regarding a possible application under Call 2 for funding towards the project. Work has already commenced on collating the application for funding.
- The Council must demonstrate how it will provide matched funding from the project, hence the need for this scheme.
- A draft scheme has been prepared reflecting the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024.
- The provision of this strategic infrastructure will be dependent on the funding available from Government and the successful implementation of the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.
- Both the Physical Development and Social Development SPCs have been informed about the development of the scheme.

The members welcomed the proposed approach to the delivery of the distributor road and the development of the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme.

Chief Executive Paddy Mahon thanked Barbara and her team for their work involved in the formulation of the Supplementary Contributory Scheme.

8. FINANCE, INNOVATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

(i) County Wide Fund Applications 2026

Noted

(ii) To approve the raising of a loan of €3,450,000 Housing Loan applications, as authorised by the Housing Acts

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Pat O'Toole, the raising of a loan of €3,450,000 from the Housing Finance agency to finance Housing Loan applications, as authorised by the Housing Acts was approved.

(iii) Consideration of Annual Financial Statement for Year ended 31 December 2025

Director of Services John McKeon made a detailed presentation to the Elected Members on the Annual Financial Statement for Year ended 31 December 2025.

The presentation included the following:

- Revenue Account Outturn – Last 5 Years
- Income, Expenditure & Reserves Tracking 2021-2025 (Before Transfers)
- Financial Standing at end of 2025
- Expenditure V Budget 2025 by Programme Group
- Income V Budget 2025 by Programme Group
- Income Collection
- Analysis of Expenditure
- Analysis of Expenditure – Decrease of €2.5m YOY
- Analysis of Income from Grants & Subsidies
- Analysis of Income from Goods & Subsidies
- Over/Under Expenditure 2025
- 2025 Key Financial Takeaways for Longford County Council
- Financial Performances over last decade – Expenditure
- Financial Performances over last decade – Income
- Financial Performances over last decade – Balance Sheet
- 1. The Longford Model
- 2. The Longford Strategy
- 3. The Longford Future Fund (in progress)

The members noted the presentation.

(iv) Consideration of Approval of Additional Expenditure under S103(7) of the Local Government Act 2001

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan seconded by Councillor Kevin

Hussey the additional expenditure under S103(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 was approved.

9. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) Section 183 – 49 Teffia Park

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Gerry Hagan, Section 183 - 49 Teffia Park was approved.

(ii) LECP Implementation Plan 2024/25

Administrative Officer David Barden made a presentation to the Elected Members on the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 and the Implementation Plan Progress Update 2024/2025.

The presentation included the following:

- What is the LECP?
- The Vision
- 6 High Level Goals
- Implementation Plan
- Structure of the Advisory Steering Group
- Progress Update
- 2026-2027 Implementation Plan
- 2028-2029 Implementation Plan
- Recommendation

On the proposal of Councillor Seamus Butler seconded by Councillor Sean Mimmagh, the LECP Implementation Plan Review 2024/25 and LECP Implementation Plan 2026/27 was approved.

(iii) Approval to the appointment of Mr. Brendan Flanagan, nominee of Longford County Tourism Committee as a member of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler, Mr. Brendan Flanagan was appointed as a Member of Longford Local Community Development Committee.

(iv) Community Grant Support Scheme Intercultural Applications 2026

On the proposal of Councillor Niall Gannon seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey, the community grant support scheme intercultural applications 2026 were approved.

(v) Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Kevin Hussey and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

I call on Longford County Council to examine the feasibility of introducing a tenant-led improvement scheme for social housing, whereby tenants may undertake approved upgrades to windows and doors at their own expense, subject to prior agreement with the local authority and recoup the cost through an agreed rent offset over a defined period.

Response:

There is currently no national policy or statutory framework that supports a tenant led improvement scheme for local authority owned housing, whereby tenants would fund works and recoup costs through a rent offset.

National housing policy places the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upgrade of local authority dwellings with the housing authority as owner and landlord to ensure that tenants have a safe and healthy environment to live in.

Longford County Council Housing Department is currently progressing a Housing Stock – Quality and Asset Improvement Programme (currently called the Planned Maintenance programme) which will target the replacement of windows and doors. The programme is being developed for roll out on a county wide basis and will support a more proactive, planned approach to maintenance. It will also ensure that works are prioritised and delivered in a fair, and equitable manner across the housing stock.

10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) Date of AGM of the Council

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Hussey seconded by Councillor Turlough McGovern the AGM of the Council will take place on Friday, 19 June 2026 at 4pm.

(ii) Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Mimmagh and Peggy Nolan and seconded by Councillor Seamus Butler

- (i)** We call on Longford County Council to write to the relevant Ministers, Fáilte Ireland, and the City and County Management Association to implement an extension scheme to retain the Just Transition Tourism Activators, who continue to support over 80 projects and their County Tourism Officers, for a further period of 3-5 years to ensure the sustainable development of tourism and the delivery of long-term economic benefits to transitioning communities.

Response:

Longford County Council agreed to write in this regard.

- (ii)** We further call on Longford County Council to write to all local authorities within the Just Transition Territory, and nationally, to support this motion in recognition of the critical importance of continuity in delivering a successful Just Transition.

Response:

Longford County Council agreed to write in this regard.

11. GENERAL

Notice of Motions

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Gerry Hagan and seconded by Councillor Martin Monaghan

I call on Longford County Council to make contact with the Minister for Justice to call for standardisation of Garda Vetting. Currently volunteers in all sporting organisations are required to get Garda vetted for each sporting body they are involved in.

Response:

Longford County Council agreed to write to the Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan in this regard.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

(I) Resolution – Carlow County Council

Noted

(II) Resolution – Roscommon County Council

Noted

13. TRAINING FOR APPROVAL

On the proposal of Councillor Gerry Hagan seconded by Councillor Kevin Hussey, the training circulated was approved.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Longford County Council will take place on Wednesday, 10 June 2026 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber.

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Longford County Council held on 10 June 2026.